



Merle Hay Neighborhood Association

"Working Together to Make a Difference"

P.O. Box 31036 Des Moines, IA 50310

Web: www.merlehay.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MerleHayNeighborhood

Twitter: @MerleHay

July 2014 Newsletter

Water Quality Discussion to Highlight MHNA Meeting on July 17

MHNA is pleased to announce that Bill Stowe, CEO and General Manager of Des Moines Water Works, will be our featured guest speaker at MHNA's next quarterly meeting **at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.** Mr. Stowe will speak about various water quality issues, and how they impact the rates we pay for drinking water.

MHNA Board and Committee members also will provide updates on neighborhood happenings and business. Please send an email to jason.pulliam@gmail.com if there is a particular issue you would like to be considered for the meeting agenda.

Please invite your neighbors! We look forward to seeing everyone on July 17!

"Free Flicks" series comes to Tower Park on July 24

Please join MHNA at Tower Park, 4900 Hickman Road, on Thursday, July 24, for a free showing of *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2*, provided by the Des Moines Park & Recreation Department. The movie will begin at dusk – after sunset at about 9 p.m. Free Flicks is a summer-long series of outdoor movie showings throughout the Des Moines-area. The films are shown on a 25-foot portable screen. Please bring some lawn chairs or a blanket, and join in the fun!



Thanks For Making it a GREAT Merle HayDay!

MHNA would like to thank everyone who came to Tower Park on Saturday, May 31, for our annual Merle HayDay celebration! It was a beautiful day for a picnic, and the Prairie Drifters band provided excellent live music.

Thanks are due to the following businesses for their generous contributions: Banker's Trust, West Bank, Dahl's Foods, and Old Home Bakery Outlet.

We also want to give a big hand to the Des Moines Fire Department's Fire and Rescue Station 9 and the Des Moines Police Department for joining in the festivities.

Special thanks go to the social committee members who did such a wonderful job planning and executing the event: Kathy Battles, Terri McKay, Eric Means, Jason Pulliam, Dan and Becky Russ, and April Beck.

MHNA Supports Pride and Safety in Our Parks

We are fortunate to have two great parks within the Merle Hay neighborhood boundaries – Riley Park at 5300 Urbandale Avenue, and Tower Park at 4900 Hickman Road.

Riley and Tower parks are great amenities for our neighborhood, but challenges sometimes crop up. The majority of park users respect the spaces, pick up after themselves, and remember that the parks are surrounded by homes. Others are not quite as considerate.

Recently, MHNA has fielded reports of noise, litter, and alcohol consumption in our neighborhood parks. Such issues are generally isolated, but detract from the enjoyment of other park users, and sometimes create headaches for neighbors.

If you see non-emergency problems that warrant police attention, call 283.4811. Dial 911 for emergencies. Do not be afraid to call in anything that appears suspicious or out of the ordinary. MHNA is committed to working proactively with residents, businesses, police, and the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department to address concerns.

Thank you to everyone for keeping your eyes and ears open.

Join MHNA for National Night Out and Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade

-National Night Out: Please save the date for MHNA's annual National Night Out celebration on Tuesday, August 5, at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave. Activities will get underway at 6 p.m. Please join us for food, entertainment, and family-friendly FUN!

Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade: MHNA will once again participate in the Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade on Saturday, September 20th. Please contact April Beck at 515.707.6386 if you would like to participate in our entry and walk with us in the parade.

MHNA Volunteers Make Neighborhood Flowerbeds Look Spectacular!

The volunteers who plant, water, and tend MHNA's flowerbeds deserve many thanks. MHNA has flowerbeds located at University Avenue and Cummins Parkway, Merle Hay Road and Cummins Parkway, Urbandale Avenue and 57th Street, Urbandale Avenue and 49th Street, Tower Park, and at the intersection of Merklin Way, Merle Hay Road, and Hickman Road. Thanks to Kathy Battles, Margaret Hahn, Al and Mary Ann Hopp, Tom and Donna Hueholt, Bill Linthicum, Eric Means, JoAnne and Cathy Talarico, Ben Taylor, and Cindy Welsh. Each of your contributions are greatly appreciated. Apologies if we missed anyone!

Merle Hay Neighborhood Association
PO Box 31036
Des Moines, IA 50310

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 762
DES MOINES, IA

MHNA 2014 Events Calendar



MHNA Quarterly Meeting

When: 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 17
Where: Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.
What: Join MHNA for its quarterly meeting in July. Bill Stowe from Des Moines Water Works will be our guest speaker.

Free Flicks Movie

When: Dusk on Thursday, July 24
Where: Tower Park, 4900 Hickman Road
What: Join us for a free showing of *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2*, provided by the MHNA and Des Moines Parks & Recreation Department!

National Night Out

When: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5
Where: Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.
What: Join MHNA for the annual National Night Out, America's night out against crime. There will be free food, games for kids, family friendly entertainment, door prizes, and great tips and information from public safety personnel about how to safeguard your property against crime.

Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade

When: Saturday, September 20. Time TBA.
Where: MHNA supporters will meet in the north parking lot of First Federated Church on 48th Street between Hickman Road and Franklin Avenue. Meeting time TBA.
What: Join MHNA for its annual entry in the Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade. It's a great way to connect with the community and increase MHNA's visibility. If you would like to participate in our parade entry, please contact April Beck at [515-707-6386](tel:515-707-6386).

MHNA Quarterly Meeting and Annual Soup Supper

When: 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 16.
Where: Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.
What: Join MHNA for its October quarterly meeting and annual soup supper.

Please Remember to Pay 2014 Dues

Please do not forget to pay your MHNA dues for 2014. It is \$15 for an individual annually, \$30 for a household, \$30 for a business, and \$10 for a school or church. Dues can be mailed to MHNA at P.O. Box 31036, Des Moines, IA, 50310. Dues are tax deductible! Support the association that supports you!

MHNA Recognizes Outstanding Volunteers

MHNA was pleased to participate in the annual Alice Rodine and Bob Mickle Volunteer Awards, hosted on May 15 by Des Moines Neighbors. MHNA nominated the following people for their great contributions to our neighborhood:

-Outstanding Volunteer: Steve Berry, who recently stepped down after 10 outstanding years as MHNA president. Thank you, Steve!

-Outstanding Public Employees: Ben Page and Kevin Moran from the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department, who have helped MHNA get our Tower Park improvement plans back on track. We have a new interior trail, resurfaced tennis courts, a new basketball court on the way, and lots of new tree plantings. And we're just getting started! Thank you, Ben and Kevin!

-Outstanding Business: West Bank's branch on Merle Hay Road. West Bank's staff generously volunteers to support important MHNA events such as Merle HayDay and National Night Out. Thank you to the entire West Bank staff for all of your efforts in our neighborhood!

Report Overgrown Properties to Weed Commission

It is the time of year where some properties in our neighborhood get overgrown with grass and weeds. If you are able, lend a helping hand to a neighbor who may not be able to mow his or her yard.

When code enforcement is necessary, contact the Polk County Weed Commission at 286-3005, or by email at weedcommission@polkcountyiowa.gov. Generally, grass or weeds that are a foot tall prompt enforcement action by the weed commission.

Storm Debris Info

We have had our share of severe weather so far this summer. Here are a few tips on what to do if storm debris or downed power-lines compromise public safety:

-Call Des Moines Public Works at 283-4950 if you see any downed tree limbs that are blocking streets, or otherwise compromising safety along streets or public rights-of-way. Trees on private property are the responsibility of the individual property owner.

-Call MidAmerican Energy at 800-799-4443 to report downed power lines, or 800-595-5325 for gas leaks.