



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

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July 2015 Newsletter

MHNA Quarterly Meeting on July 16

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Association's next quarterly meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave. We will be joined by the following guest speakers:

- Samantha Ricke, the field marketing manager for Flix Brewhouse. Samantha will tell us a little about Flix Brewhouse, which opened recently at Merle Hay Mall.
- Kimberly Hansen, the executive director of Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines, a nonprofit that helps rehabilitate homes for low-income homeowners. Kimberly will share details about Rebuilding Together, and discuss potential project opportunities in the Merle Hay neighborhood.
- Staff from America's Renewable Future, a bipartisan, statewide coalition that promotes Iowa's renewable energy industry.

We will also have plenty of neighborhood updates, and refreshments. Please mark your calendar and invite your neighbors! For more information, contact Jason Pulliam by email at jason.pulliam@gmail.com.

Star 102.5 Block Party at Tower Park on July 14

MHNA is sharing this invitation on behalf of Star 102.5, which is organizing a block party at Tower Park on Tuesday, July 14. Here are the details as provided by Star 102.5:

"STAR 102.5 Summer Block Party – Tuesday July 14th from 5:30pm to 8pm (Rain date Wednesday July 15th)
STAR 102.5 would like to invite you for a night of free fun and family entertainment at Tower Park! Come mingle with your neighbors and the entire STAR 102.5 crew. Don't worry about making dinner, we've got that covered. Just bring the entire family for free food, drinks, and fun!

FREE Johnsonville Brats
FREE Deardorff Sweet Corn
FREE Inflatables, Game Truck, Face Painting and more!"

MHNA is happy to help get the word out about this event. We think it will be a great opportunity to bring lots of neighbors together to enjoy everything that Tower Park has to offer.

Prevent Burglaries: Keep Your Home Secure

By and large, Merle Hay is a safe, low-crime neighborhood. That does not mean we are immune to burglaries and other property crimes. Err on the side of calling Des Moines Police at 283-4811 if you see something suspicious. Dial 911 if it is an emergency. Here are some helpful tips on how to keep your home safe.

Check Your Locks: In nearly half of all residential burglaries, thieves enter through unlocked doors or windows. Make sure external doors have a deadbolt. Key-in-the-knob locks are not enough, according to Des Moines Police.

Inside Your House: If you are gone, make your house look and sound occupied. Use timers for lights, radios, and televisions, setting them to go on and off throughout the night.

Work With Your Neighbors: Join your neighborhood association or start a neighborhood watch. Collaborate with neighbors, community groups, and local government to combat blight and keep the neighborhood clean. The more presentable and attractive our neighborhood is, the less susceptible it is to crime.

MHNA Celebrates National Night Out on August 4

Please join the Merle Hay Neighborhood Association for the annual observance of National Night Out, America's night out against crime, from 6 p.m. to 8 on Tuesday, August 4 at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.

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.

Please spread the word! We look forward to having a great turnout.

Report Overgrown Properties to the Polk County 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.

If you have questions about how MHNA can help, please send an email to merlehayneighborhood@gmail.com.

MHNA Recognizes Outstanding Volunteers, Business, and Public Employee

MHNA is pleased to have recognized several valuable members of our neighborhood at the recent Rodine-Mickle Neighborhood Appreciation Dinner hosted by Des Moines Neighbors. Here are this year's honorees:

Outstanding Volunteers: Bill and Jane Linthicum

Outstanding Business: Eychaner Properties

Outstanding Public Employee: Elaine Imlau, Windsor Elementary art teacher

MHNA is grateful to all of the wonderful volunteers, businesses, and public employees we are fortunate to have serve our neighborhood. Thank you, one and all!

Merle Hay Neighborhood Association
PO Box 31036
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Details on Reopening of Moore Elementary School

The Des Moines Public Schools is excited to announce the reopening of Moore Elementary School, 3716 50th Street, for the 2015-2016 school year. Moore has a long history in the area first opening in 1950 and educating children in the Beavertdale and northwest Des Moines area until declining enrolling forced its closure in 2007. At that time it was used as a "swing school" while other buildings were under renovation and most recently as the location of Scavo High School. The building is currently undergoing a \$6.6 million renovation to include a new gymnasium, playground, state-of-the-art classrooms, technology, and security.

In addition to structural and surface updates, Moore Elementary will be able to offer its students more educational opportunities. Upon it's opening, Moore will begin the process to become an International Baccalaureate (IB) school allowing students to take advantage of a world class curriculum from grade school through middle and high school as Moore is a feeder school for both Meredith Middle School and Hoover High School, which are IB schools as well.

Construction crews are hard at work creating a first class school for neighborhood children and we anticipate a mid-August opening, just in time for the first day of school on August 26th. You are cordially invited to join us for a community-wide Open House on August 17th from 4:00-7:00 PM. We hope you will stop by, take a tour, and see what all the excitement is about. Additionally, mark your calendars for the official ribbon cutting on September 17th from 4:00-6:00.

Cordially,

Beth Sloan
Principal, Moore Elementary
515-242-8426
moore@dmschools.org
<http://moore.dmschools.org/>

MHNA 2015 Events Calendar



MHNA Quarterly Meeting

When: 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 16

Where: Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.

What: Join MHNA for its quarterly meeting in July. Guest speakers include Samantha Ricke from Flix Brewhouse, Kimberly Hansen from Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines, and staff from America's Renewable Future.

National Night Out

When: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4

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.

Beavertdale Fall Festival Parade

When: Saturday, September 19. 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 Beavertdale Fall Festival Parade. It's a great way to connect with the community and increase MHNA's visibility.

MHNA Quarterly Meeting and Annual Soup Supper

When: 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 15.

Where: Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.

What: Join MHNA for its October quarterly meeting and annual soup supper. Guest speakers and other meeting details TBA.