



## **Merle Hay Neighborhood Association**

*"Working Together to Make a Difference"*

P.O. Box 31036 Des Moines, IA 50310

Web: [www.merlehay.org](http://www.merlehay.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MerleHayNeighborhood](http://www.facebook.com/MerleHayNeighborhood)

Twitter: @MerleHay

### **April 2016 Newsletter**

#### **MHNA Quarterly Meeting on April 21**

Please join MHNA for our quarterly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave. Guest speakers will include Polk County Supervisor Angela Connolly, and a staff member from the Neighborhood Finance Corp. We will also have board and committee updates. Refreshments will be provided. As always, we will accept food and clothing donations for the less fortunate.

***Please spread the word to help ensure that we have a great turnout on April 21!***

#### **Plenty of Chances to Get Involved**

One of our most popular Facebook posts of late has been a picture of a sign posted on the backstop of a ball diamond. The sign said: "Before you complain, have you volunteered yet?"

The post had well over 700 views, and more than 20 "likes." The message is a good reminder of what it takes to keep any volunteer organization going, including our neighborhood association. We can always use more volunteers, so that is where you come in.

Please consider getting involved in any of the following MHNA committees: Advertising; Special Projects/Civic; Newsletter & Communications; Flower Planting, Trees, & Beautification; Social — National Night Out, Merle HayDay, Special Events; SCRUB Day; Holiday Lights; Parks: Tower Park & Riley Park.

**Interested?** Contact MHNA President Jason Pulliam at 515-681-9689 or [jason.pulliam@gmail.com](mailto:jason.pulliam@gmail.com). To get involved in the Beautification Committee, contact Kathy Battles at 515-865-3040 or [kmbattles@msn.com](mailto:kmbattles@msn.com). To get involved in the Social Committee, contact April Beck at 515-707-6386 or [hawkifan87@yahoo.com](mailto:hawkifan87@yahoo.com). We hope to hear from you soon!

***-Jason Pulliam, MHNA president***

#### **Proposed Boundary and Bylaw Change**

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Association will consider a **minor change** to its boundary stemming from the pending merger of the Meredith and Beavertdale neighborhood associations. The Beavertdale Neighborhood Association plans to cover all of the Meredith neighborhood's existing territory except the portion of Merle Hay Road that stretches between Aurora and Meredith avenues. If the MHNA approves of adding the area, our northern boundary will be changed to include Merle Hay Road between Aurora and Meredith avenues. A bylaw change is needed to formalize the change. The matter will be discussed and acted on at MHNA's April 21 quarterly meeting. Email [jason.pulliam@gmail.com](mailto:jason.pulliam@gmail.com) for more details.

#### **NFC Comes Back to Merle Hay Neighborhood!**

Homes ***in a portion*** of the Merle Hay neighborhood will now qualify for purchase, refinance and home improvement loans offered by the Neighborhood Finance Corporation. The focus will be on properties with eligible repairs and projects as determined by NFC. Qualifying repairs include, but are not limited to:

- Update of aged or unsafe heating, air conditioning, electrical, and plumbing systems
- Roof repair or replacement
- Foundation repair
- Exterior siding repair or replacement and paint
- Window and door repair or replacement (if in poor condition repair or for energy efficiency)
- New garage, garage repair or replacement (maximum 2 car garage, 24' X 24')
- Energy efficiency (insulation, windows, mechanical upgrades)
- Access/architectural barrier removal and wheelchair or mobility assistive device
- Sidewalk and driveway repair or replacement
- Functional landscaping (grading and retaining walls for water and erosion control, significant tree removal or trimming.)

To determine if your property is eligible for the loans available, please visit the NFC web site at **[www.neighborhoodfinance.org](http://www.neighborhoodfinance.org)**, or click on Lending Area Maps and enter your address in the NFC Locator form. Your property must be located in one of the Lending Areas on the map to be eligible and the \$10,000 forgivable funds have not been used on the property in the last 10 years. You may also contact NFC directly at 515-246-0010 for more info.

#### **Merle HayDay Set For May 14**

Please join MHNA for our annual Merle HayDay celebration from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, at Tower Park, 4900 Hickman Road. The gathering will be held in the open-air shelter located on the north side of the park.

MHNA will provide free hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks, as well as family-friendly games and entertainment. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Tableware will be provided. You also may want to bring a bag chair or lawn chair.

Parking is available in the lot along Hickman Road. The Park and Recreation Department also leases space in the First Federated Church parking lot by Tower Park's tennis and basketball courts.

Merle HayDay is a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbors and learn more about our neighborhood. It's also a great way to find out how you can get more involved in making the Merle Hay neighborhood an even better place to live, work, and play. We look forward to seeing you there on May 14! **Spread the word!**

#### **School Needs: Hillis and Moore**

Donations of the following can be brought to MHNA's quarterly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on April 21 at the NW Community Center.

**Hillis:** There is a need in the nurse's office for various sizes of sweat pants, socks, and underwear for elementary students kindergarten through 5th grade.

**Moore:** Box Tops for Education.

Merle Hay Neighborhood Association

PO Box 31036

Des Moines, IA 50310

NON-PROFIT ORG.

US POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 762

DES MOINES, IA

**MHNA 2016 Events Calendar**



**Merle HayDay**

**When:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 14

**Where:** Tower Park, 4900 Hickman Road.

**What:** MHNA's annual neighborhood celebration! Free food, games, and family-friendly entertainment. Tableware will be provided. Please bring a side-dish or dessert, and a chair. A great opportunity to meet your neighbors and learn how you can get more involved!

**MHNA Quarterly Meeting**

**When:** 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 21

**Where:** Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.

**What:** Join MHNA for its quarterly meeting in July. Guest speakers and other meeting details TBA.

**National Night Out**

**When:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 2

**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 17. 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. Please 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.

**MHNA Quarterly Meeting and Annual Soup Supper**

**When:** 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 20.

**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. **We'll also hold our annual food and clothing drive for the less fortunate at our October meeting.**

**Mega-SCRUB Set for April 16**

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Association is pleased to help Des Moines Public Works coordinate an annual event that helps rid our city of junk and debris. This year's Spring Clean-Up to Reduce Urban Blight, a.k.a. "SCRUB," will be held FROM 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, at Hoover High School, 4800 Aurora Ave.

Like anything we do, MHNA's ability to help run the SCRUB depends on volunteer support. We hope you will join us! Volunteers primarily direct traffic and answer questions about what can and cannot be disposed of at the SCRUB. Please send an email to [jason.pulliam@gmail.com](mailto:jason.pulliam@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer. And lest we forget, SCRUB volunteers get free donuts and coffee. :-)

We also wish to thank our friends from the Meredith and North of Grand neighborhoods for helping coordinate and provide volunteers for our MEGA-SCRUB. We will pass along more specific details when we get closer to April 16. More details about the SCRUB program can be found on the Public Works website: <http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/PublicWorks/Pages/SCRUBEvents.aspx>

**2016 Membership Dues**

MHNA membership dues for 2016 are still payable. Costs for membership are as follows: Individual: \$15; Couple: \$30; Business: \$30; Church or School: \$10. MHNA membership is open to anyone who lives, rents, or owns property, and to businesses within the neighborhood boundaries. Non-residents may join, though they may not vote. MHNA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Dues and donations are tax-deductible, and can be paid in person at association meetings, or mailed to our post office box, which is listed on the newsletter masthead.

Thank you to the following businesses who renewed their memberships: Bankers Trust, Christopher's Fine Jewelry, Eychaner Properties, Merle Hay Mall, and Windsor Vacuum.

**University Avenue Pedestrian Bridge**

Officials from the City of Des Moines' Traffic and Transportation Division and Des Moines Public Schools have proposed removal of the pedestrian bridge that spans University Avenue near Windsor Elementary School. The bridge has numerous structural issues, and officials believe it would be more cost-effective to install an enhanced crosswalk instead of repairing or replacing the bridge. The proposal was recently presented during a special neighborhood meeting. Attendees were in general agreement with the city and school district's plans. Officials were asked to place the crosswalk as close to 60th Street as possible to maximize pedestrian safety and traffic flow. Another public meeting will be scheduled in the near future. For more details, visit: <http://windsor.dmschools.org/2016/02/pedestrian-bridge-updates/>



Give your home a little love.

**THE SYMBOL OF COMFORT**

***bellbrothers.com***  
**515-244-8911**



\*Based on qualifying equipment. Available to single-family homeowners only. Available for a limited time only. Subject to change or cancellation at any time without notice.