



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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October 2015 Newsletter

MHNA Quarterly Meeting, Soup Supper Set for October 15

MHNA's soup supper and next quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15 at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave. The soup supper will begin at 6 p.m. The meeting will start at approximately 6:30. If you would like to bring soup, another dish, or dessert, please contact April Beck by email at hawkifan87@yahoo.com.

Our guest speaker will be Natasha Bures from People for Pollinators. The group is partnering with the city, schools, and businesses to help create natural gardens that help support Monarch butterflies and several other pollinators. People for Pollinators supplies the educational materials, site planning assistance, seeds, and plants. Volunteers help with planting and managing the gardens once they establish. Natasha will provide details and answer questions about opportunities to create pollinator/butterfly gardens in our area.

We also hope to be joined by staff from the new Java Joe's at 50th and Douglas. The October 15 meeting will also include numerous neighborhood reports and updates. Please mark your calendar, and invite your neighbors! For more information about the quarterly meeting, please contact Jason Pulliam by email at jason.pulliam@gmail.com.

Help Prevent Parking Problems at Tower Park

MHNA sometimes fields concerns about various parking problems at Tower Park, including parking in prohibited areas, such as the right-of-way, over sidewalks, and in the grass. MHNA is working with Park and Recreation staff and the Police Department on ways to improve the situation. If you see illegal parking, you may call DMPD's dispatch number at 283-4811.

Also, please remember that the Park and Recreation Department has leased parking spaces in First Federated Church's parking lot on the southeast side of the park, next to the tennis courts. There is plenty of space to park *legally* at the park.

The Park and Recreation Department reminds us that they are working with Des Moines Police to take enforcement action as necessary, which includes the possibility of towing. We do not want to see anyone get ticketed or towed, so we ask for everyone's help to cut down on illegal parking at Tower Park.

Franklin Avenue Tree Planting on October 17

The Merle Hay, Beaverdale, and Waveland Park neighborhood associations are working with Trees Forever and the City of Des Moines to plant more than 50 trees along Franklin Avenue from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, October 17. The trees will be planted in the stretch of Franklin Avenue that runs between Merle Hay Road and Beaver Avenue. This is a great opportunity to beautify Franklin Avenue and help improve the urban forest.

Volunteers will meet at the corner of 48th Street and Franklin Avenue on October 17. Participants are asked to bring a shovel and a pair of gloves. Additional tools will be provided, as will coffee and treats!

To volunteer, sign up by visiting <http://www.treesforever.org/volunteer>. Please help us spread the word!

Officer and Board Elections in January

It is hard to believe another year is almost in the books. That means it is time to start thinking about who will serve on MHNA's Board of Directors for 2016. Officer and Board member elections will be held when MHNA hosts its 2016 annual meeting on Thursday, January 21 at the Northwest Community Center.

If you are interested in running for an officer or board position, please email Jason Pulliam at: jason.pulliam@gmail.com

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National Night Out Recap

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Association celebrated National Night Out on Tuesday August 4, 2015, at the Northwest Community Center. The turnout was great, and so was the weather.

Thank you to all of MHNA's volunteers who coordinated the event. We also would like to thank the following sponsors:

- Bankers Trust
- Flix Brewhouse
- MidAmerican Energy
- Dairy Queen on Hickman Road
- West Bank
- Windsor Heights Hy-Vee Market Grill
- Cindy Welsh

Please contact April Beck at hawkifan87@yahoo.com if you would like to help coordinate next year's National Night Out celebration, or get involved with other events put on by MHNA's social committee.

Weigh In on City's New Comprehensive Plan

The City of Des Moines is in the midst of updating its comprehensive plan. The effort is dubbed "PlanDSM." You can track progress and provide input on the effort by visiting <https://plandsm.dmgov.org/>. Residents and businesses are encouraged to submit feedback to help ensure the plan accurately reflects the goals and desires of the entire community. The new plan is supposed to help guide us through 2040, so please help make it as good as we can!

Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Association had an entry in the Beaverdale Fall Festival parade on Saturday, September 19. We could not have asked for a better day! Thank you to all of the MHNA members who walked in the parade, and helped decorate our entry. We participate in the parade each year, and encourage residents and businesses to help us coordinate our entry and walk in the parade. Please keep us in mind!

Ready, Set, Snow?

Much as we are probably not ready for it, winter will be here before we know it. That means we need to remember and comply with city snow ordinances. Property owners are generally required to shovel sidewalks within 48 hours of a measurable snowfall. Parking along snow routes and residential streets is also restricted until streets are plowed. To make sure you know the rules or to sign up for snow ordinance notifications, visit www.dmsnow.org, or call Public Works at 283-4950. Please do what you can to help keep our sidewalks and streets safe and passable this winter.

Thank You to MHNA's Beautification Committee!

We want to thank and recognize the volunteers who plant, water, and tend MHNA's flowerbeds. 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, the intersection of Merklin Way, Merle Hay Road, and Hickman Road, and outside the Tenny Standpipe at Merle Hay and Madsion. Thanks to Kathy Battles, Margaret Hahn, Al and Mary Ann Hopp, Joe and Valerie Johansen, Eric Means, Mike and Marilyn Nizzi, JoAnne and Cathy Talarico, and Cindy Welsh. Each of your contributions are greatly appreciated. Sorry if we missed anyone!