



Merle Hay Neighborhood Association
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Des Moines, IA 50310

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Merle Hay Neighborhood Newsletter

Thank You DSM First/Reach Church Volunteers!

MHNA extends its thanks DSM First/Reach Church volunteers who helped do some fall clean-up work on September 25 at Tower Park and Riley Park. The volunteers pulled weeds, removed downed limbs, and picked up trash and debris. Thank you for pitching in!



Connect with your neighbors and MHNA on Facebook

Did you know that we have two Facebook pages dedicated to the Merle Hay neighborhood? The Merle Hay Neighborhood Association page (@MerleHayNeighborhood) is the official page of MHNA and provides a great way to stay up-to-date with official neighborhood news, events, resources, and city projects. The Merle Hay Neighborhood private group page allows neighbors to connect with each other, whether to help with lost and found pets, offer contractor recommendations, or as we learned during the derecho - to share information about closed streets and power outages. If you are on social media, consider giving our pages a 'like!'



@MerleHayNeighborhood

Connect with Us!

Facebook: @MerleHayNeighborhood
Website: www.merlehay.org

MHNA Quarterly Meeting, Annual Supper, and Recipe Swap on October 21

What's better than being able to meet in person for the first time in over a year? There will be food! Please make plans to join MHNA at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 21 for our quarterly meeting and annual supper at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.

Please note that the Northwest Community Center requires visitors to wear masks due to the pandemic, though masks may be removed while people eat.

If you would like to bring a soup, side, or dessert, please call or text April (Beck) Wyss at (515) 707-6386. We're also going to try a recipe swap this year. If you have a recipe you would like to share with neighbors, please bring a minimum of 10-15 copies.

The meeting portion will begin at 6:30 p.m. and feature neighborhood news, public safety updates, and a city update from Ward 1 City Councilman Bill Gray. Candidates for local offices in the November election will also be allowed 2-3 minutes to introduce themselves. Barring technological difficulties, we will try to livestream the meeting on the MHNA Facebook page for those who cannot attend in person.

Please make plans to join us on October 21 and invite your neighbors!

We will also have public safety updates and neighborhood news. Please mark your calendars and tell your neighbors!

MHNA Membership - Join the Cause!

A reminder to please join or renew your MHNA membership for 2022! Dues paid after October 1 apply to the next calendar year. Becoming a member of the Merle Hay Neighborhood Association helps you make a difference in our community. Membership dollars help support the events and activities of our all-volunteer association.

So, what exactly is a neighborhood association? The easiest way to think of MHNA is a group of volunteers—citizens and businesses alike—who come together to make a difference in our neighborhood and Des Moines as a whole. We work on a range of civic issues such as public safety, neighborhood revitalization, park improvements, commercial corridor redevelopment, housing, food and clothing drives, sidewalk improvements, and much more. We encourage you to join us!

Who can join? Anyone who lives, rents, or owns property, or has a business within the neighborhood boundaries may join. Non-residents may also join as associate, non-voting members. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all dues and donations are tax-deductible. Membership dues are as follows:

- Individual: \$15
- Couple: \$30
- Business: \$30
- Church, School, or other Non-profit: \$10

Dues can be paid in person at association meetings or mailed to: Merle Hay Neighborhood Association PO Box 31036 Des Moines, IA 50310. Dues may also be paid with PayPal by sending a payment to merlehayneighborhood@gmail.com, though we encourage members to pay with a check so MHNA can avoid PayPal's processing fees. Thank you for supporting MHNA this year and every year!

Merle Hay Neighborhood Association
"Working Together to Make a Difference"
PO Box 31036 Des Moines, IA 50310

October 2021

Annual Holiday Lights Contest

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Association will sponsor its 17th annual Holiday Lights contest this winter. Judging will take place in mid-December. If you would like to ensure your house is included in judging, please contact April at (515)707-6386. Your home or your neighbor's home may be considered for a prize even if you don't contact us. Three homes will be awarded a \$25 gift card. Judges will be looking for creativity, originality, holiday spirit, neatness, and theme coordination. Since we're still in the midst of a pandemic, it never hurts to have another social-distancing activity, so we encourage as many people as possible to decorate their homes!



Help MHNA Keep the Kids Warm!

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Association is once again collecting clothing donations for elementary school children through our Keep the Kids Warm program. There is time to donate, and your help is greatly appreciated.

This year, we are collecting winter clothing for students at Moore Elementary School. Donations of new coats, boots, stocking hats, gloves, and mittens are welcome. The following sizes are needed:

Coats (boys and girls): 6/6x, 7/8, 10/12, 16 or 18.
Boots (boys and girls): 1, 2, and 3.

For more information about the clothing drive or to make a clothing or monetary donation, contact Kathy Battles by email at kmbattles@msn.com, or 515.865.3040. If you would like to drop your monetary or clothing donations at Kathy's home due to COVID-19, please feel free to do so. Her home address is 2729 62nd St., and she will be happy to collect everything for the kids at Moore. Please call ahead.

Sign Up for City Neighborhood News Updates

The City of Des Moines recently launched a neighborhood update email for residents and neighborhood leaders. You can sign up for the email by visiting <https://subscribe.dsm.city>. You can also submit suggestions to communications@dmgov.org.



2022 Calendar

Please plan ahead and make MHNA part of your schedule in 2022!

MHNA meets on the third Thursday in January, April, July, and October. Unless otherwise noted, the meetings start at 6:30 p.m. and are held at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave. The 2022 meetings will be held on January 20, April 21, July 21, and October 20. Please mark your calendars and help spread the word!

NFC Lending Available in Merle Hay

Don't forget that the Neighborhood Finance Corp's lending programs are available in a portion of the Merle Hay neighborhood. NFC offers first mortgages, home-repair loans, and forgivable grants for certain improvements. For more information, visit <http://neighborhoodfinance.org/> or call (515) 246-0010.



City Elections on November 2

Residents in the Merle Hay neighborhood can vote on November 2 in the races for Ward 1 Des Moines City Council and one of the At-Large seats on the council. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the Merle Hay Neighborhood Association cannot and does not get involved in politics; however, we do want citizens to exercise their right to vote. Information about voter registration, polling locations, and more can be found at <https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/county-auditor/election/election-office/Questions?> Contact the Polk County Elections Office at (515) 286-3247.

National Night Out Recap

Thank you to everyone who joined MHNA for our annual National Night Out celebration on August 3 at Tower Park! We had a great turnout and appreciate everyone who made the event possible.

National Night Out is a nationwide event that brings citizens and public safety personnel together to combat crime. It is a great way to meet your neighbors and learn more about safety within your home and while you are out and about. If you would like to volunteer to help organize next year's event, please contact April at (515) 707-6386.

We would like to thank the following businesses who participated in our event: Bankers Trust on Merle Hay Road, Neighborhood Finance Corp., The Watchmen, Hop A Lot, DSM First, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Des Moines Fire Department, Des Moines Police Department, Damsel in Defense, and SHAZAM.

We would also like to thank the following businesses for donating prizes/funding for our event: Bankers Trust on Merle Hay Road, Neighborhood Finance Corp., Hop A Lot, SHAZAM, Applebee's Merle Hay, O'Donnell Ace Hardware on Hickman, O'Donnell Ace Hardware on University, Price Chopper on Merle Hay Road, McAllister's on Douglas Avenue, Dairy Queen on Douglas Avenue, Wasabi Chi, Felix and Oscar's, KFC on Merle Hay Road, Chick-Fil-A on Merle Hay Road, Blaze Pizza Valley West, and Pita Pit on Merle Hay Road.

