



# WESTWOOD NEWS

WINTER/SPRING 2023

## News In The Neighborhood

Save these event dates!

Saturday, April 8th

### ANNUAL WALNUT CREEK 2023 CLEAN-UP!

9:00AM-12:00PM



Give back, clean up, and find the "cached" prizes during this family fun eco-hunt. City of DSM Parks and Recreation, Iowa Geocacher's Association, WNA, Central Iowa Trails Association (CITA), and other concerned citizens invite you on our unique hunt for trash. Volunteers will be wading through the creek or walking along the trails collecting litter, tires and looking for the GIANT plastic eggs, with a prize in each! Trash bags, grabbers, and gloves will be provided.

Sign up using this link!

[bit.ly/2023CacheInTrashOut](http://bit.ly/2023CacheInTrashOut)

Meetup location is the parking lot of Pal Joey's, 6224 Grand Ave.



Sunday, July 16th<sup>1</sup>

### SUMMER SPLASH!

Thursday, October 26th<sup>1</sup>

### WESTWOOD ANNUAL MEETING

### VIEW OUR VIRTUAL NEWSLETTERS!

Open your smartphone's built-in camera app and take a scan of the QR code to view our site!



Scan me!

# ALMOST SPRING SOCIAL

Join us for our annual WNA Almost Spring Social! Enjoy complimentary appetizers, drinks, and great conversation with neighbors - old and new!

## BIG GROVE

BREWERY 555 17th St. DSM, IA

6-8:30PM THURSDAY, MARCH 2ND

ALL WESTWOOD NEIGHBORS ARE WELCOME TO THE EVENT!



Please register using the Eventbrite link by February 23rd to help us estimate the number of guests! Registration is recommended but not required! See you there!

[westwoodspringsocial23.eventbrite.com](http://westwoodspringsocial23.eventbrite.com)



- westwoodneighborsdsm.com
- westwoodneighborsdsm@gmail.com
- facebook.com/westwoodneighborsdsm

Register your email with us!\*

Stay informed! Sign up here: [bit.ly/westwoodemail](http://bit.ly/westwoodemail)

**NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD?** We want to meet you! Drop us a line and let us know at [westwoodneighborsdsm@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodneighborsdsm@gmail.com)

2023 WNA BOARD • President, Kyle Vrchota • Vice President, Kelli Todd • Secretary, Angie Gingery • Treasurer, Steven Cameron • Social Chair<sup>3</sup>, Kim Corbin • Event Chair<sup>3</sup> McKenzie Glazebrook • Neighborhood Relations<sup>3</sup>, Vicki Sehgal • Block Captain Chair<sup>3</sup>, Vicki Heiken • Newsletter Editor<sup>3</sup>, Anthony Udrovich • Immediate Past President, Diane Kuhn <sup>1</sup>Dates subject to change. <sup>2</sup>Your address and personal information will be safely stored in our database. WNA does not share or sell this information with anyone. mailchimp

<sup>3</sup>Position filled by the WNA Board and not subject to a neighborhood vote. Walnut Creek Clean-Up text provided by: City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation

## News In The Neighborhood

### NEW BOARD MEMBER LEADERSHIP IN THE WNA!

2023 brings new faces to the WNA Board! A warm welcome to our new President Kyle Vrchota, Vice President Kelli Todd and Secretary Angie Gingery!

Our new members transition into the past roles held by President Diane Kuhn, Vice President McKenzie Glazebrook, and Secretary Michelle Gartner who had all fulfilled their 3-year (or more) terms. **Thank you for your hard work, strategies and dedication to the WNA over the past few years Diane, McKenzie and Michelle!** Note: McKenzie, will continue to help in a new role as Event Chair. Thank you McKenzie! Looking forward to the upcoming WNA events in 2023!

### WINTER WEATHER REMINDER!

Stay prepared for winter weather at [DMSnow.org](http://DMSnow.org) or by following [@dmdpw](https://twitter.com/dmdpw) on Twitter and [Des Moines Public Works](https://www.facebook.com/desmoinespublicworks) on Facebook. Residents can also sign up for snow removal updates by texting "SNOW" to 515-355-8815 or "ODDSNOW" to 515-355-8815 for **Odd / Even Neighborhood** parking updates.

Residents will have 48 hours after the snow stops to clear their sidewalks before they could become subject to administrative penalties of at least \$75 that increase with repeated violations.

Unable to remove snow due to physical and/or financial constraints? Contact **United Way 2-1-1** to locate snow removal assistance available to private property owners in Des Moines.

Questions about City snow removal? Residents are encouraged to call the 24/7 Public Works Customer Service Center at **515-283-4950**.

Text provided by: City of Des Moines, [dsm.city/news](https://www.dsm.city/news)

### HELPFUL COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS FOR OUR FURRY PALS!

To help prevent cold weather dangers from affecting your pet's health, check out the following expert tips:

- Bring a towel on long walks to clean off stinging, irritated paws. After each walk, **wash and dry your pet's feet and stomach** to remove ice, salt and chemicals—and check for cracks in paw pads or redness between the toes.
- **Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells.** Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin. If your pooch must be bathed, ask your vet to recommend a moisturizing shampoo and/or rinse.
- Massaging **petroleum jelly** or other paw protectants into paw pads before going outside can help protect from salt and chemical agents. **Booties** provide even more coverage and can also prevent sand and salt from getting lodged between bare toes and causing irritation. Use pet-friendly ice melts whenever possible.
- Pets burn extra energy by trying to stay warm in wintertime. **Feeding your pet a little bit more during the cold weather months** can provide much-needed calories, and making sure she has plenty of water to drink will help keep her well-hydrated and her skin less dry.
- Remember, if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet.

Text provided by: American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. [aspc.org](https://www.aspc.org)

### BUSINESS OWNERS OF WESTWOOD

Would you like to promote your business in *Westwood News*, or on our website? **Contact us at [westwoodneighborsdsm@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodneighborsdsm@gmail.com)** and let us know!

## News From The City

Text provided by: City of Des Moines News & Events. Content edited for space.



### City Launches "Improving Our Neighborhoods" Initiative

The City of Des Moines launched an initiative to strengthen and revitalize neighborhoods by offering property owners financial help for much-needed home repairs. The voluntary program, *Improving Our Neighborhoods (ION)*, will help homeowners make external repairs, connect to resources and navigate the home repair system.

City Manager Scott Sanders said that the goal of *ION* is two-fold—to repair deteriorating properties that diminish the value of neighboring homes and to reduce the number of houses degrading into nuisance properties requiring demolition by the City.

\$3.5 million in financial assistance has been committed to *ION* in 2023 that will help fund exterior property repairs for 100-150 residents. To learn more about *Improving Our Neighborhoods*, visit [DSM.city/ion](https://www.dsm.city/ion).

### 2022 Des Moines Parks and Recreation Volunteer Award Winners

- **Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Bill and Pam Thompson
- **Volunteer of the Year** - Beth Steven
- **Corporate Group of the Year**  
MidAmerican Energy Company
- **Volunteer Group of the Year**  
Friends of Des Moines Parks
- **Friend of the Year**  
Karen Stiles and Michael Schaffer
- **Coach of the Year** - Dr. Ronald Mells
- **Volunteer Supervisor of the Year**  
Jason Fisel
- **Special Volunteer Award** - Justin Einerson

In 2022, 4,442 volunteers donated 28,816 hours of service (valued over \$903,000). Interested in volunteering? Visit [dmparks.org](https://www.dmparks.org) or email [parksvolunteer@dmgov.org](mailto:parksvolunteer@dmgov.org) for info!

## IT'S WNA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Becoming a member is easy! Check out the form below!



*Paid dues are good for the calendar year!*



## Membership Form

**\$40** Family membership     **\$25** Individual membership

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email / Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Family membership      Individual membership  
 New to the neighborhood      Currently from the neighborhood

WNA collects dues on a voluntary basis which go towards community projects, meetings, newsletters, our annual party & maintaining the integrity of our neighborhood.

### Two easy ways to become a member or pay dues!

#### Fill out, cut & mail form to:

Steven Cameron,  
326 51st Street,  
Des Moines, IA 50312

#### Online at:

[westwoodneighborsdsm.com](https://www.westwoodneighborsdsm.com)  
Click "Pay Dues"  
(Dues processed through PayPal)