



WESTWOOD NEWS

WINTER/SPRING 2022

News In The Neighborhood

Saturday, April 16th

ANNUAL WALNUT CREEK CLEAN-UP!

9:30AM-11:30AM



Give back, clean-up and find the "cached" prizes. Join us Easter weekend to go on a fun family eco-hunt. City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation, Iowa Geocacher's Association, Westwood Neighborhood Association, and other concerned citizens invite you on our unique hunt for trash. Help improve our creeks and central Iowa's water quality!

Space is limited and registration required!

bit.ly/2022CacheInTrashOut



Sunday, July 17th!!

WNA ANNUAL SUMMER EVENT!

Details coming soon!

VIRTUAL ANNUAL FALL MEETING RECAP

Approximately 25 neighbors and special guests participated in our second Virtual Chili Dinner/annual meeting. Highlights included a recap of our 2021 events; 2022 WNA board member elections; updates from our City Council Members, Police Liaison, and Merrill's Principal.



All Westwood neighbors are welcome!

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

Please register using the Eventbrite link below by **March 20th** to help us estimate the number of guests!

Registration is recommended but not required!



Thursday, March 31st

5:30PM-8PM

The Betfred Left Field Lounge (formally The Cub Club) at Principal Park!

1 Line Dr, DSM, IA 50309

Due to the ongoing pandemic masks are recommended to be worn during the event when not eating or drinking.

westwoodspringsocial2022.eventbrite.com

TOGETHER WE RAISED AN INSPIRING \$3,412 FOR THE FOOD BANK OF IOWA!

This helps secure 12,689 meals for those experiencing food insecurity. Thank you to everyone that made this virtual food drive a success to help those in need!



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!



facebook.com/westwoodneighborsdsm
westwoodneighborsdsm.com



Register your email with us!

Stay informed! Sign up here: bit.ly/westwoodemail

Your address and personal information will be safely stored in our database. WNA does not share or sell this information with anyone.



2022 WNA Board • **President**, Diane Kuhn (kuhndianer@yahoo.com) • **Vice President**, McKenzie Glazebrook • **Treasurer**, Steven Cameron (stevencameron@iowarealty.com) • **Secretary**, Michelle Gartner (mgartner78@icloud.com) • **Social Chair***, Kim Corbin (kimberlyrachel@gmail.com) • **Membership Chair***, Vicki Sehgal (vicki.sehgal@gmail.com) • **Block Captain Chair***, Vicki Heiken (vheiken@gmail.com) • **Newsletter Editor***, Anthony Udrovich (tm.udro@gmail.com)

*Position filled by the WNA Board and not subject to a neighborhood vote.

News In The Neighborhood

NEWLY REFRESHED WESTWOOD SIGNS ARE UP!

Our old sun-faded WNA signs have been replaced with shiny new versions! Check them out at all main entry points!



NEW NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH COORDINATOR!

The City of Des Moines recently hired **Heather Tamminga** as the Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator. This newly created position supports the City's strategic initiative to strengthen and grow our 51 neighborhood associations. In this role, Heather will attend neighborhood association meetings; provide assistance, education, guidance, and support to neighborhood associations; and will connect neighborhood leaders to City resources. She will manage the neighborhood recognition policy and annual surveys, and will lead programs such as the Block Challenge Grant!

NEW WNA TREASURER!

Our newest board member, Steven Cameron takes over the treasurer role from past member Sarah Gusse who fulfilled her 3-year term this past fall. Steven and his family have lived in Westwood for 5 years. Welcome to the board, Steven!

INTERESTED IN BEING ON THE WNA BOARD?

Want to get more involved in our community? Join the WNA board! We're looking to fill the **President, VP** and **Secretary** positions next year. Reach out to our current board members if interested!



News From The City

Text provided by: City of Des Moines Neighborhood Update. Content edited for space.



City of Des Moines Prepares For Launch Of New Parking System

If you haven't heard already, the City of Des Moines has been working on replacing the parking meter technology downtown. This new system will replace the outdated parking meters currently being used and replace them with multi-meter parking stations (also commonly known as pay stations or kiosks), unique stall marker IDs and a mobile app available on iOS and Android devices.

This parking technology is already available in larger metro's around the Midwest, including Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago and Kansas City. It is also available in Ames, Iowa.

The City estimates that all of the individual meters will be replaced by July 2022, with a 100% completion of the rollout by August.

Council Adds A New Member: Indira Sheumaker

In November 2021, the residents of Des Moines went to polling stations across Des Moines to vote for representatives of three Council seats up for re-election. As a result of those elections, community activist Indira Sheumaker won her race, becoming the new representative of Ward 1 on the City Council.

During the January 10th City Council meeting, Councilwoman Sheumaker was officially sworn in, replacing incumbent Bill Gray.

In addition to being sworn into City Council, Councilwoman Sheumaker was also appointed to three committees: the IMPACT Community Action Partnership, the Homeless Coordinating Council and as an alternate member of the Metro Waste Authority Board.

Two other Councilmembers were sworn in during the meeting: At-Large Councilwoman Connie Boesen and Ward 3 Councilman Josh Mandelbaum, both won their re-election campaigns.

If you are interested in learning more about the City's four Wards, what Ward you live in, who represents you on City council and their contact information, you can visit our website at [DSM.city/government](https://www.dsm.city/government).

A Look At First Responders: DMFD Responds To A Record Number Of Calls In 2021

If you called the Des Moines Fire Department in 2021, you weren't the only one. The Department set a record responding to 30,838 calls for service during 2021. This record call volume continued a steady upward trend in service calls that has seen the number of calls climb over 56% over the past decade.

"Our department is proud to serve the City of Des Moines," Des Moines Fire Department Chief John TeKippe said. "Our residents know that whether they have a medical or fire-related emergency, they're going

to have some of the best trained and dedicated firefighters taking care of them."

A large part of the increase in call volume has been due to the demand for emergency medical services which made up 66% of the calls in 2021.

"Long gone are the days where the Des Moines Fire Department's purpose was simply to put out fires," TeKippe said. "When you think about the fact that the majority of our calls now involve medical services, it opens your eyes to how skilled our firefighters really are."

The Des Moines Fire Department met the increased demands by adding a new station, Fire Station 11 to serve the City's northeast side, in November.

Additionally, the 98th Class of the Des Moines Fire Academy with 29 recruits started its training on Monday, January 10, 2022.

DMFD Fast Facts:

- The 30,838 calls in 2021 was an increase of roughly 8.5% from 2020 (28,463 calls)
- Nearly 20,000 of the calls were EMS related
- Approximately 900 calls were fire-related incidents (Vehicle fires, structure fires, etc)
- Of the calls in 2021, roughly 10,000 were other calls (Hazardous materials, public assistance, false alarms, smoke scares, etc.)
- Des Moines Fire Station 1 was busiest with over 10,000 responses

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:

www.westwoodneighborsdsm.com
Click "Pay Dues"
(Dues processed through PayPal)