

Westwood News



JUNE 2010

Letter From the President

Greetings neighbors!

Summer is my favorite time of year to live in Des Moines. The City really comes alive. I only wish I had more time to participate in all the fun activities. Concerts, even kid friendly concert venues, farmers markets, sporting events, recreation events, trails, Grays Lake, Saylorville, wineries, Library, Adventureland, RAGBRAI, festivals, races, triathlons, NASCAR, Valley Junction events, East Village events, Hoyt Sherman and Salisbury House, Zoo, Living History Farms, Science Center, wine events, golf classics, car shows, sport events, the sculpture garden and the Granddaddy of them all—The Art Festival!! I hope to run into you at some of these fun events!

—Kristy Barzen

• Is it time to renew your membership to WNA? Membership runs July through June. Your support for WNA is much appreciated!

- Jazz in July!
- Save the Date for the WNA Ice Cream Social!
- Bike Trail Access Update

Jazz in July!

July 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Westwood Neighbors is again sponsoring with Metro Arts, Jazz in July, Friday, July 9, 2010, from 6pm to 8:30pm at the Sylvan Theater. This year, we're having two great musical guests:

The Max Wellman Band and The Jim Oatts Quintet

This is a great eclectic combination. Max Wellman is a fresh young talent recently graduated from Roosevelt High School while Jim Oatts is a master of Des Moines Big Band jazz scene. Max opens and Jim Oatts follows. It should be great.

Once again, Woody's Bar B Que and Brandmeyer Popcorn Company will cater and Crystal Clear donated water for sale. Tom and Vickie Heiken own Crystal Clear and live in WNA. Their donation each year has helped offset the cost of the event.

Tell your friends and neighbors and mark your calendars. Westwood Neighbors sponsors a great Jazz in July event each year and this may be their best yet. We hope to see everyone there.

—Rob denHartog
Jazz in July Chair



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Save the Date: Westwood Neighborhood Annual Ice Cream Social

August 3rd 6:00pm- 9:00pm

Join us for our annual ice cream social and celebrate National Night Out!

Our neighbors Bernie and Stephanie at **217 52ND ST** have once again graciously offered to host a pool party at their home. The Neighborhood Association will provide ice cream and Bernie will fire up the grill. The kids (and the adults!) had a blast last year.

Meet old friends and make new friends, and bring your swimsuit if you would like.

Scrub Days

The Metro Transfer Station located at 4198 Delaware Ave and Metro Waste Authority Compost Park on 1601 Harriett Street are BOTH open for SCRUB days from 7 am to 1pm --June 19, July 17, August 21, Sept 18, Nov 20th.

Items that are allowed include: trash containers, trash, furniture, lawn mowers w/out fluids, TV's, computers, and tires. There is no charge on appliances this year, including air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, micros, dehumidifiers, furnaces, stoves, washers, dryers, dishwasher, water heaters, etc.

Yard waste will be only accepted at Compost Center. For more information, go to www.dmgov.org or call 283-4950.

Neighbors in the News

Congratulations to Barb Lyford, who was spotlighted in the *Des Moines Register* and the *Homestyle* magazine for her exquisite garden. Barb and husband Dick, have lived in the neighborhood for 20 years.

She shared how a neighbor gave her an idea to fight "Weed Wars." Mark Kane suggested laying sections of newspaper down and covering them with mulch. This suppresses weeds and prevents new growth. This idea may help all of us become more gardeners and less weeders!

Barb and Dick's garden covers 2 1/2 acres, and sits atop a 60 foot slope! Barb shared that she used principles of sacred geometry and numbers, including a five sided geometric figure, the pentagram, Fibonacci numbers, and symbolism to design her garden. "It is both classical and spiritual," she says. "I see gardening as an art form that speaks of nature and the spiritual and demands some knowledge of science and art in order to be successful."

Barb's garden is yet another hidden treasure in our Westwood neighborhood!

— Kristy Barzen



Congratulations to John Freude of 56th Street, who was featured in the *Des Moines Register* for the receipt of two MORE scholarships! John, a recent Roosevelt grad, is the recipient of a \$2000 scholarship from the Grand Lodge of Iowa, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He also won a national essay contest sponsored by the Colonial Dames of America and will receive a full scholarship to attend the Congressional Seminar from June 19-June 25 in Washington D.C.

Way to go, John!

..And New Neighbors! Welcome to The Posts

Enduro, biking, running, Beaverdale and engagement - pretty much sums up the more recent history of our new residents...

Scott and Diane Post of 32 SW 58th Drive had been eyeing their new home for much of last year and decided to make the jump from Valdez Drive in Beaverdale last September. They enjoy the many trails around the neighborhood, walking with their black lab, Max, and taking to in the bike trails on road bikes and the many off-road trails on the mountain bike. When not on a bicycle, Scott likes to ride and race the motorized kind, traveling around the country, as well as locally, sponsoring the Rattlesnake Enduro near Winterset (September 12th - www.midwestenduros.com - district 17) Scott enjoys running year round and has made the Living History Farms x-country race an annual favorite. While Scott has been busy working at Hy-Vee as an Accounting Coordinator, Diane has been busy working at home helping to raise their two girls, Nicole and Kristina. (Both are engaged to be married). Please help welcome our new neighbors and make them feel at home in the Westwood neighborhood.

—David Barzen

..And The Allens



David and Ellie Allen have been in the business of developing new ideas from nothing for many years now - and are about to start again. They are the couple who bought the old Cora Perkins homestead on 51st street at the end of 2009 and plan great things for the wonderful wooded lot after removing an old 51st Street fixture. The Perkins home had been on 51st Street since 1900 - and the new owners plan to start rebuilding a new home for their family of four in mid-to-late summer. They have two daughters - Sosia, age 5 and Maggie, age 2.

They came via Iowa City, where they started a new restaurant called, Z'Mariks Noodle Café. You can learn more about it at <http://zmariks.com>. The family then decided to try and repeat their success in Clive - and moved to Waukee to be near their new venture.

While they have enjoyed living on Westwoods Drive and being in the Westwoods neighborhood Association in Waukee, they missed the old tree lined neighborhoods that our area had to offer and wanted to be near St. Augustine's school, where they plan to send their daughters. David had grown up near 30th street in Des Moines and wanted to get back to the old neighborhood. So welcome our new neighbors as they start to build a new life in **our** Westwood. Make sure to ask them how they met (another story of destiny) and how Ellie's Greek family history has carried forward in their new endeavors.

—David Barzen

Neighborhood Asks for Access to Walnut Creek Trail to Remain in Present Location and For Some Improvement in Quality of Trail

The right of way just South of the intersection of Southwest 52nd Street and Welker Avenue should continue to serve as a neighborhood access to the Walnut Creek Trail, according to the overwhelming majority of neighborhood residents in attendance at the neighborhood/city meeting held at Hanawalt Elementary School on the evening of June 9th. The meeting, which followed a year-long review by DM Parks and Recreation on potential access points and their costs, was attended by more than 50 neighborhood residents and a wide variety of city officials. Officials in attendance included Mayor Frank Cownie, At Large City Council member Skip Moore, DM Parks and Recreation Director Don Tripp, Community Development Director/Assistant City Manager Larry Hulse, DM Parks Planner Mindy Moore, and DMPD Sergeant Joe Gonzalez.

Parks Director Don Tripp started what proved to be a lengthy meeting by presenting the results of the city's review and summarizing the comments city officials had received from residents prior to the meeting. Tripp, and DM Parks Planner Moore, reported that the clear majority of those contacting the city prior to the meeting had similarly requested that the existing right of way be preserved, but split about 50-50 on whether it should remain as is or be improved through paving. When those in attendance were asked the same question, a show of hands resulted in a similar 50-50 split on the issue of paving. At the same time, a significant majority were in agreement that regardless of the issue of paving, the existing 31 inch opening should be expanded so that bicycles, and those with strollers, didn't face a struggle to use the access, and that some basic steps should be taken to improve the quality and appearance of the right of way.

Tripp indicated that his recommendation, based on Parks review, was that the existing right of way should largely remain as is and not be made part of the formal trail system. As a result, he indicated neighborhood residents should work with those in the City with oversight of right-of-ways on possible improvements and identified the specific city officials with whom the neighborhood would want to work. Tripp also laid out significant ADA issues that would be raised by any steps to pave the access because of the level of incline of the right-of-way. Tripp also noted that any improvements would increase concerns about the state of the present Railroad crossing, and possibly result in a need for an upgrade at an undetermined cost at a time when the City had no excess funds for such an action, and when the City had no approval from the railroad for any such upgrade.

Subsequent to the meeting, a representative of the Sehgal Family Foundation contacted the WNA to note that its offer to help pay for improvements to the existing right of way remained, and that this could include at least some assistance in paying for any necessary upgrade to the Railway crossing. Prior to the June 9 meeting, the Foundation had contacted the WNA with an offer to cover 1/3 of the costs of paving the access conditioned on the neighborhood, and the city, each paying a similar share of the projected costs. The Foundation's willingness to help pay for any necessary railroad crossing upgrade was accordingly passed on to the City on Friday June 11. At that time, the WNA learned that various city offices were planning to meet in the coming weeks to further discuss the desires and concerns expressed at the neighborhood meeting and would get back to the neighborhood after those meetings.

Thanks to those residents who attended and/or provided feedback to the City via phone calls and e-mails. And thanks to City officials for holding and attending the meeting to give the neighborhood the opportunity to play a role in shaping this decision. If you have additional concerns or questions about this issue please e-mail them to me at mrk515@gmail.com and I'll do my best at keeping you updated between newsletters and keeping the city informed of neighborhood concerns.

In addition, because the offered assistance from the Sehgal Family Foundation is conditioned on a match from neighborhood residents, please also e-mail me if you would be willing to help fund any costs that may prove necessary (especially to the railroad crossing) and in what amount. This includes those of you who had previously contacted me with a willingness to help cover for the possible paving of an access, as it would be useful to know if that generosity extends to upgrades short of paving.

—Mike Keller

Hanawalt News

Julia Burton-Varn, the current principal at Hanawalt has announced her acceptance of a position in Iowa City. She will be moving there to be closer to her aging Mother who is needing her help. We wish Julia the best of luck. Hanawalt is currently interviewing possible candidates with the help of DMPS administration, the PTA, and select parents of Hanawalt children.

Hanawalt is also undergoing changes in staffing. With all the media attention on the Des Moines School budget cuts, our neighborhood school fared better than most. No teachers were lost. The 'specials' of Art, Music, and PE were cut to three days per week, and those teachers will teach at King the other two days.

Thanks to all who put in time and effort and got involved into making their voices heard. We did NOT want to lose the ARTS!

—Kristy Barzen

Sidewalk Talk

We are lucky enough in our neighborhood to have a lot of greenery, but some of the shrubs and trees have a tendency to grow whatever way they want — and at times they can cover the sidewalk. As a courtesy to your neighbors, take a stroll down the sidewalk in front of your house and make sure your shrubs and trees aren't impeding walkers, runners, kids on bikes, or moms with strollers. When the shrubs and trees take up the sidewalk, people using it are often forced to walk on grass easement that lines the street. In addition, the greenery can make it difficult for people (especially the short kind!) to see cars as they back out from driveways. If your bushes or shrubs are growing over the sidewalk, please trim them back to ensure that we all have a safe place to walk.

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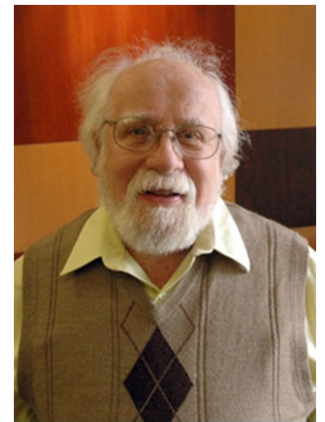
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In Memoriam: Neighbor Peter Pintus

A loss was felt far beyond the boundaries of our neighborhood with the death of Peter Pintus on May 24. A resident of Des Moines and assistant to the rabbi at Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Pintus was well-known and respected for his message, his kindness, and his empathy for all those around him. He survived the horrors of the Holocaust and used his amazing life experiences to teach lessons of tolerance, understanding, and forgiveness.

Pintus was born a German Jew, but converted to Christianity in Holland. After the Germans invaded, Pintus was sent to a labor camp at age 15. For three years, he worked 10 hours a day, seven days a week, dynamiting salt in an abandoned salt mine and hauling out 50-pound boulders. In 1945, Pintus escaped through an unguarded gate. For eight days he lived off grass, bark, and potatoes stolen from farm fields. When he saw an American soldier, he knew he was safe.



He moved to America in 1951 with his wife, Eva. In 1995, after raising five children in a Christian home, Pintus made a trip to Israel and decided to return to Judaism. In recent years, Pintus spoke from experience about the importance of respecting people of different backgrounds and faiths. Pintus' narrative of his Holocaust experiences is part of the "Testimony to Tolerance" collection at the Des Moines Public Library. He was also a member of Des Moines University's Institutional Review Board and served on the board of the Des Moines Area Religious Council. He was honored by Governor Chet Culver in August 2009 as an "Outstanding Iowan." In honor of Pintus' message, Des Moines University awarded a posthumous honorary doctor of humane letters degree at the University's 2010 Commencement.

Our sympathies to Eva Pintus for the loss of her partner of 63 years — a great man, teacher, and friend.

Much appreciation for our neighborhood captains

They deliver the news to you!

Bill & Ginny Satterstrom, 49th St * Joe & Jo Kobes, N. 51st St * Phil & Sharon Walsh, S. 51st St * Jim & Barbara Bell, N. 52nd St * Bill & Lynn Heggen, Robertson Dr * Jim & Alison Fleming, S. 52nd St * John & Colleen Burgeson, Welker * Dean Weitenhagen, 56th St * Tom Kisch & Margo Hutcheson, 58th St * Tom & Dena Zisko, 58th Pl * Sheila Keene, 59th St * Rory & Marti Huber, 44th-45th St * Rob denHartog, Grand Ave * Dennis & Cheryl Pederson, 56th Private Drives

Vicki Heiken, Chair & Block Captain
255-7066

About Westwood Neighborhood News

Westwood Neighborhood News is published quarterly to provide residents with information about the activities of the Westwood Neighborhood Association. We welcome and encourage contributions from residents.

Please contact Amy MacKrell with news, articles, and calendar events at amy.mackrell@dmu.edu (subject line "Westwood") or 440-2766. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.

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| | | <p>3009 Ingersoll Ave. Des Moines, IA 50312 515-274-3555 After hours & holidays: 515-280-3051</p> | <p>Veterinary Staff:</p> <p>Dr. N. T. Peterson Dr. T. J. Frye Dr. T. S. Dermody Dr. L. Meythaler-Mullins</p> <p>HOURS Weekdays: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday: 7 a.m. to Noon</p> |
| <p>Ingersoll Animal Hospital Premiere Service. Quality Care.</p> | | | |

Ask the Westwood Vet

As my husband and I welcomed our first baby this spring (It's a girl! Margaret Rose Mullins was born on April 20, 2010), the often asked question from friends and family was "How will the pets react?" Since we share our house with two cats, two dogs, and now a baby, the question was fair. This article briefly discusses raising children and dogs together and keeping everyone safe and happy.

Is your child "good with dogs"? Does your dog "let kids do anything to them"? The huge gap between how dogs and humans perceive child behavior can lead to scared dogs and injured children. To start, no child under school age should be left alone with a dog. On the child's part, the mental capacity for empathy-awareness of hurting another being doesn't happen until 5 to 7 years of age. The child doesn't understand that certain actions can hurt the dog. The child can give the right answers and behave properly when supervised, but let the adult so much as turn a head away and you'll often see the child start to experiment. Older children can have problems dealing appropriately with dogs too, due to childhood inability to understand the consequences of actions. Boys up to age 9 years are prime candidates for serious dog bites.

A parent watching a child and dog interact is at a disadvantage when that parent doesn't know which behaviors from a child are threatening to a dog.

You should never allow a child to:

1. Pull the dog's ears
2. Poke eyes or other parts of the dog with fingers or anything else
3. Swing objects at the dog—whether the child realizes the object is going toward the dog or not
4. Pull the dog's tail
5. Grab any part of the dog's body
6. Chase the dog
7. Tug or otherwise compete with the dog for toys, food, or other items
8. Suddenly get into a dog's face
9. Run up to a bed or other furniture where a dog is resting
10. Disturb a dog who is sleeping or eating
11. Pet someone else's dog when the person is not there for the child to ask permission
12. Pet a dog through or over a fence or when the dog is tied out.
13. Enter the private area (crate or special room) designated as a child-free zone
14. Go near the nest where a mother cares for her puppies
15. Run in the sight of a strange dog
16. Provoke a dog to become agitated (including a dog confined behind a fence or on a tie out)
17. Ride a dog like a horse, lie down on a dog, or otherwise put significant weight on a dog.
18. Be present in any situation that causes a dog to feel pain or fear (this would include someone punishing the dog, an electric collar shock, or any other painful or fearful event that can then become associated in the dog's mind with a child)

From the Dog's Point of View

When a dog becomes convinced that children inflict pain or fear, damage has been done to that dog's trust in children. If the dog believes you will stand by and let this happen, or will leave the dog at the mercy of the child without you being there, eventually the dog will have no choice but self-defense.

By the time the dog shows a reaction, the damage may have long been done. This is especially true of dogs raised from puppyhood with improperly supervised children. As the dog's defense drives mature, and the dog is ready to do something about the kids, the dog's beliefs about kids are set. Parents didn't realize what they were allowing to happen to the dog by being so pleased that the puppy or dog would "let the children do anything to him."

Social Issues

Dogs hugely benefit children when both are properly managed. A great deal of research indicates that children growing up with well-cared-for dogs have mental and emotional advantages that extend throughout life. Learning to handle a dog properly helps prepare humans to be good parents. People learn in many of the same ways that dogs do, so learning how to teach a dog will help you teach your children. Of course keeping your pet in good health is also important, as some diseases of dogs and cats can be transmitted to humans. Be certain to bring your pet in for regular veterinary care and inform your veterinarian if there are children in the household so we can discuss how to keep everyone healthy.

While the above information pertains to older children, if you know of someone that has pets and is expecting a baby an excellent book that I used was "*And Baby Makes Four*" by Penny Scott-Fox.



Margaret Rose and friends

Questions for the vet for the next Westwood Newsletter?

Email them to: ingersollvet@gmail.com

—Laurie Meythaler-Mullins
Ingersoll Animal Hospital

Westwood Membership—Is it Time to Renew?

June marks the end of the membership year for Westwood. Strong, consistent membership can greatly benefit the neighborhood association and is essential when seeking grants to fund neighborhood improvements. Our challenge is to build a stable neighborhood association. Becoming a member is the first step. Please consider renewing your membership today.

Thanks to the members who have contributed to our success!

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Allen, Jason | Fisher, Bob | Ludwig, Bill & Joyce | Satterstrom, Bill & Virginia |
| Althoff, Angela | Fleming, James & Allison | Lumbard, Rob & Lisa | Schroeder, Diane |
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| Downing, Dr. Wendell & Joyce | Linebaugh, Jesse & Melissa | Rosenberg, Dr. Steven & Tracy | Zisko, Tom & Dena Goblerud |
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| | | Sager, Sara | |

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