



Spring 2011 edition

www.neighborhoodlink.com/desmoines/vhmna

Rodine-Mickle Recognition Awards

Recognizing outstanding leadership dedicated service in maintaining public awareness through citizen participation and improving the quality of life in the city of Des Moines. Valley High Manor nominated the following for their contributions of time and/or money helping our neighborhood. When you see them, thank them.

- Harlan Donaldson - Des Moines Citizen
- Jim Nelson – Des Moines City Employee
- Sleepy Hollow Sports Park - Des Moines Business
- BKM Properties - Des Moines Business

Update – Four Mile Flood Control Project

If you normally have water around your house during times of high water, this is for you. Because they are changing the levees, the water must go somewhere, so the low areas in our neighborhood will be in a flood plain. It is recommended you check into getting flood insurance as soon as possible before it becomes impossible for you to do so. Other recommendations are for a flap valve to prevent a sewer backup, putting in a sump pump and possibly evaluating the tiling and drainage around your property.

Dean/Williams Cleanup

We will be cleaning up our more public streets on Saturday, May 7th, (Rain date is May 21st). Meet in the out parking area of Sleepy Hollow at 9 am. We should be done by 1 pm. Dress appropriately in good walking shoes and gloves. There is poison ivy along the road so long sleeves and pants are recommended.

Flowers for Parking

If you ordered flowers from the city for your parking area, they will be available for pick on Saturday afternoon, May 14th. They will be marked with your name and setting in the driveway of 1021 Knob Hill.

Meeting Signs

We have new signs announcing our meetings. Thank you Sleepy Hollow! They are displayed about a week before the meeting. Neighborhood meetings are normally scheduled for the 3rd Thursday in January, April, July and October.

Dog Walkers

Please clean up after your dog when they leave droppings on other people's property.

Garage Sale

The annual all-neighborhood Garage Sale will take place in conjunction with the Copper Creek all-neighborhood Garage Sale. It is hoped that both neighborhoods will benefit from the same traffic and interest on the second weekend in June: Saturday June 11th. Start time will be 8 am. Quitting time will be left up to individual needs and plans. This year it is hoped that bake sales and craft sales will take place in addition to the typical garage sales seen every summer. Big signs will be posted at all neighborhood outlets all weekend. Any questions? Contact:

Patti (cherokee_sioux@yahoo.com)

Ellyse (familybergeron@msn.com)

Master Gardeners

..will be visiting one of our neighbors on June 11th. There will be a tour bus and additional car traffic around 1021 Knob Hill Dr. The public is invited on June 18th so parking could be a problem throughout that Saturday. Master Gardeners will be directing folks around and explaining what they are seeing. They will have tickets purchased in advance and at the end of my driveway. Mary is inviting the neighborhood to come before the 11th or in between the 18th for free.

Association Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: (list at least one)

Day: _____ Evening: _____

Best time to contact _____ AM/PM

e-mail address: _____

Fee: \$10.00 per year for each household.

Membership entitles you to one vote per adult in household.

Make checks payable to: **VHMNA**

Please mail to: Connie Ballard
Valley High Treasurer
4211 Timber Ln
Des Moines, IA 50317

Minutes from our Association meetings are posted on the website if you would like to read them.

Port-A-Potty

From the Throne: (The following is a tongue in cheek approach to a serious Neighborhood need)

The neighborhood is indebted to Jim's Johns for once again this year offering a John for the park at no charge to us. If anyone in the neighborhood has the opportunity to recommend Jim's to any function renting John's, please do so. The other item is a responsibility for us. In return for the use we need to monitor the John and call the number on the door when it needs serviced. This means that they won't have to put it on a regular route, thus saving them in costs.

We need to establish a PPP. Please email or call our president if your family will take responsibility for a weekly check on the Potty for a month.

1. Make a weekly visit to check for Out of Paper/visible poo/vandalism/or any other item you can't take care of on the spot with an empty plastic bag.
2. Call the number on the door if needed.
3. At the end of your month, let me know if and what calls you've needed to make, and to remind me to contact next month's PPP.

Newsletter/Website articles

If you would like to advertise your handyman services or anything else, you can contact Brenda to publish something in the newsletter or visit our website to start a conversation there

Park cleanup

Join us in the park by the playground on Saturday, June 18. We will be cleaning up the fence line surrounding the park and the playground equipment. We will starting at 9 am until we are done. In the past, we have finished around noon to 1 pm. Wear appropriate clothing and bring clippers and saws.

Scrub Day

There are multiple East side neighborhoods hosting a Scrub Day on Saturday, July 16th. It will start at 7 am and run through noon. We have the lot at E 30th and Scott which is the old Ruan Transportation. We need people to help unload, directing traffic and check ids. This is for Des Moines residents only. Contact Dave Edwards (515-577-7430) if you can help.

For a full list of items and alternate times/places to take your items, visit:
<http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/PublicWorks/Pages/ScrubCalendar.aspx>

Partial list of what can and cannot be brought to the site:

- YES: tires, small engines, appliances, general trash.
- NO: trees or other yard debris.
- MAYBE: hazardous materials, computers and bikes.

PicNic

Our next meeting will be held Saturday, July 23rd at Noon. We will have a pot-luck picnic at the east side of our park just off Winegardner. The association will provide: hot dogs, hamburgers, lemonade, tea and dinnerware.

Dates to remember:

May 7 (rain date May 21)
 Dean/Williams Cleanup
 May 14
 Pick Up Flower
 June 11
 Garage Sale
 June 18
 Park Cleanup
 July 16
 Scrub Day
 July 23
 Pot Luck - Assn meeting

Contact the officers below with questions or problems.

Pres	Harlan Donaldson	263-4922	Valleyhighpresiden@Yahoo.Com
Vp	Rick Davis	262-1837	Rickannadavis@Msn.Com
Sec	Brenda Peel	249-2285	Bkpcats@Juno.Com
Treas	Connie Ballard	266-5588	Cballard4211@Gmail.Com
Board	Carol Stewart	266-4772	Rubybagonia@Gmail.Com
Board	Mary Smith	265-0665	Mpsmith1@Hotmail.Com
Board	Patti Burdette	266-4976	Cherokee_Sioux55@Yahoo.Com
Board	Steve O'brien	418-7526	

City Liaisons:

Doua Lor
 Des Moines Police Department
 515-971-0792
dblor@dmgov.org

Dennis Rule
 Neighborhood Inspection Division
 515-208-0317
darule@dmgov.org

Des Moines website
<http://www.dmgov.org>