

Fall 2011

NEW LOGO

The new logo features to the left is on new signs that are posted at the entrances to our neighborhood. We want to thank BKM properties for sharing the cost of the signs with our neighborhood association.

Surround on Swingset

A new surround was put on the swingset in the park. It has been refilled with sand that should not wash away when it rains. Thank you to the city and neighbors who helped with this project.

The other park equipment has been painted and the fence line was cleared of overhanging limbs. Visit our park to see the improvements!

Park Potty

We want to thank Jim's John's for providing the kybo for the park. It is nice to have this on hand instead of running home when necessary.

Next event - Picnic

We have rescheduled the picnic that was weather delayed this summer. It will be held on **Saturday,**

September 24th at noon. The association will provide drinks, hamburger, hot dogs, and dinnerware. Please bring a side to share and join us.

Fair Ribbons

Congratulations Mary Smith! She entered 11 items at the Iowa State Fair and received 11 ribbons. 100% Good Job Mary!

Scrub Day

There was a good turnout of cars and workers for the scrub day this summer. We had only 31 tons this year, down from 80 last year. If you still have items to get rid of, the city has more neighborhood scrub days in September and October. You can also visit the city sites on the 3rd Saturday of each month through November. Visit the city website for details.

www.neighborhoodlink.com/desmoines/vhmna

Garage Sales

Thank you to all who held garage sales. There were lots of buyers. We think it was a good weekend and plan to do it again next year. 2nd weekend of June at the same time Copper Creek has theirs.

Flowers for Park and Parking

If you would like flowers for the parking on your property, please contact Mary Smith as soon as possible. They need to get orders in for next year soon.

Report weeds

Several properties have been reported for not mowing their yards or otherwise keeping weeds down. The department has these addresses, but they are very behind in taking action. To report:

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/PublicWorks/pages/reportProblems.aspx>

Snow Ordinance

Last year's snow ordinance was a success. Because of the results below, the same plan will be in place this year. Questions or concerns should be directed to Bruce Braun at 237-1371

- Reduced snow plowing times by 33%
- Reduced equipment and fuel costs
- Better clearance curb to curb
- Reduced damage to parked vehicles
- Reduced snow build-up on streets
- Reduced re-work on streets after initial plowing

Dates to remember:

Sat. Sept 24 - Noon

Picnic in park

Thur. Oct 20 – 6:30 pm

Association Meeting

Elections will be held

Mon. Dec. 14

Holiday Lights judging

Thurs. Dec. 17

Nominations, money or food for holiday baskets

Thurs. Jan 19 – 6:30 pm

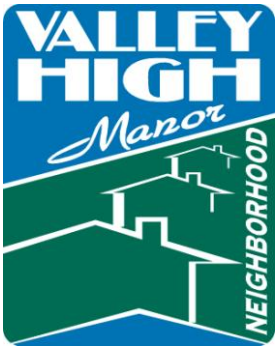
Pot Luck - Assn meeting

Neighbors seeking work

John Waters, vehicle mechanic/handyman.
814 Winegardner Road
(515)265-2286

Bill Montague, carpenter
4177 Timber Lane
(515)419-3738(D)
(515)262-8599(E)

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



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Neighborhood news

If you have news to share with the neighborhood, please visit our website to start a discussion or contact one of the board members to get it into the newsletter.

Condolences

We are sorry to report the recent passing of our neighbor, Mary Ann Eastman. She and her husband (who also passed recently) lived on Winegardner for the past 40 years. They were great neighbors and will be missed.

Rick and Anna Davis' son passed this summer. Please keep them in your thoughts during this difficult time.

Holiday Food Baskets

We would like to help people in our neighborhood who may be struggling this Holiday season by delivering a food basket to them. We need your help in 2 ways:

- 1) Donated food items for the basket can be left at 1006 Knob Hill Dr (behind the entry wall).
- 2) Nominate neighbors (or yourself) for the basket.
- 3) Donate money or refundable cans. Contact Carol. We would like to help as many as possible, but need to keep this within the boundaries of our neighborhood. Please contact Brenda with their names, addresses and number of people in the household. There is a deadline of **December 17th** so we can deliver the baskets the weekend before Christmas.

www.neighborhoodlink.com/desmoines/vhmna

January potluck

The January 19th meeting will include a potluck. We may need to move from Four Mile Creek Community Center. We will notify you as soon as we know.

7th Annual Holiday lights contest

We will be having a holiday decoration contest this year. Judging will be held Dec 14-16. Get your decorations out and have them ready by this time!

This year, we want to include apartments. Contact Brenda with your address so we know which windows are yours.

Roadside mowing

We would like to thank those who mowed along Williams and Dean before the fair. It looks so much nicer for visitors. Scott Heston of Des Moines Public Works was one person and Polk County may have helped also.

Clean up from construction

The ditch and other area have been cleaned up from last year's construction project along Four Mile Creek. Please let us know if there is anything else that needs to be completed.

More Park Improvements

We are planning more park improvements like a gazebo by the playground to provide some shade and seating. If you have other ideas, let the board know.

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	

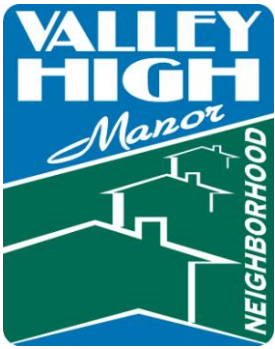
City Liaisons:

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>

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Neighborhood Revitalization

The city of Des Moines has a project called Neighborhood Revitalization. We plan to apply for this project. If accepted to this project, we will get help from the city making a long range plan for our area. We need your help.

We will be going door-to-door to get signatures on a petition before **September 16th**. Signing shows that you support our petition and are willing to help if needed.

There have been changes along Four Mile Creek that have remapped part of our neighborhood as a flood plain. Flooding will affect everyone on the East side of Winegardner. It could make it all the way up the street to Valley Circle

Our neighbors may need help with sewer valves, drainage tile and other related items. We want the city's help through manpower and money.

Items we will be asking for:

1. Sewer help for flood plain neighbors (ball check valve and/or sump pump)
2. Funding from the Neighborhood Finance Corporation. Help buying a home, forgivable loans
3. Gazebo – by playground with table. Hill needs leveled first
4. Park drain by Winegardner. It looks bad. Clean up, renew rocks? Rain garden?
5. Sidewalks – check and replace
6. Mines below – research and mitigation
7. Vacant house – help to get them named as nuisance. Torn down, cleaned up or sold.
8. Buyout if needed for flood plain neighbors

You could also help in other ways:

- Consider signing and showing up for the formal presentation on **October 12th** to the Neighborhood board.
- Write a letter of commitment showing you support for our plan. This could be as simple as saying you are willing to attend meetings or show up to help work if needed.

Contact Brenda Peel at bkpcats@juno.com or 515-249-2285.

Contact Harlan Donaldson at 515-263-4922



Thanks to Rebuilding Together for printing this newsletter for us. We appreciate the help you offer to neighborhoods.

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www.neighborhoodlink.com/desmoines/vhmna

Association Membership Application

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone numbers: (list at least one)

Day: _____ Evening: _____ Best time to contact _____ AM/PM

e-mail address: _____ Please, it's our best method of contact.

May we list your information in the neighborhood roster? Circle: Yes / No

What issues would you like to see this organization accomplish:

(Street signs, Neighborhood Watch, recognition, safety, park enhancements, etc.)

Optional: Please share with us your hobbies or points of interest:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Fee: \$10.00 per year /household/business. Membership entitles you to one vote per adult in household.

Make checks payable to: Valley High Manor Neighborhood Association

Please mail to:

Connie Ballard

Valley High Treasurer

4211 Timber Ln.

Des Moines, IA 50317



Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Neighborhood Petition

The Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) is a public/private partnership between the City of Des Moines, Polk County, and neighborhood residents to strengthen, enhance, and revitalize our neighborhoods. Under NRP, the Neighborhood Development Division works with selected neighborhoods to develop and implement a neighborhood plan for increasing neighborhood stability and safety, improving quality of life, and fostering a more desirable place to live, work, and play.

By signing this petition, you are expressing support of your neighborhood's application to participate in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program with the City of Des Moines. By providing your contact information, you agree to receive communications from your neighborhood association and/or the City of Des Moines about NRP activities in your neighborhood.

NAME	DATE	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

