



Westwood News

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APRIL 2014

SAVE THE DATE FOR JAZZ IN JULY AND THE WESTWOOD SUMMER SOCIAL! JULY 13, 2014

The date and time for this years Jazz in July has been set! It will be Sunday July 13 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at the Sylvan Amphitheater in Greenwood Park. As a lead in to that event, and in the same location, Westwood will be holding its annual summer social starting at 5 p.m. So please save the date on your calendar and plan to enjoy. Anyone who may be interested in making or bringing some food/refreshments for the summer social is encouraged to email Mike Keller at mrk515@gmail.com (or call 707-2764 after work hours).

There will be some great professional food vendors at Jazz in July this year so we are thinking of keeping the refreshments at our neighborhood tailgate type party light for the summer social. At the same time, if you have something you like to make that you think your neighbors would enjoy, we are sure it will fit in just right. Just let us know.



WELCOME TO WESTWOOD!

Westwood has some neighbors you may not have met yet!

Jon Swanson, a native to Des Moines and Chelsea Singer Swanson (a Jersey girl) of 556th Street met in college out east at Lehigh University. They spent six years in Manhattan - Jon working in the fund space and Chelsea immersed in the fashion scene. The move to Des Moines was compliant with Jon's decision to join his family business, the Swanson Group at Morgan Stanley. They made the move to the Westwood neighborhood - living on 56th Street, the exact street Jon grew up on just across 235 - last November. They have thoroughly enjoyed reconnecting with old friends, making new ones and discovering all that Des Moines has to offer!



Down the street and around the corner are Mickey and Emily Shields and their 19 month old son Jack, who live at 21 SW 52nd Street. Emily and Mickey relocated to Westwood from a downtown East Village Loft in April 2012. After moving in, they promptly welcomed their new son to their home and the neighborhood just a few months later. Westwood won the family over with its trees, neighborhood trail access, and great houses. In addition to enjoying the outdoors and the Hawkeyes, Mickey works at the Iowa League of Cities and Emily runs a small nonprofit called Iowa Campus Compact.

On behalf of everyone in Westwood, WELCOME. We can tell already your families are great additions.

WESTWOOD BOARD MEETING MAY 28TH AT 7 P.M.

Our City and You will be the topic of our next Board Meeting, which will be held at Hanawalt on May 28, 2014 at 7 p.m. First up at 7 pm will be City Councilmember Christine Hensley to report on the latest projects and issues the city is dealing with, and to get your input on the same.

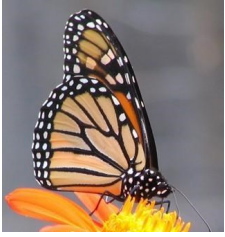
At 7:20 pm, Lt. Larry Davies of the Des Moines Police Department, who was involved in solving last Spring's crime spree, will be updating Westwood on the public safety issues our neighborhood faces, and finding out and discussing any areas of concern you may have.

The third and last speaker will be Richard Brown at 7:40 pm, the Parks Planner overseeing the Greenwood Pond Watershed Project that has already seen, and will continue to see, some major developments including with regard to the existing Merry Miss structures. Richard will be reporting on the status of the project, upcoming changes, getting input, and also discussing some ideas we've been talking about for a Westwood Neighborhood volunteer project later this year through which we could help rid the area of invasive species such as Tree of Heaven.

Regular Board business will follow from 8:00 pm to 8:30 pm to which all our also welcome. Feel free to just attend those parts of the meeting in which you may have an interest.

Have news or a story about your neighbors to share? We'd love to hear it! Email Amy MacKrell at amwalshmac@yahoo.com (subject line=Westwood) and we'll make it known!

We Can Help The Monarchs: A Message From WNA President Mike Keller



Last year, for the first year ever, I never saw an actual monarch in our yard. Painted Ladies and Swallow-tails, yes, but not a single Monarch. This was a significant change from as recently as 2007, when my spouse and I moved here, and I spent some time putting together a terrarium with monarch caterpillars so he and his elementary school students could experience the same wonder I did as a kid in seeing the transformation from caterpillars, to chrysalis, to Monarch butterflies, and to then set them free. I came to realize the lack of Monarchs in our yard was not an aberration when the sad news came earlier this year that the annual migration of Monarchs to Mexico this past year, the winter home for all U.S. monarch populations that live east of the Rockies, was the lowest ever observed. There, in the past, Monarchs massed in great numbers totally covering acres and acres of trees. This year, the area they returned to was limited to a measly 1.5 acres, with some estimating the number of Monarchs has decreased over the last three decades from close to half a billion, to 3 million, with this past year seeing by far the lowest numbers ever.

So what can residents of Westwood do? As a starting point, plant milkweed or tolerate it in your landscape when it appears. The various forms of milkweed are the ONLY plant which monarch caterpillars can eat and digest. Meanwhile, one of the most significant reasons for the decline in monarchs has been the transformation of farming in the Midwest. The move to using genetically modified corn and soybean seeds, combined with fence row to fence row herbicide spraying that kills all vegetation other than the genetically modified crops, has decimated rural milkweed populations. Add some urban sprawl to further decrease habitat, illegal logging in Mexico, and severe drought conditions in the South, and you have the perfect storm moving monarchs closer and closer to the critical stage. Because there is no reason to believe Iowa's farmland, or that in other Midwest states, will ever return to being a healthy habitat for Monarchs, it is going to be up to folks living in cities and towns in the Midwest to find a way to work one or more of the various forms of milkweed into our landscapes if we ever hope to see healthy numbers of monarchs again.

So please consider joining me this year in agreeing to turning a blind eye to the stray common milkweeds that make their way into your garden, and better yet, consider planting some varieties that are attractive in your garden beds. There are two varieties of milkweed you can sometimes find in nurseries, or at the downtown farmers market, that folks use for landscaping. Of these, my hands down favorite is Tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*), which is truly beautiful for the several summer months it blooms. It is not hardy in Iowa so you need to save the seeds from one year to the next, or buy some adult plants from the guy who sells them at the farmers market (he calls them Mexican Butterfly Weed). Tropical milkweed, which matures at 30"-36" high with vibrant red, orange or yellow clusters of flowers for months on end, serves as a nectar source for numerous butterfly species, and is the favored choice, even over common milkweed, for monarchs to lay their eggs on. I'll be contributing a couple dozen young Tropical milkweed plants, both red and yellow varieties, to the Westwood Perennial Divide in early May, or you can email me at mrk515@gmail.com and I'll get you a few. The second best ornamental option, and best if you want a hardy variety, is Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), which grows 30"-36" tall, bears pink flowers (there is one white variety), and usually blooms from late June through July. Swamp milkweed is used by many butterfly species (monarchs, red admirals, American ladies, painted ladies, fritillaries, and more) as a nectar source in addition to serving as a host plant for monarch egg-laying. A third variety of milkweed which you can regularly find for sale is Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), which grows 18"-24" high, produces clusters of bright orange flowers from late June through July, and is a favored nectar source for Monarchs. I list it third because although a great source of food for adult Monarchs, it doesn't actually serve as a host for their caterpillars because the plant doesn't produce the type of milk they need to survive. With your help, Westwood can be at the forefront of an action to save the monarchs for generations to come. Thanks!



WESTWOOD ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY

It was a packed house at this year's Westwood Annual Neighborhood Party, generously (and deliciously) hosted by neighbors Enosh and Rachel Kelley at Bistro Montage. Thanks to them for a wonderful night!

Missed this year? Don't worry — this is an annual event! Please consider joining us next year as we celebrate our successes, meet new neighbors, and catch up with current ones.



WINTER IS GONE, (MAYBE...) BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!

Thanks to those wonderful folks who came out to help push cars up Grand on Thursday, January 16 during the "30% chance of flurries" which became a blizzard. A couple and a third young man were helping push stuck cars and getting sand from the barrels for traction for drivers in our neighborhood. If it wasn't for them, some Westwood residents (and many others) would probably still be fighting to get up Grand! Also lots of people got out to help drivers ahead of them. The city might have blinked but our Westside neighbors stepped up to save the day.

—Dawn Musgrove

AND NOW... POTHOLES.

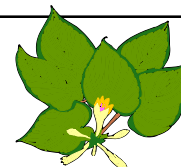
This could be handy:

Report a Pothole online! Simply fill out the form , stating the location:

www.dmgov.org/InteractiveForms/Pages/default.aspx?FormName=Report a Pothole



THE 2014 WESTWOOD GREAT PERENNIAL DIVIDE: MAY 9 AND 10



The 2014 Westwood Neighborhood Association annual GREAT PERENNIAL DIVIDE will take place on Friday May 9 and Saturday May 10. Drop off your donated plants on Friday between 4:00 and 7:00pm then return Saturday morning from 9:00am to Noon to pick up your new plants. There is no cost to donate or pick up.

In past years there has been a great mix of ground covers, grasses, native wild flowers and exotic perennials. There are always numerous shade loving plants and full sun species available. Ferns, hostas and even a few house plants have been shared in the past.

This is an opportunity to share some of those extra plants you have and find those new species you've always wanted. Bring your donated plants in pots, bags or other suitable container.

Although last year was impacted by the unseasonable snow storm on May 3rd, we all know that gardeners are eternally optimistic so we're certain this year's weather will be beautiful..

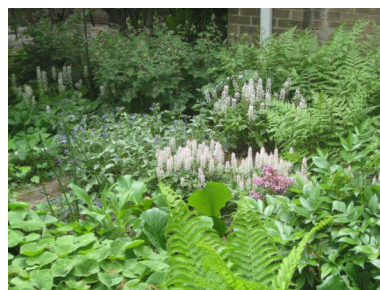
It's fun and it's free.

LOCATION: 326 56TH STREET

DROP OFF PLANTS: FRIDAY MAY 9, 4:00 TO 7:00PM

PICK UP PLANTS: SATURDAY MAY 10, 9:00AM TO NOON

HOSTS: KRIS SUTTON & DAVE DEBORD



CHANGES AND CLOSURES AT GREENWOOD PARK

Due to the construction at Greenwood Park's open-air shelter, the wading pool near the shelter will be closed this summer. The start of construction is proposed for the beginning of the summer and will last well into the fall season. The transformation of the open-air shelter to an enclosed rental shelter will be Des Moines' tenth enclosed shelter, all of which are operating near capacity. The closing of the wading pool is necessary due to the close proximity to the construction area. Understandably, we did not want the loss of the wading pool to occur for the entire summer, but we feel the end result will be worth the wait.

For more information regarding the shelter, please feel free to contact Matt Salvatore, Recreation Manager of Des Moines Park and Recreation, at 515-248-6381.



EARTH WEEK CREEK CLEAN-UP

Give back, clean-up and enjoy a fun family eco-hunt. City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation, Westwood Neighborhood Association, Walnut Creek Watershed Association and other concerned citizens invite you on our unique hunt for trash. Help improve our creeks and central Iowa's water quality!

When: Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.-Noon

Where: Walnut Creek, trail and surrounding wooded area

Check-in & Parking: Pal Joey's, 6224 Grand Avenue

Dress: Ready to get dirty! You may want to bring your waders or wear old clothes and tennis shoes to climb in and out of creek and/or walk in the woods.

Supplies: City will supply garbage bags, reusable bags to collect recyclables, gloves, water refill coolers (bring a refillable bottle) and first aid. Staff will have truck on site as volunteers pull litter to edge of trail. We will have some shovels available to dig out tires and other large debris.

Sign-Up: parksvolunteer@dmgov.org or 248-6339

Lead volunteers needed for day of event. If interested, please contact Mike Keller at mrk515@gmail.com

STAYING IN THE CITY LOOP

Did you know anyone can sign up to receive email notices for various City newsletters, meeting agendas, and other alerts. Many of our City boards and commissions note the neighborhood where proposed projects are taking place. Keeping an eye on their meeting agendas allows you to see projects that may be of interest to you.

To sign up, go to **www.dmgov.org**.

Under "Quick Links:" on the left side of the page, click "Email List Sign Up"

Enter your name and email in the subscription profile boxes

Check the boxes next to the news and alerts you'd like to receive. You may unsubscribe at any time.



Save The Date Calendar

April 25th - Earth Weekend Walnut Creek Clean-Up
Saturday: 9 am - noon (see associated article)

May 9th and 10th - Westwood Perennial Divide
Friday: 4 pm - 7 pm, Saturday 9 am - noon
 (see associated article)

May 28th - Our City and You Board Meeting
Wednesday: 7 pm - 8:30 pm (see associated article)

July 13th - Westwood Summer Social
Sunday: 5 pm - 6:30 pm (see associated article)

July 13th - Jazz in July
Sunday: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm (see associated article)

August 27th - Westwood Board Meeting
Wednesday: 7 pm - 8:30 pm (Hanawalt)

October 22nd - Neighborhood Chili Supper
Wednesday: 5:45 pm - 6:30 pm (Hanawalt)

October 22nd - Westwood Annual Meeting



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.

SCRUB DAYS

Neighborhood Scrub Days are coming up just in time for spring cleaning. To take advantage of Scrub Day, proof of Des Moines residency is required in the form of a driver's license or utility bill. Here's what you need to know:

Saturday April 19, 7 a.m. — 1 p.m., Hoover High School, 4800 Aurora Parking Lot

Saturday May 17, 7 a.m. — 1 p.m., Capitol Complex Lot #3, West of E 14th St, South of Court Ave

Saturday, June 21 7 a.m. — 1 p.m., Polk County River Place, 2329 Euclid

SCRUB Items Allowed (No fee):

- General trash including furniture, lawn mowers without fluids, televisions, computers, tires (any size on or off rim) appliances (no charge), air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, dehumidifiers, furnaces, stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, water heaters, etc.

Hazardous Waste Allowed:

- Aerosols, Acids/bases, antifreeze, batteries (Rechargeable mercuric-oxide (button batteries; nickel cadmium (NiCad); lithium (Li) or nickel-metal hydride (NiMH); car batteries), cell phones, cleaners (drain/liquid), fertilizers, floor care products, glues, gasoline and kerosene, light bulbs (high efficiency only; CFLs, ballast, high intensity discharge), motor oil, oil filters, oven cleaner, oil based paint, petroleum adhesives, pesticides, poisons, pool chemicals, roofing tar, rust removers, sharps (must be contained in detergent bottles or sharps' containers -Lids must be taped), shellac, stains, thermostats and thermometers.

Not accepted:

- Air fresheners, ammunition and explosives, asbestos, batteries (AA, AAA or Alkaline, non-rechargeable), dry cement, electronics, fire extinguishers, joint compounds, laundry products, light bulbs (incandescent,) liquid cleaners, medications, Paint (latex-based), potting soil, propane tanks, sewing needles
- For questions go to: www.WhereltShouldGo.com

For more information, go to www.dmgov.org and look for the heading "Hot Topics." You'll find Scrub Days listed there. You can find the list of calendar dates for other neighborhoods at <http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/PublicWorks/Pages/SCRUBEvents.aspx>.



WESTWOOD MEMBERSHIP

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.

Thanks to the members who have contributed to our success!

Anderson, Marcus & Mary	Gleason, Lisa	Renfroe, Don & Barbie Windsor**
Anderson, Will & Sara**	Gusse, Derek & Sarah	Reynolds, Dennis & Charlotte
Antoniou, George & Christy	Harman, Brett	Ricker, Ron & Kathleen
Aspengren, Mary Lou	Heggen, Dr. Bill & Lynn	Ritzler, Kathy**
Baldwin, Patricia	Heiken, Thom & Vicki	Roy, Peg
Bannister, Scott & Kathy	Hull-Jackson, Marg	Satterstrom, Bill & Ginny
Barr, Jud & Heidi	James, Fred & Rose	Schroeder, Diane
Barzen, David & Kristy	Keller, Mike & Rick Marura	Scott, Debora
Bates, Dennis & Sally	Kelley, Enosh & Rachel	Shadur, Craig
Beane, Ron	Kelling, Celeste**	Shannon, Zoe
Beard, Mary Ann	Kisch, Thomas & Margo Hutcheson	Shields, Mickey & Emily Hajek**
Becker, Mike & Krista	Krantz, Mary	Smith, Val & Elizabeth
Beckley, Stephen & Gretchen	Lem Mon, Jean	Snyder, Jim & Lisa
Bell, Jim & Barbara	Lewellyn, Dustin	Spevak, James
Berry, Dr. Greg & Maria	Leytham, Sheryl**	Strief, Charles & Peggy
Boesen, Bryan & Betsy	Linebaugh, Jesse & Melissa	Swanson, Jon & Chelsea
Brown, Kendall & Diane Todd-Brown	Lorber, Fred	Tatge, Bob & Sandy
Burgeson, John & Colleen	Lyford, Dick & Barb	Taylor, Dawn
Caldbeck, Garry & Debbie	Mackaman, David & Laura	TeGrotenhuis, Jeff
Campbell, Jan & Bo	MacKrell, Scott & Amy	Tempero, Howard & Megan
Cary, Daniel & Tiffani	Malcomson, Rob & Ginny	Thompson, Jeff & Dianna
Cervetti, Nancy	Mandelbaum, Justin & Li Zhao	Tiffany, Bill
Chase, Hal & Avril	McGreevy, Jeanette	Tiffany, John & Laura Martino
Church, Barbara	Melton, Mark	Townsend, Rod & Jenny
Clutter, Ryan & Vicki Sehgal	Moser, Paul & Susan	Tracy, Rob & Ann Steger
Coffman, Garth & Celene Gogerty	Mouw, Matthew & Mary	Truslow, Ed & Nancy
Crandell, Mark & Kitty	Moyer, Debra	Uhl, Kiel & Lisa
DeBord, Dave & Kristi Sutton	Mullins, Dan & Laurie Meythaler	Van Hon, Thomas
DenHartog, Rob & Brenda Currans	Munier, Shirley	Vander Linden, Eric & Susan**
Downing, Dr. Wendell & Joyce	Murphy, Kathy	Ver Steeg, Dr. Dirk & Adele
Dunn, Greg**	Norian, Randy & Anita	Voss, Zac & Sarah
Eckhouse, Herb & Kathy	Pederson, Dennis & Cheryl	Wallace, Sam & Sally
Engler, Joan	Peterson, Mike & Margaret	Walsh, Sharon
Faber, Vern & Nancy	Petrov, Vasil & Teodora	Watson Fuller, Lori
Fisher, Bob	Pokorny, David & Betsy	White, Toby & Ruth
Fleming, Jim & Allison	Pollard, David & Stephanie	Wieland, John & Denise
Fox, Cynthia	Pomerantz, Rose Lee	Williams, Ted
Freude, Jeff & Laurie Wolf	Post, Scott & Diane	Windsor, Stephanie
Fulton, Jay & Diane Kuhn	Rabinowitz, Sheldon & Roselind	Wolnerman, Michael & Missy
Furstenau, Bob & Valerie Landis	Rasley, June	Young, Linda
Galeazzi, Dennis & Nancy	Raymond, Chad & Brian Ryerson	Zisko, Tom & Dena Goplerud **
Galenbeck, Scott & Leann Treloar	Reichardt, Randy & Sarah**	

** new members