

Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 21222
DES MOINES, IA 50321

APRIL 2011



Save The Date



All Southwestern Hills Neighborhood residents
Thursday, April 21st, 6:30-8:15
at Brody Middle School

Your questions and concerns will be
addressed by City Council members and
department representatives.

Everyone is welcome!
Please get involved in your neighborhood.

Executive Board

President

George Davis
288-0764

Vice-President

Keith Belling
256-4319

Treasurer

Joshua Carman
979-4266

Secretary

Dennis Trollope
287-7745

Heather Carman

979-9259

Penny Harrison

202-0166

Anne Noah

284-1169

Ginny Renda

287-3999

Tom Reynolds

287-6286

Doreen Stokes

287-2059

Steve Sarcone

287-7161

Steve Uttersen

285-3965

Message From Our President

GEORGE DAVIS

I think we made it through the winter but as an Iowan, I'm still cautious. I see green in the lawns and trees, which means the rebirth is starting. I see lots of friends walking the sidewalks and trails, and everyone waves as they go by. The days are warmer, longer and filled with activities. Spring has sprung and the yard work begins. Make your neighbors happy and jealous by having the best yard on the block.

This winter added two new grandchildren to our family, which now makes three. As all grandparents know, it is a very special time of our lives! When we all get a second chance to refill our homes with laughs, squeals, baby talk and toys. May you all have this special joy.

Please make time for our General Neighborhood Meeting on April 22nd. Improving our area is always a top priority and many issues can be addressed at the meeting. A lot of neighbors have expressed concern in areas of street repair, home foreclosures, water intakes, building structures, and future recreation and business developments. Please take a short amount of time and get involved. We need everyone!

Please be extra careful with your car, especially backing up. Everyone is outside; kids, parents, pets, bikers, joggers and motorcyclists. Keep everyone safe. See you at the meeting and watch out for deer!

George Davis

Fleur Drive Bridge to Close Down

Fleur Drive will close at the South entrance of Grays lake, for bridge repair starting in May. The repair will take about four months. Cars will have to take detours on George Flagg Pkwy. to S.W. 30th going South, and Thomas Beck will be the detour to S.W. 9th, going North. The enclosed map will give trail directions on the lake.



Welcome New Board Member

Penny Harrison

Penny Harrison has been a proud Southsider for 13 years. Her roots are originally in England, before coming to the United States. She is married to Lincoln High teacher, Scott Harrison and they have three children. Oldest daughter Elizabeth attends Baylor University, and will be joined by her brother, Samuel, next school year. Their youngest child, Jackson, will be in middle school this coming fall. Penny sells real estate for RE/MAX and is very active in the "Reach To Recovery" program, assisting newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. She is excited to be a board member with the SWHNA, and looks forward to the many projects of the neighborhood.



Penny Harrison, Realtor

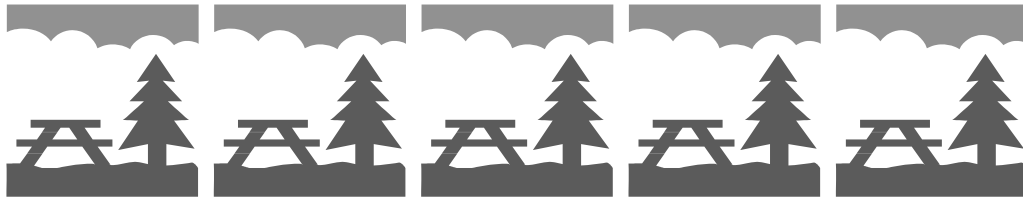
Phone: [515-202-0166](tel:515-202-0166)

Fax: [866-258-4027](tel:866-258-4027)

Penny@RealEstateConcepts.net

www.PennyHarrisonHomes.com

Licensed Real Estate Agent in State of Iowa



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We're Cooking, So You Don't Have To

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 2, 2011. SWHNA will again host National Neighborhood Night Out from 5:00 – 8:00 PM. Picnic dinner provided along with music and door prizes. More information to come.

Thank You

An extra "Neighborhood Thank You" to Wakonda Christian Church for providing a meeting place each month to the Southwestern Hills Board.

A special thank you to the following people for their generous donations to the SWHNA:

James & Roxanne Conlin
Robert Hunter



The SWHNA would like to hear your ideas!
Please complete the survey on page 6.

“SCRUB Day” In The Neighborhood

Saturday, April 16th

Spring Cleanup to Remove Urban Blight



Each year Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association has a Des Moines Public Works sponsored SCRUB Day, located in the Bell Avenue Business Center, 1901 Bell Avenue, just east of Fleur and Bell. This free “dump your junk” opportunity goes from 7:00a.m. until 12:00 noon. Several individual dumping stations are located throughout the business center area. Pull in, unload, and go.

SCRUB Items Allowed

- Trash containers
- 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.



Yard Waste

All yard waste will need to be hauled to the MWA Metro Compost Center at 1601 Harriett St. Yard waste is **NOT** accepted at the neighborhood SCRUB sites.



- Brush, tree limbs 24” diameter or less; maximum length 10’
- Prunings
- Loose leaves
- Loose grass clippings
- Straw, hay



SCRUB Items Not Allowed



- Car batteries
- Propane tanks
- Toxic liquids such as oil, paint, etc.; toxic or hazardous chemicals - Call Metro Waste Authority's Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Waste at [967-5512](tel:5159675512) to dispose of these items.

Unloading Procedure

- Ask where to unload
- Plan to unload your own vehicle within 15 minutes
- Place all items in dumpsters or compactors as directed
- Clean up your own mess



Vehicle Size

Pickup (Maximum 4’ sideboards), car or small trailer (unless hauler sponsored by a neighborhood).

SWHNA 2011 Meeting Dates

We have a General Meeting for all residents (anyone living in the 50321 zip code) every April and November. 2011 dates are April 21st and November 3rd. Please plan to attend, we need you there.

General Board Meetings are held the third Monday of the month at Wakonda Christian Church beginning at 6:00pm. If you have a situation to present to the board, please notify an officer of your intent at least one week prior to meeting date. Remaining meeting dates for 2011 are April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18th, August 15th, September 19th, October 17th, November 21st. There is no meeting in December.

Do You Know Who To Call?

Where to get answers?

Keep this next to your phone or in your phone book for quick reference.

POLICE: Emergency - 911 (not anonymous)

283-4811 Dispatch (could be anonymous)

Vice & Narcotics: 283-4830

ANIMAL CONTROL: 283-4811

GRAFFITI: Inspector (Ed 283-4183), (Sgt. Pascuzzi 283-4965) or 248-6350

FIRE: 911 or 283-4327

ILLEGAL DUMPING: Inspector (Ed 283-4183) or 283-4099

TRAFFIC & TRANS: 283-4973 (Street signs - traffic flow etc.)

TALL GRASS: Polk County Weed Commission 286-3005

PARK PROBLEMS: 248-6324 Scott Wallace (SW side)

RECREATION PROGRAMS: 248-6310

PUBLIC WORKS: 283-4950 (trash pick-up)

FORESTRY: 283-4134 dead trees or limbs on property

WATER DEPT.: 283-8700

SIDEWALKS: 237-1368 John Evans

MAYOR & COUNCIL: 283-4944

D.O.T. (STATE): District 1 Maintenance office: 1-800-89900623 or 515-239-1635

NEIGHBORHOOD INSPECTION DIVISION: 283-4046 Front Desk

FOR INFORMATION ON YOUR HOME: <http://www.dmgov.org/Pages/default.aspx> and click on "show me my house" (on the home page) or go to Polk County Assessor site <http://www.assess.co.polk.ia.us/web/inven/query/queryAll.html>

Stay connected with your neighbors!

Plan to attend the next SWHNA General Meeting.

Removing Storm Water . . . The Reason & the Cost

Guest Article

Many neighbors and business owners have expressed concern about rising cost in removing storm water. Based on the ERU rate (most homeowners have one ERU per residential property), you can check your monthly assessment cost on your water bill. Rates will rise every year in Des Moines, which has the highest rate in the area. Altoona's rate is \$3, and West Des Moines' rate is \$4.25. Des Moines ERU size is 2349 square feet, where as, other cities ERU size is much larger for less money. Listed below are Des Moines's future rates.

The ERU rate to be applied to residential and nonresidential properties shall be as follows:

- (1)** for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, the ERU rate shall be \$7.87;
- (2)** for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, the ERU rate shall be \$8.50; and
- (3)** for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, the ERU rate shall be \$8.84; and
- (4)** for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, the ERU rate shall be \$9.19;

Below are excerpts from an article in the Business Record, dated 10/23/10:

BY JOE GARDYASZ
Senior Staff Writer

"Des Moines, is among the first cities in the state to create a stormwater utility following the Floods of 1993, and will collect about \$14.6 million in stormwater utility revenues this year, 2010, and incur approximately \$6 million in costs. Having a stormwater utility has been essential to the city's ability to mitigate potential flooding damage, said Bill Stowe, Des Moines public works director.

'If we as a city had to rely on general obligation bonds or the general fund and didn't have a stormwater utility, we would be competing with a number of other priorities,' he said. "This makes very apparent the tie to funding and improvements in protection.'

Des Moines' monthly fee, currently \$7.87 per ERU, is scheduled to increase by 8 percent on Jan. 1, 2011 to \$8.50 per ERU, the highest of any city in the metro area. Earlier this year, the city issued \$19.1 million in stormwater revenue bonds, which are repaid with future revenues from the fees.

'There's no question that there are a number of federal clean water requirements that drive this,' Stowe said. "But also a significant portion of it is not only water quality but also water quantity. We're a low-lying city at the confluence of two rivers in a significant watershed, so flood protection is a primary piece."

The Des Moines City Council is likely to consider a further increase within the next year, Stowe said. 'We're in the process of trying to come up with the appropriate rate increase,' he said.

Figuring the rate....Stormwater utilities provide a mechanism for cities to pay for stormwater infrastructure improvements by assessing property owners based on the amount of surface area they have that creates runoff. Typically, a city will calculate the average residence's square footage of roof and concrete surfaces that don't absorb rainwater and use that equivalent residential unit (ERU) to assess homeowners and businesses. Many cities assume an average of one ERU per residence, and for commercial properties apply a rate to the actual square footage of impervious surfaces divided by the square footage of the average residential lot."

Neighborhood Survey

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

How long have you lived in the SWHNA area?

What do you like about living in the neighborhood?

What concerns do you have about the neighborhood?

Have you attended any past neighborhood general meetings? Yes No

If not, what has kept you from attending?

What additions would encourage you to attend the meetings?

If you did attend, would you like to see anything changed? (e.g. speakers, topics, time, location)

Have you attended/participated in any of the following SWHNA-sponsored activities?

Neighborhood Night Out Jazz in July

Scrub Day Other _____

If not, why not _____

Are there any other activities you would like to see offered by the Association?

Have you visited our neighborhood website www.swhna.com? Yes No
Would you like to see something added?

How do you think the Association could better serve your needs and the needs of your neighbors?

Anything else you want us to know? _____

***Thank you very much
for your time and ideas!***
.....

**Please Mail Your Completed Survey To:
Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association
Attn: President, George Davis
P.O. Box 21222
Des Moines, Iowa 50321**

Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association 2011 Paid Members

Anderson, Bob & Kathie
Andrews, Tom & Karen
Ballard, Leonard & Sheryl
Barcelo, Lisa
Barkley, Paul
Belling, Keith & LaGaya
Birocci, Paul & Linda
Burnquist, John & Ellen
Cardamone, Marie
Carman, Joshua & Heather
Chidley, Mark & Holly
Cigelman, Mike & Susan

Comfort, Connie
Condon, Kaye
Conlin, James & Roxanne
Cox, Kirk & Amy
Coxe, Dr. & Mrs. J.E., Jr.
Currie, Ed & Betty
Davis, George & Sandi
Davis, Toby
Dow, Carmen
Edwards, James
Ely, Lawrence & Dorothy
Gaffney, John & Jane

Grask, Phil & Betty
Guessford, David & Priscilla
Harrison, Penny & Scott
Hassel, Larry
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Lankamer, Marylee
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Mulstay, Rick & Marcy
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Noah, David & Anne
O'Connor, Teresa & Angie
Parton, Mike & Cheri
Patch, James
Petheram, David & Janice
Quimet, Donald & Sandra

Radach, Fred & Penny
Reed, Rod & Angela
Renda, Ginny
Reynolds, Tom & Kathy
Rivera, Andrea
Roberts, Steve & Dawn
Rosendahl, Gene & Shirley
Sagrillo, Primo & Wilma
Sarcone, Steve & Stephanie
Shaffer, James & Carolyn
Shivers, Dick & Toni

Siprut, Manny & Dawn
Smith, Bruce & Angela
Snethen, Paul & Linda
Spracklin, Jerry & Mary
Squire, Martha
Starmer, Russell & Rebecca
Stokes, Allan & Doreen
Sulgrove, Les
Tessier, Josh & Sheryl
Trollope, Dennis & Joyce
Utterson, Steve & Teresa
Williams, Roger & Anna

This is the list of the 2011 paid membership. If your name is omitted please contact George Davis or Josh Carman so neighborhood records may be corrected. Remember, now is the time to submit your 2011 membership, which will be published in the next newsletter. Membership dues may be mailed to our neighborhood association at:

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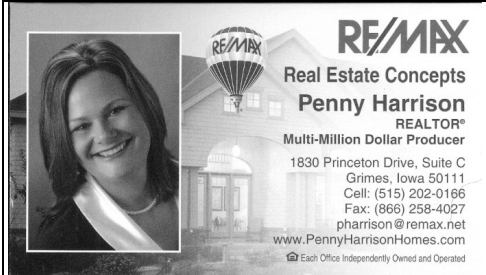
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Advertisers and business owners, if you are not listed in this section of our newsletter, now is the time to get your message to the neighborhood. The publishing fee of \$125 for 2011, includes quarterly newsletters, with a mailing list of 1,910 copies in the 50321 zip code area. Get your advertisement in our next newsletter. Please mail in the association membership form found on page 8 in this newsletter or call a listed board member today.

