

The Sidewalk

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF BEAVERDALE • THE FOURTH OF FOUR CENTENNIAL EDITIONS • WINTER 2017

BEAVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month at the Better Business Bureau. Please visit www.beaverdale.org for more information. Board minutes are published on the website upon Board approval.

MISSION

The Beaverdale Neighborhood Association is neighbors working together to promote the social welfare of the Beaverdale area by bringing about civic betterment and social improvements for the common good of the community.

MEMBERSHIP

The BNA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization. Membership is open to the public, may be tax deductible and could be eligible for a matching gift from your employer. To join or get involved, visit www.beaverdale.org or follow us on Facebook @beaverdaleneighborhood.

THE SIDEWALK

The Sidewalk is the Official Magazine of Beaverdale and is published quarterly by the Beaverdale Neighborhood Association P.O. Box 30175, Des Moines, Iowa 50310
Editor: Kate McGovern 515-577-2084
Email the BNA: bna@beaverdale.org

Hi Neighbors,

Congratulations, Beaverdale. Celebrating a neighborhood's Centennial is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I think we more than rose to the occasion.

It was wonderful to see Beaverdale residents new and old at the completion of our Beaverdale Centennial Mural with Ben Schuh at the last Beaverdale Farmer's Market. People exchanged stories about the neighborhood and we were able to explain the history that went into the Mural. Everything down to the railroad ties hidden in the lettering show that this beautiful piece of public art is steeped in our collective history. Thanks to the generous donations from folks across the community, I'm proud to report that the entire project will likely be paid off by the end of the year.

Birthdays, of course, require a birthday cake. Leave it to Eugene Buckmiller to design and build the massive Beaverdale Centennial birthday cake float that he proudly pulled with his restored tractor in the Fall Festival parade this year. We were ready to pay him back for it, but he very generously donated it as a gift to our neighborhood. The beaver popping out of the top of the cake started out as a far flung idea but he made it a reality.

The Mural and the Fall Festival were the perfect capstone to the efforts of so many people throughout this year. The banners all along Beaver Avenue showed pictures of our shared history over many decades. During the spring, we celebrated the return of the Beaverdale Brick beer at a Bar Crawl throughout Beaverdale with Confluence Brewing. We sold hundreds of Centennial pint glasses at that event

which helped pay for the Mural. It sounds like we'll be having at least one more with a new pint glass before the year is up. The pint glasses along with shirts, coffee mugs, prints, yard signs, and flags will hopefully be keepsakes that our children and grandchildren will all enjoy someday.

Everything seemed to have a big, Centennial feel about it this year. We had our biggest Beaverdale Bluegrass Festival ever with the Beaverdale Business Coalition in July. Our Beaverdale Garden Walk had numbers similar to the Tour of Homes last year and was also our biggest yet. All of the editions of the Sidewalk this year have also been special Centennial editions laden with all of the neighborhood history we could find.

On a personal note, serving in this role for this important year was one of the pleasures of my life. As I get ready to transition off the board in February, I can't think of a higher note to leave on. The dozens of people on the four different neighborhood boards and on our Centennial Commission never shot down a single idea from anyone. Some worked. Some didn't. We did everything we could think of and we're all the better for it.

If there's ever anything else your Beaverdale Neighborhood Association can do for you, please don't hesitate to let me know. You can reach me at 515-556-9111 or seanbagniewski@outlook.com.

**Sean Bagniewski,
BNA President**





TIMELESS BEAVERDALE — MURAL PAINTING COMPLETED!

MORE THAN 70 CURRENT AND FORMER RESIDENTS WITNESSED ITS COMPLETION

The painting of the Beaverdale Centennial Mural started in July and continued through the first week of September. We commemorated the completion of the Mural with artist, Ben Schuh, during the Beaverdale Farmer's Market on September 5, 2017. More than 70 current and former Beaverdale residents were there to witness the signing of the Mural. We also talked about the history of the Mural and some of the images depicted in it. The goal all along was to

commemorate our Centennial and to create a piece of public art that people will always want to look at and to take their pictures with, hence the name "Timeless Beaverdale." We were pleased to see kids already taking pictures with it the same night that it was completed. We hope that it lasts for many years as a testament to this wonderful year and to our incredible neighborhood.

Limited edition prints of the Beaverdale Centennial Mural are still available for purchase.

They measure 18x24 and were printed on high quality paper. They're also hand signed and numbered by the artist, Ben Schuh. The cost is \$125 and all proceeds go directly to funding the Mural. You can email Sean at seanbagniewski@outlook.com to arrange delivery and payment.

The Beaverdale Centennial Mural was inspired by countless pieces from our Beaverdale archives. Check out the original pictures on page 3 and how they were utilized by our amazing artist, Ben Schuh!



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UPTempo



The "Timeless Beaverdale" title is underscored by the old coal mine at what would now be 34th and Urbandale.



This image was taken on an iPhone and shows the crowd at our first Beaverdale Bluegrass Festival in July 2016. It was the first Festival held at Tower Park and surprised everyone involved when more than 1,000 people showed up for the night of musical performers from across the Midwest.



The house (center) represents one of the "Beaverdale Bricks" that we're best known for. The inspiration was from a picture of 4119 Ovid (left) that was likely taken in the early 90's for inspiration for what would become the Beaverdale logo. We believe the actual house for the Beaverdale logo can be found at 4200 Franklin Avenue (right). It's represented in our Beaverdale Centennial logo at the far left of the mural.



This picture was dated 1914 and shows one of the Beaverdale streetcars as it sat on the trolley loop at 70th & Roseland. The woman sitting on the fender is 18 year old Inza Ruth Cruikshank. We believe the motorman on the right is Jack Dennis, who worked on the rails from 1914 to 1954. Thanks to local historian, Earl Short, for his help piecing some of the trolley history together.



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BEAVERDALE FALL FESTIVAL 2017 ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS!



We set out to throw the biggest, baddest, most bodacious Beaverdale Fall Festival ever this year... and we accomplished it! With the help of numerous sponsors, volunteers, vendors and merchants, the 2017 Centennial Celebration was one for the record books.

Friday night we had perfect weather to set up 55 food and non-food vendors as well as a carnival. Our third annual Car Night was a huge success – drawing more than 150 show cars to the South end of Beaver. There were so many cars in fact, that we ran out of room and had to turn people away! The cars, as well as the carnival, food vendors, and live music brought a huge crowd to the downtown Beaverdale area that night – it was a sight to behold.

Saturday morning, 18 Arts and Crafts vendors joined the festivities along with our first ever Beaverdale Fall Festival Dog Parade. Around 80 of our canine neighbors participated in the pooch parade. Judges picked the dog

with the “Most Beaverdale Spirit” as well as “Owner/Dog Look Alikes”. A paws-itively perfect time was had by all.

Following the Dog Parade, the Fall Festival parade took off with 121 entries. This year there were 19 floats in our first ever float contest. Life Church of Des Moines took home 1st place, with Ocean Breeze Massage and Edward Jones in a close 2nd and 3rd.

A little bit of rain slowed things down on Saturday afternoon – but the show went on with lots of great food choices all day long. The Kid Zone was a big hit along with horse rides. The Festival ended with an Open Mic and lots of great music provided by Beaverdale merchants. A rain storm did close things down a bit early but that all goes along with an outdoor Festival! Plans are already underway for September 14-15, 2018. Special thanks to John Holtorf for taking all of these beautiful photos! See more at fallfestival.org/photos-john-holtorf-photography.



2018
TOUR OF HOMES
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Now Recruiting Homes & Volunteers!

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or 515-279-0410 for more information.



**BEAVERDALE'S 2018 TOUR OF HOMES
STILL RECRUITING HOMES & VOLUNTEERS!**

The Beaverdale Tour of Homes Committee now has three of seven homes locked-in for the 2018 Tour of Homes event, including a 2-story Prairie/Craftsman-style house, a Mid-century Modern ranch, and a brand new home built in 2016. As with our prior Tour of Homes, the goal of this event is to showcase Beaverdale's beauty, diversity and nostalgia, by opening up a variety of interesting homes for public viewing. This tour not only draws other Des Moines Metro residents into Beaverdale, but also provides neighborhood residents with nifty remodeling and decorating ideas. We want to let everyone know why we think "Life's Better in Beaverdale."

This year's Tour of Homes event is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2018. If you have interest in showing your home during the Tour, or if you know someone whose home you think would be a good candidate for the Tour of Homes, please contact Sasha Kamper at mikesashakamper1@msn.com or 515-279-0410. Likewise, if you are interested in helping to plan and promote the Tour of Homes event, please contact Sasha as well. Last year we had nearly 500 people participate in this event—let's help make 2018's event an even greater success!

**PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION PROGRAM
DSM RESIDENTS CAN RECEIVE UP TO \$1000
FOR WATERPROOFING THEIR BASEMENTS!**

Beaverdale is a great community. Our people are friendly, our businesses are family-owned, and our homes have a lot of historical charm. But one thing that's not so great about Beaverdale: because most of our housing was built between 1920 and 1950, many of our homes are not watertight. Leaky and flooded basements have been known to wreak havoc on residents' personal belongings and threaten air quality and personal safety for residents.

Leaky basements can usually be fixed by something as simple as adding extra gutters and extending downspouts, or it could be a more complex solution that requires professional help. One effective solution is to install a sump pump and drain tile system. This project sounds daunting, but is actually an affordable and fairly simple process that a professional can complete within 1-2 days. Now is a great time to consider installing a waterproofing system, as the City of Des Moines will reimburse residents for 50% of the installed cost up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,000.

To receive the subsidy, you must submit a reimbursement application before June 1, 2023 for the installation of a sump pump. The sump pump must be installed in an existing Des Moines home, by a licensed plumber, and that plumber must pull a City permit prior to installing the system. (New construction is ineligible for the subsidy.) Note that there will be a fee to pull the permit, and the subsidy may be taxable; however, the permit fee and taxes are typically well below the potential \$1,000 in savings. This program is a fantastic way to update your home, improve your property's resale value, and provide peace of mind during those rainy spring days which you may have previously spent shop-vacuuming.

For more information, or to obtain an application, visit: www.dmgov.org/Departments/PublicWorks/Pages/PrivatePropProtectProg.aspx. What are you waiting for? A dry basement is only a phone call away!

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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

CAPTAIN MEETINGS ARE WELL UNDERWAY, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



The Neighborhood Watch Program has great news to share! We recently had our first two Watch Program Captain meetings with the Des Moines Police Department on Oct. 25 and Nov. 1. Topics included neighborhood and personal safety, crime statistics, and what it means to “See Something, Say Something.” We also talked about sprucing up the Watch Program signs you see on the utility poles along the streets. If you are a Neighborhood Captain or interested in starting your own watch group, we invite you to attend one of the meetings we have planned in your area.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

If you live North of Urbandale Avenue, please attend November 8.
 If you live South of Urbandale Avenue, please attend November 9.
 If you have a conflict with those dates, join us on November 22 instead.

- Meetings are held at the Northwest Community Center on Franklin Avenue from 6:30 – 8PM
- Meetings are open to all, not just Neighborhood Watch Captains

Additionally, we are encouraging Watch Captains to join the Facebook Group “Beverdale Block Captains”. This Facebook group allows Watch Captains to share information which they can then pass on to other individual neighborhood watch groups.

And last, though by no means least, we introduce Officer Steph Swartz of the Des Moines Police Department, our dedicated Beverdale-area police officer. Officer Swartz brings many years of service as both a detective and narcotics officer with the DMPD. She is also a member of the “Beverdale Block Captains” Facebook group, allowing her to be aware of any neighborhood watch activity and to communicate directly with Neighborhood Watch Captains.

OFFICER STEPHANIE SWARTZ

BEVERDALE HAS A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE OFFICER!



Beverdale has a new Neighborhood Police Officer - we asked her a few questions to get to know her better!
 Q: What is your official title?
 A: Senior Police Officer
 Q: Tell us how and when you started working for the Police department?

A: I worked in molecular biology/genetics research for 12 years before becoming an officer. I wanted to find a job with more tangible results at the end of the work day and more public contact. I settled on police officer and after 5 tries was hired by Des Moines.

Q: Tell us about someone who has influenced your decision to become a police officer.

A: My wife. She was and is an amazing nurse and always had these wonderful stories about people she had been able to help. I am a huge chicken about needles so I knew nursing was out, but I started looking around for a public service job that fit.

Q: What do you find most challenging about being a Police Officer?

A: Staying hopeful and positive when sometimes our job involves seeing the worst that people can do and the worst that can happen to them.

Q: What is your favorite part of the job?

A: That moment when you change something – someone’s view, someone’s day, maybe even someone’s life.

Q: What’s the best/worst thing to happen since you started working with the Des Moines Police?

A: Best day ever - the day I helped push a car in a neighborhood not known for friendly police relations. One of the neighborhood members was so surprised he came up to me to tell me thank you. Worst day ever – The day we lost Sgt. Beminio 11/2/16.

Q: What was your reaction when you were assigned to Beverdale?

A: Super excited!!!

Q: What was your first impression of Beverdale?

A: I went to Holy Trinity as a child, so I was forever running around Beverdale. I remember the beautiful brick houses, and the homey feeling of the area.

Q: What’s your first memory of Beverdale?

A: Probably involved Sister Mary Karen not being very happy with me. :)

Q: What would you say are some of Beverdale’s strongest qualities as a community?

A: The strong connection the neighbors feel towards one another and the community as a whole.

Q: What might (someone) be surprised to know about you?

A: I have 11 grandkids.

Q: The interest in Beverdale crime seems to be growing. Why do you think that is?

A: I think Beverdale recognizes the strong quality of life they have and doesn’t want that to begin to erode.

Q: What would you tell someone who is concerned about safety in the neighborhood?

A: Observation and communication are the keys. Be our eyes and ears.

Q: If you weren’t a Police officer, what would you be doing instead, or what would your life be like?

A: I have always wanted to be a foreign correspondent.

Q: How would someone describe you?

A: Outgoing and enthusiastic.

Q: What do you do when you aren’t keeping Des Moines safe?

A: Swim with the grandkids, bike, and kayak.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: My wife is an inpatient psychiatric nurse at Mercy. We have been together for 23 years and have four now-grown children who in turn have blessed us with eleven beautiful grandkids.

If you see Officer Swartz around the neighborhood, stop and say hi!

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

CALVIN COMMUNITY TO OPEN CALVIN SQUARE IN 2018 FAITH-BASED NON-PROFIT CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

As the neighborhood's largest employer and home to more than 200 older adults, Calvin Community is proud to call Beaverdale home since opening in 1965.

Calvin is a faith-based, not-for-profit continuing care retirement community providing individualized service and care by our team of dedicated professionals. This continuum of care includes independent and assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care. Calvin Community supports residents' independence with a complete continuum of living arrangements, offering the right amount of assistance when our residents need it.

In 2018, Calvin Square brings new independent living options to the west side of Calvin Community's campus. Calvin Square's six townhomes are now under construction and will be available to lease early next year. Three of these townhomes will offer private elevators — a first in metro Des Moines. Next summer, Calvin Square will also offer 36 apartments for lease and house Mercy Family Clinic—Beaverdale.

Calvin also leads Embrace Aging — a community dialog on healthy aging in Iowa. Embrace Aging provides practical information on how to handle issues associated with aging. New sessions will focus on dementia and Alzheimer's in 2018. The series is available at no cost to any group as a turn-key, classroom series that includes six 50-minute class programs on two DVDs. Each session is also available for individual viewing on Calvin's website.

The Embrace Aging program is produced by Calvin Community

and American Enterprise Group with support from The Comparison Project at Drake University, Broadlawn Medical Center, Cultivating Compassion: The Dr. Richard Deming Foundation, Arbor Springs, AARP, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Polk County Board of Supervisors, and additional support from Syverson Strege and Company, Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center, Des Moines Area Religious Council and HCI Care Services.

As a not-for-profit business, Calvin Community invests solely in the care of our residents. Every dollar we receive delivers care within Calvin and creates lasting improvements to the home we provide for our residents and extends our care to residents. Tax-deductible donations from residents, families, churches and friends of Calvin Community have been a blessing to many residents and families.

Visit calvincommunity.org for more information, including details on Embrace Aging and a calendar of public events.



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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

MEET BEAVERDALE NEIGHBOR AND VOLUNTEER, WENDELL ECK BEAVERDALE'S GO-TO GUY FOR TOOLS, TENTS AND BRIGHT IDEAS

In the fall of 2009, Beaverdale resident CeCe Ibson (then a widow with two little kids) hired her long-time handyman, Wendell Eck, and his son Brian Eck to remodel her family room and install new carpet in the house. Little did they know it would be the beginning of long-term relationships between CeCe and Wendell, and Wendell and Beaverdale.

Since moving officially to the neighborhood in 2010, Wendell has thrown himself (sometimes even voluntarily) into neighborhood projects and events. Wendell has worked on and at Shop Hop, built and driven floats and cars in the Fall Festival parade, worked various booths and tables at Farmers Market, Beaverdale Live and Fall Festival and helped many neighbors and businesses with projects, from little leaks to ceiling collapses.

When the BNA, the BBC or some other neighborhood group needs a tool, a tent or just a bright idea, Wendell is the man to call. He and Joe Raymond took on the entirety of the mechanicals for the Beaverdale Bluegrass Festival when it moved to Tower Park in 2016, putting in more hours than probably anyone on that event.

Wendell has made recycling at neighborhood events a priority and has also worked to link BNA and BBC events with other neighborhood-based groups, including the Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus and Holy Trinity Parish.

In 2015, Wendell began a remodeling project on his and CeCe's house,

prompting CeCe to volunteer them for the first ever Tour of Homes in 2016. Wendell finished up the night before the Tour, just in time to take CeCe's son and his Boy Scout troop on a weekend camping trip, leaving CeCe at home to take credit for all of Wendell's work over the past year.

This is probably as good a time as any for Wendell to learn that CeCe is planning to volunteer their home for Garden Walk next time around.

Wendell Eck married CeCe Ibson in 2012. Together, they have 6 children, 6 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

After a 40 year career in the carpenter trades, Wendell retired in 2015 to work for CeCe. In hindsight, he probably should have put a little more thought into that decision.



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VFW GETS NEW PARKING LOT
 THANKS TO LOCAL DONATIONS
 AND A GRANT FROM POLK COUNTY

On October 10th, the Beavertdale VFW, Post 9127 dedicated a newly paved parking lot for their facility on Urbandale Ave. This repaving was paid for by a grant from Polk County and by donations from local members, residents and businesses. VFW Post 9127 wishes to extend a special thanks to Angela Connolly of the Polk County Board of Supervisors and to those loyal supporters who donated to this cause. The Post is also accepting donations for deferred maintenance projects on their Beavertdale building, including exterior painting and other repairs. If you would like to donate, please contact: Jerry Hooten at jerry@vfw9127.com.

BEAVERDALE FARMERS MARKET
 JOIN THE FUN, VOLUNTEER FOR 2018!

Beavertdale Farmers Market signed off for another successful market year in mid-September. Many thanks to the excellent vendors and musicians, to great customers and to all the nearby residents and businesses for the neighborhood support.

Beavertdale Farmers Market hosted more than 75 vendors through the 2017 season. For the first time, we had drone videos of opening day; view them on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/user67891768>.

The photo below shows the 2017 BFM team at the Fall Festival Parade; some have volunteered from the market's beginning. It's a fun organization where you get to enjoy all the good products and people at the weekly market. Join the fun and volunteer for next year! Message us on Facebook or email info@beavertdalefarmersmarket.org. As always, we welcome your ideas and comments.



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BEAVERDALE HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

NOVEMBER 10TH - 11TH, 2017



Join us at the 40th Annual Beaverdale Holiday Boutique, Nov. 10 - 11, hosted by the PTO of Holy Trinity Catholic School. What started out as a small craft show and bake sale to raise funds for the school, has now turned into one of the most anticipated holiday events in the area. Over 100 exhibitors will be at this year's boutique selling one-of-a-kind artwork, jewelry, textiles, glassware and more. The Beaverdale Business Coalition will be selling Centennial mural prints and gift cards from Le Jardin, Christopher's, Back Country Outfitters, Beaverdale Books and more.

A large assortment of homemade sweet and savory treats, including butter braids, pies, candies, breads and cookies, will be available for purchase in the bakery. Be sure to get there early as many of these items sell-out quickly!

On Friday evening, appetizers and wine will be available while you shop. On Saturday, the Café will be open for hungry shoppers to relax and enjoy delicious soups, sandwiches and desserts.

You are sure to find something for those on your holiday shopping list (or yourself)! For more information on exhibitors, follow Beaverdale Holiday Boutique on Facebook @beaverdaleboutique.

WHEN: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH FROM 5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH FROM 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

WHERE: HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL, 2926 BEAVER AVE.

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BEAVERDALE'S SHOP HOP SATURDAY, DEC. 2ND, 4 P.M.

'Tis the season to shop and dine **LOCALLY!!!** Join us on Saturday, December 2nd at Beaverdale's central business district for an evening of festive merriment as the Beaverdale Business Coalition (BBC) and the Beaverdale Neighborhood Association (BNA) present "Beaverdale's Holiday Shop Hop."

Santa will arrive at Grounds for Celebration at 5:00 p.m. so be there to greet him! He and his elf will greet the children and will hand out gift bags until 6:15 p.m. Then they will make their way to Beaverdale Books to read a Christmas story to the children.

Many Beaverdale businesses will have specials and will offer treats and beverages to all who stop by. Be sure to check the BNA web site for information on business promotions and other scheduled activities. Visit www.beaverdale.org.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST JUDGING BEGINS DEC. 11TH!

Brighten the holidays within Beaverdale by decorating the outside of your home! Each year, we set out to recognize and award Beaverdale residents for their hard work and creativity in decorating their properties. Decorations can include lawn ornaments, a lighting scheme, moving figures, luminaries, and everything else you can think of! Judging will begin December 11th. Prizes will be awarded amongst four to five judges and pictures will be in the next Sidewalk. So, deck the halls, the lawn and shrubs, the roof and trees, to brighten the holiday season!

If you are interested in helping to judge lights, please contact Sean Bagniewski at seanbagniewski@outlook.com. This is a fun way to get involved and requires a minimal time commitment.



Holiday

SHOP HOP

