

# BNA QUARTERLY MEETING!

MAY 9TH, 7:00 PM

@ NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER  
5110 FRANKLIN AVE.

GUEST SPEAKERS FROM  
BEAVERDALE FALL FESTIVAL  
& MID-AMERICAN ENERGY.



## The Sidewalk

VOL. 18, ISSUE 2

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BEAVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2023

### 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 Floor Doctors on Merle Hay Road. Visit [www.beaverdale.org](http://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](http://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: [bnab@beaverdale.org](mailto:bnab@beaverdale.org)

### Dear Neighbors,

I am so excited that spring is finally here. We once again had a chilly but fun Easter Egg Hunt. There were so many happy kids running around gathering eggs, candy, and prizes. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who made the event function - the egg fillers, the set-up crew, the egg hiders, and the post event clean up team. It was great to be back at Beaverdale Park for the fun event.

Speaking of Beaverdale Park, we will have another opportunity to enjoy an event in the park this summer as the BNA and Beaverdale Fall Festival partner with the City of Des Moines to bring Free Flicks to Beaverdale Park on July 21. The movie this summer will be Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.

Also as a reminder, we have the annual SCRUB events in and around the neighborhood in the next few months (for the full calendar of SCRUB check out the Public Works page on the city website). The SCRUB event at Polk County River Place will be May 20th.

I hope to see everyone at the quarterly meeting!

Sincerely,  
Marcus Coenen, BNA President

### BNA BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE URBANDALE AVE. CLEAN-UP

The BNA's Beautification Committee along with other neighborhood volunteers cleaned the Urbandale Ave. median of fallen branches and trash this April. The group continues the Spring cleanup tradition long carried out by neighborhood resident Eugene Buckmiller for whom a Tulip Tree was planted in memorial of, in the Urbandale Ave. median near 38th St. and 36th St. on May 13th.

Neighbors interested in helping beautify Beaverdale can reach out to [bnab@beaverdale.org](mailto:bnab@beaverdale.org) on how to get involved. Pictured below are volunteers Carole Betts, Sasha Kamper, Terry Thielen, John Waters, Beautification Chair Nancy Dunbar and Kathy Kieffer.



### WOODLAND RESTORATION BEGINS IN BEAVERDALE PARK!

A project to restore the woodlands area in Beaverdale Park is underway this spring. The city of Des Moines has hired an environmental consultant to assess the 20 acres of woodlands in the 25-acre park at 34th St. and Adams Ave. Funding for the woodlands restoration comes from a REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Consultants will be in the park this spring to conduct an analysis of existing plant and soil conditions in the wooded areas of the park, which have become overgrown and are largely unusable by the public. The goal is to remove weedy and invasive species, open up the tree canopy to improve sunlight penetration, seed appropriate vegetation and improve sightlines into the wooded areas so parkgoers feel safe. The initial assessment will not interfere with the playground and open areas of the park.



The REAP work is part of the city's master plan to renovate the park. The woodlands work can begin because of the REAP grant, but the remaining work needed in the park remains unfunded in the city's five-year Capital Improvement Plan. The master plan calls for a new playground and shelter, improved connections to the InterUrban Trail adjacent to the park, and construction of soft walking trails in the wooded, hilly part of the park.

A committee was formed to raise private funds and grants for playground equipment. Donations are requested at this time through [friendsofdmparks.org](http://friendsofdmparks.org). Click on the donate page and please be sure to designate your donation is for Beaverdale Park.





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### SAVE THE DATE! 2023 BEAVERDALE GARDEN WALK JOIN US JUNE 10TH FROM 9AM-3PM

Yes, we are doing it again! Mark your calendars for June 10th. We are excited to have new gardeners that want to share their passion for gardening with others. And we also have a couple that you might remember from the early years. We started doing this in 2005 and have showcased well over 50 different gardens over the years. This year you will find not only beautiful landscapes, but herb gardens, raised beds full of ornamentals and edibles, pollinator friendly gardens, water features, and more. Many gardeners are incorporating food production into their spaces.

Watch for our new poster and signs to pop up around the neighborhood in June and be sure to collect one of our new bookmarks to remind you to 'save the date'.

Tickets will be available for \$10 each starting June 1st at our local Beaverdale businesses: Back Country Outfitters, Beaverdale Books, Beaverdale Confections, Grounds for Celebrations, and O'Donnell Ace Hardware. They will include the names, addresses, and descriptions of all the gardens, as well as a map of the neighborhood. You will find that a couple are just steps away from each other. We have decided to limit ticket sales to 500 this year to help reduce crowding at the gardens. So get yours early if you want to be sure to get one. And we hope to have info at each garden about another fun way to enjoy our neighborhood.

The Beaverdale Garden Walk would not be possible without its volunteers and sponsors. We thank Calvin Community, Green Family Flooring, and Back Country Outfitters for their support and sponsorship. We will again need assistance from volunteers to make this year's garden walk a success. We plan to have extra volunteers at each garden to monitor numbers of visitors to keep everyone safe and to check tickets. Please contact Jean Swanson at Jean.swanson515@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering. And if you would like to have your garden included on a future garden walk, be sure to leave your name and contact info with one of our volunteers.

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Hey Beaverdaliens, we're busy little beavers getting all our logs lined up to put together the best dam Fall Festival this September 15th and 16th, but we could use your help! If you have any ideas for events during the Festival, we want to hear them! Please send them to us at [hello@fallfestival.org](mailto:hello@fallfestival.org). If you're interested in being a part of planning events or volunteering to help out with events, please also send us an email because we'd love to hear from you! In the meantime, make sure you're following us on Facebook for all the latest news and while you're there, consider clicking our donate button! Everything goes straight towards putting on the Festival!



**BEAVERDALE FARMERS MARKET**  
 JOIN US FOR THE 2023  
 BEAVERDALE FARMERS MARKET

Beaverdale Farmers Market is kicking off it's 12th season and continues to be one of the best events of the summer in Des Moines. The market is open every Tuesday from June 6 through September 12 and is located in the west parking lot at Franklin Junior High at 48th Street & Franklin Avenue. Market hours are 4-7 pm. The market has easy parking, and features a wide selection of vendors, fresh vegetables, prepared foods and great music. The Beaverdale Farmers Market is part of the Double-Up Food Bucks program for those with SNAP benefits. If you love your Beaverdale neighborhood and want to get more involved and meet new people, we are looking for volunteers. Email [info@beaverdalefarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@beaverdalefarmersmarket.org) or call 515-650-1652. Beaverdale Farmers Market is a 501c3 organization, managed by an all-volunteer board of directors.

We look forward to a fabulous summer, bringing fresh produce, local food, goods and music to the neighborhood. Join us as we "Plant the Seed" at the Beaverdale Farmers Market. See you June 6th.



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# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## WHIRLYTHINGS ART SHOW WITH KEN & MARTA! JUNE 4TH, NOON-5PM, 4320 FRANKLIN AVE.

Whirlythings by Ken and Marta Keiran sprung up in the heart of Beaverdale almost by accident.

My father made wind driven wheels and whirligigs when I was a kid. He said the farmers would make them as decorations for fence posts, when he was a kid. After he passed in 2001, I decided to make one for myself and my sister in memory of him. Then I made one for a neighbor and another and before we knew it, Whirlythings, as a small business, began.



Whirlythings are simple spinning objects that are powered by the wind. Now I make them using and recycling just about anything that will cup the wind and make motion. You'll find us poking around at garage sales and thrift shops looking for various items that can be fashioned into fun whimsical kinetic wind art with a hand shaped barn wood bird perched on top. We started showing them at Farmer's Markets (Beaverdale's was our first) and Art Shows until health reasons made it difficult to continue to do so.

Having a large yard, we thought perhaps we could organize an art show right here at home. So, in 2009, along with a handful of creative family members, we had our first Garden Art Show. Not knowing what to expect, we canvassed the city with posters and flyers. People came and 13 years later, it has become an annual event. We have reached the comfortable capacity for the size of our yard, with over 20 local artists working in pottery, jewelry, sculpture, paintings, mosaics, glass and textile and more, along with our Whirlythings. We have also found a dedicated group of local and regional shoppers who enjoy spending a relaxing afternoon shopping and talking with our artists in the comfort of a Beaverdale backyard, and mark their calendars to attend.

**This year's show will be held: Sunday, June 4th, 2023 from Noon to 5:00 at 4320 Franklin Ave., Des Moines, IA.**

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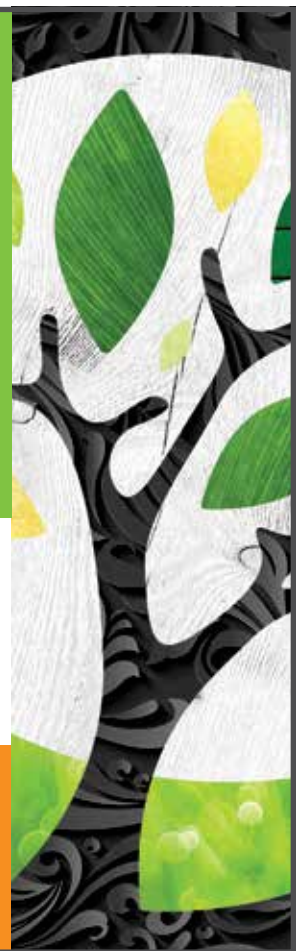
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# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## CHRISTOPHER'S — CELEBRATING 60 YEARS! OPENING DAY WAS FEBRUARY 1ST, 1963

2023 marks the 60th year for Christopher's in Beaverdale. Opened by Joe & Red Giudicessi on February 1, 1963 as "Beaverdale's Landmark Of Fine Dining" Christopher's is still family owned and operated.

Des Moines is filled with great restaurants serving food from every region of the world. It seems every week another restaurant joins the mix and sadly we seem to lose them at about the same rate. Very few locally owned establishments survive 60 years, especially with the same family ownership. Over the years Christopher's has survived the normal things restaurants go through as well as a couple of fires and the loss of the face of the restaurant with the passing of Joe in 2015.

Today, Christopher's is still family owned and operated by Joe and Red's daughter, Rene, and son, Ron. Much has changed since those early days. Several remodels and additions have allowed for custom banquet service, larger crowds in the lounge area and an expanded dining room to seat more guests. A catering service has been added and carry out service is available. Today's menu still features many of the original items from 1963 but they have been joined by many new items most notably a delicious hand tossed thin crust pizza.

When Christopher's opened Des Moines residents were paying 29¢ for a gallon of regular gasoline, 22¢ for a loaf of bread and 49¢ for a gallon of milk. The average price of a home in the area was \$12,650 while workers had an average income of \$5807.

In 1963, we witnessed the assassination of President John Kennedy, November 22, and the swearing in of President Lyndon Johnson with events unfolding on television sets across the country. Martin Luther King Jr delivered his "I have a dream" speech and Pope John XXIII died ushering in Pope Paul VI.

Popular culture and sports at the time Christopher's opened saw the Beatlemania take hold of the US. A Drake student and KIOA DJ brought the first playing of the Beatles UK album "Please, Please Me" to rave reactions from Des Moines listeners. The number one single on the day Christopher's opened was "Walk Right In" by The Staple Singers.

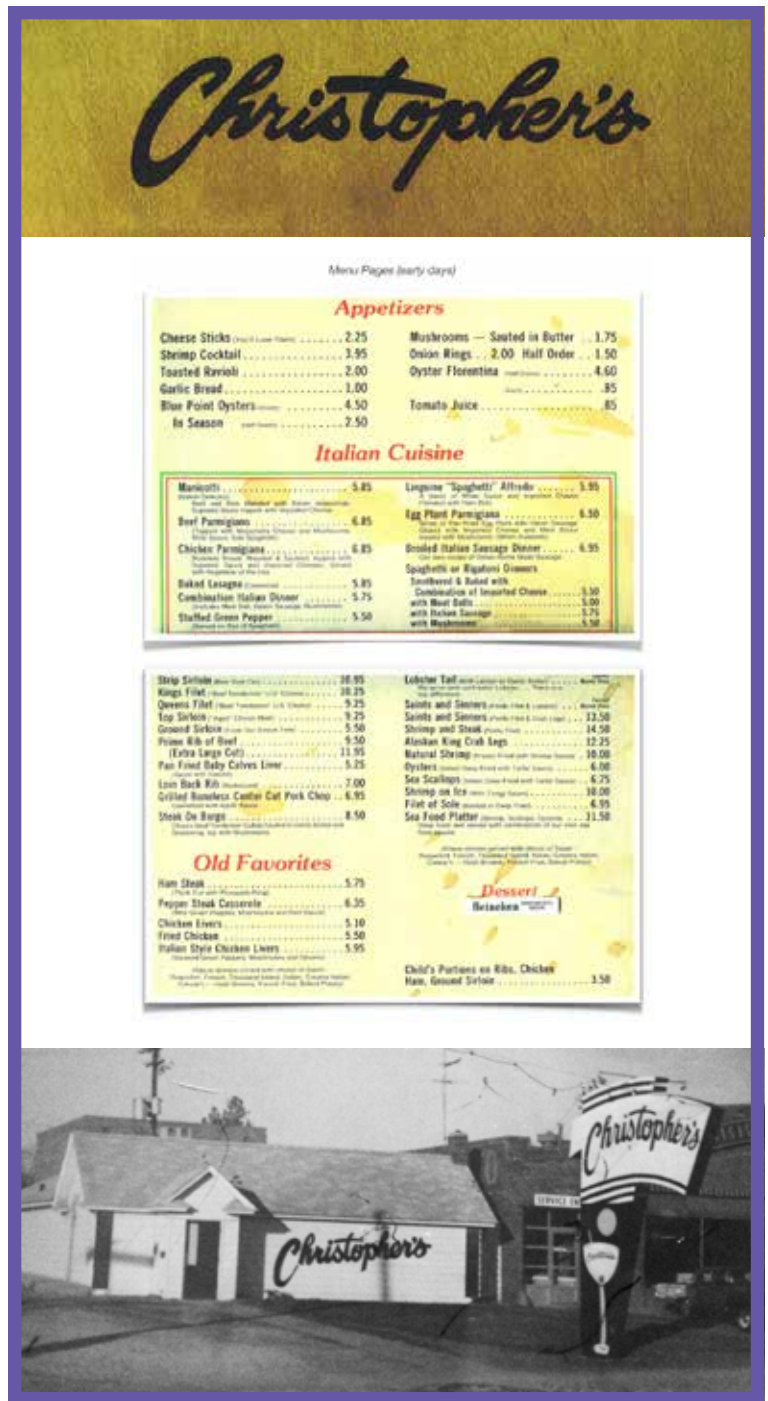
The sporting world saw the Los Angeles Dodgers win the World Series and the Chicago Bears win the NFL while the San Diego Chargers won the AFL. No Super Bowl yet.

Television played a big role in the lives of Des Moines residents as they watched TV favorites American Bandstand, Captain Kangaroo, Gunsmoke, Mr Ed, The Dick Van Dyke Show, The Jetsons, Have Gun Will Travel and The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson.

While much was going on in the world around the opening of Christopher's the Giudicessi's put together a great menu offering American favorites such as Prime Rib, Steaks and Sea Food. Steak DeBurgo, a Des Moines favorite, found its way on to the menu while adding outstanding Italian dishes from Joe's background. Baked Lasagna and Spaghetti and Meatballs were immediate favorites and still grace the menu today. Christopher's House Dressing is still a guest favorite.

Residents from every part of the city know Christopher's and the quality food and service they offer. Many find themselves going to Christopher's for significant family events. The Banquet Room makes a great place for receptions and parties.

Being a new restaurant in Des Moines is a challenge but maintaining the quality and service for 60 years is an even bigger challenge. The Christopher's staff is proud to serve the metro area and look forward to seeing you for years to come.



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## BUNNY, EGGS, & PRIZES GALORE! BEAVERDALE KICKS OFF SPRING WITH ANNUAL BNA EASTER EGG HUNT

It was a cold day on April 1st, but that didn't stop Beaverdale's residents from bringing their children out to celebrate Spring and the Easter Season. At 10am sharp, over 100 kids stormed the field of Beaverdale Park to hunt for Easter Eggs, filled with candy and prize tickets. Prizes range from coloring books and sidewalk chalk to puzzles, kites, and stuffed animals. Four lucky children won Grand Prizes—Easter baskets from **Beaverdale Confections** (made especially for the Easter Bunny, of course)!

The Easter Bunny came out for the event, to pose with children for pictures, and then he hopped on down to downtown Beaverdale, for photo ops in various Beaverdale businesses. One family brought their real pet bunny to the Easter Egg Hunt in the Park. Special thanks to our sponsors, **Green Family Flooring**, **Up Tempo Music** and the **Beaverdale Neighborhood Association**. Their donations (and BNA members' annual membership fees) paid for this event.

## GOOD NEWS FROM NFC! SAVINGS ON ENERGY & HOME REPAIRS



Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC) has some good news regarding energy savings and home repairs for homeowners and homebuyers in your neighborhood!

Who is Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC)? NFC provides unique lending programs and other services to facilitate neighborhood revitalization in Polk County through partnerships with residents, governments, community-based organizations, lending institutions and the business community.

NFC is introducing our new Energy Advantage program that can help you and your neighbors take control of your energy footprint by adding or replacing items such as: solar, heat pump, new efficient HVAC system, Energy Star windows and doors, plus other items! NFC's Energy Advantage is a \$10,000 deferred loan, which is paired with a NFC repayable and forgivable loan (forgivable loan up to \$10,000) to meet your renovation and energy improvement goals to save on your energy costs.

Also, NFC is coordinating with the City of Des Moines and the Block Challenge Grant Program. Did you know you could borrow the funds for your project from NFC and take advantage of both the Block Challenge Grant and a NFC forgivable loan?

For more information on these and other NFC Loan Programs, visit the Loan Programs page on the NFC website. We would love to come and speak at a neighborhood meeting or event, please contact us to schedule it.

Contact us today at 515.246.0010 or [NeighborhoodFinance.org](http://NeighborhoodFinance.org) or emailing a Loan Originator directly. (Fair Housing Lender NMLS #8943)