



# The Sidewalk

## 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 office of Ibson Law in Beaverdale. 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: [bna@beaverdale.org](mailto:bna@beaverdale.org)

## Hi Neighbors,

In April 2019, I sat down to write my very first president's letter. It's now nearly March 2020 and I'm writing my last. It has been a tremendous privilege to serve this neighborhood and its Board as president and I will look back on the last two years with great fondness. As BNA president, I attended dozens of city, business and neighborhood meetings, wrote and replied to hundreds of emails and spent many, many hours in conversation with neighbors who had issues, concerns and ideas to share. I cannot imagine that there is a neighborhood anywhere with residents as engaged and committed as ours.

We've experienced some numbing lows over these past several years – the June 30, 2018 flood, the rained-out Bluegrass Festival in 2019. But we've celebrated many highs also – new businesses opening, increased attention and commitment to infrastructure improvements, bigger-than-ever crowds at events like Bluegrass Festival 2018, Fall Festivals, bar crawls, bike rides and our re-branded Holiday Happenings.

I bought my first Beaverdale home (on Clinton Avenue) in May 1993. Two months later, I experienced my first flood, including 10 days without running water. 1996 brought the second major rain event which, for me, included a flooded basement. My late husband, Jay Wagner, and I remodeled the Clinton Ave. bungalow, which I sold in 2000, moving into my current home on Ovid Avenue. Our children, Zoey and Kiernan, went through Holy Trinity Catholic School, the same school my own father attended back in the 1940s.

From the minute I first set foot in Beaverdale, I was overwhelmed by the sense of community here. And, as we all know, community means everything particularly when times are tough. That lesson hit home for me in 2008, when Jay was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma. Neighbors jumped in to sit with Jay so I could go to work, dropped off everything from casseroles to toilet paper and prayed without ceasing for my little family. Jay's services in July 2009 at Holy Trinity were nearly standing-room-only and in the months following, the neighborhood continued to support and uplift our children and me.

I witnessed the same gathering of community following the 2018 flood. Neighbors organized fund-raisers, helped flooded business and homeowners with clean up and – particularly important – jumped in to help the City of Des Moines reorganize and rebuild. We didn't sit at home complaining. We got out there and made a difference, not just for ourselves but also for our neighbors.

After Jay died, and with two young children at home, I decided to leave my downtown law firm and open my own here

in Beaverdale. Leaving the security of a big law firm, particularly as a widow with young children and a whole lot of debt, was scary. On March 1, 2020, I will celebrate 10 years in business.

I love being Beaverdale's lawyer. I love that my neighbors feel free to walk right in the front door, to drop off a cup of coffee, to sit down for a chat (sometimes about neighborhood business, sometimes about actual legal matters). I joined the Beaverdale Business Coalition Board, got back involved in politics (starting with the launch of "Obamadale" here at my office) and embraced the unique combination of big city/small town life that is uniquely Beaverdale.

In 2012, I welcomed a very special new neighbor, Wendell Eck. For many years my hired handyman, in August of that year he became my husband. Wendell also jumped into Beaverdale life with both feet. For the past several years, he and his buddy Joe Raymond have taken on the monstrous task of mechanicals and logistics for Bluegrass Festival. Wendell singlehandedly remodeled the first floor of our home and we were on the Tour of Homes in 2016. In 2024, the house will be 100 years old, completely remodeled and on the Tour again, right Wendell? There isn't much that happens in this neighborhood that Wendell doesn't get dragged into in some fashion and I'm eternally grateful for his love and support.

I termed off the Beaverdale Business Coalition Board in 2016 and I'll term off the BNA Board in 2021 and that's a good thing I think. I was appointed to this Board in 2013 then elected to three 2-year terms thereafter and I'm a firm believer that new blood and new leadership are good for any organization.

Another thing uniquely Beaverdale is that we have no shortage of "new blood" or "new leadership". Not once have I put out a call for volunteers and come up empty. I've been blessed to work with so many terrific Board members, many of whom I didn't know until they joined this Board. Now, I'm blessed to count them as my friends.

So what comes next? Particularly now that we're empty nesters, I suspect Wendell would prefer that I say "nothing" and that I promise to be home more. But he knows that if I said that I wouldn't mean it. Once that Beaverdale magic gets in your blood, you can't just walk away.

I want every single person reading this letter to know that I value and treasure your commitment to this neighborhood and the people that live in it. Honestly, if everyone lived like we do in Beaverdale, I think the world would be a much happier place.

**CeCe Ibson,  
BNA President**



# Let's meet for coffee!

Buying or selling a home can sometimes be an intimidating process, but hiring a Realtor shouldn't be. Let's meet for coffee and get to know each other! I've lived in Beaverdale for 40 years. My office is here & I support Beaverdale 100%. Whether you're buying, selling, or need friendly advice, I would be honored to help with your real estate needs.



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### ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT - APR. 4TH! PLANNING IS UNDER WAY

Beaverdale families with children up to age 10 are invited to the Annual BNA Easter Egg hunt held on Saturday, April 4, 2020 beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Beaverdale Park on Adams Avenue. You'll want to arrive early so that your children are ready to go right at 10:00 when the gates to each age-group section are opened. In addition to candy-filled eggs, the Easter Bunny will be in the park to greet our families. And, we're told T-Rex plans to make a repeat appearance this year.

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH  
TIME: 10 A.M. START  
LOCATION: BEAVERDALE PARK  
AGES: UP TO 10YRS OLD  
BRING YOUR OWN BASKET!



*Beaverdale*  
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### BEAVERDALE FARMERS MARKET IS KICKING OFF ITS 9TH SEASON!



Beaverdale Farmers Market announces its ninth season opening on June 2, 2020 and the fourth year on Urbandale Avenue. From that first Tuesday through September 8, visit the market between 4:00-7:30 p.m. The market features vendors with varieties of produce, crafts, baked goods, meats, eggs, honey, salsa, jams, prepared food, plants, personal and health items. There's easy parking, live music and friendly space for kids and pets.

Beaverdale Farmers Market welcomes applications from new and returning vendors. We provide complimentary booths for non-profit organizations. To apply for vendor space, fill out online (or print and mail) our application and rules at [www.beaverdalefarmersmarket.org/infoforvendors](http://www.beaverdalefarmersmarket.org/infoforvendors).

Beaverdale Farmers Market is a 501c3 non-profit, managed by an all-volunteer board of directors. We are looking for people who are interested in becoming an active part of their Beaverdale community and would like to join as a volunteer. Message us on Facebook or email: [info@beaverdalefarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@beaverdalefarmersmarket.org). We welcome your questions and comments, too. See you June 2nd!

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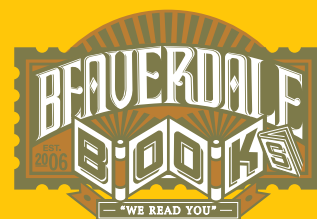
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# 47TH & HOLCOMB STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, CLOSES CREEK PROJECT, AND SOME REALLY GREAT SUBSIDY PROGRAMS THROUGH THE CITY



As one of many Beaverdale residents who had flood damage, I'm very pleased that these issues are currently being addressed. 47th & Holcomb is not an area that you think is going to flood; it's a region that accumulates a lot of water from other areas. In fact, this intersection drains for 31 acres without an overflow route.

In response to neighborhood concerns prompted by the flood event of June 30, 2018, the City responded swiftly with a forward-thinking plan to install a detention/conveyance box under 47th Street to hold water until the storm sewers are able to accommodate the flow. The 47th and Holcomb Storm Sewer Improvements not only increase storm water conveyance (part of the overall plan) but also provide underground storm water detention providing immediate benefit after installation in reducing flood risk.

This effort is a newly formed component of the total Closes Creek project which is projected to get to this area by 2024. Its design is to mitigate against major flooding in this area until the Closes Creek project is complete and should not require additional construction. This is a huge \$5.9 million project that began in mid-November of 2019 and is targeted for completion at the end of 2020.

The City of Des Moines has two really good subsidy programs that are still available. Through the Private Property Protection Program, the City will reimburse 100% of the cost (up to \$1,500) to property owners for the installation of a sump pump, disconnection of roof leaders from the sanitary sewer service and/or the installation of a backwater valve. There are requirements to this program including preapproval (see specific details at [https://www.dsm.city/departments/public\\_works-division/program.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/public_works-division/program.php)).

The Stormwater Best Management Practices Program will provide a reimbursement to property owners who install stormwater best management

practices that help to enhance the water quality of the stormwater runoff and/or decrease the amount of stormwater runoff that enters the stormwater drainage system.

With this program the City reimburses to qualified property owners 50% of the cost up to \$2,000. Qualifying work eligible for funding includes bio-retention cells, rain gardens, permeable pavement, rain barrels, streambank stabilization, soil quality restoration and other similar practices approved by the director of Public Works. More information can be found at [https://www.dsm.city/departments/public\\_works-division/stormwater\\_management.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/public_works-division/stormwater_management.php).

Both programs are worthwhile, and the Stormwater Best Management Practices is vital to our neighborhood to hold water on each property. I highly recommend utilizing these programs; you can find additional information on them at [DSM.city/swbmp](https://www.dsm.city/swbmp).

Although construction or repairs of this type are disruptive to a neighborhood, the staff of SM Hentges contractors have been considerate and efficient in accommodating mail delivery, garbage pick-up and gaining driveway access for residents. I applaud them for these efforts, which add to their workload, as the other option is closing the entire project area for the duration of construction. They work closely with and are in constant communication with the City regarding residents' concerns. There may come a point where they will need to block the street for a week or so; but, such an inconvenience will be well worth the end result.

– By Jenni Klise, 47th Street

**THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO SERVE YOU FOR OVER**

# 12

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## LOCK YOUR CARS & GARAGES!

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REMINDER



Neighborhood Watch would like to remind you to take measures to safeguard yourself from crimes of opportunity – remember to lock your cars and garages and do not leave valuables in your vehicles. Burglaries and theft from unoccupied vehicles continue to be a problem in our neighborhood. Make sure to tell a neighbor if you intend to be away from home for an extended period of time so that they can keep watch. If you park on the street, do not leave valuable items visible inside your car. Remember, if you see suspicious, call police. Non-emergency number 515 283-4811. Interested in becoming a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain? Visit the Facebook Group: Beaverdale Block Captains for more information.

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## CAUCUSING THE BEVERDALE WAY

### PLANNING AND PREPARATION MADE FOR A SMOOTH EVENT



Like many of your neighbors, Monday, February 3, 2020 probably found you in a gymnasium, auditorium or school cafeteria for your precinct caucus. Beaverdale has historically been at the forefront of local, state and national politics, including high-number participation in the Iowa Caucus.

Much has been said and written about the caucus process, and about Iowans, since then. Some of the criticism is justified but much is not. While there were certainly problems on caucus night and in the days that followed, those problems don't justify calls for a wholesale abandonment of the caucus process and/or handing over Iowa's first-in-the-nation role to another state.

Maybe things ran well at our caucus (DSM-15) because we're Beaverdalian. As the caucus chair, I think our sense of community and connection had a lot to do with our precinct's experience on caucus night.

I volunteered last summer to be the temporary chair of our caucus this year. Despite having served in the role of caucus chair and caucus secretary several times in the past, I had a fair amount of anxiety given the number of potentially viable candidates and the number of caucusgoers expected this year. With the caucus, as in life, preparation was key. As I've told my children many times, as a mother and as a lawyer my job is to expect the best but prepare for the worst.

In January, I began reaching out for caucus night volunteers using my personal contacts and social media. I also attempted to make contact with as many of the precinct captains (the people assigned to lead the individual presidential campaigns in each precinct) as I possibly could. I attended a caucus training session and read through my printed caucus guide several times until I had nearly committed it to memory. I also contacted Teresa Bastien, who chaired our 2016 caucus, and asked her to serve as secretary

(always good to have someone who knows what she's doing!)

Polk County Democrats did an incredible job keeping everyone updated on caucus site changes, rule changes and – and this is important – making sure that temporary chairs knew when and how to download the IDP reporting app.

I sent in my email request for the app as soon as I could and then tested it once I was sent the link. The app initially didn't work for me, for two reasons: (1) the internal settings in my phone barred the download; and (2) when I did get it downloaded, I mistakenly used my precinct's caucus night PIN, rather than the temporary one IDP sent via email.

Nearly a week before caucus night, I downloaded the IDP app, ensured that it worked properly, then ran a "test" caucus report so that I knew, come caucus night, we would be ready to roll.

In late January, I convened a meeting of all precinct volunteers and captains at Saint's in Beaverdale. We had at least 20 volunteers, plus the precinct captains for Biden, Buttigieg, Klobuchar, Sanders, Steyer, Warren and Yang. Everyone volunteered for or was assigned a job, from working the doors to checking people in to registering new voters. I went through the details of first and second alignment, ensuring that all precinct captains understood and agreed with how counts would be handled on caucus night.

On February 3, 2020, I called the DSM-15 precinct caucus to order around 7:20 in the Meredith Middle School gym. After being elected caucus chair, I first took some time to explain how things would go that evening, particularly the alignment and counts, and asked each preference group to say "on the record" that they understood and agreed.

The first count is often the most difficult simply because of the large number. We had everyone sit on the gym floor or in the bleachers, divided

## CITY SEWER & YOUR PROPERTY

### SUBSIDIES FOR PROPERTY PROTECTION PROGRAMS



The rain storm on July 1, 2018 that overwhelmed the storm sewer caused heartache for many Beaverdale residents. It brought our antiquated sewer to the fore front and demanded action by the city. The city is working hard to lay out plans to fix the sewer infrastructure and it is offering programs that subsidizes the cost for property protection devices and a program to help reduce storm water run-off.

The first program offers subsidies to help defray the cost for installing property protection devices such as sump pumps and backwater valves:

**The Private Property Protection Program:** This program provides a subsidy to property owners in Des Moines who contract with a licensed plumber to redirect one or more eligible sources of infiltration and inflow to an outlet other than the sanitary sewer system or to install a backwater valve on private sewer service to protect against surcharges on the public sewer system.

With this program, the City will make a Private Property Protection Program subsidy reimbursement for 100% of the cost up to \$1,500 to the property owners who meet the requirements of the program. The reimbursement for approved work will be by direct payment to the property owner. Qualifying work eligible for funding include:

- **The installation or redirection of a sump pump to discharge flows from foundation drains and area drains to a non-sanitary sewer outlet such as a rain garden, storm sewer, or the ground surface.**
- **The disconnection of roof leaders from the sanitary sewer service**
- **The installation of backwater valve.**

Contact the city to verify that you are eligible for the program and qualify for reimbursement. See the following website for additional information: [https://www.dsm.city/departments/public\\_works-division/program.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/public_works-division/program.php).

Additionally, the city needs our help to reduce storm water run-off that enters the sewer. In order to do this, the city is offering the following program:

#### **Stormwater Best Management Practices Program**

This program will provide a rebate to property owners who install stormwater best management practices to help to enhance the water quality of the stormwater runoff and/or decrease the amount of runoff that enters the stormwater drainage system.

With this program, the City will make a rebate reimbursement for 50% of the cost up to \$2,000 to property owners who meet the requirements of the program. The reimbursement for approved work will be by direct payment to the property owner in the amount of the qualifying work. Qualifying work eligible for funding:

- **Bio-retention cells**
- **Rain Gardens**
- **Permeable pavement**
- **Rain barrels**
- **Streambank stabilization**
- **Soil Quality Restoration**
- **Other similar practices approved by the director**

Contact the city to verify that you are eligible for the program and qualify for reimbursement. See the following website for additional information: [https://www.dsm.city/departments/public\\_works-division/stormwater\\_management.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/public_works-division/stormwater_management.php).

CAUSING CONTINUED...

into groups of 60 to 80, each of which was then counted by 2 people, representing 2 different candidates. Our total number of attendees was 612, so our viability number was 92.

On our first alignment, 3 candidates were viable (had 92 or more supporters). A fourth achieved viability on the second alignment as supporters of other non-viable candidates joined forces. The already-viable 3 also gained some additional supporters on the second alignment. I'm not giving names or numbers because, as I write this, the official results of the Iowa Caucus have not yet been announced.

We counted supporters on the first and second alignments just as we did initially, with two counters. The candidate's precinct captain counted, then his or her preference group was counted a second time, by a designee from another preference group (meaning, for example, the Buttigieg precinct captain counted his group, then a volunteer from another candidate's group counted the Buttigieg people a second time).

Everyone filled out the blue side of their preference card after the first alignment. A much smaller number then filled out the yellow side after the second alignment. Some checked the box indicating they intended to remain supporting a non-viable candidate. A larger number chose a second candidate. We collected preference cards in a big contractor's bucket, then later sorted them by hand.

After both alignments, I reported our numbers using the IDP app, while Teresa wrote them down on our "math worksheet" (reporting form). Our numbers matched each others' and also matched the numbers input into and generated by apps two of the presidential campaigns were using. Representatives of the 4 viable presidential candidates signed the math worksheet, after having an opportunity to review the numbers.

We adjourned around 9:45 p.m. and I headed to Polk County headquarters on Merle Hay Road to join the line of people waiting to be checked out. It was then that I got on Facebook on my phone and learned that our experience in DSM-15 was perhaps not quite the same as it was elsewhere in the state.

Getting ready for and then running a precinct caucus takes a little work but it's worth every single minute we put into it. We caucused like we live, as neighbors engaged in conversation and community with each other. Again, maybe things ran as smoothly as they did in Beaverdale because we're, well, Beaverdale.

- By CeCe Ibson



A lot of progress has been made on the Phase 1 improvements at Witmer Park over the last half year. The concrete walking path and limestone steps are complete, the open-air shelters have gone up, and the floating fishing pier has been installed. The remainder of Phase 1 construction will be completed throughout this spring and should be wrapped up by June.

In the meantime, fundraising continues for Phase 2, which will include a restroom facility and new playground. Learn more, stay up to date on park developments, and donate to the new playground at [witmerparkproject.com](http://witmerparkproject.com). Together, we can make Witmer Park and even better place to play.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BNA JOIN TODAY!

Please review the address mailing label for your membership status. If current membership has expired or if you are not a member, please complete and mail in this form with payment. We also offer an on-line registration with payment via PayPal for all memberships. To access, PayPal go to [www.beaverdale.org](http://www.beaverdale.org). For membership questions, please contact Cindy Smith at [cmsshfs@live.com](mailto:cmsshfs@live.com).

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*\*The BNA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3). Your membership may be tax deductible and could be eligible for a matching gift from your employer.*

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST:

BEAVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES:

Beautification  Public Affairs  Special Events

BEAVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION GENERAL INTEREST:

Interested in serving on the BNA Board  
 Other Skills/Interests: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business District Advocacy

BEAVERDALE FALL FESTIVAL (FALLFESTIVAL.ORG):

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|------------------------|----------|--------|
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| MEMBERSHIP             | \$10,652 | 24.25% |
| GARDEN WALK            | \$6,148  | 14.00% |
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| BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL     | \$4,276  | 9.73%  |
| DONATIONS/MEMORIALS    | \$1,767  | 4.02%  |
| SALE OF MERCHANDISE    | \$1,766  | 4.02%  |
| PUB CRAWL              | \$1,261  | 2.87%  |
| IRON PLANTERS          | \$930    | 2.12%  |
| OTHER                  | \$346    | 0.79%  |
| EXPENSE                | \$44,357 | %      |
| COMMUNICATIONS/WEBSITE | \$20,575 | 46.39% |
| BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL     | \$9,756  | 21.99% |
| COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  | \$5,250  | 11.84% |
| EVENTS                 | \$3,227  | 7.28%  |
| INSURANCE              | \$1,911  | 4.31%  |
| MEMBERSHIP EXPENSE     | \$1,405  | 3.17%  |
| BEAUTIFICATION EXPENSE | \$993    | 2.24%  |
| ADMINISTRATION         | \$666    | 1.50%  |
| COST OF MERCHANDISE    | \$265    | 0.60%  |
| TAXES                  | \$210    | 0.47%  |
| PUBLIC AFFAIRS         | \$99     | 0.21%  |

## BEAVERDALE MEGA SCRUB - SAT, JULY 18TH

MWA TRANSFER STATION SCRUB: 4198 DELAWARE AVE., 7AM-2PM  
MWA COMPOST CENTER SCRUB: 1601 HARRIETT ST., 7AM-2PM

### MEGA SCRUB LOCATION:

POLK COUNTY RIVER PLACE, 2309 EUCLID AVE. 7AM-1PM

SCRUB stands for Spring Cleanup to Reduce Urban Blight. It is the City's mission to enhance the City's neighborhoods by allowing residents an opportunity to remove yard waste and debris from homes and yards to reduce the blighted areas within the City.

What kind of SCRUB events does the City of Des Moines sponsor? **Transfer Station SCRUB:** An alternate drop-off location used for SCRUB events. **Compost Site SCRUB:** A drop off site designated for yard and tree debris during SCRUB events. **MEGA SCRUB:** An event that is hosted by select neighborhoods within their section of the City. Residents are welcome at all of the other events as well. This year, there will be four Mega SCRUBs scheduled from April through September.

### SCRUB EVENT REMINDERS

- Proof of Residency is required - Bring a photo id or current utility bill.
- Before each event, please review the SCRUB guidelines.
- MEGA SCRUB's now offer Household Hazardous Waste Disposal.
- SCRUB'S are free to Des Moines citizens, therefore you may experience longer wait times based on participation.

For a list of what you can dispose of and where to take it, as well as other SCRUB guidelines and SCRUB calendar, please visit:

[https://www.dsm.city/departments/public\\_works-division/garbage\\_collection/scrub\\_events.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/public_works-division/garbage_collection/scrub_events.php)