

THE BNA QUARTERLY MEETING WILL BE TUES FEB 4 @ 7PM

Northwest Community Center
5110 Franklin Avenue, DSM

The first Quarterly Meeting of the Beaverdale Neighborhood Association will be held at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the Northwest Community Center. Visit beaverdale.org for more information regarding the agenda, special guest speakers, and neighborhood news.



The Sidewalk

VOL. 20, ISSUE 1

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BEAVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2025

BEAVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Dave Busiek
Vice President - Nicholas Mertes
Treasurer - Jay Kozel
Secretary - Craig VandeVenter
Jesse Coleman
Edward Fishman
Chris Friest
Josh Nelson
Don Piper
Karla Rangel
Missy Reams
Kylie Spies
Christian Sweeney

BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Beatter Business Bureau, 2625 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA. 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: bnab@beaverdale.org

Dear Neighbors,

The BNA Board of Directors is saying farewell to four long-time board members who have maxed out their terms, and I for one, am going to really miss them.

Vice-president Nick Mertes has done an outstanding job not only as VP but also taking a lead role in the Beaverdale Bluegrass Festival.

Treasurer Jay Cox-Kozel has been board treasurer for many years. He also has been our institutional memory on board practices.

Eddie Fishman has allowed us to meet the last few years in his law office, has served as an unofficial legal advisor and played a key role in the Bluegrass Festival.

And Chris Friest has been a jack-of-all trades, setting up and tearing down events, letting us use his business for storage, and providing wise advice.

My thanks to Nick, Jay, Eddie and Chris – busy people who find time to volunteer their talents to make Beaverdale a better place to live.

The good news looking forward is the slate of new board members who are up for approval at the first quarterly meeting. I'm delighted to work with Eric Hines, Alex Moats, Rich Montanaro and Terry Thielen. Eric is an elementary school teacher, Alex owns Beaverdale Nutrition, Rich owns the American Real Estate Company in Beaverdale, and Terry has been a long-time member of the Beautification Committee. They join relatively new board members Christian Sweeney and Don Piper, who joined the board late in 2024.

Officers for 2025: I plan to continue as president, Craig VandeVenter will be VP, Jesse Coleman treasurer and Josh Nelson as board secretary.



Your BNA board and many volunteers work hard to make Beaverdale the best neighborhood in the Des Moines metro. If you're not already a member, won't you please help by joining? We are stronger together. Sign up is available on our website, www.beaverdale.org.

Sincerely,
Dave Busiek
BNA board president
president@beaverdale.org



Beaverdale Fall Fest



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CONTRACTORS FAIR 2025

UNION PARK-BNA CONTRACTORS FAIR – FEB 27 JUMPSTART YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT PLANS!

Are you considering a home improvement project or major remodeling or home addition in 2025? If so, let us help you connect with some contractors. Join us at the Union Park/BNA Contractors Fair on February 27th, 2025.

Residents are invited to attend a free home improvement fair, hosted by Union Park Neighborhood Association with the Beaverdale Neighborhood Association's assistance. Contractors from a variety of trades will be available for questions, and you can schedule appointments to obtain bids. In addition, representatives from Invest DSM and Neighborhood Finance Corp. will be present to guide you through their affordable or forgivable financing programs. This event is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. Details follow:

- WHAT:** Free Home Improvement Fair with Contractors, Invest DSM & Neighborhood Finance Corp. Booths
- WHERE:** Union Park Ding Darling Shelter, 2100 Saylor Road, Des Moines
- WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 27 from 5-7pm* (Time on the 27th was tentative when this article went to print. Watch the BNA website and social media for final details.)

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BEAVERDALE BUSINESS SCOOP



BY MATT CONNOLLY

Matt Connolly is a longtime Beaverdale resident, businessman, and Real Estate Broker at NAI Iowa Realty Commercial. Matt also currently serves as president of the board of Mindspring Mental Health Alliance, a local nonprofit that provides free mental health education, support and advocacy programs.

Hello Neighbors! I'm excited to begin this new column as a contributor to the Sidewalk and help inform the community of some of the business and real estate happenings around town. So, I'll get right to the scoop –

The rumor is that there is a new tobacco and vape shop opening next to MST...and the rumor is true. No word yet on when they are actually going to open for business, but they are paying rent. The space was vacated by Green Family Flooring and was shown many times to businesses of all sorts to take a look.

Green Family Flooring found a new home last year, adjacent to Christopher's, with a little more space and very prime location in Uptown Beaverdale.

BackRoom got a complete makeover and re-brand to now Henry's (*High-income Earners Not Rich Yet*) and has some awesome men's clothing options, especially for business attire.

The old salon in a house on Beavercrest and Beaver was recently bought by local investor who used to get his haircut there for basically all his life. There is an apartment above that just got a new tenant, and the commercial tenant on first floor is my lovely wife, Jodi (www.connollymassage.com.) Jodi re-branded the space calling it Urban Peace, as you've probably seen the sign by now. The new landlord has made many improvements to the property and will paint the second level come spring with some final landscaping, I believe.

The old dental office building at 4919 Douglas is getting a big remodel inside and out, which is great to see for one of our commercial properties in the neighborhood.

In case you were wondering whatever happened to that big green space behind that building and Travis Audio and TV, it was around 2 acres or more that sold to the city of Des Moines for storm water control as it was not and will not ever be able to be built upon.

More to come next quarterly publication as I have some inside scoop on something you are all going to want to hear about...

Lastly, a wellness tip by MC: Our sidewalks in the Beav have a come along way in recent years, it's up to us to use them now. Cheers!



**SAVE THE DATE! JUNE 7TH, 2025
OUR SLATE OF GARDENS IS FULL!**

The Beaverdale Beautification Committee is happy to report we have a full slate of gardens scheduled for our Garden Walk on June 7th this year. Please put the date on your calendar now! Two of the gardens are repeat appearances from the past, but have added new things to the landscape to replace things that were removed. The other five gardens are new recruits and are excited to show off their gardens. You will see gardens that have interesting tree species, chickens, lots of shade, charming structures, water features, plenty of sun, interesting container plantings, and lots more. We will announce how you can obtain tickets when time gets closer. Be sure to check out our Facebook page devoted to the Garden Walk. And there will be updated info on the BNA website as well. If you are interested in volunteering to help plan our event or on the day of the Garden Walk, you can contact Nancy Dunbar at dunbar.nancy@gmail.com. Think SPRING! It will be here before you know it!





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FARMERS MARKET

BEAVERDALE FARMERS MARKET

GET READY FOR THE 2025 SEASON!



Happy New Year Beaverdale! While the Beaverdale Farmers Market season is a few months off yet, our all-volunteer team is hard at it preparing for our 14th year. Do any of you remember our first year? We held the market in Beaverdale Park! It was a fun place to be amongst all the trees, but unfortunately a little too far away from the heart of our neighborhood, and thus attendance was less than we'd have liked. We then enjoyed 3 years as guests of Boesen the Florist on the lot they owned next to the store. Then on to Urbandale Ave. just west of Beaver Ave... until Covid put the kibosh on any public gatherings. Since then, we've been very fortunate to utilize the lot west of Franklin Jr. High - with more than enough space for all our vendors and plenty of parking!

We could not exist without the generous support of our sponsors, many of whom are there for us year after year! The Beaverdale Farmers Market takes many people to operate successfully and we are always looking for new help. It is a fun and exciting way to see and meet your fellow Beaverdale residents. Please reach out to us at our website: www.beaverdalefarmersmarket.org to learn more and join the fun!

The market for 2025 will be every Tuesday 4:00 to 7:00 from June 3rd through September 9th. Look for more details soon. See you at the market!





**BNA ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT
JOIN US ON APRIL 12TH @ 10:00 AM**

**CALLING ALL KIDS: DON'T MISS THE BNA'S
EASTER EGG HUNT ON SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH**

The annual Beaverdale Easter Egg Hunt is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 12th at 10am in Beaverdale Park. Children, ages 10 and under, are invited to hunt for eggs filled with candy or tickets that are redeemable for prizes. The Easter Bunny will arrive shortly before the event to welcome the young and young at heart! This experience is free for neighborhood residents and their guests—one of many BNA events funded by your membership dues and by our sponsor, Green Family Flooring.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1) DATE IS TENTATIVE:** Watch the BNA website and social media for more details in case of bad weather or other circumstances.
- 2) ARRIVE EARLY:** Don't be late. The hunt starts at exactly 10am. By 10:05am this event is over! You don't want your children to miss it.
- 3) PARKING IS LIMITED:** Arrive early and allow enough time to walk several blocks to the park.
- 4) PLEASE LEAVE FIDO AT HOME:** For everyone's safety and stress levels, no dogs will be allowed on site during the hunt.
- 5) WILLING TO VOLUNTEER?:** Contact Sasha Kamper at 515-480-2591 or mikesashakamper1@msn.com

**WHAT: ANNUAL BNA EASTER EGG HUNT
WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH @ 10AM
WHERE: BEAVERDALE PARK, 34TH & ADAMS
WHO: CHILDREN 10YRS OLD & YOUNGER
WHAT ELSE: BRING YOUR OWN BASKET!**



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**BNA BOARD MEMBER, BOARD VICE PRESIDENT,
BUSINESS LEADER, BEER ENTHUSIAST**

Dear Beaverdale Neighbors,
As my time on the Beaverdale Neighborhood Association (BNA) Board comes to an end, I've been reminiscing about my nearly eight years of "service." And by "service," I mostly mean showing up to meetings, drinking beer, and occasionally pretending I understood Jay's financial reports.



When I joined the board, Cece Ibson was president. Meetings were held in her office, and there was always cold beer—a leadership tactic I think we can all agree should be a requirement moving forward. Eventually, I found myself as Vice President (a role I'm still not sure I earned), hosting meetings at my store, The Floor Doctors. Let's just say my leadership style leaned more "relaxed beer buddy" than "parliamentary professional."

Over the past eight years, the BNA has tackled some monumental challenges and celebrated some equally monumental wins. We navigated the chaos of a global pandemic, rallied to revitalize our parks, and pulled off events that brought neighbors together when we needed it most. The annual Bluegrass Festival grew into a signature event. Neighborhood beautification efforts blossomed, both literally and figuratively. And our collective dedication ensured that Beaverdale remained a place where neighbors feel like family.

These accomplishments didn't happen because of one person or one idea—they happened because a group of passionate people came together, pooling their time, energy, and creativity to make Beaverdale better. From the behind-the-scenes logistics to the public celebrations, everything we did was a testament to what can happen when a community invests in itself.

To the neighbors of Beaverdale: thank you for allowing me to be part of this ride. Whether it was organizing, brainstorming, or just sharing a laugh at a meeting, it's been an honor to serve this amazing neighborhood.

As I step away, I want to leave you with this: Beaverdale is as strong and special as the people who call it home. Keep showing up, getting involved, and dreaming big for what our neighborhood can be. The best is yet to come, and I can't wait to see how Beaverdale continues to grow and thrive.

With gratitude and a cold one raised in your honor,

Chris Friest

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BEAVERDALE FALL FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE! FALL FESTIVAL RETURNS FRIDAY SEPT 19TH & SATURDAY SEPT 20TH

Save the date for the Beaverdale Fall Festival!

The Beaverdale Fall Festival is returning on Friday, September 19th, and Saturday, September 20th, 2025! This annual celebration brings our community together for two days of fun and festivities.



We're starting preparations and need your help! Join the planning team as a board member or volunteer—no experience required, just enthusiasm. Sign up at fallfestival.org/volunteer.

Local businesses and vendors can also get involved! Sign up for a booth or join the parade to showcase your products and services. Visit our website to reserve your spot. We're also seeking sponsors to support this beloved event. Sponsorship is a fantastic way to give back to the community and promote your business. Contact hello@fallfestival.org for details.

Mark your calendars, get involved, and help make the 2025 Beaverdale Fall Festival unforgettable!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REMINDER LOCK YOUR CARS & GARAGES!

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 something 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.

GIVE BACK TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

JOIN A BNA COMMITTEE!

If you are looking for a chance to volunteer or get involved, look no further! The Beavertdale Neighborhood Association is responsible for many of the things that make Beavertdale one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Des Moines.

BNA volunteers organize neighborhood events, including: the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Bluegrass Festival, and the Holiday Happenings, just to name a few! We also serve as the collective voice of the neighborhood on issues of community concern, and organize forums for neighbors to learn and discuss those concerns. The BNA also leads initiatives to keep Beavertdale's environment beautiful, and we work with the city to help provide our neighbors with resources for environmental stewardship. Please consider joining one of the following committees and help your neighborhood remain a favorite of Des Moines.

BEAUTIFICATION – The Beautification Committee is responsible for coordinating annual flower plantings and assisting in the planting of memorial trees throughout the neighborhood. The Committee also directs neighborhood clean-up efforts with the city and helps ensure that neighborhood parks are regularly maintained. But we have the most fun planning for our bi-annual events—the Beavertdale Garden Walk and the Beavertdale Tour of Homes! Contact Nancy Dunbar at dunbar.nancy@gmail.com

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – The Public Affairs Committee is responsible for hosting quarterly and annual neighborhood meetings, leading neighborhood improvement efforts, and hosting candidate forums for political offices of interest to neighborhood residents. The committee also coordinates Neighborhood Watch and public safety efforts, as well as researches eligibility for local, state, and national awards and funding opportunities. For more information, contact Don Piper at dpiper546@gmail.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS – The Special Events Committee is responsible for planning and coordinating all events for the neighborhood association. This includes the Easter Egg Hunt, the Holiday Shop Hop, and the Holiday Lights Contest. The Committee also helps with the Bluegrass Festival and National Night Out. For more information, contact Sasha Kamper at Mikesashakamper1@msn.com.

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.beavertdale.org. For membership questions, please contact us at membership@beavertdale.org.

New Member Renewal

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

COMPANY NAME _____

For Business Memberships

Personal information is maintained as confidential for Beavertdale neighborhood organizations. Information will NOT be shared with any outside third parties. All mass email communications are sent utilizing 'undisclosed recipients'.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

\$20.00 Individual \$40.00 Family \$60.00 Business
 \$_____ Premier: Donate contribution in other amount.

**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):

Planning Committee Volunteer Sponsorship

BEAVERDALE MERCHANDISE:

I would like to receive more information about purchasing:

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REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.BEAVERDALE.ORG OR MAIL YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Beavertdale Neighborhood Association
 PO Box 30175
 Des Moines, IA 50310





P.O. Box 30175 Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Is your name, address, and membership status correct? If not, please tell us! You receive a copy of The Sidewalk because you are a resident of the Beaverdale Neighborhood and/or a dues paying member of the Beaverdale Neighborhood Association. Please help us keep your information current. Send us an email so we can correct any errors.

membership@beaverdale.org

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BNA 2024 YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENT THANK YOU MEMBERS, DONORS, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS & VOLUNTEERS!

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>\$94,691</u>	<u>%</u>
BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL	\$43,911	46.37%
COMMUNICATIONS	\$13,933	14.71%
MEMBERSHIP	\$12,149	12.83%
GRANTS	\$17,000	17.95%
DONATIONS/MEMORIALS	\$3,411	3.60%
INTEREST	\$1,249	1.32%
EASTER EGG HUNT	\$1,118	1.18%
SALE OF MERCHANDISE	\$1,087	1.15%
HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS	\$433	0.46%
SCRUB	\$400	0.43%
<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>\$65,627</u>	<u>%</u>
EVENTS	\$35,364	53.89%
COMMUNICATIONS/WEBSITE	\$19,357	29.50%
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	\$4,536	6.91%
INSURANCE	\$2,146	3.27%
BNA STORAGE UNIT	\$1,892	2.88%
ADMINISTRATION	\$1,268	1.93%
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSE	\$456	0.69%
COST OF MERCHANDISE	\$306	0.47%
PUBLIC AFFAIRS	\$173	0.26%
BEAUTIFICATION EXPENSE	\$129	0.20%
NET INCOME	\$29,064	