

THE BNA QUARTERLY MEETING WILL BE TUES MAY 6 @ 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, May 6, 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 2

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BEAVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2025

BEAVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Better 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: bna@beaverdale.org

Dear Neighbors,

Thank goodness that winter is over! It was a bit of a rough few months for Beaverdale institutions, with a car smashing into Basic Bird, an intentional smash and grab at the Dam Pub, the closing of Back Country and word that Green State Credit Union will be leaving its building at Beaver and Urbandale next year to move into a newly-constructed office at Merle Hay Road and Aurora.

The good news is that spring is here and that means plans are well underway for a great Beaverdale Garden Walk on June 7, which you can read about elsewhere in this edition. The Beaverdale Bluegrass Festival looks like it will be another great summer tradition, and volunteers are working on the second annual Beaverdale Big Event in May.

The BNA board has begun a strategic planning initiative to make sure we are focused on the things YOU want from your

neighborhood association. We're working with an experienced facilitator, and I'll keep you updated as we learn and grow over the coming months.

If you're a BNA member, thank you! If not, please join hands with us to keep Beaverdale the city's #1 neighborhood. Your dues, and your support, help us keep Beaverdale clean and plan fun events for the whole family. Go to www.beaverdale.org and click on "get involved."

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



GREEN STATE CREDIT UNION BEAVERDALE BRANCH WILL RELOCATE TO MERLE HAY ROAD WITH VISIBILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND FUNCTIONALITY IN MIND

Green State Credit Union will be closing its branch office at the corner of Beaver Avenue and Urbandale Avenue sometime next year.

Green State is building a new office on the lot where the former Price Chopper building sits, at Merle Hay Road and Aurora Avenue. Green State is also closing an Urbandale location at 7031 Douglas Avenue. The Urbandale and Beaverdale branches will be consolidated in the new building.

In an email to customers, Green State said, "While evaluating our current facilities, we identified challenges relating to visibility, functionality, and accessibility. Additionally, the Beaverdale facility is leased and does not

have adequate space for future expansions."

Customers with safe deposit boxes at Beaverdale or Urbandale will receive communications about moving the boxes, as the time near for the opening of the new credit union branch.



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BNA ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



We had beautiful weather for the annual BNA Easter Egg Hunt. A couple hundred kids came out to hunt for eggs, and all walked away with candy and/or prizes. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped stuff eggs and set up for the hunt, and thanks to our co-sponsor: Green Family Flooring.



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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 fellow Beaverdalian! First off, I understand that a lot of you don't like the vape/tobacco shop that occupies the Beaver and Franklin retail space, but as I mentioned last quarter, there was plenty of opportunity for many others to take on that space. They have complied with all city requirements, they are a legitimate business, and if you are curious I encourage you to go check out what hard workers they are at keeping a nice clean business there.

Secondly, I gave some love to Henry's last quarter and I am still excited about them being here in Beaverdale for all of us. I will say, though, that half of my wife's and my wardrobe has come from Back Country Outfitters for as long as I can remember. Jay Kozel and staff will be missed for so many reasons. Back Country has had the best service, best community involvement, best retail presence, best clothes options and more in our neighborhood for years. We wish them the best in their next adventure.

Third, there are still a couple things brewing I can't mention yet, but if you want some inside scoop, reach out to me individually.

The affordable senior housing project on Beaver Avenue, that is now under construction by Allison Road, is getting a full makeover and is a great asset for our neighborhood. Our local Beaverdale general contractors (Koester Construction) that do work all over the country are doing the work for the developer CHI, who has a downtown office and does work across the state.

The affordable housing project on Douglas past Lower Beaver Avenue is coming along nicely and looking good.

The old hotel on Douglas and Merle Hay has been renovated and looking like a huge improvement for our extended neighborhood. Many of our retail strip centers are full as our neighborhood supports local so well. Let's keep it up! #ProudBeaverdalian



Frank W. Smith Retirement Center

BEAVERDALE BIG EVENT

The Beaverdale Neighborhood Association is hosting a one-of-a-kind service event starting in May. The Beaverdale Big Event provides opportunities for residents and businesses to work together and give back. It starts with donation opportunities beginning on May 12th and culminates with a day of service on May 31. Last year, the Big Event raised thousands of donations and helped clean and improve the neighborhood across three volunteer events.

DONATION DRIVES: Starting May 12th and lasting until May 31, businesses around Beaverdale are hosting bins and accepting donations for hygiene products, canned food, clothing, and pet food. The pet food donations go to the Pet Project Midwest and the other items will be donated to Families Forward. Specific locations can be found on the Beaverdale Big Event website : BeaverdaleBigEvent.com

If you are a business and want to host a donation drive, please contact us via the Big Event Website.

DAY OF SERVICE: May 31st is our day of service. We are still finalizing the volunteer events but they will include gardening work with Hillis Elementary and landscaping work at Moore Elementary.

For more details on the Beaverdale Big Event and to find ways to give back, visit: BeaverdaleBigEvent.com

BEAVER BEND RECONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Work began in mid-April to reconstruct the Beaver Bend intersection at Beaver Avenue and 41st Street. The City of Des Moines has acquired the property where the former Players bar sat and has demolished the building. The intersection was rated as highly dangerous by the Iowa DOT, particularly for northbound traffic having to look to the right at an awkward angle while having to guess whether southbound traffic on Beaver was going to curve on Beaver or go straight on 41st Street. The new design will square off the intersection for northbound traffic, so the sightlines are better. Southbound traffic will need to put on a blinker and turn right to continue south on 41st Street.

Construction is expected to take much of the summer, with 41st Street being closed a good portion of that time. A detour has been set up. Access to Snookies will be different, with cars exiting through the back of the property on a temporary drive to 42nd Street.





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BEAVERDALE FARMERS MARKET

GET READY FOR THE 2025 SEASON!



Hello everyone! The season opener for the Beaverdale Farmers Market is fast approaching and our great team of volunteers is in high gear with all of the preparations.

Our 14th season welcomes both returning favorites and new vendors in every category including prepared and specialty foods, as well as some totally new people with items that we haven't seen before.

We would love to hear from any individuals or groups that are interested in helping at one or more of our Tuesday markets.

The hours are from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, every Tuesday from June 3 through Sept 9. A HUGE THANK YOU to our music sponsor for the 2025 season, Ramsey Village Continuing Care Retirement Community, as well as the many other generous sponsors who help make it happen! Our entertainment for the first Market of the year is Asphalt and Stained Glass. They are a fantastic and very talented group that's been generously sharing their music with us for many years!

We hope to see you at The Franklin Jr. High in the West and North parking lots. Take the night off from fixing dinner and enjoy listening to the band while feasting on great options from several prepared food trucks and shopping for local produce and goods. Supporting our local producers is more important now than ever before!

Green Family Flooring has MOVED!

After 14 years in our previous location, we've moved to **2822 Beaver Avenue**

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Garage Sale Saturday June 7
-8 a.m. – noon, free-will offering
-proceeds support the Little Free Pantry
-sale donations will be accepted June 6

Car Show – June 18. Call to enter.
Being New Spirituality Center

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
Pastor Michael Schmidt/www.gracedm.org
5201 Urbandale Avenue/Des Moines, IA 50310/515-276-6873



BEAVERDALE Garden WALK Saturday, June 7th

Join us for the Beaverdale Garden Walk on Saturday, June 7th, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM—an exceptional opportunity to explore some of Beaverdale’s most beautiful and thoughtfully designed private gardens.

This self-guided tour offers garden enthusiasts, nature lovers, and community supporters the chance to wander through lush landscapes, vibrant floral arrangements, and expertly landscaped spaces, all while contributing to the ongoing development and preservation of the Beaverdale community.

The Garden Walk is an bi-annual event that celebrates the beauty and spirit of our neighborhood. Whether you’re an avid gardener or simply appreciate the artistry of nature, the Beaverdale Garden Walk is a perfect opportunity to connect with fellow garden lovers, find inspiration for your own outdoor spaces, and support local initiatives.

EVENT DETAILS:

- Date: Saturday, June 7, 2025
- Time: 9 AM to 3 PM (Rain or Shine)
- Cost: Tickets are \$10 each, available online and at these retail locations: Beaverdale Confections, Beaverdale Books, Grounds for Celebration, and O'Donnell Ace Hardware.

TICKETS >>>



Don't wait—tickets are expected to sell quickly, so be sure to get yours early! This is a wonderful way to spend a summer day, exploring the charm and creativity of Beaverdale’s gardens while supporting local community projects.

Stay updated on all event details by following the Beaverdale Neighborhood Association on Facebook, or visit our website at www.beaverdale.org. We look forward to seeing you at this year’s Beaverdale Garden Walk and thank you for helping us support our vibrant community!



JOIN US FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 2025

Each year the BNA joins local businesses, the City of Des Moines Police and Fire Safety Departments, and other neighborhoods and cities all across the country, in celebrating National Night Out. National Night Out is a night of free or low-cost family fun and is intended to promote community fellowship and safe neighborhoods. This event is open to for Beaverdale residents and their guests and takes place at the Beaver Bend intersection (where Beaver Ave., Franklin Ave, and 41st St. intersect.) Because of construction currently underway at this intersection, the plans remain a bit fluid. However, we do intend to have a celebration again this year. Please watch the BNA website, Facebook page, and membership emails for more information.



A LOVE LETTER TO BACK COUNTRY



"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrowmindedness"

—Mark Twain, via the always witty Back Country A-Frame

At 2702 Beaver Ave stands an eclectic brick building that has been a centerpiece of downtown Beaverdale since at least 1925. Over the decades, it has housed businesses like Clayton’s Variety and Community Pharmacy, whose soda jerk stand is still hinted at by the raised floor in the center of the building where the station once stood.

In 1974, Jamie and Diana Wornson moved their clothing outfitter from Ames into this eclectic space, establishing Back Country as a Beaverdale staple. When they retired, ownership passed to their daughter Lexi and longtime staff member, Jay Kozel, ensuring the neighborhood’s legacy of stylish community involvement continued.

For Back Country has always been more than just a clothing store—it’s been a hub of neighborhood connection. Whether through the Beaverdale Bluegrass Festival, streetscaping improvements, Whitmer Park enhancements, or the Beaverdale Neighborhood Association, Jay and the Back Country team have been at the heart of making things happen.

Like the Bull & Finch Pub—better known as the inspiration for Cheers—stepping into Back Country meant being greeted by name and enjoying their signature wit, in addition to having staff remember your waist size. Pre-COVID, you might even grab a cold one from the fridge tucked in their backroom.

So from Beaverdale, with love—thank you, Jay and the Back Country team, for decades of style, sidewalk sales, and community spirit. May whatever come next for 2702 Beaver Ave. continue the legacy.

(Written by Beaverdale resident & former BNA board member Adam Plagge)

WOODLAND ENHANCEMENT IS UNDERWAY IN BEAVERDALE PARK

A woodland enhancement project is underway this spring in parts of Beaverdale Park.

The park, located at 34th Street and Adams Avenue, is much larger than the playground and field seen from Adams Avenue. A much larger swath of land to the north and east is heavily wooded and little used.

This spring, heavy equipment has moved in to begin removing invasive plant species such as woody shrubs and plants. Selected trees are also being removed based on their health and in an effort to thin the canopy.

The goal is to provide a healthier woodland and to provide a more inviting area for public use, with clear sightlines to nearby roads and the Interurban Trail.

Funding for the woodland restoration was provided by a grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, which Des Moines Parks and Recreation applied for. Work is expected to be completed in late spring or early summer.

This is just the first of many steps to update Beaverdale Park. There will be a fundraising campaign to pay for new playground equipment. The city council will need to approve funding for other park improvements, such as construction of an enclosed park shelter.



BEAVERDALE FALL FESTIVAL

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

Get ready for the 2025 Beaverdale Fall Festival, happening September 19–20th! This annual celebration brings food, music, and fun for all ages. But before then, gear up your bicycles for our 2nd Annual Beaverdale and Beyond Poker Ride Fundraiser on June 21st—an exciting way to support the festival

and stay active. We're also looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help make this year's event the best one yet! Whether you can lend a hand or join the ride, we need you. For details and to sign up, visit www.fallfestival.org.



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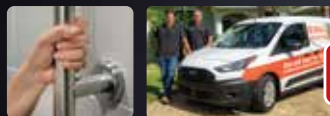


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In case you haven't heard... We now have a Raygun-affiliated website where you can order Beaverdale shirts! They are printed on demand and delivered right to you— or the person you're giving it to! Shirts are only \$25 each and proceeds benefit the BNA.

Visit tinyurl.com/BeaverdaleShirts or scan the QR code to order. Available colors and designs are subject to change.

BEAVERDALE MEGA SCRUB EVENT

POLK COUNTY RIVER PLACE, 2309 EUCLID AVE. SATURDAY MAY 17, 2025 — 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Clear out your large trash items at the City of Des Moines MegaSCRUB on May 17th!

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. MEGA SCRUB: A SCRUB event with additional, special waste disposal options that is hosted by select neighborhoods within their section of the City.

Each year the BNA partners with the City of Des Moines Public Works team and other Des Moines Neighborhoods to run MegaSCRUB. At MegaSCRUB, Des Moines residents can dump unwanted appliances, electronics, and large trash items for free, as long as they can show proof of Des Moines residency. There are also shredding services offered on site and a hazmat team present to accept hazardous materials.

This year's MegaSCRUB is scheduled for May 17th, from 7am-1pm, at the Polk County River Place (2309 Euclid Ave., Des Moines). The site will shut promptly at 1pm, and there can sometimes be a wait to dump; so, plan to arrive by 12:30pm to ensure your entry into the dumpsite.

SCRUB Event Reminders

- Proof of Residency is required - photo id or current utility bill.
- Before each event, please review the SCRUB guidelines.
- While small amounts of trash or tires are accepted, this service is not intended for commercial dumping. Large trucks full of tires or trash will be turned away.
- MEGA SCRUB events now offer Household Hazardous Waste Disposal. (Capacity for hazardous waste drop-off is limited and fills up quickly. Early arrival is advised.)
- SCRUB events are free to Des Moines residents, therefore you may experience longer wait times.

NOTE: This service is free, but neighborhood volunteers will be working at the site and collecting freewill donations from residents who use the service. Donations are then split amongst the participating neighborhood associations. We appreciate any donation you would like to give.

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

New Member Renewal

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

COMPANY NAME _____

For Business Memberships

Personal information is maintained as confidential for Beaverdale 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:

- Apparel Yard Signs / Address Signs

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Beaverdale 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.

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Please Check Your Info.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE BEAVERDALE GARDEN WALK!

We're looking for friendly faces to help make this year's Beaverdale Garden Walk a blooming success! Whether you can lend a hand for a few hours or the whole day, we'd love to have you join us. Tasks include greeting guests, handing out brochures / tickets, and giving directions to other gardens. It's a fun way to get involved in the community, enjoy some beautiful scenery, and meet fellow garden lovers! If you're interested, please email Jean Swanson at jean.swanson515@gmail.com, we'd be thrilled to have your help!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEGA SCRUB EVENT ON MAY 17TH, 2025

If you have a few hours on the morning of May 17th, please consider working the MegaSCRUB event. Volunteers are needed to direct traffic within the Polk County River Place parking lot, and answer questions in one of two 3.5 hour shifts. Sign-up is easy with the link below. (If clicking the link below doesn't work, copy and paste into your browser.)

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/MEGASCRUB2025](https://tinyurl.com/megascrub2025)

Thanks for helping to keep the City of Des Moines Clean!

COMING TO YOUR DOORSTEP – MAY 10, 2025



Each year, DMARC is fortunate to be selected as the recipient of the local chapter of the National Association of Letter Carrier's annual food drive – Stamp Out Hunger, the largest food drive of the year. Thank you to the National Association of Letter Carriers for their support of anti-hunger efforts across the country through Stamp Out Hunger®!

DSM metro letter carriers plan to collect thousands of food items left at the mailboxes of homeowners, renters, and businesses. All YOU have to do is leave a donation of nonperishable foods at your mailbox on May 10! All food is donated to DMARC (100 Army Post Road) for weighing, sorting and inventory. Help us by volunteering May 12-16!

More information can be found at DMARCUNITED.ORG/STAMP-OUT-HUNGER/