

# Our Village Voice



Brook Run Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 57607, Des Moines, IA 50317  
Website: [www.brookrun.fun](http://www.brookrun.fun) Email: [brookrunna@gmail.com](mailto:brookrunna@gmail.com)

December 2025  
Volume 3, Issue 4



## News from the Polk County Board of Supervisors

*Tom Hockensmith-District Four Supervisor*



"It is with great sadness that Polk County and Polk County Conservation observes the death of Greg Lewis, a Polk County Conservation Board member. I appointed Greg to the Polk County Conservation Board in 2021 and he has been an invaluable member. He was a perfect fit because he was an avid fisherman and nature lover



and he was also steadfast in his advocacy for expansion and care of local, public lands. Greg had an affinity for the Fourmile Creek Greenway, often exploring the local trails with his dog trotting nearby. He resided and recreated near the greenway and was always proud and complimentary of Polk County Conservation's efforts to expand, restore, and promote this special corridor on the east side of Des Moines. A memorial swing bench will be installed along Fourmile Creek, between Copper Creek Lake Park and Fourmile Mountain Bike Park. And, as a life-long supporter of unions, he was also the first person in any conversation to praise

Conservation staff for their hard work. In addition to his service to Polk County Conservation, Greg was also an active member of the

Izaak Walton League. Through this organization he served in many capacities, most recently helping to organize the annual "Special Persons Day" for residents of Woodward Resource Center to boat and fish at Easter Lake Park's Athene North Shore Recreation Area. Greg's guidance, critical eye, and care for the organization - and most importantly nature - will be deeply missed by all at Polk County Conservation. Greg was a true public servant and a dear friend, he will be missed by many."



<https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/>

Sarah Boese, Deputy County Administrator  
Polk County Board of Supervisors  
515-286-3895 (office), 515-664-7869 (cell)  
111 Court Ave, suite 300  
Des Moines, IA 50309

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### Our Village Voice Staff

- Bert Moody - Editor & Designer
- Chantelle Cadek- Copy Editor
- Sara Moody-Copy Editor
- Laurie Thompson - Marketing

#### Regular Contributors:

Tom Hockensmith Linda Westergaard  
Elizabeth Ruddy (Kid's Korner)  
Mayor Connie Boesen Pam Schwartz

#### Guest Writers/Photographers:

Aimee Marasco Xiaotian Lu  
Marshall Ruddy



We publish quarterly, so if you have information, photographs, or ideas please send them to our email address: [brookrunna@gmail.com](mailto:brookrunna@gmail.com) or contact our Editor, **Bert Moody**.

# News That Brook Run Can Use!

## Information Updates

*from Des Moines Mayor Connie Bosen*



### Brenton Skating Plaza - Opening Day

After a couple delays in the timeline due to warm weather, Brenton officially opened for the 2025-2026 winter season on December 1st. Brenton is a Des Moines staple for the holiday season, and I am so excited about all the great events and activities the skating plaza will be having this year.

Learn to Skate Clinics, opportunities for Adapted and Sensory Skates, and Broomball for adults will all be offered this season. We're also looking forward to hosting events such as Swiftie Skate, MLK Jr. Donate and Skate Day, Family Skate Date, and a variety of options to get on the ice with your friends and loved ones around Valentine's Day.

DSM.city/Brenton is a great resource for full details on hours, programming, special events, and weather-related guidelines.



### FY27 Budget Meeting – Ward 2

The City of Des Moines annual budget meetings are taking place throughout December. These ward-based gatherings are a perfect opportunity for residents to engage and learn more about the City's budgeting process, while providing critical feedback for City Council and the City Manager to consider.

This year, we're making changes to the typical program by implementing more interactive components. Residents will be able to provide insight into where they would like to see funds allocated within the budget as we work to balance the FY27 budget.

The Ward 2 Budget Meeting will take place on Thursday, December 11th at the East Side Library from 6-7:30 p.m. I highly encourage all Ward 2 residents to attend the meeting and share their thoughts on our upcoming budget.

### City Source Returns

City Source, the City of Des Moines' quarterly publication, has returned in a digital-only format. While last year's budget cuts reduced the print edition and mailing to a larger, single issue per year, the new online version offers the same content with added convenience and enhanced features.

The digital format makes the publication more interactive with hyperlinks to resources, activities and city info along with video links that give residents the opportunity to dive even deeper on certain topics.

You can stay up to date on the latest City news and get content delivered directly to your inbox by signing up for various city newsletters. Learn more and subscribe at [DSM.city/newsletters](https://DSM.city/newsletters).

I hope that you all are having a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to reflecting on all our accomplishments and setting new goals as we enter 2026.



## Brook Run has a New DMPD Liaison Officer



Hello everyone!

My name is **Bill Lu**, I was just assigned to be your neighborhood liaison officer at the beginning of November! I have been an officer with the Des Moines Police Department for just over 13 years, the bulk of my career has been in the Patrol division with a 1 year assignment at the Airport as well. I am currently on the Metro STAR tactical team as well as our department's Peer Support team. With my new assignment I am now also the department's Asian Resource Officer. On the personal side, I am married and I have 2 young kids in elementary school! My family loves to travel! We have visited 33 out of 50 states and are on track to visit all 50 before the oldest graduates high school! Growing up, I never stayed in one place for more than 4 years, China, Mississippi, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, and now Iowa. I moved to Iowa for this job and am proud to call this home! I am excited to meet everyone at the next meeting! I am eager to hear about your concerns and learn about what I can do for your neighborhood association!

Thank you!

Xiaotian (Bill) Lu

Senior Police Officer, Des Moines Police Department





## News from the BRVOA

[www.brookrunvillage.com](http://www.brookrunvillage.com)



### NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 6:00pm**

### Brook Run Village Neighborhood 2025 Year in Review

Submitted by Pam Schwartz, Secretary

#### **Stream Restoration Project**

The Board continued working closely with **Polk County** on the ongoing stream restoration project.

This year's efforts included:

- Hosting a **community-wide informational meeting** to review the stabilization process, project path, and timeline.
- **Individual on-site visits** with each affected homeowner to discuss specific property impacts.
- Finalizing a **20-year maintenance agreement** with Polk County to ensure long-term care of the restoration area.

Although the project is slightly behind schedule, it remains on track for **completion by late summer 2026**.

#### **New Property Management Company**

After mutually agreeing with our former management company that a change would be beneficial, the Board conducted an extensive search and selected **HRC Management** to take over HOA management duties.

HRC is well respected throughout the **Greater Des Moines area** and brings a wealth of experience managing HOA neighborhoods similar to Brook Run Village. The transition has gone smoothly, and residents are already noticing improvements. We are confident this will be a **long-term, positive partnership**.

#### **Ponds & Fishing**

This year brought more pond and fishing-related issues than any previous year, including:

- Unauthorized fishing by both residents and non-residents
- Trespassing
- Instances of vandalism

Several of these incidents required intervention from the **Board** and the **Des Moines Police Department**.

The Board is currently reviewing our **fishing and access policies** in collaboration with the police department to ensure safety and compliance. **Resident feedback is encouraged!** Please share your thoughts or suggestions with the Board at [brookrunvillage@gmail.com](mailto:brookrunvillage@gmail.com).

#### **HOA Dues Update**

For the **first time in over 16 years**, HOA dues will increase beginning in **2026**.

- **New annual rate:** +\$30 to \$155.00 per year
- **Reason for increase:** rising maintenance and management costs, and replenishment of reserve funds used for stream restoration and pond dredging.

Even with this modest increase, **Brook Run Village remains one of the most affordable HOA communities** in the area.

#### **Thank You, Neighbors!**

The Board would like to thank all residents for your continued cooperation, support, and pride in our community. Together, we're ensuring that **Brook Run Village** remains a beautiful, safe, and thriving neighborhood for years to come.

#### **Important Contacts:**

##### BRVOA Board of Directors

Doug Miller, of 3502 Village Run Drive  
Pam Schwartz, of 3613 Brook Run Drive  
Jason Bahr, of 5115 Walnut Ridge Drive  
Marty Chebuhar, of 3717 Brook Run Drive  
Steve McClure, of 3615 Park Side Drive  
[brookrunvillage@gmail.com](mailto:brookrunvillage@gmail.com)

##### New Property Manager

HRC Association Management  
Phone: (515) 280-2014  
[hoa@hrcassociationmanagement.com](mailto:hoa@hrcassociationmanagement.com)

## 2025/26 Quarterly Calendar of Events

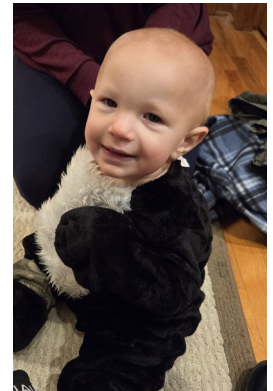
- ◆ **First Day of Hanukkah**  
December 15, 2025
- ◆ **Last Day of Hanukkah**  
December 22, 2025
- ◆ **Christmas Day**  
December 25, 2025
- ◆ **Kwanzaa** December 26, 2025
- ◆ **New Year's Day**  
January 1, 2026
- ◆ **MLK, Jr. Observance Day**  
January 19 2026
- ◆ **BRNA Quarterly Meeting**  
January 20, 2026 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **1st Day of Black History Month**  
February 2, 2026
- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**  
February 4, 2026
- ◆ **St. Valentine's Day**  
February 14, 2026
- ◆ **Presidents' Day**  
February 16, 2026
- ◆ **BRNA Monthly Meeting**  
February 17, 2026 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Mardi Gras** February 17, 2026
- ◆ **Ash Wednesday**  
February 18, 2026
- ◆ **First Night of Ramadan**  
February 18, 2026
- ◆ **Women's History Month**  
March 1, 2026
- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**  
March 4, 2026
- ◆ **Daylight Savings Time Starts**  
March 5, 2026



# Brook Run's Halloween Fun

*Submitted & Written by Aimee Marasco*

**Happy Halloween! Our cousins from the country joined us for their first city trick or treating!**



*K'Pop Demon Hunters are BR residents, Emma & Hannah and our cousins were a kitty, skeleton, skunk, and Fort Nite green guy.*

*A happy 1 year old "skunk" giggled the whole time!*

## *"Life in The Run"*

*What has been going on in the Brook Run Neighborhood*

### Happenings at SE Polk High School



Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is the high school's career & technical organization for students taking Family & Consumer Sciences classes. Aimee Marasco is the advisor for FCCLA, and started the Southeast Polk chapter in 2014 when she started working at the high school. Students in FCCLA can earn leadership experience by being chapter officers and even running to be Iowa



FCCLA executive officers, they can compete in Family & Consumer Sciences related competitions, and they earn community service hours to use towards their silver cord recognition at graduation. Southeast Polk has had 3 state officers since 2014 and has attended nearly every National Leadership Conference with competition projects (with the exception of 2020 and 2021).

Post-covid student involvement in clubs at school was low for a few years, but 2025-2026 is going to be FCCLA's year to shine! FCCLA has increased membership with over 20 new members so far this year, and many members are starting competition projects already! These projects vary from fashion design, to job interviews, to creating lesson plans for children.

FCCLA joined the BRNA Trunk Or Treat, as Mrs. Marasco lives in the neighborhood! Our president, Nevaeh Cam, and several new members brought candy and were excited to do our first community service project of the year! If anyone has organizations that are looking for student volunteers, please reach out to [aimee.marasco@southeastpolk.org](mailto:aimee.marasco@southeastpolk.org) and hopefully the FCCLA members will be available to help!

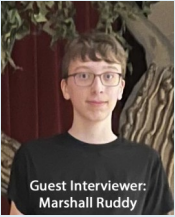




Peyton Haacke (who lives on Walnut Ridge Drive) had a starring role in his senior year as Horton the Elephant in the SE Polk High School *"Suessical the Musical"*.

**Interview conducted by:** Marshall Ruddy

**The Interviewee:** Peyton Haacke



**1. When did you first get into theater?**

I first got into theatre in Elementary School when we would put on mini productions. I also began doing CAP Theatre in Altoona in 6th grade which really sparked my passion for singing specifically.

**2. What advice do you have for young people interested in the theater and fine arts opportunities at Southeast Polk?**

The biggest advice I would give to somebody in theatre and fine arts is to put yourself out there. You are always capable of way more than you think you are! Also that our words hold power, strength, and value and that it's important to stay kind!

**3. What types of characters do you like playing the most?**

I really enjoy playing characters that go through an emotional/character growing arc. Some roles I've played like Horton The Elephant (Seussical) and SpongeBob (SpongeBob the Musical) go through personal progressions that change them and make them stronger. It's always really interesting seeing how I can relate to these characters and how important their stories are to tell!

**4. What is it like seeing the behind the scenes of musicals?**

The behind the scenes aspect is so interesting because you get to see a perspective that audience members don't encounter when watching a production. It is so awesome seeing the crew, tech, band, prop, costume etc. elements come into play. It helps in understanding that there are so many crucial roles to a theatrical production!





## News from Linda Westergaard

*City of Des Moines Council-Ward 2*

As the city council representative for Ward 2, I am grateful that I can contribute to this newsletter and update residents about my work being done in Ward 2 and throughout the city. Thank you for the opportunity.

I love driving through your neighborhood to see how well everyone takes pride in their neighborhood. The holiday lights in the neighborhood continue to impress me as do those who live in the area. I have appointed several of your neighbors to city boards and commissions and the work they do is important and make living in our city better for everyone. Thank you for your service.

Let's talk about our city budget. The city will be holding public meetings to hear from our residents about what is important to you. We need to hear from you and listen to your thoughts and concerns. Meetings are scheduled for the following times:

Tuesday December 9 - 6 to 7:30 PM Pioneer Columbus Rec Center

Thursday December 11 - 6 to 7:30 PM East Side Library

Monday December 15 - 6 to 7:30 PM Franklin Library



I would appreciate hearing from you as this helps me in making decisions about what is important to those I represent. Police? Fire? Streets? Parks? Homeless?

I am very fortunate to sit on the Waste Water Reclamation Authority Board and would like to share some of the most recent accomplishments. The WRA is a clear example of regional cooperation with our suburban neighbors. WRA has completed or has underway more than 515 million dollars in capital projects. There were zero permit violations, and they have completed all EPA mandated sewer separation projects. WRA is also a leader in phosphorus removal. You can be assured the water leaving the WRA is lean safe water.



For several years elected women in local government have met to discuss what is going on in the entire regional area. We try to always have topics that are important to everyone. This last month we met at the Metro Waste Authority Education Center to learn more about what happens to our recycled items. I learned they have a kids play time every Monday morning called "Ready, Set, Recycle! A time to play and learn" It looks like a fun thing to do with the kiddos and you just need to register online at the Metro Waste web site. What a fun thing to offer our community.

Please reach out to me anytime at [Lindaw@dmgov.org](mailto:Lindaw@dmgov.org) or by phone 515-988-4288.

Thank you,

Linda Westergaard





## Brook Run Neighborhood Business Partners

Please support the businesses that support us!!

Contact our Advertising Manager to place your ad here:

Laurie Thompson at brookrunna@gmail.com

# DOUBLE TAKE LAWN SERVICES

*Curb appeal that gets a 2nd look*

2025



Website: [www.dtlawnsdsm.com](http://www.dtlawnsdsm.com) Email: [office@dtlawnsdsm.com](mailto:office@dtlawnsdsm.com) Phone: 515-380-2960



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2025



*A Brook Run  
Neighbor*





Brook Run Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 57607, Des Moines, IA 50317

## 2025 BRNA Board Members:

**Chantelle Cadek** - President

**Taylor Sellers** - Secretary

**Niki Moore** - Special Events

**Open Position** - Membership

**Tye Reiman** - Neighborhood Relations

**Laurie Thompson** - Communications

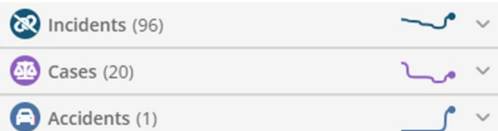
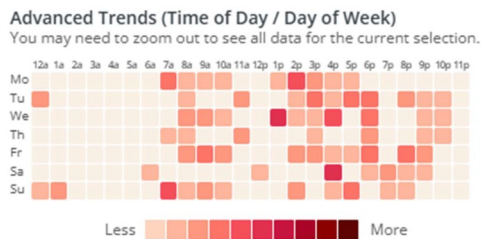
**Bert Moody** - Treasurer

**Des Moines Police Department  
Neighborhood Liaison**

**SPO Bill Lu**

**515-416-2810**

**Email me: LUXiaotian@dmgov.org**



**Cases:** The type of cases consists of illegal parking impound, harassment, missing person, fraud, minor theft, theft from vehicle, sick animal, assault.

No tickets or arrests during this quarter within this neighborhood. There were a few citations and arrests made by Polk County Sheriff's Office just outside the neighborhood lines at the intersection of E Douglas Ave and E 56th St).

Report Date: December 2, 2025

Please let me know if there is anything I can help with in your neighborhood.

## Join the BRNA for 2026

NAME/BUSINESS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Levels:

Note: Brook Run Neighborhood Association is a non-profit organization. Your membership could be eligible for a matching gift from your employer.

- ◇ \$25.00 Individual/Family Membership
- ◇ \$50.00 Neighborhood Business Membership
- ◇ \$100.00 Outside the Neighborhood Business Membership
- ◇ \$200.00 Super Supporter
- ◇ \$300.00 Premier Sponsor

Fill out this cut-out and send a check to BRNA, P.O. Box 57607, Des Moines, IA 50317. Online Payments via PayPal is available at [www.brookrun.fun](http://www.brookrun.fun) on the middle of the Home Page. You can also make payments via Venmo to @BrookRunNeighborhoodAssoc.



**For 2025 we want your business to sponsor the BRNA.  
Business Memberships helps sponsor neighborhood events.**

## AND IT BRINGS YOU GREAT CUSTOMERS!!

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- Premier Sponsor - \$300.00 per year  
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