

Our Village Voice



Brook Run Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 57607, Des Moines, IA 50317

Website: www.brookrun.fun Email: brookrunna@gmail.com

December 2023
Volume 1, Issue 4

Inside this issue

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| City Snow Plow Information | 2 |
| Kid's Corner Story..... | 2 |
| Monthly Police Report | 3 |
| BRVHOA News..... | 3 |
| Life in The Run..... | 4 |
| SE Polk Three-Peat | 4 |
| Special Holiday Recipe..... | 5 |
| Our Business Partners..... | 6 |

Our Village Voice Staff

- Bert Moody - Editor & Designer
- Kelly Lynn- Copy Editor
- Sara Moody-Copy Editor/Photos
- Roger Brown -Production
- Laurie Thompson - Marketing

Regular Contributors:

Tom Hockensmith Linda Westergaard
Elizabeth Ruddy (Kid's Corner)
Pam Schwartz

Guest Writers/Photographers:

Barb Chebuhar Steve McClure
Peyton Haacke Michelle Haacke



Greetings from Mayor-Elect Connie Boesen

I am honored to have been elected Mayor of Des Moines, and excited to get to work with my Council colleagues. Some of the top priorities we will be focusing on are the revitalization of our neighborhoods, improving the way public safety services and information are delivered, identifying economic development opportunities throughout the City, and bringing people together to make Des Moines a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

A little bit about me if I haven't gotten the chance to introduce myself: I am a proud graduate of East High School. I then went on to attend both DMACC and Grand View University. My professional career was spent as a buyer for Younkers department store, and today I own and operate the Applishus and Salad Bowl Concessions at the Iowa State Fair. I first got involved in public service being elected to the Des Moines School Board from 2003-2017. In 2017 I was elected to the Des Moines City Council at-large seat. Public service has been a part of my life for a long time because I believe in doing my part to make a difference in helping our community grow, thrive, and be the best it can be.

Story Continued on Page 2.....

News from Tom Hockensmith

Chair, Polk County Board of Supervisors
Tom.Hockensmith@polkcountyia.gov



I hope this newsletter finds you well! I would like to take a moment to share some exciting initiatives that Polk County is participating in to give back to our community.

Polk County Veteran Affairs held their annual coat drive on November 8, 2023. Through the generous donations, 525 coats, 100 pairs of socks, and more than 400 hats and gloves were made available to Veterans and their families. With winter approaching, we want to ensure that our Veterans are warm and comfortable, and a coat can make a huge difference. If you are a Veteran or if you know a Veteran that is in need of a coat, socks, hat, or gloves please reach out to Polk County Veteran Affairs at 515-286-3670.

Polk County Board of Supervisors provided a Community Development Grant to Make-A-Wish Foundation of Iowa for Jolly Holiday Lights. Jolly Holiday Lights is a premier fundraiser for Make-A-Wish Iowa that grants wishes to children fighting critical illness. Jolly Holiday Lights has funded over 1,000 wishes for Iowa children. Jolly Holiday Lights will be a free walk-through event for community members beginning November 17, 2023 – January 7, 2024 at The Outlets of Des Moines. There will be numerous holiday displays along with several lights-to-music displays. 100% of the proceeds will go to support Make-A-Wish Iowa. If you are available, take a drive to the Outlets of Des Moines to see the holiday light displays and grab a couple gifts.

Wishing you a joyful and healthy holiday season filled with family, friends, and good cheer! **Happy Holidays!**



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

Brook Run Calendar of Events

- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
December 6, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Pearl Harbor Day**
December 7, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Hanukkah Begins** Dec. 8, 2023
- ◆ **BRNA BOD Meeting**
December 19, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **1st Day of Winter** Dec. 21, 2023
- ◆ **Christmas** December 25, 2023
- ◆ **Kwanzaa Begins** Dec. 26, 2023
- ◆ **New Year's Day** Jan. 1, 2024
- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
January 3, 2024 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
January 15, 2024
- ◆ **BRNA Yearly Election Meeting**
January 16 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **1st Day of Black History Month**
February 1, 2023
- ◆ **Groundhog Day**
February 2, 2024
- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
February 7, 2024 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Lunar New Year**
February 10, 2024
- ◆ **Ash Wednesday**
February 14, 2024
- ◆ **Valentine's Day**
February 14, 2024
- ◆ **President's Day**
February 19, 2024
- ◆ **BRNA BOD Meeting**
February 20, 2024 at 6:00pm

Greetings from Mayor-Elect Connie Boesen

.....Story continued from Page 1

I believe that the heart of Des Moines is in our many neighborhoods. Our community is strongest when we work together to strengthen where we live, work, and play. I look forward to getting out to each and every single neighborhood in the new year because I believe meeting people where they're at is the best way to be an effective leader. So, if there are any events or meetings you think I should be aware of, please don't hesitate to reach out. I want to thank the Brook Run Neighborhood Association for your generous time and talents and setting an incredible example of the good that can come from neighborhood associations that are truly dedicated to building a sense of community for your neighbors. I hope to replicate Brook Run's passion and involvement throughout all neighborhoods in Des Moines.

Happy Holidays and may you have a safe and healthy 2024!

Mayor-Elect Connie Boesen

Information That Brook Run Can Use

Oh Yes! It is Coming Soon.....WAIT, It's Already Here!!

2023-24 SNOW Information

From the City of Des Moines Website

To avoid being ticketed or possibly towed: On calendar days ending in odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, etc.), on-street parking is allowed in front of addresses ending in an odd number from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On even number days, park in front of addresses ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6, 8, etc.) from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to avoid being ticketed or possibly towed.

The Public Works Director decides when to start enforcing our Citywide and Odd/Even Plowing restrictions.

The Director's decision is based on total accumulation, prevailing conditions and near future forecasts.

For more information go to the City of Des Moines website at:

https://www.dsm.city/departments/public_works-division/streets/snow_removal.php



Jonathan Gano
Public Works

Kid's Corner Story

Advice for Kids from Kids

Words of Wisdom:

An obstacle is defined as someone or something that gets in your way.
Everyone wants to be successful. What can you do when you have an obstacle to overcome?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| • Believe in yourself | • Be proactive |
| • Use calming techniques | • Take it one step at a time |
| • Take your medicine if you are sick | • Learn more about the things you love to do |
| • Focus on what is important | • Follow the RAMS way |
| • Think of ways to overcome it | • Talk to someone about what is bothering you |
| • Ignore distractions | • Work first, then play |
| • Work hard everyone-You got this! | • Begin with the end in mind |
| • Have a plan | • Avoid things that get in your way |
| • Think win-win | • Don't be afraid |
| • Use positive self talk | • Try it anyway |
| • Put first things first | • Set limits on how long you get to be "lazy" |
| • Together is better- Teamwork | |
| • Try your best | |

We have been working with the students on writing some advice "for kids by kids". Our word of the week was obstacle. We discussed what obstacles get in the way of our success and what advice they would give to overcome obstacles.

-Elizabeth Ruddy

News from Linda Westergaard

City of Des Moines Council-Ward 2

lindaw@dmgov.org



Thank you to the voters of Ward 2. I appreciate the confidence you have placed in me, and I promise to do everything I can to earn your continued trust and support. I will never forget that I represent everyone who lives in North and East Des Moines and I pledge to always listen to your thoughts and concerns. During the next term, I will do everything I can to enhance public safety, promote economic growth, and strengthen every neighborhood throughout Ward 2. I am beyond grateful to those who worked so hard for my re-election. Thanks to the volunteers who made calls, knocked doors, wrote and mailed postcards, wrote letters to the editor, and offered words of encouragement. I am proud that we ran a positive, civil campaign, never made empty promises, and always kept our focus on the future. I'm looking forward to serving you during my next term. Please always feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns. The city will be holding public budget meetings. It is important that we hear from you and learn what is important to you and how you want YOUR TAX Dollars spent. Residents are welcome to attend any of the meetings below.

Here is the schedule for upcoming budget meeting. The ward 2 meeting will be held at the North Side Library.

Below are the confirmed budget meetings. A few locations changed due to availability.

- Ward 1- Northwest Community Center (5110 Franklin Ave., 515-279-2767), Thursday, Dec. 14th at 6:30 PM
- Ward 2- North Side Library (3516 5th Ave., 515-283-4152), Saturday, Dec. 9th at 10:30 AM
- Ward 3- Blank Golf (808 County Line Rd., 515-248-6300), Saturday, Dec. 16th at 10:30 AM
- Ward 4- South Community Center (100 Payton Ave., 515-287-0092), Wednesday, Dec. 13th at 6:30 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/LindaWestergaardDMCityCouncil/>



News from the BRVOA

www.brookrunvillage.com

NEXT HOA MEETING: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 6:00pm

Firehouse #11, 4150 E 42nd St., Des Moines, IA 50317

BROOK RUN VILLAGE OWNERS ASSOCIATION:

Submitted by Pam Schwartz, Secretary

- When hosting holiday festivities, please be courteous with on-street parking of your vehicles and those of relatives and guests, and help maintain traffic flow by parking at least a car length away from traffic circles.
- The board decided to have aerators in Brook Run's storm water ponds shut off during the winter months to prevent open waters that attract migrating water fowl and contribute to ensuing warm weather water quality issues.
- The Association's annual meeting and election are months away but it's not too early to be considering candidacies for seats on the board. Two positions on the five-member board will be on the 2024 ballot. For more information about the board's responsibilities and workings, review the by-laws and covenants or contact secretary Pam Schwartz.
- The 2024 dues assessment, budget and HOA accomplishments will be mailed in December. McAfee Realty, Brook Run's property manager, will be mailing the notices by US Mail and also email to those homeowners that have provided an email address to McAfee Realty.

2023 BRVOA Board of Directors

Gary Galasso, of 5010 Brook Ridge Cir.
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.

McAfee Realty, Inc.
1410 E Diehl Ave., Suite B
Des Moines, IA 50320
Website: www.mcafeerealty.com
Phone: (515) 251-4570

Des Moines Police Department Neighborhood LIAISON

Sgt. Dua Lor

515-971-0792

Report Date:
November 28, 2023

Service Calls
for the Last 30 Days

31-Service Calls

7-Cases made

A good thing to remember about Des Moines is that we have 68% satisfaction of police service since 2018, compared to the national average is only 45%. This number says a lot about law enforcement and the citizens of Des Moines. Des Moines, Iowa is ranked #7 in the top 10 place to live in the US in 2021 and 2023 ranked #19 best place to live by U.S. News.

Email: dblor@dmgov.org

I hope to see everyone at
your next BRNA Quarterly Meeting
in January.

Three-Peat by the Southeast Polk Rams Football Team

Photos & Story by Barb Chebuhar. Team Photo by Steve McClure

Thanks for the opportunity to share some photos of our grandson Caleb Chebuhar in the aftermath of a **third straight Southeast Polk High School football title**. The Class 5A trophy went to the Rams with the title game's final score of 49-21 winning against the Ankeny Hawks. Caleb and his family (including brothers Carter and Cooper) bought a house in Brook Run in 2005 and spent several years in the neighborhood before moving to an acreage near Runnells. Marty and Barb (retired), bought their house in Brook Run in 2014 and moved here from Coralville, Iowa. Caleb was a three-year starter at defensive linebacker for Rams football team. Those SEP teams compiled a 37-2 won-lost record (including 13-0 this year) and won three 5A state titles.



Starting Linebacker Caleb Chebuhar with Grandparents Marty & Barb Chebuhar.



Caleb with parents Joe and Amy Chebuhar and the Class 5A Trophy

“Life in The Run”

What has been going on in the Brook Run Neighborhood

City of Des Moines Re-Planting Trees

Thanks to a nudge from our City Council Representative Linda Westergaard the city has gotten around to re-planting trees that were removed last year because of the Emerald Ash Borer issue. **If you have questions call the city at 515-283-4950**



Halloween 2023—At the Potter-Pirate House

We wanted to send a huge THANK YOU to John & Sandy Selby for the amazing Mono-Chromatic Madness this year! Their hard work is appreciated by everyone in the neighborhood and brings so much fun to our community. **Thank you for a spooktacular 2023 Halloween season!**



**TO THE SELBY'S....
THANK YOU SO MUCH**

Brook Run Neighborhood Association



We need you to volunteer to be on our board for 2024. The Board of Directors has positions that will be up for election in January. The positions available are Secretary, VP of Neighborhood Relations, VP of Membership, and VP of Special Events.

Email **brookrunna@gmail.com** with any questions.

But You Can also Volunteer to help for Specific Events & Committees Like:

- The Spring Flower Event
- Ice Cream Social
- Family Movie Night
- Fun-in-the-Run
- Back to School Bash
- Halloween Parade
- Other Neighborhood Events



Also:

Volunteer to work with a specific committee to help the: Events Chairperson plan events or if you want to help our Communications Chair creatively reach our neighborhood, and more.....

Iowa All-State Choir Festival

Story by Peyton Haacke. Photo by Michelle Haacke



Southeast Polk students Peyton Haacke, August Nau, Grace Corwin and Emma Hageman all traveled to Iowa State University to attend the Iowa Allstate Festival on November 18th. After auditioning together as a quartet and making it in first round, the team got the opportunity to stay in Ames for multiple nights as well as attending hours of

rehearsals at CY Stephens Auditorium to prep for the concert. 600 high schoolers out of the entire state of Iowa were accepted into the choir out of over 3,000 that auditioned. Performers of the Iowa Allstate Chorus are considered to be the top 2% of musicians in the state and over 7,000 people came to watch them sing and tell stories through beautiful pieces of music such as 'Through Love to Light', a piece about overcoming darkness and opening yourself to the light on the other side, and 'Stomp the Fire', an inspiring tribal piece about representing the diversity of humanity and the strength present when we all unite. The four students all enjoyed their time at ISU and strive to get the chance to perform in the Chorus again next year.



Holiday Recipe

from the Home of Erin Dietz

KRINGLA

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 eggs
- 3 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp vanilla



Mix ingredients together. Chill the dough overnight. Cut off pieces of dough and roll on a floured surface until 8-9 inches long and just a little larger around than a pencil. Shape into a figure 8. Bake at 400 for 8-10 minutes or until just lightly brown.

A Norwegian Holiday Cookie



Brook Run Neighborhood Association

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

2023 BRNA Board Members:

Kelly Lynn - President

Wonhyong Chon - Secretary

Erin Dietz - Special Events

Deborah Vogt - Membership

Laurie Thompson - Communications

Roger Brown - Neighborhood Relations

Bert Moody - Treasurer

Save the Dates:

December 19 - BRNA BOD Meeting

Jan. 16 - BRNA Election Mtg. for 2024

February 20—BRNA BOD Meeting

Join the BRNA in 2024

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

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 on the middle of the Home Page. You can also make payments via Venmo to [@BrookRunNeighborhoodAssoc](https://www.venmo.com/BrookRunNeighborhoodAssoc).

Our 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



Feel like starting from scratch
with your company's
communications plan?

Don't get hot under the collar.

Clark Greer
COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

Strategic Communications • Research • Public Relations
3509 Brook Ridge Court • Des Moines, IA 50317
clarkgreerphd@gmail.com

GET
HOLIDAY
READY!

**CARPET
DIRECT**

BRNA RESIDENT OWNED
AND PROFESSIONALLY
INSTALLED

PROFESSIONAL-
COMPLIMENTARY INTERIOR
DESIGN

WE BRING THE
SHOWROOM TO YOU!

\$15-779.3500

CARPET
LUXURY VINYL
WOOD

**THE
NUTCRACKER**

Hoyt Sherman Place
Des Moines | December 7-10

Fairfield Arts & Convention Center
Fairfield | December 14-16

Wilcox Performing Arts Center
Algona | December 20-21

For 2024 we want your business to sponsor the BRNA.
Your Business Membership helps our neighborhood
activities. Show your support of Brook Run:

- Brook Run Resident - \$50.00 per year
- Brook Run Non-Resident - \$100.00 per year

