Our Village Voice



Brook Run Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 57607, Des Moines, IA 50317
Website: www.brookrun.fun **Email:** brookrunna@gmail.com

September 2026
Volume 4, Issue 3



News from the Des Moines City Council



Rep. Linda Westergaard and Mayor Connie Bosen
Submitted by Kenzie Geiger (City Manager's Office)

Fiscal Year 2028 Budget Updates

The budget discussions for both Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 and 2029 are continuing to be an important topic for the City of Des Moines. On Wednesday, August 26, City Manager Scott Sanders, presented the FY28 budget recommendations to the city council. These recommendations worked to address the nearly $12 million budget gap for the next fiscal year.

The combined savings of the program reductions, staff reductions, and revenue changes amounted to $11.5 million in the initial budget recommendation that the council will vote on at the Monday, September 14 meeting. Following this vote, there will continue to be public feedback processes as we work to close the final budget gap. This process will continue into the early months of 2027.

These discussions are difficult and will continue to be ongoing. This first recommendation is simply a starting point as we face the reality of these budget cuts that have resulted from the new property tax legislation. City Council and City staff will continue to work diligently to provide the best services possible to our residents under these new budget constraints. For more information on the budget timeline and processes, you can visit DSM.City/Budget.

Des Moines Parks and Recreation Seasonal Hiring

Summer is coming to a close, and our Parks and Recreation Department is looking to fill seasonal and year-round part-time positions. These positions are essential to supporting youth programming and ensuring fall and winter fun for all. There are opportunities for those aged 15 and older. These positions include Fall After-School Program supervisors, various positions at Brenton Skating Plaza, and year-round lifeguards at the Reichardt Community Recreation Center.

Visit *DSM.city/ParkJobs* for all the details on openings for the City's seasonal positions.

More News from the Des Moines City Council continues on Page 6

Inside this issue

BRVOA News..... 2
Quarterly Police Report.....3
Life in the Run.....4
SE Polk Recognition.....5
Kid's Korner Article.....6
DSM Heritage Tree Program.....7
BRNA Business Supporters.....7
Support BRNA QR Codes.....8

Our Village Voice Staff

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

Regular Contributors:
Mayor Connie Boesen
Linda Westergaard
Elizabeth Ruddy (Kid's Korner)
Pam Schwartz (BRVOA)
Officer Xiaotian (Bill) Lu

Guest Writers/Photographers:
Sara Moody Kenzie Geiger
Dan Ray



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**.

"Info BR Needs to Know"

News from the BRVOA

Submitted by Pam Schwartz, Secretary

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:
Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 6:00pm
Fire Station #11— 4150 E 42nd St., Des Moines, IA 50317

Retain your lawn clippings

Blowing or placing grass clippings and leaves onto public streets is illegal under city ordinance because it clogs storm sewers and creates driving hazards. This debris also harms Brook Run's streams and ponds by increasing algae blooms in our waterways.

Keep yard waste off our streets. Instead, use it as mulch for lawns and garden beds, or to add to compost. For pick up, contact the city's public works department, which operates a year-round yard waste collection service.

Fines for placing grass or leaves in city streets begin at $50 and range to $100 per offense.

Creek rebuild ongoing

Despite rain delays, work on Brook Run's stream rehabilitation project continues. A significant portion of tree removal has been accomplished in the first phase, and earthwork is also underway. Preliminary work has also begun on phases two and three. The Association's directors are to receive a further update at their September meeting.





Help wanted

There is a vacancy on the Brook Run board. Members interested in filling this position should contact secretary Pam Schwartz by email at pam.schwartz72@gmail.com. Consider a role in helping the Association meet responsibilities in preserving the neighborhood's appeal.





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

Property Manager
HRC Association Management
Phone: (515) 280-2014
hoa@hrcassociationmanagement.com

Des Moines Police Department
Neighborhood Liaison
SPO Xiaotian (Bill) Lu
515-416-2810
Email me: LUXiaotian@dmgov.org

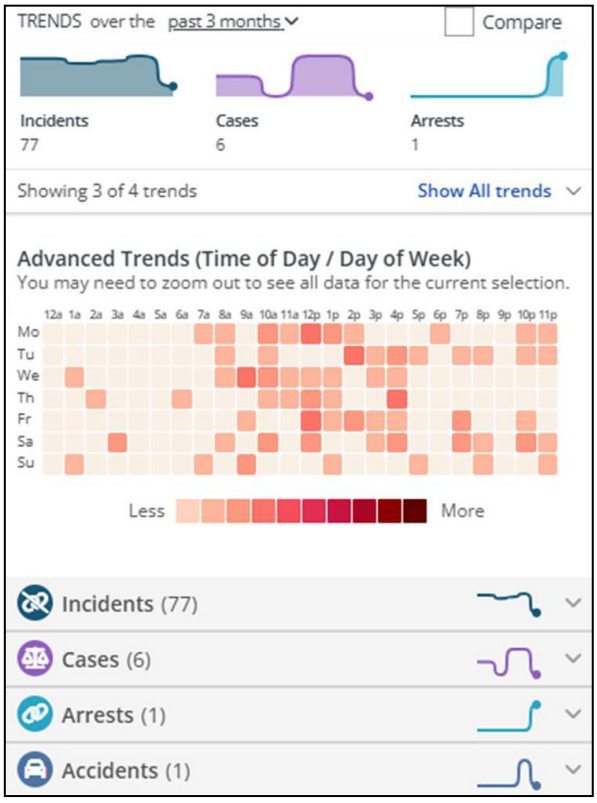
Notable investigations:
No shooting/firearm related cases made
Incidents: Medical calls, suspicious activity, disputes, domestic, welfare check, Noise and parking complaints, reckless driving, fireworks.

Cases: Public Assist, Harassment, Fraud
Arrests: 1-Domestic Assault
Tickets: NONE
Accidents: 1

Report Date: May 23-August 21, 2026

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

Office Location: Fourmile Community Center



Voting Day is November 3, 2026



Brook Run Residents vote at:
Precinct #24
Fourmile Community Center
3711 Easton Blvd.
Des Moines, IA 50317

2026 3rd Quarter Calendar of Events

- **Labor Day** September 7, 2026
- **Rosh Hashanah** Sept. 12, 2026
- **BRNA BOD Meeting**
  September 15, 2026
- **Yom Kipper** Sept 21, 2026
- **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
  October 7, 2026 at 6:00pm
- **Indigenous Peoples' Day**
  October 12, 2026
- **Columbus Day** Oct. 12, 2026
- **BRNA Quarterly Board Meeting**
  October 20, 2026 at 6:00pm
  Fire Station #11
- **Des Moines Beggars Night**
  October 30, 2026
- **Halloween** October 31, 2026
- **Daylight Savings Time Ends**
  November 1, 2026
- **Day of the Dead** Nov.2, 2026
- **Election Day** November 3, 2026
- **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
  November 4, 2026 at 6:00pm
- **Veterans Day**
  November 11, 2026
- **BRNA Board Meeting**
  November 17, 2026
- **Thanksgiving**
  November 26, 2026



2026 Fun-in-the-Run Recap Photos

Photos by Sara Moody

Our 2026 Fun-in-the-Run Block Party can best be described in one word: **HOTTTT!!!** We still had a great time and great fun, neighbors met new neighbors and made new friends. A **BIG Thank You** to our Sponsors, Des Moines Fire Department, Des Moines Police Department and all Brook Run & Brook Landing neighbors who came out to support our event.





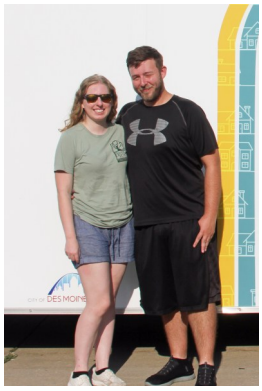






"Life in The Run"

What has been going on in the Brook Run Neighborhood











News for Southeast Polk Students

SE Polk Students Recognized as National Math Stars

Information Supplied by SE Polk Community School District Website

A top 2% finish deserves some recognition.

Eight Southeast Polk third graders earned National Math Stars recognition after ranking among the top 2% of third-grade students in Iowa in mathematics on the 2026 Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP). The students were recognized by the Southeast Polk Board of Education during its September 3rd meeting.



The students were:

Kalvin Guldenpfennig — Altoona, Samuel Wagoner — Centennial, Easton Lippold — Clay, Natalie Hogle — Clay, Abigail DeSmet (Brook Run's Own) — Delaware, Lydia Connell — Four Mile, Maxwell Burkhead — Four Mile, Matthew Timperley — Mitchellville, Aubrey Greenwood — Runnells, Emersyn Vermeer — Runnells, Hank Robinson — Runnells, Leah Farnsworth — Willowbrook

GOOD FOOD RECIPE

Cantaloupe Gazpacho with Crispy Prosciutto

Prep time: 30 mins | Difficulty: Easy

Submitted by Dan Ray

Ingredients

- Cantaloupe (1 very large melon, or 2 small ones, peeled and cubed)
- Water (1/2 cup)
- Shallots (1 tablespoon, minced)
- Lemon juice (2 tablespoons)
- Sherry cooking wine/vinegar (1 teaspoon)
- Salt (preferably Kosher, 1/2 teaspoon)
- Prosciutto (1/4 pound, thinly sliced)
- Olive oil (2 teaspoons)
- Fresh mint (4 teaspoons, chopped)
- Black pepper (1/4 teaspoon)
- Sun-dried tomatoes in olive oil (one for each bowl of soup)

~ROOTSLIVING~

Because the best things in life are simple



Directions

1) Place first six ingredients in a blender and process until smooth (don't overdo it). You'll need to do this in batches. Place in freezer to chill while prosciutto cooks.
2) Heat olive oil in a frying pan and cook prosciutto strips until crispy (about 5 minutes). Turn over as necessary. Drain on paper towels.
3) Ladle soup into bowls. Place sun-dried tomato in center. Place four strips of prosciutto coming out of the tomato like the rays of the sun. Sprinkle a little mint and pepper over the top of the soup. Serve cold.

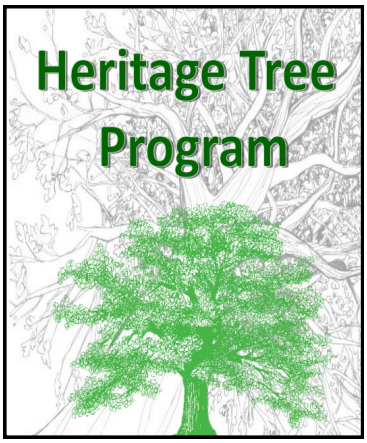
Des Moines City Council News continued from Page 1

Heritage Trees Program

The City of Des Moines Forestry Division has introduced a new program that will shine a light on our urban forest. Nominations are now open for Des Moines' "Forest of Fame", a part of the Public Works Department's Des Moines Heritage Trees program. If you have a favorite tree in the neighborhood, make sure to nominate it!

Residents who are interested in participating can nominate trees across five categories:

- Living Landmarks: Trees that witnessed important events
- Des Moines Giants: The biggest and oldest trees in the city
- Rare Iowa Gems: Species uncommon to the Des Moines area
- Metro Beauties: Trees that help define the area around them
- Cradle Trees: Trees that support local wildlife



The trees that are chosen to be a part of the "Forest of Fame" will be added to a public database of Des Moines Heritage Trees where people can explore and discover these unique trees across the City of Des Moines. If you are interested in nominating a tree, visit *DSM.city/HeritageTrees*.

Kid's Korner

Information For Kids *Submitted by Elizabeth Ruddy, Delaware Elementary School*

Fall in Love with a Book

The best way to improve your reading is to READ.





Do you like mysteries?
Check Out…
The "Magic Tree House" Series
A-Z Mysteries
Cam Jansen
The 39 Clues

Do you like nonfiction?
Check out…
The "I Survived" Series
National Geographic Kids Readers
Who Is/Who Was? Series
Weird But True
Magic Tree House Fact Trackers

Do you like graphic novels?
Check out …
The "Bad Guys" series
Dog Man
Big Nate
The Babysitters Club

Do you like comical characters and twisted tales?
Check out…
Books by Roald Dahl

Need more ideas? Check your local library.

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

SPONSOR Premier SPONSOR

Website: www.dtlawnsdm.com **Email:** office@dtlawnsdsm.com **Phone:** 515-380-2960



Fall Real Estate Market Snapshot from Your Friendly Neighborhood Real Estate Agent

Between school starting back up and the state fair, August is traditionally the slowest month of the year for real estate in Iowa. So, good news: If you were thinking about buying or selling last month, it's good you waited. Interest rates are holding relatively steady, but, honestly, I don't take much stock in interest rates. The market always levels itself out. If rates go up, prices come down. If rates go down, prices come up. Just like anything else, the best time to buy or sell a home is when you're ready. If you're thinking about moving and have questions,

dan ray REAL ESTATE

I'd love to help! Shoot me an email at *danrayrealestate@gmail.com* or call me at (248) 930-3156.

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

2026 BRNA Board Members:

Chantelle Cadek - President

Taylor Sellers - Secretary

Dan Ray - Special Events

Open Position - Membership

Tye Reiman - Neighborhood Relations

Laurie Thompson - Communications

Bert Moody - Treasurer

Join the BRNA Board for 2027



Volunteers Needed for Our 2027 Board

Open Positions will be for:

- Communications
- Membership

You can also volunteer to help for specific events.
Email us at brookrunna@gmail.com if interested

We Need Your Help to DONATE to the

Brook Run Neighborhood Association!!

This has been a tough year for our neighborhood association. We NEED you to please donate to the BRNA. Donations allow us to continue doing fun events in our neighborhood. To those that have paid their 2026 dues, **thank you.** PLEASE consider donating again to help us to keep going this year.

Square

venmo

You also can visit our website at *www.brookrun.fun*