

Our Village Voice



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

June 2026
Volume 4, Issue 2



News from the Des Moines City Council

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



FY28 Budget Discussions

The City of Des Moines will begin budget discussions for Fiscal Year 2028 six months ahead of the usual schedule. In May, the Des Moines City Council was presented with its first estimated budget shortfall number of nearly \$12 million for FY 2028 and a projected \$5 million additional for Fiscal Year 2029 at a City Council work session. This number is an initial forecast that includes impacts of recent state property tax legislation. That projection will serve as a basis for the scale of cuts needed to balance the City's budget for the next two years and will be refined with new projections as additional data becomes available throughout the summer.

The City of Des Moines wants residents to be part of this process, and the budget discussions will begin in June. There will be numerous public meetings along with an online engagement tool that will allow residents to share their budget priorities and feedback on possible proposals. To learn more about the process, you can visit DSM.City/Budget.

Budget Planning Timeline

June

- List of potential savings will be provided for operations

July and August

- Public budget meetings to provide broad information on gap and budget challenges
- Online surveys available for residents to "solve" the budget with the options provided
- Review results of public survey and request additional public input, as needed

September / October

- Council to direct City Manager on consensus of cuts and savings

November

- Ongoing discussion and final budget recommendations

Inside this issue

East Douglas Housing Project	2
Summer Happenings in BR & BL...	3
Life in the Run	4
2026 Graduates.....	4-5
Kid's Korner Article.....	6
Fun Fourth of July Recipe.....	7
BRNA Business Supporter.....	7
Quarterly Police Report	8

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
Officer Xiaotian (Bill) Lu

Guest Writers/Photographers:

Dan Ray Kenzie Geiger
Our BR Graduate Parents
Laurie Thompson

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



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"

What is Going On at East Douglas Ave.

Information Update on the Nearby Construction Project



Information and photos from KCCI.com and KDSM Fox 17 News Websites

The Woodmont project is a massive \$150 million, 150-acre single-family home neighborhood in Des Moines, Iowa. Developed by Hubbell Homes, the project is located near East 44th and Douglas Avenue (south of the road) and is designed to create 500 new "starter homes" for younger buyers.

Key Project Details

- Location: Near East 44th St. and Douglas Ave. (approx. 10 minutes east of Downtown Des Moines and bordering Altoona).
- Project Scale: 150-acre site featuring over 500 single-family homes, along with community parks.
- Timeline: The project officially broke ground and will be completed in phases over the next 10 to 15 years.
- Pricing & Styles: Features both ranch and two-story layouts with 3 to 4 bedrooms. Prices start in the mid-\$300,000s, targeting a highly sought-after tier of local housing.
- School District: Southeast Polk School District.
- Incentives: The project offers a five-year tax abatement for qualifying homebuyers

The Des Moines City Council recently approved zoning changes to build the Woodmont development. Rachel Flint, senior vice president at Hubbell Homes, expressed enthusiasm for the project. "I think it's great. We have been working on Woodmont for several years now," Flint said. The floor plans for Woodmont will be similar to those in the Grover Woods project (by Hubbell Ave.),



Looking South (Artist Rendering)

located about a mile to the north. Flint noted, "For single-family homes, starting the 300,000, that's really the sweet spot for affordability in the marketplace. So that's really the key for Des Moines". Flint explained that rising prices are due to more expensive building materials. Woodmont is situated a few miles from Altoona, within the SE Polk School District, and is approximately 10 minutes from Downtown Des Moines, that is something that you're not seeing in some of the other communities. It's really what makes Des Moines so attractive to home buyers," Flint said. Hubbell Homes has broken ground on the project, with expectations that it may take 10 to 15 years to complete the entire development.

FREE MEALS FOR ALL KIDS

Southeast Polk CSD FREE LUNCH DAILY
 June 8th – July 31st. Monday – Friday. No service on July 3rd

*Ages 1-18
 Altoona Elementary, 301 6th St. SW, Altoona, IA 50009
 Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Willowbrook Elementary, 300 17th Ave. SW, Altoona, IA 50009
 Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Special dietary needs? Please contact Sara Sakini at 515-957-3431 or sara.sakini@southpolk.org. We cannot guarantee special diet meals will be accommodated fully unless contacted at least a week in advance of first time attending.
 *Children under the ages of 5 years old are encouraged to come with an adult. Feeding assistance will not be provided.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Free Meals Start on June 8, 2026

From SE Polk Community School District Website

As part of its efforts to ensure kids have access to healthy meals during the summer months, Southeast Polk CSD is pleased to announce our summer meals site will again be serving kids and teens. Starting on Monday, June 8, 2026, all kids and teens 18 and under can receive meals free of charge, no registration needed, at two locations. Children under the ages of 5 years old are encouraged to come with an adult. Feeding assistance will not be provided. All meals must be eaten onsite.

Altoona Elementary, 301 6th St SW, Altoona, IA 50009

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Willowbrook Elementary, 300 17th Ave SW, Altoona, IA

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

News About a Fun Upcoming Event!



Join Us on the North Pond for a Night of Free Music & Community!

Sponsored by:

Dan Ray Real Estate

248-930-3156

danrayrealestate@gmail.com

IG and Tiktok: @danrayrealestate

danrayrealestate.com

Music provided by: Dave Helmer

Dave Helmer is a songwriter's songwriter from eastern Iowa. Helmer toured the country for 10+ years with his band Crystal City, and now adds Dave Helmer Band as his newest project.

Helmer's love of guitar is reflected even further in his work as a professional luthier, proudly supporting area musicians.

Helmer's signature Rock & Roll sound on his newest release, Such a Clown, has honest lyrics, catchy melodies, and ripping guitar work that sticks in your head.



Bring Your Own: FOOD, DRINKS, CHAIRS/blankets

2026 Quarterly Calendar of Events

- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
June 3, 2026 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **National Doughnut Day**
June 5, 2026
- ◆ **BRNA Community Concert**
5134 Pond View Circle
at 6:00-8:00pm
- ◆ **Flag Day** June 14, 2026
- ◆ **BRNA Board Meeting**
June 16, 2026
- ◆ **BR Neighborhood Garage Sales**
June 19-20, 2026
- ◆ **Juneteenth** June 19, 2026
- ◆ **Juneteenth Neighbors Day**
Western Gateway Park
June 20, 2026
- ◆ **Father's Day** June 21, 2026
- ◆ **Ashura** June 26, 2026
- ◆ **Independence Day** July 4, 2026
- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
July 1, 2026 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **BRNA Quarterly Board Meeting**
July 21, 2026 at 6:00pm
Des Fire Station #11
- ◆ **BRNA's Fun-in-the-Run**
E. 49th St. July 25, 2026
at 5:00 to 8:00pm
- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
August 4, 2026 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Iowa State Fair**
August 13-23, 2026
- ◆ **BRNA Board Meeting**
August 18, 2026
- ◆ **First Day of SE Polk 2026-27 School Year** August 24, 2026

Brook Run's 2026 Graduates

Written by his Mother Michelle Haacke

Peyton Haacke



Peyton Haacke lives in Brook Run with his parents, Michelle and Ryan, and his brother, Nolan. He graduated from SEP High School in the top 15% of his class and was a member of the National Honor Society. In high school, he was a four-year member of SEP's varsity show choir, RAMification, and performed in the annual musicals. Outside of school, he performed in musicals at Des Moines Young Artists Theater (DMYAT), CAP Theater, Cedar Summerstock and the Des Moines Playhouse. This summer, he plans to work at Burger Shed and will perform in



"Rent (School Edition)" at DMYAT.

Peyton will attend the **Institute of American Musical Theater** in New York City this fall.



“Life in The Run”

What has been going on in the Brook Run Neighborhood

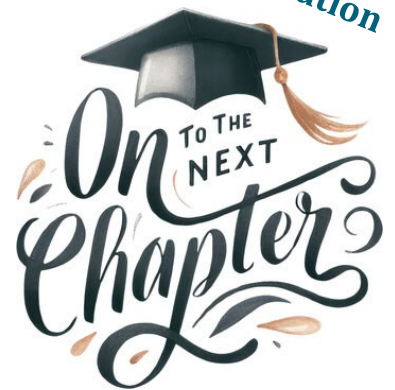
Jeremy Taylor

Written by his girlfriend Dan Ray

Jeremy Taylor is graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in industrial design. He lives in Brook Run with his girlfriend, Dan, and cat, Macaulay Culkin. Some of his favorite designs he has made include a coffee pour over system, a looper drum machine, and a three-legged chair he designed and built during a semester abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. For his senior project he designed an audio recorder and app geared towards audio journaling and mental health. It's been five years of hard work to get this degree, and he's very excited for whatever comes next.



College Graduation



Joshua Sapp

Written by his Mother Becky Sapp

Joshua Sapp is graduating from Southeast Polk High School this year. He moved to Brook Landing at the beginning of 8th grade with his parents Mark and Becky Sapp and younger brother Landyn Sapp. The family also includes are beloved dogs Emmett and Toby. Josh will be going into the Welding trade after graduation.



FUN IN THE RUN!

JULY 25th, 2026 5-8 PM

Join the BRNA on July 25th, 2026 for the Fun-in-the-Run

- *Who: All of our Brook Landing & Brook Run Neighbors are invited
- *When: July 25, 2026
- *Where: East 49th St. - NEW LOCATION
- *Time: 5:00 - 8:00pm

Save the date to join the Fun, Live Music, Food, Face-Painting, Games, Raffle Tickets, Gift Baskets, and more!!

Volunteer for the Fun-4:00 to 9:00 (Earn Silver Cord Hours)

Summer Aquatics

The pools officially open for the summer on June 6! While Northwest Family Aquatic Center, Ashworth Pool, Birdland Pool, Nahas and Teachout Family Aquatic Centers did open up for the weekend May 30-31, they will be open for daily operations beginning Saturday, June 6.

The spraygrounds are already open for the 2026 season and are another great option for cooling down in the summer heat! In support of Central Iowa Water Works' request to reduce water usage due to elevated nitrate levels, the City of Des Moines is taking proactive steps to cut back and will be temporarily limiting sprayground hours to 12-8 p.m. daily. This summer, there will be a rotating weekday closure schedule at the pools in order to ensure that all aquatic facilities stay running properly. For more information, visit DSM.City/Aquatics.

Upcoming Mega SCRUB

While our Think Green This Spring campaign has come to a close, there is still an upcoming Mega SCRUB event that we encourage everyone to take advantage of. SCRUB events provide residents with the opportunity to get rid of waste and debris from yards and homes. Mega SCRUB provides a unique opportunity by also offering additional services like household hazardous waste disposal, paper shredding and electronic recycling, along with the usual bulk trash drop-off for large appliances, furniture and electronics. The June Mega SCRUB will take place at the [Capitol Complex Lot #3](#) (west of E. 14th and south of Court Ave.), a convenient location for Brook Run residents. For more information on this event and future SCRUB events, you can visit DSM.City/SCRUB.

Kid's Korner

Information For Kids

Submitted by Elizabeth Ruddy, Delaware Elementary School

Explore Your Creative Side This Summer

ASAP Mondays: Drawing and Painting

Where: Forest Avenue Library, 1326 Forest Ave, Des Moines, IA 50314

When: Mondays in June, 4:00 PM-5:00 PM

Who: Children under 10 must have an adult

Learn something new, or expand your skills at ASAP Mondays: Drawing and Painting. Learn fun drawing exercises, painting techniques, and much more. Snacks provided for all participants.

ASAP Tuesdays: Clay Creations

Where: East Side Library, 2559 Hubbell Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50317

When: June 9, 16 and 23, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

Who: Children under 10 must have an adult

Get hands-on with air-dry clay and make a miniature masterpiece to take home each week at ASAP Tuesdays: Clay Creations, Projects may include pinch pots and coil pots, personalized tiles, mini monsters, abstract sculptures, and more. Snacks will be provided for all participants.

ASAP Wednesdays: Wet Felting and Fiber Art

Where: North Side Library, 3516 Fifth Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50313

When: Wednesdays in June, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

Who: Children under 10 must have an adult

Make your own colorful felt fabric art using fine wool fibers, soapy water, and lots of friction at ASAP Wednesdays: Wet Felting and Fiber Art. Snacks will be provided for all participants.

ASAP Thursdays: Colorful Collage

Where: South Side Library, 1111 Porter Ave, Des Moines, IA 50315

When: Thursdays in June, 4:00 PM-5:00 PM

Who: Children under 10 must be with an adult

Glue magazine images, wallpaper, and other materials together to create new works of art ASAP Thursdays: Colorful Collage. Snacks will be provided for all participants.

For more information and other ideas: <https://desmoinesparent.com/des-moines-free-camps-clinics/>



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



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

Brook Run & Brook Landing

Neighborhood Garage Sale

June 19 - 20, 2026

Garage Sale Information

All Brook Run and Brook Landing neighbors are invited to join our annual BRNA Garage Sale. This event will run Friday the 19th, and Saturday the 20th. There is no cost to join this event. You can choose to have a sale one of the days or both days.

Along with garage sales there have been pastry sales, small plant sales, small stuffed animal sales, lemonade sales, and any other kind of fun sales run by the kids in the neighborhood. We encourage the kids in the neighborhood to join in the fun!

Any questions you can email the BRNA at brookrunna@gmail.com

Fun Idea for the Fourth of July Holiday

Submitted by Laurie Thompson

Red, White, and Blue Fruit Skewer

Prep time: 15 mins | Servings: 8-10

Ingredients

- 1 lb. fresh strawberries, hulled
- 3 large bananas, sliced into thick rounds
- 1 pint fresh blueberries
- Wooden skewers

Directions

1. **Prep the Fruit:** Rinse all berries and pat completely dry. Slice the bananas into thick rounds (dry them slightly to prevent browning).
2. **Assemble:** Thread the fruit onto the skewers. To create a patriotic pattern, alternate (2) strawberries, (2) banana rounds, and (3) blueberries on each stick.
3. **Chill:** Lay the skewers on a parchment-lined baking sheet and keep them refrigerated until you are ready to serve.

Bonus: Sweet Cream Cheese Dip

For a fun party platter, arrange your skewers around a bowl of easy fruit dip. Combine (8oz) of softened cream cheese, (1/2 cup) of marshmallow fluff, and (1/2 cup) of sour cream in a bowl, mixing until smooth and creamy.





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

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

Join the BRNA for 2026

NAME/BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: _____

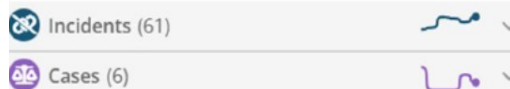
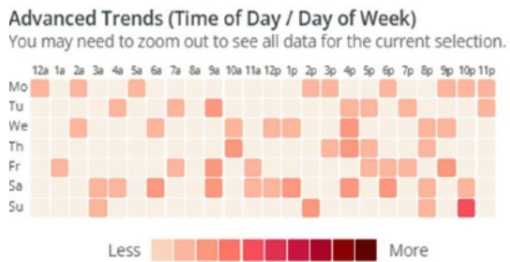
E-MAIL: _____

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
- ◇ \$100.00 Fund the Fun Donation
- ◇ \$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 on the middle of the Home Page. You can also make payments via Venmo to [@BrookRunNeighborhoodAssoc](https://www.venmo.com/BrookRunNeighborhoodAssoc).



Notable investigations:
 No shooting/firearm related cases made
 Incidents: Medical calls, suspicious activity, disputes, trespass, domestic, welfare check, Noise and parking complaints
 Cases: Harassment, theft, identity theft
 Arrests: NONE
 Tickets: NONE
 Accidents: NONE

Report Date: May 20, 2026

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

DMPD Neighborhood Officer Xiaotian (Bill) Lu



**For 2026 we want your business to sponsor the BRNA.
 Business Memberships helps sponsor neighborhood events.**

AND IT BRINGS YOU GREAT CUSTOMERS!!

- Fund the Fun - \$100.00 per year
- Super Supporter - \$200.00 per year
- Premier Sponsor - \$300.00 per year
 (\$50.00 Discount if you're a Brook Run Resident)

Get Each Package Details at www.brookrun.fun