

# 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)

March 2024  
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## Info from Mayor Connie Boesen and Our City Representatives

*Reprinted from the "Mayors Monthly Update"-February 2024*

One of my priorities has been to launch a series of listening sessions called "Community Conversations" with community members throughout the city, to hear their concerns, ideas, and feedback on how to make Des Moines an even greater place to live, work, and play.

I am happy to announce that the first of many community conversations took place this month. Along with community conversations I've attended several events this month like Lunar New Year, Raise a Reader, Hoover Husky Siree, and United Ways forum on food insecurity. Events like these really lift our community and I am honored to be a part of them.



**News from Tom Hockensmith**  
*Chair, Polk County Board of Supervisors - District 4*  
[Tom.Hockensmith@polkcountyiowa.gov](mailto:Tom.Hockensmith@polkcountyiowa.gov)

## Polk County Renovations



Polk County is currently working on renovations to property owned by Polk County at both 1900 and 1914 Carpenter Avenue. The Polk County Board of Supervisors, Broadlawns Medical Center, and St. Vincent DePaul are collaborating to open the first crisis access center in the county. The west half of the building is being renovated to accommodate a host of crisis services that will include a 24-hour crisis observation center, psychiatric urgent care, and a sobering center. The purpose of this center is to divert individuals who are experiencing mental health and substance abuse crises from the emergency departments and the Polk County Jail. Individuals will be better served with community-based mental health and substance abuse services.

The east half of the building will be renovated to house a "Welcome Center" that will serve as a one-stop hub of basic services for immigrant and refugee families who are new to Central Iowa. They will be able to access resources for transportation, childcare, food, education, language and more. The goal is to help move them faster and more efficiently towards self-sufficiency and create a hub of diverse activity in a historically underserved neighborhood.

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## Our Village Voice Staff

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

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

### Guest Writers/Photographers:

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Cindi McClure Michelle Haacke  
Jana Bahr



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**.

# Information That Brook Run Can Use

Des Moines Police Department  
Neighborhood LIAISON  
**Sgt. Dua Lor**  
515-971-0792

Report Date: February 20, 2024  
Service Calls for the Last 30 Days

## 27-Service Calls

6-Cases made  
3-Arrests  
4-Tickets

Very quiet and awesome neighborhood. "Always see something, say something".

This how we all can make our community safe.

Email me: [dblor@dmgov.org](mailto:dblor@dmgov.org)

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

## Watering Directions for New Trees in Brook Run

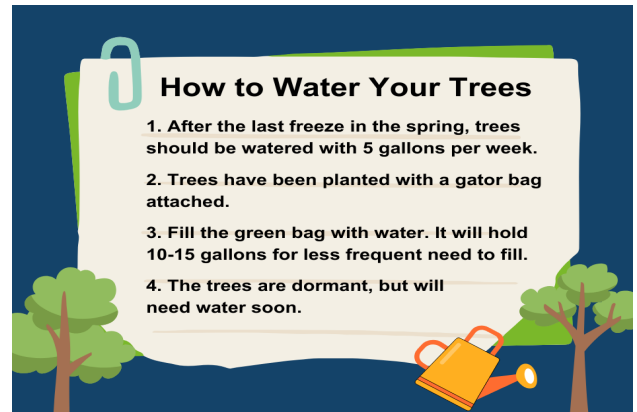
Information & Graphics Supplied by Laurie Thompson



Many of you have noticed trees that have been planted in Brook Run, by Forever Trees. They will be ready for watering after the last freeze.

### Here are some tips on how to water them:

1. After the last freeze in the spring, trees should be watered with 5 gallons per week.
2. Trees have been planted with a gator bag attached.
3. Fill the green bag with water. It will hold 10-15 gallons for less frequent need to fill.
4. The trees are dormant, but will be ready for water soon.



## Kid's Corner Story

A Story by kids for kids

Hi, my name is Ange.

I'm 11 years old and I live in Brook Run Village with my parents and three siblings. I love my siblings so much because they get to clean my room. 😊



I am in 5th grade. I thought that my teacher was going to be mean, but I love my teacher Mr. Castile because he is so nice.

The thing I like most about Brook Run is that I get to play basketball. I like playing outside with my siblings because I love my siblings SO much. We get along together and we love each other!

**I love my whole family!**

## Cajun Chicken & Sausage Gumbo

Submitted by Bert Moody



- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 pound andouille sausage, sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 1 large green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 pinch Creole seasoning, or to taste
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 rotisserie chicken, boned and shredded



### Directions

1. Heat oil in a stockpot over medium heat; whisk in flour until roux is smooth and has cooked to the color of chocolate milk, about 8 to 10 minutes. Be careful not to burn the roux. If you see black specks in the mixture, it's best to start over.
2. Add sausage, celery, bell pepper, and onion into the roux; cook and stir 5 minutes. Add garlic; continue to cook and stir another 5 minutes.
3. Season with salt, pepper, and Creole seasoning; stir well to blend. Pour in chicken broth and add bay leaf. Bring to a boil over high heat; reduce heat to medium-low and simmer, uncovered, for 1 hour, stirring occasionally.
4. Stir in the chicken and simmer 1 hour more. Skim off any foam that floats to the top during this time.

**Best served with Rice. You can also add your favorite ingredients to this gumbo like: Shrimp, Crab Legs, Oysters, Ham, Okra, or Filè powder.**

## News from Linda Westergaard

### *City of Des Moines Council-Ward 2*



It appears spring is here, but just wait, I expect we will see a few more weeks of winter. The variation in the outdoor temperatures is hard on our roadways. Please report potholes to the city so repairs can be made quickly. The goal is to have potholes repaired within 72 hours of being reported. The reporting app is available on the city web site, [www.dsm.city](http://www.dsm.city) › mydsmmobile

This is an easy and handy tool to use to report multiple issues to the city. We always want to hear from our residents.

City Council is busy working with the city manager and the finance department in finalizing the upcoming budget. The proposed budget is posted on the city website [dsm.city](http://dsm.city) for review and resident input. Street improvements near Brook Run include NE 23 Street/Easton-Fourmile to E. 56th Street. In FY 2026-FY 2028.

The city is working with Polk County, Broadlawns, and St. Vincent De Paul to create a safe welcoming place for adults in need of behavioral health services. A sobering center and sobering services will be available to keep people in need out of our jail and allow our first responders to return to their patrol duties faster. Paramedics and EMT personnel will be available offering a hand off to community services such as detox, residential treatment, employment services, and wellness activities. Several nonprofit partners will also be assisting, offering help to those who seek help.

I continue to meet with residents and listen to your concerns. Please feel free to call or email me at any time. 515-988-4288 or [Lindaw@dmgov.org](mailto:Lindaw@dmgov.org)



## News from the BRVOA

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

**NEXT HOA MEETING: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 6:00pm**

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

### **BROOK RUN VILLAGE OWNERS ASSOCIATION:**

Submitted by Pam Schwartz, Secretary

**Big news!** Brook Run Village has been included in a multi-million dollar stream improvement project aimed at reducing soil erosion and improving water quality in Polk County. Steve Wallace and Marty Chebuhar are the neighborhood's liaisons working with Polk County Public Works on the project.

This is a major development long sought by those concerned about erosion along Brook Run's stream banks and its related problems, including silting of our ponds. Joining this project offers solutions to worries that have troubled our neighborhood for many years.

The board voted unanimously at its February meeting to move forward on the project, which would involve Association cost-share funding. The overall effort, which targets erosion issues in various areas of the county, is to be financed primarily with a state-approved \$10 million grant using federal pass-through dollars. It also involves assistance from the City of Des Moines and Polk County. More information will be released as details are worked out. Directors expect to ask the Association's membership for approval of the final plan.

### **Reminders:**

Fishing is permitted in designated areas from April 1 to October 31. Please refer to the Fishing Policy which can be found at [www.brookrunvillage.com](http://www.brookrunvillage.com) for the rules and designated areas. In an effort to maintain the water quality of our ponds, Brook Run residents and visitors are asked to not feed the geese and ducks which migrate to these waters.

#### 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](http://www.mcafeerealty.com)  
Phone: (515) 251-4570

## First Quarter Brook Run Calendar of Events

- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**  
March 6, 2024 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
March 10, 2024
- ◆ **First Night of Ramadan**  
March 11, 2024
- ◆ **St. Patrick's Day** March 17, 2024
- ◆ **BRNA BOD Meeting**  
March 19, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Palm Sunday** March 24, 2024
- ◆ **Holi** March 24, 2024
- ◆ **Good Friday** March 29, 2024
- ◆ **Easter Sunday** March 31, 2024
- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**  
April 3, 2024 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Eid al-Fitr** April 9, 2024
- ◆ **Tax Day** April 15, 2024
- ◆ **BRNA Quarterly Meeting**  
April 16, 2024 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Passover** April 22, 2024
- ◆ **Earth Day** April 22, 2024
- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**  
May 1, 2024 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Orthodox Easter** May 5, 2024
- ◆ **Cinco de Mayo** May 5, 2024
- ◆ **Mother's Day** May 12, 2024
- ◆ **BRNA BOD Meeting**  
May 21, 2024 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Memorial Day** May 27, 2024



# The Brook Run Class of 2024 Graduates

## Nolan Haacke

*Submitted by his mother Michelle Haacke*

Nolan and his family moved into Brook Run the summer before he started second grade at Delaware Elementary. Now a senior at Southeast Polk High School.



Nolan played saxophone in the school band for several years and works at Bass Pro Shops. In his spare time he enjoys gaming, writing, goofing off with his friends and spending time with his girlfriend, Hannah. Nolan is enrolled at DMACC and will begin classes at the Ankeny campus this fall in the Paramedic AAS Program.



## *“Life in The Run”*

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

## Grady Fees

*Submitted by his mother Jessica Fees*

Grady Fees is graduating from Southeast Polk High School in May. He plans to attend DMACC for two years and then transfer to Iowa State.



## Kaine Hasenwinkel

*Submitted by his mother Lori Ruble*

Kaine will be graduating from Southeast Polk High School and will enter into the Apprentice Program with the Carpenters Local 106 in Altoona, Iowa. His sister, Norah and his mother Lori are so proud of him.



## **Thaden Abbas**

*Submitted by his mother Cindi McClure*



Thaden played football and wrestled all 4 years at Southeast Polk High School. He volunteered at several establishments to earn his Silver Cord, including Habitat for Humanity, various football and wrestling events, Caring Hands and the Spring Creek Sports Complex concession stands just to name a few events.

His future plans include attending a 4 year college next fall to study pre-law and play football.



## **Carmen Bahr**

*Submitted by her mother Jana Bahr*



Carmen Bahr is a senior at Southeast Polk High School. She plays trumpet and French horn and has been heavily involved in the SE Polk band program throughout high school including marching band, wind ensemble, show band and pep band. During her free time she has spent many hours volunteering at the Blank Park Zoo and training dogs as a puppy guardian for IOWA Service Dogs. She owns her own clay earrings business, Creations by Car Car, and teaches swimming lessons. Carmen is excited to attend the University of Northern Iowa next year where she will be double majoring Marketing-Advertising & Digital Media and Organizational Leadership. She will be minoring in music."



## **The Brook Run Winter That Was.....**

*Are You Ready for Spring?*



**Daylight Savings  
Time Begins**

March 10th  
2:00am

**Spring Begins**

March 19th  
11:06pm





Brook Run Neighborhood Association

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

### 2024 BRNA Board Members:

Kelly Lynn - President

Chantelle Cadek - Secretary

Nikki Moore - Special Events

Lisa Crabbs - Membership

Laurie Thompson - Communications

Taylor Sellers - Neighborhood Relations

Bert Moody - Treasurer

### Save the Dates:

March 19 - BRNA BOD Meeting

April 16 - BRNA Quarterly Meeting

May 21 - BRNA BOD Meeting

## Join the BRNA for 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](http://www.brookrun.fun) on the middle of the Home Page. You can also make payments via Venmo to @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](mailto:brookrunna@gmail.com)



**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 Residents - \$50.00 per year
- Brook Run Non-Residents - \$100.00 per year



## Brook Run Neighborhood Association



We need you to volunteer to help out the events we have planned for 2024. You can volunteer to help all year or for just a specific event. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

Email [brookrunna@gmail.com](mailto:brookrunna@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **You Can Volunteer to help for Specific Event Committees Like:**

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