

OUR VILLAGE VOICE



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

September 2023
Volume 1, Issue 3

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The Brook Run Pirate-Potter House

Coming this **HALLOWEEN**
Oct. 1st through Beggar's Night

Donations Benefiting
Brook Run
Neighborhood Assoc
&
PVA
Paralyzed Veterans of
America

**MONO-CHROMATIC
MADNESS**
EST. 2001
THE PIRATE-POTTER HOUSE

HOURS
MONDAY - CLOSED
TUESDAY - FRIDAY 4PM - 9PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2PM - 9PM

BREAKING NEWS!!

We are excited to announce a new theme this year for our famous neighborhood Halloween spot.

This is an all new theme with over 40 new characters! Unlike anything the Pirate-Potter House has done before! Plan to visit 3720 Brook Ridge Ct between October 1st thru October 30th! Part of the donations they receive will go back to our own Neighborhood Association.

Our Village Voice Staff

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

Regular Contributors:

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

Guest Writers/Photographers:

Todd Woolums Anne Winslow
Cindi McClure



News from Tom Hockensmith

Chair, Polk County Board of Supervisors

Gun Safety – Talk It Up – Lock It Up

Many of us go out of our way to protect our children/grandchildren by having proper car seats, safety covers on pools, and install outlet covers; but one topic we are not talking about is gun safety. Since we are not able to be with our children every minute of every day, it is important to take the time to have conversations about gun safety.

Gun injuries are a leading cause of death among youth in Polk County. For this reason, the Polk County Board of Supervisors have partnered with the Polk County Health Department, Unity Point Health – Des Moines, and MercyOne – Des Moines to create the Talk It Up – Lock It Up Gun Safety Initiative.

While we cannot distinguish a specific reason for the gun related incidents, one thought is the growing number of easily accessible firearms. Please take the time to talk to people that are around your children/grandchildren. It is important to ask if they have a firearm and if it is stored, unloaded and locked. It is ideal to have the ammunition stored in a separate location. This is a simple preventative step that you can do to ensure the safety of others.

If you or someone you know does not have a gun lock, please stop by and get one free of charge at the Polk County Health Department located at 1907 Carpenter Avenue or your local law enforcement agency.



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**.

Information That Brook Run Can Use

The Truth About Adding Solar Panels to Your Home

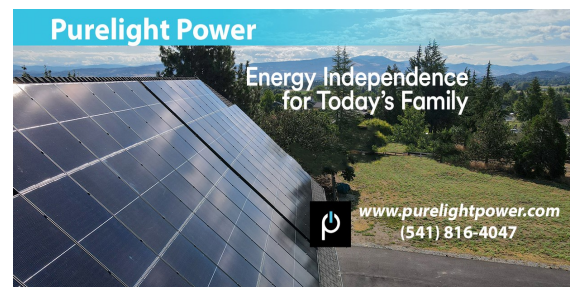
By Todd Woolums

Move over, capes and masks—there's a new superhero in town, and it's not sporting spandex. Meet Solar Man and Solar Woman, the dynamic duo with a dazzling difference! These unsung heroes don't rely on radioactive spider bites or alien technology; instead, they harness the ultimate power source: the sun. Solar panels, those unassuming rectangles perched atop rooftops and



basking in yards, are the real MVPs of the clean energy revolution. Don't be fooled by their mild-mannered appearance—these everyday champions are packing some serious punch! I'm sure we've all seen them around on houses in the neighborhood or maybe had a salesman drop by. Why Solar Panels? Let's not forget the good always comes with the bad. Here are a few of the reasons why you should think about solar panels. 1. Renewable Energy Source: One of the most significant advantages of solar panels is that they tap into an infinite and renewable energy source: the sun. As long as the sun shines, solar panels can generate electricity, making them a reliable source of power. 2. Reduced Energy Bills: Solar panels can significantly cut down electricity bills. Homes and businesses that generate surplus electricity through solar panels can even sell it back to the grid, potentially turning the energy equation in their favor. 3. Low Operating Costs: Once installed, solar panels have low maintenance requirements.

Regular cleaning and occasional inspections are usually sufficient to keep them functioning optimally. Some of the cons associated with solar panels. 1. High Initial Costs: The upfront costs of purchasing and installing solar panels can be substantial. Although these costs have been decreasing over the years, they might still present a barrier for some individuals or businesses. 2. Weather Dependent: Solar panels are dependent on sunlight, which means they are less effective during cloudy days or at night. Energy storage solutions, like batteries, are needed to ensure a continuous power supply. 3. Space Requirements: To generate a significant amount of electricity, solar panels require ample space, which might not be feasible for every property. One term you will hear thrown out while looking, Net metering. Net metering is a crucial policy framework that plays a pivotal role in encouraging the adoption of solar energy systems. It's a billing arrangement that allows individuals and businesses with solar panels to not only consume the electricity they generate but also to send any excess electricity back to the grid, effectively "spinning the meter backward." This surplus energy is then credited to their utility bills, offsetting the cost of electricity they consume when their solar panels aren't producing enough energy. A couple of things to remember with Net metering and these credits. Credits are only good for a billing year, use them or lose them. Credits can only be applied to electrical costs, so those Mid-American bills will never be \$0 since you'll still be paying on the gas side of things (water heater/furnace for most houses), last but not least the electrical can never be \$0 too....why, you have to pay the fee to be connected to the grid (~\$5 per month). Biggest takeaway I've learned, learn your house and its usage before jumping in. Tools like Sense (www.sense.com) make it much easier to visualize/monitor your usage and where that usage is going. Having these numbers will help decide if Solar is for you and cost offsets associated with it.

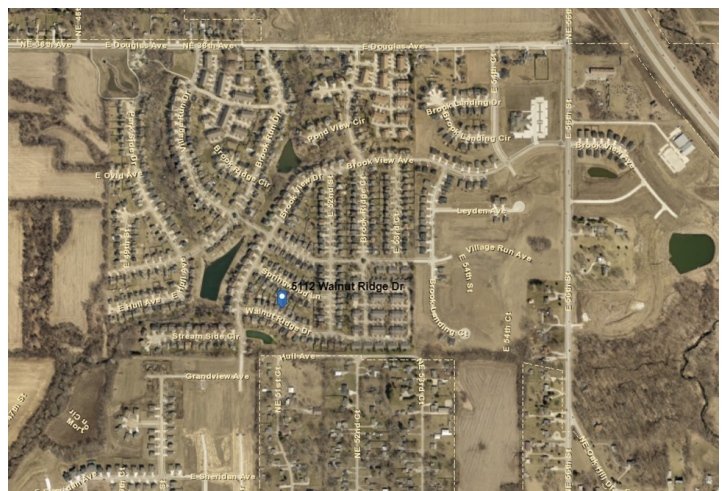


Brook Run Neighborhood from Above

Map from <https://showmemyhouse.dsm.city/>



On the City of Des Moines website (<https://www.dsm.city/>) they have a page called "Show Me My House", click on it to see your house from a aerial view. You can also zoom out to see our whole neighborhood from above. **Check it out for a little fun!!**





News from Linda Westergaard

City of Des Moines Council-Ward 2

I am honored to be the City Council representative for the Brook Run Neighborhood and appreciate the opportunity to contribute to your newsletter.

I know that some Brook Run homeowners have taken advantage of the Private Property Protection Plan offered by the city. We have now extended the program to 2028. This program will subsidize (up to \$1500) the cost of work done to prevent water from entering your home. You can learn more about the program by going to <https://shorturl.at/deuIT>, but here are some examples:

- Installation or redirection of a sump pump to discharge flows from foundation drains and area drains to a non-sanitary sewer outlet such as a rain garden, storm sewer, or the ground surface.
- The disconnection of roof leaders from the sanitary sewer service.
- The new installation of a backwater valve.

Speaking of water, the City of Des Moines offers additional subsidies related to Stormwater Best Management Practices. You can learn more at www.RainCampaign.org where you can learn how qualifying projects can be eligible for a subsidy of 50% of the total cost (maximum subsidy of \$2000.) Prior approval is required and examples of approved projects include soil quality restoration, native landscaping, rain barrels and rain gardens, and streambank stabilization.

Additional information and program requirements are available at the links above, but feel free to call or email (515-988-4288; LindaW@dmgov.org).

Brook Run will soon be receiving new trees to replace the Ash Trees that were previously removed. I have been working with the neighborhood association in seeing that your trees are replaced this fall.

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

Report Date: August 28, 2023
Service Calls for the Last 30 Days

28-Service Calls

2-Cases made

2-Arrests

2-Loud music

1-Suspicious

1-DPQ Juvenile

Email: dblor@dmgov.org

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

News from the BRVOA

www.brookrunvillage.com

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

Firehouse #11 (4150 E 42nd St.) and via Zoom Meetings

BROOK RUN VILLAGE OWNERS ASSOCIATION:

Submitted by Pam Schwartz, Secretary

- McAfee Realty officially became the Association's property manager on Aug. 1. The manager serves as the Association's business agent and works in cooperation with the board of directors in fulfilling duties and responsibilities. The company is accessible by phone at 515-251-4570 or online at McAfeeRealty.com.
- This summer's exceedingly dry weather has been rough on many things, including the many curbside trees planted by the city's forestry department last year. Brook Run residents can promote the life and vitality of these young trees with regular watering. A few buckets of water weekly will help ensure the long-term plan for a new tree canopy in the neighborhood.
- The hot, dry weather has also plagued Brook Run's storm water ponds. Infrequent rains and high temperatures have killed fish and given rise to algae and duckweed growth. Directors have approved measures to deal with these concerns, but also long for a return to "normal" times.

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

Kid's Corner Story

A Story by kids for kids



Hi! My name is Willow Phondeth. My favorite thing to do is draw.

I am 10 years old and in 5th grade. I really like 5th grade because most of my friends are in my

class and that makes me happy.

I have one sister who is in 2nd Grade and her name is Cora.

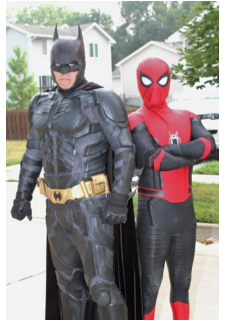
I also have 3 dogs named Arlo, Lola, and Loki. They are very energetic.

Loki gets in trouble A LOT!

The thing I love about living in Brook Run Village is that almost all my friends are there. We love to hang out at each other's houses.

Our Annual Fun-in-the-Run Event

Photos by Sara Moody



On July 15th, the BRNA sponsored our annual neighborhood get together for neighbors, friends, and families. We had visits from Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie, Councilwoman Linda Westergaard, DSM Fire Department, Our Neighborhood Liaison from DSM Police Sgt. Dua Lor plus about 250 Brook Run neighbors and friends. The food, ice cream, games, face-painting, music, kiddie train, super hero's, and fun was a blast! A **BIG THANKS** to our event planner Erin Dietz and the BRNA Board, our SEP High School students, and everyone that volunteered to help setup, tear-down and run games. We couldn't have done it without you.



"Life in The Run"

What has been going on in the Brook Run Neighborhood

Brook Run Ice Cream Social

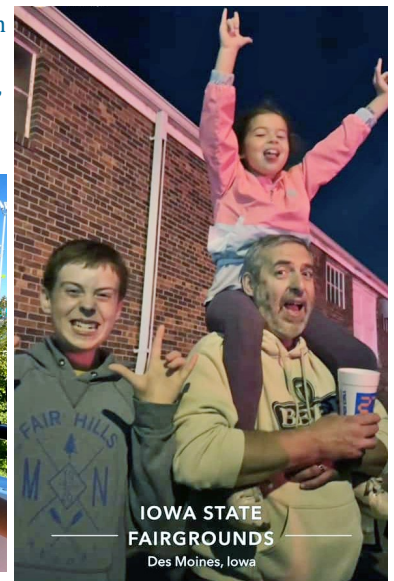
On Sunday, August 20th the BRNA sponsored a Back-to-School Ice Cream Social for kids & parents in our neighborhood. The event was perfectly timed for a very HOT day.



Brook Run Neighbors at the 2023 Iowa State Fair

Again this year some of our Brook Run neighbors braved the rainy or extreme hot weather and had fun at this years Iowa State Fair.

Below you see Nelissa & April Sachen having fun on the Sky Ride on a beautiful day. But not to be outdone, the picture to the right has Steve, Saoirse, and Porter McClure enjoy spending a little of the cool nighttime at the Fair this year.



RAGBRAI Fun

Photos by Anne Winslow and Cindi McClure

The **Registers Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa** went down NE 56th and came near our neighborhood on the morning of July 27th. Some Brook Run residents watched riders while drinking their morning coffee or waved at them while styling in funny costumes.



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.

Brook Run Yard-of-the-Month Winner



Ivana Djukic and her husband **Gustavo Lopez** of 5427 Brookview Ave. are awarded Yard of the Month for September. They have lived in the neighborhood for almost 3 years. Gustavo does the mowing, but Ivana takes care of the flowers! Ivana is originally from Croatia, where she grew up gardening with family. **Congratulations!!**

Brook Run Calendar of Events

- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
September 6, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **BRNA BOD Meeting**
September 19, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Yom Kippur** September 25, 2023
- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
October 4, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day** October 9, 2023
- ◆ **BRNA Quarterly Meeting**
October 17, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **BRNA Halloween Parade**
October 29, 2023 at 2:00pm
- ◆ **Halloween** - October 31, 2023
- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
November 1, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Daylight Savings Time Ends**
November 5, 2023
- ◆ **Election Day** November 7, 2023
- ◆ **Veterans Day** Nov. 11, 2023
- ◆ **Diwali** Nov. 12, 2023
- ◆ **BRNA BOD Meeting**
November 21, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Thanksgiving** Nov. 23, 2023
- ◆ **Hanukkah Begins** Nov. 8, 2023
- ◆ **BRVOA Monthly Meeting**
December 6, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **BRNA BOD Meeting**
December 19, 2023 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Christmas Day** Dec. 25, 2023
- ◆ **Kwanzaa** December 26, 2023
- ◆ **New Year's Eve** Dec. 31, 2023
- ◆ **BRNA Yearly Election Meeting**
January 16, 2023 at 6:00pm



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:

October 17 - BRNA Quarterly Meeting

October 29 - BRNA Halloween Parade

Dec. 31 - Volunteer for BRNA for 2024

Join the BRNA

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.

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



GET HOLIDAY READY!

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RE-ELECT

LINDA WESTERGAARD

DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL

WARD 2



ADVERTISE
YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE



Brook Run Neighborhood Association
www.brookrun.fun

Our 2023 Sponsors

POLK COUNTY Board of Supervisors

HyVee

Kwik Star

Please Support the People That Support Us!!

We want your business to help 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