



A Quarterly Newsletter of the

Salisbury Oaks Neighborhood Association [SONA]

P.O. Box 12042

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

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

Edited by Barb Schmidt

Neighbors joining to build a better community

Vol. XXV

Spring 2025

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Join your neighbors on:

## **April 17...SONA Quarterly mtg at Salisbury House**

6:00 social, 6:30—8:00 pm meeting

Speaker: Josh Mandelbaum, City Council Representative

Bring an appetizer or dessert. Beverages provided.

## **April 22 & 26.....Earth Day, establish nature trail**

Meet at 42nd & Tonawanda to move mulch, clear trail

Apr. 22 5:00—8:00 pm & Apr. 26 9:00 - noon

## **May 10.... 18th Annual Neighborhood Garage & Plant Sale**

(see p. 2 for details & signup)



## **June 4.....Summer Kick-off neighborhood picnic with splash pad & games for children**

\* 5:30 - 8:00 pm

\* Greenwood Park, Jay Spence Shelter (rain or shine)

\* Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.

\* Burgers, hot dogs, beverages, tableware provided by your dues (you can pay your \$10 dues at the picnic)

# 18th Annual Neighborhood Garage & Plant Sale!!!

**Saturday, May 10**

**8:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Sign up for your sale by Wednesday, May 7**



**It's time to RECYCLE, REPURPOSE, REHOME unneeded household items.**

It's easy to participate in the SONA Neighborhood Garage Sales! SONA handles the publicity from social media to along streets and in front of your house (the night before). **We create a handout with a map that locates your house and lists categories of items you will be selling.** Participating in the neighborhood garage sale is a benefit of being a member. To be included in the SONA Garage Sales Listing & Map, email [m.slocum@outlook.com](mailto:m.slocum@outlook.com) And you keep the proceeds. Not a member! Not a problem...send Mark your check for \$10 (PO Box 12042, DM, IA 50312) for 2025.

OR....**DONATE ITEMS to the SONA table** at the Plant Sale. You get stuff out of your house without having to price numerous items and run the sale, plus the proceeds benefit our neighborhood association.

Bring items to donate to **125 42nd Street (the Schmidts') on Friday, May 9 between noon and 8:00 PM**

AND please **DONATE extra plants from your gardens in pots or plastic bags.** Baked items such as bars, cookies, muffins are also appreciated for the bake sale. Bring plants to donate to 125 42nd Street (the Schmidts') on **Friday, May 9 between noon and 8:00 PM.** All of the **proceeds benefit the landscaping project** at 42nd & Tonawanda as well as along Tonawanda Drive.

## SIGN UP TODAY for our neighborhood garage sale

To be included in the SONA Garage Sales Listing & Map,

**Email Mark Slocum at [m.slocum@outlook.com](mailto:m.slocum@outlook.com)**

With the following information:

Location of your sale/your street address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (not to be published) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (not to be published) \_\_\_\_\_

Categories of items for sale (ex. Toys, antiques, gardening tools, books, kid's clothing, furniture, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# SONA's Houses have History; "Moved by Oxen" 314 42nd Street

Submitted by Jean & Bob Williams

The history of the home at 314 42nd Street (Mennig Place Plat) is interesting to our family. We lived there 52+ years (1968) and learned its flaws and its charms and history. The big windows, high ceilings, varied trim, the peony garden and large lot were all pluses. The 12 diseased elm trees that needed to be removed, a negative.

Shortly after our moving into the house Helen Mennig Howard invited us to her home one evening. She lived at the southwest corner of Greenwood Drive and 42nd. She told us that her parents had platted the property . There was at least one house on the property prior to the plat being registered. (This probably explains the extra width of the property.)

She reported that the house had been a farm home on one of the quarter sections that converge at the present Ingersoll and 42nd. Mrs. Howard said that the home had been moved via oxen to the present site. At the time of the move the house was three rooms on the main floor and two upstairs. The probability is that the home was moved as the land at 42nd and Grand (nee Greenwood and Park Lane) was being developed into the state fairgrounds.

The front room interior doors have transoms. We wonder if some of the window trim was embellished later. There is no evidence of a fireplace but markings on the chimney do indicate stove pipes had been used. A two-story addition was added to the west sometime in the 1920's. In the 30's the current kitchen and bedroom/bath above were added including a staircase to the kitchen. The Dickinson family made that change early in their many years in the home. The changes are evident from exterior trim and the basement.



There are shutters in front rooms of 314. The story is that Mr. Dickinson had occasion to visit a small town lodge. He admired the shutters in their meeting room and as exchange would purchase new "venetian blinds" which were the current fashion. Fortunately, subsequent owners have maintained most of them. On the parking in front of the house is a hitching post rock original to the property.

The Polk County Assessor website has 1883 as the date built. Early on we had a contractor who had experience in restoration in the Sherman Hill neighborhood to help us with some repairs. He said the front rooms were clearly 1870's construction.

Tim and Therese Hagg are the current owners of 314. They are good stewards of the old house and have made improvements.

Sources:

Polk County Iowa Assessor's website  
L. Cal Dickinson  
Helen Mennig Howard  
Jean and Bob Williams



## *Upcoming EVENTS*

at the

## **Salisbury House & Gardens**

### **Book Talk Series Sunday, April 27, 2025 2:00-4:00 pm**

Join us for our Book Talk Series with Grinnell College and learn about

A panel and moderator from Grinnell College Library staff will talk about research on the Salisbury House Library Collection at Grinnell College Libraries. They will also discuss book history, interactions with the collection in the classroom, conservation updates and more. Selections from the Library Collection will be on display. Admission is FREE! The first floor of the museum will be open for FREE self-guided tours.

### **Tea at the Castle Saturday, May 3, 2025 1:00—4:00 pm**

**This event is SOLD OUT!**



### **Belin Quartet Concerts June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8 & 29 5:30—6:30 pm**



Free performances by the Belin Quartet will be performed on the lawn at Salisbury House & Gardens. Chairs and bottled water will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own lawn chairs, beverages, and snacks. In case of rain, performances will move indoors at the Grand Hall at the Temple for Performing Arts downtown (1011 Locust Street, Des Moines, IA, 50309). These free concerts are made possible by Civic Music Association and the Iowa Foundation for Education, Environment, and the Arts Foundation.

### **Shakespeare on the Lawn July 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 7:30—10:00 pm**

Double the trouble, double the fun! William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* is a fast-paced, laugh-out-loud farce filled with mistaken identities, with misunderstandings, and chaotic comedy. When two sets of long-lost twins unknowingly find themselves in the same city, madness ensues — complete with wrongful arrest, romantic mix-ups, and plenty of slapstick hilarity. Will confusion ever be sorted out? Join us for an evening of timeless wit, clever wordplay, and non-stop entertainment in one of Shakespeare's most outrageous comedies. The play will be performed atop the English Gardens and staged with the majestic backdrop of Salisbury House. Gates open at 6:00 pm for seating. One 20 minute intermission. Admission: adults \$35, students 13 yrs. + \$20, children 6-12 yrs. \$10, children 5 and under are free. Tickets on sale April 1. A joint production between Iowa Stage Theatre Company and the Salisbury House & Gardens



Contact: Salisbury House & Gardens

4025 Tonawanda Drive, Des Moines, Ia

515-274-1777



**How Dead Trees Help Wildlife**  
**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**Wildlife Diversity News, February 14, 2025**

Trees are important features of a backyard or property, providing shade and a place for wildlife to live. Trees often live for decades or even centuries so it may come as a surprise if have a tree die on your property. Trees die for many reasons, and you may currently have a dead standing tree on your property or a few cut logs from a downed tree piled in a back corner.

Many people see dead trees or downed logs and think they look untidy and need to be "cleaned up." However, many wildlife species benefit from dead trees and downed logs and see a place to live and find food. There is often more "life" in a dead tree than when it was living. Sometimes embracing the "mess" in your yard can benefit wildlife.

Countless wildlife species utilize dead standing trees in many ways. In Iowa, all our seven woodpecker species utilize both living and dead trees to forage for food and excavate nest cavities, with many of them preferring to construct nest cavities in dead trees.

Over 30 species of birds in Iowa use cavities for nesting, though more than half of these species can't build their own cavities and rely on natural holes or those made by woodpeckers. Common cavity nesting birds besides woodpeckers include Wood Ducks, White-breasted Nuthatches, House Wrens, Eastern Bluebirds, Black-capped Chickadees, Eastern Screech-owls, and Tree Swallows. Only a thin outer layer of a tree is living, with the inner part of the tree made up of non-living wood. If a tree gets an injury, this inner wood often rots away, leaving an open cavity inside the tree. Open cavities inside both living and dead standing trees and downed logs provide shelter for countless species of wildlife including squirrels, chipmunks, foxes, striped skunks, bats, Virginia opossums, snakes, tree frogs, and raccoons to name just a few! Hollow fallen logs and dead standing trees provide locations for species such as chipmunks and squirrels to cache food resources like acorns for later use.

Dead trees and downed logs are also important for many detritivore species, which feed on dead plants and animals. There is a wide diversity of detritivores, including insects like carpenter ants or millipedes, and other animals such as earthworms and snails. Many of these detritivores are at the base of the food chain, providing nutrients to many other wildlife. Decomposers such as fungi also help break down dead plants and animals and eventually turn them into soil nutrients.

Fallen logs provide cover for wildlife and create a cooler and moister microclimate underneath. Salamanders, snakes, toads, small rodents, and many insects use logs for cover. In winter, fallen logs provide a higher surface for wildlife such as chipmunks, squirrels, mice, and raccoons to move easier in deep snow.

Even with all the benefits of standing dead trees or downed logs, safety should be your number one priority. Only leave standing dead trees if they do not pose safety risks to people or animals or a hazard to property. If you are unsure about whether it is safe to leave a dead standing tree, consult with a tree professional or your local Iowa DNR district forester before deciding whether to leave the dead tree. If you do need a tree removed from your yard, you may be able to ask a tree professional to leave the lower portion of a dead tree trunk in your yard after they remove the crown portions of the tree if they determine it will not be a hazard.

While it may not always be possible to leave all the dead trees or logs in your yard, even taking a small step, such as leaving a few branches or pieces of wood can be beneficial to wildlife like insects and birds that eat insects. When safe to do so, leaving standing dead trees and fallen logs in your yard is one of the most cost-effective ways to benefit wildlife and attract them to your yard. So, the next time you see a dead standing tree or downed log, don't think of it as an eyesore, but rather as a "condo and restaurant" for countless wildlife species.

Submitted by Cathy Mabry McMullen, SONA member



## 2024-25 SONA Board of Directors

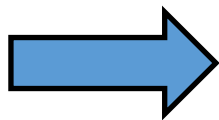
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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Apr, 17	Quarterly mtg, Salisbury House 6:00 pm social, 6:30 speaker
Apr. 22 & 26	Earth Day, help establish a nature trail along Tonawanda Starting at 42nd & Tonawanda, (Tues. 5:00—8, Sat. 9:00—noon) Moving mulch and clearing trail, weather permitting
May 10, Sat.	Annual Neighborhood Garage and Plant Sale 8:00 am—1:00 pm Donated items and plant sale at 125 42nd Street (515-707-0167)
June 4	SONA's Summer Kick-off picnic and children's games 5:30—8:00 pm Greenwood Park, Jay Spence Shelter House Burgers, Hot Dogs, Beverages, Tableware provided Bring side dish, salad or desert
Aug. 5, Tues.	Annual picnic/Quarterly mtg. Greenwood Park 5:30 social, 6:00 eat Board Meetings TBA (contact Angel.m.Erickson@gmail.com)



*Renew or become a member of*  
**Salisbury Oaks Neighborhood Association**

Dues: \$10 per household per calendar year      Join now for 2025

Mail this form with your check to: SONA, PO Box 12042, Des Moines, IA 50312

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_