



Quarterly Newsletter of the
Salisbury Oaks Neighborhood Association [SONA]
P.O. Box 12042
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

www.sonadsm.com

Edited by Barb Schmidt

Neighbors joining to build a better community

Vol. XXVIII

Winter 2026

SONA Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, January 29

Salisbury House (North entrance)

6:00 Social with provided pizza & beverages.

Desserts are welcome.

6:30 Program

*** Legislative Update**

Senator Janet Petersen

Janet Petersen (D-Des Moines, IA) represents Senate District 18 on the northwest side of Des Moines. She is serving her fourth term in the Iowa Senate after serving six terms in the Iowa House of Representatives.



*** Brief business meeting**

*** Election** (nominations page 2)

Nominations for January 2026 Election

The SONA Board, functioning as the Nominating Committee, presents the following slate:

President—Martha Crist

Martha has served as SONA Vice President for the past two years. She retired in 2024 from an insurance legal and compliance career. She serves on the BWA Foundation Board and is a volunteer at her church. Martha is a Des Moines native growing up on the southside, has lived on 43rd Street since 1998. She is a graduate of Iowa State University and Drake Law School. Martha hopes to continue the SONA traditions, while also exploring new opportunities for community engagement.



Vice-President - Mariah Klemp



Raised on a dairy farm in northeast Iowa, Mariah attended Iowa State University. In 2014, she officially made Des Moines home and is living out her dream career as a Realtor, a job she chose at just 8 years old. Mariah enjoys selling homes in the South of Grand neighborhood the most and appreciates older homes with character. For the last 6 years, she has been rehabbing her home on 38th Place and loves all things interior design, landscaping, traveling, and exploring everything Des Moines has to offer. Mariah just finished one year as a director on the SONA Board.

Director - Abby Chungath

Abby moved to the neighborhood in 2004, living 10 years on 43rd Street, and the last 12 years on 42nd Street, where she and her husband raised 2 children. An Ames native, Abby received degrees from University of Iowa and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. After many years in design and communications, she has spent the last 5 years restoring historic wood windows as a part-time, single-owner LLC business. Volunteering has included a 5 year term on the City of Des Moines Planning & Zoning Board, 7 years as a water quality monitor at Greenwood Park; she is also an avid rower, and recently started helping out in a DMPS elementary school library.



Director—Deb Douglas



- I grew up on a farm in Madison County.
- Attended Iowa State University and WM Penn.
- Retired Operations Director at Wellmark BCBS.
- I moved to River Oaks in Jan 2024 from Easter Lake to be closer to my Family. Grandkids are great!
- My interests are Des Moines history, travel, biking and gardening.
- I would like to increase membership of SONA and continue to plan activities for everyone.
- And continue to have a safe and welcoming neighborhood.

SONA's Houses Have History

Wetherell Apartments

4024 Grand Avenue

1924 Frank E. Wetherell of Wetherell & Harrison Architects



Now Open for Inspection
4024 W. Grand Ave
The Wetherell Apartments

New, fireproof, and strictly modern. Completely equipped for Electric Service, including electric cooking ranges.

Mrs. Carrie Dwelly, home economics expert of the Westinghouse Electric Company, will give free demonstrations of cooking with electricity at the **Wetherell Apartment**, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, Feb. 6 and 7, at 2 o'clock.

A Cordial Invitation Is Extended To

< > The Des Moines Register • Wed, Feb 06, 1924 • Page: [Demonstrations](#)

The Wetherell has a reinforced concrete construction which makes it fireproof. There are six floors containing 21 units. Each of the units was different.

A unique feature of the building is an antique Otis Traction Elevator with an automatic gate that is still in use.

A picturesque 1920s apartment building exhibits a remarkable abstract geometry in its projecting and receding wall surfaces. The first three floors are sheathed in brick; above, the walls are in stucco, with brick used for detailing around some of the windows. The white stucco walls, tile roofs, and above all the Churrigueresque* ornament at the top of the entrance tower make this a Spanish Colonial Revival composition, but certainly of an unusual sort. (Gebhard, David & Mansheim, Gerald, Buildings of Iowa. Society of Architectural Historians. 1995)

Betty and Arnie Grundberg purchased several historical building around Des Moines including the Wetherell Apartment building on Grand Avenue. Betty started a renovation business and maintained ownership for 40 years. She spent significant time personally restoring the properties. Betty passed away in 2022.

(DM Register, Apr. 11, 2022)



*Definition of churrigueresque. An expression of Spanish Baroque architecture and sculpture associated with the Churriguera family of artists and architects, characterized by lavish, even fantastic, but not in harmonious, decorative exuberance. In architecture a recurrent feature was the richly garlanded spiral column.

SONA's Generosity makes the “Best Christmas Ever”

This holiday season, the residents of Salisbury Oaks came together to “adopt” a local family in need. The family shared a wish list that included board games, crafts, and clothing,. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our neighbors, we were able to fulfill every single wish for all five children.

When I delivered the wrapped gifts to their mom, she was overwhelmed with emotion and couldn't believe how much had been provided. After the holidays she sent a message saying her children call it the best Christmas they've ever had.

Thankyou to everyone who made this possible. I truly hope this becomes a tradition we carry on for many years to come.

This project was coordinated and article submitted by
Angel Erickson.



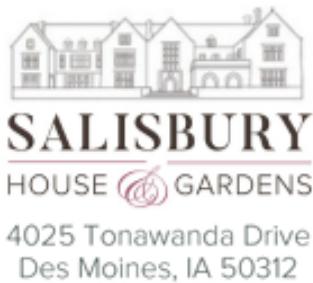
Be Involved with your Neighborhood Association

You decide how much time and effort to contribute. The following committees need your help...

- Garage and Plant Sale (publicity, pricing, set-up, and day of sale)
- Corner Garden (planting, weeding, mulching, and identification of plants)
- Welcome/ Membership (contacting new neighbors)
- Events (annual picnic, brainstorm ideas for other events)
- Communication/ Newsletter (contribute articles, alert membership of issues)
- Nature Trail (create trail, add erosion reducing measures, identification of plants and trees)

Senior Police Officer D. Scott Baker is our neighborhood representative. His card for your information





Upcoming Events

For additional information and event tickets go to the website www.salisburyhouse.org

Tea at the Castle: High Tea February 21, 3:00-6:00 pm

Our high teas take place later in the day (3 - 6 PM) and build upon the afternoon tea with a heartier menu, charcuterie to share with the table, and an expanded beverage selection that includes select wine and beer options alongside a signature cocktail/mocktail. After the meal and while guests tour the estate they can participate in a hands-on activity such as perfume making or bouquet building.

Tickets on sale January 15.....\$85 with limit of 2 per customer (SOLD OUT)

Tea at the Castle: Spring Tea May 2, 1:00—4:00 pm

Our afternoon teas (1 - 4 PM) include a small assortment of sweets and lighter fare, savory foods, bottomless tea in two varieties (while supplies last!), and a brief program about the history of the estate and/or collection.

Tickets on sale March 26.....\$65

Contact Salisbury House for details

Murder Mystery Dinners March 20 & 21, 6:00—9:30 pm

Put on your detective cap and join us for a unique, interactive night of improv and sleuthing. Prior to the evening every attendee is assigned a character to play within the crime scene, and as the night progresses everyone has the chance to follow their hunches, examine the clues, and ask questions of fellow attendees. One of you is trying to get away with it, while the rest are trying to answer the age-old question: **whodunnit?**

More information on website.

Select your character, entrée, and make your reservation.

Tickets....\$125



Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 29	Quarterly Meeting, Salisbury House, 6:00 social, 6:30 program
April 23	Quarterly Meeting, Salisbury House, 6:00 social, 6:30 program
May 9	SONA Annual Neighborhood Garage & Plant Sale
August 4	National Night Out & Picnic at Greenwood Park, 5:30 social, 6:00 potluck
November 12	Quarterly Meeting, Salisbury House, 6:00 social, 6:30 program

Renew or become a member for 2026

 **Salisbury Oaks Neighborhood Association (SONA)**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail _____

Dues: \$10 per household per calendar year **Join now for 2026**

Mail this form with your check to:

SONA, PO Box 12042, DM, IA 50312

OR use Venmo...



venmo

Support the association that supports you!!!

2024-25 SONA Board of Directors

President...Angel Erickson

Angel.m.Erickson@gmail.com

Vice-president...Martha Crist

Mc2crist@gmail.com

Treasurer...Mark Slocum

m.slocum@outlook..com

Secretary...J. Mark Schmidt

jmarkschmidt42@gmail.com

At-Large Directors:

Kyle Lovseth

Kyle.lovseth@gmail.com

Mariah Klemp

Mariah@sweethomedsm.com

Yolanda Cintron

ycblazek@gmail.com