

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. XXIX

Spring 2026

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## LOOK what's happening in your neighborhood!!!

- **April 15 & 18... Earth Day woodland cleanup & trail**

Meet at 42nd & Tonawanda to pick up litter, clear trail, mulch

**Wednesday Apr. 15 , 6:00— 8:00 pm & Saturday Apr. 18 , 9:00 - noon**

- **April 23...SONA Quarterly mtg at Salisbury House**

**6:00 social, 6:30—8:00 pm meeting**

*Join us for an extra special event, a Home Restoration & Renovation*

*Panel featuring three local professionals sharing their expertise...*

*Sequel Architecture, Steve Wilke-Shapiro; Knox Plat Windows, Erica*

*Shapiro; Hat Trick Renovation, Tayna Keith, and hosted by Mariah Klemp*

*Bring an appetizer or dessert. Beverages provided.*

- **May 9 ... 19th Annual Neighborhood Garage & Plant Sale**

*(see p. 2 for details & signup)*

- **June 11... 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, veggie burgers, beverages, tableware provided by your dues (you can pay your \$10 dues at the picnic)

# 19th Annual Neighborhood GARAGE & PLANT SALE!!!

Saturday, May 9

8:00 am—1:00 pm

Sign up for your sale by Wednesday May 6



## 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 signs 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.** And you keep the proceeds.

Participating in the neighborhood garage sale is a benefit of being a member. To be included in the SONA Garage Sales Listing & Map, email [mariah@sweethomedsm.com](mailto:mariah@sweethomedsm.com) Not a member! Not a problem...send your check for \$10 (PO Box 12042, DM, IA 50312) for 2026 **or use Venmo (see page 8).**

**DONATE ITEMS to the SONA table** at 125 42nd Street. You get stuff out of your house without having to price numerous items and run the sale, plus the proceeds benefit our neighborhood association. Donations are tax-deductible since SONA is a 501 C (3) organization.

**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 and items to donate to 125 42nd Street (the Schmidt's) on **Friday, May 8 between noon and 8:00 PM.** The **proceeds benefit the landscaping project** at 42nd & Tonawanda , along Tonawanda Drive, and SONA events.

## SIGN UP TODAY for our neighborhood garage sale

**Email [mariah@sweethomedsm.com](mailto:mariah@sweethomedsm.com)    Deadline: Wednesday, May 6**

To be included in the SONA Garage Sales Listing & Map, include the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

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## Thank you Angel Erickson and Kyle Lovseth!



Angel Erickson served as president from 2024 to January 2026. During her term she initiated the Christmas gifts for an underserved family at Greenwood Elementary and she increased SONA's presence on social media to mention a few of her contributions to our neighborhood association. Kyle Lovseth was a campaigner for young families and children in our neighborhood. He was quick to volunteer at our activities. Kyle served on the SONA Board as a director from 2024 to January 2026.

L to R: Yolanda Cintron, Kyle Lovseth, Mark Schmidt, Martha Crist, Angel Erickson, Mark Slocum, and Mariah Klemm

## 2026 SONA Board of Directors

L to R: Deb Douglas, Abby Chungath, Yolanda Cintron, Mark Schmidt, Martha Crist, Mark Slocum, Mariah Klemm



President...Martha Crist  
Vice-president...Mariah Klemm  
Treasurer...Mark Slocum  
Secretary...J. Mark Schmidt  
At-Large Directors:  
Yolanda Cintron  
Abby Chungath  
Deb Douglas

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Mariah@sweethomedsm.com  
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jmarkschmidt42@gmail.com

ycblazek@gmail.com  
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# SONA's Houses Have History

## 115 Tonawanda Drive – A home with so much history

In 1887 a, first generation, German couple found and purchased a plot of land in the woods, near a creek, in the valley soon to be known as Tonawanda. (The word Tonawanda is a native American word that means fast moving water). The couple cleared just enough trees to create a very small family farm and room to build a modest home. They lived there for several years until passing.

A young investor was next to purchase the property but moved to Chicago and abandoned the property which was soon purchased for back taxes.

It is not very clear what events transpired, but the property and home ended up in the hands of Hoyt Sherman. During his possession of the property, or shortly after, railway tracks were built from the rail lines near the Raccoon River, north, to what is now Grand Avenue. The rail tracks ran directly in front of the property at 115 Tonawanda. The rail tracks were quickly utilized for a trolley service that connected to the existing Des Moines trolley service. The house was transformed into a ticket office. The trolley line connected patrons from the western areas of Des Moines to its existing trolley system.

The automobile eventually became the mode of transportation and the trolley system remained only on the main thoroughfares of Des Moines and the Tonawanda line was abandoned.

The original house had been built out of original native lumber of the area (oak and walnut) and remained in excellent shape in the early 1940s. A local lawyer purchased the home and property and built an addition to the home to the East. The addition doubled the size of the home and was comprised of a dining room, kitchen and utility room on the first level and a large master bedroom and partial bathroom on the second level. A small one vehicle detached garage was also built at this time. The home and property remained in this status and condition for several years.

During the late 1990's a new owner added steel siding to the exterior and in 2009 new windows and new foundation. The owner passed and the home sat in estate, vacant for a little over a year.

In 2011, Craig & Diane Leaming were looking to move back into the Des Moines area from a western suburb. Diane suggested they drive through the South of Grand area. As they drove through the deep, rich woods they came across 115 Tonawanda. There was a small "for sale by owner" sign in the front yard. Both Craig and Diane were immediately drawn in by the existing home, its location and what could be done to the home to bring out its ultimate beauty. The owner was called, a check for earnest money was written and the love affair between the Leamings and their new home began.

It took fifteen months of nonstop, hard work, by both of them to bring the inside of the home to a beautifully restored and only slightly changed condition. From that point it was time to conquer the aesthetics on the exterior of the home. Changing the paint color, removing shutters, adding a wraparound porch and pergolas on the east and north side of the home. Landscaping was next to accent the heritage and character of the home. In 2019 the old garage was torn down and an oversized two-car garage, with a loft above was built with a new driveway. Although the garage was new it was carefully crafted to match the original home design. Today in 2026, the 139 year-old home stands solid and beautiful, proudly reflecting the original heritage and is a symbol that respects the Tonawanda Valley and South of Grand area.

Submitted by Craig and Diane Leming





## Help Plant Trees In Your Community

Visit [TreesForever.org/Volunteer](https://www.TreesForever.org/Volunteer) to learn more!

Trees Forever is a non-profit organization that partners with the City of Des Moines to plant trees in public parks and right-of-ways. This partnership has supported the planting of **nearly 9,000 trees** in the City since 2019.

Trees Forever engages volunteers from local corporations, community organizations, schools, and neighborhoods to plant trees throughout Des Moines. In addition, local teens are hired annually as part of the Growing Futures program to plant and care for trees, and are provided education and professional development related to urban forestry. To learn more or to volunteer, visit [www.TreesForever.org](https://www.TreesForever.org).



## Expand Des Moines' Urban Forest — From Your Yard!



Urban nursery steward Judy Clinton poses with the five trees she spent two years nurturing for our urban forest.

Help grow new trees for our urban forest from the comfort of your home!

The Forestry Division's urban nursery program—**Homegrown DSM**—is a community-focused initiative that supplies citizens with five Tiny Trees to start an urban nursery. Trees come with their own fertilized soil bags and cold weather protection, making care and maintenance as simple as watering regularly and winterizing during the colder months!

After 18-24 months in your care, we will relocate the trees onto public space, preferably in your neighborhood! You'll also get a **commemorative hat and t-shirt!**

Visit [DSM.City/HomegrownDSM](https://www.DSM.City/HomegrownDSM) today to learn more and sign up!

## The City of Des Moines' Tiny Trees Giveaway

Up to five seedlings from 8 species of tree will be given to Des Moines residents as part of the program. The city is accepting orders through Sunday, April 19th or until inventory runs out. Residents can pick up their trees at the Tiny Trees Giveaway scheduled for Saturday, April 25th at Polk County River Place located at 2309 Euclid Avenue from 8am-noon.

Tree species available as part of this year's Tiny Trees Program include:

- Kentucky Coffeetree
- Northern Pecan
- Sugar Maple
- Sycamore
- Aroniaberry
- Redbud
- Wild Plum
- White Pine

The City of Des Moines' Tiny Trees Program started in 2017 and has given away thousands of trees to Des Moines residents since its debut. Order your trees at [the City of Des Moines website](https://www.cityofdesmoines.org).

# Stormwater Best Management Practices

Stormwater is a form of water we all deal with regularly, ranging from rain, snow, or even hail. As soon as it hits the ground, it either absorbs into the soil or flows directly into our local rivers, lakes, and streams. Too much stormwater can cause problems such as flooding, erosion, and pollutant transport. Stormwater controls can be installed in many places but the best place to manage stormwater is the spot on which it lands.

Collective implementation of stormwater management practices can make a difference in water quality across our state. Some municipalities have programs designed to help homeowners capture runoff from their roof, driveway, or even sidewalks to help reduce the number of pollutants being transported directly to our streams and rivers.



For example, the City of Des Moines offers a [Stormwater Best Management Practices Rebate Program](#)

which provides an incentive for private property owners to install stormwater best management practices on their property. These practices help enhance the water quality of stormwater runoff while decreasing the amount of runoff that ends up in the [storm drainage system](#). The City will reimburse property owners 50% of the total cost of the project, with a reimbursement limit of \$2,000, provided the project meets requirements of the program.

In Des Moines, the Stormwater BMP Rebate Program gives residents the tools to make a difference in our community. Please email [stormwater@dmgov.org](mailto:stormwater@dmgov.org) to line up a site visit or visit our website today: [Stormwater Subsidy Program](#). For those living in the great Des Moines metro, visit the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District's [#RainCampaign](#) for information about other stormwater management programs. Visit the [Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership](#) website to learn more about programs in other areas of the state.

***The integrity of water quality rests in our hands and we must all collectively act together to implement the necessary measures to save and preserve it.***

## About the Authors

Isaac Svoboda, CITY OF DES MOINES

Environmental Engineering Technician | Public Works - Clean Water Program

Derek Namanny, CITY OF DES MOINES

Environmental Engineering Technician | Public Works - Clean Water Program



# Upcoming Events

For additional information and event tickets go to the website [www.salisburyhouse.org](http://www.salisburyhouse.org)

**Tea at the Castle:** 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. All of the teas include delicious food and drinks, delightful company, the opportunity to explore the estate and learn a little history, and a live performance on Salisbury's one-of-a-kind Steinway D piano.

## Spring Tea

Saturday, May 2, 1:00—4:00 pm

Tickets on sale March 26.....\$65 with limit of 2 per customer

## Summer Tea

Saturday, August 1, 1:00—4:00 pm

Tickets on sale June 18.....\$65 with limit of 2 per customer

## Shakespeare on the Lawn: Measure for Measure

This is a joint production/fundraiser for Salisbury House Foundation and Iowa Stage Theatre Company. As an annual outdoor theatre production, it has become a staple within the Des Moines arts community and helps transform contemporary consumption of Shakespeare's plays.

Synopsis: Shakespeare's fascinating dark comedy opens with the Duke of Venice leaving the city and appointing his deputy, Angelo, to look after things while he is away. Angelo begins by enforcing the archaic laws of the land and sentences a man named Claudio to death. When Claudio's sister, the nun Isabella, comes to speak on his behalf, Angelo offers a deal - her chastity in exchange for her brother's life.

Tickets are: adults \$35

students 13 yr.+ \$20

children 6 -12 yrs. \$10

children 5 & younger free.

Tickets on sale April 23.

[info@shakespeareonthelawn.com](mailto:info@shakespeareonthelawn.com)



# Salisbury Oaks Neighborhood Street Signs

Signs with a new logo for our neighborhood association will be installed throughout the neighborhood at all points of entry. The City of Des Moines Street Department is responsible for the installation.



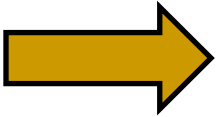
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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday April 15	Tonawanda woodland cleanup & nature trail, 6:00-8:00
Saturday, April 18	Tonawanda woodland cleanup & nature trail, 9:00-12:00
Thursday, April 23	Quarterly Meeting, Salisbury House, 6:00 social, 6:30 program
Saturday, May 9	SONA Annual Neighborhood Garage & Plant Sale, 8:00-1:00
Thursday, June 11	SONA Summer Kickoff Potluck at Greenwood Park 5:30-8:00
Tuesday, Aug. 4	National Night Out/Picnic, Greenwood Park, 5:30 social, 6:00 potluck
Thursday, Nov. 12	Quarterly Meeting, Salisbury House, 6:00 social, 6:30 program

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## Salisbury Oaks Neighborhood Association (SONA)



*Renew or become a member for 2026*

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!!!**