

Waveland Park News

SPRING 2024 | DES MOINES, IOWA



Meet the Neighbors

BY BESS LAMOREUX

COYOTE IN COMPARISON TO PETS & FOX

- Coyote with distinctive black-tipped bushy tail.
- Labrador Retriever is twice the weight of a coyote.
- The average fox is much smaller than the coyote.
- Domestic cats can appear as prey.



Coyotes, bobcats, and foxes are common throughout North America and right here in our own Waveland Park neighborhood. I've encountered all three since moving here in 2019—and chances are you will, too, if you haven't already!

You know what I did last June when I walked down my driveway at 6:45 a.m. with my small dog and made eye contact with a coyote? The exact wrong thing! I took off running back to my house. I was TERRIFIED and uneducated.

So when I saw the Franklin Avenue Library was hosting a program on how to coexist with urban wildlife, I signed right up. And it turns

out, these seemingly dangerous animals are as scared of us as we are of them.

Part of the reason why wildlife is attracted to Waveland Park is that we have so much green space with the Waveland Golf Course, Cummins Woods, and Glendale Cemetery. We're also very close to the river and watershed areas which make it a perfect place for animals to live.

Here's how you can prevent coyotes and other wildlife from being attracted to your yard in particular:

- Secure garbage in sturdy containers with tight fitting lids or clamps (I picked up some spring clamps at O'Donnell Ace Hardware.)
- Don't leave pet food outside.

CONTINUED ►

THE EASTER EGG HUNT IS BACK!

Saturday, March 23 • 10:00 am
Perkins Elementary School
4301 College Ave.

The Easter Bunny will be on hand to kick off the hunt for thousands of eggs scattered around the Perkins playground. Bring your kids, your friends & your camera!

DETAILS

- The hunt begins right at 10, so plan to arrive a few minutes early.
- We'll have separate areas for little, middle, and big kids.
- Please "recycle" eggs in one of boxes after the hunt. (We'll use them again!)
- We'll plan to hunt rain or shine, but check our Facebook page for any last-minute updates.



“Neighbors” CONTINUED

- Take out trash the morning pickup is scheduled.
- Keep compost in secure containers.
- Keep fallen fruit off the ground. (Coyotes eat fruit!)
- Keep bird seed off the ground; seeds attract rodents which then attract coyotes.
- Keep barbecue grills clean.
- Eliminate accessible water sources.

If you encounter a bobcat, coyote, or fox remember the following:

- If approached, be BIG and LOUD.
- Do not run or turn your back; calmly leave the area.
- You can also scare the animal by blowing

a whistle, shaking a can with coins inside, popping open an umbrella, or throwing objects (toward but not at the animal).

- Never approach, feed, or try to “tame” a wild animal; appreciate them from a distance.
- Although free roaming pets are more likely to be killed by automobiles than by wild animals, coyotes may view cats and small dogs as potential prey and larger dogs as competition.

How to protect your dogs/cats/chickens:

- Don’t let your dog out unsupervised from an hour before sunset until an hour after sunrise. (Dusk to dawn.)
- Put a flashing light on your dog if out during that time frame.

- Walk dogs on leashes, particularly during coyote mating season (December–February) and pupping seasons (April–July).
- Pick up small dogs if a wild animal is near.
- Keep chickens protected and enclosed—especially at night.
- Install motion-sensor lights near buildings.

Thanks to Kelly Borgmann, Education & Outreach Manager for Project Coyote, for the wealth of information on how to coexist with our wild neighbors in Des Moines. More information can be found at ProjectCoyote.org.

BUILD A TEAM

Neighborhood Block Challenge

Daydreaming about exterior upgrades? The City of Des Moines offers a program called the Neighborhood Block Challenge, which grants groups of participants a matching grant of up to \$2,500 per household. The next grant cycle opens May 1, 2024, so start forming your team of neighbors now!

In addition to the Block Challenge Grant, The local group Invest DSM has four other programs to consider: Homeowner Renovation Program, Single Family Developer Program, Commercial Grant Program, and Rental Rehab Program. To learn more and to see if you or your business qualify, visit investdsm.org.



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UPDATE

What's happening on Franklin. and 48th? **BY ANN THYE**

If you've wondered about the empty lot on the southwest corner of Franklin and 48th Street, you're not alone. Mercy Franklin Hospital closed years ago, and the building sat unused until it was no longer fit for renovation. It was removed during the summer of 2023.

NDCDM, the Neighborhood Development Corporation, owns the property now, and several plans have been developed with input

from neighbors and local businesses as well as Des Moines leadership. It is hoped that mixed townhomes, single story and double story, might be built around a park-like green space. There could potentially be a route at the back to connect to the current bike and walking trail. Bids for such a project were requested earlier this year, and preliminary plans were shown to neighborhood groups. However development remains in flux.

The executive director of the

Neighborhood Development Corporation, Abbey Gilroy (a Beaverdale native but a current Waveland Park resident), is the feature speaker at the March 11 WPNA meeting at the Golf Course.

Abbey says the most challenging part of her role as Executive Director is that she'd love to make everyone happy, but there are few decisions that are able to do that. Neighborhood development has many complex facets to consider. She welcomes your ideas in person or via email: abbey@ndcdm.org.

FRANKLIN AVENUE LIBRARY NEWS

Memory Cafes are coming to the DMPL

BY KEVIN C. KRETSCHMER

Memory Cafés provide a welcoming social gathering and person-centered care for people living with dementia and their care partners. Last summer, Jes McCauley, an Adult Services Librarian at the Library, attended the annual American Library Association conference. A session about hosting Memory Cafés piqued her interest and inspired her to bring the idea back to the DMPL. McCauley partnered with North Side Library's Keri Jacobson to set up a series of monthly Memory Cafés. The first one will take place at the Franklin Avenue Library on Friday, March 29 at 2:00 p.m. The events, which will run for two hours, will then alternate locations between Franklin Avenue and North Side.

"We are excited to bring this service to the library," McCauley said. "One of my favorite parts about being a librarian is finding new and exciting ways to serve our community. Memory Cafés can positively impact not only someone living with dementia, but their care partners, as well. They can create a sense of community," McCauley continued, "without the pressure to share like you would in a support group environment. It's simply a place to have a cup of coffee and connect with other people over a shared activity."

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Join our monthly meetings, held the second Monday of each month. You'll chat with friends and hear from local officials and businesses about what's happening in the WP. Locations vary, so stay up to date on our Facebook page. See you soon!

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Start off 2024 with an updated Waveland Park Neighborhood Association membership! Your annual dues go toward the outings, parties, and tours that help our neighbors gather and experience the best of living between 235 and Franklin. Simply mail in this form, visit wavelandpark.org/membership, or sign up at one of our monthly meetings, held the second Monday of each month. See you soon!

Join the WPNA!

NAME/BUSINESS NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____
 E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Note: Waveland Park Neighborhood Association is a nonprofit organization. Your membership could be eligible for a matching gift from your employer.

- Renewal
- New Membership
- \$30.00 Household Membership
- \$75.00 Household Champion Membership
- \$75.00 Business Membership

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please make checks payable to WPNA and mail to:
 WPNA P.O. Box 30112, Des Moines, IA 50310

Payment via PayPal is available at wavelandpark.org under MEMBERSHIP tab.

ABOUT THE WPNA

Board Members

President: Nick Coleman

Treasurer: Rich Knapp

Secretary: Ann Thye

Members at Large:

Chris LoRang
 Megan Ross
 Joe Wallace
 Molly House
 Matt Ohloff
 Carol Lunde
 Kathy Roat
 John Smith

The WPNA is a non-partisan nonprofit organization in which all meetings, programs, and events are free and open to the public. It is the purpose of the WPNA to enhance and maintain the quality of life in Waveland Park.

For questions, comments, or to become a member contact: Waveland Park Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 30112, Des Moines, IA 50310

Email: info@wavelandpark.org

Web: wavelandpark.org

Facebook: /WPNAfb



GET IN THE SPIRIT

Stock up on neighborhood gear.
wavelandpark.org/shop

ATTENTION BUSINESSES! Promote Directly to Your Neighbors

This newsletter is published quarterly and is delivered to more than 1,200 homes and businesses in the area. For information on advertising, contact

Ann Thye: annthye@gmail.com

And don't forget to sign up or renew your membership. Click the "Business Membership" button at wavelandpark.org/membership or scan here.



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