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**BRNA Board Member Elections**

With 2010 coming to a close, the BRNA is looking ahead to 2011, when we will hold officer and board member elections at our quarterly meeting on January 20. At our November 18 board meeting, we will vote on three new proposed board member positions, which would essentially replace the current at-large positions. If the positions are approved, we will amend the bylaws, which requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting at that meeting. Provided that the new positions and bylaw amendments are approved, following is a list of the offices and board positions that will be filled for 2011:

- VP of Special Events
- VP of Neighborhood Relations
- VP of Communications
- VP of Membership
- Secretary

If you are interested in more information on the BRNA board member positions, e-mail us at [BrookRunNA@gmail.com](mailto:BrookRunNA@gmail.com) or call (515) 344-3355.

**Brook Run Neighborhood Association 2010 Board of Directors**

**Michele Stiles**  
President  
3607 Park Side Drive  
Stiles4Cy@gmail.com

**Jean Van Wyk**  
Vice-President  
3460 Village Run Drive  
jvanwyk1@hotmail.com

**Jill Dunn**  
Secretary  
3317 East 49th St  
jill\_dunn@aea11.k12.ia.us

**Tai Duong**  
Treasurer  
3428 Village Run Drive  
tai.duong@wellsfargo.com

**Charley Bogwill**  
At-Large Member  
3325 Brook Run Drive  
cb@dsmlware.com

**Pam Schwartz**  
At-Large Member  
3613 Brook Run Dr  
pamschwartz72@yahoo.com

**Kevin Van Wyk**  
At-Large Member  
3460 Village Run Drive  
dmcandy04@hotmail.com

If you would like to advertise your business in Brook Run News, e-mail us at [BrookRunNA@gmail.com](mailto:BrookRunNA@gmail.com) or call (515) 344-3355.

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Fall 2010 BrookRunNA.com

Bringing together the residents of Brook Run Neighborhood

# Brook Run News

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## New Snow Removal Plan Will Benefit Brook Run Streets

This winter, Brook Run residents will enjoy better quality snow removal on our streets than in past years, thanks to the Des Moines Public Works' new Snow Priority Streets program.

With the Snow Priority Streets program, major arterial streets and collector roads throughout the City will continue to receive the first priority for snow removal and treatment. Neighborhoods that are designated as Snow Priority Streets will immediately follow and will be plowed after every snowfall of an inch or more – instead of every four inches as in the past. A total of 16 Des Moines neighborhoods (including Brook Run) have been approved to participate as Snow Priority Streets neighborhoods.

Under the new program, residents will be required to park vehicles off the street when snow removal operations are in progress, and until all streets in the neighborhood are plowed. Violators will be ticketed \$35 for each infraction.

With vehicles cleared from the streets, City crews will be able to use larger wing plows in the residential areas. This equipment will reduce plow times by 33 percent and save money in overtime, fuel and wear and tear on equipment. There will be less snow and ice build-up, and streets will be cleaner because plows won't have to maneuver around vehicles.

There will also be a stronger collaboration on snow removal between the City's Parks and Public Works departments. Equipment, along with 31 Parks employees, will be transferred to Public Works for residential snow removal during storms. Once work is done on residential streets, Parks employees will return to complete snow removal that might have been delayed in city parks, parking lots and cemeteries. Snow removal for funerals will be handled as needed.

The City has several avenues in place to communicate to residents when vehicles need to be removed from Snow Priority Streets. They will announce it on:

- Local media - TV, radio and at [www.DesMoinesRegister.com](http://www.DesMoinesRegister.com)
- City of Des Moines's web site at [www.DMGov.org](http://www.DMGov.org)
- Sign up to receive E-mail notifications at: <http://www.dmgov.org/Pages/subscribers.aspx>

In past neighborhood needs surveys, you told us that improved snow removal is a priority for you. In recently speaking with the Transportation Director for Southeast Polk Schools, he also pointed out how difficult it has been to get buses through the Brook Run Neighborhood during the winter months – especially with vehicles parked on the streets. This program should improve conditions for bus travel as well. Please note that this only includes the streets at Brook Run that are plowed by the City of Des Moines. Snow removal for the three townhome complexes, which are privately maintained, will not be affected by the Snow Priority Streets program.

We hope you will find this to be a positive solution to improving snow removal efforts at Brook Run. Thank you to the City of Des Moines for making this program available to the Brook Run Neighborhood Association!

## Help Keep our Brook Run Creeks and Ponds Clean

With nearly one third of Brook Run homes backing to either a creek or pond, many of you have likely noticed the influx of debris and trash that has been swept down the creeks and ponds and into yards, creek banks and storm drains during the past several months. The heavy rains we experienced over the summer contributed to this issue, making excess debris a common sight along many properties in the neighborhood.

What you may not realize is what happens when the debris in and around the water continues to build. In many instances, it eventually washes downstream into the storm drains at the end of the creeks and ponds – causing the storm drains to become clogged. The storm drains then are unable to handle the water flow, which causes the water to rise out of the creek banks. On August 11, 2010, at least two homes in our neighborhood experienced flooding in their basements. In both instances, the storm drains near their homes became clogged with debris, leaving the drains unable to handle the water flow coming in. The water backed up into these yards and flooded the basements. Had the storm drains not been clogged with debris, this likely would not have been an issue.

Could you please take the time to look at your property and clean up any items such as grass clippings, leaves, debris, tree limbs, trash, etc. that could make its way into the creek? Keep in mind that high winds and rain are capable of moving things farther than you would imagine, so it's important to remove any loose materials from your yard that could be blown or swept into the creeks or ponds.

Items pulled from one of the storm drains earlier this year included a flower pot, tree limbs that had clean cuts on them, several weeds that appear to have been pulled from a lawn, etc. It appeared that these items were thrown into either the pond or the creek upstream and they made their way downstream, becoming lodged in the storm drain. There have been similar reports of lodged debris in other storm drains around the neighborhood as well. Naturally, some of these items will land in the water as a result of high winds during storms, but there is also reason to believe that people are placing them in the water intentionally.

Please be mindful that items thrown in the creeks and ponds at Brook Run can have a very negative impact on our properties. Even small items like leaves, grass clippings and mulch cause a big problem in the storm drains. It may be a quick and easy means of disposing of unwanted items, but this causes a huge problem as the debris flows downstream. The City of Des Moines has a \$100 fine for the first offense and \$250 for any subsequent offenses if they find that a homeowner is disposing of items, such as yard waste or trash, in the creeks or ponds.

The BRNA is working with Polk County and the City of Des Moines to see what else can be done in problem creek and storm drain areas. But we can make a lot of progress as a neighborhood just by disposing of yard waste and other unwanted items properly.

Please avoid littering our creeks and ponds so that they can accomplish the job they were designed to do, which is to effectively manage storm water so our homes stay dry.

## Light the Night at Brook Run



Again this year, the Brook Run Neighborhood Association (BRNA) will sponsor a holiday tradition with the second annual *Light the Night at Brook Run* neighborhood luminary event. Luminaries are a simple and beautiful display of warmth, good will and holiday spirit. They are also a great way to show our unity as a community. All Brook Run neighbors are encouraged to participate by placing illuminated white bags in front of your home beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 11. Line your driveway, sidewalks and/or entryway with bags placed approximately three feet apart. Candles should remain lit that evening until they burn out. Please remove all vehicles from the streets prior to 6:00 p.m. so that everyone can enjoy the beauty by driving or walking around the neighborhood. The BRNA is selling sets of 36 white luminary bags and votive candles for \$14.00. (Neighbors are responsible for getting the sand or weights for the bags separately.) You may also choose to purchase all supplies on your own. To order through the BRNA, please complete the form below and return it with payment no later than Monday, November 22, 2010. Orders may be picked up at designated times within the neighborhood (to be announced) on Friday, December 3 and Saturday, December 4. A rain date has been set for Sunday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. Visit our web site at [BrookRunNA.com](http://BrookRunNA.com) or call (515) 344-3355 after 3:00 p.m. on the 11th if the weather is questionable. For additional information, please contact us by e-mail at [BrookRunNA@gmail.com](mailto:BrookRunNA@gmail.com).

### Santa Claus is Coming to Town! Saturday, December 11 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Santa will enter at the corner of Village Run Drive and NE 38th Avenue. He will continue down Village Run Drive, turning north onto Brook Ridge Court and following that street back out of the neighborhood. Please be outside and ready to greet Santa as he makes his way through Brook Run!

### Happy Holidays from the Brook Run Neighborhood Association!

## Light the Night at Brook Run Luminary Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of bags and candles you wish to order:  
\_\_\_\_ Set of 36 for \$14.00  
\_\_\_\_ Set of 72 for \$28.00  
\_\_\_\_ Other (please order in sets of 36)  
Total payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Cash  Check

You may mail or deliver your payment and order form by November 22 to:

**Light the Night at Brook Run • Michele Stiles**  
3607 Park Side Dr  
Des Moines, IA 50317

Please make checks payable to the Brook Run Neighborhood Association.

