Welcome to Pleasant Hill!

The history of the Pleasant Hill area is linked to the development of energy resources. Timber, from along Four Mile Creek, was the first resource exploited. Later, the first big population increase and community development came when a new energy resource was found along the creek: coal. In 1889, Joseph M. Christy opened a coal mine between the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific railway tracks just east of Four Mile Creek. Christy opened a company store and boarding house, built shanties for workers, and paid for construction of a new school, and the town Youngstown sprung up. (The town was reportedly named after Youngstown, Ohio, the town from which many of the miners had come.)

Long after Christy's mine closed (due to flooding), the Youngstown area wrestled with the idea of formally incorporating as a town. Changing tax structures in the 1950s were a great motivator, as local residents sought township as a way to keep their taxes low. In 1956, Youngstown citizens voted 138 to 7 to form the Town of Pleasant Hill, named for the school district that once served the area. The new town government would immediately start work on planning a town park (now Doanes Park), naming streets, and creating a fire department. Town leaders planned to build a community of 4,000 people.

The advance planning by the town leaders combined with tax revenue from major employers Iowa Power and Light and the Great Lakes Pipeline Plant to make Pleasant Hill the fastest growing town of the 1960s. The town would reach early leaders’ goal of 4,000 residents by the 1990s, and has more than doubled that today, with an estimated population over 9,000.
Can our call center rep be your neighbor?

He's the voice on the phone that you call when you have questions. His helpful answers are always a phone call away. But he may not be able to afford to live near his work and be a part of your community.

Affordable housing makes it possible for hard-working people like our call center rep to enjoy safe and stable housing. And he helps you keep your finances in order, contributing to the high quality of life you enjoy.

Everyone benefits from affordable housing!

The average annual salary of a call center rep in Des Moines is: $35,279

If a single call center rep paid 30% of his income on rent monthly, he could pay: $882

In Pleasant Hill, our call center rep could afford this number of rental homes: 427

Meet the rest of our neighbors at: canibeyourneighbor.com

Who are your neighbors?

In Pleasant Hill...

417 households make less than $25,000 per year, or...

13% of the city.

782 rental homes

2,494 owner-occupied

113 renter households pay 30 to 50% of their income each month on rent.

144 renter households pay over 50% of their income each month on rent.
Welcome to Grand View!

Danish immigrants founded Grand View University in 1896, and has since provided over a century of focus on lifelong learning and emphasis on the “whole person”. This is just one of many Danish traditions that are present at Grand View. Others include Stundenterfest, an annual reunion and festival for alumni, parents and students. The Private University is also affiliated with the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

In the first fall term at Grand View University, Niels Jul Mikkelson of Des Moines studied Danish history, language, writing, English, and arithmetic as the schools only fulltime residential student. Room, board, and tuition cost him a total of $30. Throughout the term, nine more students enrolled. During the following term (Winter School) 34 students enrolled, and numbers kept climbing.

Grand View is now home to 2,300 students, hosting students from 30 states and 16 countries.

The Grand View community honors and values traditions of the past, but they also have quite a few traditions of their own. One can be found in the heart of campus, in front of Old Main. “The Rock” appeared at the turn of the century in front of the building, with many legends surrounding how it got there. The Rock most likely emerged from the ground during a sodding process in front of Old Main. It became a landmark as it was erected and painted by students. Sometimes changing colors in the middle of the night, the rock has evolved into an outlet of celebration, sorrow, or protest for the students of Grand View.
Who are your neighbors?

In this neighborhood...

1,143 households make less than $25,000 per year, or...

25% of the neighborhood.

1,098 rental homes

4,025 owner-occupied

287 renter households pay 30 to 50% of their income each month on rent.

213 renter households pay over 50% of their income each month on rent.

Can our teacher’s aide be your neighbor?

She helps your children learn. She spends her days at your neighborhood school to give her students one-on-one instruction. But she may not be able to afford to live near her work and be a part of your community.

Affordable housing makes it possible for hard-working people like our teacher’s aide to enjoy safe and stable housing. And she helps local kids do their best, contributing to the high quality of life you enjoy.

Everyone benefits from affordable housing!

The average annual salary of a teacher’s aide in Des Moines is: $19,862

If a single teacher’s aide paid 30% of her income on rent monthly, she could pay: $497

In Grand View, our teacher’s aide could afford this number of rental homes: 91

Meet the rest of our neighbors at: canibeyourneighbor.com