

10 April 1980

This Saturday April 12 the Drake Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a neighborhood clean-up called the 1st Annual Dogpatch Daisy Day. At noon, volunteer area residents and Drake students will begin to collect small litter from streets, sidewalks and alleys in the neighborhood. (The Drake Neighborhood Assn., an Iowa non-profit corporation, comprises an area shown on the attached map.)

Arrangements have already been made for volunteer clean-up efforts in more than 20 neighborhood blocks and in the Drake downtown business district. Plastic bags donated by Home Plastics Co. in Des Moines will be distributed to predetermined on each block prior to noon. The trash collected will be stacked at each block's starting point by 3pm. Between 3:30pm and 4:30pm the bags will be collected and hauled away to the garbage donated landfill by a truck being by Artistic Service.

The results clean-up are being by a Drake student, Barry is doing his Dogpatch Daisy

Daisies will be front windows area as a quiet and a cleaner neighborhood. Florists will be donating front window business



of the effort monitored psychology Bannister, who thesis on Day.

placed in the thru out the gesture to Spring borhood. Irene's daisies for each store-in the Drake district.

## Dog Patch Daisy Day

Drawing by local artist William Mulstay.

The Drake Neighborhood Assn. recognizes that neighborhoods must begin to do more for themselves as governments prepare to cut-back basic services. Dogpatch Daisy Day is the Assn.'s first step in this direction.

For more information, contact Assn. Vice President, John C. Neubauer at 255-9934 or 279-5350.

# Neighborhood News

Published by the  
Drake Neighborhood Association

July 1980  
Vol. I, No. 1

## HISTORY

"Oh, how I long for the days when our neighborhood was quiet and stately. When people cared for their neighbors and looked after one another. When homes were kept up and lawns cut down. When friendly neighborhood businesses for a family's needs were just a pleasant stroll away".

Hopeless nostalgia of an era gone past or hopeful dreams of tomorrow? Elder residents of the neighborhood around Drake University had for years watched houses run down, people come and go, businesses leave, crime rise and neighborliness fade. Many, through groups like Church Women United, carried on quiet crusades to keep the neighborhood clean. But it was not enough to stem the decline.

Last summer, neighborhood organizer and elder stateswoman Gladys Burkhead met Larry Cuning, director of the physical plant at Drake. Together they planned a neighborhood meeting. Fifty people braved 100° heat on a steamy Sunday afternoon last July to talk about neighborhood concerns. The central issue was what could be done about these concerns. After two hours of lively discussion, the group consensus was to organize a self-help neighborhood association. The Drake Neighborhood Association was born to rekindle the ageless values of neighborhood spirit, respect, beauty and self sufficiency.

One year later the Drake Neighborhood Association has:

1. Formed a board of directors and incorporated;
2. Sponsored bi-monthly potluck dinners at neighborhood churches;
3. Conducted an organized spring clean-up;
4. Planned home improvement programs;
5. Begun work on transportation needs of its elder residents;
6. Encouraged participation in the crime prevention "Neighborhood Watch" program;
7. Been recognized by City government as a self-help group; and
8. Been praised for its efforts by WOI-TV's program "Five Country Close-Up".

# INCORPORATION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With the encouragement and blessing of those at the July 1979 meeting, Larry Cunning and Gladys Burkhead began the search for other neighborhood leaders who might help build the Association. Their goal was to enlist people who represented all aspects of the neighborhood. As Larry stated, "We wanted the anchor points" in the neighborhood.

The initial Board of Directors selected at a neighborhood meeting last September included:

- PRESIDENT:** ..Larry Cuning, Drake University staff  
271-2707
- VICE PRESIDENT:** ..John C. Newbauer, The Blind Munchies  
255-9934
- V.P. FOR FINANCE:** ..Larry Wenzl, President, First Federal State Bank  
277-9907
- OTHER MEMBERS:** ..Gladys Burkhead, Homeowner & volunteer worker  
255-6666
- ..Dr. Wayne Shoemaker, Pastor, Grace Methodist Church  
255-2131
- ..Helda Wells, Attorney, City Legal Department and  
homeowner  
277-9990

# Neighborhood News

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- ..Rev. Jim Ryan, Pastor, First Christian Church  
255-2181
- ..Rod Rhoads, Owner, Johnson's Clothing  
279-8262
- ..Gene Hiskey, Businessman and Apartment Owner  
274-0434
- ..Preston Daniels, Owner, WJAZ Cable Radio  
274-2522
- ..Georgia Bolton, Renter  
255-1233
- ..Father George Pallis, Greek Orthodox Church of  
St. George  
255-3870

Since then, the Board has added the following directors:

- ..Pauline Morrison, Homeowner  
255-9584
- ..Ginger Kuhl, Student  
255-9406

Early this year the Board approved Articles of Incorporation. The Drake Neighborhood Association is now a non-profit corporation. Its stated purposes are to:

1. Further the interests of the neighborhood encompassing Drake University and the surrounding area;
2. Create a neighborhood identity and spirit;
3. Assist neighborhood residents and occupants in their legitimate pursuits and concerns.....; and
4. Assist in any other related areas of community service.....

The area presently represented by the Association spans from Harding Road to West Forty-Second and from Franklin to Kingman Boulevard and the freeway.

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## POTLUCK DINNERS

To help neighbors become better acquainted, the Association has sponsored bi-monthly potluck dinners. These feasts have been open to all who would contribute a small dish and their own service. The January banquet at the Greek Orthodox Church featured a crime prevention program presented by Des Moines Police Lt. Trout. He encouraged residents to participate in the "Neighborhood Watch" program.

The March banquet was held at the Grace Methodist Church. Plans for "Dogpatch Daisy Day", the spring clean-up campaign, were presented.

The May banquet at the First Christian Church featured a neighborhood resident Paul Dempewolf who described a volunteer transportation program in Detroit called "Dial A Ride".

Attendance at the potlucks has ranged from forty to eighty persons. The dinners are always followed by general membership meetings. Residents are encouraged to discuss special concerns. The next potluck and membership meeting is Thursday, July 31, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 37th and University. Reception and dinner begin at 6:00 p.m. Please come and bring a neighbor.

# DOGPATCH DAISY DAY

The neighborhood's official spring clean-up day, April 12, was designated "Dogpatch Daisy Day". Helping organize the clean-up was Drake student Barry Bannister. He was doing his master's thesis on how well volunteers could clean our neighborhood. How well did we do?

Residents from 20 of the neighborhood's 200 blocks knocked on their neighbor's doors and asked them to help on Dogpatch Daisy Day. Volunteers were given garbage bags donated by Home Plastics Company in Des Moines. Beginning at noon, they picked up small trash and litter in the streets, alleys and yards on the block where they lived. More than 100 people volunteered to clean the 20 residential blocks.

**continued**

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Businesses near Drake were also asked to clean the "Dogtown" business district. For their efforts, Irene's Florists donated a fresh bunch of daisies for each storefront window. The daisies symbolized the arrival of Spring and a cleaner neighborhood.

Late in the afternoon, a garbage truck donated by Artistic Disposal Service collected a half ton of garbage from the organized blocks. Next year, the Clean-up Committee hopes to involve 50 of the neighborhood's blocks.

And Barry Bannister? He got an "A" on his thesis.

Remember, Dogpatch Daisy Day may come just once a year, but clean streets and yards need your help every day. Please give them 10 minutes of your time each day. They thank you and so do we.

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## TRANSPORTATION FOR ELDER NEIGHBORS

Do we need a volunteer neighborhood transportation program?

Concern has been expressed that some of our elder residents may benefit from an organized transportation program. At the May banquet, resident Paul Dempewolf explained a Detroit program called "Dial A Ride". The program was simple, according to Paul. Neighborhood residents with cars volunteered to be available at certain hours each week. Elder residents needing rides could call a central number. Volunteer "connectors" then matched the person needing the ride with someone volunteering at the time needed. Paul reported that the cost of a neighborhood volunteer "Dial A Ride" program was the cheapest way to meet transportation needs of elder residents. He added that often older persons stay shut in rather than try to rely on taxis or city buses. A neighborhood "Dial A Ride" program helps residents get to know each other.

One member of the Association, in response to Paul's presentation, said the Des Moines Area Religious Council already had a similar program operating city-wide. He questioned the need for a separate program by the Association.

So did the Board of Directors. At its June meeting, the Board noted that the city's bus service operates a ParaTransit program, that provides door-to-door service using large vans for physically handicapped and older citizens. The Board suggested we recommend use of the ParaTransit program.

Is ParaTransit really available to those in need? And does the Religious Council's city-wide program work? Social worker and neighborhood resident Chris Kephart recently found that she could not arrange for special trans-

portation for an 84-year-old woman whose annual income is \$3,600. Chris will give a detailed report of her findings at the July 31 potluck.

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## THE CITY GETS INVOLVED

Last May, the Board of Directors decided that some neighborhood problems might need more resources than our self-help association could provide on its own. One particular concern has been decaying houses in the southern and eastern parts of the neighborhood. When Board representatives approached the City for possible help, we found that the City was not prepared to deal with new neighborhood groups like ours.

City Council members Elaine Szymoniak and George Nahas arranged for a social meeting between the Association and representatives from city government in early June. Assistant City Manager Dave Johnston brought five city officials who explained city services that might help our neighborhood. A detailed report of that meeting and subsequent efforts with the city will be presented at the July 31 potluck.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Drake Neighborhood Association's 1st Annual OKTOBERFEST. "Programs" Committee member Virginia Peterson is helping organize a neighborhood OKTOBERFEST this fall. This festival will be a special time to celebrate German tradition and help the Association with its first fund-raising project. Virginia will describe tentative plans at the July 31 potluck.

### CONSERVATION

Save gasoline, time and energy. Visit and support our neighborhood businesses.

WELCOME THE CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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Early this summer the City Parks Department moved its headquarters from downtown to the vacant fire station at 32nd and University. The Association has reason to be pleased with our new neighbors. City Parks officials have been understanding, supportive and helpful with the Association's tree and flower plantings. Their recreation officials have been instrumental in encouraging young park goers to remove litter from Drake Park grounds. Consequently, Drake Park in recent weeks has become cleaner than it has been in years. Parks employees have also been busy helping spruce up Drake Park for Fallfest.

Stop by their new offices. Welcome them to University Place and let them know we appreciate their efforts.

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NOMINEES FOR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Last May Association President Larry Cunning appointed a nominating committee to suggest a new slate of directors and officers. The new directors would serve 16 month terms beginning September 1981 and ending January 1983. The nominating committee consisted of board members Gladys Burkhead, Pauline Morrison and Wayne Shoemaker. The new slate will be submitted to the membership for its approval at the August potluck. Members are entitled then to offer additional nominees for the 15 board slots.

CONTINUED

Those nominated by the committee include:

- Gladys Burkhead - resident homeowner
- William Crawford - vice president of First Federal State Bank
- Larry Cuning - director of Drake's Physical Plant
- \* Bruce Heilman - dentist with Forest Avenue Dentists
- Eugene Hiskey - apartment owner and area businessman
- \* Tom Jewett - business manager New Life Center
- Robert McClelland (Treasurer) - finance director First Christian Church
- Pauline Morrison - resident homeowner
- \* Kathy Mullins - homemaker
- \* Roger Munns - reporter Associated Press and resident homeowner
- John Neubauer (president) - manager Blind Munchies
- Rod Rhoades - owner Johnson's Clothing
- Wayne Shoemaker (vice president) - pastor Grace Methodist Church
- Faye Vilimek - owner Vilimek's Gift Shop
- \* Maude EsterWhite - retired resident homeowner

\* denoted new nominee

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#### KID'S PARADE TO KICK-OFF FALLFEST

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Here's a message to all the kids in our neighborhood-- paint your wagon, decorate that trike and get set for the Kid's Parade! The parade will be this year's official kick-off to the Fallfest, which begins at noon September 19 at Drake Park. Anybody 10 or under can be in the parade, and they don't have to have fancy wheels to enter. We'll provide a banner or a balloon or something else fun to carry or pull for all the kids who show up without their own. Kids should assemble near the flowerbed in Drake Park, which is at the extreme southwest corner, at 11:30 or 11:45. The parade route will be right through the park, past the exhibitors, past the ball diamond and all around-- always on the sidewalks. Moms & Grandmas are encouraged to go along. Bonus -- the parade will be led by trombonist Tom Rutt & Tuba player Chris Davis.

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#### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

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The Ice Cream Social was a smashing success. Over 200 people attended and we made \$149.76. (\$16.00 of this was made from the white elephant sale). Dolph Pulliam was the m.c. and entertainment was provided by Tom Rutt. There was lots of singing and dancing and loads of fun. Thanks to all who participated.

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#### Pot Luck - Monday August 31

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The next pot luck will be held at Ramsey Memorial, 1611 27th at 6:30. Rev. Frazer Thomason will be giving us a tour of the facility. This is an important meeting as it includes ratification of the new officers. We will also have an update on the Fallfest event. There will be instructions at the door; so grab a neighbor and COME ON OVER.

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#### FEES PLEASE

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Monthly publication of Neighborhood News means that we have a greater need for your annual membership fees. Please mail your \$3 individual or \$5 family membership fees to membership chair Kathy Mullins 1133 37th St. Des Moines 50311. Thank you.

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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS - Call Gladys 255-6666 or John 2559934

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"Neighbor Helping Neighbor"

DRAKE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
Des Moines, Iowa

# Neighborhood News

Published by the  
Drake Neighborhood Association

September 1980  
Vol. 1, No. 2

## POTLUCK-- September 30

The September 30th potluck will feature representatives from four similar neighborhood organizations in Des Moines. They will briefly describe self-help efforts to improve their own neighborhoods. The "neighborhood" program will follow the usual potluck feast. Hosting Potluck No. 5 will be the Trinity Lutheran Church at 32nd and University. Starting time--6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish, table service and a neighbor.

## OKTOBERFEST--October 11

In it's biggest and most ambitious project to date, the Drake Neighborhood Association will host its first annual OKTOBERFEST, October 11.

Rain or shine, it promises to be a splendid event. And it might even raise some money, although as always, the main goal is to promote and strengthen our neighborhood, making it an even nicer place to live.

Patterned loosely after the well-known German festival of the same name, the OKTOBERFEST will feature bratwursts, refreshments and a twilight street dance with a four-piece polka band.

And much more. The event begins at 1:00 p.m. on 25th Street between Carpenter and University. The street will be closed to auto traffic.

From 2:00-4:00 p.m. will be a number of special events and contests for the kids. There is no entry fee.

Throughout the block, and perhaps spilling west on Carpenter, will be local artists and craftists offering their hand-made goods. And a number of musicians and other performers are being contacted to provide spontaneous or "wandering" performances throughout the day.

Rema's Bratwurst Kuche, a new neighborhood deli, will furnish authentic German bratwurst. AgriIndustries will supply Iowa-made spirits--Picketts. Proceeds from the sale of food and refreshments will be donated to the Association.

The street dance will be free, although we will be asking for donations to cover costs. Also, we'll have a booth set up to sign loads of new members and to introduce them to the association.

Rememeber, it's from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. October 11. See you there.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

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### UNIVERSITY PLACE CENTENNIAL

This year Drake University celebrates its 100th anniversary. So does our neighborhood. 100 years ago the University Land Company began selling land along Cottage Grove Street for residential development. A new suburb called University Place was founded along with Drake in the trees and brush of the countryside. Transportation to downtown Des Moines was still a problem then since the horse-drawn street cars traveled no further than Woodland and 19th. By the early 1880's the line was extended to 24th and Cottage Grove which became known as the gateway to University Place. In 1889 University Place was annexed by the City of Des Moines.

Today the surrounding University Place neighborhood still retains much of its original elegance. Some city planners believe the area south of Drake University could qualify for the National Register of Historic Places. More research is needed to help qualify our neighborhood for the National Register. Anyone interested in helping with the research should contact Association Vice President John Neubauer (255-9934).

# Neighborhood News

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## UNIVERSITY PLACE REVITALIZATION AREA

In recent years the University Place neighborhood has begun to show signs of age. Many homes need rejuvenation. The state legislature last year passed a new law that may help. It is called Urban Revitalization. Its purpose is to encourage homeowners and apartment owners to make building improvements.

In the past if property owners spent money to improve their homes, the friendly tax assessor would then increase taxes to reflect the property's added value. People often felt penalized for fixing their homes.

The Urban Revitalization law now gives homeowners an incentive to make improvements. It is called tax abatement. It means if someone makes improvements that increase the property value by more than 10 percent, the taxes on the added value will be "forgiven" for a certain number of years. A homeowner has up to 10 years to make improvements to get this tax break.

Not everyone qualifies for tax abatement. One catch is that your property has to be in a revitalization area. The City Council decides if an area qualifies for tax abatement. So far the Council has chosen six residential areas in Des Moines. Part of our neighborhood falls within two of these areas. Those living in the far eastern edge are in the Model City Revitalization Area. Those living south of University and east of 38th Street are in the Woodland-Wilkie Revitalization Area.

The Association's Board of Directors feels that the northern part of our neighborhood has been overlooked by the City Council. According to our research, only 13 percent of the homes in the area east of 30th and north of Clark were rated by the City as in excellent condition. 72 percent were considered fair to good and 15 percent deteriorating or dilapidated. By contrast, 49 percent of all the houses in the city were listed in excellent condition, 47 percent fair to good and only 4 percent deteriorating or dilapidated. This area clearly qualifies to be a revitalization area according to criteria established by the City earlier this year.

The Association Board is asking the City Council declare this area the University Place Revitalization Area. The homeowners there would then qualify for tax abatement as well. If the Council agrees to our request, approximately 2/3 of our neighborhood would be in a revitalization area.

Urban Revitalization does not force a property owner to do anything that he or she does not want to do. It is just a small way to pat those on the back who do and say "thank you" with a tax break.

The next newsletter will describe more about urban revitalization and some of its shortcomings.

## PROPOSED SLATE OF NEW DIRECTORS

A nominating committee, chaired by Gladys Burkhead, met in August, and propose the following for the Board of Directors for the coming year. The vote will be taken at the September 30 potluck.

Renewed:

W. L. Cuning--Drake University      President

John Neubauer--The Blind Munchies      Vice President

Gladys Burkhead--Homeowner

Pauline Morrison--Homeowner

Ginger Kuhl--Student

Wayne Shoemaker--Grace Methodist

Gene Hiskey--Landlord

Rod Rhoads--Johnson's Clothing

# Neighborhood News

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New:

Bill Crawford--First Federal State Bank

Bob McClellan--First Christian Church

Stephanie Furstenau--Renter

Abe Sommerville--Area resident

Faye Vilimek--Vilimek's Gift Shop

Ben Robbins--Bryant Funeral Home

Phil Weider--Forker Pharmacy

## CONSERVATION NOTE

Are you a practicing conservative or a preaching conservative?

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If you have items of interest for Neighborhood News, share them with us. Address your items to:

Bob and Stephanie Furstenau  
Neighborhood News  
2600 Kingman Blvd.  
Des Moines, IA 50311

Apartment No. 2

"Neighbor Helping Neighbor"

DRAKE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
Des Moines, Iowa

# Neighborhood News

Published by the  
Drake Neighborhood Association

VOLUME I  
NUMBER III

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## POT LUCK

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The next neighborhood pot luck will be held on January 29 at St. John's Catholic Church at 1915 University. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Jane Mueller from C.U.R.E. (Citizens United for Responsible Energy) will be on hand to share information, and to display a solar oven.

Bring a dish, your own table service and a neighbor.

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## PATIENT PROGRESS IN UNIVERSITY PLACE

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"A year ago I walked through our neighborhood and saw unkempt houses with peeling paint; overgrown lawns littered with trash and homes peopled by unfamiliar faces".

"Now I have neighbors. I can walk down the street and see people I know...I can see pride in our neighborhood". (Quote by Gladys Burkhead, 1107 Twenty-seventh in Des Moines Tribune, December 27, 1980. "Things are looking up for Drake Area").

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## OKTOBERFEST THANKS

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The frosty fall air last October 11 may have dampened attendance, but not enthusiasm at the Association's 1st annual Oktoberfest. The afternoon children's events were the biggest attraction. More than 50 neighborhood young people competed for prizes and marveled at neighborhood magician "Ozzie Izzard, The Wacky Wizard". German folk dancers entertained adults as they munched Rema's bratwurst and sipped Pickett's brew.

Special thanks to Rema's Bratwurst Kuche deli; Felix & Oscars restaurant, Agri-Industries' Picketts, the Drake Business Association and Oktoberfest committee members Virginia Peterson (chair.), Toni Hayes, Diane and Roger Munns, Wayne Mikos, Charlotte Bloom and Eileen and Rachel Warren.

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## TAX ABATEMENT CONSIDERATION FOR UNIVERSITY PLACE BY THE CITY

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Last fall the Association asked the City Council to designate the area north and east of Drake a revitalization area, thus making it eligible for tax breaks called "tax abatement". Property owners who make improvements to their homes may qualify to have the taxes "forgiven" on the increased value to their property for a certain number of years.

The original goal of residential tax abatement, according to State Representative and House Majority Leader Larry Pope (Rep., D.M.), was to encourage people to rehabilitate aging neighborhoods. The Association Board hopes property owners will be more likely to fix up their homes in return for the forgiven taxes on the improvements.

Councilmen Nahas and Flagg pledged to support the Association's request at a Council meeting last fall. The City Planning Department is scheduled to officially consider a University Place Revitalization Area early this spring, according to Assistant City Manager Dave Johnston. At that time property owners in the proposed area will receive notices of public hearings from the city. If you have questions or concerns about tax abatement, call the Board at 271-2707.

**continued**

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### UNIVERSITY PLACE HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

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Research has begun to attempt to list the area immediately south and east of Drake on the National Register as a historic neighborhood. The historic district under consideration forms an "L" around Drake, and is roughly bounded by 31st between Kingman and University on the west; Kingman to 28th, School to 24th, and Day to 21st on the south; 21st on the east; and Forest (21st to 24th) and University (25th to 31st) on the north. These tentative boundaries were chosen because the development of the area occurred simultaneously with that of Drake University. University Place is one of the few older areas of Des Moines that is still relatively free from intrusions of modern architecture.

Residents wishing to help with this research should call John Neubauer at 255-9934.

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This newsletter has been paid for by the Drake Business Association and the Drake Neighborhood Association. Postage has been paid by the First Federal State Bank.

Support the Drake neighborhood businesses.

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If you have items of interest for Neighborhood News, share them with us. Address your items to:

Bob and Stephanie Furstenau  
Neighborhood News  
2600 Kingman Blvd.  
Des Moines, IA 50311

Apartment No. 2

# ● Neighborhood News

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Published by the  
Drake Neighborhood Association

VOLUME I  
NUMBER IV

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## POT LUCK

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The next neighborhood pot luck will be held on March 31 at Cottage Grove United Presbyterian Church at 24th & Cottage Grove. Doors will be open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Gene Hiskey and a panel of students from the Drake Landlord/Tenant Association will be there to discuss the interests and concerns in this area.

Bring your dish, your table service, and a neighbor.

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## PAINT PROGRAM

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To those of you who didn't attend the last pot luck, a new paint program was announced.

Any person who joins the Drake Neighborhood Association by April 1, 1981, will be entitled to a 40% discount on paint and a 25% discount on items such as ladders, rollers, brushes, etc., from Iowa Paint Company. We are also seeking such support from other businesses (roofing, contracting, etc.) for future benefits.

The deadline date was changed to provide additional time to get your neighbors involved. Lets all work on getting more neighborhood support.

For those of you who have already joined, discount cards will be mailed before May 1st. If you have not received your card by that date, please call our office 271-3426.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

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Our Neighborhood Watch program is going great guns!!! Paul and Bertha Spiller have started the program in their neighborhood. Bill Pike and Eleanor Ashman, two new members, have also worked very hard to recruit extra eyes and ears. We give special thanks to these members who have given their time and energy to help ensure neighborhood safety. Thanks again.

The Des Moines Police Department will be bringing the Neighborhood Watch van out to our neighborhood on March 12 at 2719 Franklin and on March 19 at 1803 26th. The meeting lasts about a hour beginning at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

If you or your neighbors would be interested in joining a Neighborhood Watch, please call 271-3426.



April 1st begins our "University Place Daisy Days" litter campaign. We need block leaders who are willing to distribute litter bags to their neighbors.

~~Summary~~  
Litter is placed on the curbing and pick up is provided for. The bags are furnished by the Drake Neighborhood Association.

Lets all get involved in Daisy Days clean up and neighborhood beautification!!

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#### NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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On March 10, 11, 12, between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., A SURVEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG SOME RANDOMLY CHOSEN RESIDENTS. The survey consists of questions regarding the adequacy of many Drake neighborhood services and facilities. Drake student volunteers, Boy Scouts, and our CETA workers will be delivering, explaining, and picking up the questionnaires.

The information will be kept confidential and will be displayed as group data only. It will not be possible to identify your response to any specific question in the survey. Your response to the questions are important to the success of the survey and your cooperation will be appreciated.

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#### WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

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The neighborhood ladies are having a "WHITE ELEPHANT SALE". Along with our pot luck, items will be sold with the proceeds being donated to our association. Bring your odds and ends to the pot luck and help make this the best sale ever. There will be lots of bargins, so be sure to bring your friends and neighbors!!

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If there are any important neighborhood events or any special news you feel should be published in the "Neighborhood News", please call or write:

Ellie Wittmaier  
Neighborhood News  
1422 27th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50311  
271-3426

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"Neighbor Helping Neighbor"

DRAKE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
Des Moines, Iowa

# Neighborhood News

Published by the  
Drake Neighborhood Association

Volume I  
Number V

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## OLD FASHIONED BOX SOCIAL

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Our next general membership meeting will be an old fashioned box social on April 30 at the Crestwood Baptist Church, 3717 Forest Avenue. Try to be there at 6:00 p.m. so you can spend a few minutes looking over all the boxes. The auction starts at 6:30 sharp!!

The idea is to spend a casual evening meeting your neighbors, therefore, we haven't planned any formal program.

Here's what you do. Instead of bringing a covered dish, bring a light lunch in a box. Any little box will do. Each box should contain enough for one or two meals. Be sure there is a meal for every person in your group. Wrap the boxes any way you like and be sure that each box is labeled to show how many meals it contains. You can even give a clue as to what's inside if you wish.

When you get to the Church, the boxes will be numbered and at 6:30, the auction begins. It's going to be a relaxing evening of getting to know your neighbors. The money will be used to help set up our second annual Oktoberfest.

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## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

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At the last meeting, there was some discussion about changing the name of our organization. It would become the University Place Association. There are several arguments both ways.

Some feel that the name Drake Neighborhood Association has served as a great "starter" name and that we now need a new name so we can continue to expand. University Place is what our part of the city was called when the area was first being settled. Others feel that there is no need for a change and that we would lose recognition if we changed our name. Talk it over with your neighbors at the April 30th Box Social. It's something we need to decide so we can go ahead with membership drives and promotions for the Oktoberfest.

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The day after May Day - Noon May 2nd, One part of our neighborhood will get an important face lift. You're invited to attend!! In fact, you can help too.

The Strawberry Patch Holding Company and Buying Concern has received permission from the city to plant hundreds of trees on the barren traffic islands near the intersection of Kingman Boulevard and Cottage Grove Avenue. John Neubauer, secretary of Strawberry Patch, has done extensive research on the area and says there used to be a stand of trees on what used to be called "Carpenter Square", near where the traffic islands are today. The trees, he said, will be a winter windbreak, a source of summer shade, and a noise absorber for the nearby Church and neighborhood.

So come and join us. DON'T FORGET YOUR HOES AND SHOVELS!!!

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# Neighborhood News

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## NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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We would like to thank all our friends and neighbors who responded to the recent study done by the Drake Neighborhood Association. Over 400 surveys were distributed among area residents and a little over 300 were recovered. This is a fantastic response rate and we couldn't have done it without your support. The results of the data collected are being tabulated and will be published in the next newsletter. Thanks again for your cooperation!!

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## DAISY DAYS LITTER CAMPAIGN

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Once again we feel it is necessary to give recognition to those who worked so hard to see that our area remains an example for the rest of the city. April 4th was a cold and rainy day, in fact, it was down right nasty. However, our block leaders were out there cleaning up the neighborhood. The block leaders that participated were as follows:

Neal Stiwell  
Flonda Jones  
Doug Sanders  
Beverly McDowell  
Gladys Burkhead  
Dan Williams  
John Neubauer

Thanks Folks!!!

Thanks Folks!!!

Thanks Folks!!!

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

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Our first watch program was a tremendous success. Bill Pike and Eleanor Ashman, recruited over 66% of their neighborhood. Because of this effort, the Des Moines police department will be placing a sign on the corner of 29th and Franklin, designating the area as "watched" by concerned citizens. We feel this is quite an honor and says something about the residents.

The next neighborhood watch will be at Paul and Bertha Spiller's. The van will be on the corner of 26th and Wrenwood at 7:00 p.m. on May 11th. Please make a note of this date and try to attend. The Spillers can use the support and it would be nice to see another sign on the corner of 26th.

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## LOGO CONTEST WINNER DECLARED

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CONGRATULATIONS Mickey Carlson on the fine job. We really appreciate the work you put into the Drake Neighborhood Association "logo". The second place winner was Larry Cuning, our President, and we appreciate his efforts too. Thanks to both of you.

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Please drop a line to Stephanie Furstenuau at 2600 Kingman or call Ellie at 271-3426 if you have anything you feel should be added to the newsletter.

You can also write to:

Drake Neighborhood Association

% Drake University

1422 27th Street

Des Moines, Iowa 50311

# Neighborhood News

Published by the  
Drake Neighborhood Association

Volume I  
Number VI

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## NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT PUBLISHED

THINGS ARE BETTER THAN YOU THINK (and looking up)!!

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When Drake students Lettie Prell and Jon Lande began a survey of neighborhood needs last winter, they expected to find residents with an undesirable image of the Drake neighborhood, many serious social problems, and a lack of support for local businesses. But when they finished, their study showed very different results.

Their recently published "Community Needs Assessment of the Drake Neighborhood" found that most residents liked the neighborhood, perceived few problems, and shopped regularly at local businesses. The study was done for the Drake Neighborhood Association.

More than 300 households in the Drake area returned hand-delivered surveys. The survey estimated that 3500 people are residents within the boundaries of the Association.

78% surveyed felt the neighborhood was a friendly place to live. 74% had pride in the neighborhood. 60% thought the residential area was attractive. But half believed the area was going "downhill".

It was this apparent "downhill" feeling that led 76% to feel neighborhood improvement projects were needed. Almost half wanted to see more employment and socializing opportunities. 60% thought housing was a minor problem. 22% felt housing was a major problem and only 11% felt that housing was adequate.

Crime was the greatest concern to residents. 80% considered crime a problem - 40% a serious one and 40% a minor one. Another apparent problem to 52% of the population surveyed was lack of services to the elderly. A relatively large 41% said they did not know if this was a problem. This could point to the lack of contact between people in the area.

75% felt community apathy was a problem, making it the second greatest concern.

Although 62% of residents do most of their shopping at shopping malls, almost three fourths shop locally once a week or more. Convenience was the biggest asset of local businesses. A majority were satisfied with parking facilities and shopping hours. 70% felt local businesses carried the products they needed. 75% considered product quality satisfactory. However, almost half felt the local business areas were unattractive.

The Association board of directors felt the study confirmed many assumptions it has made over the past two years. The Drake students are to be commended for their efforts.

PAINTING YOUR HOUSE - "PAINTED LADIES" STYLE

Too often when planning to repaint our homes, we think "what's the quickest way to get this job done". Society's gradual slippage into paralyzing laziness increasingly robs us of a creative and rewarding approach to work. After all, isn't it much easier to just hire a painter to spray it (that is, if our houses have not already been covered over with siding or plywood).

**continued**

# Neighborhood News

continued

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Consider an old fashioned alternative this summer - one that can be personally satisfying and give our neighborhood a distinct look. Paint your home in "painted lady" style. The phrase "painted lady" is a historic one describing San Francisco's Victorian buildings. More than 100 years ago San Franciscans would accent and highlight the trim of their Victorian homes with 3 or 4 different colors of paint. Sometimes the effect would be subtle, sometimes gaudy.

A recent book entitled Painted Ladies by Baer, Pomada and Larsen (published by E.P. Dutton, New York) features photos of "San Francisco's resplendent Victorians". During the past twenty years there has been a resurgence in San Francisco of this almost lost art of house painting.

The homes in our neighborhood are not the elegant Victorians shown in Painted Ladies. However, their trim, lines, and features could be handsomely highlighted in this style nonetheless.

One word of caution though. Drake professor Gerry Wilson reminds us that this neighborhood's architecture is much plainer and simpler than the San Franciscan Victorians. The highlighting should be done subtly. Care should be taken to avoid gaudy, clashing colors.

Keep your eye on 2702 Cottage Grove Avenue this summer. Apartment owner and businessman Gene Hiskey plans to paint this structure "painted lady" style.

A reminder to take advantage of the Iowa Paint discount program this year. It expires December 31, 1981.

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## FOR THE YARDS

Dressing our yards with constant care is just as important as highlighting our homes. Our attitudes toward ourselves and community are often revealed by the **appearance of our yards**. An unkempt lawn may reflect contempt just as bright flower beds may beam forth the pride that lives inside. And, for all those people who own property in our neighborhood, but live in the suburbs - let them know we care about their homes and yards too.

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## IT'S THE FALLFEST NOW

Having changed its name and outlook, our annual neighborhood fall festival September 19 is going to be better than ever. It's now called the Fallfest - not OKTOBERFEST - and it is going to be directed mainly at our own neighborhood. Members of the Fallfest Committee - by the way, anybody can join - felt that our first priority should be to unify our own neighborhood. So we're not shooting for a city-wide festival, like we did last year. The Fallfest will be loads of fun, but best of all, it will build up neighborhood pride and awareness.

One of the most important functions prior to the Fallfest will be a neighborhood walk. We'll get lots of teams of two or three people and assign them to actually knock on doors throughout the entire neighborhood. The walkers will pass out membership cards and urge everyone to come to the festival. The neighborhood walk will occur early in September. We need LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS.

The Committee made another major change as well. This year, we will not try to sell beer. It's just too expensive and many people on the Committee just didn't want to bother with it. Folks who would like alcoholic refreshments will be invited to stroll to nearby pubs on University Avenue.

Remember, the Fallfest will be held at Drake Park, where we've already staked out locations for various activities. There will be games for kids and adults, entertainment, crafts and food. Bring a sack lunch and your lawnchairs. And don't forget, we'll be selling hundred of flower bulbs of all kinds.

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#### BOX SOCIAL

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The box social was a smash hit!! Instead of the usual potluck dinner, about 35 neighborhood residents convened at the Crestwood Baptist Church on May 1st and had an old fashioned box social. Mr. C.W. Perkins, a professional auctioneer, handled our crowd as if he had been a lifelong neighborhood resident and friend. You should have seen the brightly wrapped sacks and boxes of all kinds of tasty morsels. Not only was it a fun change of pace, but we raised \$125.00 toward the Fallfest. It was such a success that we hope to have another one real soon.

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#### POTLUCK

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The next potluck and general membership meeting will be held on June 30 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 3424 Forest, at 6:30 pm. Along with the potluck dinner there will be a plant sale and a white elephant sale. Bring your plants and odds and ends and help make this evening a success. John Neubauer will be giving a presentation on the "historical significance" of our neighborhood. The presentation will be based on the findings of the historical research committee.

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#### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

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There will be an Ice Cream social on July 30th. Persons are invited to bring cakes, pies, or candy. The proceeds from this event will go to the Fallfest celebration. Members will be notified of the location and time. A Committee is presently working out the details for this event.

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#### SAYING GOOD-BY

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The CETA contract will end effectively June 12. At that time, Dan Williams and I will not be employed by the Drake Neighborhood Association. Both Dan and I have enjoyed working for the Association and we wish all of you luck in your future endeavors. You have a strong organization with many hard-working and caring individuals. Keep up the good work and we'll keep in touch. If we can ever be of help in the future, don't hesitate to give us a call.

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If you have anything you feel should be added to the newsletter, please drop a line to Stephanie Furstenuau at 2600 Kingman or contact John Neubauer at 255-9934.

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# Neighborhood News

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VOLUME I  
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## COMMITTEE URGES NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS REVITALIZATION

The Association's business improvement committee is urging immediate formulation and implementation of a neighborhood business revitalization program. The Study committee headed by board member Rod Rhoads (owner of Johnson's Clothing) concluded "there is a clear and pressing need to initiate a cooperative revitalization effort among businesses in the University Place Neighborhood".

The committee report noted that the small business community has historically been an essential ingredient to the area's strength and vitality. It contended that efforts to revitalize residential areas cannot succeed without a corresponding effort among the businesses.

The committee suggested a cooperative revitalization program among businesses in the University Square and the Forest-Harding districts along with those businesses tucked among homes in the neighborhood. The program being planned includes:

- \* Formulation of a non-profit neighborhood business development corporation;
- \* Development of short-term and long-term revitalization blueprints;
- \* Publishing a University Place Business Directory;
- \* Negotiating the availability of tax abatement and low-interest, long-term financing; and
- \* Marketing strategies to attract new and complementary businesses.

The committee expects the first concrete steps in this effort to be taken in the next few months.

## \$200 DONATED FOR MORE TREES

A local charitable trust has recently donated \$200 for "public tree planting" in the neighborhood. A letter from its trustee stated "I have read with interest what your association has been doing in your neighborhood and I especially appreciate your tree planting project". The letter asked that the donor remain anonymous.

You will remember that last spring more than 40 Association members and residents planted 150 chesnut and walnut trees on traffic islands historically known as Carpenter Square. The reforestation project was sponsored and financed by a neighborhood non-profit group called the Strawberry Patch.

Donors to the Strawberry Patch have asked not to be reimbursed from the trustee's gift. They have requested the Association apply the \$200 toward the next tree planting project. Plans are already underway to plant flowering trees next spring along Kingman Blvd. and in Drake Park. The Boulevard Mart (an Antique shop at 28th & Kingman) has been collecting donations for the Kingman trees since May.

As for the Carpenter Square trees, more than 90% of those planted are healthy, happy and growing.

HISTORIC FOOTNOTE ON CARPENTER SQUARE

Carpenter Square was sold to the City for \$1 in 1898 on one condition. The Carpenter Square Land and Park Company according to City records stipulated that "it be used as a public park". The land holding company was inspired by Drake founder and first chancellor George Carpenter. It was one of many in his legacy of contributions to the University, the neighborhood, and the City.

Carpenter Square when sold to the City was an unbroken triangle bounded at 24th by Kingman, Cottage Grove and 25th Streets. The City honored the deed stipulation for 60 years maintaining the Square as a public park. Trees, walk-ways, benches and a fountain were all part of its compact beauty.

Carpenter's vision vanished with the coming of the freeway. Public planners insisted that Cottage Grove be widened to accomodate increased traffic flow exiting the freeway.

and

Government officials cast aside their agreement made with the land company. Carpenter Square was stripped and dissected into four traffic islands.

The City and State then paid further respect to Carpenter. They leveled the house built for his wife Henrietta. It had stood alongside the Square at 24th & Kingman.

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## FALLFEST UPDATE

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Don't forget to mark your calendars for Sept. 19th. The Drake Neighborhood Association's Fallfest will be held that Saturday from noon until 6:00 at Drake Park.

Here's an update from the Fallfest Committee: Things are starting to fall into place as the festival draws near. As you know, one of the highlights of the fest will be a garden bulb sale. We've placed a special order for imported bulbs through Earl May Garden Center. We'll have tulips, daffodils, and crocuses. You'll have several opportunities to order your supply before the fest, and it may not be a bad idea to do so, since the supply is limited.

Entertainment is taking shape too. Ozzie Izzard-the Wizzard, a real crowd pleaser for the kids, will be there, as well as Ellie's country-western band, The Roadmasters. We're also lining up folk groups, the New Life Singers, square dancers and much more. There will be all sorts of games and contests for the kids, a round-robin softball tournament with church teams, and lots of good things to eat. And, thanks to the Calico Rainbow Quilt Shop, there will be hand-made quilts on display from throughout the midwest.

Another special feature of the Fallfest will be a bake sale with the proceeds going to defray the costs and to meet other expenses. We need bakers!! Cookies, pies, bread, cakes,--you know, the standard list of goodies. Bring your baked goods to the fest or drop them off two or three days ahead at Kathy Mullins' house, 1133 37th Street.

Fallfest Volunteers, yep we need 'em. The Fallfest Committee has been working for many months now, and we're at the stage where we've got to line up the workers so that our neighborhood's festival will be a smashing success. So..., we need walkers for the 12th and all sorts of helpers for the day of the festival - bakers, salesmen, games helpers, people to bring live plants for our plant sale, and set-up people.

This year we want to make sure the whole neighborhood turns out and one of our publicity efforts will be a "neighborhood Walk" on September 12, the week before. Please join us!!! Volunteers call Toni Hayes or Diane Munns at 279-1860 or 279-7361 evenings.

Any artists or craftsmen who'd like to join the arts & crafts sale are urged to contact Rhonda Miller, 279-1982, as soon as possible.

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## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

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The Ice Cream Social Thursday July 30th at 7:00 pm promises to be the neighborhood event of the summer. Bring your pies, cakes, or candies to the lawn of the Grace Methodist Church (37th & Cottage Grove). There will be live entertainment with proceeds going to the Fallfest.

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DRAKE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
Des Moines, Iowa

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"Neighbor Helping Neighbor"

DRAKE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
Des Moines, Iowa

# Neighborhood News

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VOLUME I  
NUMBER IX

CITY COUNCIL "CANDIDATE FORUM" OCTOBER 29 at GRACE METHODIST

The October potluck program will feature the candidates for City Council. City Council elections for three positions are to be held in early November. All candidates for the three seats have been invited to make a five minute presentation. Their presentations will be followed by a 30 minute question and answer period. The six candidates have already consented to attend the "Candidate Forum."

First Ward Council Member Elaine Szymoniak is being challenged by Dennis McDonald. Third Ward Councilman George Nahas is being challenged by Rosemarie Ward. At Large Councilman George Flagg is being challenged by Fred Gering.

The Association must work more closely with City Council members than any other elected officials. They are often in positions to pass judgment on neighborhood revitalization efforts. The "Forum" is an opportunity for Association members to consider which candidates should be elected.

Bring a friend or more. Be at Grace Methodist Church by 6 p.m. Thursday, October 29 for the potluck. The "Forum" begins at 7:30 p.m.

A TIME TO ACT - A COMMITTEE TO CHOOSE

Few are willing to stand in the way of a boulder rolling down a mountainside. The Association did. In 1978 R. L. Polk studies cited the eastern half of our neighborhood as the "most rapidly deteriorating" area in the city and gathering momentum. Most agree that today the deterioration has stopped.

The more difficult challenge lies not in stopping the boulder, but in pushing it back to its pinnacle, which is what the Association faces next.

A few trees and flowers have been planted. The whole neighborhood must be planted and nurtured. A few homes have been painted. Every building must be repaired and restored. Crime has been chased from a few blocks. It must be chased from the neighborhood. Ten percent of the residents have been involved; 100% must be.

Each of the newly installed board members has consented to work on at least two ~~committees during the next sixteen months.~~ Their appointments will be announced at the October potluck.

Your turn now. Following is a list of the standing committees and their mission.

CRIME PREVENTION must organize and implement a block by block neighborhood watch program and assess the feasibility of a neighborhood patrol.

HISTORIC must complete research on the University Place historic district for book publication and preparation of National Register application. Must also build neighborhood historic library and assess other potential historic districts eligible.

SPECIAL EVENTS must continue planning and sponsoring neighborhood events which build spirit and pride.

CONTINUED



MEMBERSHIP must make contact with 100% of the area's residents, solicit new memberships and maintain current membership records.

COMMUNICATIONS must maintain telephone and written communications to members regarding Association affairs.

BEAUTIFICATION must organize a Garden Club and plan and implement area-wide beautification projects.

BUSINESS REVITALIZATION must offer liaison and support activities to the Association's new sister corporation - the University Place Commerce Company.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS must encourage and catalog home improvement efforts and arrange for cooperative member discounts for home improvement materials.

Ponder, then proceed please-to choose your area of involvement with us for the next 16 months. For the real pinnacle is the quiet satisfaction that we did it.

Committee sign-up sheets will be available at the potluck.

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#### FALLFEST 1981

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Fallfest -- what a success! More than 500 people were able to attend our fall festival at Drake Park on Saturday the 19th of September. Drake Park was alive with people enjoying a smashing early fall afternoon. It's hard to pick out a "best moment", since there are so many to choose from. Maybe it was right at the beginning, when the kids parade kicked things off - the first half bolting way out front and the other half strolling at a leisurely pace. Maybe it was over in the arts corner, where kids made such a run on paint and other supplies that they had to close-up shop a couple of hours ahead of time. Or maybe it was the superb entertainment, or the volleyball round robin, or the garden bulb sale, or .... the possibilities are endless; and how about that bake sale!! Thanks to dozens of cooks in dozens of kitchens all over the neighborhood, we had scores of offerings, and we sold every loaf of bread, every brownie and every last cookie. It was the difference in breaking even and making a little seed money for next year's Fest. The list of "thank yous" could go on forever, especially the volunteers and the Fallfest Committee chaired by Toni Hayes and Diane Munns, deserve special applause.

It was a terrific neighborhood event and we look forward to Fallfest II. Could we have had such an event in Drake Park four years ago?

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#### A RUMMAGE SALE

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The Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church has asked us to announce their all day rummage sale - Saturday, October 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch will be available. The church is located at the corner of 24th and Cottage Grove.

If your church or group has an announcement of neighborhood interest for "Neighborhood News", call Gladys (255-6666) or write c/o 1107 27th Street, 50311. Submission deadline is the 10th of each month. Publication is usually by the 25th of each month.

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"Neighbor Helping Neighbor"

DRAKE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
Des Moines, Iowa

# Neighborhood News

Published by the  
Drake Neighborhood Association

December 1981  
Issue # 10

## ACCOLADES ON THE ASSOCIATION

"Now I know how it must feel to win an Academy Award", stated board member Gladys Burkhead. "I was so excited", said former President Larry Cunning, "that I didn't even hear the band playing".

It may not have been the Academy Awards, but it was a band saluting the Association's first place award from the Iowa Community Betterment Program. Burkhead, Cunning and Faye Vilimek received a plaque and \$500 check on behalf of the Association from the Governor early last month. It was a high point for us all.

The Association was judged to have made the most progress in improving an Iowa urban neighborhood during the past year. Twelve neighborhoods statewide competed in the contest sponsored by the Iowa Development Commission.

Last summer the Association submitted a 50 page documentary of its efforts to the State Commission. In particular, the document cited the Association's flower and tree plantings, neighborhood historic research, plans for crime prevention programs and plans for business district revitalization. It included letters of acknowledgement from State Representative Larry Pope who described the Association's efforts as "impressive"; from Councilman George Nahas who described Association projects as "a compliment to our city"; and from City Planning Director Robert Mickle who described our historic research project as "excellent, far more detailed than that found in surveys costing thousands of dollars".

Based on the document and subsequent interviews this fall with Association board members, the State judges made their decision. It was only three years ago that R. L. Polk studies done for the City cited the Drake area as the most rapidly deteriorating area of the City. And those who most helped bring about this turn-around? Governor Ray also presented "Outstanding Leadership Awards" to Gladys Burkhead and Larry Cunning.

Last month the state office for the Federal Agency ACTION notified the Association that its proposal for funding two VISTA workers had been approved.

ACTION is an umbrella federal agency that houses programs like Peace Corps and Foster Grandparents (Nancy Reagan's favorite). The VISTA program is the Peace Corps' domestic cousin. VISTA volunteers work for subsistence wages to help urban or rural communities solve particular problems facing them.

Using this grant the Association plans to hire two people who will initially help to organize our block-by-block crime prevention programs. The one year job pays \$365 per month plus a \$900 bonus at the year's end.

A Personnel Committee consisting of Reverend Wayne Shoemaker, Pauline Morrison and Gladys Burkhead has been appointed to find and hire the two VISTAs. If you know someone who might like to work long hours at low pay for intangible rewards, please have them write a letter to the Association, c/o 1107 27th Street, 50311. Preference will be given to residents within the Association's area. The jobs are crucial and need to be filled with the most dedicated people we can find. The success of our crime prevention efforts rests in part on these VISTA people.

# Neighborhood News

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## LET'S MAKE A DEAL . . . TO KEEP THE FOOT PATROL

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News in October that the Police Department's Foot Patrol was to be reduced in our neighborhood has caused widespread concern within the Association. The Foot Patrol cutback is effective December 1. The Association board is asking the City Council to reconsider.

Specifically the board proposes a two year contract with the City. A letter sent to the Council November 19 asks that the Foot Patrol night duty remain in tact while the Association organizes a four point crime prevention program. The City Council is scheduled to consider the contract proposal at its December 7 meeting. Tune in to the Council meeting on cable TV.

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## "DOGTOWN" DIES; "UNIVERSITY SQUARE" CHRISTENED

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For years the historic business district east of the campus has been affectionately tagged as "Dogtown". As slow decline settled upon the district as well as the neighborhood, it seemed as if the tag had outlived its useful life. Area business leaders agreed. "Dogtown" has been retired and installed in its place a newly christened "University Square".

The renaming of the University Square business district is just the beginning of dramatic changes being planned for the business districts along Forest, Harding and University. Area business leaders came together last month to form the University Place Commerce Company - a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to revitalize the business community within the Drake neighborhood area. It intends to function like an independent neighborhood chamber of commerce. Dr. Bruce Heilman of the Forest Avenue Dentists has been elected president.

Planning is already underway for a University Square face-lift next year and a similar one in the Forest-Harding business district the following year. Substantial monies have been pledged by key institutions and area businesses for these efforts. More about the new Commerce Company in future additions.

For now, University Square businesses have asked us to announce that they will be open evenings until 9 p.m. during the week preceding Christmas. It's time to start getting better acquainted with all the businesses in the Drake area. Let them know you support them and the efforts of University Place Commerce Company.

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## "OLD HOUSE JOURNAL" FOR OLD HOUSE REPAIRS

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The "Old House Journal" is for those who love their old homes. It is a marvelous monthly newsletter full of techniques to repair and restore old homes like ours. The Journal provides low cost ideas (and expensive ones too) to pamper and care for your aging shelter. Interested? We hope so. Editors of this national publication are offering to share any new subscription fees with the Association. A worthy Christmas present indeed. For more information, contact the Association's Historic Committee chair Linda Bender - 255-2426.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD STOREFRONT COMING

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Drake University has agreed to consider the possibility of making available rent-free space (the old Post Office at 1155 24th) sometime next year for use as a storefront for neighborhood revitalization efforts. While the details are still being worked out, the likelihood of its conversion from a storage facility to a neighborhood nerve center is an exciting one.

We have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. The care and concern generated among us - large and small alike - is a source of continuing pride. Until next year . . . .

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Issue # 10

## ACCOLADES ON THE ASSOCIATION

"Now I know how it must feel to win an Academy Award", stated board member Gladys Burkhead. "I was so excited", said former President Larry Cuning, "that I didn't even hear the band playing".

It may not have been the Academy Awards, but it was a band saluting the Association's first place award from the Iowa Community Betterment Program. Burkhead, Cuning and Faye Vilimek received a plaque and \$500 check on behalf of the Association from the Governor early last month. It was a high point for us all.

The Association was judged to have made the most progress in improving an Iowa urban neighborhood during the past year. Twelve neighborhoods statewide competed in the contest sponsored by the Iowa Development Commission.

Last summer the Association submitted a 50 page documentary of its efforts to the State Commission. In particular, the document cited the Association's flower and tree plantings, neighborhood historic research, plans for crime prevention programs and plans for business district revitalization. It included letters of acknowledgement from State Representative Larry Pope who described the Association's efforts as "impressive"; from Councilman George Nahas who described Association projects as "a compliment to our city"; and from City Planning Director Robert Mickle who described our historic research project as "excellent, far more detailed than that found in surveys costing thousands of dollars".

Based on the document and subsequent interviews this fall with Association board members, the State judges made their decision. It was only three years ago that R. L. Polk studies done for the City cited the Drake area as the most rapidly deteriorating area of the City. And those who most helped bring about this turn-around? Governor Ray also presented "Outstanding Leadership Awards" to Gladys Burkhead and Larry Cuning.

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## ASSOCIATION RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT FOR "VISTAS"

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Last month the state office for the Federal Agency ACTION notified the Association that its proposal for funding two VISTA workers had been approved.

ACTION is an umbrella federal agency that houses programs like Peace Corps and Foster Grandparents (Nancy Reagan's favorite). The VISTA program is the Peace Corps' domestic cousin. VISTA volunteers work for subsistence wages to help urban or rural communities solve particular problems facing them.

Using this grant the Association plans to hire two people who will initially help to organize our block-by-block crime prevention programs. The one year job pays \$365 per month plus a \$900 bonus at the year's end.

A Personnel Committee consisting of Reverend Wayne Shoemaker, Pauline Morrison and Gladys Burkhead has been appointed to find and hire the two VISTAs. If you know someone who might like to work long hours at low pay for intangible rewards, please have them write a letter to the Association, c/o 1107 27th Street, 50311. Preference will be given to residents within the Association's area. The jobs are crucial and need to be filled with the most dedicated people we can find. The success of our crime prevention efforts rests in part on these VISTA people.

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# Neighborhood News

continued!

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## LET'S MAKE A DEAL . . . TO KEEP THE FOOT PATROL

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News in October that the Police Department's Foot Patrol was to be reduced in our neighborhood has caused widespread concern within the Association. The Foot Patrol cutback is effective December 1. The Association board is asking the City Council to reconsider.

Specifically the board proposes a two year contract with the City. A letter sent to the Council November 19 asks that the Foot Patrol night duty remain in tact while the Association organizes a four point crime prevention program. The City Council is scheduled to consider the contract proposal at its December 7 meeting. Tune in to the Council meeting on cable TV.

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## "DOGTOWN" DIES; "UNIVERSITY SQUARE" CHRISTENED

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For years the historic business district east of the campus has been affectionately tagged as "Dogtown". As slow decline settled upon the district as well as the neighborhood, it seemed as if the tag had outlived its useful life. Area business leaders agreed. "Dogtown" has been retired and installed in its place a newly christened "University Square".

The renaming of the University Square business district is just the beginning of dramatic changes being planned for the business districts along Forest, Harding and University. Area business leaders came together last month to form the University Place Commerce Company - a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to revitalize the business community within the Drake neighborhood area. It intends to function like an independent neighborhood chamber of commerce. Dr. Bruce Heilman of the Forest Avenue Dentists has been elected president.

Planning is already underway for a University Square face-lift next year and a similar one in the Forest-Harding business district the following year. Substantial monies have been pledged by key institutions and area businesses for these efforts. More about the new Commerce Company in future additions.

For now, University Square businesses have asked us to announce that they will be open evenings until 9 p.m. during the week preceding Christmas. It's time to start getting better acquainted with all the businesses in the Drake area. Let them know you support them and the efforts of University Place Commerce Company.



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## "OLD HOUSE JOURNAL" FOR OLD HOUSE REPAIRS

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The "Old House Journal" is for those who love their old homes. It is a marvelous monthly newsletter full of techniques to repair and restore old homes like ours. The Journal provides low cost ideas (and expensive ones too) to pamper and care for your aging shelter. Interested? We hope so. Editors of this national publication are offering to share any new subscription fees with the Association. A worthy Christmas present indeed. For more information, contact the Association's Historic Committee chair Linda Bender - 255-2426.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD STOREFRONT COMING

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Drake University has agreed to consider the possibility of making available rent-free space (the old Post Office at 1155 24th) sometime next year for use as a storefront for neighborhood revitalization efforts. While the details are still being worked out, the likelihood of its conversion from a storage facility to a neighborhood nerve center is an exciting one.

We have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. The care and concern generated among us - large and small alike - is a source of continuing pride. Until next year . . . .

For release after  
10am Friday  
8 May 1981

## NEIGHBORHOODS TO CELEBRATE PRESERVATION WEEK 1981

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Voluntary neighborhood groups in Des Moines have formed an informal alliance to celebrate Preservation Week May 10-16, 1981. They plan to observe this year's theme nationally "Conservation: Keeping America's Neighborhoods Together".

Acting in Mayor Crivaro's absence, Councilman George Nahas and the neighborhood alliance have scheduled a press conference Monday morning May 11 10:30 am in the City Council chambers to proclaim Preservation Week in Des Moines. Other Council members have been invited to attend as well. The Proclamation will recognize the importance of conserving neighborhoods and the need for greater voluntary efforts to revitalize them.

Groups forming the Preservation Week Alliance include:

- CCI Fairgrounds Neighborhood Council
- Drake Neighborhood Association
- Irving Harrison Resident Association
- Owls Head Association
- Parks Area Association
- Sherman Hill Association

The Alliance has scheduled daily projects promoting neighborhood betterment thru out Preservation Week 1981. The Alliance hopes its efforts will encourage the formation of other voluntary neighborhood groups in Des Moines. The Alliance believes it is essential for neighborhoods to organize themselves now, instead of waiting to feel the full effect of government withdrawal of services in the next few years.

The Alliance's efforts locally are part of a nation-wide observation of Preservation Week 1981 being sponsored by the non profit National Trust for Historic Preservation.

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For more information, contact  
John C. Neubauer - Information Coordinator  
255-9934 or 279-5350

PRESERVATION WEEK 1981  
Schedule of Events

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Mon. May 11, 10:30am: Press Conference in City Council Chambers featuring Mayor Pro Tem George Nahas proclaiming Preservation Week in Des Moines and neighborhood group representatives proclaiming an alliance to promote the theme "Conservation: Keeping America's Neighborhoods Together".

(Press kits with participating neighborhood group's background will be distributed then.)

Tues. May 12, 3pm: A public tour of the Irving Harrison area featuring homes repaired during the past year by the residents working together. Tour begins at Harrison and 16th Ave.

Wed. May 13, 10am: A coffee and decorating ceremony at the CCI/Fairground Community Council's new Senior Center Congregate Meal Site due to formally open this summer. Location of the new center is the Wilson Adult Community Education Center at E. 24th & Univ.

Thurs. May 14, 2pm: Planting of Flower beds in Drake Park by the Drake Neighborhood Assn. to beautify park for its annual Oktoberfest celebration planned there for next fall. The Flower beds are to be planted at the SW entrance to the park at 24th & Cottage Grove.

Sat. May 16, 10am: Sidewalk planters to be constructed by The Park Area in the business district along Euclid between 2nd and 6th Avenues. The sidewalk planters are part of its business area revitalization project.

Sat. May 16, 2-4pm: A neighborhood celebration by The Owls Head Assn. featuring a public performance of the Iowa Scottish Heritage Pipes & Drums. The parade will occur on Forest Dr. and Ridge Rd. between 28th and 29th.

Sat. May 16, 1-5pm: A neighborhood picnic by Sherman Hill Assn. on lawns of Hoyt Sherman Place. The Woodland Willie Foot Patrol will be honored for the services and contributions made toward crime prevention.

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Neighborhood Group Contacts:

CCI/Fairgrounds Community Council - Branda LaBlanc 266-5473  
Drake Neighborhood Assn. - John Neubauer 255-9934  
Irving Harrison Assn. - Byron Hayter 282-7967  
Owls Head Assn. - Julian Archer 243-8509  
The Park Area - Sally Smith 288-2066  
Sherman Hill Assn. - Carol Waterback 284-5717