



DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

Winter 2013

Neighborhood Thoughts

By Deric Gourd, DNA President

Winter approaches and another year draws to a close. You may not know it, but the Drake Neighborhood Association will celebrate its 35th anniversary next year. The Drake Neighborhood of 2013 is very different from the neighborhood of 35 years ago. Greater than the drop in crime and safer streets is that we have this success while preserving the character of the neighborhood as it has stood for over 100 years. This success comes from you – the members of the Drake Neighborhood Association.

The Drake Neighborhood Association is a non-profit organization that exists to make Drake neighborhood better. Our membership-driven board speaks on your behalf at city or county meetings to encourage better rental practices or historic redevelopment. We speak against developers or absentee owners seeking to bring the neighborhood down or drive us apart.

There is strength in numbers. The Drake Neighborhood, by population, is one of the largest neighborhoods in the state – larger than many cities and even larger than several counties. When we speak with one voice before the city or county our size makes us heard. The Drake Neighborhood Association boards and committees provide a place to voice ideas on how to make our neighborhood a better place to live, work, and play. Because of our size and your support, when we voice those ideas, leaders listen.

The small dues we ask from our members helps us further our dreams of a bet-

ter neighborhood. We do have bills to pay (insurance and website are the largest today), but much of your money goes toward hosting events. Whether it is National Night Out in Drake Park, Free Flix in Witmer Park, grants for hosting block parties, or a house or garden tour of the neighborhood, your membership dollars help us bring fun events to your neighborhood. These free or low-cost events often serve as an outsider’s first view of our neighborhood.

Our events and advocacy is the reason the Drake Neighborhood of today is better than the neighborhood of 1979, but our success is by no means assured. We need your help today now more than ever. In 2014 we will launch drives to increase residential membership participation. We will also be increasing our outreach out to our local businesses, many of which are locally owned. We are increasing our cooperation with the university that gives our neighborhood its name and future home owners. And we need you, not for anything big – actually something small that you can do every day. We need you to be ambassadors to the world about this great neighborhood. Help us tell our neighbors, the city, and the world about what makes the Drake Neighborhood so great. Encourage your neighbors to join the Neighborhood Association, or get involved in a group or event. In this, our 35th year, help us grow to become the best place in Des Moines to live, work, and play!

Deric

DNA Board Meetings

- December 11, 7:00 pm
- January 8, 7:00 pm
- February 12, 7:00 pm
- March 12, 7:00 pm
- April 9, 7:00 pm

Monthly Board Meetings are now held at St. Catherine Student Center at 1150 28th Street

2013 DNA Board Elections

Elections for members of the Drake Neighborhood Association Board will be held at the December 11th Quarterly Meeting.

The following neighbors will be on the ballot for election to a 2 year term.

- Re-election:
- David Courard-Hauri
 - Scott Johnson
 - Eddie Robinson
 - Jen Sayers
 - Eldon McAfee

New Board Member:
Mark Schneider

CONNECT WITH US ON





Drake Neighborhood Archives Project *By Erica Luna*

The DNA archives are a collection of documents and other materials dating from 1979, the year DNA was formed. The archives provide records of over 30 years of community involvement on behalf of the DNA board members and general membership. These archives document changes in the neighborhood and are a valuable resource to residents in both the Drake Neighborhood and greater Des Moines area. Additionally, the archives hold information about neighborhood revitalization efforts, zoning

decisions, board meeting agendas and minutes, notable neighborhood residents and architecture, DNA events, recognition and awards, and more. Much of the archive is in paper format but it also includes photos, photographic negatives, VHS videos and slides that are not readily accessible to anyone wishing to reference the materials.

In an effort to appropriately preserve and share these records, the DNA donated the archives to Drake University's Cowles Library in 2012. Since that time the DNA

board and Cowles Library staff have collaborated on a plan for the future of the collection. The goals are to organize, index, preserve and educate the public about the current archives and to create a standard for the addition of future materials. An online finding aid will serve as a searchable online resource for the DNA board, members, residents and the general public.

The current phase of the project is "Organization and Arrangement" of the materials. The goals that have been met already this semester are: University Archives staff trained 2 DNA Undergraduate Assistantship students in basic archival procedures; a template was created for arranging the DNA materials; an Accession Record was created in the online Archives Management System (Archon) for the DNA collection.

For Spring Semester 2014, project goals consist of: processing the materials by removing metal paperclips and staples; preserving the documents in acid-free folders and archival boxes; housing media in appropriate archival storage; converting the online Accession Record to a Collection Record; and University Archives staff trains the DNA students in archival description and how to create the online Finding Aid. The DNA and Cowles Library staff are thrilled with the progress of this project and look forward to unveiling this research tool to the public. DNA will continue to periodically provide updates on the progress of this project. Special thanks goes to Kathy Lincoln and Claudia Frazier for their guidance, energy and enthusiasm!!

LITE UP YOUR NIGHT

Join the **Drake Neighborhood Association** for their final quarterly meeting in 2013. **Wednesday, December 11, 6:00-8:00, St. Catherine's of Sienna 115028TH STREET**

Vote in new members of the DNA board

ENJOY A POTLUCK MEAL
(bring a dish to share)

CONTACT US AT:
www.drakeneighborhood.org,
http://twitter.com/Drakeneighbor
or on Facebook search for
Drake neighborhood association.

Who benefits from our property taxes?

- 39.90% - Des Moines Public Schools
- 36.06% - City of Des Moines
- 14.81% - Polk County
- 6.35% - Broadlawns Co. Hospital
- 1.28% - DMACC
- 0.97% - DART
- 0.54% - Polk County Assessor
- 0.08% Polk County Extension



Odd/Even Snow Parking is in Effect

Now that winter has arrived here's a reminder of our neighborhood's Snow Removal rules. Des Moines residential streets are now plowed after 2 inch snowfall. Snow removal on residential streets citywide will begin when the snow ends. In most of the city's neighborhoods, residents are not allowed to park their cars on the streets after a snowfall to allow for plowing. Our neighborhood has a unique exception to these parking restrictions.

Due to the high density of multi-family structures with limited off-street parking we have been included in the "Odd/Even Side Street Parking" program. During snow removal operations, vehicles must be parked on the odd side of the street on odd dates. The "odd side" of the street is the side with the odd numbered house. On Even dates, you must move your car to the even side of the street. For example, the side of the street with house numbers 719, 723, 729 would be on the odd side. If snow removal is happening on the 21st of the month, if your vehicle is parked on the street it must be parked along the curb nearest the odd numbered houses. If no buildings exist on the block, remember the odd side of the street is the north and east. The even side is the south and west.

The cost of a ticket for parking during restrictions is \$35. If your vehicle is illegally parked and prevents emergency vehicles from blocking the street, it may be towed.

You can access up-to-date information on snow removal by the following methods:

EMAIL: Subscribe to email alerts at www.dmgov.org in the link "sign up for email subscriptions"

TEXTING: Subscribe to text message alerts by texting DMOODSNOW to 96362.

FACEBOOK: like us 'Des Moines Public Works'

TWITTER: Follow us @dmdpw.

CALL: the Department of Public Works 24-Hour Customer Service Center at 283-4950.

Drake Neighborhood Home Tour

By Erica Luna

In years past the Drake Neighborhood Home Tour has been a chance for homeowners in our neighborhood to open their homes and showcase the depth architecture, history and hospitality to be found there. With the pressing needs of a new website and other concerns, the DNA board made the difficult decision to suspend the tour and devote energy to other projects. In the meantime, we have unveiled our new website and increased our communication efforts with the newsletter and our DNA Facebook page. The time off from the Home Tour has been productive but residents have expressed a desire to see the event return.

With 2014 fast approaching we are already considering events and project for the new year, with the Home Tour being among the possibilities.

The event, while popular and exciting, is difficult for the DNA board to take on given the various other projects and topics that occur through the course of the year. We are making an appeal to residents of the neighborhood to consider participating in a 2014 Drake Home Tour planning committee. Positions needed include a Committee Chair, Co-Chair, and at least three additional volunteers for the planning process. Activities include soliciting sponsorships, determining homes for the tour and marketing materials design and release. In the absence of this committee, it is likely that the Home Tour will not be included on the 2014 calendar of events for the neighborhood.

Please respond with your interest to erica.j.luna@gmail.com. We would like to have an initial planning meeting before the end of the year. Thanks in advance for your continued support of the neighborhood!

DNA Creates Business Partner Program

The Drake Neighborhood Association Marketing Committee is putting the final touches on its Business Partner Program for 2014.

Businesses can take advantage of the program for as little as \$125 and can advertise in the DNA Newsletter for as little as \$50. Benefits increase with sponsorship levels and include things like company logo on marketing materials, Facebook posts and newsletter advertisements.

The DNA is looking for key businesses to become partners and help sponsor events in the new year.

If you have an interest, contact Jennifer Sayers (jen@bijougrafix.com) or Kristina Johnson (kj4kristina.johnson@gmail.com) for more information.



Winterization Tips *By Sean Haire*

As we head into the thick of fighting the winter chill, the bad news is that energy costs have risen up to 70 percent in some areas. The good news, however, is that there are steps you can take to lower your bills but still stay warm and cozy.

1. Service your heating system every year. It's the best money you'll spend. Cost for a typical service call to clean the unit and change filters in both the furnace and humidifier? An average of \$75-\$100, depending on where you live.

2. Install a programmable thermostat. A must. There are many different brands on the market that range in price from \$40-\$100. You can program it to lower the temperature while you're at work or sleeping and save up to 30 percent in a well-insulated home.

3. Add weather stripping around windows and doors. A project that any homeowner can do. This also has a real impact on drafts and conserving energy. Door thresholds, window caulking, and plastic window film can go a long way in saving your money this winter. If you live in a drafty home, you could save up to 20 percent with an investment of as little as \$25.

4. Utilize or install ceiling fans in your home. Remember learning that heat rises in physics class? Well, running the fans slowly and in reverse will keep that warm air circulating and keep you more comfortable. The bonus? The time your furnace runs will reduce. So will your monthly bill.

5. Check the arrangement of your furniture. Really. Many times people put couches and chairs over vents and in front of baseboard radiators, decreasing the efficiency of the units. By restricting the airflow, you increase the use of your furnace or boiler, and ultimately the energy used to heat your home.

6. Wrap your water heater or consider installing a tank less water heater. More than 20 percent of a tanked water heater's energy is used while it is on "standby," keeping the water hot for the

next use. Adding a blanket of insulation around the water heater can help reduce its standby energy use. And it only takes about \$20 and 20 minutes to install one.

7. Be smart about the temperature you set in your home. According to the EPA, you'll save up to 3 percent on your energy bills simply by turning down your thermostat just one degree. If you have a colder room in your home it's cheaper to use a small, portable safe electric heater to get the chill out rather than turning up the thermostat for the entire home. Make sure you use these heaters at least three feet from any combustible item and do not plug them into an extension cord. Also make sure the heater you use is in good condition and has a UL listing.

8. Install thermo-pane windows in your home. You'll increase your home's energy efficiency up to 70 percent. Multi-pane windows can have R-values of as high as 9.1. The higher the R-value, the more resistant the glass is to losing heat. Conversely, your typical single pane glass has an R-value of 1.

9. Make sure your ceilings and attics are properly insulated. Heat rises, and if there isn't enough insulation in the space above, your money is going through the roof. Literally. Most ceilings and attic spaces should have at least an R-30 rating, although some areas of the country recommend an R-40-50 rating.

10. Let the sun be your guide. Why not? It's free energy. During the day, open up those drapes and blinds and let that sun heat your home. At night draw the curtains to keep the heat inside.

Bonus tip:

Light bulbs. Replace the five most used light bulbs in your home with compact fluorescent bulbs and save up to \$60 a year on your electric bill.

Neighborhood Numbers

The Drake Neighborhood is one of ten Des Moines' neighborhoods that participate in the City's Neighborhood Based Service Delivery program (NBSD). The program incorporates assets from all city departments in an effort to enhance the quality of services to the designated neighborhoods. Make sure to contact them if you have a crime, suspicion, zoning or housing related problem in your neighborhood. Make sure to contact each member of the NBSD team, including the Drake Neighborhood Association NBSD Committee member by e-mail and/or phone. If you don't contact them, they may not know that there is a problem. Its e-mail address is nbsd@drakeneighborhood.org. Once you notify our entire team, the issue has a much better chance of being resolved. If we work together as neighbors and help our team out, everybody wins.

The Neighborhood Enforcement Team members for the Drake Neighborhood are:

Mark McKinney

Des Moines Police Department/NBSD
(515)778-4218
mamckinney@dmgov.org

Chris Reindl

Housing Inspector
Office (515) 283-4797
Cell (515) 208-0285
clreindl@dmgov.org

Bill Cappuccio

NBSD Committee Chair
(515) 710-7591
bill@wrc3.net

Other Helpful Numbers

Police (Non-emergency): 283-4811
City Action Center: 283-4500
Animal Control: 242-2720
Graffiti Hotline: 283-4500
Weed Control: 286-3005

In the event of a crime related emergency ALWAYS first call 911!