

DOUGLAS ACRES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.DouglasAcres.org

Established April 21, 1997

Incorporated January 9, 2008

DANA Update

January 2010 Volume 15, Issue 1

Richard Schulze, Editor, schulstang@aol.com

The Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association (DANA) exists to preserve the quality of the Douglas Acres Neighborhood, promote the area as desirable for family living, foster neighborhood fellowship, and serve as a vehicle by which problems are resolved and neighborhood goals are achieved.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

NEXT MEMBERS MEETING

Tuesday January 12, 2010

Staves Methodist Church

Potluck Dinner 6:00 pm

DANA will provide chili

Please bring a salad or dessert item to share and your own dinnerware

Annual Meeting 7:00 pm

Election of board of directors

Speakers: Richard Brown, Des Moines Parks & Rec
Joni Norman, Neighborhood Finance Corp

- ❖ Jan. 11, 2010, 7:00 pm, DANA board of directors meeting, Hy-Vee Store, 2540 E Euclid Ave, upstairs conference room
- ❖ **Jan. 12, 2010, 7:00 pm, DANA members annual meeting, Staves Church (see details above)**
- ❖ Feb. 8, 2010, 7:00 pm, DANA board of directors meeting, Hy-Vee Store, 2540 E Euclid Ave, upstairs conference room
- ❖ Mar. 8, 2010, 7:00 pm, DANA board of directors meeting, Hy-Vee Store, 2540 E Euclid Ave, upstairs conference room
- ❖ **Mar. 9, 2010, 7:00 pm, DANA members general meeting, Staves Church**
- ❖ April 12, 2010, 7:00 pm, DANA board of directors meeting, Hy-Vee Store, 2540 E Euclid Ave, upstairs conference room
- ❖ May 10, 2010, 7:00 pm, DANA board of directors meeting, Hy-Vee Store, 2540 E Euclid Ave, upstairs conference room
- ❖ **May 11, 2010, 7:00 pm, DANA members general meeting, Staves Church (Plant Exchange)**

DANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Linda Westergaard	453-7339
Vice President	Joe Youngwirth	266-2569
Secretary	Dawn Stangl	265-7771
Treasurer	Phyllis Kellogg	262-5132
Directors	Tony Short	266-8995
	Betty Short	266-8995
	Margaret Heger	266-4181
	Jim Grove	250-9359
	Richard Schulze	265-7771

The terms of all board members expire on January 12, 2010

Webmaster Dennis Dyer
E-mail Webmaster@DouglasAcres.org

DANA Website www.DouglasAcres.org

NEW SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

This winter, the residents of the Douglas Acres neighborhood are being asked to participate voluntarily in a pilot program designed to speed up snow removal by agreeing to not park vehicles on residential streets while snow plowing is being done. Clearing vehicles from the streets allows the city to plow snow more quickly and completely because the city can use trucks equipped with side wing plows that can plow a whole street width in two passes. DANA has agreed on behalf of the neighborhood to participate in this program. Please do not park a vehicle on the street during snow removal operations. In return, as described above, the city will use a wing plow to plow snow in the neighborhood, beginning immediately after the snow routes are plowed, with the goal of plowing most streets completely within eight hours.

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TAX ABATEMENT IN DES MOINES

Tax abatement is a temporary reduction in property taxes for the actual value added to a residential property due to a qualified improvement. Qualified improvements are new construction, rehabilitation, and additions that meet the following requirements

- Increase the assessed value by at least 5%
- Conform with the city's zoning ordinance
- Meet applicable codes and regulations

A building permit is needed for most improvements that increase your value. Contact the Permit & Development Center at 283-4200 to find out if a permit is needed.

To get an abatement for an improvement made in 2009, the property owner must file an application with the city by February 1, 2010. The form is available online at:

www.dmgov.org/forms/forms/taxabatmentform.pdf

For more information, contact Phil Poorman at the Permit & Development Center by calling 283-4751 or emailing PRPoorman@dmgov.org.

STREET AND SIDEWALK REPAIRS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The City of Des Moines through the Neighborhood Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program (NIRP) spent a total of \$822,960 to repair streets and sidewalks in the Douglas Acres Neighborhood during the summer of 2009. That total includes \$588,220 for streets (16 projects) and \$234,740 for sidewalk replacement (11,737 linear feet). NIRP has significantly improved our neighborhood infrastructure, and we thank the City of Des Moines.

NEIGHBORHOOD FINANCE CORPORATION

Did you know there are funds available to our residents to purchase a home in the neighborhood or to fix up your existing home? Come to our January meeting to learn more about NFC and their great program.

SKIP MOORE ELECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Congratulations to Skip Moore on his election to the Des Moines City Council. Skip has lived in our neighborhood for quite some time, and most of you know Skip. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard for Skip and his campaign; it was amazing to see such an organized wonderful campaign. Way to go Skip!!

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

If you know of someone in the Douglas Acres neighborhood who goes out of the way to be a good neighbor by shoveling snow, providing transportation, etc, please nominate that person for the DANA Good Neighbor Award by calling Betty Short at **266-8995**. DANA will present that person with a certificate of appreciation.

DANA NEWS AND NOTES

BYLAW CHANGES

At the meeting on November 10, 2009, the members of DANA approved seven amendments to the DANA bylaws. You can view the amended bylaws online at the DANA website:

[www.DouglasAcres.org/misc_files/DANA Bylaws 2009.pdf](http://www.DouglasAcres.org/misc_files/DANA_Bylaws_2009.pdf)

If you do not have access to the website and wish to read the bylaws, please send your request for a paper copy to:

Richard Schulze
3944 E 26th St
Des Moines, IA 50317
Or call 265-7771

BOARD ELECTION IN JANUARY

DANA will hold an election for its board of directors at the meeting on January 12, 2010. Directors elected at the meeting will serve until January 11, 2011. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact any of the current board members listed on the first page of this newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM LINDA

Plan now to attend our annual meeting and potluck dinner at 6:00 pm on Tuesday January 12. (See the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.) As we look forward to 2010 and reflect back on a great year in the neighborhood, there is quite a bit to be excited about. As you know several of our residents have been meeting with the City of Des Moines and together have been developing a plan for our neighborhood. We have just completed a year long process with meetings, and now we are preparing for a neighborhood wide meeting to let everyone in the area know about the plan. We owe a huge thank you to David Dunn and Amber Kobler from the city for their dedication and hard work they have put forth in working with us. As a part of the plan, the city completed an extensive street and sidewalk repair project this summer, and things are looking good in the neighborhood. Now we need to keep moving forward with all our plans and goals. Please attend our annual meeting in January; we need you to attend and become a part of the association. Everyone is welcome. Several of us saw a presentation by the Parks and Recreation Department for Sargent Park earlier in December, and I think you will like what the Parks Department has proposed for our park. Richard Brown from Parks & Rec., will speak at our January meeting and share the new playground plan with us. This is just one more reason why we love living in this neighborhood. As always feel free to call me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you, Linda Westergaard, 988-4288

REQUEST FOR DUES

This is a friendly request for contributions to DANA in the form of dues. Payment is a voluntary contribution to DANA, and all contributions support the activities of DANA. Please fill out this form and return it with your payment. Contributions of any amount are accepted and are greatly appreciated. Contributions are not tax-deductible.

- Yes, I/We value the neighborhood and want to contribute to DANA**
- \$5 Individual \$10 Business

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Send the DANA newsletter to me by:
(please choose one)

- Email (please provide an email address in the space above)
- Postal mail
- Send information on business advertisements
- I am interested in helping:
 - Board of directors
 - Other: _____

Please make your check payable to DANA. Bring this form and your contribution to the next DANA meeting or mail them to

Phyllis Kellogg
2920 E Douglas Ave
Des Moines, IA 50317
(515) 262-5132

ADVERTISEMENTS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

A business member may receive one free advertisement in this newsletter and on the DANA website in return for payment of dues as a business (\$10). Other ads can be placed in each newsletter for a \$5.00 charge per newsletter. Please contact the Treasurer, Phyllis Kellogg, for more information.

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

This newsletter is available via email. You can subscribe to the email edition and save us some money by emailing your name, street address, and email address to:

schulstang@aol.com

Please type "DANA email" in the subject line.

DANA ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

Remember to follow Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association on Twitter and Facebook. Go to Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association on Facebook and become a "fan". Our web master is updating the Facebook page, and we are starting to see activity on the site. Join in the fun!

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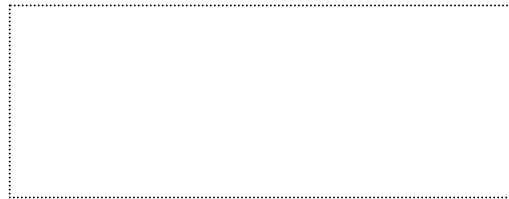


**Douglas Acres Neighborhood
Association**

4009 E 23rd St

Des Moines, IA 50317

**PRESORTED
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**Douglas Acres
Neighborhood Association
Annual Meeting of Members
Tuesday
January 12, 2010
6:00 Potluck Dinner
7:00 pm Meeting
Staves Methodist Church
Des Moines**

**LATE BREAKING NEWS
NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING ON JANUARY 26**

A neighborhood plan for the Douglas Acres area has been developed by a committee of hard-working residents and city staff and will be presented to the public at a neighborhood meeting to be held on January 26, 2010, at 6:30 pm at Staves Methodist Church. DANA strongly encourages all residents to attend this presentation meeting.

DANA Board of Directors