

DOUGLAS ACRES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.DouglasAcres.org

Established April 21, 1997

Incorporated January 9, 2008

DANA Update

November 2009 Volume 14, Issue 4

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

DANA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday November 10, 2009

7:00 pm

Staves Methodist Church

Tom Hockensmith, Polk County Supervisor, and Bruce Braun, City Street Maintenance Administrator will speak. Members will be asked to approve amendments to the DANA bylaws. For details, see Linda's Update section of this newsletter.

- ❖ Oct. 27, 7:00 pm, City council candidate forum, North Side Senior Center, Park Fair Mall
- ❖ Nov. 3, City council election
- ❖ Nov. 9, 5:30 pm, Northeast Neighbors meeting, East Public Library, 2559 Hubbell Ave
- ❖ Nov. 9, 7:00 pm, DANA board of directors meeting, Hy-Vee Store, 2540 E Euclid Ave, in the upstairs conference room
- ❖ **Nov. 10, 7:00 pm, DANA members meeting, Staves Church; see details above**
- ❖ Dec. 14, 7:00 pm, DANA board of directors meeting, Hy-Vee Store, 2540 E Euclid Ave, in the upstairs conference room
- ❖ Jan. 11, 2010, 7:00 pm, DANA board of directors meeting, Hy-Vee Store, 2540 E Euclid Ave, in the upstairs conference room
- ❖ **Jan. 12, 2010, 7:00 pm, DANA members annual meeting, Staves Church**

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
E-mail

Dennis Dyer
Webmaster@DouglasAcres.org

DANA Website

www.DouglasAcres.org



HOLIDAY LIGHTS

DANA will again be awarding certificates for outstanding Holiday displays between Thanksgiving and Christmas. To nominate a display for recognition, please call Joe Youngwirth at 266-2569.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

If you know of someone in the Douglas Acres neighborhood who goes out of his or her way to be a good neighbor by mowing a neighbor's yard, shoveling snow, trimming trees, 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.

SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

The City of Des Moines Public Works Department is working to speed up snow removal on residential streets. Eight new wing plows have been purchased and will be assigned in selected neighborhoods after the snow routes are completed. The new trucks will be able to clear streets with fewer passes, reducing plowing time by 33%. However, parking off the street (something not possible in all neighborhoods) will be required to reach this goal.

This winter, the Douglas Acres neighborhood, along with two other neighborhoods, is being asked to voluntarily participate in this new pilot program by agreeing to park vehicles off the residential streets when snow plowing operations commence. This action will allow the Public Works Department to accelerate snow removal in the neighborhood using trucks equipped with side wing plows. DANA has agreed on behalf of the neighborhood to participate in this program. DANA is asking residents to avoid parking on the street during snow removal operations. In turn, the Public Works Department will assign a wing plow to the neighborhood as soon as the snow routes are completed, with the goal of clearing most streets completely within eight hours.

PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION PROGRAM

The City of Des Moines Private Property Protection Program will provide a subsidy to property owner who contracts with a licensed plumber to redirect one or more of the eligible sources of drainage infiltration and inflow to an outlet other than the sanitary sewer system (including sump pump installation) or to install a backwater valve on the private sewer service to protect against surges on the public sewer system.

Under this program, the City will make a subsidy reimbursement of up to \$1,000 to a property owner who meets the requirements of the program. The reimbursement will be by direct payment to the property owner. The work must be performed and completed between June 1, 2008, and June 30, 2011, to be eligible for the reimbursement.

For more information, call the Public Works Department 24-hour Customer Service Center at 283-4950, or go online to

<http://www.dmgov.org/departments/pw/PPPprogram/index.htm>

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.

CALENDAR

Included with this newsletter is a calendar of DANA events for 2010. This calendar serves as the notice of DANA board of directors and general membership meetings for the forthcoming year. Please save it for future reference. This calendar will also be published on the DANA website:

www.DouglasAcres.org

BYLAW CHANGES

The DANA board of directors will ask the members to approve some minor changes in the bylaws. The original bylaws as adopted in February 2008 were written using the existing association bylaws as a model. The description of the boundaries of the Douglas Acres neighborhood set out in the bylaws is not accurate and needs to be corrected. The board would like to repeal the bylaws adopted to cover the transition of DANA to a nonprofit corporation and to amend the bylaw covering the procedure for the dissolution of DANA should that action become necessary. The bylaws can be amended only by a vote of the members present at a meeting of members.

LINDA'S UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER

CITY ELECTION

Your vote does count, so please remember to vote in the city election on November 3. This is a very important election and who we elect to office will make many important decisions over the next few years. The decisions made today will impact our neighborhoods and city for many years to come. Speaking of elections, please attend one of the many at large city council forums. Northeast Neighbors is hosting a forum on October 27 at the North Side Senior Center at 7 PM. If you are reading this before October 27, please attend the forum.

NEXT DANA MEETING

Plan now to attend our next DANA meeting to be held on Tuesday November 10. We have two very important speakers. Tom Hockensmith, County Supervisor, will give us an update as to what is happening in our area. Tom has always been very good at attending our meetings and listening to our concerns. Bruce Braun, Street Maintenance Administrator from the city will also attend our meeting to discuss a new snow removal program we have been selected to participate in. The city has a new "wing" plow that is able to clear streets with fewer passes. We have been given the opportunity to participate in this program, but **we must get our cars off the streets** after a snow in order for the program to work. You can find more information on this program on page 2 of this newsletter.

Also at our November 10 meeting we will be voting on making minor changes in our bylaws. You can find more information on the proposed changes on page 2 of this newsletter.

Remember, you are receiving this newsletter because of a grant that we were given by Tom Hockensmith. Tom awarded us a generous grant that allows us to send you this newsletter. However, we also depend on the dues from our members. Dues for 2010 are still only \$5.00 per person, and we use the money for our newsletter, ice cream social, and various donations we make during the year to community groups. Please support your neighborhood association by paying your dues AND by attending our functions throughout the year.

Looking ahead to 2010, please note that DANA will hold elections for officers who will serve until January 2011 at its annual meeting on January 12, 2010. Officers to be elected include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and 5 additional board members. The current officers are listed on the first page of this newsletter. Any member of DANA is eligible for election as an officer and is eligible to vote at the election. A DANA member is any adult person who is a resident of or owner of property in the Douglas Acres neighborhood. For more information, please contact any of the officers listed on the first page.

Please attend our next meeting so you will know what is happening in our neighborhood. I look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday November 10. Mark your calendars now!

DSL UPDATE

DSL High Speed Internet is coming to our neighborhood. You may notice Qwest workers in our area; they are installing the equipment to give our neighborhood the best service available. If you would like high speed Internet in your home please call James Chambers at 515-205-8383.

PLEASE SAVE THIS CALENDAR

DANA

2010

DOUGLAS ACRES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Potluck dinner/election of officers

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31			
31																				

Plant exchange

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
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25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												

Ice Cream Social Sargent Park *National Night out*

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
							29	30	31											

OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31																				

- Board of Directors Meeting (2nd Monday of the month). Meets at 7:00 pm at HyVee, 2540 E Euclid
- General Meeting (2nd Tuesday of every other month beginning in January). Meets at 7:00 pm (except where noted) at Staves Methodist Church, E 28th & Madison

For more information call Linda Westergaard at 453-7339

REQUEST FOR DUES

This is a friendly reminder to pay dues for 2010. The payment of dues is completely voluntary and is a contribution to DANA. Please fill out this form and return it with your payment. Contributions of any amount are accepted and are greatly appreciated.

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 by paying dues as a business member (\$10). Other ads can be placed in the newsletter for a \$5.00 charge per issue. Please contact the treasurer, Phyllis Kellogg, for more information.

Please support our advertisers

FRESH CUT LAWCARE & SNOW REMOVAL
Commercial or Residential
Snow Removal
Driveways • Sidewalks • Stairs
Parking Lots
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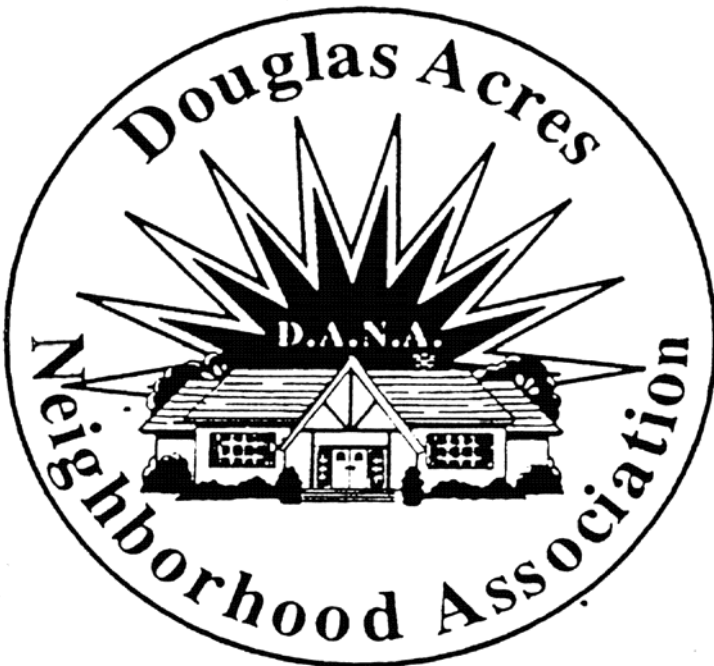
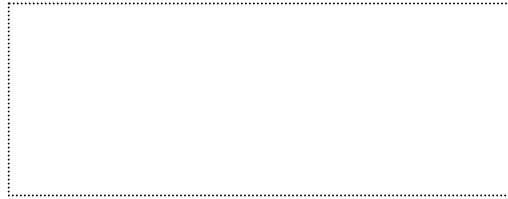
Please type "DANA email" in the subject line.

DANA UPDATE November, 2009



**Douglas Acres Neighborhood
Association**
4009 E 23rd St
Des Moines, IA 50317

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**Douglas Acres
Neighborhood Association
General Meeting of Members
Tuesday
November 10, 2009
7:00 pm
Staves Methodist Church
Des Moines**