

DANA Update

May, 2005 Volume 9, Issue 3

The Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association (D.A.N.A.) 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.

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday
May 10th
7:00 pm

Staves Methodist Church
Corner of East 28th and Madison

Speaker:

⇒ Skip Moore, Municipal Arborist, City
of Des Moines

Agenda items:

- ⇒ Report from Adams Elementary
School Site committee
- ⇒ Plant exchange
- ⇒ Upcoming events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

⇒ May 9TH DANA Steering Committee
HyVee Conference room – 7pm

⇒ May 10th DANA General Meeting
Stave's Methodist Church

⇒ May 14th Flower distribution
Stave's Methodist Church

⇒ June 4th Awesome Neighborhood Garage
Sale throughout DANA

⇒ June 13th DANA Steering Committee
HyVee Conference room – 7pm

All meetings are open to the public

Have you checked out our web site?



Go to Douglasacres.com

To see the latest news, upcoming events, and
other information about our neighborhood.

We received a note from the North High post
prom committee thanking us for our \$100
donation.

Neighborhood garage sale

Saturday, June 4th from 8 to noon throughout DANA. We will be making up flyers to pass out at each registered site. Call Linda Westergaard at 453-7339 with your address and a list of items you want included in the flyer and ad. The cost to be included in the ad and flyer is \$2. Pay Linda.



Yard of the Week

We will again be awarding certificates to those individuals with outstanding yards. If you would like to nominate someone, call Joe Youngwirth at 266-2569.



Scrub Day

Our annual Scrub Day will be shared with Fairmont Neighborhood and is set for Saturday, October 22nd at the Grandview Funeral Home. Look for details in a future



Good Neighbor Award

Do you know someone in our neighborhood who goes out of their way to be a good neighbor, mowing a neighbor's yard, removing snow, trimming trees, providing transportation, etc? If so, call Betty Short to nominate them for a Good Neighbor Award.

Our first 2005 Good Neighbor Award goes to Doug Wing who generously helped his neighbor when her tree fell down.



Flowers

Flowers for our Neighborhood flower program have been ordered. They may be picked up May 14th from 9-12 pm (or until they are gone) in the Stave's parking lot. Volunteers are needed to pickup and unload flowers. Flowers are to be planted in the parking.

DOUGLAS ACRES NEIGHBORHOOD

issue of our newsletter.



COUNTY OF POLK
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
111 Court Avenue, Room 300
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2214
Office 286-3120
Fax 323-5225

March 30, 2005

Ms. Linda Westergaard
Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association
4009 E 23rd
Des Moines, IA 50317

Dear Linda:

The Polk County Board of Supervisors is pleased to have the opportunity to provide a Community Betterment Grant in the amount of \$4,000 to your organization. It is our hope that these funds will enable you to provide quality services to the citizens of Polk County. Community Betterment Grants are funded from Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino profits. These grants provide another opportunity for the Board of Supervisors to return casino profits to our community.

Again, it is the Board of Supervisors' pleasure to be able to provide this grant for the benefit of our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hockensmith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Hockensmith
3rd District Supervisor

Tom Hockensmith
Chair
3rd District
286-3116

Robert Brownell
1st District
286-2228

E. J. Giovannetti
2nd District
286-3119

John F. Mauro
4th District
286-3118

Angela Connolly
5th District
286-3117

CONSUMER ADVISORY

Prevent Home Repair Scams and Disputes

Spring is prime time for home repairs – and that makes it prime time for outright scams or frustrating disputes. You can take action to avoid both problems.

Home repair scams by traveling con-artist work like this: Con-artists stop at your door, give you a hard sell, and offer sensational low prices. It might be for roofing or painting, tree-trimming, or asphaltting your driveway. The con-artists insist that you pay in advance – but they do little or no work and never return. Remember, legitimate contractors very rarely solicit door-to-door. Be skeptical. The main rules are to check out a contractor, and never pay large sums in advance to a contractor you don't know. Help older neighbors who might be pressured or intimidated into paying traveling con-artists.

A few 'bad-apple' local contractors also take large advance payments but fail to do the work, or do just part of a job or very shoddy work. This is hard to prove as fraud, but it's costly and frustrating. Follow these tips to protect yourself when you hire a contractor:

*** Beware of high-pressure sales tactics such as "today only" discounts, offers to use your home as a "display home" for replacement siding or windows, and "lifetime warranty" offers that only last for the life of the company. Always get several written estimates – shop around for the best deal before making such a large investment.

***Check out a contractor before you sign a contract or pay any money. Request local references – and check them out. Contact the Attorney General's Office to see if it has complaints (call 515-281-5926, or 888-777-4590). Contact the Better Business Bureau (515-243-8137 or www.bbb.org). Contact your county clerk of court and ask how to check if a contractor has been sued by unsatisfied customers.

***Ask for a copy of the contractor's liability insurance certificate. Put start and completion dates in writing, and consequences if the contractor fails to meet them. (Example: the contract could be nullified if the contractor doesn't start on time.) If you sign a contract at your home, in most cases you have three business days to cancel.

***Avoid paying large sums in advance if you don't know the contractor. If you have to make a partial advance payment for materials, make your check out to the supplier and the contractor. Insist on a "mechanic's lien waiver" in case the contractor fails to pay others for materials or labor.

For more information or to file a complaint, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, Hoover Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Call 515-281-5926 or toll-free at 888-777-4590. The web site is: www.iowaAttorneyGeneral.org.

DOUGLAS ACRES NEIGHBORHOOD

2005 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair	Linda Westergaard	453-7339
Vice-Chair	Joe Youngwirth	266-2569
Secretary	Linda Northouse	265-3478
Treasurer	Mary Whisenand	264-8760
Steering	Tony & Betty Short	266-8995
Committee	Skip Moore	263-0934
Members	Margaret Heger	266-4181
	Phyllis Kellogg	262-5132
Webmaster	Dennis Dyer	

Webmaster @Douglas Acres.org

NEIGHBORHOOD NUMBERS

Police Department info (Non-Emergency Number)	283-4811
Neighborhood Resource Officer – Larry Rogers	237-1517
Action Center (junk cars, weeds, etc.)	2834500
Des Moines Public Works 24-hour hotline	283-4950

CONTINUING REMINDERS

METRO WASTE AUTHORITY INFO

The metro Recycling Center is located at 1817 Euclid Avenue. They accept all items normally picked up with the green recycling bins (cardboard, plastic, glass, etc) as well as scrap tire, wood and metal.

Hours: Sunday & Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday – Friday: 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Phone: 262-4040

The Hazardous Materials Disposal Center is located at 225 Prairie Drive in Bondurant. They are open Tuesday – Friday from 1-5 p.m. and on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Call 967-5512 for more information, including their mobile pickup service.



Linda Westergaard
Your Neighborhood Realtor

453-7339

"I will donate \$100 to our local schools (Adams, Goodrell, or North) for every home I list in our neighborhood"



Yes, I/We value the neighborhood and want to join DANA (or renew my/our membership)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

- \$5 Individual New Member
- \$10 Business Renewal

Send Information on Business Advertisements

I am interested in helping:
 Officer Steering Committee

Other: _____

Please make checks payable to DANA and bring them to the next DANA meeting or mail to Mary Whisenand, Treasurer, 4134 East 30th Street, Des Moines, IA 50317. Phone number: 264-8760.

Dues are for one year and are renewed each January

ADVERTISEMENTS

Business Members receive one free advertisement for their paid membership each year. Other ads can be placed in each newsletter for a \$5.00 charge per newsletter. Please contact the Treasurer, Mary Whisenand, for more information.

DOUGLAS ACRES NEIGHBORHOOD