

# DANA Update

March, 2006 Volume 11, Issue 2

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  
March 14th  
7:00 pm

Staves Methodist Church  
Corner of East 28<sup>th</sup> and Madison

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ❖ March 13th, 5:30 pm, Northeast Neighbors meeting, Dahls Conference Room
- ❖ March 13th, 7:00 pm, DANA Steering Committee meeting, HyVee Conference Room
- ❖ March 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, DANA General Meeting, Staves Methodist Church
- ❖ April 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Northeast Neighbors meeting, Dahls Conference Room
- ❖ April 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, DANA Steering Committee meeting, HyVee Conference Room

## Northeast Neighbors, Inc.

Northeast Neighbors, Inc. is now meeting the second Monday of the month at the Dahl's grocery store located at E. 33<sup>rd</sup> and Hubbell. Meeting time is 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. This is a coalition of northeast neighbors working for the betterment of the neighborhoods on the northeast side.

- ❖ Are you having a garage sale? Post the date on our web site calendar.
- ❖ Do you have an announcement to make to the public? Post it on our web site.
- ❖ E-mail your information to our webmaster, Dennis Dyer at:

## ❖ Webmaster @DouglasAcres.org

Have you checked out our web site?



[www.douglasacres.org](http://www.douglasacres.org)

At this website you will see the latest news, upcoming events, and other information about our neighborhood.

Included are many links to additional information about our neighborhood, schools, and city, important information and advice. Yard of the Week pictures will be posted here.

The Good Neighbor Award recipients are announced here also.

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## SOS message

TO: Iowa Reporters

RE: Available duplicates of 1999 media commercials

Currently SOS is in the process of having duplicates made of the three 1999 commercials used to promote the sales tax levy.

These commercials appeal to voters to repair Des Moines schools and the last of the three promised an effective Oversight Committee to guarantee wise expenditures of the public money to be spent if the levy issue passes. One video tape and one DVD should be available at the Main Des Moines Public Library by January 24, 2006.

In the five plus years since passage of the one-cent sales tax levy, the so-called School-First Project of the DMPS with Taylor Construction and T.O.K. Contract Managers has become "*The biggest construction project in the history of Polk County!*" according to DMPS District Officials and Chair of the DM Oversight Committee, David Oman. Many expenditures, many unnecessary, some exclusive and exclusive of public participation, have expended levy revenues available without providing the basic repairs to all schools, a goal that could have been accomplished with the funds already spent.

BACKGROUND: On the Friday before Memorial Day, 2005, notices went home in the backpacks of children in five schools informing parents of the intentions of the DMPS School Board to close five schools.

The principals of the schools in question did not know about these intentions until they were given the notices to give to the children to take home. The parents did not know about the plans until they found the notes. When parents found out, they formed protest groups and SOS developed from a coalition of parents, teachers, and concerned citizens from all parts of town. This coalition (a 504 organization) filed the legal appeals to the State Board of Education and to District Court. DMPS Administrative officials (Witherspoon, Roeder, and Ward) testified that several meetings were held to plan these specific closures. They referred frequently to the Schools First Project. *Schools First* is never mentioned in the television advertising to pass the tax levy.

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### 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.

### Yard of the Week

Spring is just around the corner. Be thinking about what you are going to be doing in your yard. You could be our next recipient of the Yard Of The Week award and get a picture of your yard posted at the HyVee store. You will also receive a certificate and have a sign posted in your yard.

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**DOUGLAS ACRES NEIGHBORHOOD**



**Douglas  
Acres  
Neighborhood  
Association**



**General Meeting**  
**March 14th**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Stave's Methodist Church**  
**2747 E. Madison Avenue**