

Drake Neighborhood News



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I can not believe a year has passed since you elected me President of the Drake Neighborhood Association, is it just me or does time seem to fly now days. Actually it seems like yesterday that I was first elected to the board in 1980 something. YIKES!

It has been a wonderful year full of compliments about the neighborhood and you all deserve all the credit. This past year the volunteers in the Drake Neighborhood have hosted the quarterly meetings featuring a talk about historic homes and gardening, a historic tour of homes, Jazz in July Concerts, National Night out, the Cruise to the Kingman Island, several after work socials with area businesses and planted thousands of plants through out the neighborhood.. The Drake Neighborhood association also supported the Thresholds Art event, the Drake Farmers Market, and a Drake Student event to pick up trash in the neighborhood.

We have been working with the Drake Area Businesses and Drake University on a streetscape plan.

All this effort has resulted in increased property values, new families moving into the area and we have several new business. I do think Gladys and the founding fathers would be proud of your efforts.

At the recent annual meeting you elected several new board members, Barb Freeman, Vince Rubino, Claudia Schabel and Bonita Crowe. Welcome aboard. You also re-elected Bill Cappuccio, Bruce Wilson, Bill LaHay and Eldon McAfee.

The board recently met to discuss plans for the upcoming year and I think it will be exciting.

The new Police Chief Judy Bradshaw is very supportive of the NBSD and has announced an expansion of the program.

Please be sure to take note of the new contact information in this issue and come to the next quarterly meeting to learn more.

Marty Schmitt, President

Drake Neighborhood Association

Don't forget to use your Drake Activity passes; for a schedule of upcoming games go to: <http://www.drakebulldogs.org/>

DNA EVENTS

January 31st, 6:30 p.m.

DNA Quarterly Meeting
Greek Orthodox Church of
St. George

1110 35th Street

April 9th

Drake Relays Parade

April 23-26th

Drake Relays

May 8th

DNA Quarterly Meeting

June 7-8th

Drake Neighborhood Tour of
Historic Homes

June 7-8th

Greek Food Fair

June 11-14th

NCAA Div. I National
Championship

Drake Stadium

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CALLING ALL HISTORY FANS: HELP CREATE NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The City of Des Moines begins its 151st year without a historical society to celebrate, record, and share its proud legacy. Make a difference and get involved with founding a new Des Moines Historical Society.

History buff Pat Meiners, a founder of the Merle Hay Neighborhood Association, wants to give the city its historical due. She envisions compiling photos and stories about past residents, their homes, and architectural gems. Creating informative displays for the public to learn more about the city's history. And perhaps even restoring an old house into a historical society museum.

Pat points out that the history of Des Moines has been seriously neglected: "While many suburbs have active historical societies and museums (Urbandale, West Des Moines, Ankeny, Polk City, Clive), our city has no one organization dedicated to the city's history. The organization that had been most interested in City of Des Moines history, the Polk County Historical Society, which moved the Des Moines Birthplace Cabin (near the baseball stadium) in 1964, is no longer active."

Pat continues to maintain the former Polk County Historical Society website, but has changed the title to Polk County Historical Studies: www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/pchs.

For more information, contact contact Pat Meiners, 278-1234; alhawkeye@juno.com.



AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

The Des Moines Playhouse and the Drake Neighborhood Association have partnered to offer members the opportunity to buy discounted tickets to upcoming showings of *Prince Brat and the Whipping Boy*.

Offer good for shows Jan. 4th- 20th, 2008
7:00 PM Fri., 1:00 PM Sat., 1:00 PM & 4:00 PM Sun.

Save up to \$3.00 per adult ticket!

Online: Simply go to

[http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?
organ_val=3685&event_val=KBOY](http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?organ_val=3685&event_val=KBOY)

Enter the coupon code JEMMY (ALL CAPS) and click on "VALIDATE COUPON" to the right of the coupon code box. Be sure that the coupon code has been validated before continuing. *Note: Since the web address is lengthy, the link may not work and you may need to copy and paste it into your web browser.*

By phone: Call 515-277-6261, Tuesday-Friday, Noon-6 PM. When calling, be sure to say "JEMMY" before ordering to receive discount. For more information on The Des Moines Playhouse production of *Prince Brat and the Whipping Boy*, with performance dates January 4-20, visit <http://www.dmplayhouse.com>.

DNA Board Members

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Board Meeting Minutes for the DNA Board Meeting can be found on the DNA website at : www.drakeneighborhood.org

MEET OUR NEW DNA BOARD MEMBERS:

BONITA CROWE

My family and I moved to our home in September 2006 and love living in the Drake Neighborhood! Keith is my husband of 21 years and Breiyan is our 18 year old daughter, who is a senior at Valley High School. Keith works at Annette Holdings, Inc. and I work at Meredith Corporation.

We are also the owners of The GrapeVine, Inc. and conduct in-home wine tastings. As you can probably guess, wine is one of our passions! We love sitting on our front porch and sharing a glass of wine with our good friends and neighbors! We feel very blessed to be a part of this wonderful community!!

BARB FREEMAN

I moved in to 1535 31st street last August, after a couple years of sporadic house hunting in the Drake neighborhood. I chose the Drake neighborhood because I have a good friend that has lived in the neighborhood for years and was on the board. She would tell me of the great events that they would have and it sounded like a friendly place to live. Of course all the beautiful trees were a draw too.

Professionally I am a senior Graphic Designer at Allied/Nationwide Insurance and have been with the company 10 years. Another advantage of moving to the neighborhood, I cut my commute in half. My daughter is currently living with me, and we have 3 dogs and a couple cats, did I mention she's currently working at the ARL? I look forward to getting involved in the neighborhood and meeting the other homeowners.

VINCE RUBINO

Hi, my name is Vince Rubino, I live at 1307 42nd St. along with Lorrie Campbell. I've lived in my home since 1992. Some of you may remember my house on the 2002 DNA home tour (it was the one that was least finished!). I was born and raised in Des Moines, and after living in different parts of the city I'm happy to call the Drake Neighborhood my home.

My profession is TV/film/live event production; I've been self-employed in that field for the last ten years. My work includes set design and construction, and audio recording.

In our free time, Lorrie and I enjoy working on our home, with a preference towards landscaping projects. We recently finished remodeling the main bathroom, and are planning the remodel of a smaller bathroom. When the weather is nice again, you may see us on the bike trail or on one of our extended walks. I look forward to serving the neighborhood as a DNA Board member and to the challenges and opportunities to come.

CLAUDIA SCHABEL

Claudia Schabel was born and raised in Brazil, but lived in Japan for five years with her parents, twin sister and younger brother. In 1999, she came to Iowa to study and live with her then boyfriend (now husband), Brad Schabel, whom she met while in Japan. While earning a BA in International Relations from Drake University, she helped revive Drake's La Fuerza Latina, a student-run Latino-focused organization and became very involved with the Des Moines area Latino community to promote Latino heritage and culture.

Today, Claudia works for the Principal Financial Group as a Diversity Specialist while, in her spare time, volunteering for a number of different causes and organizations. After living in Sherman Hill for several years, Claudia and Brad moved into their Arts and Crafts home on Cottage Grove about 4 years ago. When not working on (or paying someone to work on) needed updates or desired renovations to their house, Claudia enjoys socializing with friends and neighbors and looking for ways to make the Drake neighborhood a better place to live.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2007 GLADYS BURKHEAD AWARD WINNER!

The Gladys Burkhead Award is named after one of the founding members of the Drake Neighborhood Association. Gladys was a key element in our neighborhood for getting things done. In her honor, and to recognize members in our association for their time and commitment, the DNA board decided to present this award annually to a member who makes our neighborhood a better place.

Lyle Erickson moved into our neighborhood 11½ years ago and immediately joined the association. Lyle may not be a familiar face to many, but is one working diligently behind the scenes. He is instrumental in making sure information about what is going on in our neighborhood is available to everyone by updating and maintaining the DNA website.

Recently, he and his wife increased our membership by one with the addition of a son, Oscar, who was born in August. In addition to being our website administrator, he also spends many volunteer hours working on local zoning issues, planting beds on the Kingman Islands, and keeping a watchful eye on the neighborhood while walking baby Oscar.

**Congratulations to Lyle
Erickson! Thank-you for your
continued commitment to our
neighborhood!**

DES MOINES POLICE DEPARTMENT MAKES CHANGES FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

Beginning January 2008, Chief Judy Bradshaw will be taking an already very successful NBSD program within the police department to a new level. Chief Bradshaw will be incorporating investigators from the Detective Bureau and officers from the Traffic Unit to the NBSD program.

Beginning in January, Detectives and Traffic Unit Officers will be attending neighborhood meetings in addition to your NBSD Sergeant. This will give your membership an opportunity to identify a specific officer to best address a specific concern. For example, should you have a traffic related concern, you will know who your Traffic Unit Officer is and you will be able to contact that officer directly to resolve it. The same concept would apply to a detective related question or concern.

The Chief has also approved the purchase of a graffiti camera that will be assigned specifically to the NBSD Unit to address graffiti concerns within your neighborhoods.

We are also excited about the new "Crime View" program. This program will give citizens a chance to review the various types and amount of crimes occurring in their neighborhoods via the Internet. We hope to have this program available in early 2008.

In the spring\summer of 2008, Chief Bradshaw also has intentions of assigning an officer to implement the "Crime Free Multi Housing" program within the department. This program will focus primarily on reducing crimes in apartment complexes. The program will require voluntary participation from landlords and tenants and if successful, may reduce crime in the apartment complex by up to 50%.

--Lieutenant Todd Dykstra

Please attend the first DNA quarterly meeting January 31st, 6:30 p.m. at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, to hear more about the neighborhood programs and get answers to police related issues from Lieutenant Dykstra!

If you would like to share information through our newsletter, please be considerate of the deadlines; articles for the next newsletter must be sent to Betsey Qualley at betseyfrench11@mac.com no later than February 15th. This is a coordination of volunteer efforts.

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