

# Drake Neighborhood News



## Neighborhood Revitalization Program

We are pleased to announce that the Drake Neighborhood has been selected to participate in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) in 2009. The NPR engages neighborhood residents, the City of Des Moines, Polk County, and local business leaders to develop a public / private partnership that addresses revitalization issues within the City of Des Moines.

The neighborhood needs your input and participation to guide the priorities of the plan. Please take 5 minutes to fill out the short survey online at <http://www.drakeneighborhood.org/>. In addition, please plan to attend the neighborhood wide meeting on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at First Christian Church located on 2500 University Avenue. Arrive early for refreshments and prizes! If you have questions, please e-mail [info@drakeneighborhood.org](mailto:info@drakeneighborhood.org).

## LET US EMAIL YOU!

Please send your email address and any other updated information to [info@drakeneighborhood.org](mailto:info@drakeneighborhood.org). All information provided to the DNA will be used only to provide you with pertinent neighborhood information and will not be sold to anyone. By providing the DNA with your email address will ensure that you receive up to date information regarding the neighborhood and volunteer opportunities. Help us save some trees by allowing us to email you!

## DNA EVENTS

### January 20th

Neighborhood Planning Meeting  
First Christian Church, 25th &  
University  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### March

1st DNA Quarterly Meeting  
Date & Location TBA

### April

Drake Relays Parade 19th  
Drake Relays, 23rd- 25th  
Scrub Day

### May

2nd DNA Quarterly Meeting  
Date & Location TBA

### June

DNA House Tour, 6th & 7th  
Greek Food Fair  
Greek Orthodox Church, 6th &  
7th  
Drake Farmer's Market Begins  
First Christian Church

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**DID YOU KNOW????**

By Ed Leedom

Des Moines has a snow ordinance that states property owners which abut public sidewalks or public sidewalks used for trails are responsible for keeping that sidewalk free from snow and ice. These sidewalks must be cleaned of snow/ice within 48 hours after snow quits falling. At times when ice accumulation is such that it cannot be removed immediately, the owner is then required to use sand and salt to aid in traction until soonest possible time to remove ice. If this is not done the owner is subject to possible fine.

**Sec. 102-124. Obligation of owner or person in possession of real estate to remove snow or ice from a public sidewalk.**

(a) The owner or tenant or lessee of any real estate abutting a public sidewalk shall remove snow and ice from the sidewalk within a reasonable time but in no case more than 48 hours following the cessation of the weather event by which such snow or ice was deposited; provided, however, that in extraordinary weather circumstances the director of public works or his or her designated representative may provide additional time for removal under this section.

(b) In any proceedings charging a violation of this section, proof that the particular violation described constitutes a violation of this section, together with proof that the particular violator was the owner, agent, tenant, or lessee of the residential dwelling, commercial establishment and/or real estate upon which the violation occurred, shall be deemed to create a rebuttal presumption that such violator was the party violating this section.

(c) The owners or tenants or lessees of the abutting real estate upon which a violation of this division is found shall be jointly and severally responsible for compliance with this division and jointly and severally liable for any fines or administrative penalties or assessments imposed under this division.

e) When ice has formed upon any public sidewalk so that it cannot be reasonably removed, the owner or tenant or lessee of the abutting real estate shall within 48 hours following the cessation of the weather event by which such ice was deposited, keep such ice sprinkled with sand or deicing chemicals in such manner as to provide traction and prevent the sidewalk from being dangerous to persons using the sidewalk. Nothing in this section shall be construed to be a substitute for the removal of ice, as required in subsection (a) of this section. This subsection shall only apply when ice cannot be reasonably removed; however, all accumulations of ice shall be removed as soon as practical.

You may not deposit snow from driveway, sidewalk parking lots.....on any public right of way, streets or alleys. You may, however, deposit snow/ice on the "parking" right of way which is abutting a driveway approach.

**Sec. 102-126. Deposit on public property.**

**Sec. 102-129. Removal by city of snow or ice.**

See the entire Des Moines City Code at:

<http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=13242&sid=15>

2008 was a busy year. There are still a number of your neighbors who continue to hinder property values by not keeping their properties clean and attractive. Case totals for year 2008 in the areas of trash, debris, illegal parking, impounds, abandoned vehicles, abandoned property on right of way etc., as compared to year 2007:

2007:	2007	2008
	East of 35 <sup>th</sup> street—438 cases	East of 35 <sup>th</sup> street---287 cases
	West of 35 <sup>th</sup> street---46 cases	West of 35 <sup>th</sup> street---129 cases

RENTAL HOUSING INSPECTIONS  
442 in 2007 323 in 2008

Ed Leedom, Neighborhood Insp. Div., N.B.S.D.  
515-283-4183 OFFICE 515-208-0299 CELL  
elleedom@dmgov.org

**DNA Board Members**

**President**

Kendall Dillon

Kendall.Dillon@dmu.edu

**Vice President**

Claudia Schabel

243-5043 scabel.claudia@principal.com

**Secretary**

Betsey Qualley

333-4620 betseyfrench11@mac.com

**Treasurer**

Debra Austin

249-4314 DebraDNA@aol.com

**Board Members**

Dean Blum

279-5364 deanynot@msn.com

Bill Cappuccio

274-1861 billc3@netins.net

Bonita Crowe

277-1657 afinetime4wine@aol.com

Trish Davis

255-3416 TKEDavis@earthlink.net

Barbara Freeman

299-0108 freemab@nationwide.com

Eldon 'Mac' McAfee

274-1910 emcafee@bevinglaw.com

Dolph Pulliam

271-3084

Vince Rubino

274-4903 vince@vincerubino.com

Marty Schmitt

255-9293 tschmitt@dwx.com

Kevin Venhaus

277-1833 kcvenhaus@mchsi.com

Bruce Wilson

274-4413 BLW1540@aol.com

Board Meeting Minutes for the DNA Board Meeting can be found on the DNA website at : [www.drakeneighborhood.org](http://www.drakeneighborhood.org)

**2008 Amy Jennings Young Professional  
of the Year award goes to...our own  
Larry James Jr.!**

This year, the 2008 YP of the Year award recipient is Larry James Jr. Larry exemplifies Young Professionals Connection's mission of attracting and retaining young professionals to Greater Des Moines through civic, charitable, social, and professional development endeavors. Larry is committed to making Greater Des Moines a greener place. He co-chairs the Dickinson, Mackaman, Tyler, and Hagen law firm's Green Business and Sustainability Law Group. He is involved with the Iowa Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, the Iowa Wind Energy Association's Legislative Committee, and chairs the Polk County Bar Association's Real Estate Committee. He also provides in-house training to his colleagues on green building and renewable energy.

He gives of his time by working pro-bona for the non-profit group Green & Main, a project that supports commercial renovation using environmentally-friendly techniques. He also serves on the YPC Civic committee and presented a YPC lunch and learn on legal aspects of green building. Larry is also an entrepreneur and community champion.

He owns Mars Café. Mars Café provides a gathering spot for the Green Drinks group, Green Jobs Now, and Sustainable Business After Hours (a green networking group he co-founded). In addition to providing a venue for activist groups, the Mars Cafe also provides a place for local artists and musicians to promote their talents. To ensure the Drake area continues to support funky businesses in a pedestrian-friendly environment, he will serve as president of the Drake Area Business Association. To ensure other Des Moines neighborhood groups have the education and training to improve their local quality of life, he recently accepted an invitation to serve on the Board of Directors of the Des Moines Neighborhood Resource Office.

Congratulations, Larry! Thank you for your work in making Greater Des Moines a better, greener, and more fun place for young professionals and our neighborhood residents!

## **DNA Environmental Responsibility**

### **Enjoy Gift Giving with a Green Approach**

**Buy Greener Gifts.** Consider buying gifts with less packaging or gifts made locally or by small businesses (e.g. organic food and drink, shade grown coffee and fair-trade cocoa products) rather than large corporations.

**Make Crafty gifts.** What if you made some of the gifts yourself? Potential projects include making greeting cards for friends and family, "publishing" a collection of favorite recipes or framing a picture you took yourself. Make a calendar marking special family events. Consider an ambitious idea of committing to sending a handwritten letter or card to a long-distance friend or relative once a month for a year.

**Take a friend off of junk mail.** Generate automatic forms with your recipient's name and address at [The New American Dream](#) to reduce unwanted mail by 50%. Present the forms in stamped, addressed envelopes ready to sign and mail.

**Wrapping alternatives.** Wrap your gifts in your kids' artwork, maps and travel brochures, colorful magazine and newspaper pages, old Sunday comics sections, pieces of fabric. Gifts for the kitchen can be folded in cloth napkins or collected in a picnic basket and wrapped in a tablecloth.

**Re-gift.** Host a "re-gift swap" by gathering like-minded friends and exchanging gift-quality items you own but don't actually use. Give the latest great book you bought and enjoyed to someone who may share your taste. Shop for quality second-hand items at [Throwplace.com](#), [Freecycle.org](#), and [Craig's List](#).

**Multimedia gifts.** Make a mix CD with music selected for someone special, perhaps even with personalized liner notes. Record interviews of parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles on audio or video tape. Ask them to discuss their memories of the person you plan to give the tape to, or your family's history, especially funny or meaningful anecdotes.

**For small kids.** Consider making a book about the child, written and illustrated by you or presenting the child with the makings for an arts or crafts project you can do together. Give a box of dress-up clothes salvaged from the attic or a thrift store.

**Buy renewable energy for a friend.** Help a friend help the planet. Purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs) to offset travel or household energy use and promote the development of cleaner sources of energy. In Massachusetts RECs are offered by [MassEnergy](#).

**Make a donation in someone's name.** Want to leave it up to the recipient? The nonprofit [Charity Checks](#) allows recipients to choose which organization(s) receive the funds. Give a donation to a local cause such as a soup kitchen, a shelter for battered women, a local environment group, etc. Call local churches, synagogues, and charitable organizations for ideas.

**Give a friend a membership to a non-profit organization.** [JustGive.org](#) allows you to donate online to thousands of charities.

**Source of information: Mass Recycle**

[http://www.massrecycle.org/environmental\\_tips.html](http://www.massrecycle.org/environmental_tips.html)

**In an attempt to educate our neighborhood on environmentally friendly practices, we have started a new column packed with green tips for you. These tips have been found in various sources. These sources will be identified every time. If you have some tips to share or questions that you would like to pose, please send them to [schabel.claudia@principal.com](mailto:schabel.claudia@principal.com)**

## Neighborhood Based Service Delivery Contacts

Contact any member of the Neighborhood Based Service Delivery (NBSD) team with questions or concerns regarding neighborhood issues.

Health & Zoning  
Eric Moore (East of 35th)  
(515) 283-4759  
elmoore@dmgov.org

Police Department  
Sgt. Dave Mulford  
(515) 283-4923  
dmmulford@dmgov.org  
Non-Emergency: (515) 283-4811

Police Department  
David Ness (Robbery & Homicide)  
(515) 283-4869  
dmness@dmgov.org

Health & Zoning  
Ed Leedom (West of 35th)  
(515) 283-4183  
elleedom@dmgov.org

Police Department  
Ben Ihde (Traffic Unit)  
(515) 271-4672  
bjihde@dmgov.org

Police Department  
Det. Lorna Garcia  
(515) 237-1499  
jjgarcia@dmgov.org

Parks & Recreation  
Teva Dawson  
(515) 323-8907  
tldawson@dmgov.org

Public Works  
Albert Aguilar  
(515) 283-4950

Des Moines, IA 50311-0503  
P.O. Box 41128



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