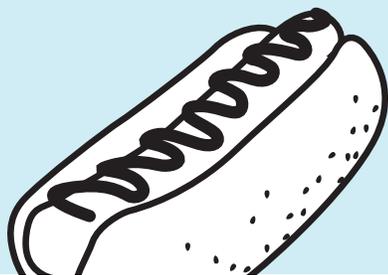




EST 1979

BRING SOME FOOD. EAT SOME FOOD. LEARN ABOUT FOOD TRUCKS!

By Nichole Aksamit Purcell



Please join us for the year's first Drake Neighborhood Association quarterly meeting and neighborhood potluck!

Bring a dish to share. Mingle with your neighbors. And hear from the [Legion of Food](#), a Des Moines food-truck association that's working to bring good eats to more areas of the city. We'll be dishing up from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., with our business meeting starting at 7 p.m., on **Feb. 8** at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center at 28th Street and University Avenue.

MEET YOUR NEW DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

At our December quarterly meeting, four new members were elected to two-year terms on the 15-member DNA board. They are:

Nichole Aksamit Purcell, a food magazine editor at Meredith and a resident of the neighborhood since December 2013. She lives with her husband and their cat near 26th Street and University Avenue. What drew her to Drake: "The diversity of people and homes, the beautiful trees and boulevards, and its proximity to downtown."

Amy Clark, an auditor and a resident of the neighborhood since August 2015. She lives with her husband, a dog, and three cats near 32nd Street and Mondamin Avenue. One thing she loves about the neighborhood: "It's a great location for accessing all of the amenities that Des Moines has to offer."

Nadia Ali, a college student and microbiology lab technician. She has been a resident of the neighborhood since her family immigrated to the United States from Sudan and Egypt about 14 years ago. She lives with her parents near 22nd Street and Drake Park Avenue. Some of her favorite things about Drake: "It is one of the most culturally diverse areas in Des Moines. Downtown and local shops are within walking distance, and I feel perfectly safe and comfortable walking to wherever I want to go."

Ashley Parker, an online organizer at Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement and a brain injury specialist at Community NeuroRehab of Iowa. She and her cat live near 36th Street and University Avenue. What she loves about Drake: "The character of the homes and the rich history."

www.drakeneighborhood.org

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS...

By Katelin Brown

Now's the time to get involved in making some great things happen in our neighborhood:

DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD FARMER'S MARKET

The Drake Neighborhood Farmer's Market will be back again this summer, and the team is looking for volunteers to help plan this year's food, art, music, and fun. To share your ideas, please attend the organizational meeting at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at Mars Cafe, 2318 University Ave. Beverages will be provided at 6 p.m. For more information, call 515-421-8851 or email info@drakefarmersmarket.org.

DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD HOME TOUR

The Drake Neighborhood Home Tour was a popular spring event for many years. And, due to recent interest, we're looking for volunteers to get it going again. Please email info@drakeneighborhood.org if you are interested in helping. It takes about a year to plan, so look for the event in 2018.

DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN

A memorial garden in the Carpenter Square pocket park at the intersection of Kingman, Cottage Grove and 25th Street will allow anyone in the neighborhood to honor a loved one. The garden was started in 2006 in honor of Michael Thomas, a well-known resident in the Drake neighborhood. If you'd like to help with the garden or include a memorial planting, please call 515-421-8851 or email info@drakefarmersmarket.org.

DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION VIDEO

We're looking for a videographer, an art director, and anyone else who would like to volunteer to create a Drake neighborhood video to share with realtors and the media to show off all our best features. If you'd like to help with the project, please email info@drakeneighborhood.org.

SAVE THE DATE...

By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

Here are some of the other fun neighborhood events we're cooking up this year:

JUNE 17: THE KINGMAN ISLAND CRUISE

This island-themed block party, a longtime Drake Neighborhood tradition, runs from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the lush lawn and grassy median in front of the Thoreau Center at 35th Street and Kingman Boulevard. Put on your favorite Hawaiian shirt. Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share, and come on down. We'll be closing off the street, grilling burgers, playing music and games, and enjoying our own little slice of paradise.

LATE JUNE OR JULY: FREE MOVIE AT WITMER PARK

This summer, the Des Moines Parks & Recreation Department and community sponsors are once again offering Free Flicks, a series of movies shown after sunset on 25-foot screens at parks around the city, including our own Witmer Park at 1610 34th Street (on 34th Street, a few blocks north of Forest Avenue). Admission is free. Lawn chairs and picnic blankets are encouraged. Stay tuned for this year's Witmer Park date and movie selection.

AUG. 1: NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AT DRAKE PARK

Turn on your porch lights, bring the kids, and join your neighbors from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Drake Park, northeast of 24th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue. As part of this annual community-building event, you'll get to meet the neighborhood's public safety officers and representatives from the city, the county, area churches, and Drake University—not to mention enjoy games, fun, and food with your neighbors.

HAVE WE GOT A JOB FOR YOU!

Want to help out with these or other neighborhood events? Drop us an email at info@drakeneighborhood.org.



Amelia Earhart lived here?

That's right! Long before she became the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, Amelia Earhart lived in the Drake Neighborhood. A history of First Christian Church notes that Earhart, who was born in 1897 and disappeared in 1937, lived for a few years near 31st Street and Cottage Grove and as a young girl heard pianist Jan Paderewski play at the church in 1913. Several biographies place Earhart's family in Des Moines from about 1908 to about 1915 and note that she saw her first airplane at the 1908 Iowa State Fair when she was 10.

In her book *East to the Dawn: The Life of Amelia Earhart*, Susan Baker writes that the Earharts moved to four different homes during their first four years in Des Moines, two on Eighth Street, one at 4201 University Avenue, and lastly to "an impressively large classic American 'foursquare' house" on Cottage Grove in 1912. "The Cottage Grove area was 'the' place to live," Baker writes. "It was an enclave of stimulating people, active in their community and successful in their professions, including bank presidents, judges, lawyers, doctors, newspaper editors, businessmen, and various educators associated with Drake University."



Organizers Megan Lindmark, Amanda Martin, and Gabby Miller, and Rev. Milton Cole-Duvall shed light on food access programs.

Dozens of Drake University students, faculty, staff, and neighborhood residents gathered at First Christian Church on Jan. 26 for the "MLK Day of Service," a community meal, dialogue, and service project in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rev. Milton Cole-Duvall shared his experience answering King's call to clergy and traveling to Selma to march. Participants had dinner, discussed access to food in the neighborhood, and learned about programs designed

to improve food offerings for low-income residents. One such program will establish free pantries, similar to little free libraries, throughout the neighborhood. Participants decorated recipe cards for the pantries with drawings and inspirational words. Each attendee had the opportunity to take home a starter kit for growing plants at home.

The event was sponsored by Sprout Garden, NextCourse Food Recovery, and Drake University's Office of Community Engaged Learning.

BOARD ENERGIZED FOR '17

By Katelin Brown

Drake Neighborhood Association board members emerged from a January retreat with goals, tactics, and renewed focus.

Inspired by a recent trip to the NeighborWorks conference in Columbus, Ohio, the Drake Neighborhood Association board kicked off the year with a January retreat to develop goals, define tactics, and determine measures of success for 2017.

Thanks to a sponsorship from Neighborhood Finance Corporation, seven DNA board members were able to attend NeighborWorks classes on how to make our neighborhood a better place to live, work, and play. Attendees said the event reinforced how wonderful our neighborhood already is—and also inspired them to do more to encourage more Drake residents to meet their neighbors and participate in neighborhood meetings and community events.

The board has secured a grant to survey neighborhood residents about their likes, interests, and concerns. The survey soon will be available online as well as delivered in-person throughout the neighborhood. If you would like to volunteer to help survey your neighbors, please email info@drakeneighborhood.org.

Many other projects are in the works. The best way to stay informed is to join the association, attend meetings (held at 7p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center), and "Like" the DNA [Facebook page](#). If you choose the "See First" option, you'll never miss a post!



SAVE 15% PER TICKET!

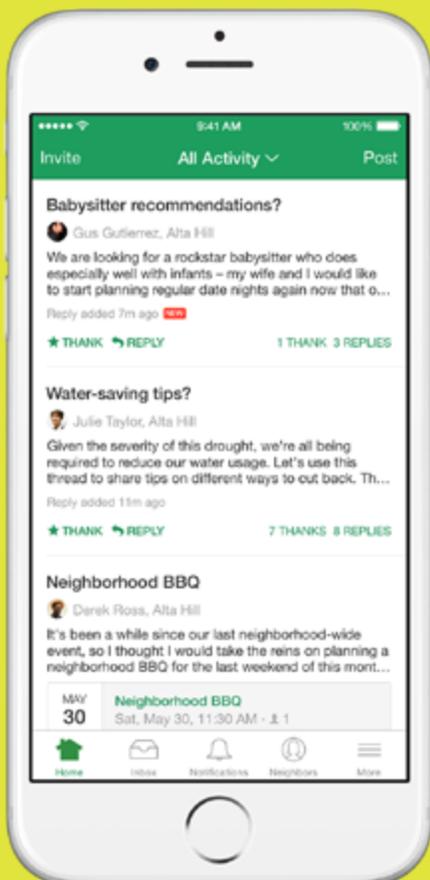
AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

The Des Moines Community Playhouse and Drake Neighborhood Association have partnered to offer discounted tickets to members.

HOW TO REDEEM: Simply go to the [Buy Tickets page](#) of [dmplayhouse.com](#). Choose your performance. Select your seats. At the checkout screen, enter the discount code 16DNA (no spaces) and click on "Apply". Be sure that you are seeing a discount of 15% before continuing. *All orders are subject to the same service, ticketing, and processing fees.*

GOT A STORY IDEA?

Got a neighborhood story to share for future newsletters? Contact newsletter editors Nichole Aksamit Purcell and Katelin Brown at nicholeaksamit@yahoo.com or katelinschwarck@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!



HAVE YOU TRIED THE NEXTDOOR APP?

By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

Over 200 residents of the Drake Neighborhood now are using [Nextdoor](#), a free private social networking app for neighborhoods. Since its launch in 2011, Nextdoor has spread to more than 100,000 U.S. neighborhoods, and it's been gathering steam in the Drake area over the past two years. How it works: You download the app (free on Apple and Android devices) or log in at [Nextdoor.com](#). After verifying your address, the site finds your neighborhood and shows you who else is using the network in your area. You can invite your neighbors (even those

you don't know yet) to join, welcome new neighbors as they join, and use the app to share news, ask questions, or offer help to people in your immediate area. In recent months, it's been used for everything from finding babysitters, trusted contractors, and lost pets to sharing community events, selling or giving away furniture, and figuring out who's responsible for plowing neighborhood alleys. It also can serve as a digital version of a neighborhood watch, helping residents report and alert each other to suspicious or criminal activity.



CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

MAKE CRIMINALS' JOB HARDER

At recent DNA board meetings, Des Moines Police Sgt. Mark McKinney noted that the number of neighborhood car thefts tends to increase in the wintertime when cars are left running without occupants, and that daytime burglaries and mail thefts increase during holidays and cold spells when package deliveries surge. He also mentioned a few easy, commonsense things we all can do to lower our risk of burglary or theft:

1. Lock your vehicle and your home, even when you're in them.
2. Don't leave valuables in your vehicle.
3. Don't leave your vehicle running when you're not in it.
4. Have packages delivered to your work address if you're not home during the day to receive them.
5. Leave a light on near the entrances to your home.
6. And if you see something suspicious, note as many details as possible, and call 911.

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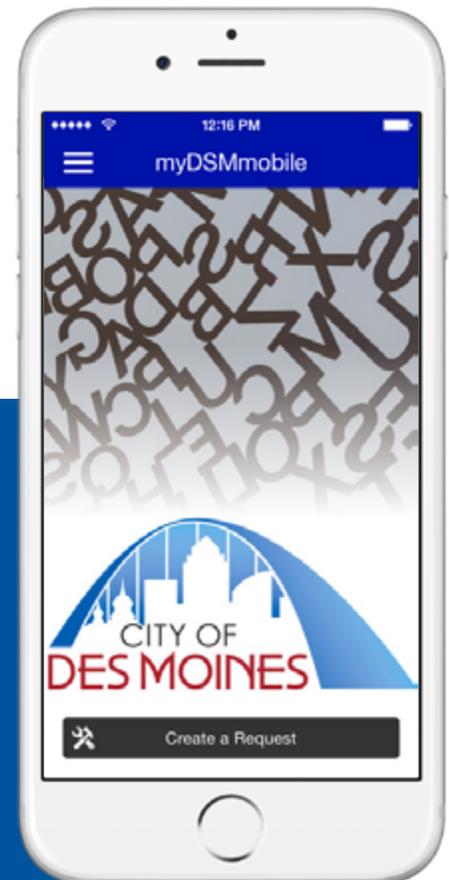
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MY DSM MOBILE

My DSM Mobile is a new smartphone app that helps residents report urban blight, vandalism, trash, and potholes directly to necessary city staff. This new feature is designed to help the 24-hour Public Works call center (283-4950) better respond to the nearly 57,000 calls and requests it receives each year. My DSM Mobile allows for a more efficient process—helping residents enjoy a higher quality of life.

NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES? CALL THESE NUMBERS

The Drake Neighborhood is one of the Des Moines neighborhoods that participates in the City's Neighborhood Based Service Delivery program (NBSD). The program incorporates assets from all city departments in an effort to enhance the quality of services to the designated neighborhoods. Make sure to contact them if you have a crime, suspicion, zoning or housing related problem in your neighborhood. Make sure to contact each

member of the NBSD team, including the Drake Neighborhood Association NBSD Committee member by e-mail and/or phone. If you don't contact them, they may not know that there is a problem. The e-mail address is nbsd@drakeneighborhood.org. Once you notify the entire team, the issue has a much better chance of being resolved. If we work together as neighbors and help our team out, everybody wins.

The Neighborhood Enforcement Team members for the Drake Neighborhood are:

Mark McKinney

Des Moines Police Department/NBSD
(515) 778-4218
mamckinney@dmgov.org

Chris Reindl

Housing Inspector
Office (515) 283-4797 Cell (515) 208-0285
clreindl@dmgov.org

Jon Raleigh

Housing Inspector
Office (515) 237-1437 Cell (515) 515-208-0311
jpraleigh@dmgov.org

Bill Cappuccio

NBSD Committee Chair
(515) 710-7591
bill@wrc3.net

IN THE EVENT OF A CRIME RELATED EMERGENCY ALWAYS FIRST CALL 911!

Other Helpful Numbers

Police (Non-emergency): 283-4811
Des Moines Public Schools security: 515-242-7621
Drake Dept. of Public Safety: 271-2222
Sgt. Dustin Runge: 202-9165
City Action Center: 283-4500
Animal Control: 242-2720
Graffiti Hotline: 283-4500
Weed Control: 286-3005

Board of directors

President: Kristina Johnson
(515) 975-1172
kj4kristina.johnson@gmail.com

Vice President: Jen Sayers
(515) 681-2443
jen@bijougrafix.com

Secretary: David Courard-Hauri
(515) 277-6885
david.courard-hauri@drake.edu

Treasurer: Mark Schneider
marks1809@aol.com

DNA BUSINESS PARTNER PROGRAM

The Drake Neighborhood Association Marketing Committee is looking for businesses to become partners and sponsor events throughout the year. Businesses can become a partner in the program for as little as \$125 or support the Drake Neighborhood Association for as little as \$50. Benefits increase with sponsorship levels and include things like company logo on marketing materials,

Facebook posts and newsletter advertisements.

If you have an interest in becoming a partner or supporting member, contact Jennifer Sayers at jen@bijougrafix.com or Kristina Johnson at kj4kristina.johnson@gmail.com or visit our website: drakeneighborhood.org for more information.

Please support our business partners:

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Central Bank
Drake University

Bronze Partners:

Bijou Grafix
Vom Fass
The Cheese Shop

Supporting Members:

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Playhouse
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Auto