



UNIVERSITY AVENUE STREETSCAPE PLAN RE-EMERGES



Sketch from 2007 Drake Area Streetscape Conceptual Plan by Genus Landscape Architects

By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

More than a decade ago, Drake Neighborhood residents and city and university leaders met to discuss how to redesign and beautify the section of University Avenue between 25th and 31st Streets. The funding didn't materialize, however, and the project was shelved.

But a new city project to separate the storm and sanitary sewers along the same stretch of University Avenue next year has put the possibility of a Drake area streetscape project back on the table. There's some urgency because the sewer work is scheduled to start next year.

Traffic engineers and landscape architects at the DNA's August board meeting, including some who worked on the 2007 streetscape plan, presented a rough concept of what a 2019

streetscape project might look like. It included:

- ▶ Turning what is currently non-rush-hour-only parking in the northernmost and southernmost lanes of University into round-the-clock parking with curb bumpouts at intersections.
- ▶ Adding bike lanes on both sides of the street, between the parking and the traffic lanes.
- ▶ Adding interstitial medians with trees and other plantings in unused portions of the center turn lane and providing a landing for people crossing the street.
- ▶ Burying overhead power lines that now drape the corridor and adding more lighting, decorative signage, and plantings for shade, safety, and beauty.

They said the goal now, as before, is to make the stretch a safer and more

beautiful neighborhood entry, and to apply newer learnings to help calm traffic, minimize collisions, and make the area more bike- and pedestrian-friendly.

The team at the meeting stressed that the concept is still rough. But with the new window of opportunity, they are hopeful they can secure support from adjacent property owners (Drake University, Walgreen's, Nelson Construction, and First Christian Church), neighbors, and the city soon enough to incorporate changes before the storm sewer work begins next spring.





DOGTOWN BUSINESS NEWS

PAPA KENO'S PIZZERIA OPENS

A pizzeria known for its bigger-than-your-face slices has opened in the former Planet Sub space at 2330 University Ave. Papa Keno's Pizzeria offers giant slices made to order, as well as whole pizzas, sandwiches, salads, breadsticks, beer, and wine.



Alec Davis, co-owner of the Drake location, said he operates the franchise with two other Des Moines natives. Papa Keno's also has locations in Kansas and Missouri. The Drake spot has a patio with a beanbag-toss game, as well as indoor seating and a bar area with TVs. You can find menus and more information at papakenos.com.



METAPHYSICAL SHOP MOVES IN

Ancient Ways has opened in the former Chicha Shack spot at 2420 University Ave.

The shop, previously located in the Sherman Hill neighborhood, bills itself as "an eclectic shop for exploring the ancient mysteries."

It offers figurines, stones, drums, herbs, oils, incense, jewelry, and a selection of new and used metaphysical books.

SEPTEMBER PLANNING BRINGS MAY FLOWERS

By Jennifer Sayers

Hey, neighbors! It's time again to request the flowers that will beautify the neighborhood right-of-ways next year. Each fall, neighborhoods like ours place orders with the city for annual flowers to plant in public places the following spring. The flowers are not intended for private homes, businesses, or religious groups. Rather, they are for plantings that beautify medians, boulevards, rights-of-way, park and neighborhood entrances, and other public property.

Drake neighbor Linda Mathews has kindly volunteered to collect orders for the Drake Neighborhood, including the number and type of flowers, locations where they will be planted, and contact info for volunteers who will pick up, plant, and care for the flowers.

If you'd like to request flowers for public areas near you and/or sign up to help plant and care for them, please contact Linda at ldmathews1@aol.com by **September 15**. For more information on the city's flower program, visit flowers.dmgov.org.

Thanks for helping to make the Drake Neighborhood even more beautiful!

FARMER'S MARKET UPDATE

GLOBAL GREENS MARKET OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER

Although the **Drake Neighborhood Farmers Market** ended its season a little earlier than planned, the **Global Greens Farmers Market** continues through October 27.

A project of Lutheran Services in Iowa, the Global Greens market features produce that is locally grown and sold by refugee farmers. It is held Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot at LSI, 3200 University Ave. This year, organizers also are planning a Harvest Fest and Craft Sale at the October 13 market.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



A full moon and more than 300 neighbors turned out July 26 for this year's Free Flicks movie (*Coco*) in Witmer Park. Many thanks to DNA board members, Bank Iowa team members, and neighbors who organized, publicized, and served at the event. Thanks also to HyVee for providing candy and water, to city parks staff for the big screen and portable toilet, and to everyone who came. We hope you will, as the movie theme song says, "remember" it!



A FUN NIGHT OUT

By Kristina Johnson

The mayor, city and county representatives, public safety officers, and more than 300 neighbors came to National Night Out at Drake Park on August 6.

New additions this year included booths, games, and representatives from Drake University, New Life Center and the new Des Moines Dream Center, Neighborhood Finance Corporation, Watchmen, Mercy Birthing, and the Regional FBI Office. We also got to check out the Fire Department's Engine 4 and the Police Department's armored "Bearcat" vehicle.

Many thanks to DNA board members who organized, publicized, and prepared and served food at the event; to neighbors who flyer'd 200 homes around Drake Park; to HyVee for the hot dogs and buns; to Jethro's BBQ for the potato salad and cole slaw; to New Life Center for raffle grand prizes; to team members from Bank Iowa, who helped before, during, and after the event; to parks staff who kept the splash pool open; and to everyone who took time to support *our* National Night Out.





ARNOLD NAMED NEW DRAKE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY LIAISON

By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

A fellow whose face is familiar to many in the neighborhood has been named Drake University's neighborhood and community engagement manager.

Ryan Arnold, former senior minister at First Christian Church and a member of the Drake Neighborhood Association, assumed the position in July. He succeeds Nick Valdez.

In his new role, Arnold serves as the primary university contact for residents and business owners in the Drake Neighborhood. He is also charged with establishing partnerships between university and city leaders and striving to strengthen the Drake area's economic development.

Arnold and his family have lived in the neighborhood for the past four years.

"I'm looking forward to combining my love for this community with my passion for Drake [University], and continuing to move toward a more equitable, neighborly future," he said.

Arnold's office is located in the Drake University Alumni House. He can be reached at ryan.arnold@drake.edu.

COPYCAT PRINTS PARTNERS WITH DRAKE NEIGHBORS

By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

If you've noticed printed posters and flyers for Drake Neighborhood Association events this year, you've seen just some of what Copycat Prints can do. The locally owned print shop is one of the Drake Neighborhood Association's Gold Level Business Partners for 2018.

Located at 3011 Forest Ave., just northwest of Drake University and in the heart of in the Drake

Neighborhood, Copycat is open six days a week.

Its services include copying, scanning, faxing, and printing of everything from postcards and invitations to door hangers, flyers, signs, yard signs, banners, and more.

Copycat can take your order in person or by email and, for added convenience, the shop also offers free pickup and delivery within a 10-mile radius on orders of \$20 or more.

For more information, Drake neighbors can reach the shop at (515) 255-9284.

DNA COOKING UP PLANS FOR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

By Kristina Johnson

As you might have guessed from our logo, the Drake Neighborhood Association turns 40 next year. And the neighbors who have attended 40th Anniversary planning sessions thus far have come up with several ways to celebrate in 2019:

- A house tour: a public tour of beautiful homes in the neighborhood in early summer 2019. Detailed planning will begin in November.
- A neighborhood cookbook: recipes from every corner of our big, diverse neighborhood. Detailed planning will begin soon, and the work will continue throughout 2019.
- A street festival: an event in the Dogtown area with live music and more in fall 2019. Detailed planning will begin in February.

Want to help? We will be forming committees soon to dive into detailed planning, and we'll need many hands to carry out these signature events.

If you are (or know someone who would be) interested in helping, please email Kristina at kj4kristina.johnson@gmail.com. It's a great way to share your special talents and get to know your neighbors better. If you've already attended a 40th anniversary planning session, watch your inbox for a followup meeting in September. Thanks, neighbors!

ROLLING OUT THE WELCOME MAT

DNA's new Welcome Committee is charged with welcoming people who've moved to the neighborhood and encouraging newbies to become DNA members. The crew monitors home sales and talks to property managers. But in our big neighborhood, it can be hard to track everyone who's new. New to the neighborhood? Let us know you're here! Email us at welcome@drakeneighborhood.org.

SAVE THESE DATES

Please check our Facebook page (@DrakeNeighborhoodAssociation) and the Nextdoor app for updates and additional events.



A fun floral display we spotted outside Irene's Flowers on 25th Street

SEPTEMBER

3

Happy Labor Day! Remember: Garbage and yard waste collections will be delayed one day this week.

12

September DNA Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Polk County Central Senior Center, 2008 Forest Ave.

15

SCRUB day, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at MWA Compost Center and Bell Avenue Business Park

OCTOBER

10

October DNA Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Polk County Central Senior Center, 2008 Forest Ave.

13

Harvest Fest & Craft Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Global Greens Farmers Market, 3200 University Ave.

20

SCRUB day, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at MWA Transfer Station and MWA Compost Center

27

Last Global Greens Farmers Market of the season, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 3200 University Ave.

30

Beggar's Night for young trick-or-treaters (They tell a joke; you give them candy!)

31

Happy Halloween!

NOVEMBER

14

November DNA Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Polk County Central Senior Center, 2008 Forest Ave.

17

SCRUB day, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., at MWA Transfer Station and MWA Compost Center

21-25

Thanksgiving recess for Drake University Students

22

Happy Thanksgiving! Remember: Garbage and yard waste collections will be delayed one day this week

GOT A LOCAL EVENT FOR THE CALENDAR?

Please email the date and details to nicholeaksamit@icloud.com by **Oct. 15** for possible inclusion in our next quarterly newsletter.

DRAKE-AREA BUSINESSES:

Please contact Amy Clark at 515-210-4139 or dsmajc@gmail.com about becoming a Drake Neighborhood Association business partner or sponsor and reaching thousands of the best customers: your neighbors!

LARGE ITEM TO GET RID OF?



By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

SELL IT: Post it for sale or for free on Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, or Nextdoor. Someone might happily haul away what you no longer want—and even pay you for it. Just be sure not to leave items on the curb for pickup, which can get you a ticket.

DONATE IT: Many charities will accept and even arrange to pick up good used furniture, working electronics, building materials, and appliances if you call to donate them. (Note: Mattresses are typically not accepted.)

SCRUB IT: Drop it at a designated drop-off site during city SCRUB (Spring Cleanup to Reduce Urban Blight) events, held the third Saturday every month March through November. During these events, disposal is free with proof of residency in Des Moines. See our calendar of events (page 6) for upcoming dates or visit the Public Works section of www.dmgov.org.

STICKER IT: Buy and apply extra-trash or large-item pickup stickers (available at the service counter at local grocery stores) and place your item on the curb the morning of your usual collection day. A \$1 extra-trash

sticker covers smaller items like small TVs and computer monitors, a \$5 sticker covers most furniture items and twin/full-sized mattresses, two \$5 stickers cover queen/king-sized mattresses, and you'll need seven \$5 stickers (and a call to Public Works to arrange pickup) for appliances.

HAUL IT: Haul it to one of the metro area's landfills. Unless it's during a SCRUB event, this is usually your most expensive option, as there's typically a per-vehicle load fee, plus per-item fees for electronics and larger items that can be disassembled and recycled. Visit mwatoday.com for more information.

DON'T DUMP IT: Dumping of furniture, mattresses, tires, and other large items near dumpsters, on curbs, or along alleyways is not only prohibited in Des Moines, it's also un-neighborly, unsightly, and unsafe. It attracts pests and invites more dumping. It also can impede traffic, and many residents' only parking is via alleyways.

SEE DUMPING? REPORT IT: Use the My DSM Mobile app or My DSM function at www.dmgov.org to report illegal dumping.

NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES? HERE'S WHO TO CALL

DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED SERVICE DELIVERY TEAM MEMBERS

Des Moines Police Sgt. Mark McKinney:
515-778-4218, mamckinney@dmgov.org

Des Moines Housing Inspector Eric Barker:
515-283-4980, ejbarker@dmgov.org

NBSD Committee Chair Bill Cappuccio:
515-710-7591, bill@wrc3.net

OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

Police (non-emergency): 515-283-4811

DSM Public Schools Security: 515-242-7621

Drake University Security: 515-271-2222

City of Des Moines Information Center: 515-283-4500

Animal Control & Shelter: 515-242-2720

Graffiti Hotline: 515-248-6331

Weed Control: 515-286-3005

DNA BOARD OFFICERS

President Jennifer Sayers: 515-681-2443,

jen@bijougrafix.com

Vice President Lori Calhoun: 515-240-6090,

zotic@aol.com

Secretary Amy Clark: 515-210-4139, dsmajc@gmail.com

Treasurer Mark Schneider: 515-277-4268,

marks1809@aol.com

FOR EMERGENCIES, ALWAYS CALL 911 FIRST!

WAYS TO ENGAGE

1. BECOME A MEMBER

You can join or renew as a member of the Drake Neighborhood Association three ways: by credit card at drakeneighborhood.org/membership-signup; with cash or check at one of our meetings; or with your name, address, telephone number, email, and a check mailed to Drake Neighborhood Association, PO Box 41128, Des Moines, IA 50311. Membership is \$20 a year or \$80 for five years. Benefits include access to our quarterly newsletter and newsy email blasts, invitations to events, the ability to vote for and be nominated to board seats, plus opportunities to meet neighbors and get involved in making our neighborhood even better. Membership dollars help support the events and activities of our all-volunteer association.

2. COME TO A MEETING

The Drake Neighborhood Association board generally meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month, at the Polk County Central Senior Center, 2008 Forest Ave., unless otherwise noted. (Check for updates on our Facebook page, on the Nextdoor app, and on the drakeneighborhood.org website.) Our next meeting is Sept. 12.

3. FIND AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

It's a great way to stay in the loop about what's happening in the neighborhood, find volunteer opportunities, and connect with other neighbors. So please find, like, and follow us on Facebook ([@DrakeNeighborhoodAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/DrakeNeighborhoodAssociation)).

4. SHARE YOUR SKILLS

Drake is a great big neighborhood, full of diverse people, talents, and needs. Why not match your passions and skills with a neighborhood project? Whether it's for a single event or an ongoing issue (like marketing, beautification, safety, development, or neighbor outreach), tell us what you're interested in or good at, and we'll find a project for you. We need LOTS of people to help out (even just a little) throughout the year to help things go smoothly.

Just email your name, address, and a sentence or two about yourself and the things you'd like to help with to info@drakeneighborhood.org. Or see the detailed list of our most current volunteer needs below and reply to the contact person listed.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS

BUSINESS OUTREACH HELPERS: Want to help distribute DNA event flyers and newsletters or seek business partners and donations for upcoming events? Please contact Jennifer Sayers at 515-681-2443 or jen@bijougrafx.com.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Do you enjoy the gorgeous colors our neighborhood flower beds provide? Like playing in the dirt? Want to assist your neighbors in planning, planting, and maintaining beautiful beds in our signature boulevards and parks? Longtime Beautification co-chairs Carole and Kevin Venhaus are passing the pruning shears on to the next generation of green thumbs. Several neighbors recently met to discuss ideas and plans to carry on their work, and they need your help. Orders are due soon for the plants we'll use for spring plantings, so now is the time to share your gardening passion and knowledge! For more information on participating, contact Jennifer Sayers at 515-681-2443 or jen@bijougrafx.com.

THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES ARE SUPPORTERS OF THE DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION!



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