



# NEIGHBOR NEWS

DISPLAY JUNE 1 - AUGUST 30, 2019

## SPIDEY COMES TO WITMER PARK JUNE 6

By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

Every summer, the Drake Neighborhood Association hosts a free outdoor movie in Witmer Park, part of the city's Free Flicks series. This year? The film is *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*—and the evening will include free food and hours of fun in the park before the movie starts.

Thanks to generous support from DNA sponsors University Library Cafe, Bank Iowa, and the Des Moines Menace soccer team—as well as donations from Kum & Go, Jethro's BBQ, and HyVee and help from Des Moines Parks & Recreation and neighborhood volunteers—there will be free pizza and popcorn, games, raffles, roving superheroes, and even a meet-and-greet with the Menace! We'll also have more information about renovations starting at Witmer Park this summer and how you can help by supporting the Witmer Park Project.

So dust off those spidey PJs, bring a lawn chair or a blanket, and join us at Witmer Park, northeast of Beaver Avenue and 37th Street, on June 6. The festivities start at 6 p.m. The movie will be shown on a large inflatable screen at about 9 p.m. See you there!

Got spidey PJs? Wear 'em!

free flicks  
PRESENTS

# SPIDER-MAN

Into the Spider-Verse

**JUNE 6**  
**WITMER PARK**  
(northeast of Beaver Avenue and 37th Street)

Grab a lawn chair or a blanket and join your neighbors for food, fun, and a free movie under the stars at Witmer Park. We'll have free pizza and popcorn, games, raffles, and a meet-and-greet with the Menace soccer team. Food and fun begin at 6 p.m. The film begins at dusk (about 9 p.m.).

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Bank Iowa

DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

DES MOINES MENACE

CITY OF DES MOINES  
PARKS AND RECREATION

WITMER PARK PROJECT

# DEVELOPMENTS

## NDC TO REHAB CRAZYHORSE CORNER

By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

The former longtime home of CrazyHorse Guitars is getting new life as a restaurant and office building. Neighborhood Development Corporation is remodeling the building at 2331 University Ave., which dates to 1887 and once housed a surgeon's office and a Rexall pharmacy.

NDC executive director Abbey Gilroy said NDC plans to peel back the skin of the building to unearth its historic exterior and reopen it as a ground-floor, eat-in restaurant with NDC and other offices on the second level.

Gilroy said NDC also will be improving the parking lot, burying a power line, and adding trees and other streetscaping to enhance the



An artist's rendering, above, shows what 2331 University Ave. could look like after NDC completes its renovation. At left, Abbey Gilroy shares the plan and a photo of the building from the 1940s, when it was a pharmacy, at the April DNA Board Meeting.

property. Gilroy said she couldn't yet name the restaurant but that it's a local business that's invested in the area. Gilroy said NDC hopes to be moved into its offices in the building

by November. NDC is a non-profit that steps in to rehabilitate and renovate commercial and residential properties when private development isn't able to. It reinvests proceeds in future community redevelopment. CrazyHorse Guitars closed last year, following the death in March of longtime owner John O'Connell.

## HILTON HOTEL WORK BEGUN

Nelson Construction has leveled its property southwest of University Avenue and 26th Street, formerly home to a large Drake University parking lot and several homes, to make way for a five-story, 124-room Hilton Home2 Suites extended-stay hotel.

Work on the \$28 million project began this spring. Nelson's Alexander Grgurich said he expects foundation and exterior



work to conclude this fall, interior work to continue over the winter and spring, and the hotel to open next June.

The building, designed by BNIM, will hug University Avenue between 26th and 27th Streets, with parking to the south. City-approved site

plans call for a landscaped, treed buffer zone between the property and homes to its south and provide alley access through the hotel's parking lot.

The project also will include a large as-yet-unnamed restaurant, plus patios, and retail tenants on the ground floor.

Grgurich said design work will begin in earnest this summer on a related development: a mixed-use (apartment and retail) project on the expanse of green space southeast of 26th Street and University Avenue.



# KUM & GO CORNER UPGRADE ON DECK

By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

Kum & Go representatives visiting the DNA Board Meeting in April shared that they are hoping to redo their property at 31st Street and University Avenue in the next year.

The convenience store chain also owns the apartment building south of the current gas station. They'd like to remove that building and move the gas station entrances further from the intersection for better traffic flow.

Kum & Go real estate development manager Siobhan Harman said the company hadn't drawn up detailed plans yet but hoped to double the building's size, position it closer to the sidewalks near the intersection, move the gas pumps to the southwest, and expand from four pumps



This conceptual rendering, shared with neighbors at the April DNA Board Meeting, shows how a modern Kum & Go might look at the corner of 31st and University, as viewed from the northeast.

to eight. They want the new store to look more like Kum & Go's newer locations—built to LEED standards—and to carry a wider array of fresh food, from produce and salads to made-in-house bakery items. Harman estimated they'd need three months or more to get plans to and through city approvals and another six or seven months to complete the construction. Watch for more details later this year.

## GROOVY GOODS ADDS APOTHECARY

The hippie-inspired clothing, gift, and more store known as Groovy Goods has moved east to a larger storefront and added an herbal apothecary counter that sells everything from ashwagandha and elderflower to mugwort and valerian root powder for tinctures and teas. The store also now hosts a hand-drumming night at 6 p.m. the last Sunday of each month. Owner Elaine Hargrove said the new location at 2300 University Ave. afforded her the space for the additional offerings.



## KITCHEN SPACES OPENS ON 24TH

Drake-area landlord and Heart & Seoul Korean BBQ food truck operator Bob Mulvihill has opened a commercial kitchen-and-event space at 1139 24th St. The aptly named Kitchen Spaces contains a large demonstration kitchen with seating and three smaller commercial kitchens. Local cooking instructor Sue Honkamp is holding her Real Food 4 Kids children's cooking camps in the

demonstration kitchen this summer. The other kitchens will open in late June, renting to food truck operators and other food entrepreneurs by the hour, day, or week. Mulvihill said he is working to add a rooftop garden and more off-street parking for the site, formerly Ballard's Window & Glass.

## UNIVERSITY SEWER WORK STARTING

Sewer separation and streetscape work begins June 3 on University Avenue between 25th and 31st Streets. City staff say at least a lane in each direction should remain open during construction with traffic condensed into either the north or south half of the roadway through the end of the year. The street will be reconfigured as a three-lane with a center turn lane, protected parking on the south, bike lanes, a new bus shelter, and buried utility lines. Some side streets also will see sewer work.

# DRAKE + MENACE SOCCER = GOAL!



By Nichole Aksamit Purcell

The Des Moines Menace, Iowa's only USL League Two soccer team, is now playing its home games at Drake Stadium. And, through a new business partnership with the Drake Neighborhood Association, the Menace is offering discounted tickets for neighbors all season.

"With a proud history that traces back to 1994, the Menace has established itself as one of the country's most accomplished soccer organizations," said sales and marketing manager Charlie Bales. "Menace games offer a fun, family-friendly environment for anyone from soccer enthusiasts to those watching their first match."

The team has drawn players from 47 countries over the years and is coached by Mark McKeever. As part of other leagues, the team had played home games Des Moines Hoover High School from 1995 to 2004, in Waukee from 2005 to 2007, and at Valley High School in West Des Moines from 2008 to 2018 before moving to Drake Stadium this May.

Bales said they're happy to bring soccer to the neighborhood. "Drake Stadium offers an iconic venue with a central location. We're excited to engage with neighbors and businesses in the beautiful surrounding area."

## UPCOMING HOME GAMES (all at 7:30 p.m. at Drake Stadium)

- June 7 vs. St. Louis
- June 29 vs. Kaw Valley
- July 11 vs. Thunder Bay
- July 13 vs. Thunder Bay

## TICKET DISCOUNT FOR NEIGHBORS

Drake Neighborhood Association members, family, and friends can receive discounted tickets all season long by entering DNA in the promo code box at checkout at <http://menace-soccer.com/tickets>. Tickets are \$8 online (\$6 after discount) or \$10 at the gate. Children age 5 and under get in free.



## MEET THE MENACE

Menace players, and possibly even their soccer-headed mascot Maniac, above, will be at Free Flicks June 6 at Witmer Park.



## WITMER PARK GOFUNDME SET UP

Neighbors, businesses, and others who'd like to contribute to the Witmer Park Project can now donate at [gofundme.com/witmerparkproject](http://gofundme.com/witmerparkproject). A joint effort of the Beaverdale and Drake Neighborhood Associations,

the project aims to raise \$100,000 toward restrooms and playground improvements not currently covered in a DNR/city project this summer at the park. Checks can also be made to Friends of Des Moines Parks (with "Witmer Park" in the memo line) and mailed to Back Country, c/o Jay Kozel, 2702 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA, 50310 or dropped in donation bins at Free Flicks on June 6 at Witmer Park.

## HEAR LIVE MUSIC AT DRAKE PARK

Summer in the City brings its free concert series to Drake Park on June 22. Music starts at 5:15 p.m. Bands include Boulevard, Domestic Blend, and Eleanor Grace. Find more info at [summerinthecitydsm.com](http://summerinthecitydsm.com).

# 2019 FARMERS MARKET UPDATES

The Global Greens Farmers Market opens June 1 and runs 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through Oct. 26. at Lutheran Services in Iowa, 3200 University Ave. Its veggies are grown using sustainable practices by former refugees and include local favorites and specialty produce from the farmers' home countries. The market accepts SNAP, WIC, and senior FMNP cards and is a double-up-bucks vendor, which means those on food assistance can get twice as much produce with their cards at the market. Global Greens also offers

a CSA subscription for much of the growing season. For more details or to sign up, visit [www.lsiowa.org/csa](http://www.lsiowa.org/csa).

The Drake Neighborhood Farmers Market is taking a break this year. If you'd like to help with the market in 2020, email [drakefarmersmarketinfo@gmail.com](mailto:drakefarmersmarketinfo@gmail.com)

## TICKET DISCOUNT FOR NEIGHBORS

Des Moines Community Playhouse is again offering a 15 percent discount to neighbors purchasing tickets online for its mainstage shows. Use the code 18DNA on the checkout screen

when buying tickets at [dmpplayhouse.com](http://dmpplayhouse.com). *Silent Sky*, which tells untold stories of real-life female astronomers, runs through June 18.

## GET A DNA TOTE

Don't miss out on our limited edition Drake Neighborhood tote bags! Designed by Drake neighbors, the bags feature a silhouette of our neighborhood. Just \$10 each, they're available at DNA events this year and select local merchants. You can also arrange a purchase by emailing [nicholeaksamit@icloud.com](mailto:nicholeaksamit@icloud.com).



# SUMMER EVENTS

Check our Facebook ([@DrakeNeighborhoodAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/DrakeNeighborhoodAssociation)) for updates and additional events.

## JUNE

- 6** Free Flicks (*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*), 6 p.m. at Witmer Park
- 12** DNA Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Polk County Central Senior Center, 2008 Forest Ave.
- 15** SCRUB day. Yard waste, trash, and bulk items accepted free, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. and MWA Compost Center, 601 Harriett St., and until 1 p.m. at Capitol Complex Lot 3
- 22** Free Summer in the City concert, 5:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Drake Park, 24th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue

## JULY

- 4** Happy Fourth! Garbage and yard waste pickup will be delayed a day this week.
- 6-7** Cottage Grove Church & Des Moines Dream Center 3-on-3 basketball tournaments and more at Drake Park. Details at [unitedrevivaldsm.com](http://unitedrevivaldsm.com)
- 11** DNA Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Polk County Central Senior Center, 2008 Forest Ave.
- 20** SCRUB day. Yard waste, trash, and bulk items accepted free, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at MWA Transfer Station and MWA Compost Center, and until 1 p.m. at Polk County River Place
- 27** Iowa blues harmonica artist Malcom Wells, 2 p.m. at Forest Avenue Library

## AUGUST

- 6** National Night Out, 5 p.m. at Drake Park, 24th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue
- 14** DNA Board meeting, 7 p.m. at Polk County Central Senior Center, 2008 Forest Ave.
- 17** SCRUB day. Yard waste, trash, and bulk items accepted free, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at MWA Transfer Station and MWA Compost Center
- 26** Fall term begins at Drake University

**GOT NEWS?** Please email any Sept.-Dec. events to [nicholeaksamit@icloud.com](mailto:nicholeaksamit@icloud.com) by **Aug. 15** for possible inclusion in our third quarter newsletter.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



## SPRUCE-UP A SUCCESS

Drake neighbors teamed up with Drake University students to host a spring cleanup that honored the late Paul Morrison, a university employee who made litter collection a way of life. Even after rain delayed the original date, dozens turned out and collected trash along six miles of neighborhood streets in just two hours on April 23. Thanks to all the helpers!

## RODINE-MICKLE HONORS GIVEN

Drake Neighborhood volunteers Kevin and Carole Venhouse, Jennifer Sayers, and Nichole Aksamit Purcell; public servants Sgt. Mark McKinney and park planner Colby Fangman; and business partner Bank Iowa were all honored with nominations at the Des Moines Neighbors' 20th annual Rodine-Mickle Dinner April 30.



## PLANTING BEAUTY

Walnut Creek Church volunteers and Drake neighbors teamed up again for a day of service on May 26, weeding and planting flowers in the urns and beds at the triangular park at 24th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue and along Kingman Boulevard. Some even took photos. Thanks to all who helped beautify our neighborhood!



# 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 without a sticker, 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 5) for upcoming dates or visit the Public Works section of [www.dmgov.org](http://www.dmgov.org).

**STICKER IT:** Buy and apply extra-trash, compost, 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. Compost bags and stickers for twig bundles are also available.

**HAUL IT:** Take 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](http://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 access to alleyway parking.

**SEE DUMPING? REPORT IT:** Use the My DSM Mobile app or My DSM function at [www.dmgov.org](http://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](mailto:mamckinney@dmgov.org)

Des Moines Housing Inspector Eric Barker:  
515-283-4980, [ejbarker@dmgov.org](mailto:ejbarker@dmgov.org)

NBSD Committee Chair Bill Cappuccio:  
515-710-7591, [bill@wrc3.net](mailto: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](mailto:jen@bijougrafix.com)

Vice President Lori Calhoun: 515-240-6090,  
[zotic@aol.com](mailto:zotic@aol.com)

Secretary Amy Clark: 515-210-4139, [dsmajc@gmail.com](mailto:dsmajc@gmail.com)

Treasurer Mark Schneider: 515-277-4268,  
[marks1809@aol.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://drakeneighborhood.org) website.) Our next meeting is June 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](mailto:info@drakeneighborhood.org). Or see the detailed list of our most current volunteer needs below and reply to the contact person listed.

C U R R E N T  
V O L U N T E E R  
N E E D S

**40TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES:** Want to help plan and create a street festival and more to help the DNA celebrate its 40th anniversary this year? Contact Kristina Johnson at [kj4kristina.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:kj4kristina.johnson@gmail.com).

**PHOTOGRAPHERS, DESIGNERS, WRITERS, AND DELIVERERS:** Want to help create and distribute DNA event flyers, marketing materials, and quarterly newsletters like this one in 2019? Contact Nichole Aksamit Purcell at [nicholeaksamit@icloud.com](mailto:nicholeaksamit@icloud.com).

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:** Want to help your neighbors plan, plant, and maintain beautiful flower beds in our signature boulevards and parks or help with other beautification efforts throughout the growing season? Contact Jennifer Sayers at 515-681-2443 or [jen@bijougrafix.com](mailto:jen@bijougrafix.com).

THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES ARE SUPPORTERS OF THE DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION!



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