

Dover Pointe Neighborhood Newsletter

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Spring 2009

New Electronic Newsletter

Spring has finally arrived, and with it a new format for the Dover Pointe Newsletter. Instead of distributing a one-page newsletter in doors, we've moved to an electronic newsletter that can be read and downloaded from the Dover Pointe web site www.doverpointe.org

The electronic newsletter allows us to provide more information to our neighbors, and creates an archive of newsletters on the webpage, as we'll leave them up indefinitely.

Postcards will be sent to each

of you on a quarterly basis during 2009 as a reminder that the new newsletter is ready to be viewed. Our schedule will be to release in April, July, October, and January.

However, the web site is updated on a constant basis, so please make a habit of checking the website for new information and event announcements between newsletters.

As always, questions can be sent to the Board via email at doverpointe@comcast.net



Walking Routes

With the warmer weather, many of us enjoy getting out of the house for a walk around the neighborhood. Check the web page over the next few weeks for the addition of various walking routes and corresponding mileage. Ever wonder just how far it is to Northtrail Park and back, or around Northwoods Church? With this new tool on the webpage, you'll be able to not only enjoy your walk, but take some satisfaction in the distance covered.

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Dover Pointe

Alerts and Crime Mapping

Dover Pointe remains a very safe neighborhood, thanks in part to neighbors watching out for each other. We want to keep Dover Pointe as a place where our kids can play without parents having to worry about them (too much), and where the existing comfortable neighborhood feeling continues.

Although the internet can't necessarily help with keeping us safe, it can help us keep track of criminal activity and other dangers thanks to two new web sites launched by the City of Peoria over the past few months.

Signing up for the Code Red system will allow you to be notified by phone or text message if there is any natu-

ral or man made emergency in our area. Because this alert is area-specific, it will not alert you to events that do not have an impact on Dover Pointe. To sign up, go to the following web site <http://www.ci.peoria.il.us/codered>

The Peoria Police Department and the Peoria County Sheriff's Department recently launched the "CrimeView" website. This site allows you to search for crimes using a variety of search methods. When searching by address, please remember that we have to select "Peoria" as our city, even though our mailing address indicates "Dunlap." The website can be accessed at <http://peoria.il.crimeviewcommunity.com>

2009 Neighborhood Events

A full schedule of neighborhood events is set for 2009. As these events come closer, **please check the webpage for further or updated information.** No flyers will be distributed for these events during 2009.

Easter Egg Hunt—April 11

[More details on the web page](#)

Neighborhood Garage Sale—May 16

Neighborhood Clean-Up—May 30

Annual Meeting—June 25

4th of July Parade—....yes, on July 4

National Night Out Against Crime—August 4

Neighborhood Fall Picnic—September 9

Halloween—October 31—although not a "sponsored neighborhood event," this is always a busy night in Dover Pointe.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help with any of these events, please send an email to the web master—we need as many volunteers as possible.

2009 Budget

The single largest expense associated with the Dover Pointe Neighborhood is the maintenance of the entryways, the nine retention ponds, and the perimeter of the subdivision outside of the fence line.

Your homeowner dues pay for these expenses, and without this maintenance, the overall image of the neighborhood would be

significantly diminished.

In total, we spend over \$15,000 each year on this activity.

Although the Board tries to keep up with the monitoring of all these areas, if you feel that something has been missed, or more care needs to be taken with a particular area, please send an email to the web master and we'll follow up with the contractors.

Other budget items include expenses for Social Events, such as the 4th of July Parade and the Fall Picnic. We also budget for liability insurance and some administrative expenses (webpage & email costs, stamps, etc.) Your neighbors who serve on the Board do not receive any compensation. For a complete budget, go to the Dover Pointe webpage.

Restrictions & Dues Reminder

This is the article that nobody wants to write, but is perhaps most necessary. When all of us purchased our properties in Dover Pointe, we agreed to the restrictive covenants placed upon all properties. Your real estate agent should have given you a copy of the restrictions before you purchased your house, if not, they are available on the web site.

The restrictions are in place to keep an agreed upon standard within the neighborhood. Compliance with these

restrictions creates a predictable living environment for all of us. Some of the most common questions about the restrictions are:

Fences: Not allowed anywhere on the property. The only exception is when a fence is required per City Code around a swimming pool (the Board must review and agree to the plan for the pool and fence before construction).

Outdoor Lighting: Everyone should

keep their front yard light in good working order.

Vehicle Storage: No vehicles of any kind (car, RV, boat, etc.), operable or inoperable, may be stored in the neighborhood unless they are inside a garage.

Dues: On an annual basis, every property owner is assessed home owner dues. These dues go toward the upkeep of the neighborhood and all of the other items listed on the budget (available on the web page).

The Board does not enjoy enforcing any of the restrictions against our neighbors. However, it is unfair to allow one or two property owners to ignore the established rules and regulations when everyone else is in compliance. If you have further questions about the restrictions, please contact the web master.

Produce Gardens

Many of us enjoy planting a small produce garden in the spring and harvesting in the fall. However, the Board received several complaints last year related to the size, location, and maintenance of produce gardens around the neighborhood.

In order to better define what is an acceptable produce garden, the Board has established guidelines in keeping with the restrictions that should be used by home owners in Dover Pointe. These guidelines can be found on the web page. The guide-

lines do allow for the establishment of small temporary fences around produce gardens. Gardens must not exceed the size set forth, and cannot be planted around the foundation of the house, where landscape plantings would normally be placed. Please send any questions about these guidelines to the web master.

Development Updates

Although the lagging national economy has slowed down development in Peoria, there are still several projects of interest moving forward. The shopping center on Knoxville, north of Hucks and south of Wilhelm road was approved late last year. Upon development, there will be a full service grocery store and several outlots for other retail establishments. The improvements to Wilhelm Road, including the installation of a traffic light at Allen & Wilhelm should take place this year. As the subdivisions to our west continue to develop, the bridge taking Wilhelm over the ravine, and with it, a direct pedestrian/bike connection to the Rock Island Trail should also occur this year.

Development continues on Allen Road, around the Rt 6 intersection. The Methodist Health Center beside Sud's continues to be built, and several plans are in the works for a gas station, restaurant, and grocery store near Menards.

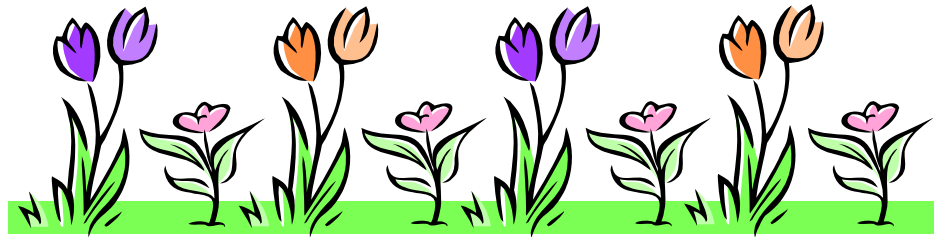
The "crazy" curve heading north on Allen at the intersection with Alta Ln., continues to be a safety concern. The Dover Pointe Board has contacted our elected State officials on this matter (it's a State road), and hope for an improvement.

Marketing the Neighborhood

Home values have declined nationwide, and Peoria has been no exception to this trend. We all need to keep in mind that the overall condition of the neighborhood and each of our properties either increases or decreases the value of our homes. Please look out for all of your neighbors by keeping your property in good condition throughout the year. We'll continue to try and "market" Dover Pointe through the web page and neighborhood activities. Please let us know if there are any other activities or events that you feel would enhance the value of our neighborhood.

Capital Improvements

The Board is considering several capital investments over the next few years to enhance Dover Pointe. During 2009, we will be exploring the option of replacing the City standard street signs and poles with ornamental signs and poles. Future capital improvements include the installation of lighting at the entry signs. Keep checking on the web page for updates on these projects and other happenings in and around Dover Pointe.



Please Slow
Down

**25 MPH Speed
Limit**

Remember—
It's your
neighbor's kids
riding their
bikes around
the subdivision

Please contact the webmaster with any concerns, suggestions, or questions. We all want to make Dover Pointe the best possible neighborhood—communication is the key to getting there

Have a **GREAT** spring