

What would you think of a web site that had the latest area news, aerial photos of the area, a history of the area, articles about people that live in the area, an archive of the area newsletter, online chat and a message board? Sounds like a pretty good site to me.

*The brains behind it:*

Well the Hanover Square web site is such a site. The site was the brainchild of Tom Schaefer, the current president of Hanover Square. Tom could see we needed a way to share information with members of our community and felt that a majority of members of Hanover Square had access to the internet and were comfortable using this medium to share information.

Not only would the site provide a place to contain basic information but it could also serve as a conduit so it is easier for all members to engage in the process of running the association by providing input to the decision making process.

The site is a pretty nice site, I've heard this from outside sources also and when you consider that Tom knew nothing about building and programming a web site when he started it is really quite amazing

I'm sure Tom had various reasons for taking on this project, for one, this type of work looks very good on your resume but the main reason was that this would be a great resource for the community.

For those of you who may say he has been raising association fees while wasting money on the web site I would like to let you know that Tom has funded the whole web site from his own pocket. I for one will recommend that Hanover Square start picking up the cost of running the site.

If for some reason you haven't heard of the site before you can find it at [www.hanoversquare.org](http://www.hanoversquare.org).

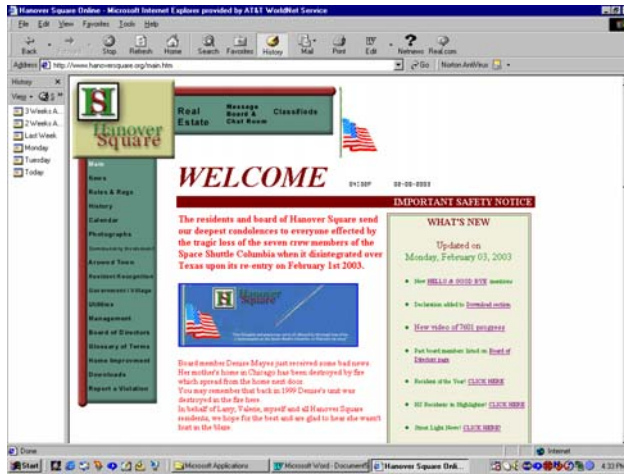
*What's out there:*

Have you lost that copy of the newsletter you were saving because of an article in it, no worry, you can get it from the web site. Just go out to the site and download it.

Got a gripe about the complex, want to voice your opinion about some issue or pass along some praise for a good neighbor, put it on the

message board for all to see and respond to.

Here's your chance to be a regular Mike Royko, Clarence Page or Mary Mitchell. I'm personally involved with several message boards including the Hanover Square board, they are a wonderful way to share ideas and convey information. The only drawback, if you want to call it that, is you can get involved in the messages and the next thing you know it's 1:30 A.M. you've been on for 4 hours and you have to get up and go to work in the morning.



Want to chat with your buddies, no problem, you can use the site's chat feature.

Go online and see what others in the neighborhood are doing. Find out who's kids joined in a neighborhood lawn cleanup, see who graduated from the Citizen's Police Academy.

Check out the history of Hanover Square. If you have old documents or information about historical Hanover Square let us know, we are interested in information like this for the site.

Can't sleep, you can read the Illinois Condominium Act and Hanover Square Declaration and Bylaws on the site. This should put you to sleep and if they don't you might end up with a good start at getting a law degree.

Check out the photos, see what the area looked like before Hanover Square was here, see what it looks like today, look at it from a satellite's view, see it from an airplane. See photos of your neighbors and see videos of happenings in the neighborhood.

Couldn't recognize the board members or property manager if you life depended on it?

Have a peek at the web site, you'll find photos and information about each of the board members and the property manager.

Keep an eye on what is for sale on the Classified's page. Got something you want to sell, post an ad on the site, it's free.

Replacing a front door and need to know what types of front doors are allowed? See them on the site, while you're there you can also see other items allowed such as what types of windows and mailboxes are allowed.

*Information Management:*

Sound like there's a lot of information out there, well there is. Some of this is information the association never had before some of it has been around for decades.

In the past only a few had access to all of this information mainly because in the old days it was more difficult and costly to disseminate all the information.

Information was maintained by different people in different places. Board members had information, the management company had information and when either of these changed information could and was lost forever.

Documentation was stored in boxes and boxes would fill rooms until something had to give, generally the boxes were weeded through and anything not of immediate interest to the weeder was tossed.

With computers and ever bigger hard drives when the drive gets full you just get a bigger drive, it doesn't take up anymore space and there is no need to purge any important information, you can keep all your work.

With the web site and other computer based technologies we hope to save this information in one place and have it available at our fingertips.

When boards change or managers change we can easily pass along all the information to the new custodians.

Larry M. Adrian

*Final Thought:*

"Success is not in never falling but in rising everytime you fall"

Vince Lombardi