



#### Inside:

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- Earth Day April 27th
   Elmwood Park 11AM 6 PM

# **Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter**

"Dedicated to Preserving the Community" www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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#### **Letter From the President**

John Ashford Johnnyash5@gmail.com

#### Hi Neighbor!

I wanted to send one more shout out to Dave Schinzel who volunteered for 20(!) years here at the DMPA. He did so much that we were looking for 3 people to do the job Dave did for us. Our merchant liaison and Ice Cream Queen Becky App helped us recruit Seraphim Mullins and Jill Moeller to hopefully join the board and take over as new member chairs. The feedback we get from door hangers for new neighbors is extremely positive and our membership is very strong. We are still looking for one more person that would be willing to take over Dave's duties of protector of the subway, i.e. review security alerts from our cameras that we maintain. If there are any aspiring private eye/neighborhood protectors you know of, please send me an email!

I wanted to thank everyone for a very successful in person February meeting. Kristi Gibbs, head of school at Brownell Talbot gave us a peek into the future of the campus. Our own venerable Molly Romero unveiled a new Dundee Streetscape that draws inspiration from New York City's highline. Jay Lund, neighbor and friend of Dundee, laid out what will be a generational change in the UNMC corridor. He is a wonderful asset to our neighborhood and was so kind with his time. Finally, the Olsson presentation on North Saddle. I can not wait to see what our neighbors to the north will soon become!

Speaking of the Dundee Streetscape, you can donate now to the project. My wife Allison and I donated last week and we are also applying for several grants, including the mayor's grant that should help make this transformational change a reality. The new native plants and infrastructure will turn Downtown Dundee into a more natural and beautiful place that should be sustainable long into the future. Donate at https://www.dundee-memorial-park.org/donate - you can designate the landscape project or to our flower basket fund as well!

We had the opportunity on the 29th to attend the soft opening of Ooh De Lally. The hype is real. Tim and his crew have something very special on their perch overlooking Underwood Ave. Get over to ODL as soon as you can!

John

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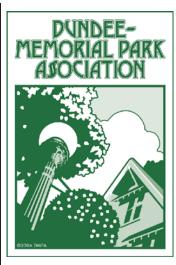
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## **Dodge Street Subway History**

50,000 cars and trucks pass above the Dodge Street Subway each day, unaware that the tunnel below Dodge at 51st Avenue has provided safe passage for pedestrians for 90 years

The 1934 Dundee Subway was one of two pedestrian subways that were built as part of Omaha's largest Depressionera Work Progress Administration municipal project, the widening and reconstruction of Dodge Street. The other subway was at 33rd & Dodge. The tunnel is Omaha's only below-grade pedestrian crossing.

As automobile registrations in Omaha steadily increased from a few hundred in 1905 to a thousand or so in 1910 and then to tens of thousands by 1930, traffic on what was once sleepy Dodge Road had become a dangerous problem for pedestrians.

To answer the problem, the Dodge Street Subway was built below Dodge Road in 1934 during the peak of WPA public works era. The subway has since linked the neighborhoods south of Dodge with churches, schools, Dundee shops.

The below grade subway got shabby over 90 years but remained the safest way to cross Dodge. The important passageway was restored and refreshed by neighbors led by Dave Schinzel and volunteers working with the city.

Dave Schinzel is a Dundee hero. He deserves our gratitude for preserving, protecting, and enhancing the historic 1934 subway and 2024 pedestrian safety.

# Joint Aksarben/Dundee Meeting about the new Voter ID laws

We will be meeting at the CEC at UNO on March 21st at 6:30 PM.

Speakers will be Christopher Carithers and Brian Kruse from the Douglas County Election Commission, speaking about the new Vote ID law.

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# Glass Recycling is Back in Midtown !!!

The full-service location at 7301 Farnam accepts all recyclables that are collected by FCC Environmental through the City of Omaha residential curbside program. Glass is also accepted at the full-service drop-off sites. Glass can be recycled in the purple containers, all other

materials go in the green containers.





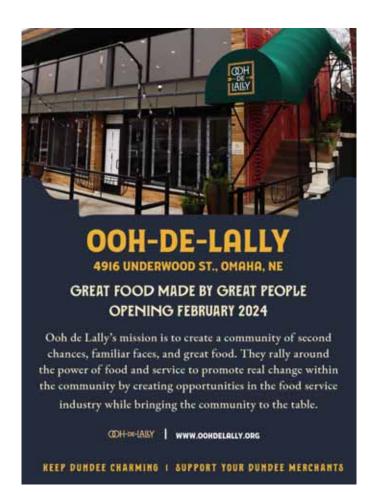
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#### The Annual DMPA Garage Sale is Back!

Friday, May 10 Saturday, May 11 Sunday, May 12

The 2024 DMPA Garage Sale Is Coming Up! And it will be here before you know it. Start going through your closets, storage room, attic, garage and wherever else you have stashed all those goodies. All Dundee-Memorial Park Association members whose memberships are current are eligible to participate. You decide which dates to have your sale and set your own hours. The Association will promote the event with yard signs, advertising and a complete listing of sale locations on our website.

#### SIGN UP ONLINE BY TUESDAY, APRIL 30 AT

www.dundee-memorialpark.org

Questions? Can't Get Signed Up Online? Call Mickey Harrington at 402-553-3143

#### The Transformation of Brownell Talbot School

Dundee landmark, Brownell Hall, was founded in 1863 by the Rt. Rev. Joseph Cruickshank Talbot, the Episcopal Bishop of the Northwest. Bishop Talbot was inspired by his desire to bring cultural and educational opportunities to the daughters of the pioneers without the long journey to eastern boarding schools. Brownell Hall held Nebraska's first graduation ceremony in 1868.

Brownell Hall purchased the 33-room Happy Hollow home of J.N.H. Patrick in 1923. It was used for by the school decades until it was declared unsafe by the Fire Marshall and torn down in the 1960s.

Brownell Hall became coeducational in 1952. In 1967, Brownell Talbot became independent of the Episcopal Church. Today, Brownell Talbot is Nebraska's only independent, coeducational, college preparatory day school serving students from preschool through grade 12.

Thanks to the generosity of foundational support, visionary gifts from Debbie and Brian Wood, BT Legacy Families, the Board of Trustees, and the BT Foundation Board, historic Brownell Talbot is taking a major step forward and embarking on a transformational project.

Immediately following the spring, 2024 semester, Brownell Talbot will break ground on a fully redesigned East campus that will introduce new collaborative spaces and significant facilities upgrades to enhance Brownell Talbot's learning environment for all students. Brownell Talbot's campus transformation will occur from summer 2024 through spring 2026. Six temporary classrooms will be installed.

Safety and security will be at the forefront of all campus improvements. A new 50,000 square foot, state-of-the-art wing will replace the Lower School building. The dynamic building addition will facilitate a new central entrance. Major improvements will include advanced classroom technologies, mechanical upgrades, airflow and air exchange systems, and telecommunications infrastructure. Floor plans will be conducive to the wide range of scholastic and extracurricular activities taking place on the Happy Hollow campus.

A new main entrance and atrium, reimagined dining hall, and new Lower School and Middle School gym will bring flexible spaces for gatherings, performances, athletics, competitions, and project-based learning opportunities and more. Find more project details and updates at www.brownell.edu/building together

### **Dundee Landscaping Renovation 2024**

The Project consists of renovating the landscape of Dundee's two-block business district using design principles that are aesthetically pleasing, focused on native plants and ecological sustainability, including plants to attract and feed pollinators, reduce maintenance and thrive in the relatively harsh conditions of a commercial streetscape.

The work would include ameliorating existing conditions currently preventing the thriving of plantings, including removing existing soil and weed-barrier fabric, replacing and increasing the depth of the substrate so plants roots can grow deeper, improving drainage, and installing plant material more appropriate for the streetscape conditions.

The new design was graciously developed by Kinghorn Gardens, who will also provide a full year of professional maintenance, including frequent watering by tank trucks for the first 60 days to assure sound establishment of the new plant materials.

Cost: \$125,000 for installation and 12 months maintenance

Timeline: Installation Fall 2024 Service Provider: Kinghorn Gardens

Funding Sources: Omaha-based grants and Dundee Resident & Business Donations

Design Inspiration:

New Perennial Movement Native Nebraskan vegetation

Ecologically Responsible Heat and Drought Hardy

Innovative Public Educational Element

Vibrant and Visually Beautiful - Landscaping as an Art form

To support the Dundee Landscaping Renovation Project, visit: https://www.dundee-memorialpark.org/donate or contact:

Molly Romero at Romero.Molly@gmail.com 402-237-1824 Becky App at BeckyApp@eCreamery.com 402-639-5125

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#### **Please Proceed**

by Jean Sigler

A couple of days ago I underwent a medical "procedure." Procedure is the medical term for "what we're going to do to you is unbelievably painful or extremely dangerous or so gross that no one wants to use the real word for it." The procedure I underwent falls into the third category. Without going into detail, this procedure requires a 24-hour preparation involving fasting and emptying a 38 gallon container of fluid in 2 hours. Whoever invented this "prep" should be consigned to the lowest level of hell – a level that doesn't consist of burning in everlasting flames, but rather drinking 8 ounces of a thick sticky liquid every 10 minutes for all eternity.

Brave soldier that I am, I finished the prep and went to the hospital expecting to return home after 3 hours or so, just in time for lunch. I was barely in time for dinner.

I was happily waiting for the joy juice that would make me forget that I hadn't eaten or slept for 36 hours when all manner of medical professionals started looking at the heart monitor and chatting among themselves. At some point one of them asked if I had ever been diagnosed with Afib. I have not. She said there were some suspicious looking things on the monitor and my heart rate was elevated so she had ordered an EKG to see what was going on. When the EKG was finished, she returned to say that it had shown some irregular heartbeats.

The anesthesiologist flagged down the doc who was in charge of my procedure. He said he wouldn't perform it what with the irregular beats and Afibs and fast heart rate and all, because "your heart could start beating a million times a minute and there would be nothing I could do about it." He might as well have shot me through my irregularly beating heart. The idea of going through the prep from hell again was unimaginable. On the other hand, I have to admit that having a fully credentialed doctor working on me who thought it was possible for a heart to beat a million times a minute, did not exactly inspire me to place my life in his hands.

When the doctor left, the anesthesiologist said she was going to get a cardiac consult. This resulted in 3 doctors gathered round my cubicle comparing notes about my heart. One of them thought he saw an Afib on the monitor. The second one didn't offer any opinion. The third said he didn't think it was Afib. They left to do some more conferring and when they returned, the third doc said that whatever it was (turns out it was not Afib), it was nothing that would prevent me from having the procedure. I almost made that heart shape you do with your fingers, but I thought it might make a heart doctor think I was trying to send a secret message.

The anesthesiologist said she would see if the million-beats-a-minute doc could squeeze me back into his schedule.

All of this testing, consulting and conferring took place over a 7-hour period. During that time, I heard the nurses asking many, many other patients the interview questions for the procedure. I have memorized all 24 items. I'm thinking of applying for a job as a pre-procedure interviewer.

At one point the team returned from the procedure room with a man who was finished. He complained of a 7 out of 10 head ache. While the nurses were waiting for the Tylenol the man said he was very dizzy. Then I heard them say his heart rate had dropped very low very fast and they might have to call RRT to take him to the PACU or CARDS. I don't know what any of that meant, but it was like listening to an episode of ER, a show I have watched so many times I'm sure I could get a quite respectable score on the MCATS. I almost recommended that they get a CBC and Chem 7.

As I sat marking time, nurses and the anesthesiologists would periodically poke their heads in and give the thumbs up demonstrating their solidarity with me and the hope that I could still have the procedure. I told them I would cheerfully pay a large sum of money to anyone who would give me their place in the queue. I don't know if it was the thumbs or the money but about an hour later the nurse said I was a go.

As we turned the corner to the procedure room, Dr. Million Beats a Minute hopped out into the hallway and merrily called out, "Hey, shall we do this?" I gave him a cheery thumbs up and a Whoo Whoo and crossed my fingers that this fellow was really an M.D., but wouldn't have re-scheduled even if my life depended on it. I finally got my happy sauce and nodded off. I guess the Doc was okay, because here I am telling the tale.

#### Omaha's 1913 Monster Easter Tornado

March 13, 1913 had been a beautiful Easter day. There was no advance warning when the tornado struck with the swiftness of lightning just before sunset. The storm left 140 dead, 350 houses demolished, 11 churches and 8 schools wrecked, and 1,250 buildings damaged.

When the morning light came, fire, destruction, and death marked the 6-block wide path of the twister. Broken telephone and telegraph wires made communications impossible. Fire added to the catastrophe. Messengers on horseback carried alarms to fire stations, hospitals, and doctors.

90 bodies had been recovered by dawn as bankers. and teamsters frantically worked side by side through the night. The total number of lives lost was believed to be more than 140.

People frantically sought missing loved ones in hospitals, undertakers or the city morgue. Crowds overwhelmed the Coroner's Office. People viewed bodies but many didn't find loved ones, so there was still hope.

The first trace of the storm was at 54th & Center. From there it traveled north and slightly east to 46th & Leavenworth Street. The first serious damage in the nearly 5-mile path of destruction was at Beal's School and the last was the destroyed railroad trestle at Carter Lake.

Not a house was left around 45th & Leavenworth. Much of the West Leavenworth neighborhood was leveled and eleven were killed. The area around 40th & Farnam, Joslyn Castle, the Convent of the Sacred Heart and Bemis Park were hard hit.

The automobile garage at 40th & Farnam that had been damaged by a runaway streetcar a few months earlier was destroyed. Homes in the Bemis Park neighborhood were left in splinters and were burning. Nearly all of the homes near 44th & Farnam were destroyed and several were killed.

The monster storm cleared a path to 40th & Farnam where it veered northeast to 34th until Bemis Park was reached. It turned sharply east, going down Parker and Blondo to 24th where the devastation was worst. The death toll at the Idlewild Pool Hall was expected to be high. Ten bodies were recovered there and rescuers expected to find 20 more. Several victims were pinned beneath the collapsed roof.

North 24th Street resembled a battlefield in the wake of the storm. Rows of tarp covered bodies were guarded by soldiers patrolling the streets. About 100 burned and half-clothed dead were laid side by side at Crosby's.

At 14th & Spencer the twister went over the bluff and disappeared.

Two days after the storm, a blanket of snow covered the city. Marching soldiers patrolled the edges of the ruins, keeping those who didn't belong away. The mayor created control districts for troops patrolling the streets.

The street railway company had gangs at work replacing twisted steel rails. Electric linemen were at work on polls and men with pick axes worked to clear tons of debris blocking the streets. (Source: 1913 Omaha Bee, 1913 Omaha World Herald, Jim McGee, 2024)



Joslyn Castle - 1913 Tornado

#### Recent Midtown Homes Sold

Sold Price	Address	Br	В	G	Style	Sq
"\$260,000 "	5612 Jackson St	3	2	1	2 Story	"1,566"
"\$275,000 "	5019 Izard Str	3	2	1	1.5 Story	"1,201"
"\$410,000 "	814 N 47th St	6	4	0	2 Story	"2,916"
"\$415,000 "	5006 Cuming St	4	4	0	1.5 Story	"2,911"
"\$450,000 "	5016 Davenport S	t3	2	1	2.5 Story	"2,496"
"\$225,000 "	4821 Cuming St	3	1	0	2 Story	"1,457"
"\$279,000 "	4858 Harney St	3	1	1	2 Story	"1,248"
"\$325,000 "	312 S 49th Ave	4	2	2	1.5 Story	"1,774"
"\$330,000 "	5010 Burt Street	2	2	0	1.5 Story	"1,432"
"\$360,000 "	6437 Glenwood R	3	3	2	1.0 Story	"2,295"
"\$395,000 "	4917 Burt St	4	2	2	2 Story	"1,650"
"\$455,000 "	850 Parkwood Ln	4	3	2	Multi-Lvl	"1,664"
"\$485,000 "	450 N 61st Street	3	3	1	2 Story	"2,900"
"\$525,000 "	505 S 53rd Street	5	5	2	2.5 Story	"3,907"
"\$640,000 "	5115 California St	4	4	2	2.5 Story	"2,574"
"\$808,500 "	705 Sunset Trail	5	3	2	1.0 Story	"4,578"
"\$1,050,000 '	'5308 Cuming St	5	5	2	2.5 Story	"4,216"
"\$1,590,000 '	'410 Fairacres Rd	4	4	2	2 Story	"4,436"
"\$165,000 "	4815 Douglas St	4	3	1	2.5 Story	"2,172"
"\$295,000 "	4854 Harney St	4	2	1	2.5 Story	"1,548"
"\$383,000 "	5112 Nicholas St	3	2	2	2 Story	"2,031"
""\$580,000 "	108 S 53 Street	6	3	2	2.5 Story	"2,718"
"\$625,000 "	655 N 57th Ave	4	3	1	2.5 Story	"2,951"
"\$808,500 "	705 Sunset Trail	5	3	2	1.0 Story	"4,578"
"\$1,100,000 '	'765 Fairacres Rd	5	4	2	2 Story	"3,910"

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Our thanks to Jerry and Raquel Ahlvers, The Ahlvers Group, Better Homes and Garden for providing this information.

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The 15th of the preceding month for all advertising and article submissions. (check for possible extension.)

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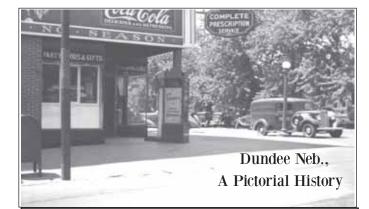


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