

# DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



## DMPA Meeting

**April 14th**

Dundee Presbyterian Church  
53rd & Underwood Ave  
7:00 PM - Social  
7:30 Business Meeting  
8:00 Program

**Jay Noddle**

**Topic: Aksarben Village  
Development Update**

**Ready?  
Set ?  
Cleanup Day!  
April 19th  
Details inside!**

**Yardsale Weekend**

May 16, 17 & 18th

To register go to  
DMPA website :  
[www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org)

More details next month.

## Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

*"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"*

[www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org)

Published by Shurson Publishing, P.O. Box 31485, Omaha, NE 68131  
Vol. 18, No 4, April 2008

## President's Message

**A**s I sit down to write this message, I am buoyed up by the last three days of glorious warmth and sunshine. Maybe the long winter of 2008 is breathing its last gasps. From my perspective spring couldn't come soon enough!

Along with the coming of spring, the Dundee-Memorial Park Association has two activities planned to go with the "spring cleaning" theme. First on the calendar is the annual Dumpster Day, April 19, co-chaired by Heike and Adam Langdon. Next on the list is the DMPA Garage Sale which will be held on May 16, 17 and 18. Heading up this project is Raquel Ahlvers, Ellen Zinn and Gene Ray. Both of these projects have additional information included in articles in this newsletter.

Also, it is not too early to think about volunteering in Elmwood Park. Volunteer opportunities and work dates are listed inside this newsletter. As soon as the flower baskets are hung on the light poles, flower basket waterers will be needed. There are many volunteer needs to guarantee successful project outcomes. Consider being a helper.

Speaking of flower baskets, I want to thank Millie Miller and her volunteers for planting the 475 baskets which will be adornments for our antique light poles. The baskets have all been planted and hung in the Indian Creek Nursery greenhouse to grow and get beautiful for the upcoming summer. They are our treasures. If you have not been contacted by a person on your block about contributing money for your flower baskets, now is the time to act by calling Peter Manhart, 397-0377.

As we venture out-of-doors in the coming days, it is a good idea to inventory your property for problem areas. You should check for cracked sidewalks and pieces that are lifted or depressed causing an uneven surface for walking or jogging. Tree limbs should give an 8 ft. clearance from the sidewalk. Bushes and shrubs should not hang over sidewalks and prevent easy passage. If you have trees or shrubs which prevent good visibility for traffic, prune them. As we all know neighborhoods need maintenance and older neighborhoods need constant upkeep. Let us do our part!

A problem that has been plaguing the City is graffiti. With the nice weather will probably come an increase in activity. It is an eyesore and a great cause for concern. The City wants you to report graffiti to the police, take a picture of the problem area and clean it or paint over it. The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance might be purchasing graffiti cleaning equipment which would be made available to us. We will keep you posted.

Many neighbors have asked me over the last months with respect to various items of interest to our neighborhood whether the DMPA Board would make a position statement. At the last board meeting a policy was approved which states "the Board will not take positions where neighborhood residents are likely to have differing opinions and which do not directly threaten the economic, environmental or physical viability of the overall neighborhood." This statement helps further establish the role of the DMPA Board.

This month's Association meeting will have Jay Noddle making a presentation on the progression and latest developments in the new Aksarben Village. How is this new area going to impact our neighborhoods, our parks, traffic? Ask the questions. Hope to see you there.

Marty Myers

## Dundee -Memorial Park Association Board of Directors

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## DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

### April 14

Jay Noddle, Aksarben  
Village Developer.

### May 12

Scott Farrington, Indian  
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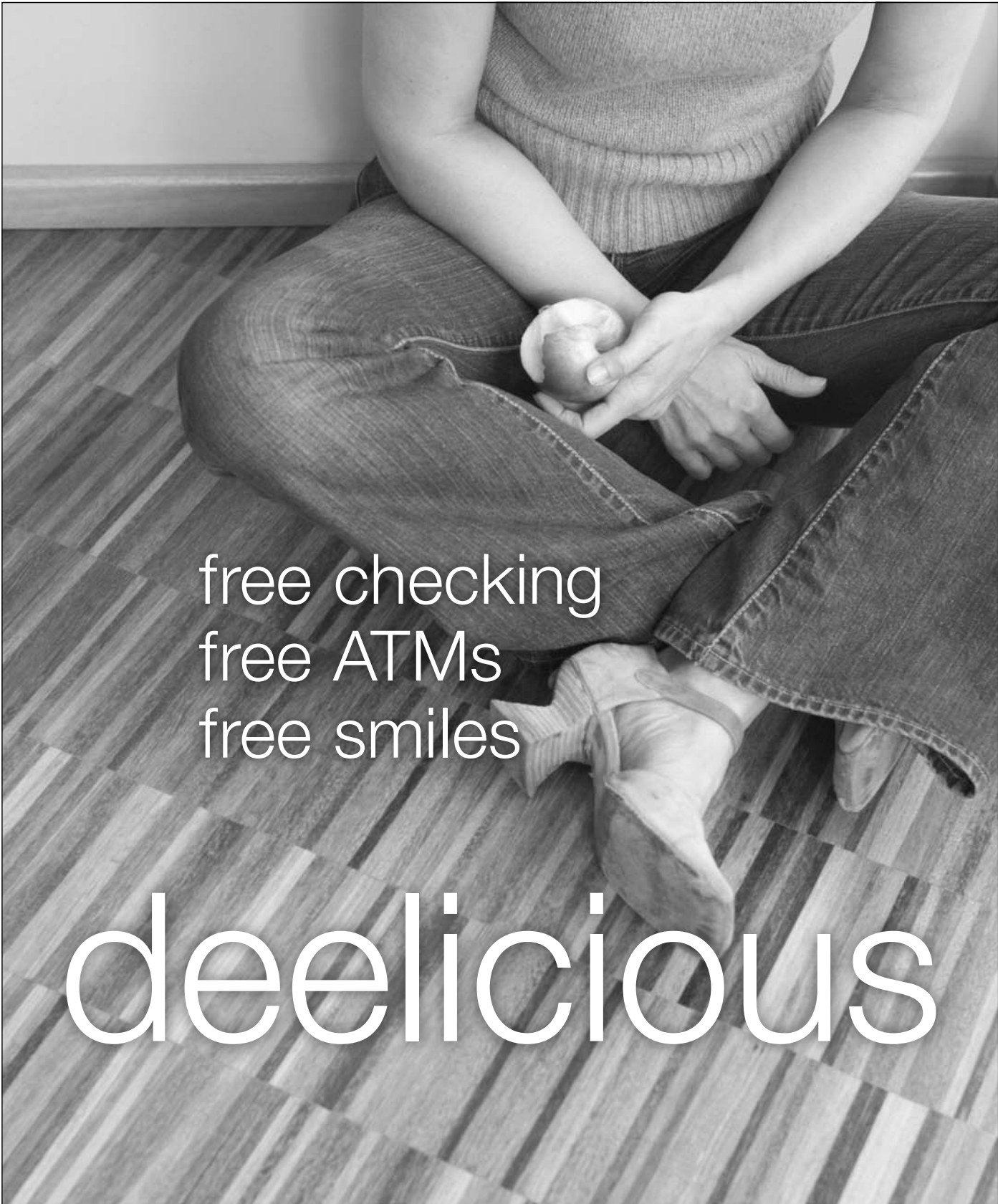
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# Flower Basket Planting

By Millie Miller

The weather outside never got above freezing as the flower basket planting dates were March 7 & 8. Inside the heated Indian Creek Nursery greenhouse at 303 N. Saddle Creek Road, you could think of Spring and warmer weather to come with the planting of the flower baskets underway.

The Neighborhood Association wants to acknowledge and thank the many hard-working volunteers that planted the 475 flower baskets. Some volunteers worked both days and their name is noted with an asterisk. Volunteers were Laura Alley, Paul Bashus, Jane Beckman, Kyle Dinning, Pam Dutton, Joyce Egan, Joyce Fitch, Margie Gillen, Joan Goldapp\*, Chuck Haller, Carla Hanson, Sione Heimuli, Lisa Hobday, Mary Jetton, Ruth Keene, Bill Kelly, Pat Knight, Marie Kubat\*, Peter Manhart, Friz Miller\*, Millie Miller\*, Nancy Mulhall, Jan Newmann, Peg Pease, Marie Pletka\*, Virginia Putman, Gene Ray, Phyllis Rhodig, Dan Rock, Don Rock\*, Donna Rock\*, B J Reed, Al Rowch, Becky Shuster, Kay Streiff\*, Paul Taylor, Sandy Trandahl, Rob Vanderveen, Bret Wallick, Carol Weber, Mike Weber, Bob Welk\*, Judith Welk, Amy Wenninghoff\*, Betty Wonderly, Mary Sue Wydeven, and Ellen Zinn.

Indian Creek Nursery has an excellent greenhouse facility and everything is wonderfully organized. Owner Scott Ferrington heads up the Indian Creek staff. Assisting Scott is Amy Mefford\*, Donelle Kirsch\*, Diane Weihs\*, Denon Weihs, Nikki Johnson\*, Carol Haan\*, Joel Kayser, Justin Rink\*, Joe Williams, Kathy Shrum\*, and Diane Cotton\*.

To view the weekly growth of the flower baskets log on to [www.indiancreeknursery.com](http://www.indiancreeknursery.com). The baskets will be hung on the historic lamp posts mid-May.

Delicious sandwiches were donated for the lunch on Friday by NOODLE ZOO, 4950 Dodge Street. Laura Jost, owner of the Noodle Zoo, has been very generous in her support of the flower basket planting by donating food three out of the last four years.

Great soup, wonderful homemade bread, and salad with homemade dressing were donated for the lunch on

Saturday by the DUNDEE DELL, 5007 Underwood Ave. Pat Gobel, owner of the Dundee Dell, also put in a case of bottled root beer which delighted the folks.

WOHLNER'S GROCERY, 5205 Leavenworth, donated bottled water for the thirsty workers. Wohlner's has donated water for many years. We appreciate that INDIAN CREEK NURSERY always has a large pot of coffee available all day.



Above, Laura, Noodle Zoo makes sandwiches for Friday's lunch.



Left, Dundee Dell, making soup for lunch on Saturday.



Jan Newmann & Joyace Egan plant baskets

## Watch Them Grow!

A group of approximately 60 volunteers planted 475 moss baskets at Indian Creek Nursery. To check how the plants are growing, log on to [www.indiancreeknursery.com](http://www.indiancreeknursery.com) and click on "Dundee Baskets". Pictures of the hanging baskets will be updated every ten days to two weeks.

# NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP DAY



Wondering how to get rid of junk too big for your trash can?

Come throw it in the dumpster!

## ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

**YARD WASTE OF ANY KIND,  
PAINT, OIL OR OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIAL  
CONCRETE, STONE, TIRES OR APPLIANCES**

**When: Saturday April 19, 9 AM – 2 PM**

**Where: Brownell Talbot lower East Parking Lot  
Behind the Streetcar Wall**

To volunteer, or for questions, call Adam and Heike Langdon at 561-0586

Brought to you by the Dundee-Memorial Park Neighborhood Association and the City of Omaha

## New this year....

**Bring your old bikes. Working order please.**

**For the Gifford Park Community Bike Shop.**

**Bring your old cell phones** (working or not) and chargers and donate them to the YWCA. They give approximately 500 phones a year to battered women to call 911. They reprogram and remove all addresses etc. And they receive money for the phones that don't work and use those funds for this program as well.

Electronic Disposal will be at the cleanup sight to accept your old electronics for a small fee. (\$ .35 per lb.) They will be accepting, computers, monitors, servers, televisions and more.



## Garage Sale Weekend MAY 16, 17 & 18th

Start cleaning out your closets, attics, garages & basements.

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# Adopt-Elmwood-Park/Stream

The clocks have sprung forward and the air smells like soil, which can only mean one thing: It's time to Adopt-Elmwood-Park/Stream!!

Our first Adopt-Elmwood-Park/Stream gathering will be held in conjunction with the Power of One Service Project, sponsored by the Earth Day Omaha Coalition, on Saturday, April 19, 2008 from 10 am to 12:00 noon. This gathering will focus on one project: the 2nd Annual Garlic Mustard Pull. Garlic mustard (*alliaria petiolata*) is an invasive species of plant currently growing along the banks of the Elmwood Park stream (an un-named tributary to Little Papillion Creek). The invasion of garlic mustard shades and reduces native species of vegetation and decreases biodiversity. Springtime, when the garlic mustard is flowering, is a prime time for removal activities. So, put on your boots, sweatshirt, hats, and gloves and meet us in the grotto in Elmwood Park at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 19, 2008 and get ready to pull and bag some mustard!

We have a bunch of fun and educational activities planned for the rest of the 2008 season of Adopt-Elmwood-Park/Stream. One exciting project in store for volunteers is the new landscaping of the ground in front of the Elmwood-Park pool house. The City has authorized our group to design, plant, and maintain this area, which is currently covered by mulch. During the spring the City will bring compost in to amend the soil before Adopt-Elmwood-Park volunteers install plants.

Two weeks after Earth Day we begin our regular gatherings. Adopt-Elmwood-Park/Stream clean-ups are scheduled every other Saturday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Meet in the grotto with some water and gloves and get ready to have muffins and fun!

Here's a list of the other activities we plan on tackling this year: litter patrol, weeding, pruning, grotto maintenance, storm grate cleaning, stream clean-ups, invasive plant removal, watering, landscape maintenance, water quality monitoring, and so much more.

The following are the Adopt-Elmwood-Park/Stream dates scheduled for April and May, 2008:

April 19, 2008 (in conjunction with Power of One Service Project) 10 am to noon

May 3, 17th, May 31, 2008 – 9:00 am to 11:00 am

For more information or to be added to the Adopt-Elmwood-Park/Stream email list please email Trilety Wade at [trilety@hotmail.com](mailto:trilety@hotmail.com).



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What did your mother tell you when you had to swallow some foul-tasting medicine? “It’s for your own good”, right? Building codes and permits are like medicine they may not

always be palatable but they are good for you.

The purpose of codes and permits are to insure any work done on your old house is done in a way that insures your family’s safety and is a check on your work or a contractor’s work to make sure it meets at least a baseline of competent work.

But how do codes apply to old houses? Jay Davis, the Chief Building Inspector for the city of Omaha, spoke about this at the recent Restore Omaha conference. The basic rule, he says, is that any old house is assumed to have met the existing codes at the time it was built and any subsequent work done on the house is likewise assumed to have been completed according to prevailing codes. So, you have no obligation to renovate your old house to bring it up to current code requirements, that is, as long as you leave it alone. If you renovate, remodel or make any changes to your house the new work has to comply with current building codes. For more about building codes the city Planning Department (444-5350) will answer code questions. The ICC sells code guides on their website--iccsafe.org. This site also has useful and practical advice for home safety.

Permits are the handmaidens of codes—the way government inspectors insure codes are being met. The International Code Council says that permits offer three major benefits to homeowners:

“Increased Value -- Your home or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by your community, the value of your investment could be reduced. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied or do costly repairs.

Protects -- A property owner who can show that code requirements were strictly and consistently met, as demonstrated by a code official's carefully maintained records, has a strong ally if something happens to trigger a potentially destructive lawsuit.

Ensures Safety -- Your permit also allows the code official to protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety and welfare. By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, your friends or future owners.”

Permits are required by the city of Omaha for any work in excess of \$500 in materials and labor (and you have to apply a reasonable rate for your own labor). Permits are required for any structural modifications, additions, changes in window and door openings, electrical, plumbing and heating and air conditioning work. Building any fence requires a permit. Permits are not required for redecorating like paint, wallpaper and new cabinets and non-structural repairs no matter how much they cost in labor and materials.

While your contractor can apply for your permit, the property owner has the ultimate liability for obtaining the permit. So if you hire a contractor for work requiring a permit, make sure he or she gets the necessary permits. Plans, drawn to scale, are required when submitting your permit application, but if you are reasonably skilled with a pencil and ruler you can draw your own. Plan review usually takes two to three weeks, so plan ahead.

The minimum fee is \$41 for up to \$2,000 value in labor and materials. Permit costs are quadrupled if you start a project without a permit. That’s strong medicine. So get the permit; it’s good for you.

#### Connections

If you have a question, or a subject you’d like addressed in a future column write to me at:

The Old House Mechanic  
5207 Cuming Street  
Omaha, NE 68127

e-mail: [dbrowers@cox.net](mailto:dbrowers@cox.net)

For an online archive of previous articles go to:  
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## Doc on the Block

### Seasonal Allergies

As we welcome the warmer weather, some of us are starting to sneeze, blow noses, and rub eyes. Allergy season has begun for many people. Allergies affect up to 40% of children and 10-30% of adults in the United States. The symptoms of allergies are unpleasant. In addition to sneezing, a runny nose, or irritated eyes, nasal congestion (stuffy nose) or itchy nose and ears are common. Fatigue may also be a problem as well as bacterial sinus infections. Fortunately help is available!

Avoidance of allergens is a good first step. Those with seasonal allergies should close car and house windows during peak allergy season when possible. Showering before going to bed may help decrease the spread of pollen to the bedsheets. Also, over the counter nasal saline sprays may help remove the pollen load after being outdoors.

There are a few medical treatments for allergies, beginning with nasal steroid sprays. Nasal steroids are particularly helpful in treating congestion and runny nose. Commonly prescribed nasal steroids include Nasonex®, Flonase®, and Rhinocort®. Side effects include local irritation or nosebleeds.

Oral antihistamines are the most common treatment for allergies. Benadryl® is very effective but may cause sig-

nificant drowsiness. It may also cause urinary problems in men. Newer antihistamines made for daytime use such as Claritin®, Allegra®, and Zyrtec® are much less sedating.

Oral decongestants such as Sudafed® may also be very useful in relieving nasal congestion. However, as a stimulant, it may cause jitteriness, palpitations, and insomnia. It may also raise blood pressure, so those with hypertension should avoid its use especially if their blood pressure is not well-controlled.

As you are roaming the pharmacy aisle, you might be drawn to the over-the-counter topical nasal decongestants, such as Afrin®. While immediately effective and very helpful in emergency situations such as prior to flying or mountain driving, nasal decongestant sprays may cause worsening nasal congestion after three days of use. Thus, they are not recommended for chronic treatment of allergies.

Please ask your physician for assistance if you are suffering from allergies so you can enjoy the spring weather!

Carolyn Manhart, M.D.  
Internal Medicine, Dundee




## Former Kum & Go Liquor License Update

After a one month delay, the hearing before the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission for the former Kum & Go at 52nd and Leavenworth was held on March 18th. After over three hours of testimony, the Commission decided to hold the case under advisement for a decision at the April meeting. This is extremely rare and a positive for our case. They asked for the time to review the testimony and documentation presented at the hearing. Dr. Rebecca Murray from Creighton University provided expert testimony on how poorly managed off-sale liquor outlets lead to increased crime in a neighborhood. The commissioners seemed particularly interested in the applicant's previous conviction for selling alcohol without a temporary license at another location after they heard testimony that they had been selling alcohol at the 52nd & Leavenworth prior to getting their temporary license. Dan Rock, past President of DMPA, was a tremendous asset to our case. He provided an excellent cross-examination of the new owner and his security chief. The new owner admitted that he had no business plan and no security plan after four months of ownership. They were also unaware of two Omaha Police cruisers making an arrest at this store on March 13th.

Dundee-Memorial Park Association and Aksarben-Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association led the opposition to the license. A special thanks to Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association, Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association, Orchard Hill Neighborhood Association and Miller Park-Minne Lusa Community Association who were all at the hearing in support of us. Senator Gwen Howard also testified in opposition to this license.

A decision will be announced in April. Even if the license is approved, we have been very successful in getting the Liquor Control Commission to consider the negative impact this type of store has on a neighborhood.

Dave Schinzel  
MNA Representative  
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# Voices From the Village

Village Voices is a taped interview by Ward Peters with neighbors within the DMPA community transcribed by Bonnie Price. Attorney Tom Walsh and Community Activist Virginia Walsh are this month's Village Voices.

*Virginia started driving around this neighborhood in our '54 Chevy with our four kids looking at houses. Of course the prices were lower in those days. My father was 82 years old and he needed care and I had a twin sister who had a physical disability and she took care of our dad...so we had eight people who needed shelter.*

*There were two houses for sale on South 58th Street...and we bought the house that fitted our needs. It did not need immediate repairs. We were thrilled to be able to get this house. We moved in Memorial Day weekend, 1959, and we had an immediate full house.*

*Besides the affordability and the size of the house we were attracted to the way the neighborhood looked. At that time there were large trees all along the parkway. The tree limbs would meet and shade the street all day long and in the evening the original globe topped street lights would come on and it was a warm light, a very gentle and friendly light and we loved the way it looked...like a string of pearls...it was beautiful.*

*I have always felt at home in this neighborhood. As a matter of fact, whenever I turn off Dodge Street onto South Happy Hollow or North off of Leavenworth onto South Happy Hollow, I kind of sigh and say: I'm home!*

*In 1973, we started to make repairs. We put on a new roof, replaced the eaves which were rotted and removed the artificial supports to give the eaves a cleaner line. In 1974, we excavated the half lot we had vacant, built an underground garage with a deck on it, rewired, replumbed and replaced three fourths of the foundation. We rented an apartment and moved out in May and did not move back until October. And the house stood open. We left our silverware in the dining room. We did not move a thing. There was nothing to dissuade anybody who wanted to come in and steal from us except a sheet of plastic which is a testimonial to the caliber and character of the neighborhood.*

*There were 50 kids on the street when we moved in. We eventually had a total of seven kids. There was another family with seven, one with nine kids and two families with five. Our block never has heavy traffic so we always told the kids to go out and play in the street.*

*Some changes over 50 years would include the loss of the bridle path that followed pretty much the perimeter of Elmwood Park. There were riding stables located on the western edge of Elmwood and we would hear the horses going around. Also when we moved in there was horse racing at Ak-Sar-Ben and every Saturday there would be a steady stream of vehicles with cars backed up all along South Happy Hollow clear past North of Dodge Street.*

*The Elmwood pool being built was a great asset for the neighborhood. The kids used to go to Elmwood and buy candy at a building that has long been gone...the kids called it the Jip Joint.*

*The round about was a significant improvement near the entrance to Elmwood Park particularly due to the exponential growth of the student body at UNO.*

*We remember when there was a big debate about UNO expanding east and there was talk about paving the ravine. There was quite a movement in this neighborhood to oppose this eastern expansion. We wanted to keep the green space as a buffer to the university.*

*For ten years I have been in a book club that involves ten of the women on our block. We meet once a month and rotate around to each other's houses. I love having a chance to visit with the neighbors about everything-especially about the ideas in a whole variety of books. When we moved into this house it was before widespread air conditioning and people neighbored a lot...there was more interaction because your windows were opened or you were outside on the porch. Face to face talk with neighbors is very precious to me.*

*We never have had a harsh word with any of our neighbors. We may have annoyed one of our neighbors once. I remember an episode when I had a new stereo system and I was very proud of our speakers. One July Saturday night I turned the speakers up quite loud to demonstrate them. About five o'clock in the morning we were aroused from our bed. Our next door neighbor put a radio in his window facing our bedroom blaring away for about 15 minutes. He never complained to me about my stereo. He just sent this ingenious message. That's the worst thing that ever happened.*



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## Flower Basket Donations...

The flower basket donations have been rolling in the last few months and the flower baskets thank you. We have yet to hear from a handful of the 145 blocks of DMPA. If your block is listed below and you would like to donate please contact your block captain. If you are unsure who your block captain is on your block please email me at the-manharts@cox.net.

Donations can be dropped off at 312 S 57 St (mail-box on house). thank you, Peter Manhart

**Bold addresses** need block captain

500 S 56 ST	600/700 S 52 ST
<b>500 S 51 Ave</b>	5100 Jones
5000/5150 Jackson	600 S 50 Ave
500 S 50 Ave	100 S 54 ST
300 S 50 Ave	100 S 49 Ave
5000 Capitol	100 N 51 ST
<b>4800 Davenport</b>	5200 Cass
5000 California	4800 Cass
4900 Underwood Res	4900 Webster
5000 Webster	5200 Webster
5200 Underwood	<b>5200 Burt</b>
5100 Cumming	5500/5600 Webster
5300 Western	56/5700 Nicholas
900/1000 N 49 ST	



## DUNDEE CLASSIFIED /WANT ADS

### Denny's Handyman Service

Carpet Laying & Restretch  
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**397-4223** Area References

Reserve this spot  
for next month  
Call 551-6787

### VineyardPainters.com

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**402.208.9127**

**Advertising Rates:** \$8 for three lines plus \$2 for each additional line. \$14 for a three line ad run for two consecutive months. 25 characters per line, count all spaces & punctuation. Submissions will be edited to fit contracted space. **Send check to Shurson Publishing, P.O. Box 31485, 68131. Call 551-6787.**

## Dundee Presbyterian Church

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10 am Church School for all ages



*We look forward to sharing Sunday with you!*

## PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Please renew **before** your membership lapses.  
Multi-year memberships are available.

## Dundee-Memorial Park Association Membership Form

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple year membership discounts : Family 2 year - \$20, Senior 2 year -\$10, Business 2 yr \$30

**Send form (Photo copy acceptable) and checks to**

Eli McNichols 5017 1/2 Cass St, Omaha, NE 68132

**(Please DO NOT send to p.o. box.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to learn about volunteer opportunities

### Annual Membership Dues:

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### *"Our Other Midtown Listings"*

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5004 Chicago /Beautiful Nat Woods- \$235,000

1108 Dillon Dr/Estate/Location - \$170,000

Beebe Runyan Condo - \$220,000

Beebe Runyan Condo-\$375,000

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