

# DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



## DMPA Meeting April 13th

Dundee Presbyterian Church  
53rd & Underwood Ave  
7:00 PM - Social  
7:30 Business Meeting  
8:00 Program  
**Topic: Lauritzen Gardens**  
Spencer Crews,  
Executive Director

**And much more!**  
Bring a friend or two.



## Garage Sale Weekend

May 15, 16 & 17th  
for more info look inside  
or go to

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

**Spring Fling in  
Dundee**  
May 16th  
Information inside

## 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. 19, No 4, April 2009

## President's Message

Spring Has Sprung....well sort of...at least almost all of the snow and ice banks have melted! One should avoid trying to be timely when writing the President's Message, at least when you are writing as far in advance as your friendly correspondent is in this case...but who can resist after this sort of on and off winter.

I have all sorts of spring things to tell you about but before I do let me tell those of you who missed it that we had a truly exciting Candidate Forum at the March Association meeting. There were 12, count 'em-- 4 for Mayor, 2 for Ward One City Council and 6! for Ward Three City Council—candidates present and from the sound of the ideas and opinions expressed, there are some difficult choices to be made. We didn't utilize the usual format, with each candidate delivering 5 to 7 minute speeches, but rather, the candidates sat side by side and addressed questions posed to each individually. There is still more to read and hear but whatever you do, prepare yourselves to vote. And by all means, vote...your neighborhood needs you! Let's not continue the usual pattern of about 22% of registered voters participating in the Spring Primary for City Offices. There are an abundance of candidates...let's help to ensure that we have outstanding leaders for the next four years.

I know it is close to spring because a large group of us, over 50, planted flower baskets at Indian Creek Nursery on March 13th and 14th. As they used to say in my hometown newspaper, "A good time was had by all!" We feasted on lunches provided by Dario's and Mark's Bistro. Check in at [www.indiancreeknursery.com](http://www.indiancreeknursery.com), click on "Dundee Baskets" and watch the progress of all those 1" tall begonias. Mother's Day is fast approaching, by which the hanging crews will have those baskets mounted on our light poles. If you have not been contacted by your block captain or missed contributing, you can still make a donation by contacting Peter Manhart at 350-3890. And by all means, call Dan Rock 558-4913, to reserve your place on a watering crew. Remember, we have two trucks with rear seats so you can take the kids, no baby sitters required, and they can learn at an early age about community service. Call early and you get to pick the dates and times...sign up for a week or the same day every week for a month. It should be easy to find times when you are free since we water from Mother's Day into October. Call now so you don't forget.

**CALENDAR ALERT!!!** This is your second alert...or third...for the Association Garage Sale Dates. There is a more complete announcement elsewhere in this Newsletter but mark down May 15, 16, 17....and start contacting your friends and collecting your treasures...if you haven't already done so.....for this big event. Raquel Ahlvers and

Continued on page 4.

**Dundee-Memorial Park  
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**DMPA  
MEETINGS  
CALENDAR**

**April 13**-Spencer Crews,  
Executive Director of  
Lauritzen Gardens; Anita  
Eckley will also speak for a  
few minutes about the  
restoration of the Memorial  
Park Rose Garden

**May 11**-Scott Farrington  
Indian Creek Nursery

**Please thank these  
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this newsletter possible.

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Revised list, members current 3/09 To join as a business member, send dues  
with the form on the inside back page. Please send to Elizabeth McNichols,  
address below.

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

The Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter is published monthly  
by Shurson Publishing. Direct all advertising inquiries to 551-6787. Send  
all articles for submission and press releases to Shurson Publishing, P.O.  
Box 31485, Omaha, NE 68131, e-mail to [Shurson@msn.com](mailto:Shurson@msn.com) to arrive by the  
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**Memberships** please send the form on the inside back cover to:  
**Elizabeth McNichols, 5017 1/2 Cass St., Omaha, NE 68132.**  
**Questions call 551-5246 or email: [elimci@cox.net](mailto:elimci@cox.net)**



# howdee

who wants some friendly  
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# President's Message

Continued from front page.

Gene Ray are doing the planning and are the ones to contact.

May 16th is also the date for "Spring Fling", the Dundee Merchants Association's annual street fair. This "family friendly" event will include an amateur barbecue competition, kid's rides, a fire truck and ambulance to explore, and also a cookie decorating competition for the kids. Underwood Avenue will be closed and there will be the traditional beer garden with music until 11 pm...the beer garden will close at 11:30 pm. Rumor has it that a Mayor of Dundee will be elected that day who will lead the parade on "Dundee Day" in August; watch for more details later. Also on the downtown Dundee news scene, the folks who operate Johnny's Café on "L" Street have taken over the Trovato's space and may even be open by "Spring Fling" No other details are currently available but it certainly is great to welcome them to our part of town and to wish them all our best.

We now have confirmation that we have secured a very favorable date for Spring Clean Up...or Dumpster Day. We asked for June 6 and we received it. So, if it doesn't sell on May 15-17 you can dispose of it on June 6; that and all that you don't wish to sell but do wish to get out of the yard or garage. Heike and Adam Langdon are the continuing chairpersons of this event and will be keeping you informed as planning is completed. The dumpsters will be at the Brownell-Talbot School east parking lot and we are also scheduled to have a recycler as well. He will take all things metal, lawnmowers, bikes, snow blowers, stoves and refrigerators and similar objects.

Now, let me remind you of one more event..."Ascension" the sculpture commissioned by the Association, to be installed in the Memorial Park Rose Garden, will be dedicated at 10 am on June 6. The sculpture is a gift from an anonymous donor who asked the Association to partner for this project. Fabrication is underway and the base will be installed shortly...just in case you come upon construction equipment in the Rose Garden as you walk through the park. The Omaha Rose Society will be doing some restoration work, along side park staff, as well this spring so you are likely to encounter many busy people.

Our guest for the April 13 Association meeting is Spencer Crews, Executive Director of Lauritzen Gardens. Spencer, a landscape architect who also earned an M.P.A., Master of Public Administration, in not-for-profit management, has taken a hands-on approach to the fund raising, design, and construction of this 100 acre botanical

center, one of Omaha's treasures. In the twelve years since he became the first full-time employee in 1996, he has guided \$30 million in capital investment and grown the staff to 60. This will be a great opportunity to learn about the growth of and recent developments at Lauritzen Gardens.

Also joining us at the April meeting is Anita Eckley, one of the driving forces behind the Memorial Park Rose Garden renovation. Anita will describe the project and is seeking volunteers to aid in the work. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the gardeners among us to learn and contribute.

And last but not least, as has become traditional, Scott Farrington from Indian Creek Nursery, has agreed to return for his ever popular discussion of what's new and exciting this spring for your gardens. And I'm hoping that he brings one of his special "end of the evening" surprises as well.



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It's that time again...



# Gigantic Garage Sale

Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
May 15th, 16th, 17th

- Official 2009 DMPA Yard Sign
- Flyers of other Advertised Sales
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- Donate your Money
- Meet your Neighbors
- Combine a Sale w/ your Neighbors



Deadline: Monday, May 4th

SIGN UP ONLINE:

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

Feel free to contact either;



Raquel Ahlvers  
[Raquel.ahlvers@cbshome.com](mailto:Raquel.ahlvers@cbshome.com)  
#301-7653

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In celebration of our  
**5th Anniversary...**

We're having a huge  
**parking lot sale**

during the DMPA Yard Sale Weekend... **May 15, 16 & 17th**

Watch for more information next month

[www.voilaflowers.com](http://www.voilaflowers.com)

**voilà!**  
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## Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Report

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance held its annual meeting on March 18th at the Field Club. Judy Alderman from Bemis Park NA was elected to a two year term as President. Jim Farho from Blackstone NA was recognized for his four years of service as President.

The Re-Tree Midtown Committee has completed work on grant applications for Mutual of Omaha, OPPD and the Mayor's Office in addition to the Kiewit Foundation application that was completed last month. These grants will fund the six pilot projects to replace trees in Midtown Omaha. The pilot project for DMPA is on 52nd Street, Underwood Ave. to Cass St. If the funding comes through, the plan is to have the trees planted by this October. If these pilot projects are successful, it is the plan of MNA to continue with this effort for additional locations in MNA neighborhoods.

### Update on Infinite Store at 52nd & Leavenworth

The liquor license application for the Infinite store at 30th & Lake, which the City Council approved in January, was withdrawn when Attorney General Bruning confirmed that his office was investigating the applicant, Singh Brothers, Inc., for possible criminal activity. The same Singh Brothers, Inc. had also planned to lease the 52nd & Leavenworth store and apply for a liquor license according to the corporation's law firm, Kelley & Jerram. The current owner of the property has said that he is selling the stores but no commercial listings have yet been found for this property. The concern is that he will "sell" the store to another relative at an inflated price and continue running the stores in the manner they have been run the past year. The building does have graffiti that has not been removed and the inside of the store has food and merchandise on the floor.

Dave Schinzel  
Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Representative



Lately I have become reacquainted with a couple of old friends. The old friends in this case, are paint brushes. Normally even I wouldn't think of inanimate objects as friends, but these two brushes have been with me for more than 25 years. So pulling them out the other day reminded me to remind you to invest in quality tools and then—just like your best friends—they'll never let you down.

These two brushes are made by Purdy and are available at most paint stores and some of the “big box” home improvement stores. With a little care—always completely clean your brushes and store them properly—they will last and last. More important they will give you better results and less frustration. The quality of brush you use is as important to getting a good final finish as is the quality of the paint or varnish you use. (And don't skimp on the quality of paint and varnish either.)

Although I have a pretty extensive collection of paint brushes of different sizes, shapes and bristle composition, these are the two that I go back to more than any of the others. One is a 2 ½-inch nylon bristle brush with a square cut. This is my all-around utility player. I use it for applying both latex and oil primers and paints. I find the 2 ½-inch size is just about right for almost every job. One of the most common mistakes I see with do-it-yourself painters is that they work with a brush that is too small. The small brushes don't hold much paint and cover only a small area, so you're laying down a lot of strokes and working way too hard. Also, it is hard to get a smooth, even finish with narrow strokes. If I am doing a really big job like exterior siding or big sheets of plywood I'll grab my four-inch wide nylon bristle brush.

My other favorite is a 3-inch China bristle brush also with a square cut. China bristle is a natural bristle made from hog's hair. (But who would buy a hog's hair brush, thus by clever marketing it has been renamed China bristle. It's just like the slimehead fish. Would you order that in a restaurant? Probably not. But you will eat the same fish with more palatable name, orange roughy.)

I use the China bristle brush exclusively for applying varnishes or polyurethanes with mineral spirits bases. China bristles are not good for water-based finishes because they will swell up into a blobby mass. I prefer the 3-inch wide brush because it is big enough to cut a decent swath on wide baseboards and doors, but not so big that it is unwieldy.

You could also use the China bristle brush for applying oil-based stains, but I just use any old junky brush. Because you will be wiping off the excess stain with a cloth anyway, it doesn't matter how smoothly you apply the stain. This way I keep my more expensive varnishing brushes clean and in good shape.

Speaking of clean, properly cleaning a good brush will extend its life indefinitely. I know, after hours of painting cleaning up just seems like a pain-in-the-neck (or lower). But don't shortcut the cleanup. For water-based finishes put the brush under a running faucet and work the bristles with your fingers until the water runs clear. Tip up the brush vertically from time to time so the running water gets all the way to the heel of the brush. For oil paints and other mineral spirits based finishes find an empty tin can and fill it with paint thinner enough to cover the bristles. Swirl the brush through the thinner several times and dump the thinner (I put mine into an empty one gallon plastic container and reuse it later). Replace it with fresh thinner, swirl, dump, and then repeat one more time for a total of three washes. And again, point the brush upwards a few times so the thinner makes its way to the heel.

Invest a few bucks in a brush spinner (available at paint, hardware or the “big box” stores). As your final cleaning step press the brush handle into the clamps at the end of the spinner and give the spinner handle a few quick in and out strokes. Because centrifugal force is going to spin any remaining finish and solvent out of your brush, stick the end of the spinner into a plastic bucket (I have an empty dry-wall compound bucket that works perfectly) to catch the spray.

After cleaning put your brush back into the cardboard or plastic sleeve that it came in. Either lay the brush flat or hang it up by its handle. Don't store brushes standing up on their bristles, because this will distort the bristles over time. And, hey, you wouldn't do this to old friends would you? After all, they are likely to be your companions for decades to come.

### 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 68132

e-mail: [dbrowers@cox.net](mailto:dbrowers@cox.net) For an online archive of previous articles go to: <http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org/>

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# DMPA Gets a Face



## We are now on Facebook and LinkedIn.

For those of you who are into social networking we have now established a presence for the Dundee Memorial Park Association on both facebook.com and linkedin.com. Facebook is the world's largest site to go and connect with friends, neighbors and co-workers. LinkedIn is also a social networking site but its focus is more on professionals who wish

to connect with their peers across the city, the country or the world. If you are interested please join at either site. For Facebook just go to <http://www.facebook.com/home.php> and do a search for Dundee Memorial Park. For LinkedIn go to <http://www.facebook.com/home.php>, go to group and do the search from there.

If you are not members of either site its easy to register and join in the fun! If you have suggestions or ideas for ways to use these sites let me know at [bjreed@cox.net](mailto:bjreed@cox.net).

## Old House Services Directory, 200 Edition

It's time again to update our Old House Services Directory. This directory is a listing of contractors who have done work on the old houses of members of the Dundee Memorial Park Association and who have been recommended for their quality work. The directory was first published by in 2003 by Don Browers, the Old House Mechanic, and proved to be a very popular service.

In 2007, the Old House Services Directory was updated and published on our web site ([www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org)). The directory is a useful resource and is viewed by about one hundred web site visitors every month.

If you have employed a contractor to work on your old house in the past two years and have been pleased with their work, please take the time to complete and submit your recommendation using the form below. You can recommend more than one contractor, but please use a separate form for each. Recommendations will only be accepted from Dundee Memorial Park residents.

The recommendation form is also available on our web site [www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org).

Mail completed forms to: Old House Services Directory, 2009  
306 South 50th Avenue Omaha, NE 68132

### Old House Service Directory Recommendation



Service circle all that apply :

Carpentry Concrete Electrical General Handyman Gutter Cleaning Kitchen/Bath Remodel

Landscaping/Trees Masonry Plaster/Drywall Plumbing Refinishing/Painting/Stripping Roofing  
Storm Windows Other \_\_\_\_\_

Company:

Address:

Phone:

Contact Person:

Comments:

Recommended  
By:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

i Code: \_\_\_\_\_



# Flower Basket Planting

By Millie Miller

Spring must be right around the corner because the Dundee-Memorial Park flower baskets were planted on March 13 and 14. The 475 flower baskets were planted in the heated greenhouse at Indian Creek Nursery, 303 N. Saddle Creek Road. The baskets are the same size as in the past but have a new look.

The DMPA would also like to thank the hard-working volunteers who planted the baskets. Volunteers are Paula Ashford, Victoria Baker, Paul Bashus, Jane Beckman, Jenni Buescher, Adriana Cisneros, Tom Craig, Joyce Egan, Jean Eyler, Win Finegan\*, Joyce Fitch\*, Roger Fitch, Jackie Foster, Peg Gibbs, Jennifer Godfrey, Michelle Godfrey, Joan Goldapp, Jesse Harding, Sione Heimuli, Jackie Hoyt, Bill Kelly, Pat Knight, Marie Kubat, Carole Langan, Gordon Lee, Rachel Lewis, Peter Manhart, Lannie McNichols, Marty Myers, Friz Miller\*, Millie Miller\*, Marcella Miller, Nancy Mulhall, Sarah Newman\*, Jan Newman, Jodie Nolan, Diane Ordway, Peg Pease, Joyce Peterson, Terri Peterson, Marie Pletka, Virginia Putman, Phyllis Rhodig, Martin Richards\*, Al Rowch, Sue Scheller, Dave Schinzel, Mib Schinzel, Denny Schroeder, Diane Solderquist, Becky Shuster, Kay Streiff, Ruth Toman, Ed Trandahl, Bob Welk\*, Judith Welk, Better Wonderly, and John Young. \* planted both days.

Indian Creek Nursery has an excellent greenhouse facility and staff. Owner Scott Ferrington heads up the Indian Creek staff. Assisting Scott is Diane Cotton, Carole Haas, Nikki Johnston, Ben Kayser, Joel Kayser, Donelle Kirsch, Amy Mefford, Justin Rink, Kathy Schrum, Diane Weihs, and Joe Williams. .

Every year area restaurants donate lunch for the volunteers who plant the baskets. This year two downtown Dundee restaurants came to our rescue. Dario's Brasserie, 4920 Underwood Ave., provided crepes, sandwiches and

salad on Friday. Mark's Bistro, 4916 Underwood Ave., provided a variety of sandwiches and salad on Saturday. The DMPA would like to thank these two fine restaurants for their support and the wonderful lunches they prepared.

To check how the plants are growing, long 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.





## Candidate Forum March DMPA Meeting



Photos by BJ Reed

### Rose Garden Needs Your Help

All American Rose Selections (AARS) has placed the rose garden at Memorial Park in the "poor" category for most areas of evaluation. The severe garden decline is due to budget cutbacks and lack of garden staff to maintain the over 800 roses that comprise a portion of the 253 acre park. Friends of the Memorial Park Rose Garden, Omaha Rose Society has offered to help the excellent horticulturists of the Omaha Parks. WE need volunteers to help pot and plant the 300 plants and to help us use almost \$19,000 of in-kind donations to the 2009 spring planting. We welcome the Dundee/Memorial Park Neighborhood Association to join us. We encourage individuals or families to promise to plant three roses.

Join us for the Memorial Park Rose Garden Renovation.

Contact: Don Swanson 493-5986 Mike and Anita Eckley 291-9651 mjeckley53@cox.net

Plant with a rosarian: bring pruners, gloves and a smile to Memorial Park

April 16: 9-12 (raindate: April 18) May Means Planting--300 roses

**Omaha Rose Society will host its first annual Pruning and Planting Party on**

May 5, May 6, May 7, May 8--9-12

Bring pruners, gloves and trowels



### Newsletter Deadline

The 15th of the preceding month  
for all advertising and article submissions.

# Neighborhood Clean-Up Day

**When: Saturday June 6, 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

**We will have Electronics Recycling....**

Guaranteed Recycling Xperts (GRX) will be hosting an Electronics Waste (E-Waste) collection event in conjunction with Dundee Dumpster Day.

TV's - \$15.00 per TV Monitors - \$8.00 per Monitor

All other Electronics - \$5.00 per item

Sony, LG, Zenith, Goldstar, Panasonic, Quasar, Technics, Sharp and Toshiba products can be recycled at NO CHARGE.

They will accept electronics such as: cell phones, computers, DVD's, VCR's/stereo equipment, printer/fax, laptops, etc.

Anything with a plug except refrigerators and air conditioners. If you have any questions, please contact Ryan at 402.680.0090.

**More details in next month's newsletter**



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Applications

Roof & Chimney Repairs

Please register online, in person or by phone (444-5274). Some activities require a signed parent slip.

**Wild Thing Storytime** - Thursday, April 16th @ 1pm  
Wild Thing from Where the Wild Things Are will be at the A.V. Sorensen Library! Come to the library, listen to a story. Don't forget your camera Please register online, in person or by phone (444-5274).

**Songbirds Music & Play Storytime** - Thursday, April 23rd @ 1pm  
Have fun learning songs, games, finger plays, hula hoop and parachute fun, and rhythm instruments, too! Toddler and preschool age. Registration required.  
Limited to 25.

**Homework Hotspot** (All Ages)  
Tuesday, April 14th, 21st & 28th & Thursday, April 2nd, 16th, 23rd & 30th 3-6pm  
Individual homework help, educational games, and snacks! Tutor.com is available everyday from 2:00-9:00 pm @ [www.omahapubliclibrary.org](http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org) with your Omaha Public library card.

**Book to Movie Day:** "Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire"  
– Thursday, April 9th @ 1pm Fresh popcorn!  
Book to Movie Day: "Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix" – Friday, April 10th @ 1pm Fresh popcorn!

**Adult Activities:**

**Sorensen Readers Book Club** - Saturday, April 4th @ 1pm Read & discuss That Old Ace in the Hole by Annie Proulx.

**Under the Dundee Sun Book Club** - Tuesday, April 7th @ 4:30pm Read & discuss The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne.

**Plains Pages Book Club** - Saturday, April 18th @ 1pm  
Read & discuss A Painted House by John Grisham.

**The Big Read** continues March 21 to May 31. Watch for themed events to accompany the reading of Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer". Book discussion at Sorensen Library will be April 25th @ 1:00. Check our website [www.omahapubliclibrary.org](http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org) for more activities.

Our theme for the Summer Reading Program is "**Get Creative @ Your Library**". We will offer lots of free programs and activities this summer so watch for more information in the May newsletter. Right now I need your help. We are planning a LEGO building competition in July. If you have LEGO bricks that no one plays with anymore, please consider donating them to the library. I would like to collect enough for several children to build their original works of art for display at the library. Also, please consider volunteering this summer at the library. We will need help during all the hours we are open. Thanks for your consideration!

Kay Scarpello  
Manager/Children's Librarian

**The Big Read March 21-May 31.**

The book title this year is "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain.  
Watch for programs, book discussions and activities for all ages at the Omaha Public Libraries.

**A.V. Sorensen Community Center**

4808 Cass Street \* 444-5596

Lots of great activities for adults, children, seniors. Call for information.



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Yes, you may list my name in the newsletter as a \_\_\_\_ new member \_\_\_\_ renewal.

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

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