

# DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



## DMPA Meeting

**Next DMPA Meeting**  
**April 14th**

**Location and times:**  
Dundee Presbyterian Church  
53rd & Underwood Ave

7:00 Social  
7:30pm Meeting  
Bring  
a friend or two.

**Meetings are always held  
the second Monday of the  
month.**

Jan - May and Sept - Nov.



March meeting

## Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

*"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"*  
[www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org)

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## Letter From the President

We know it is spring when the flower baskets have been planted which happened on March 21 and 22. A special thanks to Mary Green and Julia Ross who took over as Planting Chairs this year. They did a great job and we especially appreciate all of the volunteers who came to help plant 450 baskets. Please be sure to thank Indian Creek Nursery and these businesses that provided food for the volunteers: Mark's Bistro, Pitch, Goldberg's, Varsity Roman Coin Pizza and Abe's 66. This is the signature project of our neighborhood and we should be very proud that all of this is done with volunteers.

The baskets will now spend about 8 weeks growing in the Indian Creek Nursery greenhouse until they are installed around Mother's Day. If you have not heard from your block captain about donating for flower baskets on your block, please contact Peter Manhart at 402-350-3890 or [TheManharts@CBSHome.com](mailto:TheManharts@CBSHome.com). We have a few blocks that are in need of block captains so please consider taking this very easy job on so that your block can have flower baskets. The flower basket project is break even at best each year so if a block does not donate, they do not get flower baskets.

It is also not too early to sign up for the flower basket watering crews. The flower baskets would not survive a week without the dedicated watering and fertilizing of volunteers. This is a great opportunity for families to spend time together seeing our neighborhood while watering flower baskets. Please contact Dan Rock at 402-558-4913 or [drock@elickjones.com](mailto:drock@elickjones.com).

I want to offer a special thank you to eCreamery for their generosity in providing special ice cream treats to Neighborhood Rock Stars. They wanted to do something special to recognize individuals who give back to our neighborhood. The first recipient was the Rock family as part of our recognition in February for Dan Rock. eCreamery has offered to do this on an annual basis so be sure to stop in and get ice cream and thank eCreamery for being a great part of our neighborhood.

One of the highlights of my being President was back in 2011 when Dundee-Memorial Park was named as one of the 10 best neighborhoods in America. Our neighborhood was recognized for the many community projects we do each year as well as our commitment to the historic preservation of our unique architectural heritage.

Continued on page 4

## **Dundee-Memorial Park Association**

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Elizabeth McNichols, 5017 1/2 Cass St., Omaha, NE 68132.

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# President's Message

Continued from front page.

In 2005, our neighborhood was granted status as a National Historic District because of the unique and historical structures in Dundee. Unfortunately, one of my most disheartening moments as President occurred on February 26th. That morning I received numerous e-mails about the home at 5602 Farnam being demolished.

The owner of the property certainly had every right to tear down this house and he complied with all City ordinances. While I wish this house had been sold to someone who would have taken the great potential of this historic house and renovated it as has been done with countless other homes in Dundee, there is nothing that anyone can do if a property owner is set on demolishing a structure.

What saddens me is that a piece of our history is gone forever. This home was constructed in 1928 and was designed by noted architect John McDonald who also designed the Dundee Theatre. In a strange irony, the speaker at the April DMPA meeting is Joni Fogarty who is an expert on the architecture of Dundee and in particular the work of John McDonald. This was planned many months ago but it is very timely given recent events. Unfortunately, there will be one less John McDonald house for her to talk about.

Even when something like this happens, there can be some good that comes out of it. I was pleasantly surprised by the large number of reactions I saw on social media from Dundee residents when people found out about this demolition. Word spread like wildfire. There are clearly a large number of people who are unhappy, saddened and heartbroken over this loss. And yes, there are a number of people who are very displeased and even angry about what happened. While this home is now gone, a positive is that people are now more aware of what can happen even in an historic neighborhood like Dundee.

Hopefully, this event will renew our commitment to preserving the unique architectural history of Dundee in the future.

We had a great turnout at our March association meeting when we had Mayor Stothert as our guest speaker. There were many tough but fair questions especially on the Crossroads development and the proposed apartments for the old Temple Israel site. The bond issue for the Crossroads was going to be on the May primary ballot. However, after hearing from people who had significant questions about how this public bonding would work, the Mayor and City Council have decided to remove it from the May ballot. I think the discussion at the DMPA meeting had an impact on this decision. The Mayor fielded many questions about this project and promised to keep in touch with residents on the progress of this project. I know everyone at the meeting appreciated the time the Mayor took out of her schedule to come listen to our concerns.

Neighborhood Clean Up Day is set for Saturday, April 26th. We will once again be using the Brownell-Talbot drive off of Happy Hollow Blvd which worked really well for traffic flow. The City will have garbage trucks there for you to bring items that you have been waiting all winter to get rid of. We will also have metal recyclers and we are working on having a different electronics recycling company. No concrete, hazardous liquids, yard waste or tires are allowed. Yard waste vouchers will be given to take to another location that day. Also, the annual Dundee Garage Sale Weekend will be May 16-18. You can register on our website at [www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org) or by contacting Raquel Ahlvers at [Raquel.ahlvers@cbshome.com](mailto:Raquel.ahlvers@cbshome.com).

Please do not hesitate to let me know of any neighborhood concerns you may have.

Dave Schinzel



## DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

**April 14:** Omaha Architecture & History  
with Joni Fogarty

**May 12:** Nebraska Trees with Graham Herbst -  
Nebraska Forest Service

No Meetings during the Summer



Mayor Stothert speaking at March Meeting





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## Spring Clean Up 2014

**Location:** Brownell Talbot School  
400 North Happy Hollow Boulevard  
(Lower parking lot on the east side)

**Date:** Saturday, April 26, 2013  
**Time:** 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Free disposal of bulky household waste and recycling of scrap metal and most electronics. Old style CRT type monitors and TV's that contain toxic materials like Mercury and lead will cost a nominal amount to divert them from the landfill.



Certain items cannot be accepted at our site but are available at other sites on the same day. Tires can be taken to Boyd Elementary School and appliances can go to Monroe Middle School.

Any batteries, paints, liquids, oils, pesticides or other hazardous materials cannot be accepted at the site but these items can be disposed of at Under The Sink Special Waste Facility (402-444-sink).

If April 26th is not a convenient day for you to drop items off, there are locations around the city every Saturday between April 5th and May 17th, for more information on those locations please call the Spring Clean up Hotline at 402-444-4636.

Similar to years past, donations will be collected to benefit the A.V. Sorenson Library. So bring some \$\$.

To volunteer to help unload vehicles on April 26th email Tom Craig at [tcraig@tenaska.com](mailto:tcraig@tenaska.com).

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# Dundee Loses Historic House to Wrecking Ball



As was reported in the Omaha World-Herald, the Tudor Revival style home at 5602 Farnam Street was demolished on February 25th. The demolition permit was applied for on February 24th. The home had been the family home of Marjorie and John Powers since 1959.

According to the World-Herald, the property owner would not say what the plan is for the property.

The home was constructed in 1928 and was designed by noted Omaha architect John McDonald. He was born in Canada in 1881 and was educated in architecture at the University of Montreal. He moved to the United States in the 1880s and established a practice with former classmate David Ogilvy in 1887. Three years later Ogilvy left the firm and McDonald remained to establish his own name through residential commissions for the wealthy residents of Omaha. His son Alan McDonald graduated from Harvard with an architectural degree

and joined the practice in 1915. For the next thirty years, their name was associated with the architectural development of Omaha.

They were initially known for their Georgian and Colonial Revival architecture and later were associated with Prairie School design, Art Deco and Moderne designs. John McDonald lived a long life as he passed away in 1956 at the age of 95, while son Alan died in 1947.

John and Alan McDonald designed numerous buildings between 1915 and 1940 that are now located in Dundee. McDonald's work includes an asymmetrical 1917 Colonial Revival house at 5104 Chicago Street; a 1923 Colonial Revival home at 317 South 53rd Street; and a 1940 side-gabled residence at 516 South 58th Street. In addition to private dwellings, the McDonalds also designed the 1925 Dundee Theater located at 4952 Dodge Street. Outside of Dundee, two examples of the McDonald's work in the City of Omaha and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places include the Prairie-style Bradford-Pettis House and the First Unitarian Church of Omaha.

The Tudor Revival style (1890-1940) is abundant throughout Dundee. The style can be distinguished by the use of half-timbering and stucco; however, all-brick examples are also common. Typical features include a steeply pitched roof with a front facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, a dominant chimney, and tall narrow windows found in multiple groupings. One of the most dominant styles in the district, excellent Tudor Revival homes are found in all sections of the district however, more significant examples can be found in the areas west of 52nd Street, including Happy Hollow.

Several Dundee residents were quoted in the World-Herald story about the demolition.

"It was a pretty classic house, a prize piece of Omaha architecture destroyed. I don't want to upset the owners, because they can do whatever they want. ...It's more sad than anything else." Peter Manhart

"We're all extremely saddened to lose such a beautiful home, particularly along a showcase street like Farnam is down there." Cate Kratville

"You see young people buying these (Dundee) houses for \$250,000, \$350,000, \$400,000, and turning around and putting \$100,000 to \$250,000 into them, on a regular basis." "This house would have sold 'in a heartbeat' if it had gone on the market." Raquel Ahlvers

At the DMPA Association meeting on April 14th, the guest speaker will be Joni Fogarty who will be talking about Dundee's architectural history. She is also an expert on the works of architect John McDonald.



In the aftermath of the demolition of the home at 5602 Farnam Street, another historic home constructed in 1920 faces possible demolition as of March 20. This historic home is located at 113 North Happy Hollow Blvd. As was the case with the historic home on Farnam St., the property owner has the right to do whatever he wants as long as it follows City code.

This historic home is located along Omaha's historic boulevard system. The City of Omaha created in January 2013 the Historic Boulevard Master Plan. In this plan, the priorities for this segment of Happy Hollow Blvd between Underwood Ave. and Leavenworth St. is to "preserve the character of the boulevard and neighborhood. Happy Hollow has a distinct character because of its ornate furnishings, deep setback of homes, historic architecture and dense, mature tree canopy." Tearing down an historic structure along Happy Hollow Blvd would appear to contradict the master plan.

The demolition of these two properties is also lost property tax revenue for the City, County and school district. The home on Farnam St. was assessed at \$275,000. Now that the home is gone, the assessed value of the land was only \$23,500. That is a loss of \$251,500 in property tax base. The home on Happy Hollow Blvd is assessed at \$252,900. If that house is demolished, the land is assessed at only \$50,000. That would be another loss of \$202,900 in property tax base.

Dave Schinzel



# Flower Basket Planting

Over 50 neighbors came together May 21 and 22 to insert tiny begonia seedlings into the flower baskets that will be hung throughout the neighborhood in May. Planting was done at Indian Creek Nursery, in one of the greenhouses, where the nursery staff made sure everything flowed smoothly and we were able to get the 435 baskets planted speedily.

After volunteers poked holes in the basket linings, and inserted 38 begonia seedlings through the holes, the Indian Creek staff filled the baskets with soil, and planted ivy and more begonias in the top of the basket. Then the baskets were sent to the chain gang (thank you Bob Welk and Chuck Haller) where the chains were attached, and finally the finished baskets were hung high in the greenhouse to be watered and grown until they are mature enough to be hung outdoors.

The baskets will be hung outdoors throughout the neighborhood in May, after any danger of frost has passed. Nothing says "Welcome to Dundee" better than the flower baskets hanging throughout the neighborhood all summer!

Thank you to the local businesses that provided food for the event. Friday volunteers feasted on delicious sandwiches with roasted vegetables from Marks Bistro, and Goldberg's famous bread pudding, while Saturday volunteers had Calabrese meatballs and mixed greens salad from Pitch Coal Fire Pizzeria, and four types of pizza from Varsity Sports Cafe/ Roman Coin Pizza. AB's provided generous amounts of pop and bottled water. Please let these businesses know you appreciate their support for the neighborhood!

And thank you to these volunteers who made the work go so quickly:

Alan Rowch, Alison Navratil, Allison Latenser, Barb Giandinoto, BJ Reed, Bob Welk, Carol Richart, Cathy Wilkelhake, Christine Penrice, Chuck Haller, Fred Richart, Gloria Kannas, Gwen Howard, Heike Langdon, Jackie Hoyt, Jean Rix, Joe Noonan, Joyce Fitch, Judy Haecker, Judy Welk, Lannie McNichols, Lucy Cordes, Marjorie Gillen, Martin Richards, Michelle Craig, Millie Miller, Molly Romero, Nancy Kelly, Nancy Mulhall, Pat Lenaghan, Patricia Stutzman, Paula Javadzaden, Peg Gibbs, Peg Pease, Rob Rubio, Ruth Keene, Sarah Gilbert, Sharon Conlon, Stacey Evans, Sue Weidner, Susan Stiles, Tom Craig, and Win Finegan.

More pictures available on the DMPA Facebook page.

Mary Green and Julia Ross, Flower Basket co-chairs



Bob Welk and Chuck Haller-- the chain gang-- attaching chains to the baskets before hanging.



Marjorie Gillen poking begonia's through her basket lining.



Alison Navratil with her completed basket.



# Postcards From The Past

By Cate Kratville

Many of you reading this will remember the wonderful restaurant downtown call Northrup-Jones. It was an Omaha fixture for many years. But how many of you remember the Northrup-Jones restaurant called Old English Inn at 5004 Dodge? Not I for one, unfortunately. It was situated in the spot now occupied by Pageturners Lounge.

One of the reasons I collect Dundee postcards is the fun in learning new Dundee history, new to me at least. When I found this postcard I had no idea the restaurant even existed. It is interesting too because this card was actually used and sent back in 1941 as advertising to either a current or new customer telling about their delicious food at reasonable prices....lunch for 45-65 cents....and dinner for 60 cents to a dollar! Oh, the good old days!



## Newsletter Deadline

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



Removing old wallpaper alone is a tedious and messy task, but wallpaper with several coats of paint slathered over it is a particularly tormenting job.

So why not just put another coat of paint on it? As Clint Eastwood said in "Dirty Harry": "Are you feeling lucky, punk? Are you?" You might get lucky if the paper is tight to the wall and it doesn't have too many coats of paint already on the paper. But if you're unlucky, your layer of paint will be the one that breaks the camels back, or more correctly breaks the bond between the paper and the wallpaper will start to sag and or be pock-marked with wallpaper blisters and your removal job just got even tougher. Just accept the fact that you lost in the wallpaper removal lottery, roll up your sleeves and go to work.

Before you start move all the furniture (and anything else you value—books, priceless heirlooms, your kids) out of the room. Spread lots of plastic sheeting on the floor, because the walls are going to get wet. You'll need to soak the wallpaper with water to break the bond of the wallpaper paste. You can make this job go a little faster by adding a wallpaper removal solution to your water. These enzyme-based removers are available at almost any paint or hardware store.

The secret trick for removing painted wallpaper is to score the surface so the water has a way to work in behind the paper. A scoring tool like the "Paper Tiger" can be picked up for a few bucks. The "Paper Tiger" has

a several sharp scoring wheels on the bottom so all you have to do is push it around the wall. Be sure to work it all the way to the edges of the walls and into the corners.

After scoring the wall spray the remover on the wall with a small tank sprayer, like a Hudson Sprayer. Get the wall really wet. Let the solution work for a few minutes and then scrape away the paper with a wide bladed putty knife. (At paint or home improvement stores they sell a wide bladed tool for removing wallpaper with a replaceable razor sharp blade. But I don't like this tool for old plaster walls. It is so sharp you can't help but nick and gouge your walls. Then you'll have a lot of patching to do.)

The wallpaper will come off in small, slimy balls of paper, so have plenty of plastic garbage sacks to collect the debris and to keep your work area clean.

After you've removed all the paper, respray the walls with the remover solution and go over every inch of the wall again with your putty knife to scrape away any glue residue. Then thoroughly wash the wall with warm water and TSP or another cleaning solution like Mr. Clean.

After the walls dry, patch any imperfections and then you're ready to paint or repaper. If you're going to paint, it's probably a wise idea to prime the walls with an oil-based primer. A water-based primer will cause any glue left on the wall to dissolve and your paint will peel. If you're re-wallpapering I recommend one of the acrylic wall primers. I have had really good luck with them. They leave the surface smooth and tough so the new paper slides easily into place and bonds tightly to the wall.

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# 2014 DMPA Gigantic Garage Sale Weekend



## MAY 16, 17, 18

Sign up by Monday, May 5th

Sign up online @

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

If you don't have Internet access & can't sign up online, please email me the information w/ the subject line "DMPA SALE" or fill this out & mail it to me @ 312 S 54<sup>th</sup> St. Omaha, NE 68132

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Any questions, please contact Raquel Ahlvers #402.301.7653 - [raquel.ahlvers@cbshome.com](mailto:raquel.ahlvers@cbshome.com)

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*Programs subject to change—visit [omahalibrary.org](http://omahalibrary.org) for updates.*

## **Kids' Programs**

**Minecraft Club** - Tuesdays, April 1 & 15 | 4:30 PM

Have fun playing Minecraft at the Library. Program limited to ages 8-18. Registration required.

**Toddler Storytime** - Wednesdays | 10:30 AM

**Lego Club** - Wednesdays, April 2, 16 & 30 | 4:30 PM

Use your imagination to build anything you want with Legos. Snack provided.

**Yoga Storytime** - Thursday, April 3 | 10:30 AM

Storytime comes alive as we illustrate books with yoga. Suggested for kids up to age 6.

**Baby & Me Storytime** - Fridays, April 4, 11, & 18 | 10:30 AM

**Fit Club** - Saturday, April 5 | 2 PM

Have fun while working out! Play video games that will get your heart pumping.

**Gr. 2-6 Lock-In** - Friday, April 4 | 6-9 PM

Have fun at the Library making crafts & playing games while enjoying food and refreshments. Registration and a signed parental permission slip is required.

**Reading with Rosie & Tucker** - Saturdays | 4 PM

Along with their owner, children have the opportunity for a 15 minute one-on-one reading session. Registration required.

**Easter Craft for Kids** - Saturday, April 19 | 2 PM

Have fun creating an Easter Craft at the Library. Registration required.

## **Teen Programs**

**Easter Craft for Teens** - Saturday, April 12 | 2 PM

Have fun with your friends dyeing Easter eggs and then turning them into deviled eggs. Registration required.

**Junk Jewelry for Teens** - Saturday, April 26 | 2 PM

Come raid the junk drawer and create your own necklaces, bangles and rings. Supplies provided. Registration required.

## **Adult Programs**

**Retirement Transition Series** (Registration required.)

Estate Planning - Wills, Trusts, Probate - Tuesday, April 1 | 2 PM

Medicare 101 - Tuesday, April 8 | 2 PM

Paying for Long Term Care - Tuesday, April 15 | 2 PM

Social Security Strategies - Thursday, April 24 | 2 PM

**Under the Dundee Sun Book Club** - Tuesday, April 1 | 4:30 PM

**Scrabble** - Thursdays | 1 PM

**Sorensen Readers Book Club** - Saturday, April 5 | 1 PM

**HisMys Book Club** - Saturday, April 12 | 10:30 AM

**Plains Pages Book Club** - Saturday, April 19 | 1 PM

**Common Soil: Planning Your Garden for Seed Saving** - Tuesday, April 22 | 6:30 PM

Draw and conceptualize your garden. Learn about how to use borders and distance for isolation & about how much space you might need to appropriate for a proper population size. Registration required.



**Dundee**  
4825 Dodge St.

Jamie A. Drake, M.D., F.A.A.P.  
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Access us online via Children's Connect.

**ChildrensPhysiciansOmaha.org**

## DUNDEE CLASSIFIED /WANT ADS

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

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

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

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

**Send form (Photo copy acceptable) and checks made out to DMPA 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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