

# DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



## DMPA Meeting

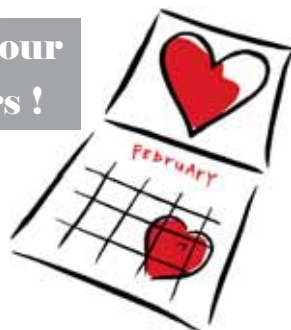
**Next DMPA Meeting  
February**

**Volunteer Recognition  
And  
Honoring Dan Rock**

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

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

**We Love our  
Members !**



## Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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Vol. 24, No 2 February 2014

## Letter From the President

We know spring cannot be too far off when we start talking about flower baskets. Again this year, DMPA will be planting over 450 flower baskets throughout the neighborhood as we have done each year since 1998. We have new flower basket planting coordinators in Mary Green and Julia Ross. I want to thank them for their willingness for taking on this project. They are looking for volunteers for our 2 day planting extravaganza in March at Indian Creek Nursery. Please check out the article in this newsletter for more information on signing up. It really is a fun time and where else can you use a screwdriver and drywall saw to plant flowers!

I want to thank State Senator Sara Howard and State Senator Burke Harr for coming to our January association meeting and providing us with their views on the current session of the Legislature. We are very fortunate to have two state senators representing our neighborhood in Lincoln giving us two votes as opposed to one that most other neighborhoods have. It has become a tradition in recent years to have our senators come speak at our January meeting so we have the opportunity to let them know our thoughts at the start of the legislative session. We do appreciate their accessibility and their willingness to visit with their constituents.

At our February meeting, we will be recognizing all of the volunteers who make all of the projects DMPA has undertaken over the years possible. I want to invite everyone to join us on Monday, February 10 at 7:30 pm at Dundee Presbyterian Church so that we can thank everyone for all that you do to make this such a great neighborhood. We will have drawings for door prizes for our volunteers. Our merchants have generously donated some great prizes and we will also have cake and refreshments for everyone.

I also want to encourage you to attend our February meeting as we will be honoring Dan Rock for all that he has done for DMPA over the years. Last year, the DMPA Board decided that we needed to thank all of our volunteers and to recognize the extraordinary work that many people have given to our neighborhood. It was the unanimous belief of the DMPA Board that our first honoree should be Dan Rock. There is simply not enough room in this newsletter to acknowledge all that Dan has done for DMPA. Of course, Dan is most famously known as the father of the flower

## **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.

basket project. Dan helped start the project and he has hung and maintained thousands of flower baskets. Dan has organized the water brigade and even installed a high capacity water hose in his yard to fill the water trucks more quickly. Some of the other things Dan has accomplished for the neighborhood include the Dundee, Neb. history book, the Dundee Clock in the business district, neighborhood watch, tree planting, DMPA President and countless hours of volunteering.

When the DMPA Board decided to honor Dan, it was felt that just giving Dan a plaque was not enough for all that he has done. The DMPA Board decided to ask the City of Omaha to commemoratively name South 53rd Street from Farnam St. to Howard St. as "Dan Rock Blvd." The City Council unanimously approved this on January 7th. We felt it was important that there be a permanent monument to express our thanks to Dan and his family for all they do.

I especially want to thank everyone who helped bring the street naming to fruition including all of the DMPA Board, the City of Omaha Planning Department, Councilman Pete Festersen, Councilman Chris Jerram and Mayor Jean Stothert. We appreciate your help!

So mark your calendar for this very special event. Please come pat yourself on the back and help us honor Dan and his family on February 10th.

Dave Schinzel



## DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

**February 10th:** Thanks to Our Volunteers  
Honoring Dan Rock

Next Meeting:  
**March 10th**

## Volunteers Needed for Flower Basket Planting!

Spring is just around the corner! And we've got a way to make it come even sooner. Join neighbors to create the beautiful flower baskets that brighten our neighborhood and make it one of the best neighborhoods in Omaha.

We need 30-40 volunteers who will join us at Indian Creek nursery as we plant the 450 baskets. Volunteers insert 40 tiny begonia plants around the perimeter of the basket, fill them with soil, and then add more begonia and ivy plants to the top.

There's no better way to meet your neighbors, do a good turn for the neighborhood, and sample food from neighborhood restaurants. Think flowers!

Date: Friday March 21  
Saturday March 22

Time: 10-3 (both days)  
Lunch provided by local Dundee restaurants!

Location: Indian Creek Greenhouse  
303 N. Saddle Creek Road  
(Greenhouse, SE corner of property)

To volunteer for one or both days, sign up at the next DMPA meeting, or e-mail Mary Green at [megreen4@cox.net](mailto:megreen4@cox.net), or call 402-556-1830.

Julia Ross and Mary Green, Flower Basket Co-Chairs



Volunteers at 2010 basket planting



Do a good deed and help an elderly or disabled neighbor with their snow removal. It will warm your heart on a cold winter day.





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Serving Dundee for Over 30 Years

# Honoring Dan Rock

On Tuesday, January 7, 2014, the Omaha City Council passed the following resolution, “that the nomination of ‘Dan Rock Blvd’ as a commemorative street name on 53rd Street between Farnam Street and Howard Street is hereby approved...”. The resolution was approved at the request of the Dundee-Memorial Park Association Board as a way to honor the countless hours Dan has devoted over the years as a community leader in our neighborhood.

A brief summary of those activities includes: President of the Association; establishment of the flower basket hanging program that has become a symbol of our neighborhood; created the fundraising, planting and watering effort carried out by volunteers for 15 years, an effort that has grown to 450 baskets, funded by \$35,000 in contributions, maintenance of two watering trucks, about 50 volunteer planters for two days, a “Water Brigade” that travels the streets of the neighborhood (48th Street to 61st Street/Leavenworth Street to Western Avenue) from May to October, following an efficient routing system whereby each basket is watered every other day, and, even a dedicated underground water hose at his home to fill the water tanks. The list goes on: Dan created a “light pole guardian” program whereby about 30 poles were painted and which led directly to another project to sandblast and paint more than 200 poles; in 2000, wrote most of the text and edited a book detailing the history of our neighborhood entitled Dundee, NE, a Pictorial History; provides pro bono, his legal advice to our Association, as well as, other community not for profit groups; organized a citizen patrol when Dundee was struck with a series of garage fires set by an arsonist, an effort which helped lead to an end to this dangerous situation; led the effort for the Association to undertake a project to install a clock in the business district; and, organizes Boy Scouts from Troop 42 to be involved in annual tree planting efforts conducted by the Association in partnership with the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance.

In addition to his tireless efforts on behalf of Dundee-Memorial Park, Dan has been actively involved in the following community organizations:

Boy Scout Troop 42, St. Margaret Mary Church Garden/Grounds Crew and Church Lock Up Volunteers St. Margaret Mary Church Parish Council, Knights of Columbus, Dundee School PTO (Current President-elect), American Diabetes Association Board

In the future the Board will recognize other significant leaders but Dan was the unanimous first choice... and we’re sure you can see why.

Mr. Volunteer/Community Leader Dan Rock will be recognized at the February 10, 2014 Association monthly meeting, a meeting designated by the Board to honor all of our numerous neighborhood volunteers. Please come and thank Dan “and his merry band”. Refreshments will be served.

Bob Welk



The year was 1997. Jerry Ahlvers was President of the neighborhood association and I was on the Board of Directors. We sat in Ahlvers living room and Dan Rock told us of the flower basket project in Red Wing, Minnesota and how he wanted to do the same in the Dundee-Memorial Park area.

This would be huge. He wasn’t talking of just a few flower baskets, but hundreds. He was talking of the need for block captains on every street to raise money to buy the baskets and dozens of volunteers to plant the baskets, hang them from our street lights, and water them during the summer. And this was not a one-time and we’re done project. It would go on for years. We all looked at Dan like he might be a little soft in the head. But this was Dan Rock. And when he gets his arms around something, it gets done.

And so began what is arguably the best known and most envied neighborhood project in Omaha.

Dan Rock’s involvement in the flower baskets and other projects like the clock tower in the business district and the coffee table book that tells the history of Dundee has added immeasurably to the success of efforts to promote Dundee as a desirable place to live and raise families. Thank you Dan.

Gary Kerr

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## Birth of the Dundee History Book

Dan researched and wrote a script for the very popular Dundee history tour. The tour was narrated by Dan and Gary Kerr for 4 or 5 years aboard Ollie the Trolley as it made it’s way around the neighborhood on Dundee Day.

Many people asked Dan for a copy of the script and the idea of publishing a booklet expanded into a 200 page book packed with neighborhood history as well as wonderful historic photos of the area.

Dan wanted to make it a neighborhood project and asked others to contribute stories and photos. But it was Dan’s driving force that made it happen, pulling together not only the text and making many editing revisions, but also choosing the photos that were obtained from several remarkable collections. The process took countless hours from June through October of that year... the book was born just in time for holiday sales.

Since publication in 2000 some 2,500 copies have been sold generating a significant contribution to the DMPA treasury.

Ellen Shurson

# Postcards From The Past

By Cate Kratville

Can you guess where this view of Dundee is? From what I have been able to find in 15 years of collecting Dundee postcards, this is the only known postcard solely of a residential street in Dundee. And yes....it is on 53rd Street looking just north of Dodge Street. This postcard was used and was postmarked in 1928. It is one of the more rare Dundee postcards.



## Making the Old New Again

Bring the past to life by discovering forgotten antiques, researching their significance, and sharing your findings with fellow antique lovers.

Join the Questers, an international organization of lover of antiques, collectibles and history who encourage an appreciation for antiquities and the preservation and restoration of historical landmarks.

In the Nebraska twelve local chapters, Questers research antiques; share their discoveries with fellow Questers; help to preserve and restore building and historic sites, embark on antiquing trips and build life-long friendships. Total Quester members are 13,000.

Always searching, always discovering, The Questers is looking for new members who share their passion. For more information, visit [www.questers1944.org](http://www.questers1944.org) or call 215-923-5183 to get in touch with Nebraska Questers.



Basic window repair—replacing broken glass or crumbling glazing—doesn't have to be a pain in the pane. These are not particularly difficult jobs and are well within the abilities of the average homeowner. Repairs are easier if you can remove the window sash, but you can also repair your windows in place. (For a tutorial with photos on removing sashes in a double-hung window visit <http://www.dundee memorial park.org> and click on the link on the home page: Old House Mechanic Window Restoration Tutorial.)

If the glass is broken, wear a pair of heavy leather gloves to remove all of the shards of glass. A pair of pliers can be handy for getting a grip on the pieces of glass.

Pry off all the loose glazing with a stiff putty knife. A heat gun can also help soften some of the old putty. (If the glass is good and you're just replacing worn out glazing, use a heat shield to protect the glass or the heat will crack it. A rectangle of thin plywood or masonite works well for this.)

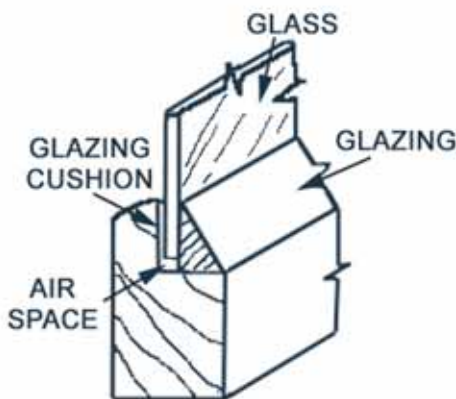
Carefully measure your opening and get the hardware store to cut your new glass 1/8" smaller in both the length and the width to allow room for the window frame to expand and contract without cracking the new glass. While you're at the store buy a can of glazing compound. (DAP is a good brand and commonly available.) They now offer glazing compound in a caulking tube but I have not had much luck with it. To get the glazing compound so it can be "gunned" it has to be thinned quite a bit and I find it too thin to shape it properly.

In the channel where the glass is seated coat any bare wood with linseed oil applied with a small brush. This will keep the wood from sucking all the oil out of the glazing compound and will provide the wood a measure of protection against the elements. Scoop out a small lump of glazing compound. Roll it between your hands until it is warmed up and workable. Then roll it into small "ropes" about half the diameter of a pencil. (Think 2nd grade and the stuff you made with clay and you'll have the idea here.) Press the ropes into the channel and then press the glass into the frame. This "bedding" glaze cushions and seals the glass on the inside of the frame.

Glazing compound only seals the edge around the glass; it's not really designed to hold the glass in place. That's the purpose of glazier's points—small metal triangles that are pressed into the window frame. They now sell points that are easy to press in place with a putty knife.

Push in your glazier's points—at least one per side for small glass panes and for larger pieces of glass one about every eight inches should do it.

—Roll out another glazing rope this time about the diameter of a pencil and with your putty knife press it into the channel and form a neat, even chamfer of putty around the window. This takes a little practice but you'll get the hang of it in no time. The glazing will spread more easily if you use a putty knife in good condition with a polished surface. If the surface is pitted or glopped with dried-on old plaster or other substances, it will be very hard to get an even smooth surface. Either polish the blade of your knife or better yet, buy a new one. Regularly clean the knife of excess glazing putty and wipe it with a rag. The idea is to build up this slope of putty no higher than the wood on the inside of the frame; otherwise you'll see this bead of putty when you're looking out the window.



Let the putty setup for three or four days before painting it. Use a good oil base primer and then topcoat the window with whatever paint you prefer. But consider that since these are old windows, they probably were painted with an oil base (alkyd) paint and you probably will want to use the same or the paint may not stick.

In the world of old houses, reglazing windows is one of the more pleasant tasks. It's not dangerous, there are no bad odors, and even clean up is easy (if you wear disposable surgical gloves you won't even have to wash your hands.)


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## Garbage Ordinance

Trash cans are only be allowed to be at the curb from 5:00 pm the day before collection until 7:00 pm the day of collection. There is an exception if garbage collection is delayed. Trash containers will no longer be permitted at the curb at any other time. Leaving trash containers at the curb all of the time will no longer be allowed. Outside the collection period, all trash containers shall be placed behind a building facing the street or a screening fence. This ordinance also applies to containers for private collection. In addition, commercial dumpsters will not longer be permitted on public right of way unless space is leased from the City and the dumpster is properly screened.

The fine for violating this ordinance is \$100 for first offense and \$500 for second offense. Enforcement will be complaint driven. There is a process for obtaining a hardship waiver for those who have a legitimate reason that they are unable to comply with the ordinance.

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**Start cleaning out the basement, attic  
and garage..**

**The Gigantic Garage Sale Weekend**  
will be here before you know it.  
(Probably in May).



## Home Security Tips

It seems that burglary and car thefts are on the rise in all neighborhoods. Or perhaps it's just because we hear more about them via television and emails. No one wants to think about someone breaking into the sanctuary that is our home. Loss of property can be costly, but the loss of a sense of security can be truly devastating.

Here are some home safety tips that were gleaned from several sources.

**Use all of your locks.** Make sure all doors are locked at all times. Even during the day, thieves go around testing doors and will walk in looking for a quick item to grab such as a purse or wallet.

**Start a neighborhood watch** or at least start an email alert system for crime in your area or even suspicious activity. Don't annoy your neighbors by using this list for general email messages but save it for safety or crime issues.

**Upgrade the lock.** For \$25 to \$150, you can buy a good Grade 1 (commercial grade) or Grade 2 deadbolt. No need for a locksmith; you can install it yourself;

**Reinforce the strike plate.** The strike plate is the metal plate in the door jamb into which the bolt slides. Strike plates, typically held in place by two half-inch wood screws, pull easily from the jamb, especially in older homes. Replace yours with a heavy-duty brass strike plate (\$3 and up) that accepts up to six screws. Use 3-inch screws that screw into the door frame. Reinforce all doors leading outside, including the door between the garage and house.

**Get a better door.** Replace your hollow-core door (easily kicked in) with a solid wood (around \$300 on up) or metal-clad door. A new steel door (roughly \$1,175) probably less costly than that 60" flat screen television.

**Windows:** Keep your windows from opening more than 6 inches. You can cut a wooden dowel 6 inches shorter than the height of each window and drop the dowel into the metal gutter of each window frame so the window can't be opened fully. Or buy and install window ventilating hardware that will prevent the window from being opened unless the latch is repositioned from the inside.

More safety tips to follow in later newsletters.

**The most important thing to do is to call 911 if you see suspicious activity.**



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**Recreation Center info: 444-5596** [www.cityofomaha.org/parks](http://www.cityofomaha.org/parks)

Saturday 8:30 am - 12 pm Mon - Thurs 8:30 am - 8:30 pm Fri 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

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

## **Kids' Programs**

**Fit Club** - Saturday, February 1 | 2 PM

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

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

Rosie and Tucker are registered therapy dogs. Along with their owner, children have the opportunity for a 15 minute one-on-one reading session. Registration required.

**Minecraft Club** - Tuesdays, February 4 & 18 | 4:30 PM

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

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

Read books, sing songs, play games and make crafts. Fun for toddlers/preschoolers.

**Lego Club** - Wednesdays, February 5 & 19 | 4:30 PM

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

**Yoga Storytime** - Thursday, February 6 | 10:30 AM

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

**Baby & Me Storytime** - Fridays | 10:30 AM

Parents & babies will enjoy this program with rhyming games, puppets, songs & musical instruments.

**Pete the Cat Visits Sorensen** - Wednesday, February 12 | 10:30 AM

Pete the Cat wants to meet the kids at A.V. Sorensen Branch, so he's joining us for a special storytime! Remember your camera!

**Valentine's Day Craft for Kids** - Friday, February 14 | 4:30 PM

Have fun creating a Valentine's Day Craft! Registration required.

## **Teen Programs**

**Fit Club** - Saturday, February 1 | 2 PM

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

**Minecraft Club** - Tuesdays, February 4 & 18 | 4:30 PM

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

**Lego Club** - Wednesdays, February 5 & 19 | 4:30 PM

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

**Get Crafty with African Patterns for Teens** - Saturday, February 8 | 1:00 PM

February is African American History Month. Join us in creating your own African-inspired patterns on wrapping paper. Use it to wrap a gift, or turn it into artwork for your walls! All materials provided. Registration required.

**Valentine's Day Craft for Teens** - Tuesday, February 11 | 4:30 PM

Have fun creating a Valentine's Day Craft! Registration required.

**Teen Advisory Board** - Saturday, February 15 | 2 PM

Enjoy snacks & refreshments while discussing issues and helping out at the Library!

**Gr. 6-12 Teen Lock-In** - Friday, February 21 | 6-9 PM

Hang out with your friends at the Library while enjoying food and refreshments. Have fun playing Wii & Xbox 360 Kinect games. Registration is required as well as a signed parental permission slip.

**Game Time** - Saturday, February 22 | 2-4 PM

Have fun with your friends playing one of the Library's Xbox 360 Kinect or Wii games.

## **Adult Programs**

**Sorensen Readers Book Club** - Saturday, February 1 | 1 PM

Read and discuss "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro.

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

Read and discuss "Always Looking Up" by Michael J. Fox.

**Scrabble** - Thursdays | 1 PM

Join us at the Library for some fun with the classic board game Scrabble!

**HisMys Book Club** - Saturday, February 8 | 10:30 AM

Read and discuss "The Pale Blue Eye" by Louis Bayard.

**Plains Pages Book Club** - Saturday, February 15 | 1 PM

Read and discuss "The Blind Assassin" by Margaret Atwood.

## DMPA Merchandise for Sale

This decorative flag has the DMPA logo on both sides and will certainly enhance the front of any residence. Each flag is \$45.00 plus tax and can be purchased at Dundee Bank. When the flower baskets are down for the winter, why not replace the basket with a colorful Dundee-Memorial Park flag.



Also available is the DMPA logo, long-sleeved tee-shirt. It is a charcoal gray shirt with the logo on the front. It comes in medium and large sizes for \$20.00 plus tax. The extra-large and 2X large sizes are \$22.00 plus tax. They are also available at the Dundee Bank. Wear the DMPA logo proudly!

We also have note cards.

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**Email:** [ellenshurson@gmail.com](mailto:ellenshurson@gmail.com) or call 402- 551-6787.

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gift for a new neighbor.

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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

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  
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Senior \$6  
Business \$20  
**Multiple year  
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To avoid delay... Please send all membership renewals to address on membership form, on the other side of this page.  
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