# DUNDEE-Memorial Park Asociation



# **DMPA** Meeting

Next DMPA Meeting May 12th

**Nebraska Trees** with Graham Herbst -Nebraska Forest Service

**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.



April DMPA Meeting

# Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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# **Letter From the President**

A sure sign that spring has finally arrived are garage sales. Once again, DMPA will be holding the neighborhood-wide Garage Sale on May 16, 17 and 18. This annual event brings thousands of visitors to the neighborhood so be sure to sign up on our website www.dundeememorialpark.org.

I want to thank Millie Miller for her many years of dedicated service to DMPA as she has decided to step down as the Beautification Chair for north of Dodge. Without her dedication and commitment, DMPA would not have such a successful street island planting program. Each summer, volunteers plant and maintain the numerous street islands throughout the neighborhood. In so many other neighborhoods, street islands are just barren pieces of City property. But not in Dundee and that is because of Millie Miller and all of the volunteers. I am pleased that Mike Walenta has volunteered to become the Beautification Chair for north of Dodge. We welcome him to the DMPA Board and appreciate his willingness to serve.

Back in February, the DMPA board created a Website Committee to look at how we can update and improve our website. The committee is chaired by Adam Langdon and the other committee members are myself, Bill Kelly, Raquel Ahlvers, Charley Reed, Sara Nelson and Dave Nelson. Back in 2000, DMPA was one of the first neighborhoods to have a website. But as technology has changed over the years, our website is in need of an update. The committee has met several times over the past months working with Secret Penguin to come up with a design for a more functional and user-friendly website. At the April DMPA board meeting, a formal presentation was given and the board will be looking at making a final decision on the website recommendations in May. The goal is to have the new website up and running by Dundee Day in August. One of the suggestions of the Website Committee was that a board member continue to be responsible for managing the website and its content. Bill Kelly has served in this position for the past 15 years and has done a fantastic job. Bill has decided that it is time for him to turn over these duties to someone new. He will remain involved in helping with the website. Sara Nelson has agreed to take over this position as we move forward with the new website. We are very fortunate to have someone with her expertise to join our board.

Sadly since the April newsletter, a second Dundee home has been demolished in order to make a larger yard for a neighboring property owner. As you might expect, I have heard from many people who

## Dundee-Memorial Park Association Board of Directors Officers

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Adam Langdon, President Elect 402-290-8084 Peg Gibbs, Secretary Rodney Olden, Treasurer rodney.olden@hotmail.com 402-551-2597

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To join as a business member, send dues with the form on the inside back page. Please send to Elizabeth McNichols, address below.

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# **President's Message**

Continued from front page.

have been very upset about what has been happening in our neighborhood the past few months. Hopefully, this is not the start of a trend in Dundee of tearing down historic homes but it does raise some serious concerns about what our neighborhood is going to look like in the future. The DMPA is going to work with City officials, including our City Council representatives, on what, if anything, could be done to address the worry of many residents about the destruction of historic properties.

We had another great turnout for the April association meeting where our guest speaker was Joni Fogarty. She gave a very informative presentation on noted Omaha architect John McDonald who did many well-known buildings in Omaha including Joslyn Castle, Joslyn Museum, Dundee Theatre, Hill Hotel and numerous homes in Dundee. One of the Dundee homes designed by John McDonald at 5602 Farnam Street was recently demolished by a neighboring property owner. We had scheduled this speaker months before the demolition of the McDonald house but her talk about the need for preservation was very timely.

Once again we had a very successful Neighborhood Clean Up Day on April 26th. I want to thank Brownell-Talbot School for their generosity in allowing us to use their circular drive for the drop off location. We are fortunate to have such a perfect spot for easy drop off and disposal of the large amount of items that people dropped off. I also want to thank Clean Up Day Chair Tom Craig and the volunteers who helped out with making Clean Up Day run very smoothly.

In addition to garage sales, May also means flower baskets. After such a long and miserable winter, it will be great to see over 450 flower baskets, planted and maintained entirely by volunteers, go up around Mother's Day. Once the baskets go up, we will be in need of your help to keep them watered and fertilized. Now is the perfect time to sign up to help the water brigade. Please contact Dan Rock at 402-558-4913 or drock@elickjones.com to sign up. Our flower baskets are the envy of many other neighborhoods. I have heard of one west Omaha neighborhood spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to hire a private company to do what Dundee-Memorial Park does entirely with volunteers. We can't be as successful as we have been without your help!

Last fall, DMPA received a grant from the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance to have a tree survey done for the entire neighborhood. Since 2008, DMPA has participated in the Re-Tree Midtown program. We have planted about 150 trees in Dundee-Memorial Park at no cost to property owners. The neighborhood survey will provide DMPA with a road map for future plantings. Our last Association meeting before the summer break will be Monday, May 12th and our speaker will be Graham Herbst from the Nebraska Forest Service. Dundee-Memorial Park has been committed to tree planting from the very beginning of our community in the 1880's. We have faced many challenges in the past like Dutch elm disease which wiped out the elms in the 1960's. New challenges from invasive insects like the Emerald Ash Bore will present new challenges for maintaining the great tree canopy that Dundee-Memorial Park has had for decades.

As my term as President ends, Adam Langdon will be stepping up to be the next President. I want to thank everyone on the board who has given countless hours of their time to volunteer to make our neighborhood a better place to live. I also want to thank all of the volunteers who give willingly give back to their neighborhood whenever asked to help.

Dave Schinzel



DMPA MEETINGS

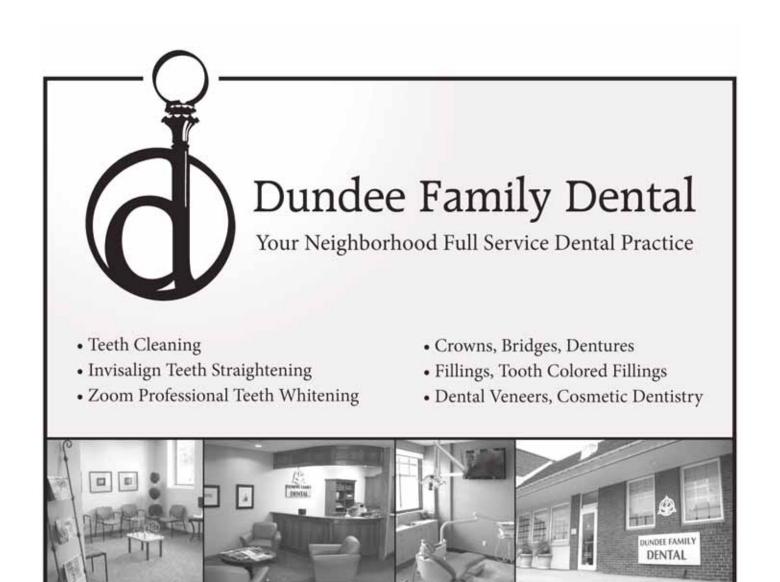
May 12: Nebraska Trees with Graham Herbst -Nebraska Forest Service

No Meetings during the Summer



Speaker and crowd April Meeting

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We accept traditional insurance plans.

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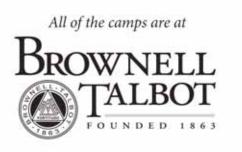
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# A Farewell to Dundee History

#### By Cate Kratville

I've lived in the same house at 54th and Farnam for 50 years. And I'll admit to being 51 years old in June. I've seen a lot of change in Dundee throughout those 50 years. But I've also seen a lot stay the same.

With the recent tearing down of one home on Farnam Street just a few doors from me and now one on North Happy Hollow Boulevard, Dundee history has just come full circle. Over many decades in Dundee, homeowners of large homes with large properties have often sold off their extra yards to new property owners. Those new owners subsequently built new homes of their times on their new land. Those new homes reflected the style of the homes of the time they were built. It might be that a 1943 home sits next to a 1918 home. One example is the old Drew home at 310 South 53 Street. The Drew family sold off their extra yard area to the south and west of which several new homes were built in the 1940s.

While sad to see these old homes in Dundee go, I am pretty confident that within 100 years or so, the likely course of action will be that the current owners of those homes will sell off those large yards to new property owners and--once again--new homes will stand on that land. Again, Dundee history will come full circle.

As I write this column today, I am preparing for the next new round of Dundee history to my own home on South 54th Street. I will be getting married and moving to the Dundee area of Milwaukee later this year. Actually I'm getting married next year not far from Dundee, Scotland. My personal Dundee history will have come full circle when I visit the original Dundee. I know some of you out there have been there. My "new" Dundee is called Wauwatosa, Wisconsin....and it is almost exactly the same kind of area as our little slice of heaven here in Omaha. Tosa, as it is commonly referred to, also has unique individual homes with lots of historic architectural charm and big wide sidewalks and free libraries in people's yards. My new home has a homeowner's association and I've already been recruited to help them. Again, my Dundee life comes full circle.

For now, I bid a farewell to Dundee history. This will be my last column but like Arnold says .... I'll be back. I will continue to help the DMPA board with historical projects (such as the building permits) as necessary with the Dundee research I personally have. And I hope to do some guest columns in the future, such as share more of my dad's Dundee streetcar photos. My new email address is ckratville@gmail.com in case anybody needs some Dundee history help. And don't be surprised if you see some of my antique Dundee postcards posted out on our Facebook page.

I want to thank the DMPA board for giving me the opportunity to share my love of Dundee history with you. Most of all, I extend a big "thank you" to the residents of Dundee who continue to prove me right.....Dundee loves its history...and loves to share that history. Well done Dundee....well done!

# DCG participating in OmahaGives! May 21

Spring planting has taken place at Dundee Community Garden, with 30 garden members attending our groundbreaking the first weekend in April. Members prepared their garden beds and planted seeds for cool-season crops such as lettuce, spinach, kale, radish, beets, and carrots. We also planted seeds in our "Community Beds" for donating to the Underwood Tower residents. Most of our 45 plots are now planted. Special thanks to Dundee businesses Blue Line Coffee and Le Quartier Bakery for the fabulous coffee and pastry donations that kept gardeners happy at our orientation and gardening workshop on April 5.

We're happy to announce we are participating in the Omaha Community Foundation's OmahaGives! 24-hour charitable challenge event on Wed. May 21. We will be using donations to DCG for building new compost bins we want to get a truly effective composting system going at the garden—and we have plans for a new arched entranceway that will be on the diagonal at the SE corner of the garden, serving as an entranceway to the Dundee neighborhood.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Dundee Community Garden as part of OmahaGives!, just go to omahagives24.org, select your charity, and choose the amount you want to give. Your gift will be amplified by matching funds, and may help DCG qualify for hourly prizes, so we encourage garden supporters to help us in this fun way to give. We benefit from every donation, no matter how large or small. Please consider making a donation on this one-day giving event.

# 8th Season Elmwood Park Project

Yes, it is the 8th season for the Elmwood Park clean-up project. The dates that have been designated for work days in the park are: May 17, June 21, July 19 and Sept. 13. Once again we will be concentrating on the grot-to and its surrounding areas. With the help of the equipment truck tools we will be able to trim, rake, dig weeds and other general maintenance tasks. Our meeting time is 9:00 -11:00 a.m. in the grotto parking lot. All you need to bring is your gloves and favorite trimmer and we will provide the tasks.

All volunteers are welcome. If you have youngsters who would like to help, we would like them to be accompanied by an adult.

Put the work dates on your calendar and join us for a "give back to your park" day. Questions: marty myers (402) 556-2513

### Saturday, May 17 Is First Meeting JOIN US!!

# Don't Forget to Take Your Medicine



# Ask About Our Drug Packing Service





"Your mother doesn't work here. Clean up after yourself!" At work, that sign—written in

by Don Browers an angry scrawl—is taped to the wall in our lunchroom. It's likely your mom doesn't live at your house either, so I'll take her place and remind (not nag) you about six things you should do for your old house now that spring is here.

1. Clean the gutters. If you didn't get all the leaves out of the gutters last fall, do it now. Even if you clean out the gutters last fall, you probably need to do it again. Our big old Dundee trees drop a lot of buds when they leaf out. The buds can easily block your gutters and downspouts. In a heavy rain, the water will roll over the edge of the gutter and pool at your foundation. One of the leading causes of water in the basement is blocked gutters and downspouts. (Yes, right after I finish writing this column I'll be dragging out my ladder to clean away drifts of maple buds in my gutters.)

2. Sharpen your lawn mower blade. One of the easiest ways to promote a green, healthy lawn your neighbor will envy is with a sharp blade. I sharpen mine on the first Saturday of every month during the lawn-cutting season. You don't have to hassle with taking the blade to a shop for sharpening. You can sharpen it with a decent file. If you sharpen regularly, a few quick strokes with the file will do nicely. (But be safe. Remove the blade from your mower and before you remove the blade, unhook the spark plug to be extra sure you don't accidentally start the engine.)

3. Trim your trees. (Or have someone trim them for you. There are may certified arborists in Omaha.) This is especially true for tree limbs overhanging the side-walks. One of the great joys of this neighborhood is walking, so be considerate of your friends and neighbors—clear a path for them.

4. Paint the street lamp pole on your block. Our old street lamps are a treasure in our neighborhood, but many of them have peeling paint and rust. Be a part of preserving these lamps for future generations. It doesn't take much time or advanced skills. Next month I'll write in detail on how to restore the lamp poles. But if you want to start now, that's okay with me. You have my permission.

5. Touch up your house paint. While you have your painting tools out, take a walk around your house and make a "punch list" of all the places where your paint is thin or peeling. For each bad spot: sand, prime and finish with two topcoats. This will postpone the day when you'll have to pay for that expensive complete repainting job, it will protect the wood on your old house's exterior and it will add to the beauty of your home.

6. Take a walk. Okay, technically this isn't something for your old house, but it will do wonders for you. Not only is walking good exercise, but it's also a great way to see old friends, meet some new ones and to fully appreciate this unique, historical neighborhood we live in.







2014 DMPA <u>Gigantic Garage Sale Weekend</u>



May 16,17,18

Sign up by Monday, May 5th

Sign up online @

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 5 54<sup>th</sup> St. Omaha, NE 68132

Phone #			_Address:	
Email:				_*please note email is best & quickest for me, please include
Days (circle)	e) FRI SAT SUN	SUN		
What are you se	elling:			

Any questions, please contact Raquel Ahlvers #402.301.7653 - raquel.ahlvers@cbshome.com

# **DMPA** Online

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# A.V. Sorensen Library & Recreation Center



48th & Cass Streets Library Info: 444-5274 ww.omahapubliclibrary.org Tues & Thurs 10 am - 8 pm Wed, Fri, Sat 10 am - 6 pm Closed Sunday & Monday Recreation Center info: 444-5596 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 for updates.

## Kids' Programs

Lego Club - Wednesdays, May 1, 15 & 29 | 4:30 PM Use your imagination to build anything you want with Legos. Snack provided. All ages. Yoga Storytime - Friday, May 3 | 5 PM Storytime comes alive as we demonstrate books through yoga. Suggested for kids up to age 6. Fit Club - Saturday, May 4 | 2 PM Have fun while working out! Play video games that will get your heart pumping! Froggy Storytime - Wednesday, May 8 | 10:15 AM Bring your camera to storytime and meet Froggy! Mother's Day Craft for Kids - Saturday, May 11 | 3 PM Make something for your mom just in time for Mother's Day! Game Time | 2-4 PM Have fun with your friends playing Wii & Xbox 360 Kinect games. Saturday, May 25: Just Dance 4 Thursday, May 30: you choose

## Teen Programs

Lego Club - Wednesdays, May 1, 15 & 29 | 4:30 PM Use your imagination to build anything you want with Legos. Snack provided. All ages. Fit Club - Saturday, May 4 | 2 PM Have fun while working out! Play video games that will get your heart pumping! Mother's Day Craft for Teens - Tuesday, May 7 | 4:30 PM Make something for your mom just in time for Mother's Day! Registration required. Game Time | 2-4 PM Have fun with your friends playing Wii & Xbox 360 Kinect games. Saturday, May 25: Just Dance 4 Thursday, May 30: you choose

## Adult Programs

Beginning Internet for Adults - Wednesdays, May 1 & 8 | 10 AM-2 PM
Learn more about the Internet, and sign up for these two classes taught by Metropolitan Community
College. Registration required. (Limit 7)
Scrabble - Thursdays | 1 PM
Join us for some fun with this classic board game!
Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, May 4 | 1 PM
Read and discuss Billy Boyle by James R. Benn.
Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, May 7 | 4:30 PM
Read and discuss Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout.
HisMys Book Club - Saturday, May 11 | 10:30 AM
Read and discuss The Conjure-Man Dies by Rudolph Fisher.
Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, May 18 | 1 PM
Read and discuss The Beekeeper's Apprentice by Laurie R. King.

# **2014 DUNDEE DAY** SATURDAY AUGUST 23rd PARADE APPLICATION

Please help us have a happy, well-organized Dundee ■ Days Parade. We plan to start the parade at 10:30 ■ A.M. at the entrance to Memorial Park. Participants need to fill out this application and return it to the Dundee Dell as soon as possible along with your check. Each participant group must pay \$10.00 with checks payable to Dundee Merchants Association.

#### **Everyone is welcome!**

Name of organization/contact person or individuals marching:

Address:

#### Phone:

Number of Individuals Participating:

- Mail to: The French Bulldog Attn: Anne Cavanaugh 505-4633 5003 Underwood Avenue Omaha, NE 68132
  - Michael Kozlik Parade Captain

- Find the application online at
  - www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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To Join DMPA simply fill out the form below. Good Neighbors Make

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And a DMPA membership would be a great weclcome gift for a new neighbor.

#### Dundee-Memorial Park Association **Membership Form** Name (s) \_\_\_\_ Annual Membership Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_ Address: **Dues:** Family \$12 E-mail: Phone Senior \$6 Multiple year membership discounts : Family 2 year - \$20, Senior 2 year - \$10, Business 2 yr \$30 **Business \$20** Multiple year Yes, you may list my name in the newsletter as a \_\_\_\_\_new member \_\_\_\_\_ renewal. discounts available 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.

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To avoid delay... Please send all membership renewals to address on membership form, on the other side of this page. **Please**. <u>DO NOT</u> send membership forms to the address above.



Nancy Roberts, Hilary Adams, and Jo Bartikoski cleaning out their garden plots at the community garden.

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