

DMPA Meeting

October 10th
Candidates Forum

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.



Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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Letter From the President

Molly Romero 402-502-2203

Here we go! With October comes fall, full-fledged autumn, the season that can be a brief interlude before winter or a sensuous sum of weeks to savor the transition. I enjoyed sharing with you some haiku last month, so explored some seasonal-themed poetry for autumn. Enjoy!

Halloween Party By Kenn Nesbitt

We're having a Halloween party at school. I'm dressed up like Dracula. Man, I look cool! I dyed my hair black, and I cut off my bangs. I'm wearing a cape and some fake plastic fangs.

I put on some makeup to paint my face white, Like creatures that only come out in the night. My fingernails, too, are all pointed and red. I look like I'm recently back from the dead.

My mom drops me off, and I run into school And suddenly feel like the world's biggest fool. The other kids stare like I'm some kind of freak – The Halloween party is not till next week.

This poem seems to resonate with me in particular, as a calendar-impaired person. Gratefully, I have never been the only fully decked-out freak on a regular school day!

DMPA Board Meetings

The Dundee-Memorial Park Association board consists of about 15 members, all of whom have specific tasks, so it is a working board. The board meets on the first Monday of each month during the meeting season, which is September through May, excluding December. We have minutes of the meeting, which the board decided to begin posting on the website for all to read. In addition to making the minutes available to all, the board has reiterated its long-standing policy that visitors are welcome to attend board meetings, whether there are specific issues they would like to have addressed or just wish to observe. The agenda is set before the meeting, so anyone wanting the board to address an issue is asked to call or email the president to have the matter placed on the agenda. The board meetings are currently being held at the UNO Weitz Civic Engagement Center, at 7:00 on the first Monday. There are contact numbers for board members in the newsletter, so if anyone wishes to confirm the time and location, or ask other questions about the

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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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Memberships please send the form on the inside back cover to: Elizabeth McNichols, 5017 1/2 Cass St., Omaha, NE 68132. Questions call 402-551-5246 or email: elimci@cox.net



we're branching out

Dundee Blackstone Benson



President's Message

Continued from front page.

board's agenda, etc, there are plenty of names available to information. In addition, the board is a very welcoming organization. Anyone who wishes to take on specific tasks on a regular basis is welcome to consider taking on a board position.

Neighborhood Meetings

Our first fall meeting was held on Monday, September 12, in the Dundee Presbyterian Church basement. The program, put together by board member, Rodney Olden, featured Lizzy Gilbert, the Development Director of the Omaha Community Playhouse, who told us all about the coming season's offerings and about the theater itself. Prior to Lizzy's presentation, Diana Failla, of Midtown Neighborhood Alliance and other organizations, gave a brief presentation focused on the ash borer infestation, its devastating effects on the many thousands of Omaha ash trees (all of which will have to be removed), and what can be done about replacing all the ash trees. Diana will be returning to our neighborhood meeting in November to give a more in-depth talk about what we tree lovers are up against with the emerald ash borer infestation.

Just a reminder, we all seem focused on the presidential election, which gets so much national press, we may not give sufficient attention to the many local and state offices and issues to be decided in November. We have many fine candidates offering to serve, and willing to come to meet you at our October neighborhood meeting. Please put it on your calendar and come to our candidates' forum on Monday, October 10 at the Dundee Presbyterian Church in the basement dining room. Come learn the candidates' priorities, concepts, principles and how those principles form their political positions. As I mentioned last month, let's give our candidates a well informed electorate!

Flower Baskets

Just a few words about Dundee's iconic flower baskets. The DMPA annual budget for flowers baskets includes planting (by volunteers), nursing them for a few months (by Indian Creek Nursery), installing on brackets that are maintained and replaced as needed (by volunteers), watered and fertilized in the DMPA-owned and -maintained truck (by volunteers), replaced as needed (by volunteers), and removed (by volunteers). The annual cost, which also include maintaining the truck and fuel costs is about \$40,000 per year for over 400 baskets.

At one time, prior to my tenure on the board, the DMPA obtained a proposal from a professional landscaping company to accomplish the same thing. I guess I should not be surprised, but when the proposal came in, it was \$250,000, and that was quite a few years ago. Who knows what it would be today. The list of what it takes is quite daunting, and thanks to Dan Rock and all his coordinating efforts, and to Mary Green, and to all the volunteers, we do

accomplish an amazing thing that is treasured by us all.

So, let's again express our gratitude and appreciation to all our neighbors who have pitched in, in every way, including contributing to the expense. Which reminds me to say thank you so very much to our block captains, Fran and Larry Teply, for the delightful picnic at their home in mid-September where we all gathered on a Sunday evening to share burgers, brats, pot luck snacks and salads, desserts and stories, and drop our flower basket contributions into the collection basket on the table. Thank you Fran and Larry for beginning the Nicholas Street block party tradition and keeping it up for so many years.

Another reminder, fall is the time of year we begin to ask for flower basket donations, please be generous when your block captain calls! Or, go to our website and make a donation for the flower baskets on your block.

Speaking of block captains, it is not necessary to throw a picnic party to be a block captain. If you do not have a block captain who collects the flower basket money, please consider becoming the block captain. It is one of the volunteer opportunities that requires the smallest commitment of time and energy – and is so rewarding!

The Sunks – It is Happening!

In other project news, the Omaha Sunken Gardens Restoration Team is hard at work raising funds and creating the infrastructure necessary to make this public/private collaboration successful, one that will benefit our city as a whole. The team plans on launching an informational web site and social media presence in the near future. For more information on how to donate or volunteer, contact Matt Dwyer at Matt@greenslatedeveloopment.com.

Farnam Street - Unfinished Business

Recently, I have received copies of emails to our councilman Chris Jerram with photos of cars driving in the wrong direction on Farnam during the time it is converted to a one-way street during the morning and afternoon commuting period. I want to thank Dena for including me in those emails, but also wish to encourage others to keep track of near collisions or confused drivers or other dangers resulting from the week-day one-way conversions. Our former DMPA President, Adam Langdon, has taken this project on and wants to see Farnam changed to an all-day, every day two-way street, just as it is near Mid-Town Crossing and now in the Blackstone area. It is clearly good for all the homes and businesses along Farnam, and the DMPA has taken a formal position in favor of the change, so keeping track of incidents that do not make it into the city's data base is very helpful. If you see something, and especially if you have a photo of it, please share it with councilman Chris Jerram, and others so we can keep asking for the change.

Until next newsletter – keep well and enjoy the many pleasures of the neighborhood. I hope to see you at our October meeting with all our treasured candidates.





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Host Families Wanted

Brownell Talbot School has an exciting opportunity for a neighborhood family to host an international student for the 2016-2017 academic year. The student will be one of eight international students attending BT this year. If you are interested in hosting a student in your home, please call Kim Schinzel at 402.556.3772 for more information.

The friendships that result from this experience can last a lifetime.



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is now available in the DMPA Newsletter! Call 402-714-1016 for info.

Subway Project Update: We Need Your Help!

The five "Windows on Dundee" murals were installed in May by UNO students. They look great and are a great addition to our neighborhood. There has been some minor graffiti over the summer but the anti-graffiti coating works great and any paint has been easily wiped away without any damage to the underlying surface. Some additional caulking on the roof was done to address some leaking during heavy rains.

Unfortunately, a couple of the murals were damaged when a vandal decided to tear off a couple of edges that had come loose. We had all of the murals caulked with an adhesive after that happened and it seems to have worked. However, during the first week of August someone decided to take a knife to one of the murals and tore off almost half of the mural cutting it into many pieces. Fortunately, Grace Rock picked up the pieces and we were able to get the mural put back together again.

After that incident, our contractor provided some possible solutions to protect the murals. He suggested covering the murals with an abrasive proof plexiglass. The estimate to protect the murals is \$6,000 to \$8,000 to cover the UNO murals and the "Dundee Subway" mural done by Dundee School students. It is critical to get this work done quickly before any further damage can be done.

We currently have \$1,225.64 that can be dedicated to the plexiglass covers from previous donations to the project. That means we need to raise another \$5,000 to \$7,000 to cover the costs.

This is where we need your financial help. You can donate online at www.dundee-memorialpark.org or by mailing a donation made out to DMPA to 319 South 50th Avenue, Omaha, NE $\,68132$. Dundee-Memorial Park Association is a recognized $\,501(c)(3)$ tax exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Everyday we are reminded how the cost of almost everything is going up, including old house renovation. A couple of weeks ago I asked the clerk at the special order counter of a local home

improvement center for a price on a wooden storm door. The price he shot back to me of \$329 didn't seem out of line, but I was completely taken aback when he added, "And the freight charges will be an additional \$240." Ouch. For that kind of money I could buy the door its own airline ticket! (And a cocktail and the in-flight movie.) So I am resigned to repairing my old door.

This experience got me to thinking about ways to save on repairing or updating an old house without having to cut corners. Here are a few ideas.

You may be able to find the building materials you need at a steep discount if you look in some unusual places. For example, try Craig's List. You may not know there is a section called "Materials". In this section you'll find all kinds of building materials for sale—maybe just what you need. You can find the local home page at http://omaha.craigslist.org/. Then just click on "material" under "For Sale". And if you are looking for used appliances, click on the "Household" section.

Another off-the-beaten-path source for building materials is Habitat for Humanity's two ReStores at 1003 S. 24th Street and 10910 Emmet Street. Habitat accepts donations of surplus building materials and then sells them at their store to support their mission of building homes for low income families. They will also accept donations of your surplus building materials and reusable salvage. If you are tearing out cabinets or fixtures that still have some life in them, give Habitat a call. They will be able to tell you if they can use what you have. This keeps a lot of building material out of the landfill. You can take the tax deduction for the donation and it's good for your soul. Everybody wins.

Bear in mind, however, that most contractors won't work with surplus or used building materials for liability and warranty reasons. But for work you're doing yourself, you may be able to save some bucks.

Even if you don't have all the skills to tackle a complete renovation job, maybe you can do part of the job and save some bucks. As an example, I split some roof work recently. Tree limbs crashing down in a storm had peeled the small back porch roof off our house. I replaced it with a standing seam copper roof. I have neither the tools nor the skill set to bend cooper panels, but I was able to rebuild the wood understructure and then hired McKinnis Roofing to apply the copper. The roof looks great (if I do say so myself) and I saved over a thousand dollars.

Usually, it is the initial work or the final work that is easier for a homeowner to take on. An old house owner friend of mine reminded me that projects in newer houses take much less time because you don't have to first undo old remodeling work first. If you're up for a little demo work you can save the money you would pay to a contractor for undoing old work.

Let me hasten to add a couple of cautionary notes, though. If you are tearing into walls make sure you know what's inside the walls. It could be a disaster if you cut into electrical wiring or a water supply pipe. Also, if you are taking out a substantial portion of a wall make sure it's not a load-bearing wall. If you're not sure about these things, then leave the tear out work for your contractor. You may be better suited for the finish work. If you are reasonably skilled with a paintbrush, perhaps you want apply the finish to the woodwork and paint the walls. Or maybe you don't mind doing the cleaning up. You may be able to save several hundred dollars by doing a daily task the contractor hates anyway. Of course before you divvy up any work you'll want to negotiate the details with your contractor.

If you have some money saving ideas for old house renovation work, let me know. And, if you happen to be driving back from upper Wisconsin and wouldn't mind sharing your car with a 7 foot door, definitely give me a call.

Connections

For an online archive of previous articles go to: http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org/



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Sorensen Celebrates 40 Years!



Sorensen Library and Recreation Center celebrated its 40th Anniversary on August 21, 2016, with a program and Open House at Sorensen. Brook Bench, director of Omaha Parks and Rec, Chris Jerram, Omaha City Council Representation, Laura Marlane, Director of the Omaha Public Library, and Matt Couch, manager of the downtown branch and former manager of the Sorensen Library, were all on hand to mark the occasion. Mr. Bench pointed out that the Recreation Center was a much-used facility and the renovation that had taken place in the last year made it even more attractive for area residents for activities. Mr. Jerram gave the history of the building of the library/rec center and introduced Kay Bashus and Lannie McNichols who were part of the group of

individuals who persuaded the city of Omaha to build a library on the present site. Before that time, the area had been served by a bookmobile. About 100 people attended the event. Cake, coffee, and lemonade were served to those attending. The Dundee-Memorial Park Association Library/Rec Center Committee gave children's and adult books away to those in attendance who wanted a book. The Rec Center gave away t-shirts.

Bottom left: Brook Bench, Chris Jerram, Adam Langdon. Below: Bev Traub, Lannie McNichols, and Kay Bashus—Instrumental in getting the library built







DMPA Meeting Schedule

October 10th - Candidates Forum November 14th -



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

Fit Club - Saturday, October 1 | 2 PM

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

Minecraft Club - Tuesdays, October 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

Recommended for ages 15 months to 3 years, though children of all ages are welcome. Enjoy simple songs, creative movement, and short stories with the toddler in your life. Join in the fun by interacting and participating. Explore the early literacy skills of singing, playing, reading, talking and writing. Childcare groups, please call in advance.

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

Use your imagination to build unique LEGO creations. Snack provided.

Baby Storytime - Fridays | 10:30 AM

Recommended for ages birth to 15 months, though children of all ages are welcome. Enjoy very simple books, rhymes, music and play designed to promote development and learning. Explore early literacy skills like singing, playing, reading and talking with each storytime.

Preschool Halloween Party - Wednesday, October 26 | 10:30 AM-NOON

Join us for Halloween stories, simple songs, creative movement, and Halloween crafts. We will also have candy and a bounce house. Costumes are optional for toddlers and preschoolers. Join in the fun by interacting and participating. Childcare groups are welcome.

Movie Day: Angry Birds - Thursday, October 27 | 1 PM

Watch a movie at A.V. Sorensen Branch! Enjoy a snack and relax.

Halloween Costume Party with a Vampire - Friday, October 28 | 6:30 PM

Come and see the vampire, Draculaura! She will play games, read a story, dance, pose for photos, and sign autographs. Kids are encouraged to dress in their costumes. Join in the fun by interacting and participating. Bring your camera!

Teen Programs

Book Spine Poetry - Tuesday, October 11 | 4:30 PM

Help celebrate Teen Read Week by coming to the Library and creating some book spine poetry. At the end, we will vote on our favorite and award prizes! Registration required.

Teen Advisory Board - Saturday, October 15 | 2 PM

Let your voice be heard! Gain leadership experience while enjoying snacks, talking about issues, sharing ideas, planning programs and make friends.

Teen Game Time - Saturday, October 22 | 2-4 PM

Have fun with your friends playing games at the Library using our Wii, Wii U & Xbox 360 Kinect.

Haunted Gingerbread Houses- Tuesday, October 25 | 4:30 PM

Create a haunted gingerbread house just in time to display for Halloween! All supplies included. Registration required.

Day of the Dead Craft-Saturday, October 29 | 2 PM

Join us for a lesson in creating a Day of the Dead craft using various techniques. All supplies included. Registration required.

Adult Programs

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, October 1 | 1 PM

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

Introduction to Craft Beer - Wednesday, October 5 | 6:30 PM

Introduction to Craft Beer will allow you to branch outside your comfort zone and try several different local craft beers. The cofounder of Zipline Brewing Co. will guide you through which beers to try first and how to use your senses of sight, smell and taste to determine your favorite selection. Must be 21 years of age. Registration required.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, October 15 | 1 PM



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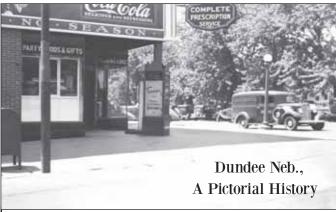
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