

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



**No DMPA
Meetings
Until September**

**Enjoy Your
Summer!**

**Dundee Day
August 25th
Join the Fun!**



Dundee Day Olympics photo by Sammie Becker

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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Letter From the President

On behalf of the DMPA, we extend warmest greetings to the month of August (which will certainly return the greetings in kind) and to all our Dundee-Memorial Park neighbors. I know you will find many reminders of Dundee Day, but here is another one: Dundee Day is Saturday, August 25th this year, and will include pancakes, parade, arts & craft booths, children's activities (including "Dundee Olympics"), beer garden and music, beginning with a special children's show, followed by music for the young in heart. See the posters with the Dundee Day event schedule at many Dundee businesses.

With the heat outside, it seems appropriate to talk about the new Dundee Berry Patch. In case you have not spotted it, heard about it, or tasted it – let me give you the scoop.

As many of you know, all the work on behalf of the DMPA is done by volunteers, and usually a project is conceived and implemented by someone with a vision for what can be done to benefit everyone in the neighborhood and how to accomplish it. The Berry Patch is one such project. Sarah Newman, a gardener extraordinaire, and the guiding force behind the Dundee Elementary School garden, proposed placing an edible garden somewhere in or near Memorial Park for all to enjoy. With her concept flushed into a workable plan, Sarah obtained the funding from the Mayor's Neighborhood Grant program to plant a Berry Patch.

As with most projects, the task was more complicated than first thought. Sarah, working with the city, found that finding a location that met the city's parameters and the plants needs – mostly sun, water and accessibility – consumed so much time that she missed the planting season she aimed for, pushing the project into 2012. The site ultimately chosen is on the west side of Happy Hollow, along the creek edge just north of the Brownell Talbot entrance.

What a summer to plant perennials on park land that requires tender loving care for the first season or two before they are established! Could it be any hotter? (Please do not answer that question.)

Among the plantings: blackberry, raspberry, and currant bushes, also elderberry, papaya and wild plum. Anyone and everyone is invited to inspect the bushes, and pick for themselves some of the delicious fruit, if you happen upon some that is ready for the picking. I stopped by the Berry Patch in late June and found several raspberries ready to eat, and they were oh so sweet, partly because they were raspberries, but also because they were the fruit of Sarah's labors.

Continued on page 4.

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DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

**No Meetings
Until September**

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

And truly, Sarah has labored for this project. With the help of at least 13 volunteers, Sarah has spent time nurturing the baby plants – mulching and weeding, but most of all, watering. Initially, the plan was to use the DMPA water truck, but the watering wand was too short to reach all the bushes, so an alternative system had to be devised. After trying several approaches, Sarah and her crew established a system using soaker hoses, and neighbors' hose bibs. All is functioning well.

Sarah and her crew planted 91 plants. Eighteen of the raspberries were lost to disease early on, but Sarah expects the healthy ones to grow and fill in the open spaces, so the bath will have 25 blackberry and six currant bushes, and 38 raspberry, including some early fruiting and late fruiting varieties.

Sarah said the city has indicated it will plant fruit and nut shrubs and trees along the ravine where the construction work was recently completed, which will be a boon to her effort of incorporating edible landscaping into the neighborhood park.

With an eye on the future, Sarah is imagining an extension of the Berry Patch. There is room, she says – and neighbors have offered additional berry bushes to be added to the project. Who knows maybe birds will even plant some strawberries for us – as they have been known to do. As Sarah explains, the harvest benefits both humans and the abundant wildlife already living in the ravine. Stop by and check out the Berry Patch – and gives thanks to Sarah Newman for her hard work.

Enjoy your summer,

Molly Romero



Pictured is John Wells weeding the Happy Hollow and Western Flower bed

Floats

AFTER THE FLOATS

*Visit Brownell-Talbot School
after the Dundee Days parade
Saturday, August 25th for
FREE root beer floats.*

Meet the new Head of School,
Sylvia Rodríguez Vargas, Ph.D.



400 N. Happy Hollow Blvd.
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DMPA Online

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This spring a request was put in the newsletter for caretakers of the Happy Hollow and Western flower bed (on the island at the five way stop sign). The previous caretaker had moved. Becky App and John Wells volunteered to take responsibility for planting and maintaining the flower bed. Becky's mother, Jinx Kucera, helped plant the bed. Friz Miller plows the bed every fall and spring. But nothing could happen on that corner if it wasn't for Joe Hazel taking on watering duty.

Neighbors of the 56th and Nicholas island were granted a permit from the City of Omaha Parks, Recreation and Public Property Dept. to design, plant, and maintain a flower bed on the island.

Caretakers are needed for the JE George and Underwood flower bed. It would involve planting the bed in the Spring and weeding it during the growing season. If interested, contact Millie Miller.

Dundee Day Book Sale

August 25th

Book Donations

Your gently used books are needed for the annual sale which helps fund books and programs for children and adults

at Sorensen Library Community Center.

Donations should be boxed and may be brought to the Dundee Bank beginning August 15th.

No magazines, encyclopedias or text books, please.

Unsold books are donated to Friends of the Library book sales benefiting Omaha library system and A.V. Sorensen Branch.

Volunteers

for the DMPA book booth are needed for 2-hour shifts between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer please contact Angie Wells 402-553-6057 or wellsarrow@msn.com

Plan Now to Attend Dundee Day

August 25th

Join in the Fun!

Lots of activities
for the whole family

- ♦ Pancake Breakfast 7-11 am
- ♦ Dundee Parade 10:30
- ♦ Exhibitors and Artists
- ♦ Kids Concert 12 noon
- ♦ Face painting, Balloons
- ♦ Dundee Olympics 1-2 pm
- ♦ Beer Garden
- ♦ Music into the night!

Dundee Community Garden News:

It's been a tough month at the garden as we've struggled with heat and lack of rain. Rain barrels are great when there's precipitation, but this summer we wouldn't be able to survive without the generosity of our neighbors who let us use their water. Thank you, Brian and Mindy!

August Events:

Edible Weeds: Join us for a fun tour of the garden as John Pollack and Karen Berry teach ways of eating and utilizing weeds found in the garden. They will tell us which weeds we can, and cannot, eat. They will also teach other uses for weeds, such as using as supplements or salves. This free event takes place Wed. Aug. 8 at 7 p.m. at the garden, 4902 Underwood, and is open to the public.

Visit our table at Dundee Day on Aug. 25, where we'll have fresh flowers and vegetables for sale. You can also support us by buying re-usable mesh produce bags—we're selling them three for \$5. These are washable and a great alternative to using plastic bags at the grocery store!

Alert!

Parking Pad Lease Enforcement in Dundee

The city is enforcing the ordinance governing parking on the city right-of-way parking pads. The ordinance requires that a current lease be in force, which requires a lease payment. If no lease is in effect, cars parked on those parking pads may be ticketed, and they are being ticketed.

If you are not certain whether you have a lease or whether your lease is current or expired, call Tammy Sena at the city, 402-444-5453.

If you know you do not have a lease but want or need one, begin the application process with the city by calling Mike Carter in the city planning department at 402-444-5495. He will guide you through the process.

Again, if you are parking on a parking pad without a sign showing your lease is in effect, you will be ticketed.

Market to Market

By Jean Sigler

With the new Aksarben Village farmer's market just a stone's throw away, it is very easy to stock the larder with all kinds of fresh produce during the summer months. Along about the middle of April, everyone starts talking about the delectable dishes that can be created with all kinds of home grown stuff I have never heard of.

I have my favorite farmer's market products as well. Just about every week I buy three tomatoes, a burrito and a cookie. I wouldn't begin to know what to do with all of those leafy and/or tuberous things. I really don't enjoy cooking. I'm not good at it and I have neither the patience nor the desire to get any better. Whenever I try a new recipe it tastes pretty good the first time out. Then, when I invite folks over for dinner and serve the dish which just weeks before was delectable to me and my family, I see my guests politely smiling as they desperately try to choke down the overdone fish or under cooked veggies. I don't know what happens between the trial meal and the real deal, but it never comes to a good end.

This year I decided I would change all that. I would go every week to the Farmer's Market and buy vegetables and herbs and such that I had heard of, but never actually eaten. I would find recipes and create healthy, tasty, organic dishes and finally discover what I had been missing.

The first thing I decided to buy was turnips. In my whole life, I have never needed to buy a turnip for myself or anyone else. I certainly wouldn't know what to do with one, and no one has ever said, "Oh, by the way, while you're at the store, could you pick me up a couple of turnips if they have nice ones." I looked up a very simple recipe. I thought it made sense, since it was my first time out, not to attempt anything too complicated. I chose Lemon Turnip Sticks. I couldn't imagine actually eating something called a Lemon Turnip Stick, but I was sure I could manage at least a taste for the purposes of evaluating the end product.

The recipe called for 2 medium turnips. Now, right out of the chute I was confused. I don't know what recipes mean when they say one medium or small or large tomato or onion or whatever. These are relative terms, but are they relative to the other onions in the bin at the store I am buying my onion from, or is there a constant involved? Is the medium onion the same size to all cooks everywhere, and if so, what is that size? The turnips at the farmer's market looked small to me, so I got four instead of two. I peeled and cut the turnips into sticks per the instructions in the recipe. I boiled them until they were tender. I tossed them with the mixture of onion, parsley, butter and lemon juice I had prepared and sprinkled them liberally with salt and pepper. I was getting a little bit excited. They looked a lot like French fries and, according to Wikipedia, a whole medium turnip contains only thirty four calories. I could be onto a non-fattening, nutritional French fry substitute! I was so anxious to try my first Lemon Turnip Stick that I fished three right out of the pan, forked them into my mouth and tasted.

My face screwed up for just a minute as the first stick assaulted my palate. They weren't really all that bad. They tast-

ed a bit like I think Tofu might taste, not that I will ever, in this or any other lifetime, have the experience of tasting Tofu. They were mostly tasteless but just a little bit bitter. I was quite disappointed. I have been trying to cut carbs from my diet, so anything white that looks a little bit like a potato seemed as if it would be manna from heaven falling on South Beach. Not so. I almost wept when I realized that I had used up my carb allowance for the day on Lemon Turnip Sticks. I couldn't see myself visiting the turnip again.

For the second vegetable I chose Chard. When I mention this to friends they say things like, "Oh, I just love Chard." This enthusiasm for the vegetable makes me wonder why I have never been served Chard at anyone's home. My first clue should have been that it is actually called Swiss Chard. I don't believe I've ever heard Switzerland included in a list of culinary capitals. Other than Swiss cheese, which I think tastes like feet, and chocolate, which doesn't count as real food, Swiss food is not mentioned often in cookbooks. But an open mind is essential to experiments of this sort, and mine was.

For the second recipe I chose Swiss Chard Almond Loaf. I thought it might be tasty. After all, what's not to love about a loaf? Meatloaf, Spam loaf, canned salmon loaf were all staples at our family table as I was growing up. I was confused from the get go.

The first thing the recipe called for was ½ lb. of chard. How are you supposed to know how much a bunch of green leaves weighs? I didn't notice any scales at the Farmer's market and I certainly don't own a food scale. I just got one bunch. It didn't matter if it wasn't quite a half pound. I looked at the rest of the ingredients and decided to cut the recipe in half. In spite of my positive outlook, I didn't have a lot of faith that I would be able to consume an entire 9x5 pan of Swiss Chard Almond Loaf. Next, the recipe called for the pesky medium onion chopped. I had about a half of what I would consider a large onion in the fridge so I used half of that. I almost always use less onion than a recipe calls for. I have no idea why.

Now I was supposed to grind two cups of almonds in a blender. I don't have a blender. I have a food processor. I hate it. It has fourteen movable parts all of which have to be attached in exactly the correct order before the thing will turn on. I usually spend about twenty minutes assembling and reassembling the processor before I finally achieve the magic combination. When I put my food in it either gets immediately pulverized into baby food consistency, or it gets stuck on top of the grater/grinder attachment and spins around pointlessly til I shut the processor off, or it sprays out the top and splatters all over the kitchen and me. I decided I would use my hand chopper to try to grind the almonds. Besides not achieving a consistency even remotely resembling "ground" I got a fairly severe tendon injury slamming my hand down repeatedly on the top of the hand chopper. I had no choice but to use the partially pulverized (not a term I've ever heard Julia Child use) almonds, so I threw them into the bowl.



Does this sound like a modern miracle solution: It has dozens of uses for the old house renovator. It's safe, it's cheap and it has an indefinite shelf life.

What is it? Vinegar. And it's all of the above except modern. In fact, vinegar has been around for thousands of years. Even Hippocrates used it as an antibiotic in 4000 B.C.

While there are several types of vinegar, the plain-old distilled white vinegar is what you'll want for these do-it-yourself projects.

Vinegar is great for cleaning brass hardware. Warm up the vinegar in an old cooking pot and let your hardware stew in it for a while. A few strokes with a fine grade of steel wool (I prefer 0000) will remove paint and corrosion. A dash of salt will speed up the cleaning. If you have a brass item that can't be easily removed—like a water faucet—add enough flour to some vinegar to make a paste. Let the paste dry for about 10 minutes and then rinse the object with warm water and polish it dry.

Maybe you have some old decals stuck to the glass in your front door. Cover them with a cloth soaked in vinegar. After awhile the decals should slide right off.

Fireplace bricks stained from soot usually will come clean with a little vinegar applied full strength. Scrub the stained areas with a small vegetable brush.

A mild vinegar-water solution is the best way to clean hardwood floors. Just be sure not leave any water on the floor or you could cause the wood to swell and buckle. Work a small section at a time and dry as you go. A few swipes with an old bath towel is the easiest method I've found.

To keep your drains fresh and flowing pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup baking soda down the drain and follow with 1 to 2 cups of vinegar. The combination will fizz and foam up and this action helps clean the drain. After a few minutes run hot water down the drain for a minute or so. (Note: this is for open drains only. This procedure will not unclog a drain.)

To kill unwanted weeds or grass growing in the cracks in your sidewalk or driveway, spray them with vinegar.

When you paint a room, a few shallow pans of vinegar will absorb a lot of the paint smell. And when you're

done painting soaking your brushes in a vinegar-water solution will keep them supple. If you're painting galvanized metal—gutters or downspouts, for example—wipe down the metal with full strength vinegar and the paint will adhere better.

Rust or corrosion can usually be removed from screws, bolts and other steel objects by soaking the items in vinegar overnight.

Is the water in your shower is so restricted that you could get wetter by being spit on by a gnat? Most likely your showerhead is clogged with lime and hard water buildup. Remove the head and soak it in full strength vinegar overnight. Or fill a plastic bag with vinegar and tie the bag up over the showerhead.

The one use for vinegar that I cannot recommend is the one allegedly employed by Cleopatra to win a bet with Marc Antony. She bet the Roman she could consume a fortune in a single meal, so she used vinegar to dissolve a handful of pearls and then swilled down the concoction.

Market to Market

Continued from page 6

The recipe called for wheat germ. I bought a bag and used $\frac{1}{4}$ cup. I guarantee that bag of wheat germ will still be in my pantry come the end times. Who eats wheat germ except weevils? The rest of the preparation was pretty simple except that I realized, after I had shaped my chard into a loaf that I had left out the oil. This is a pretty common occurrence for me in the kitchen. I finish preparing a recipe, mold or toss or process it and realize I have left something out. The challenge then becomes how to incorporate the errant ingredient into the dish which by now already has the corn flake topping scattered or ketchup drizzled on top. Fortunately, Swiss Chard Almond Loaf doesn't require a topping, so it was pretty easy to dump the loaf, add the oil, reloaf, and repan the chard. It seemed a little moist, and I realized I had forgotten to halve the amount of oil – another commonplace mistake at Chez Jean.

In thirty minutes it was done. The recipe said it could be served either hot or cold. I was anxious to taste the loaf so I could dump it, do the dishes and take a nap, so I ate it hot. It was a little soggy because of the extra volume of olive oil, but that was a good thing in a way. The moist consistency softened the large, unground chunks of almonds enough so I could chew them. I felt more than tasted the chard. It felt like someone had messed up and put lettuce in a meatloaf. Maybe it needed a whisper more of wheat germ. I'll never know. It will be a hot day in Zurich before I every buy chard again.

Some people are already bemoaning the loss of the fresh produce that is imminent now that the summer solstice has passed. Not me. I am already looking forward to Christmas in the kitchen. I think I'll mull me up some was-sail.

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Kids' Activities

Toddler Storytime - Wednesdays | 10:15 am

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

Baby & Me Storytime - Fridays | 10:15 am

Parents and babies will enjoy this nursery rhyme program with rhyming games, puppets, songs and musical instruments.

Fit Club - Saturday, August 4 | 2 pm

Have fun while working out! Try out yoga, do strength training, aerobics and even balance games.

Movie Day: "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island" -

Tuesday, August 7 | 1 pm

Enjoy popcorn while watching a movie about a young man who journeys to a mysterious island to find his grandfather.

Lego Club - Wednesdays, August 8 & 22 | 4:30 pm

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

Board Game Time - Friday, August 10 | 2-4 pm

Have fun playing board games at the Library! Bring your favorite board game to share or borrow one of ours.

Movie Day: "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax" - Tuesday, August 14 | 1 pm

Enjoy popcorn while watching a movie about a young boy searching for the one thing that will win the affection of a girl.

Teen Programs

Game Time: Xbox Karaoke - Friday, August 3 | 2-4 pm

Have fun at the Library with your friends singing karaoke on the Library's Xbox 360 Kinect!

Game Time: Super Smash Brothers Brawl - Saturday, August 11 | 2-4 pm

Have fun at the Library competing with your friends to see who has the best fighting skills!

Game Time: Link's Crossbow Training - Friday, August 17 | 2-4 pm

Have fun at the Library competing with your friends to see who is the most accurate and has the best aim!

Teen Book Club - Saturday, August 18 | 2 pm

Have fun discussing books that you have read over the summer in person, online or by filling out a questionnaire at the Library. Snack provided.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) - Saturday, August 18 | 3 pm

Enjoy snacks and refreshments while talking about issues, sharing your ideas and helping out at the Library.

Teen Movie Day: "The Hunger Games" - Tuesday, August 21 | 4:30 pm

Enjoy popcorn while watching a movie about a young woman who must fight to survive against all odds.

Adult Programs

Adult Game Time: Scrabble - Thursdays | 1 pm

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

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, August 4 | 1 pm

Read and discuss "The Faith Club" by Ranya Idliby.

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, August 7 | 4:30 pm

Read and discuss "Perfect Match" by Jodi Picoult.

HisMys Book Club - Saturday, August 11 | 10:30 am

Read and discuss "Honeymoon to Nowhere" by Akimitsu Takagi.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, August 18 | 1 pm

Read and discuss "Mystic River" by Dennis Lehane.

Computer Class for Adults: Microsoft Word Basics - Friday, August 24 | 10:30 am

Learn the basics of Microsoft Word. Registration required. Limit 3.

Movie Day for Adults: "The Hunger Games" - Tuesday, August 28 | Noon

Enjoy popcorn while watching a movie about a young woman who must fight to survive against all odds.



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2012 DUNDEE DAY SATURDAY AUGUST 25th

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: Dundee Dell Attn: Pat 553-9501
5007 Underwood Avenue Omaha, NE 68132
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Dundee-Memorial Park Association Membership Form

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Phone _____ E-mail: _____

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