

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



DMPA Meeting February 9th

Dundee Presbyterian Church
53rd & Underwood Ave
7:00 PM - Social
7:30 Business Meeting
8:00 Program

Topic: Learn how to make your home more energy efficient with help from Garry Ruliffson, an energy solutions specialist with OPPD.

And much more!

Bring a friend or two.

Sorenson Meeting

February 23rd

**At 7:00 pm, ground floor
of the Community Center**

The focus of the meeting will be neighborhood input relative to security around the building, as well as, programming and equipment to help the library and recreation center better serve the community.

Look at page 4 for a more detailed description in the president's letter.

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"

www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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Vol. 19, No 2, February 2009

President's Message

Now that 2009 has come and gone. Just kidding, but it sure feels like it. Approximately 40 people attended the first DMPA meeting of the new year on a cold and blustery January 12th evening. The weather kept some of you (and one of our speakers) away but we still had a lively and inquisitive crowd for the opening presentation on the development plans for the downtown Dundee "Streetscape". The "Great Streets Virtual Tour" presented by Marty Schukert and Delores Silkworth of RDG Design, is to be followed by a two day "charette" on January 29 and 30. The "Virtual Tour" included examples of streetscapes from many cities around the country with the goal of providing concepts and ideas to be considered during the "charette" or planning sessions.

Captain Diana Kelly of the OPD Northwest Precinct will be attending the February 9 meeting but was represented by Lt. Ed Reyes who reported on police activities during the November shooting events. Also speaking at the meeting was Officer Eric Meyer who lives in the neighborhood, is a member of the OPD Mounted Patrol and patrols the business district, in uniform, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday late evenings. Officer Meyer explained his community policing efforts during the last two months. Some of you may have seen or spoken with Officer Meyer during the Lights in Dundee event on December 7. We are most thankful for his contributions to the neighborhood. If you see him, tell him so.

The saga of the Infinite Convenience Stores/Gas Stations continues. A new corporation, Singh Brothers, Inc., has leased at least two locations from the current owner, Mohammed Ali, one at 30th and Lake and one at 52nd and Leavenworth. They have applied for a liquor license for 30th and Lake. Action on the application was postponed for two weeks at the last City Council meeting where Singh Brothers' attorney also announced they would be seeking a liquor license for 52nd and Leavenworth. Dan Rock and Dave Schinzel from DMPA, along with people from other neighborhood associations have had some practice at battling the Singh Brothers' attorney, Mike Kelley, who is also the attorney for Mohammed Ali, and will require our support at any further hearings. Current Councilman and Mayoral candidate Jim Vokal is supportive of the Associations' position. Current Councilman and Mayoral candidate Jim Suttle did not reply to a letter seeking his support but in the past stated that he believes the Association should not oppose new businesses in the neighborhood. The DMPA Board's position is that we will oppose businesses that are not appropriate to the character of the neighborhood. Mayoral candidate Hal Daub claims a neutral position. Stay tuned.

Continued on page 4.

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558-2635, rwelk1@cox.net

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556-7999

Committees

Newsletter Publisher/Editor

Ellen Shurson, 551-6787

shurson@msn.com

Street Captain Coordinator

Peter Manhart, 350-3890

Problem Solving

B.J. Reed, 556-5509

Membership Data

Eli McNichols, 551-5246

elimci@cox.net

Beautification

Millie Miller, 558-6023

NoDo (North of Dodge)

Ellen Zinn ellenzinn@hotmail.com

SoDo (South of Dodge)

Business Liaison

Bill Stott, 551-3400

Library & Rec Center Committee

Kay Bashus, 553-5203,

pacbashus@cox.net

Donna Rock

Members-at-large

Anne Camp, Anne@nonprofitam.org

Ben Rouch,

benjamin.rouch@tdameritrade.com

Carole Langan, carolelangan@hotmail.com

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DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

February 9th

March 9th

April 13th

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Revised list, members current 10/08 To join as a business member, send dues with the form on the inside back page. Please send to Elizabeth McNichols, address below.

DMPA Online www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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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 551-5246 or email: elimci@netzero.net



howdee

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

Those of you seeking information on the restoration and preservation of your historic homes will be able to find such at a conference and exhibition to be held on February 27 and 28. Restore Omaha is a two day conference and exhibition to be held again this year at the Metropolitan Community College south campus. Additional information will be available at the February 9 Association meeting. The conference seems like a good way to prepare for spring/summer home maintenance projects.

Another really good way to prepare for spring is to volunteer for FLOWER BASKET PLANTING. Find the complete notice elsewhere in this newsletter but in brief, the dates are March 13 and 14 and you can sign up at the February 9 Association meeting. I kiddingly opened this message with a comment that 2009 had come and gone but it might help you to understand if you know that while I am writing about planting flower baskets I am thinking about Maverick hockey players coming to the Dundee rink on Sunday and listening to a weather report that calls for two days of very warm weather with snow on the following Sunday. Please don't send the men in white jackets carrying a coat that has sleeves that tie in the back.

Kay Bashus, the DMPA liaison with the Sorensen Library and Recreation Center is seeking volunteers to support the Center. We are calling a meeting for Monday, February 23 at 7:00 pm to be held on the ground floor of the Sorensen Center. The focus of the meeting will be neighborhood input relative to security around the building, as well as, programming and equipment to help the library and recreation center better serve the community. Kay Scarpello and Kristi Teitzmeier from the library and recreation center, along with Rivkah Sass and Bo Ochsner, Director and Board President respectively, of the Omaha Public Library, as well as, staff from the Omaha Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Property and Bridget Fitzpatrick, the OPD neighborhood policeing consultant for our area will all be in attendance to respond to and answer questions. This is an opportunity to contribute to an important community resource. There is no need to sign up in advance. Please attend.

Many of you have expressed an interest in making your historic homes more energy efficient. Garry Ruliffson, an energy solutions specialist with OPPD, will provide the program for the February 9 Association meeting. Garry will be bringing information, suggestions and sources for materials. Many of those suggestions are things you can do yourself but he will also suggest companies that can do the work for you. This is a not to be missed program. Hope to see you there...and come early for coffee, punch and cookies.

Bob Welk



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Dundee Business Liaison Report

Change is Comin'

For almost two years now the business district in Dundee has been working toward establishing guidelines for the development of the commercial district in Dundee. The work entails establishing maximum building size, number of floors, location on the site and other issues that we hope will keep the commercial district small in scale and encourage pedestrian uses. New buildings will require glass on the street level and places parking lots on the side and rear of buildings, giving emphasis to those walking on the street sidewalk. All this will be accomplished by an ACI (Area of Civic Importance) Overlay, which will take the existing Zoning Code and add additional requirements that are specific to the Dundee neighborhood. This new tool, a result of the Omaha by Design standards still gives developers flexibility in the design of new structures, but diminishes the "sore thumb" possibilities. The process is nearing completion and a public presentation should be ready within the next several months.

Paired with this, but different in scope is the Dundee Streetscape Project. Those of you who braved the storm on January 12th were given a tour of many locations throughout the Midwest similar to the Dundee Business District, from Michigan to Colorado. Dolores Silkworth and Marty Schukert from RDG Planning and Design lead a presentation and discussion on what makes a great street. Examples of streetlights, trees, sidewalks, fencing, seating and outdoor eating areas were all shown, with varying degrees of success. This introduction to the streetscape design process was intended to get people excited and ready for the two-day design charrette later this month. The charrette is a very fast, very intense design effort that will produce the basis for design of the overall street improvement project. The design team and

steering committee will start on Thursday morning, January 29th and by the end of the day on the 30th will have a solution defined. Thursday evening (on the 29th) has been set aside for a public presentation of progress at the half-way point. It will be informal in nature with no actual presentation, but come over to the Dundee Presbyterian Church between 5:30 and 7:00 pm. You will be brought up to speed on the direction of the project and have the opportunity to make suggestions or have your comments heard by the design team. A second forum at 11:00 am to noon on Friday morning has been set aside for review by the business leaders within Dundee, but if you cannot make the Thursday evening event you are welcome to attend Friday.

ACI vs. Streetscape – what's the difference

The simplest way to make the issue clear is that the ACI deals with design and development within someone's property only. The Streetscape project deals with issues within the public right-of-way, or to put it another way, from the street property line across the street to the other street property line. It is this coordinated effort that we hope will enable Dundee to remain a special place in the heart of Omaha for generations to come, and is being spearheaded and managed by the Dundee Merchant's Association. This is the only place in Omaha where this type of coordinated effort is taking place, so come out on Thursday, January 29th and be a part of something unique.

Bill Stott

The Architectural Offices

Dundee Memorial Park Association Business Liaison

Think globally, but purchase locally

Make A Resolution to Contribute to Your Neighborhood!

Here's How: Join the DMPA Association Today

Please check your address label to see if your membership is current

-this will save the Association the time and expense of sending out reminders. Multi-year memberships are available. Give gift memberships or encourage your neighbors to join. Membership forms are located inside the back page.

Above all... Be A Good Neighbor! *Good Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods*



Volunteers Needed to Plant the Flower Baskets



Would you like to help plant the 475 flower baskets that adorn our historic street lights? The dates for planting are Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14, at the Indian Creek Nursery Greenhouse, 303 N. Saddle Creek Road. Planting starts at 10 a.m. and then we break mid-day for a lunch donated by area restaurants. We usually get done by 3 p.m. A day at the greenhouse provides an opportunity to renew acquaintances and meet new people.

If this would be your first time planting the baskets, the Indian Creek staff will instruct you on how to insert the small begonia plants into the liner of the baskets. As the baskets are planted and hung in the greenhouse one by one, it is a beautiful sight when the greenhouse is full of hanging flower baskets and the planting complete.

If you plan to volunteer, please sign up at the February DMPA meeting or call Millie Miller at 558-6023.





Are you sick and tired of paying higher and higher energy bills? Would you like to do something about it? Would you like to save money while you sleep? Can you handle a few simple tools

like a screwdriver and electric drill? Have you about had it with me for asking so many questions?

Okay. Here's the bottom line. If you dial back your thermostat by 10-15 degrees for 8 hours you'll save 10%-15% on your energy bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. So, if you lower the temperature in the winter and raise the temperature in the summer when you go to bed you can literally save money while you sleep. Of course you can dial back your thermostat manually, but then you have to remember to do it every night and your house will be cold for awhile when you first crawl out of bed.

A simple programmable thermostat is an easy solution that solves both of these problems. Installing one is easy and within the capabilities of most homeowners. The cost of new programmable thermostat will be between \$25 and \$100, so your payback will be quick, especially if you save by installing it yourself.

Programmable thermostats are available at most hardware stores and any of the big box home improvement stores. Before you go shopping take the cover off your current thermostat and take a good look at the number and kind of wires attached to it. If the wires coming into the thermostat are thin then this is a low-voltage system (the most common type) which doesn't present a shock hazard. If, however, the thermostat is wired into an electrical box then your system is likely a 120-volt system and you'll need to call an electrician.

Even with a low voltage system, it is still a good idea to turn off the power to your furnace so make that your first step in the replacement process. Remove the thermostat cover and look for the screws that hold the thermostat's works to its base plate. (Many of the old thermostats used a mercury switch, so please contact the city's waste management office for instructions on how to safely dispose of it.)

Now, before you disconnect the wires make notes on the number of wires and the letters beside the screws they are attached to. A simple heating only system probably will only have two wires a red wire attached to the "R" screw and a white wire attached to the "W" screw. If have central air and you have more wires or if the wires aren't differentiated by color, use some small masking tape tabs to identify the corresponding letter for each wire.

After you disconnect the wires and pull the base away from the wall, be careful not to let the wires drop back inside the wall. Wrap the wires around a pencil to keep them from falling into the wall hole.

Attach the wires to the corresponding lettered screws on the new thermostat and remount the new base

plate to the wall. If you're lucky the screw holes for the new thermostat will line up with the old holes. But you're not going to be that lucky, so drill new holes and mount the base plate with screws and hollow wall expansion fasteners. The thermostat needs to be level, so use a small carpenter's level as you mark the positions for your screws.

All that's left is to turn the power back on, install the batteries (so you won't lose your program if there is a power outage) and program the thermostat. After you test your new thermostat in manual and program modes, you're done.

Please note that programmable thermostats are not for every heating system. The Department of Energy says, "Programmable thermostats are generally not recommended for heat pumps. Electric resistance systems, such as electric baseboard heating, require thermostats capable of directly controlling 120-volt or 240-volt circuits. Only a few companies manufacture line-voltage programmable thermostats." Some energy advisers say that programmable thermostats are not suitable for steam or hot water heat systems because of their longer response times. It may take two hours or more for steam or hot water heat to warm up your home. But we have successfully used a programmable thermostat on our hot water boiler for years. We set the thermostat to fire up the system a couple hours before we get up. Because the radiators retain their heat for some time after the system shuts off, we program the nighttime shutoff for a couple hours before our normal bedtime. With a little trial and error you can find the programming pattern that works best for you and you can start sleeping and saving.

Connections

If you have a question, or a subject you'd like addressed in a future column write to me at:

The Old House Mechanic

5207 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68132

e-mail: dbrowers@cox.net For an online archive of previous articles go to: <http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org/>



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Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Report

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance met on January 21st at the Neighborhood Center. At the request of DMPA, monthly income/expense reports will be sent out to board members and association presidents prior to each monthly meeting starting in February. A review of the MNA books will be done in January by Tom Stewart. The board discussed the proposed 2009 budget that projects \$56,000 in income and \$45,000 in expenses. One idea that is being considered is to offer \$500 grants to neighborhoods and groups with worthwhile projects. The budget will be finalized at the February meeting.


The board approved a request from the Re-Tree Midtown Committee to apply for a \$10,000 grant from the Kiewit Foundation to fund four pilot tree planting projects. Matching funds will have to be raised from other sources. One of the pilot projects is slated to be on 52nd Street between Underwood Ave. and Cass St. More details will follow next month.

The board also approved the creation of a Crime Prevention Task Force that will be headed by Jim Farho. The purpose is to look at ways neighborhoods are addressing crime and ways we can work together. The task force is open to any interested resident so if anyone is interested in helping, please contact Jim Farho at 212-5571.

The board was asked by Senator Gwen Howard to support LB 605 which she introduced in the Legislature as a result of the on-going concerns about the Infinite Store liquor licenses. Her legislation would require that additional weight be given to the support or opposition of a neighborhood when licenses are considered. This would give neighborhoods more of a voice about what comes into our communities. The board will take a vote by e-mail once all members have had a chance to look the bill over.

Finally, it has come to our attention that the Infinite Store at 52nd & Leavenworth has been leased to Singh Brothers, Inc. which appears to be a front corporation for the previous applicant. They have already applied for a liquor license for another store at 30th & Lake and they have said they plan to apply again for our store. We can expect to have to go through the entire process again after spending nearly a year already on this. If you see any incidents at this store, please call 911.


Dave Schinzel
MNA Representative



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Doc on the Block

With the icy and windy winter weather, we have been seeing more patients for motor vehicle accidents and whiplash injuries. Whiplash is the term used to describe the backward-forward motion which occurs during rear-end motor vehicle accidents as it is similar to the motion of cracking a whip. This mechanism causes muscle and ligament damage deep in the neck which may take several weeks to heal. Roller coaster rides, high impact sports, and being shaken or punched may cause whiplash injuries as well.

Symptoms of whiplash include pain located anywhere from the base of the head to the upper back. Pain is usually worse with movement and may be associated with muscle spasm in the muscles located in the back of the neck and shoulders. Headaches located in the back of the skull are very common following whiplash injury and may linger for several weeks. Difficulty concentrating, irritability, and dizziness are other symptoms which can accompany neck pain.

When you present to an emergency room or physician's office following a whiplash injury, your doctor will examine the cervical spine to see if any parts are particularly tender, warranting an x-ray. You will be asked

to move your neck in different directions and a neurological exam will be performed to rule out damage to the nerves coming from your neck.

Most people recover from whiplash injuries in four to six weeks although some may suffer several months with pain. Treatment includes pain relievers (over the counter or prescription pain relievers depending on the severity of discomfort), anti-inflammatories, and muscle relaxants. Ice and heat may be used as needed. Cervical collars used to be commonly recommended for whiplash injuries. They are now recommended for just a few hours a day for the first couple of weeks after the injury to prevent weakening of the neck muscles. Stretching exercises will be recommended once your neck pain is under control. If your symptoms are not improving on your own, you may be referred for physical therapy. Be assured that you will get better!

Please drive slowly and defensively and prevent car accidents wherever possible.

Carolyn Manhart, M.D.
Creighton Internal Medicine, Dundee

Please register online, in person or by phone (444-5274).
Some activities require a signed parent slip.

Winter Reading Club Jan 3, 2009 - February 28, 2009

Read or listen to five Omaha Public Library books and receive a commemorative book bag while supplies last.

Children Activities:

Toddler Storytime - Wednesdays @ 10:30am

All story times include stories, songs, rhymes and age-appropriate activities. Each storytime will also include tips for parents and caregivers on how to promote the six characteristics of early literacy as described in the Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library program.

Get BRIGHT Girls Book Club - Wednesdays from 4:30-5:15pm Read and discuss our current selection while enjoying snacks and refreshments.

Homework Hotspot (All Ages) - Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3-6pm Individual homework help, games, and snacks will be provided by the Afterschool facilitator.

Tutor.com will also be available during this time for homework help.

Saturday Afternoon Club - Saturdays in February from 1-2:30pm Engaging and exciting educational activities for tweens. Math science, social studies and language arts will be explored through hands-on activities, food and games.

Book to Movie Day - "The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe" - Friday, February 13th @ 1pm

Gr. 2-6 Gaming Lock-in - Friday, February 20th from 6-9pm

Come to the library and hang out with your friends! Enjoy snacks and refreshments while playing Guitar Hero for Wii, Wii Sports, and Rock Band for Playstation 2. There is a limit of 25 kids.

Get BRIGHT Hip Hop Lock-in - Friday, February 27th from 6-9pm Come to the library, enjoy refreshments, and learn about hip hop! there is a limit of 25 students.

Young Adult Activities (Gr. 6-12):

Homework Hotspot (All Ages) - Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3-6pm Individual homework help, games, and snacks will be provided by the Afterschool facilitator.

Tutor.com will also be available during this time for homework help.

Get BRIGHT Teen Book Club - Saturdays in February @ 3pm

Join our YA Golden Sower Book Club! Read Dragon's Keep by Janet Lee Carey and then join us in a discussion of the book while enjoying snacks and refreshments. YA

Book to Movie Day - "Prince Caspian" - Tuesday, February 17th @ 1pm

TAG: Teen Advisory Group Meeting - Saturday, February 21st @ 3:30pm

Join the Sorensen Teen Advisory Group! Come to our second meeting ever! Enjoy snacks and refreshments while sharing your ideas and see what its all about!

Make a Hershey's Kiss Rose - Friday, February 13th @ 4:30pm Come to the library and make a Hershey's Kiss Rose for your special someone!

Adult Activities:

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, February 3rd @ 4:30pm Read and discuss Sarah's Quilt by Nancy Turner.

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, February 7th @ 1pm Read and discuss Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, February 21st @ 1pm Read and discuss Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes.

Cat in the Hat will visit Sorensen library on Thursday, March 5th @ 1:00 in honor of Dr. Seuss' Birthday. Join us for stories, songs & fun. Don't forget your camera!

Spring Story times begin the week of March 3rd and continue until April 23. Each story time includes stories, songs, finger plays & a take home craft or information for parents.

Baby & Me (infants to 2 years old) Tuesdays @ 10:30

Toddlers (2 - 3 ½ years old) Wednesdays @ 10:30

Preschoolers (3 ½ - 5 years old) Thursdays @ 1:00

**Friends of the Omaha Public Library
Book Sale**

Friday, March 6th 10 AM to 8 PM

Saturday March 7th 10AM -5:30PM

Members of FOPL may attend the preview sale

Thursday, March 5th 6 PM to 8:30 PM

Swanson Branch Library, 90th & West Dodge

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Look what's happening at A.V. Sorensen Community Center

4808 Cass Street * 444-5596

Tot's & Parents Gym Time

Enjoy time with your child playing in the gym
Ages 5-under Co-ed \$1.00 Drop in fee
THURSDAY'S 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Pick up Dodge Ball

Grab your friends and play the hottest
new team sport in the Nation!
Tuesday's 6:45 - 8:15 pm Wednesday's 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Ages 8 - 16 Co-ed FREE *Parents welcome!

NEW Speedball

Thursday's 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Youth Basketball Tournaments

Boys & Girls Grades 5-8
Feb 27 - Mar 1 Boys 5th - 6th Grade
Mar 20 - 22 Boys 7th - 8th Grade
Mar 27 - 29 Girls 7th - 8th Grade
We will accept the first 8 teams per division.

St. Patrick's Day Lucky Bingo

Tuesday, March 17th Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day and
Play an exciting game of "Lucky" Bingo

"Be my Valentine Party"

Cost: \$2.00

Celebrate Valentine's Day with us! Enjoy food, fun,
Making arts & crafts and playing games. Thurs, Feb 12th Time:

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

Send form (Photo copy acceptable) and checks to

Eli McNichols 5017 1/2 Cass St, Omaha, NE 68132

(Please DO NOT send to p.o. box.)

_____ I would like to learn about volunteer opportunities

Annual Membership Dues:

Family \$12
Senior \$6
Business \$20

**Multiple year
discounts available**

Ages 6 - 16 Co-ed FREE

10-11 a.m. Age: 3-5

"Country Club Tudor"

5430 Decatur

\$250,000

Picture Perfect
Inside & Out
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Fireplace



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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. DO NOT** send membership forms to P. O. Box

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