

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



DMPA Meeting January 12th

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

Topic: Dundee Streetscape
Bring your ideas, questions.



Join DMPA Today
Membership Form
Inside Back Page

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"

www.dundee-memorialpark.org

Published by Shurson Publishing, P.O. Box 31485, Omaha, NE 68131

Vol. 19, No 1, January 2009

President's Message

I received a note in mid-December that was the first harbinger of Spring...it beat all of the flower and seed catalogs...Millie Miller, our guru of flower basket planting, informed me of the planting dates and suggested I mark my calendar....which I did. And you can too when you find a notice with the complete details elsewhere in this newsletter.

But back to the current season; I believe we have more holiday displays than ever this year and they are wonderful. Our "not to be missed" list certainly didn't include many of the most beautiful since it must be ready for the first of the month publication date and many of you are not yet ready to decorate that early. (Any of you have an idea on how to fix that problem short of coming out with a special edition?) Thank you to all who decorated and made this one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the city. Decorating takes a lot of time, energy and creativity but it certainly is worth it when you drive or walk through the neighborhood. A resounding thank you as well, to the Dundee Merchants who created a beautiful "downtown" for us. And the weather gods helped out as well, with snow, so we ended the year with a winter wonderland! If you hurry I'm sure you will be able to see most of the decorations and lighting.

Not only did the weather god help out by bringing snow to enhance the holiday decorations but we received frigid weather as well and now we have the ice rink across from Dundee Church at Happy Hollow Boulevard and Underwood Avenue. Sharpen your skates, if you haven't already done so, bring the kids and join the fun. And the UNO hockey team is looking for a date to join us as well.

I assume you all noticed in last month's newsletter that we are looking for new leadership for the Adopt-Elmwood-Park project. Marty Myers and Trilety Wade wish to take a break after five years of leading this project so we are looking for new park stewards. Thank you to Marty and Trilety for their outstanding efforts and now...who's next? Contact Trilety at trilety@hotmail.com and she will provide you with the necessary information to continue the Adopt-Elmwood program. Think about it this way, there aren't many things that make you feel better than volunteering.

The Dundee Business District continues to evolve. Willy Theisen, of Godfather's fame, announced at the December Dundee Merchants' Association meeting that he, with a partner, is going to open an "upscale bistro" in Jim Mammel's newly remodeled "Dundee Dinner Theatre" building. While the concept for the restaurant has not been fully developed, Willie assured everyone that the new place will be family friendly with value meals included along with an upscale menu. A late summer opening is planned, perhaps around Dundee Day, now scheduled for August 23rd.

In the December newsletter I announced that the January 12 Association meeting would be devoted to "Streetscape Enhancement" for the Dundee business district. The Dundee Merchants' Association has received support from the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Mammel

Continued on page 4.

Dundee-Memorial Park Association

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DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

**January 12th
Dundee Streetscape**

**February 9th
March 9th**

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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



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President's Message

Continued from front page.

Foundation and the Mayor's Neighborhood Grant fund to develop the new master plan for the business district's "streetscape". The merchants have engaged RDG Design, the firm that developed Omaha's new Streetscape Design Manual. The design process will begin at the DMPA meeting, January 12, with a "Great Streets Virtual Tour" in which streetscape concepts and ideas will be shared with the goal to begin imagining what we would like it to be. Delores Silkworth and Marty Schukert of RDG will make the visual presentation which will be followed by discussion. Please come and bring neighbors and friends to talk about how we want Dundee's business district to look. This is your chance to be heard...everyone's ideas are important. This meeting will be followed by a two day "charette" on January 29 and 30 from 9 am to 5 pm. RDG planners will conduct the "charette" in which community members are invited to engage in dialogue about design concerns, ideas and principles, helping to develop concepts and set priorities.

The January 12 meeting will begin at 7 pm with a social time, with the formal meeting beginning at 7:30. Along with the RDG planners, two other guests will be present; Captain Diane Kelly and Officer Eric Meyer of the Omaha Police Department. Officer Meyer has been patrolling the Dundee business district on weekend, late evenings this fall. Dundee/ Memorial Park is included in the Northwest Precinct which Captain Kelly commands. Both officers will be available during the social time and will make brief remarks at the beginning of the business meeting.

Perhaps you had an opportunity to read the lead editorial in the November 18th Omaha World-Herald in which the author spoke about the recent violence in the neighborhood and our response to it. For those of you who missed it I would like to quote several sentences.

"If one had to sum up the neighborhood's attitude toward the criminal element, it likely would be something like this: 'You think we're going to toss away the quality of life in one of the city's most distinctive and appealing neighborhoods? No way. What we have here is worth celebrating, and it's certainly worth defending. Our commitment and solidarity are greater than your pathologies.'

To that I add, AMEN!!!

Bob Welk


**Please Tell Our advertisers
you saw their ad in this Newsletter.**

2009 Flower Basket Planting Scheduled

Mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14. These are the dates that the Dundee-Memorial Park Association volunteers are planting the flower baskets which adorn the historic street lights. Planting both days is 10 - 3 at the Indian Creek Nursery Greenhouse, 303 N. Saddle Creek Road.



Lunch is provided for the volunteers by area restaurants. If you plan to volunteer, please sign up at the January or February DMPA meeting or call Millie Miller at 558-6023.



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Dundee Business Liaison Report

A Time for Giving

Even in this time of recession (or depression – we'll leave that to the experts to determine), the businesses and residents of Dundee have a place in their hearts for others. On December 4th, a fundraiser was held at The Architectural Offices to benefit the Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Over \$4,400 was raised that evening for the organization. Dundee businesses that donated either food or money for the event included The Dell (especially The Dell), Mark's Bistro, Subway, Dario's, Blue Line Coffee, Beyond Ireland, and Dundee Cork and Bottle. It was a fun evening that benefited a worthwhile cause. In addition, a number of other businesses have been collecting food and clothing for a number of worthwhile causes in Omaha. It is good to know that throughout a time when so many are in need our little corner of Omaha is stepping up to help those less fortunate.

Great Streets Tour

The Dundee Memorial Park Association monthly meeting in January will be a presentation/discussion of what the streetscape in Dundee can become. The presentation will be a kick-off of proposed changes to the streetscape and public right-of-way areas on Underwood and 50th Street. The meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 12th at Dundee Presbyterian Church. RDG Planning and

Design will be facilitating the public discussion, so if you have thoughts about the streetscape in Dundee you will want to be there and have your opinions heard. This is an exciting endeavor and will shape Dundee for generations. Following will be a two-day design charrette to brainstorm possibilities for the streetscape and public right-of-way on Underwood and 50th Streets. This effort will be held January 29th and 30th. More information on this effort will be announced at the Great Streets presentation.

Dundee Neighborhood Conservation and Enhancement Plan

The effort to finalize the zoning overlay district is continuing and should be ready for public review in connection with the Great Streets effort. This second effort addresses issues that fall within private property, and address issues of building scale, density, off-street parking, etc., and will be complete prior to the Design Charette at the end of January.

Bill Stott
The Architectural Offices
Dundee Memorial Park Association
Business Liaison
Think globally, but purchase locally



Photo by B.J. Reed.

Skating with the Mavs At the Dundee Rink

Just east of Dundee Presbyterian Church

Tenatively scheduled for

January 25th at 2 PM

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www.dundee-memorialpark.org
to confirm date, time and for more information.

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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*

Are you singing the praises of your steam heat like they did in the 1954 musical Pajama Game?

"I've got ::cling cling:: fsssss steam heat.

I've got ::cling cling:: fsssss steam heat.

I've got ::cling cling:: fsssss steam heat.

But I can't get warm without your hand to hold.

The radiators hiss in still I need your kiss in to keep me from freezing each nite."

Or are you cursing your steam heat because some radiators aren't putting out much heat or radiators aren't hissing but shrieking or banging? With a little repair and maintenance—that are within the capabilities of most any homeowner—you can be singing again.

The number one suspect for steam heat problems are the air vents. The purpose of the air vent is to open and let air escape as the incoming steam from the boiler fills the radiator. When the radiator fills with steam the air vent closes to keep the steam trapped in the radiator. Inside the air vent is a piston that expands to close the valve. But over time air vents can become corroded, clogged with rust or blocked with paint and the vent won't open so no steam (and therefore no heat) fills the radiator. Or if the vent doesn't fully open or close, it will make an annoying whistling noise when the heating system is on.



Air Vent

Sometimes old vents can be saved by soaking them in warm vinegar for a half an hour or so. But more often than not, they need to be replaced. Luckily they aren't expensive. I found them online for \$15-\$20. Locally, your best source is from a plumbing supply house or a company that repairs old heating systems like Rybin Plumbing and Heating at 1822 Vinton Street.

To remove the air vent, first turn down the thermostat to make sure your system is off and won't come back on while you're working. Carefully turn the vent counter-clockwise by hand. If the vent is still hot, wrap it in a towel to protect your hands from getting burned. The main caveat here is: don't yank the vent, but instead give it steady pressure. You don't want to snap off the vent. When reinstalling the old valve after its vinegar soak or if you're installing a new vent, wrap the threads of the valve with Teflon tape and screw it into the radiator clockwise, turning it about 3 or 4 turns. Make sure the vent is pointing straight up.

Any steam radiator that is making a banging noise is probably not sloped properly. On single pipe systems the radiator has to slope back toward the inlet valve at a slope of about 1 inch for every ten feet or about 3/8 of an inch for an average size radiator. As the radiator steam gives up its heat, it condenses into water and the slope allows the water to drain back down through the inlet pipe and return to the boiler. Floors sag over time (but you already knew this—you own an old house) or the legs of the radiator can dig into the floor. The result is that the radiator is sloping the wrong way. With a carpenter's level and some wood shims you can re-establish the correct slope. (By the way, you can buy pre-made shims made of wood or plastic at any of the big box home improvement stores.)

Also make sure the inlet valves are all the way open or all the way closed (if you're not heating that room). Partially open valves will not help regulate the amount of heat, they will only create noise.

If you have a radiator leaking steam near the inlet valve, it is probably due to a loose packing nut or worn out packing. Remove the valve handle and the nut you see at the base of the valve stem is the packing nut. Use an adjustable (Crescent) wrench to tighten the nut. But go easy and don't over-torque it which may crack the nut or strip the threads. If this doesn't stop the leak, then re-pack the valve. Remove the packing nut and wrap new packing (graphite impregnated string which is available at almost any hardware or home improvement store) with three or four loops around the stem. Then reinstall the packing nut. When you snug up the packing nut, the leak will be gone. And then you can sing along: "I've got ::cling cling:: fsssss steam heat."

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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The city has relocated the drop-off site at Scrap Central, 8518 Blondo St.

It is now at Peony Park Hy-Vee, 7910 Cass Street.

Drop-off containers will be in the southeast corner of the parking lot. The site will be open daily from 7 a. to 7 pm.

Drop-off sites accept: glass bottles, aluminum and tin cans, newspapers, corrugated cardboard, magazines catalogs, office paper and plastic bottles (1 or 2)

The other sites are:

Firstar Fiber, 10330 I St. Mon - Fri 7 am to 7 pm.

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The 100 Day Cough

You may know someone who's had pertussis (also known as whooping cough) recently, or heard that there is an outbreak occurring. Pertussis epidemics occur every 3-5 years in the U.S., and there has been an overall increase in cases over the last 20 years. 5,000 – 7,000 cases are reported yearly. Pertussis is a contagious disease that can be passed easily from person to person. It is very serious for babies and can cause them to cough so much that they cannot breathe. Hundreds of babies are hospitalized each year for whooping cough, and some die from it.

Pertussis can cause adults or teens to have severe coughing that leads to vomiting or broken ribs. They can be hospitalized for pneumonia and miss weeks of work or school. Even worse, they can spread it to the babies at home.

Everyone in your family should be immunized against pertussis to protect themselves and any infants at



home. Parents should ask their doctor for the Tdap vaccine that includes a tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis

booster. Children 10 and older can also get the Tdap booster. Infants and toddlers need 4 shots against whooping cough, and a booster before starting kindergarten.

Whooping cough is spread by coughing.

Remind everyone to cover their mouths when coughing and to wash their hands often. If you would like to protect yourself and your child from this serious and preventable illness, please ask your doctor about the Tdap vaccine today!

Pat Specht M.D., Children's Physicians Dundee

Call the library for more information at 444-5274 for more information on any of these activities.

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

Read or listen to five Omaha Public Library books, including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain and receive a commemorative book bag while supplies last. Please stop by in person or call the library for more information (444-5274).

Children Activities:

Book to Movie Day - "Ratatouille" - Friday, January 2nd @ 1pm Come to the library and enjoy refreshments while watching *Ratatouille*.

Book to Movie Day - "Kung Fu Panda" - Saturday, January 3rd @ 1pm Come to the library and enjoy refreshments while watching *Kung Fu Panda*.

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.

Toddler Storytime (Ages 2 - 3 1/2) - Wednesdays @ 10:30am All storytimes 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** @ YourLibrary program. Get **BRIGHT Girls Book Club** - Wednesdays from 4:45-5:30pm Read and discuss *Paint the Wind* by Pam Munoz Ryan while enjoying snacks and refreshments.

Home School Spelling Bee - Friday, January 30th

Grades 1-4 @ 10:15-12:30pm

Grades 5-8 @ 1:30-3:30pm

Spelling lists are available at the library for Grades 1-4.

Young Adult Activities:

Homework Hotspot (All Ages) see earlier listing. Get **BRIGHT Teen Book Club** - Saturday, January 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st

Join our **YA Golden Sower Book Club!** Read *A Summer of Kings* by Han Nolan and then join us in a discussion of the book while enjoying snacks and refreshments. Please register online, in person or by phone (444-5274).

TAG: Teen Advisory Group Meeting - Saturday, January 17th @ 3pm

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

Teen Gaming Lock-in (Gr. 6-12) - Friday, January 23rd 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. A signed parent permission slip is required to participate.

Adult Activities:

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, January 3rd @ 1pm Come and enjoy a **Movie Day!**

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, January 6th @ 4:30pm Read and discuss *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, January 17th @ 1pm Please call the library for more details at (444-5274).

Look what's happening at
A.V. Sorensen Community Center
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12:30 - 4pm Tues. Dec. 2nd

12:30 - 4pm Thur. Dec. 11th

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Adult Pick up Dodge Ball

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DMPA Merchandise for Sale

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



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



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

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

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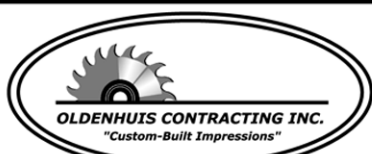
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