

# DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



## Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

*"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"*

[www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org)

Published by Shurson Publishing, P.O. Box 31485, Omaha, NE 68131  
Vol. 20, No 1 January 2010

## President's Message

I think it is safe to say that our neighborhood looks the best that it ever has in terms of holiday decorations. We have more displays than ever and some are, in fact, awe inspiring. Thanks 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 I'm sure that those of you who did, gave yourselves a real dose of holiday spirit, and I know it is worth it to those of us who drive or walk through the neighborhood. We also need to thank the Dundee Merchants who created a beautiful "downtown" for us where a new contractor created a "best ever" appearance. The folks in charge of weather gave us a helping hand on both ends, with warm weather as an aid for hanging decorations and a heavy snow to create a winter wonderland on the viewing end. If you haven't been out yet to see the sights, grab our "not to be missed" list and you'll probably be able to see most of them...as well as, those added after November 29, the list making date.

That frigid weather that accompanied the snow also made it possible to finish the ice rink at the intersection of Underwood and Happy Hollow. Dundee Bank's Jeff Royal and his crew had the side boards in place just as the cold arrived. Soon the liner was in place, the city crew added the water and "voila", a skating rink for those who have skates...and those who find new skates under the Christmas tree. Enjoy!

Just about the time that the snow and cold arrived I received two notes that warmed me up as they were harbingers of Spring. The first informed me that "Spring Fling" will be celebrated on May 22 this year. The Merchants are making an early start on their planning for this year's event. I wonder if Rene from the Bread Oven will run for re-election as Mayor of Dundee. The second was from Millie Miller, our wonderful crew chief of the flower basket planting brigade, informing me of the planting dates...and suggesting that I mark my calendar...which I quickly did...after I purchased a 2010 model. The details are elsewhere in this newsletter...please mark your calendars as well...so you are ready to sign up at the February Association meeting and to get on over to the Indian Creek Nursery in March. Now that reminds me, Mother's Day is May... Has your Block Captain been around, seeking your contribution to the flower basket fund...if not, you can contact Peter Manhart, 350-3890, to find out to whom to send your check.

Just one year ago, at the January Association meeting, the folks from RDG Design facilitated a public discussion about what the Dundee streetscape could become. After months of research, planning and drawing, a plan for the streetscape has been completed, approved by the Design

### DMPA Meeting

**Next Meeting**  
**January 11th**

**Speaker:** Trev Alberts,  
UNO Athletic Director

**Location and times:**

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

Bring a friend or two.



## Dundee-Memorial Park Association

### Board of Directors

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558-2635, [rwelk1@cox.net](mailto:rwelk1@cox.net)

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Peter Manhart, 350-3890

##### Problem Solving

B.J. Reed, 556-5509

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##### Business Liaison

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[pacbashus@cox.net](mailto:pacbashus@cox.net)

Donna Rock

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## DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

**January 11th -**

Trev Alberts

UNO Athletic Director

**February 8th-**

Lorraine Chang

Learning Community

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Revised list, members current 12/09 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](http://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@cox.net](mailto:elimci@cox.net)**

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# President's Message

Continued from front page.

Review Board, and on December 2, approved by the Omaha Planning Board. At this writing, a date had not been set to take the plan before the City Council but a January date is anticipated. Council approval is required before construction drawings can be completed.

**Reminder:** the January Association meeting is set for January 11 with UNO Athletic Director, Trev Alberts, as the featured speaker. It should be a real treat to hear from this 3 time All-Big Eight academic honoree and First Team All-American. Our February 8 meeting will feature Lorraine Chang, our representative on the Douglas/Sarpy Learning Community Board. Lorraine will be bringing us information on the Learning Community's open enrollment program which is being shaped, almost as you read this.

One last note from the Association's "holiday decoration review team"; we had some difficulty seeing/finding house numbers on some properties. You may think it silly that I bring this up but I do so for a very important reason; SAFETY. Most often, when first responders are on a call, time is of the essence, and much time can be lost searching for missing or obstructed house numbers. Do yourself a favor, make sure that your house number is present, large enough to be easily read from the street, facing the street and not covered by shrubbery. You may be glad you did...and I'll thank you next November when we are reviewing holiday decorations. I hope you are having a pleasant and joyous holiday season and I'll see you on January 11.

# Dundee Elementary

## News for Neighbors

Welcome to winter! Dundee students enjoyed a few snow days in December, just a week after our playground was opened, and then headed off to the semester break. The heavy snowfall has made shoveling snow a regular routine. Thank you to the wonderful neighbors who keep their walks clear so our students can make it to school safely. Students walk from as far as a half-mile away; clear sidewalks make that journey safer, drier, and warmer.

The Playground is a hit!: Like moths to a light, the opening of the playground was an instant attraction for kids of all ages! We are the only playground in Omaha to have "The Basket," a giant spinning merry-go-round on steroids. Even the teeter-totter of-old has a new look: a "wave" that allows multiple kids to ride an undulating plank. The main structure has two climbing walls, slides, and a zip line made for kids who are tall enough to reach the handle. We believe adults will be competing with kids to try some of the activities.

Please help: We are thrilled to have this wonderful equipment on our property and see it as an asset to the Dundee neighborhood. Unfortunately, we have already had kids attempt to "break" the wave, ignore the requests of smaller kids to slow down the Basket, and even throw a rock through one of our building windows. While the school looks for ways to deter this activity, we invite neighbors to look out for one another and our shared property. Much of the reckless behavior occurs at night and on weekends. The school grounds "close" at 10pm. If you see activity that looks suspicious, please feel free to talk to the kids involved or contact the Omaha Police Department. We'd like this equipment to last for years to come!

Will you have a kindergartener in fall 2010? Please note that OPS moved Kindergarten Roundups to January due to Learning Community changes. The date for Dundee's Kindergarten Roundup is Wednesday, January 20 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Please call the school at 554-8424 to let us know you are coming. If you are a returning parent, we look forward to adding another name to the school roster. If this is your first child to come to Dundee, we are eager to meet you!

We look forward to school resuming on Tuesday, January 5th.

Sincerely,  
Ginny and Mark Curley, PTA Presidents, 558-7119

## Reminders ...

DMPA Meeting - January 11th  
DMPA Meeting - February 8th





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form inside back page.

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for a new neighbor.

## **Old House Services Directory**

If you have employed a contractor to work on your old house in the past two years and have been pleased with their work, please take the time to go to our website [dundee-memorialpark.org](http://dundee-memorialpark.org) to get a form. You can recommend more than one contractor, but please use a separate form for each. Recommendations will only be accepted from Dundee Memorial Park residents.

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To schedule an appointment, call 402.280.1185. We can often schedule appointments for the same or next day. Monday evening appointments are also available.

## 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.



Nothing spiffs up an old house basement like a couple of coats of paint. The typical old house has a basement subdivided into several rooms. Even if you have one room fixed up as a play area for the kids or outfitted with sofa for flopping and watching TV, you probably have other rooms that have no better purpose than to be the final resting place for worn-out, discarded furniture. You can reclaim this space for a workshop, a hobby room or decent storage.

Paint is an obvious solution for improving the appearance of basement walls. It is less expensive than other options and is relatively easy to do yourself. Paint can also be a good choice for decorating the floor for the same reasons. (I like painting floors for the simple fact that paint doesn't fall up. When you're painting a ceiling, not only do you have to crane your neck into an unnatural position, but the paint is also spattering down onto your face and into your eyes. I hate that.) However, there are some factors and a few procedures you need to keep in mind to successfully paint a concrete floor.

Because they are below grade, basements are always susceptible to moisture incursion. Water will ruin any paint job so test for moisture problems first. Tape a two-foot square piece of sheet plastic to the floor with duct tape. Make sure it is tightly sealed to the floor. After a couple of days, pull up the plastic. If there are beads of moisture on the plastic or on the floor below it, you have moisture seeping up through the slab. This is a problem that will require the help of a professional basement waterproofing company to solve. If everything is dry, you're good for paint.

The floor needs to be clean and free of grease. For heavy grease spots spread kitty litter over them and work that into the grease with a broom. Sweep up the kitty litter and then wash the grease spots and the rest of the floor with water and a solution of tri-sodium phosphate (TSP) which is available at any home improvement store. Let the floor dry completely--it may take a couple of days. New concrete should be acid etched prior to painting, but this isn't necessary for old concrete in old houses. Fill any holes or large cracks with hydraulic cement. (Available at home improvement stores, hydraulic cement is a powder that you mix with a little water and it sets up in minutes.) Small cracks can be filled using a caulking gun and a silicone-latex caulk. (Make sure it says "paintable" on the caulk tube.) If the floor hasn't been painted before, it is a good idea to first apply a primer coat. The choice of primer will depend on your choice of top coat paint.

My preference for the top coat is an alkyd (oil-based) floor and porch enamel. Latex floor paints are also available, but it is my experience that the oil paints cover better and wear longer. Whether you select oil or latex paint,

this isn't the time to try to get by on the cheap; buy a good grade of paint for better coverage and durability.

Tell your paint retailer that you're painting a concrete floor and ask him or her for a recommendation for the top coat and a recommendation for the best primer to match with the top coat.

The best way to apply the paint is to cut-in around the perimeter of the room with a brush and use a roller to cover the rest of the floor. If you don't already have one, buy an extension pole for your roller frame. (You'll thank me because you won't have to bend over, the job will go much faster and the extension will be just as handy when you're painting walls and ceilings.)

If you paint with an oil-based paint you'll find that one of the downsides is its strong odor, so a fan positioned to pull the fumes out of the room will make the job more pleasant. The other downside to oil-based paint is that clean-up is harder. I buy a cheap roller cover and just toss it after I'm done.

If you want to be really spiffy, you can get creative with different color squares for a tile-like effect, with faux painting to look like stone or painting different colors in different sections in a really large room.

#### 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](mailto:dbrowers@cox.net)

For an online archive of previous articles go to:  
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# Midtown Neighborhood Alliance

## Retree Midtown Project

*The photos below are of the tree planting done last summer along 52nd Street. Here is a brief description reprinted from the October newsletter.*

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Re-Tree Midtown project received grant funding from the Kiewit Foundation, OPPD, Mayor's Grant and the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Fireworks Show to fully fund all of the pilot tree projects. The pilot project in Dundee-Memorial Park is located on 52nd Street between California St. and Davenport St. A total of 8 property owners agreed to participate in the project which involves the planting of a total of 12 trees including Sugar Maple, White Swamp Oak, American Sentry Linden, Ivory Silk Japanese Lilac, Sugar Tyme Flowering Crabapple and Prairiefire Flowering Crabapple in the public right of way at no expense to the homeowner. The trees were planted by Indian Creek Nursery the last week of September.

Now that the pilot projects have been completed, Re-Tree Midtown will begin work on new projects and applying for additional grants. If a block is interested in participating in possible future plantings, please let me know at [drschinzel@hotmail.com](mailto:drschinzel@hotmail.com).



Tree being planted by Indian Creek staff.



Larry McNichols watering a newly planted tree.



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The above photo was sent in by DMPA member- Rita with the following text.....

"I thought this might be of interest to our readers - it's really breaking news!"

"We have discovered why the Sunset Trail/Glenwood Road flower garden seems to be more prolific this year." Don Otis is quoted as saying: "The hard part was teaching the rabbits to read. Once that was done, we haven't lost one bloom."

The Library will be closed on the following date:  
New Years Day - Friday, January 1st  
Please register online, in person, or by phone (444-5274).  
for all activities marked with a **R**

**Children's Activities:**

Homework Hotspot - from 3 to 6pm  
Tues., Jan. 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th & Thur., Jan. 7th,  
14th, 21st and 28th  
(All Ages) Homework help and games will be provided  
by the Afterschool  
Facilitator. In addition, Tutor.com will be available dur-  
ing this time.

Book to Movie Day: "Cloudy with a Chance of  
Meatballs" Saturday, January 9th @ 1pm  
Enjoy popcorn while watching the movie Cloudy with a  
Chance of Meatballs!

Mario Party 8 Tournament - Saturday, January 30th from  
2-4pm  
Come to the library and try out our newest game!  
Compete in our Mario Party 8 Tournament for the Wii  
and see if you win a prize.

**Young Adult Activities:**

Homework Hotspot - from 3 to 6pm  
Tues., Jan. 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th & Thur., Jan. 7th,  
14th, 21st and 28th  
(All Ages) Homework help and games will be provided  
by the Afterschool Facilitator. In addition, Tutor.com will  
be available during this time.

**Teen Book Club** - Saturday, January 16th @ 2pm  
Read and discuss *The Giver* by Lois Lowry while enjoy-  
ing snacks and refreshments. Please register online, in  
person, or by phone (444-5274).

**TAG: Teen Advisory Group** - Saturday, January 16th @  
3pm Enjoy snacks and refreshments while talking and  
sharing your ideas. Join to see what it's all about!

**YA Book to Movie Day:** "Harry Potter and the Half  
Blood Prince" Saturday, January 23rd @ 1pm  
Enjoy popcorn while watching the movie!

**Mario Party 8 Tournament** - Saturday, January 30th  
from 2-4pm Come to the library and try out our newest  
game! Compete in our Mario Party 8 Tournament for the  
Wii and see if you win a prize.

**Adult Activities:**

**Under the Dundee Sun Book Club** - Tuesday, January  
5th @ 4:30pm Read and discuss *The Prize Winner of  
Defiance* Ohio by Terry Ryan.

**Sorensen Readers Book Club** - Saturday, January 9th @  
1pm  
Come to the library and enjoy watching the movie  
*Enchanted* April!

**Plains Pages Book Club** - Saturday, January 16th @ 1pm  
Read and discuss *Murder at the Kennedy Center* by  
Margaret Truman.

## A.V. Sorensen Library & Recreation Center

48th & Cass Streets

Library Info: 444-5274 [www.omahapubliclibrary.org](http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org)

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Closed Sunday & Monday

**Recreation Center** info: 444-5596 [www.ci.omaha.ne.us/parks](http://www.ci.omaha.ne.us/parks) Saturday 8:30 am - 12 pm

Mon - Thurs 8:30 am - 8:30 pm Fri 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

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mine, references available.

## DMPA Merchandise for Sale

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 DMPA table on Dundee Day or at Dundee Bank. When the flower baskets are down for the winter, why not replace the basket with a colorful Dundee-Memorial Park flag.



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. Wear the DMPA logo proudly!



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Please renew **before** your membership lapses.  
Multi-year memberships are available.

## Dundee-Memorial Park Association Membership Form

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