

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



DMPA Meeting

This Month's Meeting
January 10th

Speakers: Katie Weitz, Building
Bright Futures and Kara
Eastman, Healthy Kids Alliance

Location and times:
Dundee Presbyterian Church
53rd & Underwood Ave
7:00 PM - Social
7:30 Meeting

Bring a friend or two.

*Happy
New Year!*

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"

www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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President's Message

I hope everyone had a chance to settle down and enjoy the holidays with friends and family this holiday season and create some special memories. It was the Year of the Pillow Pet at the Rouch household. I had no idea how much joy a small, plush pillow made to resemble cute animals like a bumblebee or a ladybug could bring to our little ones. Fortunately, I will have my daughter's smiles and squeals of delight with me for a very long time. Pure joy.

I want to thank the Dundee Merchants for bringing back the Lights on Dundee. I love the white, quiet lights and this tradition in downtown Dundee. For me, it extends the season. They've done a great job again this year.

The Ice Skating Rink is back at Underwood and Happy Hollow. It has been filled and I've already seen some skaters hit the ice (literally "hitting the ice" is what happens when I try to skate). I encourage everyone to bundle up and take a whirl. It's another neighborhood winter tradition everyone should try at least once. Thanks to Jeff Royal and Dundee Bank for sponsoring the rink again this year.

The Omaha City Council voted 7-0 on December 14th to adopt the "Environment Omaha" document as part of the City of Omaha's Master Plan. Gerard Wellman, U.N.O graduate student and member of the Young Professionals Council, previewed elements of this plan at the Dundee-Memorial Park Association's September meeting. If you are interested in reviewing the final draft, getting green or getting involved, please visit Environment Omaha at www.environmentomaha.com.

Here are a couple other items of note. The Young Professionals Summit will be held on Thursday, March 3rd at the Qwest Center Omaha. This year's theme is "From I to We: Changing the Conversation" and is centered on how participants can collaboratively contribute to Omaha. The opening speaker is "Fail Spectacularly!" author Jason Seiden. The keynote speaker is Newark, New Jersey mayor and community activist, Cory Booker. For more information please visit www.omahayoungprofessionals.org. One day later, the Restore Omaha Conference & Exhibition will kick off at the Metropolitan Community College's South Omaha Campus on March 4th and 5th. This event helps attendees "gather ideas, products and solutions for their older home needs" from local and regional restoration experts. Visit www.restoreomaha.com for more information.

Some of you may have noticed that construction is currently underway for the new CVS Pharmacy at 49th and Dodge. The project

Dundee-Memorial Park Association

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DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

January 10th

Katie Weitz, Building
Bright Futures and Kara
Eastman, Healthy Kids
Alliance

February 14th

Jeff Koterba,
Omaha World Herald

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DMPA Online www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

manager has agreed to provide updates on the upcoming activities. Preparations, including asbestos removal, have already begun and a construction fence will be put up soon around the perimeter of the site. Demolition of the existing buildings will take place in late December or early January.

There is still time to enroll in A. V. Sorenson Library and Community Center's Winter Program. Classes begin each month and there are a variety of activities from which to choose. Please contact 444-5596 to register or to learn more. As a reminder, Pat Specht is planning to clean up and beautify the grounds around the library this spring and needs volunteers. If you're willing to help, please contact Pat with your indication of interest at spruceupsorenson@hotmail.com.

This year's flower basket planting will be held on March 11th and 12th at Indian Creek Nursery. Jen Goodman is leading the way this year so please let her know if you're interested in participating (jen.goodman@cox.net).

Our next Association meeting will be on Monday, January 10th at Dundee Presbyterian Church. We have a fantastic double-bill that evening with Katie Weitz from Building Bright Futures and Kara Eastman from the Healthy Kids Alliance. In February, our featured speaker will be Omaha World Herald editorial cartoonist, Jeff Koterba. I am look forward to seeing you there.

Happy New Year,
Ben Rouch

Reminders...

DMPA Meeting - January 10th

DMPA Meeting - February 14th



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Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Tree Planting on 50th St.



For the second year in a row, Dundee-Memorial Park has been one of the recipients of the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance's Re-Tree Midtown Project. The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance is comprised of 15 neighborhood associations including DMPA. Two years ago, the Alliance created Re-Tree Midtown in the aftermath of the devastating windstorm that destroyed hundreds of trees. Last year, as part of the inaugural project, trees were planted in Dundee along 52nd Street between Chicago St. and Underwood Ave.

Trees are provided at no cost to property owners along selected streets. The trees must be planted on public right of way and are approved by the City. Indian Creek Nursery professionally plants the trees. This year 50th Street between California St. and Leavenworth St. was selected as

one of the projects along with plantings in the Aksarben-Elmwood Park, Hanscom Park, Field Club, Bemis Park and Morton Meadows neighborhoods.

Funding for Re-Tree Midtown comes from the 4th of July Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Fireworks Show, the Celebrate Midtown fundraiser at Joslyn Castle along with grants from the Kiewit Foundation, Mutual of Omaha Foundation, OPPD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, Indian Creek Nursery and the Mayor's Office. Thanks to their generous support, we will continue to re-plant the tree canopy that our streets are known for.

The next time you are driving down 50th Street (or 52nd St.), look for these new trees and be sure to thank those who have funded this great



project. The process has already begun for 2012 projects as the grant writing season begins. If you have any ideas for streets that are in need of new plantings, please let me know at drschinzel@hotmail.com. Please remember that trees can only be planted on public property per grant restrictions and we cannot do individual locations or single blocks.

Dave Schinzel

Volunteers Needed for Flower Basket Planting

If you just can't wait until spring to work on greening up your thumb, sign up to help plant the 475 decorative flower baskets for our historic street lights. The dates for planting are Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, at Indian Creek Nursery Greenhouse (303 N. Saddle Creek Road). Planting starts at 10 a.m. and lasts until around 3 p.m., with a mid-day break for a lunch donated by neighborhood restaurants.

Indian Creek Nursery provides not only the guidance in planting the baskets, but also the space to handle our volunteers in a climate-controlled environment. So, even if the weather outside is still frightful, you can enjoy the day inside meeting your neighbors and helping beautify Dundee.

To volunteer for one or both days, please sign up at the January or February Dundee-Memorial Park Association meeting or contact Jen Goodman at jen.goodman@cox.net.

Photos from
Flower Basket
Planting in 2010



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To paraphrase The Bard, “There is something rotten in the state of Dundee.” No, we’re not talking about regicide or even political intrigue.

We’re talking about window frames, sills, doors, and trim --everything wood in your old house.

I used to think that many problems in old houses are caused by water. Now, I think nearly all problems in old houses are caused by water.

Recently, my friend and neighbor Cathy asked for some advice about her basement windows. They were difficult to close. Within a few minutes the simple inspection had mushroomed to a point where we had removed the windows and were prying loose sections of the frame. The wood at the bottoms of the windows was soft and punky. The frame was worse.

Windows are particularly vulnerable to rot. Typically the rot is on the sill, the jamb (the framework of the window) and where the jamb and the sill meet. Especially in high moisture areas on the east and north sides of your house or in shaded areas.

To detect decay look for peeling paint—high moisture may be the cause. A wavy, rippled or depressed area in the wood also may be a sign of decayed wood. Check joints and gaps. These are perfect places for decay to start.

If you notice any of these problems probe the areas with a sharp awl. If the point of the awl sinks in more than an eighth of an inch, you’ll need to repair the area.

You have two repair options. One option is to replace the damaged wood with new wood. This eliminates the rot, but it can be expensive. Another option is to reconsolidate the damaged wood with special products. This is a cheaper option, but if not done properly, it will just mask the problem temporarily, while the deterioration continues.

I have had good success in repairing small sections of rot by using a modern two-part repair system. The first part is a wood hardener that impregnates and hardens the wood fibers. The second part is a filler that applies like putty, but dries hard. It can be cut, shaped, and sanded after it sets up.

The products I am most familiar with are from Minwax: Liquid Hardener and High Performance filler. But I know there are other brands that are probably just as good.

To prepare the area remove the loose pieces of punky wood with a chisel, but you don’t need to remove all of it because the consolidant will bond the bad and good wood together.

Drill a few small holes in the area to be repaired. If the wood is damp let it completely dry before applying the hardener. Pour the consolidant in the drilled holes. (A narrow tip plastic applicator bottle, like an empty mustard container or something similar will make this application easier.) Completely saturate the wood.

After the consolidant has set up—usually from one to three hours—apply the paste filler. The filler is a two-part epoxy like material. For anyone who has done auto body repairs will recognize the paste—it’s “bondo.” In fact, a friend of mine uses auto body filler. He says it’s cheaper than the stuff sold as wood repair filler.

A golf ball sized glob of filler needs about a one-quarter inch long squeeze of hardener. The filler will cure fast, so don’t mix too much at one time. Apply the filler with a putty knife and smooth out the surface. The filler will cure in a few moments. After it has hardened sand the repair and apply a primer and two top coats of paint.

A couple of cautions: These materials are intended for cosmetic, not structural repairs. As with all chemicals make sure you have adequate ventilation and protect your eyes with safety glasses and your skin with vinyl gloves.

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Meet the Merchants

Dundee Skating Rink in the Sunks

How does it get there and who does the “Zamoni”? Meeti Jim Saville, Dundee’s Stealth Volunteer

By Molly Romero, Marks Bistro

You are right, the skating rink is not a merchant – but we thought you might like to know the “back story.” Several years ago, in a Dundee Merchants Association meeting, someone reminisced about a neighborhood park that was converted to a skating rink every winter, and it was a large part of her fondest childhood memories. The Dundee Bank’s Jeff Royal got a gleam in his eye, and imagined the Sunks transformed into a skating place, and with help from another Dundee-ite who provided the funds, voila, the Dundee Skating Rink was born. This is the fourth year for the skating rink, and it seems to get better every year.

Anyone who has managed a skating rink knows that nature does not maintain that glass-smooth surface. Nor does nature blow all the snow off the ice. Who has been the dark-of-the-night Good Samaritan?

Please meet Jim Saville, a charming New Zealander who found his way to us through Canada, then Iowa, and then to Omaha about 16 years ago. Growing up in Christchurch, New Zealand, an island country with a very temperate climate, where there was no true winter, at least not by Omaha standards, Jim did all his skating on indoor rinks. When he saw the rink in the Sunks, Jim became what he calls a “drive-by worker,” stopping to shovel off the snow. Then he began to haul his snow blower down to the Sunks to do a better job of it. Then he began to bring water to the Sunks to freshen the ice’s surface. He said he now feels like he “owns” the place, at least he feels he has a steady job of taking care of the rink. His wife, Jennifer Yarns, describes her winter evenings spent being an “ice rink widow,” as Jim is often down in the Sunks dressing the ice at 10 in the evening.

Snow blowing the ice is one thing – but even that is physically demanding. Imagine, -10 degrees, well after dark, a little wind, loading up your snow blower into your truck, driving the few blocks to the Sunks, unloading your snow blower, carrying it down to the rink, lifting over the supports, and running it over the rink. But that is only half the job. Adding water on top is the true challenge. It would

seem simple if one could open the fire hydrant, but that is not currently an option. So, Jim uses five, 40-gallon water barrels that he loads onto his truck and fills with water, weighing about 1,400 to 1,500 pounds. Using his home water source and a normal hose, it takes some time to fill. Then he drives slowly and carefully to the Sunks, attaches a hose, and gravity pulls the water

down to the rink’s surface. “It would be great to be able to use hot water,” he said, because it would take less water to form a strong bond with the ice surface, but his water heater is way too small, so cold water it is, requiring ¼” to ½” to cover the surface, all transported by our friend, Jim. He is often there about 10:00 pm doing his work, doing it after dark so the sun won’t affect it, but also because he has a full-time job during the day. His ice work is just something he does because it needs to be done in order for everyone to enjoy the ice.

Jim tells stories about who he has met enjoying the rink. Once he was there and several young girls were practicing their figure skating, preparing to compete in the “Olympics” they planned for that afternoon. They asked Jim to be the “judge,” and he generously agreed, giving each one a point score after her performance. He describes these “ice ballerinas” as one reason he donates his time to make the ice as good as it can be, without a true Zamboni.

In asking him what he would like to have available to make his chosen duties more effective or a bit easier, he said, “It would be nice if we could put water on it every night – and a spigot near the hydrant would be ideal.” Another thing he would like to see is having ice skates available, especially for children. He said if people would donate skates that no longer fit, he would bring them down to the Sunks for children to use for a season, then redonate them back for the next season. Chris McClellan at Blue Line Coffee has agreed to accept used (or new) ice skates, and Jim will pick them up and see that they get to the rink for children (up to age 99) to use.

And what else does Jim do? In addition to his full-time job, he is a master carpenter, a true craftsman. His love for craft is evident not only in the way he cares for the rink, but also in his fine craftsmanship evident in his work with wood.

Dundee has many folks who give their time, energy and expertise to make our neighborhood the place we love, but Jim has been the stealth volunteer, doing his good deeds in the dark of night, with most people totally unaware of his contributions. The ice is magically cleared of snow, or the surface is magically dressed, and when that happens, we know Jim has been there. If anyone would like to collaborate in the stealth work at the rink, particularly to help find a more efficient way to get water to the rink on a nightly basis, please call Jim at 216-3227.



News from Dundee Elementary

The staff and administration at Dundee Elementary School invite parents of prospective Dundee kindergartners to kindergarten roundup on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

The event, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the school library, will be for parents only. Incoming kindergartners will be invited to visit their future classrooms at a later date.

Parents or guardians are asked to call the school office at 554-8424 so staff can get an idea of how many will attend. Participants should bring the child's birth certificate, immunization records and proof of address such as an MUD, OPPD or Cox Communications bill or rental or purchase agreement in order to begin the registration process.

Julie Anderson, Dundee PTA

Harrison Elementary

Harrison Elementary ended the fall semester with the winter program. 3.5 years after Harrison's renovation the school's enrollment has reached its pre-reconstruction level making the bleachers swell with students singing about winter, sledding, and snow days. Shawn Hall, Harrison's principal, introduced the program while Emily Anderson, the music teacher, led the students in their rousing seasonal choruses!

As parents and students have settled back into the "new" Harrison, parents and the PTA have become more active. Before school started in August, a parent first organized a "Welcome to Harrison" get together at Metcalfe Park for incoming Kindergarten parents and now a winter gathering for Harrison dads at a Dundee pub. The PTA has also been active with a Walk-a-Thon fundraiser, a Halloween Chili Cook-Off, and Poinsettia sales for the holidays. The proceeds will go to purchase a new portable sound system and to put a new surface down under the upper swing set.

Next semester Harrison will continue its full schedule. Our winter Bash, with "Around the World" as the theme, will be held on February 11, 2011. In addition, the PTA will be hosting a science fair later in the spring along with the Carnival and Talent Show. The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts will continue their meetings, and an after-school drama program is in the planning stages, as is a chess club. Please come and join us for any and all of these events!

Ellie Wolcott

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

Kids' Activities

Toddler Storytime - Wednesdays | 10:30 am

Lapsit Storytime - Fridays | 10:30 am

Enjoy a storytime filled with lots of fun, songs and crafts.

Read to Dogs - Thursdays | 6:30 pm

Come spend some time reading to dogs at the Library! Every child will have a 15-minute one-on-one reading session with one of the dogs. As this is a literacy program, the child needs to have basic reading skills. The Library will provide a selection of books from a range of reading levels, or you can just bring your favorite book to read! Registration is required.

Homework Hangout - Tuesdays, Jan. 11, 18 & 25 | 4:30 pm (Gr. K-12) Get basic homework help, use Tutor.com or type a paper on one of our Teen computers.

LEGO Club - Wednesdays, Jan. 12 & 26 | 4:30 pm (All Ages) Use your imagination to build anything you want with LEGOs. Snack provided.

Wii Fit Club - Saturday, Jan. 15 | 2 pm

(Gr. K-12) Have fun while working out! Try out yoga, do strength training, aerobics and even balance games.

Movie Day: "Pixar Shorts" - Wednesday, Jan. 19 | 4:30 pm Come to the Library and help us celebrate National Popcorn Day by watching a couple of short animated films while enjoying popcorn!

Movie Day: "Beauty & the Beast" - Saturday, Jan. 22 | 1 pm Watch the classic story of a beast who learns a lesson about true love and kindness. Popcorn will be provided.

Teen Activities

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Teen Book Club - Saturday, Jan. 22 | 2 pm

Read & discuss "Escaping the Giant Wave" by Peg Kehret or choose your own book. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) - Saturday, Jan. 22 | 3 pm Join TAB and see what it's all about! Enjoy snacks and refreshments while talking about issues, sharing your ideas and helping out at the Library.

Game Time: "Super Mario Brothers" - Saturday, Jan. 29 | 2-4 pm

See if you have what it takes to guide Mario, Luigi, or two versions of Toad through a variety of colorful worlds on another quest to rescue Princess Peach from the clutches of Bowser!

Adult Activities

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, Jan. 4 | 4:30 pm

Read and discuss "This House of Sky" by Ivan Doig.

Adult Game Time: "Scrabble" - Thursdays | 1 pm

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

HisMys Book Club - Saturday, Jan. 8 | 10:30 am

Read and discuss "Company of Liars" by Karen Maitland.

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, Jan. 8 | 1 pm

Movie Day

Movie Day for Adults: "Bourne Identity" - Friday, Jan. 14 | Noon Watch the movie "Bourne Identity" starring Matt Damon. Popcorn will be provided.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, Jan. 15 | 1 pm

TBA

Adult Computer Class: Email Basics - Friday, Jan. 21 | 10:30 am

(Limit 3) Create a personal web-based email account, compose an email, send and receive email, and attach photos and files.

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 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 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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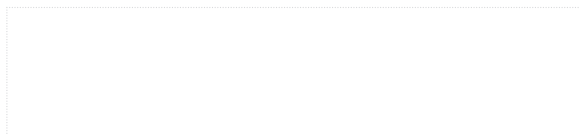
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