

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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President's Report

It is hard to believe that it is already 2012. It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating Y2K. As we head into the new year, your neighborhood association has a great deal to be proud of and even more to look forward to. The first association meeting of the new year will be on January 9th at 7:30 pm at Dundee Presbyterian Church. We are very fortunate to have both of the State Senators who represent our neighborhood in Legislature. Senator Burke Harr and Senator Gwen Howard will be present to speak as well as answer your questions about the upcoming legislative session. Please plan on attending and bring your neighbors and friends.

In recent weeks, there has been an increase in the number auto thefts and burglaries in the area. As I mentioned in previous newsletters, the Omaha Police have told me that the overwhelming number of auto thefts are the result of people warming their cars and leaving them running without being attended. According to the Police, these thefts are 100% preventable. Not only is it an invitation for someone to steal your car by leaving it running, it is also dangerous because a child could get inside and slip the car into gear.

One of the things that the American Planning Association recognized in our neighborhood when they named us one of the 10 Best Neighborhoods in America was the great variety of historic architecture in our homes and buildings. We are truly fortunate to have property owners who recognize how important it is to preserve this architectural heritage. That is why our neighborhood worked so hard to get designated as a National Historic District. We are very fortunate to have property owners who have gone the extra mile to restore our historic structures like the Piano Building, the Dundee Bank Building, the old Baum Drug Building and the old Wohlner's Building. It helps to know what a great benefit these properties are to our neighborhood when I see the wonderful restoration of the Wohlner's Building but then I look directly across the Leavenworth Street to see a big blue gas station more fitting for an interstate exit than our neighborhood. This is a stark reminder that it is an on-going process to preserve and restore our neighborhood's architectural heritage.

Once again, Dundee-Memorial Park will be participating in the Re-Tree Midtown project of the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance. In previous years, trees have been planted along 52nd Street from Underwood Ave. to Davenport Street and along 50th Street from Cass Street to Leavenworth Street through Re-Tree Midtown. This project

DMPA Meeting

**This Month's Meeting
January 9th**

**Speakers: Gwen Howard
and Burke Harr**

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

Bring your questions and
a friend or two.

No DMPA Meeting in December

**Next meeting
February 13th**



Continued on page 4.

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DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

Meeting
January 9th
Gwen Howard
and Burke Harr

February 13th
Mayor Jim Suttle

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Questions call 551-5246 or email: elimci@cox.net

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

provides new shade trees to be professionally planted by Indian Creek Nursery along the public right of way at no cost to the homeowner. All that is asked of the homeowner is to water and maintain the tree. This year, our project will be along 50th Avenue and 51st Street between Dodge Street and Howard Street. If you live along these streets and your property has been approved by the City, you will be receiving information about the project. As many of you know, our neighborhood has lost many mature shade trees to storms and disease. One of the things that makes our neighborhood so unique is our tree-lined streets. This project offers us a great opportunity to restore our trees. We have received a \$6,000 grant from the Trees for Nebraska Towns program run through the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. Other funds will come from the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance.

Planning has already begun for next spring's flower baskets. Jen Goodman is in charge of organizing the planting of the baskets. It is always amazing how over 450 baskets get planted over two days. Please consider donating some time in March to come join your neighbors and friends at Indian Creek Nursery to plant the baskets. It is a lot of fun and you get to learn how a screwdriver can be a planting tool. Please see the article in this newsletter for more information. We also need to get the flower basket collections from the block captains in to Peter Manhart as soon as possible.

Mark your calendars for our February 13th association meeting. Mayor Jim Suttle is scheduled to speak and address your concerns. This will be an excellent opportunity to come express your views, concerns or compliments about City services. We have also invited our two City Councilmen to join the Mayor.

I hope to see you on January 9th.

Dave Schinzel

Recycling

As you can imagine all of the holidays that come this time of year can cause a lot more recyclables. If your bin is full and you need extra space just once in a while, use a paper bag or small box to hold your extra recyclables and place it next to your recycling bin. If extra recyclables is a regular occurrence for you, maybe you should get an extra bin. There is no charge for an extra recycling bin but you do have to go pick it up yourself. Visit <http://www.omaharecycles.com> to find a location near you.

Now is a good time to remind yourself of all the things you can recycle. Wrapping paper, cards, aerosol cans, paper egg cartons, boxes, plastic bottles, newspapers, juice boxes, milk jugs, detergent bottles, soup boxes, soda bottles, tin cans. Visit <http://www.omaharecycles.com> to review the materials.

If you celebrate with a real Christmas tree, remember that it will need to be taken to a collection location once you take it down. All the Christmas trees will be turned into mulch. To find a collection location near you visit <http://trees.wasteline.org>.

Note: Christmas trees will not be collected as a part of your Omaha garbage collection.

Please remove: Nails Wires Ornaments Tree stand
Plastic bags (please take bags home and dispose with garbage) Lights
Wreathes and evergreen roping **will not** be accepted.
Flocked trees are ok.

Thank you for making Christmas Tree recycling part of your holiday tradition.

Share the Christmas spirit and ask a neighbor if you can help them get their tree to a recycling site.

All sites close on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. Please do not deliver trees after this date. Doing so is illegal dumping, punishable by \$500 fine, loss of drivers license for 6 months and all clean up/removal costs.

Please throw your tree up on the pile. This will leave room for others to access the site.

Assistance from volunteers is available only on the days listed. Sites close on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. Volunteers from the Rotary Clubs of Omaha, and the Douglas/Sarpy Master Gardeners will staff the busy sites and help you unload your tree on January 7 and 8, 2012, from 10AM until 4PM each day.

DMPA Online

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 14, 2011

Contact: Dave Schinzel
(402) 708-0792

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Announces Tree Planting Grant

The Dundee-Memorial Park Association is pleased to announce a tree planting program for 2012. Funding for this series of plantings is funded through the Re-Tree Midtown project of the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance. A \$6,000 grant from the Trees for Nebraska Towns program will cover a significant part of this 2012 project. This program is administered by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance has been a leader in planting new shade trees along the streets of Midtown Omaha since the June windstorm of 2007 that destroyed thousands of mature trees. In previous years, Re-Tree Midtown has funded tree plantings on North 52nd Street and on 50th Street in the Dundee-Memorial Park neighborhood. The new project being funded by the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance and Trees for Nebraska Towns will be on South 50th Avenue and South 51st Street between Dodge Street and Howard Street. In all, 33 new shade trees will be planted on the public right of way along these streets.

"We are very grateful to the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance for their generous support of this project. Dundee-Memorial Park, like many other Midtown neighborhoods, has seen a large number of shade trees destroyed in windstorms as well as trees reaching the end of their lifespans. In particular, the Silver Maples that were planted 50 years ago are becoming hazards and are in need of removal. We now have an opportunity to replace these trees with a wide variety of new shade trees that will better protect our neighborhood from diseases like the one that wiped out the Elms. This project will help us provide the great environment that people have come to expect in Dundee", said Dave Schinzel, President of the Dundee-Memorial Park Association.



Make a
New Year's Resolution

to be more involved in your neighborhood....
join DMPA today
and volunteer!



It's time for some "equal time". In past columns we've discussed repair and restoration options for brick exteriors. But what about all the fine homes in old Omaha

neighborhoods with wood exteriors? To my eye cedar shingling is one of the most handsome and distinctive exterior covering choices. There are many fine examples of shingle-style homes in Omaha.

A while back a Dundee neighbor, who lives on South 52nd Street, posed these questions via e-mail about his shingle-sided home.

Could you do an article on siding? My house is red cedar shingle and needs to be replaced because some fool painted it (or should I say coated it) with lead paint. I am searching for solutions such as clapboard, shingling, etc. Then my next step is to find a contractor. Any suggestions?

How unfortunate that a previous owner painted the cedar shingles. Paint is poor choice for shingle siding.

To the best of my knowledge there is no good way to remove the paint. Chemical stripping is probably out of the question because of the cost, the size of the job and the health hazards involved. Sandblasting would gouge and pit the soft cedar siding. And it is probably cheaper to replace the siding than to strip it anyway.

I've had a little experience in shingle siding. I replaced some rather pathetic looking drop siding on a small addition to the back of my house. The dormers on our house have clay tile shingles--yes clay tile--which is somewhat unusual, but looks very nice. So to try to tie the addition into the look of the house as best I could, I used cedar shingles which looks a lot more appealing. The drop siding did not match any part of the house and even worse it was painted white against a medium brown brick house. (Can you say—"Sticks out like a sore thumb"?)

I was able to shingle the addition myself; the work wasn't at all bad. (But I do understand a whole house is another matter.) What helped me was a very good article in "Fine Homebuilding" magazine (Volume 102 April/May 1996 pp. 55-56.) The Omaha Public Library (downtown branch) subscribes to the magazine.

Even if you're going to use a contractor, reading up a little will be helpful, because there are some tricks to a good shingle job—

- "Weaving" the corners to make them watertight (as opposed using clunky looking metal caps or corner boards),

- Using stainless steel nails on the exposed corners because galvanized nails exposed to the

weather on cedar will streak and stain the shingles. (By the way I had to order the nails from Chicago, because locally no one stocks them.)

- Using a chalk line or board tacked temporarily to the wall to keep the courses straight.

After installing the shingles I stained the shingles to closely match the color of the brick. I took a sample of my brick to Sherwin-Williams and they matched it quite nicely. Staining is the preferred choice because it will allow moisture to escape whereas paint will trap the moisture and either causes the paint to peel or the shingles to rot. Also it isn't an awful chore to reapply the stain when it will be needed again in a few years.

Since I did my own work I don't have a contractor to recommend to you. However, shingling a house is not complex work and I wouldn't wonder if a roofing contractor skilled in shingle roofs couldn't also side a house in shingles. If not, they would probably know whom to contact.

Finally, if you have a house that was originally shingled I would encourage you to re-shingle rather than use drop siding or some other substitute. Re-shingling will most likely be more expensive. Clapboard is faster and easier to install but what you're giving up is a unique and distinctive American home style.

Next month, we'll look at drop siding options and the pros and cons of replacing wood siding with vinyl or aluminum.

Connections

For an online archive of previous articles go to: <http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org/>

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Volunteers Needed for Flower Basket Planting

The Dundee neighborhood is known for our beautiful flower baskets. Help us grow the tradition by volunteering to plant them this March. The dates for planting are Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10, 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.

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.



Chuck Haller fastens chains to the flower baskets to hang on the lamp posts throughout Dundee.



Volunteers start the day eager to make a difference in Dundee.



Martin Richards helps with flower baskets and watering in Dundee each year.

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A.V. Sorensen Library & Recreation Center

48th & Cass Streets

Library Info: 444-5274 www.omahapubliclibrary.org

Tues & Thurs 10 am - 8 pm Wed, Fri, Sat 10 am - 6 pm

Closed Sunday & Monday

Recreation Center info: 444-5596 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

Kids' Activities

Sculpting for Kids - Tuesdays | 4:30 pm

Sculpt your own multicolor creation out of Sculpey clay. Fun for kids of all ages!

Storytime - Wednesdays | 10:30 am

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

Lego Club - Wednesdays, January 4 & 18 | 4:30 pm

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

Baby & Me Storytime - Fridays | 10:30 am

Mother Goose on the Loose. Parents, babies and toddlers will enjoy this nursery rhyme program that incorporates rhyming games, puppets, songs and musical instruments.

Fit Club - Saturday, January 7 | 2 pm

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

Homework Hangout - Tuesdays, January 10, 17, 24 & 31 | 4:30 pm Get basic homework help, use Tutor.com or type a paper on one of our teen computers. Grades K-12.

Card Game Time - Saturday, January 14 | 1-3 pm

Have fun at the Library with your friends while playing card games like UNO, One 2 Ten, Worst Case Scenario and many more!

Game Time - Saturday, January 28 | 2-4 pm

Have fun at the Library with your friends by playing on of the Library's Wii or Xbox 360 Kinect games!

Teen Activities

Lego Club - Wednesdays, January 4 & 18 | 4:30 pm

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

Fit Club - Saturday, January 7 | 2 pm

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

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Have fun at the Library with your friends while playing card games like UNO, One 2 Ten, Worst Case Scenario and many more!

Teen Book Club - Saturday, January 21 | 2 pm

Read and discuss "Chasing Lincoln's Killer" by James L. Swanson! Refreshments provided.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) - Saturday, January 21 | 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 - Saturday, January 28 | 2-4 pm

Have fun at the Library with your friends by playing on of the Library's Wii or Xbox 360 Kinect games!

Adult Activities

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, January 3 | 4:30 pm

Read and discuss "Bel Canto" by Ann Patchett.

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, January 7 | 1 pm

Read and discuss "The Echo Maker" by Richard Powers. After the discussion, watch the movie "Julie & Julia."

Movie Day for Adults: "Casablanca" - Tuesday, January 10 | Noon

Watch a classic black and white movie about an exiled American and former freedom fighter who falls in love again with a woman who once ran him out of Paris.

Computer Basics - Friday, January 13 | 10:30 am

Learn about the keyboard, mouse, monitor, printer; how to open and close a program; and use menus & toolbars. Limit 3.

HisMys Book Club - Saturday, January 14 | 10:30 am

Read and discuss "Dissolution" by C.J. Sansom.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, January 21 | 1 pm

Read and discuss "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio" by Terry Ryan.

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Dundee-Memorial Park Association Membership Form

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Multiple year membership discounts : Family 2 year - \$20, Senior 2 year -\$10, Business 2 yr \$30

Yes, you may list my name in the newsletter as a ____new member ____ renewal.

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

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