

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



**No DMPA
Meetings
Until September**

Have a Great Summer

**Dundee Day
August 23rd....**

**Underwood Ave- 50-51st
Stay Tuned for all
the details.**

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Inside Back Page**

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"

www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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Vol. 18, No 6, June 2008

President's Message

June is renewal month for the Association as the current president steps aside and welcomes the incoming board president. I look forward to communicating with you in this space each month for the coming year. My first comment then is to offer heartfelt thanks to Marty Myers, our outgoing president. Marty is a longtime Dundee resident and Association Board member who has provided thoughtful, diligent and constructive leadership for the past year and, without doubt, will continue to lend her great efforts to the neighborhood in such areas as home tours and Elmwood Park upkeep, to name but two.

The leadership change completes the renewal of the previous two months with April's clean-up day and May's garage sales. Other Association and neighborhood activities continue unabated. As this is being written, the Dundee Merchants' Association is completing plans for Spring Fling, to be held on May 17, and our lovely flower baskets (what better symbol of renewal could we have) are being hung. And that brings me to the annual call, plea, ask, reminder. The baskets require watering as soon as they are hung and the need continues throughout the spring, summer and early fall. Some of you may have observed Friz Miller and his water tanks moving right behind the trucks, trailers and hanging crews but he can't do it all and every day. Call Dan Rock, 558-4913, to schedule your watering times. FLASH, FLASH!!! New this year, both trucks will have room for kids (yes, old blue is being replaced) so a baby-sitter is not required to water. Kids ride free! So give Dan a call and set up a watering time...and receive thanks from your neighbors, in person, as you make your rounds. What an enjoyable and terrific way to see the neighborhood. And who knows, you might get some ideas about things you can do to beautify your own yard and home.

And don't forget the other on-going DMPA summer project, the Elmwood Park clean-up and maintenance project. Two dates remain, June 14 and 28. Grab your favorite pruners and gloves (trash bags to be furnished) and join your neighbors in the Grotto parking lot at 9 AM.

Finally, mark your calendars for August 23 for this year's Dundee Days! Do plan to attend...and help in some way where you are able, perhaps by manning the Association's booth for an hour. There will be displays, a pancake feed, special merchandise, a parade, restaurant specials, music, games and activities for the kids, and loads of refreshments. Reserve the date now and watch for further announcements and posters.

One other reminder, for those of you hosting block parties, barricades are available to close your street. Contact BJ Reed at 556-5509 and he will be happy to help you.

I hope you enjoyed Scott Farrington of Indian Creek Nursery at the May DMPA meeting, our last meeting, by the way, until September. More information about the September and later fall meetings will be available in future newsletters. I look forward to meeting some of you and seeing all of you in September.

Bob Welk

Dundee -Memorial Park Association Board of Directors

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DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

No meetings
June - August
See you in September!

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Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Report

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance met on May 21st at the Field Club. The 3rd annual MNA Independence Day Fireworks Show will be held on Sunday, July 6th. The fireworks will be launched from the Field Club so they can be seen from many locations in Midtown. They are scheduled to start on 9:50 pm.

The MNA grant proposal with the Mayor's Office to provide graffiti removal materials to neighborhoods was not funded by the City. There was discussion with representatives of the Omaha Police Department about dealing with the growing graffiti problem. Dundee has not been immune from this problem in recent weeks. If your property is hit by graffiti, report it immediately to the City at 444-5555 or <http://www.ci.omaha.ne.us/departments/mayor/Hotline/graffiti.asp>. The most effective way to combat graffiti is to remove it immediately. Waiting for the City to come remove it could take weeks or months. If the graffiti is left for long periods of time, it will only encourage more graffiti.

The board discussed the goals set out at the March annual meeting. The areas of focus for these goals are historic preservation, crime/liquor licenses, code enforcement and business development. There was also a presentation by the Nebraska State Recycling Association about their new effort to encourage more recycling.

Dave Schinzel

Friends of the Omaha Public Library Book Sale

Friday, June 13 th 10 AM to 8 PM

Saturday June 14th 10AM -5:30PM

Members of FOPL may attend the preview sale

Thursday, June 12th 6 PM to 8:30 PM

Swanson Branch Library, 90th & West Dodge

Memberships available at the sale, starting \$15.

Mini-Book Sales during regular library hours:

Check out the Book Cart at Sorensen, Florence, Willa Cather and Washington branches and "Honors Sales", lower level at Swanson Branch.

Adopt-Elmwood-Park/Stream

Meeting dates

June 14 and 28.

Join the group that meets to maintain and preserve Elmwood Park grotto and stream at 9:00 in the grotto parking lot. Bring your favorite pruners and gloves.

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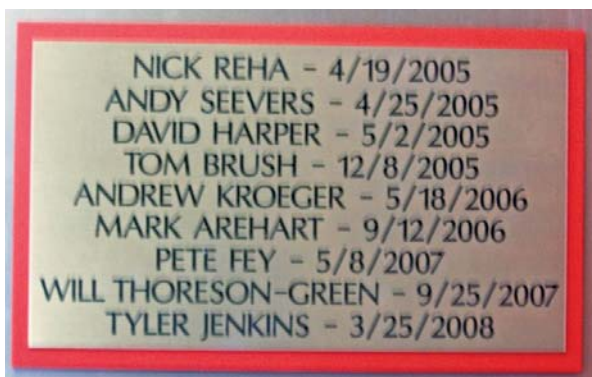
3 Eagle Scouts Awarded

May 18, 2008 -- Dundee Bank added the names of three area scouts to the bank's permanent plaque who achieved the honor of Eagle Scout in 2007 - 08.

The new Eagle Scouts are Pete Fey, Will Thoreson-Green and Tyler Jenkins. Fey and Jenkins attend Central High School. Thoreson-Green is a '08 graduate of Westside High School.

The Eagle Scout award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts nationally earn the honor. This represents more than 1.7 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. The Dundee Bank plaque recognizes Dundee area Eagle Scouts since 1917.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, the highest advancement rank in Scouting, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. Although many options are available to demonstrate proficiency in these areas, a number of specific skills are required to advance through the ranks—Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. To advance, a Boy Scout must pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges.



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DMPA Garage Sale Update

2008, proved to be a successful garage sale weekend. We had about 53 participants & several neighbors do last minute garage sales. We hope everyone was able to clear out lots of unwanted treasures and make some moola! The weather turned out to be beautiful. We're sure that added to some extra traffic in the neighborhood.

New this year, are the corrugated signs that we can use over & over each year. The color seemed to attract attention & they are generic enough to be used any weekend. Next year we'll be able to get them out even earlier & allow for even more traffic. We tried to put up banners over the bridge, but alas the city removed them. We were very lucky in getting them returned so that we are able to use them somewhere in Dundee next year. We're still waiting on a few signs to be returned (hint hint). Overall, most have been returned.

Remember if you have any left over items not sold to donate them. No sense in cluttering your home, let someone else benefit. VFW, Goodwill, Stephens House, American Lung Association, Humane Society and so many more great organizations can use your unwanted household items and clothing.

Thank you again to all who participated. If you have any suggestions or comments please feel free to email us @ Raquel.ahlvers@cbshome.com, ellenzinn@hotmail.com or Gene at tarpcloth@vineyard-painters.com.

Looking forward to next year's sale!
Raquel, Ellen & Gene



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We left off last month's column in the middle of answering a series of questions about refinishing old house woodwork. These questions were posed by Mary who lives in the Joslyn Castle neighborhood. Here are Mary's questions that still need to be answered:

I'm certain that our woodwork has the original vanish on it. I would like to refinish the wood, but am afraid of doing the wrong thing. Do you have any suggestions? What type of stain would you suggest? Also, I would like to refinish our front door. The door appears to have a very thin coating of varnish on it, so I don't think it would be difficult to remove.

As far as selecting a stain, I like the oil-based penetrating stains and in particular Minwax wood stains for their consistent performance and color choices. Speaking of color, if you cannot get exactly shade you want for your woodwork, mix together a couple of colors (of the same type and brand, of course) to get the shade you want. On our oak woodwork, for example, I used 3 parts of Minwax Golden Oak to 1 part of Dark Walnut.

For a top coat I like tung oil varnish. You can brush it on or wipe it on with a clean lint-free rag. I like this finish because the final surface has a moderate amount of sheen but not the "plastic" look of high gloss finishes like polyurethane. Another plus for tung oil varnish is that it can be easily touched up. If an area needs repair--say it's scratched or dull--all you have to do is clean the area to be refinished with a little soapy water, hit the area with a few passes of a fine grade (00 or 000) steel wool and wipe on some fresh tung oil. You can revitalize several feet of woodwork in less than a half an hour. (Our antique oak claw foot kitchen table is finished with tung oil varnish. Every year or year and a half, I give it a quick refresh coat of tung oil varnish and it looks great.)

Do-it-yourselfers sometimes think polyurethane is the best finish because it is a very hard surface--which is true. Poly is best for surfaces you walk on. But whether on a floor, woodwork or furniture, if poly has to be touched up, you first have to sand thoroughly. Poly is so hard that if you don't sand first, the new coat won't stick; it will peel up.

Now for the front door, I have a different prescription. Exterior doors take a real beating from the elements especially the sun, so you have to resign yourself to the idea that no finish is going to last for long. The best defense here is to use a protective finish that's easy to refresh. But before the new finish goes on, the old will have to come off. The chemical stripper you used for the woodwork will do the job, here as well. The job is a whole lot easier if you remove the door hinge pins, take

off the door, and lay it across a couple of sawhorses on your driveway.

To replace the finish, I like a penetrating oil like Watco Danish Oil, because it has pretty good resistance to the UV rays in sunlight, the finish penetrates into the wood surface a little bit rather than just laying on top of the wood and it is easy to refurbish the finish when the sun finally beats it down. You just generously wet the surface with a rag dipped in the Danish Oil (this is why laying out the door horizontally is a good idea), let it soak in for a few minutes and then wipe off the excess. Wait an hour or two and apply a second coat and then a third coat after another hour or two.

When the finish starts to look weather-worn, just lightly steel wool the wood and apply a refresher coat or two of the Danish Oil. Watco Danish Oil comes in several wood colors from natural to dark walnut. The door in my current house is painted, but I successfully used this oil finish on the front door of my previous home.

One note of caution if you are applying tung oil varnish or Danish Oil with a rag: Don't wad up the wet rags and throw them in the trash. As these finishes dry they generate heat and maybe enough heat to spontaneously combust. Spread out the rags on a non-flammable surface until they have dried and then throw them away.

So what are the downsides to Danish Oil? The final finish will be at most a satin finish. So if you want a gloss or high gloss look, this isn't the finish for you. Also, Danish Oil is not recommended for exterior use, so all of this supposes that you have a storm door and the wood door isn't directly exposed to the elements. If either of these conditions applies to your situation you'll have to look at a varnish option. What is the best varnish? Well, here the experts are divided. Some say urethane is the best choice others will tell you spar (marine) varnish is the best. But, bear in mind that no matter which one you choose two to three years is probably the maximum time you'll get before you are stripping and refinishing the door again. That, I am sorry to say, is like taxes and plumbing, it's just one of the costs of home ownership.

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 68127

e-mail: dbrowsers@cox.net

For an online archive of previous articles go to:
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Doc on the Block

Advance Directives

Advance directives are legal documents which state your desires for medical care when you are unable to express them yourself due to a medical illness. They are called “advance” directives because they are prepared in advance of such a condition. Nebraska recognizes two types of advance directives: the living will; and the durable power of attorney for health care.

A living will declares whether or not you want life-sustaining treatments when you are terminally ill or in a persistent vegetative state (permanent coma). A living will is not the same as a code/no code order which only specifies whether or not you would like emergency resuscitation if your heart or lungs fail. A living will is only applicable in the setting of terminal illness or persistent vegetative state.

A durable power of attorney for health care (DPAHC) allows you to appoint another person (attorney-in-fact) to make all medical decisions for you should you become temporarily or permanently unable to make those decisions yourself. The person that you designate does not have to be an attorney. This DPAHC allows the appointed person to respond to any medical situation—including terminal illness, persistent vegetative state, routine medical care, or any other unanticipated medical condition. The designated person should have a good sense of your wishes,

values, and religious beliefs in order to make decisions that reflect your desires. This person is usually a spouse, family member, or close friend.

Advance directives are not required by law. However, advance directives will reassure your physicians, family, and friends that they are respecting your wishes. These documents do not require the help of a lawyer, although you may feel more comfortable discussing and completing the forms with a lawyer. Advance directives do not go into effect until you are unable to make your own health care decisions, and this determination will be made by your physician. Until that time, you are the person that your physician will consult, not the advance directives. You do not lose any authority to make your health care decisions by appointing an attorney-in-fact. You may cancel or change your advance directives at any time.

Please discuss your beliefs and wishes regarding your medical care with your family, close friends, and physician. Consider preparing advanced directives for your future care.

References: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/ags/advdir.htm> and <http://www.alegent.com>

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

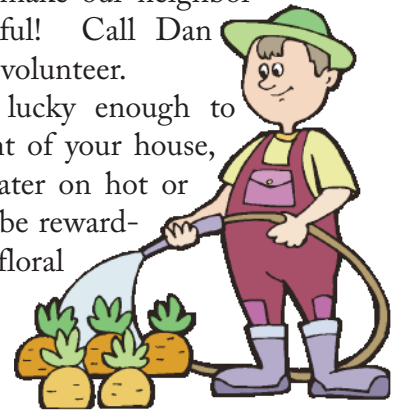
WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

The flower baskets are hung on our light poles, Dan Rock will be needing volunteers to do watering.

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Voices From the Village

Village Voices is a taped interview by Ward Peters with neighbors within the DMPA community transcribed by Bonnie Price. Prospect Hill Cemetery Boardmember Mari Nittler is this month's Village Voice.

I was seven years old in 1948 when I moved into my house that was built in 1923. I lived here until I got married in 1965 and then lived in an apartment at 46th and California until February of 1968. Then my parents gave us my childhood home to own and I've lived here ever since. Can you believe in 1968 my house was worth \$30,000?

This house is so much a part of me. I'll never move...I would be displaced. I love the neighborhood. I love the diversity of people. Our houses are unique. Different builders built them. Oh, sure, older houses have their aches and pains but I don't think you could find a lot of other neighborhoods that were built as well as these houses. I have seen a lot of people come and go over the years and it's sad sometimes because I made a lot of good friends. Living here for so many years has allowed me to see young people move in and take pride in improving their older home. I'm the oldest on the block, but I don't mind because I've been able to see all the positive changes over the years.

My great grandfather came to Omaha around 1858. His name was Byron Reed. He sent my great grandmother to Brownell for finishing school. My grandmother, my mother, myself and my daughter and son went there too. When I was ten or eleven I used to play with the little boys down the street and we'd go down to the creek, by Brownell. There was a log across the creek and, of course, the boys would just run across it and I would straddle across it. Then the boys would go in the tunnel underneath Dodge Street. That just scared me to death—I never did that. I would wait for them to come back.

I remember when I was 12 I was finally allowed to do something alone. I would walk to the streetcar turnaround which was located near Brownell and take it downtown to go to the Athletic Club to swim. Sometimes a friend and I would take the streetcar downtown, see a movie, go to Bishops and return to Underwood Avenue....oh! that was fun!

When we moved here when I was seven, George's Lake was a place I was never supposed to go down to because my mother said bums fished down there. Well, of course, I did. I discovered the secret sidewalk, you know, the one that goes through the middle of the blocks from North 57th Avenue down to JE George. I thought that was so cool. There was an old abandoned trolley in the

ravine near Western Avenue. The bums were supposed to sleep in there and fish from a huge cement block at the end of the lake on Underwood. It was a fascinating world to me.

Sometime in the 50's they filled in George's Lake and I recall within time there was a serious rat problem in the Memorial Park neighborhood. There was a noise in the kitchen and the cook screamed when a rat jumped out of our garbage and it went down the cold air return. I was terrified at night that these rats were going to come upstairs. We put flour down all over the basement floor and when we came back all the tracks came from the basement drain. We had it sealed up and that ended our rat problem.

I remember in 1969 I was pushing my son in a stroller going south on north 56th Street and I see all these people and policemen standing there near the entrance to Memorial Park. All of a sudden people started running like it was a stampede. It was like somebody opened a box and everybody came out. It was all on the news that evening.

Not everybody probably would like to live in older homes in a hundred year old neighborhood. People ask me why I live in such a big old house. I live in every room. I take turns. I go down to the basement and watch a movie. During the day I'll spend time in the solarium or the kitchen. Or I'll be upstairs in the computer room. Almost every day I'm up in the attic. When I go to the doctor's office they ask me what I do to stay in shape. Well, I run up and down the stairs. I don't walk because I figure it's my exercise. So I've got my own exercise house.



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