

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



DMPA Meeting March 9th

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

Topic: Candidate Forum
Mayoral and City Council
candidates will answer ques-
tions.

(see page 4 for details.)

And much more!

Bring a friend or two.



Garage Sale Weekend

May 15, 16 & 17th
for more info look inside
or go to

www.dundee-memorialpark.org
to register!

Spring Fling in

Dundee

May 16th

Information inside

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"

www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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Vol. 19, No 3, March 2009

President's Message

This is March, the month where it sometimes feels like its Spring but often feels like it is still Winter. But February felt like that...one day I washed windows...outside...a couple of days later it snowed...eight inches. I'm confused...so let me remind you that some of us are pushing the envelope and meeting at Indian Creek Nursery to plant our well known flower baskets on March 13 and 14. The lunches will be terrific, with Mark's and Dario's serving up delicious treats. There is still time to get in on the fun...call Millie Miller, 558-6023...she still may have room on her lists for a few volunteers...and Dan Rock is already making plans for his crews to hang baskets and begin watering in early May.

Another sign of spring is the early planning that is going on for "Spring Fling", the Association's "Garage Sale Weekend" and "Dumpster Day". "Spring Fling", the Dundee Merchants Association's annual street fair, will be held this year on May 16. The Merchants' goal is to "make it fun for families". An amateur (back yard grills, not big rigs) barbecue competition and rides for kids are already on the agenda with much more in the planning stage. That same weekend, May 15, 16, 17, will be the occasion for "Garage Sale Weekend", a time when treasurer hunters from throughout the city are invited to Dundee/Memorial Park to take your unneeded treasures back to their neighborhoods. We do not have the date for the third event, fondly known in these parts as "Dumpster Day", but we will let you know as soon as the city makes up the schedule. We are trying to secure a date in early June...we shall see. You will be hearing more from Raquel Ahlvers, Ellen Zinn and Gene Ray about the garage sale plans and Heike and Adam Langdon will keep you informed about spring clean up. But begin making you piles now for items to be sold, re-cycled or tossed.

The Association meeting on February 9 offered information that was both interesting and useful. Garry Ruliffson, an Energy Solutions Specialist with OPPD, presented an informative slide show and discussion concerning ways to conserve energy, and therefore money, while heating and cooling older homes. He demonstrated numerous means and materials with which to accomplish energy savings. We also were among the first to meet Captain Keith Harris, the newly installed Precinct Captain for the Northwest Precinct, who had been on duty for a full week at that point. Captain Harris summarized recent violent crimes that have affected the neighborhood and then went on to warn neighbors about more recent situations. People have been circulating through the neighborhood, ostensibly to sell magazines or some other item, but occasionally, when not finding anyone at home, going to a less visible door and breaking in. Captain Harris'

Continued on page 4.

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DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

March 9th

April 13th

May 11th

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Revised list, members current 2/09 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

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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



howdee

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

message, do not open the door if you do not recognize the person and instead, call 911. As I was writing this President's message someone rang our doorbell. We did not answer since we did not recognize the person and figured he would just leave, or, if he attempted to enter, we could contact the police. Momentarily, two squad cars arrived and two officers questioned the man and a second person who was calling at another home. I learned later that five people had called the police within twenty minutes and the officers had staked out the area. Eventually, upon not being able to show a city permit to solicit in the area, and having been checked out via police radio, the two individuals were told to leave the area and to stop ringing doorbells.

Why do I describe this situation in such detail? Several news stories were concurrently being presented due to the approaching anniversary of the slayings at the Hunter home on North 54th Street. Reporters asked me to describe what people in the neighborhood were thinking. I told them I didn't know...how could I know...but I told them I could talk about what I was thinking. I said we are all concerned for our safety because we, like the Hunters, do not know why this event had happened. What had caused someone, on that quiet, early spring afternoon, in one of the safest and most friendly neighborhoods in Omaha, to slay two individuals, for no apparent reason. I also said that many of us, due to this event, had learned to not tolerate strangers ringing our door bells or moving in a suspicious or mysterious fashion through the neighborhood. I went on to say that I and my neighbors enjoy our neighborhood and, like the Hunters, do not wish to move. We will not be intimidated nor frightened away. We will do what is necessary to maintain the friendliness, beauty, comfort and safety of the place we call home. We will move on from this event, with troubled souls and renewed care for our friends and neighbors, to continue to be involved in activities and events that make this neighborhood one of Omaha's finest.

CALENDAR ALERT!!! The agreement with the sculptor has been signed and construction is underway. The sculpture, entitled "Ascension", to be installed this spring in the central planter in the Rose Garden in Memorial Park is to be dedicated on June 6 at 10 am. You may recall that DMPA received money from an anonymous donor some years ago to shepherd the installation of a centerpiece for the Rose Garden, as a gift to the city. This piece is the result of our search.

The next Association meeting will be held on March 9 in the usual location, the dining room at Dundee Presbyterian Church. The social time (coffee, punch and cookies) begins at 7:00 pm with the formal meeting beginning at 7:30. The program this month is a Candidate Forum, in preparation for the primary election for Mayor and City

Council seats which will be held on April 7. Often, before previous elections, we have had candidates deliver brief speeches outlining the salient points of their positions. We expect a large number of candidates this year and so we are trying a new format. Instead of brief, individual statements, we will have the candidates sit as a panel, to address questions developed and selected by a moderator, Board member Anne Camp. We intend to keep the discussion focused on topics of most concern to the neighborhood. You will have an opportunity at the meeting to write your questions on cards which Anne will then have available to address to the candidates. Or, if you wish, you may e-mail your questions to me in advance. As of this writing, I have received positive responses to invitations to the event from ten candidates; three for Mayor, two for Council District 1 and five for District 3. Portions of Districts 1 and 3 are included in the Dundee/Memorial Park neighborhood. I expect this to be an exciting and well attended meeting. You'll come.

Bob Welk



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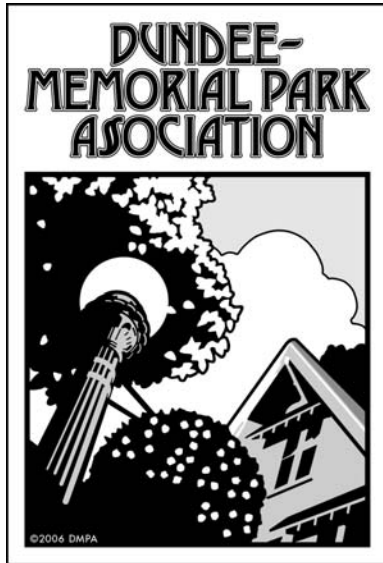
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May 15th, 16th, 17th



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Deadline: Monday, May 4th

SIGN UP ONLINE:

www.dundee-memorialpark.org


Feel free to contact either;



Raquel Ahlvers
Raquel.ahlvers@cbshome.com
#301-7653

Gene Ray
tarpcloth@vineyardpainters.com
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Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Report

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance met on February 18th at the Neighborhood Center. The 2009 MNA Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18th at 6:30 pm at the Field Club of Omaha (36th & Woolworth Ave). This event is open to all residents and will be an opportunity to see what is happening in all of the neighborhoods that make up the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance. A new President and Secretary will be elected in March for two year terms. Jim Farho (Blackstone) will be stepping down as President and Cynthia Schuck (Gifford Park) will be leaving as Secretary.

The budget for 2009 was approved and the books have been submitted for the annual audit by an independent CPA. The results should be presented at the March meeting. The Re-Tree Midtown Committee has submitted a grant application to the Kiewit Foundation for \$10,000 and additional grant applications will be completed in the coming weeks for additional funds for this project to replace trees in Midtown. Four pilot projects, including 52nd Street (Cass to Underwood) in Dundee, have been submitted as part of the Kiewit grant. If the grant is approved, the goal is to have trees in the ground this fall.

More projects will be completed as funds become available. Please let me know if you have a block that would be interested in participating in future plantings. All trees must be planted on the right of way.

Finally, the MNA board voted unanimously to support LB 605 which was introduced by Senator Gwen Howard. This bill would give neighborhoods a bigger voice on liquor license applications and address some problems with the licensing process. MNA will be testifying in favor of the bill at the public hearing in the Legislature.

Dave Schinzel
DMPA Rep. to
Midtown Neighborhood Alliance

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Patrick J. Specht, MD
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Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - noon

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“Der spring is sprung
Der grass is riz
I wonder where dem boidies is?”

Those lines of an anonymously written poem have been stuck in my head since I first read them in junior high. They come back to me every year as a kind of salute to spring. And now that spring has sprung, it's not only the time to start cutting the grass that has “riz” but also to inspect the exterior of your old house.

One of your tasks should be to check for mildew on the painted parts of your house. The eaves on my detached garage are particularly prone to mildew growth because the garage is located where there isn't much air movement on two sides.

Mildew is a fungal growth that shows up as big black and/or purple stains. If you're not sure whether the stains are mildew or dirt, spray some household bleach (like Clorox) on the stain and let it sit for 20 minutes or so. If the stain fades, it's mildew, because bleach has no effect on dirt.

You need to eradicate the mildew not only because it looks bad, but because—left unchecked—it can lead to wood rot. Don't try to paint over mildew because it will continue to grow and in a short time come through the paint layer. Then removing the mildew will be more difficult.

There are specific products on the market that work quite well for removing mildew. You can buy them at any hardware or home improvement store. Or you can use bleach and water. Add four parts of water per one part of household bleach. Apply the bleach and water solution to the mildewed areas with a scrub brush and let it sit for about 20 minutes and then rinse it off with a garden hose. When working with bleach protect yourself and your landscape plants. For you, wear a long sleeve shirt and long pants. Wear rubber gloves and protect your eyes with safety goggles. For your plants near the area where you are working, spray them with water before you apply your bleach solution, and then hose them off again after you're done. If the mildew is particularly tough, try another application with a stronger bleach solution.

Let the bleached area dry thoroughly (give it a couple of days) because painting over a damp surface is an invitation for peeling paint or a reoccurrence of mildew or both.

When you paint, latex based paints resist mildew better than oil based paints, because they contain less of the materials mildew likes to feed on. Gloss and semi-gloss paints also resist mildew better than flat paint. Many paint manufacturers offer mildew-resistant paints. Or you can add mildewcide to your paint to help retard the return of mildew. Mildewcide is available as an inexpensive additive at any paint store. If nearby surfaces are still mildewed, avoid painting on a windy day. The mildew spores can blow onto the cleaned surface and start growing again.

I am sorry to say, that even with the proper prep and mildew-resistant paint, it is impossible to keep exterior surfaces completely free of mildew especially on northern exposures that don't get much sun. Over time it will come back. You can slow down the mildew growth by cutting back vegetation that restricts open air flow around your home. Also check gutters and downspouts for leaks or blockages.

And as you scrub away the mildew it helps to remember the entire spring poem:

“Der spring is sprung
Der grass is riz
I wonder where dem boidies is?”

Der little boids is on der wing.
Ain't dat absoid?
Der little wings is on der boid!”

There, now it's stuck in your head.

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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Memorial Park Rose Garden Needs Your Help

Omaha Rose Society can help local businesses organize “team building days,” which encourage businesses and their employees to “stop and smell the roses.” Garden staff and rosarian volunteers can assist each group to make sure their day is memorable.

All American Rose Selections (AARS) has placed the rose garden at Memorial Park in the “poor” category for most areas of evaluation. The severe garden decline is due to budget cutbacks and lack of garden staff to maintain the over 800 roses that comprise a portion of the 253 acre park. Friends of the Memorial Park Rose Garden, Omaha Rose Society has offered to help the excellent horticulturists of the Omaha Parks. WE need volunteers to help pot and plant the 300 plants and to help us use almost \$19,000 of in-kind donations to the 2009 spring planting. We welcome the Dundee/Memorial Park Neighborhood Association to join us. We encourage individuals or families to promise to plant three roses.

It is a sacred trust to care for the biosphere, the roses that are struggling, and to honor those that served. Learn to enjoy the environmentally friendly practices learned by Omaha Rose Society in the EARTH-KIND® planting process. We have been planting 2,236 roses in twelve sites throughout the metro since 2007. Join us in making Memorial Park Renovation. Contact: Don Swanson 493-5986 Mike and Anita Eckley 291-9651 mjeckley53@cox.net

Plant with a rosarian: bring pruners, gloves and a smile to Memorial Park

April 16: 9-12 (raindate: April 18)

May Means Planting--300 roses


Omaha Rose Society will host its first annual

Pruning and Planting Party on

May 5, May 6, May 7, May,8--9-12

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There is a city ordinance that walks must be cleared within 24 hours after the snow event has stopped.

Not only is clearing your sidewalks the right thing to do but, **it's the Law!**

If you know an elderly or handicapped neighbor... give them a hand and help clear their sidewalks. It's something you can feel really good about.



Please register online, in person or by phone (444-5274). Some activities require a signed parent slip.

Children Activities: Storytimes

Baby & Me Storytime (Infant up to 24months) - Tuesdays @ 10:30am

Toddler Storytime (Ages 2 - 3 1/2) - Wednesdays @ 10:30am

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3 1/2 - 5) - Thursdays @ 1pm

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 @ Your Library program.

Cat in the Hat Storytime - Thursday, March 5th @ 1pm

Come to the library, listen to a story, make a craft and meet the Cat in the Hat!

K-3 Nutrition Storytime - Saturday, March 14th @ 11am

The Omaha District Dietetic Association will be coming to the library and giving a storytime. Learn all about healthy eating and healthy snacks while enjoying a good story.

Movie Day "Madagascar 2: Escape to Africa" - Friday, March 20th @ 1pm Enjoy refreshments while watching.

Get BRIGHT Girls Book Club - Wed from 4:30-5:15pm

Read and discuss our current selection while enjoying snacks and refreshments.

Homework Hotspot (All Ages) - Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3-6pm

Individual homework help, educational games, and snacks will be provided by the Afterschool facilitator. Tutor.com will also be available during this time for homework help.

Young Adult Activities:

Create an Avatar - Wednesday, March 11th @ 4:30pm

Learn how to create a Simpsons avatar as well as a Yahoo avatar. Teen Gaming Lock-in (Gr. 6-12) - Fri, March 13th 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. Limit of 25 participants. Register soon!

Get BRIGHT Teen Book Club - Saturday, March 7th & Saturday, March 28th @ 2pm

Join our YA Golden Sower Book Club! Read Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer and then join us in a discussion of the book while enjoying snacks and refreshments.

Teen Movie Day - Saturday, March 14th @ 3pm

Come to the library and enjoy refreshments while watching Swing Vote starring Kevin Costner.

Get BRIGHT Lock-in: Sketching - Fri, March 27th 6-9pm

Come to the library, enjoy refreshments, and learn all about drawing!

TAG: Teen Advisory Group - Saturday, March 28th @ 3pm

Join the Sorensen Teen Advisory Group! Enjoy snacks and refreshments while sharing your ideas and see what its all about!

Adult Activities:

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, March 7th @ 1pm

Read & discuss Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult.

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, March 3rd @ 4:30pm

Read & discuss The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, March 21st @ 1pm

Read & discuss The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory.

Computer Classes:

Proquest Newstand Database Training - Tuesday, March 10th @ 6:30pm

Learn how to use this OPL database to search newspapers around the world, and our own Omaha World Herald for names, events, and news stories.

Auto Repair & Small Engine Repairs Database Training - Saturday, March 14th @ 11am

Learn to use this OPL database to find information on old and new car systems as well as boats, outdoor power equipment such as lawn mowers, tractors, ATVs and other small engines.

Wilson Omnifile & General Reference Gold Database Training - Tuesday, March 24th @ 6:30pm

Learn how to use these two OPL databases to search for full text articles in magazines and journals by subject, publication, or names of people or events.

The Big Read March 21-May 31. The book title this year is "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain.

Watch for programs, book discussions and activities for all ages at the Omaha Public Libraries.

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We look forward to sharing Sunday with you!

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Membership Form

Name (s) _____

Address: _____ Zipcode _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

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.

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