DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASOCIATION



DMPA Meeting

This Month's Meeting March 12th

Speakers: Beth Katz,
Project Interfaith
Location and times:

Dundee Presbyterian Church 53rd & Underwood Ave

7:00 PM - Social 7:30 Meeting

Bring your questions and a friend or two.

Next meeting April 9th



Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

Published by Shurson Publishing, P.O. Box 31485, Omaha, NE 68132 Vol. 22, No 3 March 2012

President's Report

s we head into March, our thoughts turn to spring and warmer weather. It also means it is time to plant the 475 flower baskets that will hang throughout our neighborhood this summer. Jen Goodman is heading up the annual planting of the baskets and she is always looking for more volunteers. It is always a great time and Jen has lined up some great food from neighborhood restaurants to keep you going. We will be planting on Friday, March 9th and Saturday, March 10th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Indian Creek Nursery. If you have not already signed up, please do. These flowers baskets have become a trademark of our neighborhood but none of this can happen without volunteers to plant the baskets and water them during the summer. As for watering, Dan Rock is looking for volunteers to join the Water Brigade. Give Dan a call at 402-558-4913 and sign up early.

We had a great turnout for the February association meeting. Mayor Suttle was scheduled to be our speaker but he was unable to attend because of the death of his mother. I want to thank Councilman Chris Jerram, Councilman Pete Festersen and County Commissioner Marc Kraft for graciously filling in for the Mayor. Everyone in attendance appreciated their taking the time to come listen as well as answer questions.

You may have seen a story that night on KETV Channel 7 that falsely implied that our neighborhood was being overrun by violent crime. The reporter focused on a single isolated incident and gave the impression violent crime was a regular occurrence in our neighborhood and that our meeting that night was an emergency neighborhood meeting to address this imaginary crime wave.

Of course, the reality was this was not a special or emergency neighborhood meeting. It was our regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Our elected officials were there to talk and take questions. For over an hour they discussed numerous issues but there was no talk about this supposed violent crime wave. Of course, Channel 7 would have known that if they had not left before the meeting even started.

Despite the impression that Channel 7 would give, violent crime is actually down in Omaha as well as Dundee-Memorial Park. The Omaha Police Department has an excellent mapping system that clearly shows the fallacy of Channel 7's claim. Our neighborhood takes great pride in the safety of our neighborhood. Through Neighborhood Watch programs and block captains, our neighborhood stresses communication between neighbors as well as cooperation with Omaha Police. It is unfortunate that the need for sensational journalism appears to have taken precedence over reality. Dundee-Memorial Park has always been one of Omaha's safest neighborhoods and it remains a safe place to live.

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DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

Meeting
March 12th
Beth Katz,
Project Interfaith
April 9th

Candidates Forum

DMPA Business Members

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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

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President's Message

Continued from front page. Several people have contacted me with concerns about the work being done along the trail between Underwood and Elmwood Park. The City is doing work to stabilize the creek bank and prevent further erosion along the trail. Many people, including myself, were upset at seeing many mature trees being removed in order to install gabions which are large wire mesh baskets filled with rock. They are designed to absorb the force of the stream and prevent erosion. The storm drain at Harney is to be improved to prevent it from backing up during heavy rains. The City has said it will be planting 3 new trees for every tree that was removed. The project is expected to be completed this spring. While it is good news that three times the number of trees will be re-planted, unfortunately it will be many years before they restore the canopy of the mature trees.

At the February DMPA board meeting, our association joined over a dozen fellow Omaha neighborhoods in opposing LB 60 which was a bill before the Legislature that would have effectively ended sale to minors compliance checks for liquor licenses in Omaha. This legislation would have made it impossible for police to use 18 and 19 year olds to do these compliance checks. The Omaha Police Department strongly opposed this bill. Because of the opposition of DMPA and our fellow neighborhoods, LB 60 was removed from the agenda and is dead for this year.

The City Council has moved forward with the Dundee Business District renovation project. This is an exciting time as we begin to see the transformation of the business district with these great improvements. The next step will be the raising of the final funds to complete the project. We are looking at having Councilman Festersen and the design team to make a presentation at our May association meeting so plan on attending to see all the great changes being planned..

Finally, we have an opening for the Beautification Chairperson for the island flower beds South of Dodge. This person oversees the volunteers to see that the island gardens are planted and maintained. The flowers are provided by the City but must be arranged with the Parks Department by May. There are two gardens that are planted with perennials and two that are annuals. The City plants four other islands. If you are interested in helping out or have any questions, please contact myself or Millie Miller at 402-558-6023.

Our next association meeting will be March 12th. Our guest speaker will be Beth Katz from Project Interfaith. Hopefully, we will be able to re-schedule Mayor Suttle for the fall.

Dave Schinzel

We Need You!

We have an opening for the position of Beautification Chair for South of Dodge.

This position oversees the flower beds on the islands that are planted and maintained by volunteers.

Flower Beds South of Dodge

Happy Hollow / Farnam / DodgePerennials

55th & DodgePerennials

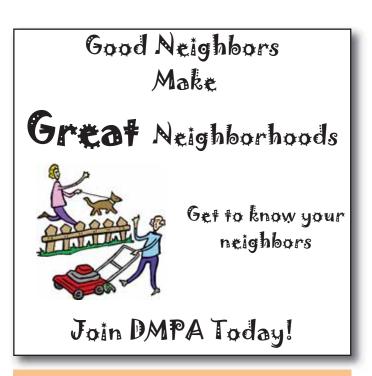
56th & HowardAnnuals

57th & EmileAnnuals

The City plants the islands at 52nd & Jones, 54th & Farnam, 55th & Farnam and 56th & Farnam.

This position involves lining up volunteers for each island and contacting the City Parks Department greenhouse to get plantings.

If this is something that you would be interested in doing or you have questions, please contact Dave Schinzel 402-708-0792 or Millie Miller (Beautification Chair North of Dodge) 402-558-6023



Be a good neighbor...

Please Clean up after your dog!!!

Happy Hollow Creek Stabilization Project

The Happy Hollow Creek stabilization project was initiated by the Parks Department to address severe streambank erosion along the Happy Hollow Trail. The erosion was such that it was beginning to impact the safety of the trail users, resulting in steep drop-offs near the trail and undermined guardrails. We had calls from neighbors and trail users, as well as park maintenance staff, notifying us of these issues.

The plans developed by the Schemmer Associates call for streambank stabilization measures in several locations along the trail between Underwood Avenue on the north and the entrance to Elmwood Park on the south. A major part of the stabilization involves installing gabion baskets. Gabion baskets are wire mesh baskets which are filled with rock and stacked along the shoreline to absorb the impact of the stream. In order to install them, the contractor is unfortunately required to remove trees. Though we tried to keep these at a minimum, we understand it still makes a visual impact along the trail and boulevard, especially noticeable in the winter.

In addition to the gabions, the storm drain at the intersection of Harney and Happy Hollow, south of Dodge Street, will be upgraded to prevent water from topping over the curb and trail at that location, which has created yet another source of erosion along the trail. This will require closure of the Boulevard at this intersection for a few days while this work is done.

Lastly, the decorative guardrails, which were undermined by erosion, are being removed and refurbished. They will be replaced using an improved method to provide better stabilization.

The Parks Department is planning a tree planting project along the Boulevard to mitigate for the loss of the trees as a result of this project. The intent is to plant species which will both enhance the boulevard experience and create beneficial wildlife habitat. This will be implemented either in the Spring or the Fall of 2012.

All of these improvements will provide a safer and better experience for trail users. The Parks Department is very appreciative of the patience and understanding of the neighbors, trail users and boulevard drivers during the implementation of this project.

Code & Zoning Violations -

What neighbors should look for! Code Violations

- Deteriorated and cracked sidewalks and driveways.
- ·Deteriorated porches, decks and patios.
- ·Stairway with three or more steps without handrails.
- ·Deteriorated, broken or missing siding.
- ·Missing shingles / roofing.
- ·Deteriorated overhangs, soffits and fascia.
- ·Deteriorated or missing gutters and downspouts.
- ·Cracks or holes in foundations.
- ·Broken or missing windows.
- ·Torn or missing screens.
- ·Broken or missing storm or entry doors.
- ·Deteriorated chimneys.
- ·Deteriorated masonry joints.
- ·Exterior walls that lean or out of plumb.
- ·Deteriorated sheds or detached garages.
- ·Deteriorated fencing.
- ·Missing light fixtures.
- ·Exposed electrical wiring.
- ·Basement bedrooms without adequate windows.
- ·Hazardous electrical service entrance.
- ·Missing address numbers.

Zoning Violations

- ·Cars parked on unpaved surfaces.
- ·Inoperable or unlicensed vehicles.
- ·Boats, campers and R.V.'s, over 20' in length, parked in front of the house.
- ·Commercial vehicles parked at property.
- ·Outdoor storage of materials, appliances, etc.
- ·Fencing with the finish side facing in.
- ·Fences over 4 feet high in the front yard.
- ·Fences over 6 feet high in the rear yard.
- ·Noise complaints.

If you observe any of the above conditions, please call 444-5555 to report the conditions and address to the City of Omaha, Planning Department, Code & Zoning enforcement.

DMPA Online

www.dundee-memorialpark.org Facebook : Dundee Memorial Park Twitter: DundeeMemorial



o you have a "hell can"? It's that coffee can filled with miscellaneous screws, bolts and whatever collected here and there. I call it a "hell can"

because it's hell to find anything in it. A friend of mine calls it a "fibber can" because you're fibbing if you say you can find what you need in it.

This month's column is a written version of my "hell can"—miscellaneous items collected here and there. Can you find something useful in here? All I can say is, good luck.

First, I received a couple of responses to last month's column on vinyl (steel, aluminum) siding.

This one is from Brian Klare: I can't possibly stress how very true your statement is about siding masking serious problems. Our house had been vinylized and I couldn't stand the appearance, so I ripped off the siding. Underneath was a layer of lath and stucco, and beneath that was the original 3" exposure vertical lap siding. The additional layers extended beyond the extent of the fascia at two bay areas causing rain to run down between the layers. On one side I had to replace the wood siding, the other was so bad that the wall studs had to be replaced. Needless to say all crown molding, drip caps, and windowsills had been chiseled off and had to be replaced. I can assure you we never once had someone tell us "your vinyl siding looks beautiful", we now get compliments all the time on our house.

And, Marty Beerman wrote: I loved your column on aluminum siding. When we moved into our house in 1990, it was tired and we knew painting or something needed to be done. The inside, however, was our priority. So finally in 1998, we figured we couldn't put it off any longer. I've seen some nice siding in the neighborhood-but after interviewing 6 companies, I gave up. Prices ranged from \$2,800 or \$14,000-and all wanted to cover up the stucco around the top of the house as well as the wood that's in place. We painted for \$4,000. It took 26 gallons of primer and 13 gallons of paint. The neighbors said it had last been painted in the late 1960s or early 1970s. It looks great and we're so glad we didn't go over to the dark side-like so many have unfortunately.

(I fully expected to hear from a siding contractor or two challenging my view on vinyl siding—but it didn't happen. I guess I'm just not being provocative enough.)

Another siding related question came via e-mail from a Dundee neighbor: Our home is stucco. Is it OK to power wash stucco?

I would approach power washing stucco with considerable caution. Make sure you rent a washer with adjustable pressure. Dial the pressure way down and use a broad fan tip. Slowly raise the pressure to find the right setting that just removes the dirt and then don't go any higher. If you can't get a model with adjustable pressure, start washing with the wand a good distance from the house and then ease in closer to find the correct distance. Remember that pressure washers can pack a punch strong enough to dislodge mortar on a brick house.

On an entirely different topic: the trouble with many common household remedies is that they just don't work, no matter how many times they are repeated in magazines and newsletters. One such cure is the often-prescribed method of removing white water rings on varnished surfaces with a mixture mayonnaise and cigar ashes. The only change I've noticed with this cure is that the house smells like stogies and mayo. But there is a product that works. Restor-A-Finish cleans and restores the original finish to your furniture while blending out the blemishes and minor scratches without removing any of the existing finish. You can find it at Ace Hardware or online from Amazon.com

Finally, be on the watch for carpenter ants.

Apparently, there are more of these destructive little buggers this year because this year's winter was mild. This prediction comes from an exterminator hired by my friend Carrie when she saw the ants trooping through the laundry room in her old house. Carpenter ants are typically black in color and are larger than ordinary ants. (But, for your information, carpenter ants do not wear tiny little tool belts.)

Connections

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



Volunteers Needed for Flower Basket Planting

Join the fun of planting the 475 begonia flower baskets that adorn our Dundee historic street lights.

Location: Indian Creek Greenhouse

303 N. Saddle Creek Road

(Greenhouse is on the SE corner of the property)

Dates: Friday, March 9, 2012

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Time: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Volunteers insert 40 begonia plants around the perimeter of each basket. Baskets are then filled with soil, and more begonia plants and ivy are added to the top. The baskets are stored in the Indian Creek Nursery greenhouse until mid-May, when they are placed on the lamp posts.

To volunteer for one or both days, email Jen Goodman at jengoodman@centurylink.net.



Spring Clean Up 2012

The thaw of Spring is just around the corner and that means it's time for Spring Clean Up. The event will look very similar to last year, where the site at Brownell Talbot will be open from 9AM to 2PM and we will have the opportunity to recycle scrap metal along with disposing our bulky household waste for free. Also back by popular demand, EDT will recycle our e-waste and diverted it from the landfill for a nominal charge. EDT ensures certified data destruction of your sensitive materials.

Unfortunately the date of the event is still TBD as the City of Omaha assigns them to the neighborhoods. Please look in the next newsletter or on our website (www.dundeememorialpark.org) for when to take advantage of this chance to clean up. Also like in years past donations will be collected to benefit the A.V. Sorenson Library. We are also looking for volunteers to help unload vehicle on the day of the event. These hard working backs are what make the whole effort so efficient. Please contact Tom Craig at 402-612-1444 or tcraig@tenaska.com if interested. And watch for that date.

Beautification Help Needed

Dundee Memorial Park Association oversees the planting of flower beds on city owned islands. After several years of planting the bed at the five way stop on Western and Happy Hollow, the Pohrens have moved from the area. We are looking for a volunteer to plant the bed late May and maintain it thru the growing season. The city greenhouse provides the flowers so volunteering involves picking up the flowers, planting them in the tilled 13X16X16 ft. triangle garden spot and pulling weeds throughout the growing season. If you would like to volunteer to take care of this flower bed, please call Millie Miller, 402-558-6023.



Report Suspicious Activity

There will always be a small group of individuals who go door to door selling a variety of goods. That in itself is not illegal. In Omaha peddling is legal. The sales person is required to have a photo id, a peddlers permit and can only solicit from 8AM – 6PM.

There is an exemption to this ordinance and it is that "not for profit" groups can go outside of those hours. This door-to-door behavior is their way of selling products and although it can be bothersome, if they are selling in accordance to the city ordinance, they are not doing anything illegal.

See City Code 19—89:

http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=10945

If someone comes to your door and states to be selling something, but has nothing with them to sell; if they ask for money for whatever reason; if they ask to use the phone; or if they just do not seem legitimate, these actions would be considered "suspicious activity," and an immediate phone call to the police would be appropriate. When you call the police for "suspicious behavior" the best route to go is by calling 911. The non-emergency number is reserved for non-emergent, not in progress types of situations involving property. After 911 is called, you can call your individual precinct Crime Prevention Crime Prevention Specialist so the Precinct officers are aware of the concerns.

Please follow these tips regarding suspicious behavior:

· If you observe suspicious behavior, please contact 911 immediately.

- Be observant and pass along thorough descriptions to the 911 operator. Include information such as race, sex, height, weight, and clothing description.
- · If they arrived in a vehicle, provide the color, make, and model. Try to get a license plate number.
- · If they are on foot, provide their direction of travel.
- · Be patient. Absent any indications of immediate danger, suspicious person calls are dispatched at a lower priority. It may be several minutes before officers are dispatched.
- · If you share information with your neighbors via email lists, keep the information factual and concise. Rumors only increase anxiety.

When the police are made aware of these concerns you can count on us to look into them. If people do not call 911, we may not be aware of the day to day happenings in your area that do not rise to the level of criminal activity. Remember, you can always go to www.crimemapping.com to check on reported crime activity in your neighborhood. You can also sign up for email alerts. Please do not hesitate to call me if you want to have further conversation regarding this issue.

Bridget Fitzpatrick
NW Precinct
Crime Prevention
Specialist
402-444-6478



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Deadline to Register: **Monday May 7th** Fri/ Sat/ Sun May 18, 19 & 20

Sign up online @ www.dundee-memorialpark.org

If you don't have Internet access & can't sign up online, please email me the information w/ the subject line "**DMPA SALE**" or fill this out & mail it to me @ 312 S 54th St. Omaha, NE 68132

Name:	Phone #
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Days (circle) FRI SAT SUN	produce there estimate a seek a quiercock for the, produce include
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LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER! If you would be interested in helping to coordinate the Garage Sale efforts, please email Raquel.ahlvers@cbshome.com. Help to input the ads in the OWH, Thrifty Nikel, etc... possibly walk flyers around to business, not too time consuming. Mostly done from the comforts of your home computer & phone.

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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

Baby & Me Storytime - Fridays | 10:30 am

Parents, and babies will enjoy this nursery rhyme program with rhyming games, puppets, songs and musical instruments.

Fit Club - Saturday, March 3 | 2 pm

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

Storytime - Wednesdays | 10:30 am

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

Lego Club - Wednesdays, March 14 & 28 | 4:30 pm Use your imagination to build anything you want with Legos. Snack provided. All ages.

St. Patrick's Day Craft - Saturday, March 17 | 1 pm Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Library by making a St. Patrick's Day themed craft.

Chess Basics - Tuesday, March 20 | 1 pm

Learn the basics of chess and then practice by playing a couple of games.

Movie Day: "Puss in Boots" - Wednesday, March 21 | 1 pm Enjoy popcorn while watching a movie about the journey of a young sword-fighting cat. © Swank Motion Pictures, Inc. Gr. 2-6 Star Wars Lock-In - Friday, March 23 | 6-9 pm Join us for a fun filled evening all about Star Wars! Dress up as your favorite character, play games, make a Star Wars themed craft and enjoy food and refreshments. A signed parental permission slip is required!

Teen Activities

Homework Hangout - Tuesdays, March 6, 13 & 27 | 4:30 pm Get basic homework help, use Tutor.com or type a paper on one of our teen computers. Grades K-12.

Make a Meme - Wednesday, March 7 | 4:30 pm Celebrate Teen Tech Week 2012 by learning how to create your very own meme.

How Secure is My Password? - Thursday, March 8 | 4:30 pm

Celebrate Teen Tech Week 2012 by learning about the strength of your password.

Gr. 6-12 Gaming Lock-In - Friday, March 9 | 6-9 pm Come to the Library and hang out with your friends! Enjoy food and refreshments while playing some of the Library's Wii & Xbox 360 Kinect games. A signed parental permission slip is required!

The Farming Game - Saturday, March $10 \mid 2 \text{ pm}$ Have fun playing the board game "The Farming Game" with

your friends.

Teen Movie Day: "I Am Number Four" - Friday, March 16 | 1 pm

Watch what happens when intergalactic bounty hunters show up on Earth looking for a young alien. © Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.

Teen Book Club - Saturday, March 17 | 2 pm

Read and discuss "Catching Fire" by Suzanne Collins! Refreshments provided.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) - Saturday, March 17 | 3 pm Enjoy snacks and refreshments while talking about issues, sharing your ideas and helping out at the Library.

Silent Library - Thursday, March 22 | 1 pm

See if you have what it takes to compete in crazy challenges and win prizes!

Hunger Games Jeopardy - Friday, March 23 | 1 pm Compete to see who knows the most about the first book in the Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins!

Game Time -2-4 pm

Have fun with your friends while trying out some of the Library's Wii and Xbox 360 Kinect games! (All Ages)

Saturday, March 24: "Just Dance 2" Saturday, March 31: "Kinect Sports"

Adult Activities

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, March 3 | 1 pm Read and discuss "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout.

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, March 6 | 4:30 pm

Read and discuss "Black Boy: American Hunger" by Richard Wright.

HisMys Book Club - Saturday, March 10 | 10:30 am Read and discuss "A Fine Dark Line" by Joe R. Lansdale.

Movie Day for Adults: "Cowboys & Aliens" - Wednesday, March 14 | Noon

Watch what happens when aliens try to take over the Wild West. © Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, March 17 | 1 pm Read and discuss "Crazy Horse" by Mari Sandoz.

Zumba for Adults - Tuesdays | 10:30 am

Join us in being active at the Library by trying out Zumba on our Xbox 360 Kinect.



Mary Dunbar

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