

# DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



## DMPA Meeting

**May 12th**

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

**Scott Farrington**

**Topic: Indian Creek Nursery**

**Special treats from**

**eCreamery:**

ice cream, gelato and sorbetto  
samples... YUM!

## Yardsale Weekend

May 16, 17 & 18th  
for more info look inside or  
go to

[www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org)

**Spring Fling in**

**Dundee**

May 17th

Information inside

## Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

*"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"*

[www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org)

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Vol. 18, No 5, May 2008

## President's Message

So, is the Dundee-Memorial Park neighborhood a safe place to live? That seems to be the topic of conversation in the media recently. Jim Vokal organized a neighborhood meeting the first of April in which the police department told us that in the northwest precinct (north of Dodge Street), overall crime is down 30%. We know our neighbors and look after our neighborhood. So, why do we have crime in our area? There is no answer to that question, but there are things that can be done to insure that our neighborhood is not vulnerable to crime. To keep the criminal element out of our area, the big deterrent is the Neighborhood Watch program. Each and every block in the DMPA should have such a program in place and if you do not, one should be implemented. It is a necessary tool so each neighbor is kept advised of crime details in his/her area. The Neighborhood Watch is implemented with minimal effort. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Bridget Fitzpatrick at the Omaha Police Department, northwest precinct, 444-6478 or Pam Arehart, southwest precinct (south of Dodge Street), at 444-7928. We can all do that much to insure the safety of our neighborhood.

In an effort to clean-up our neighborhood, DMPA sponsored its annual Dumpster Day on April 19 at Brownell-Talbot School. A big thank-you goes to Heike and Adam Langdon for organizing and manning this project. It is always a great opportunity to rid your garage, basement or attic of all of those unwanted items!

Two projects that the Association has on-going during the summer months are the Elmwood Park clean-up and maintenance project and the watering and maintaining of our flower baskets once they are hung. Both of these projects require lots of volunteers. Information regarding both of these projects is inside this newsletter. Make it a priority to help on these activities.

As we head into spring the Dundee Merchants' Association has organized a Spring Fling on May 17. Underwood Avenue will not be closed that day, but each of the merchants will have some type of activity planned. There will be live music until 11:00 p.m. in the beer gardens and the outside activities will wrap up at 1:00 a.m. Additional information appears inside this newsletter.

Another activity is planned for May 16, 17 and 18. It is the annual DMPA Garage Sale which was planned and organized by Raquel Ahlvers, Ellen Zinn and Gene Ray. Thanks to them for tackling this project.

Block parties will be on the calendar soon. If you want to reserve the barricades for your street, contact BJ Reed at 556-5509. He will be happy to help you.

The May DMPA meeting on May 12 will feature Scott Farrington, owner of Indian Creek Nursery. He entertains us by bringing new varieties of annuals and perennials to beautify our home landscapes. Also, the EPA is sending the lead site project manager for Omaha to talk about soil tests for lead in our area. This will be the last meeting until September. Hope to see you there.

Marty Myers

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## DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

### May 12

Scott Farrington, Indian  
Creek Nursery.

No meetings June - August  
See you in September!

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**Questions call 551-5246 or email: [elimci@netzero.net](mailto:elimci@netzero.net)**



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# Former Kum & Go Liquor License

The off-sale liquor license for the former Kum & Go at 52nd & Leavenworth was denied by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission on April 22nd. After taking the case under advisement after the hearing on March 18th, the Commission stated that the strong opposition of Dundee-Memorial Park Association and Aksarben-Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association was a major basis for the denial. The odds were against the neighborhoods since the City Council had voted to recommend approval of the license in January. It is expected that the store owner will appeal the decision to the District Court but that will not happen for several months at the earliest. Liquor sales at the 52nd & Leavenworth store will end on April 30th.

Although this is a great victory for our neighborhood, we need to continue to keep up the pressure on the owner to maintain the property and finally install signs and remove the graffiti that he promised to do weeks ago. Four other former Kum & Go stores will go before the Liquor Control Commission in May. We will continue to support our fellow neighborhoods as they make the fight that we successfully made.

A special thanks to the Dundee-Memorial Park Association Board for their support and Dan Rock for providing the legal expertise that was crucial to our winning this decision.

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

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## Story of Buffett's Store

"Foods You Will Enjoy-- The Story of Buffett's Store" a book that tells the story of Buffett's grocery store formerly at 5015 Underwood in Dundee, debuted in Omaha during the Berkshire-Hathaway weekend in early May.

The author is Bill Buffett, great-grandson of Sydney Buffett who opened the first buffett's in 1869, the grandson of Ernest buffett, who moved the store to Dundee in 1915, and the son of Fred buffett, who closed the store one hundred years later in 1969.

The book includes memories of current Omahans who either worked at the store or traded there, letters written by Ernest to family and friends, and letters written by customers to Fred upon hearing that the store was closing. Many old ads and photographs are reprinted as is a circular set out by

Buffett's in 1942 to explain the rules of sugar rationing. This 225 page book costs \$24.50 and is available at the Bookworm or website: [www.buffettstore.com](http://www.buffettstore.com)







## Garage Sale Weekend MAY 16, 17 & 18th

Start cleaning out your closets, attics, garages & basements.  
Make some money. Have some fun!  
Get together with a neighbor or two & make a day or two out of it!

## Spring Fling Events

**Aromahotherapy** will have door prizes, discounts galore, candling making for kids and sand candle demonstrations

**Creighton Medical Associates** will have a free health screening in the Creighton Mobile Unit in the parking lot of Creighton's future clinic at 50th & Underwood

**Dario's Brasserie** will have live music from 5:30pm-11pm

**Dundee Cork & Bottle** is offering bloody mary specials and other drink specials all day

**Dundee Dell** will feature singer Michael Walker from 10pm-12:30am and also have special taster plates available

**Dundee Gallery** will have an open house from 11am-9pm

**eCreamery** is introducing new gelatos & sorbetos, delicious & healthy sweet treats

**Grandpa's C-Mart** will have free ice cream cones in the afternoon

**Great Harvest Bread Co.** will be offering free bread slices while featuring bread of the month for May - Popeye Bread

**Trovato's** live music on Friday & Saturday

### Friday

5-6:45pm The Johnson Brothers

7-8:45pm St. Elvis

9-11pm Fork in the Road

9pm-1am Rhythm Collective (inside)

### Saturday

3-4:45pm The Paul Anderson Trio

5-6:45pm Johnny Clash

7-8:45pm Rhymes with Orange

9-11pm Rhythm Collective

11pm-1am Fork in the Road (inside)



## Watch Them Grow!

A group of approximately 60 volunteers planted 475 moss baskets at Indian Creek Nursery. To check how the plants are growing, log on to [www.indiancreeknursery.com](http://www.indiancreeknursery.com) and click on "Dundee Baskets". Pictures of the hanging baskets will be updated every ten days to two weeks.

## Adopt-Elmwood-Park/Stream

### Meeting dates

May 17 and 31, 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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The trait most old houses have in common is beautiful woodwork. But what if the woodwork isn't so beautiful anymore? That prompted Mary from the Joslyn Castle neighborhood to write with a question—well, actually several questions, so many questions that I'll split the answers into two columns. Here's what Mary asked:

I'm certain that our woodwork has the original vanish on it. I'm wondering why a lot of the woodwork has small raised bubbles on it. I was told it was because the wood is exposed to sunlight. Yet, the areas that are bubbled are out of the sun? I would like to refinish the wood, but am afraid of doing the wrong thing. Do you have any suggestions? I plan to use a hot air gun or should I use a varnish remover? What type of varnish remover would you recommend? 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.

I have certainly seen a lot of old varnish that has bubbled or the surface has crazed, but why it does that, I'm not precisely sure. I would suspect it is due to the chemicals that make up varnish changing over time due to the effects of temperature change and other environmental conditions. But regardless of why, it is a common problem with old woodwork.

Let me separate the woodwork from the front door, because I think they call for separate solutions. For the woodwork, before you strip off all the old finish you might try re-conditioning it. Formby's makes a product called "Conditioning Furniture Refinisher". It gently dissolves the old finish. You just wipe it on and then wipe away the old finish. Buff the surface a little and then apply a new protective top coat. I haven't used this product on woodwork but I have used it on some antiques with satisfactory results. Try a small section of woodwork in a hidden corner of a room as a test to see if you like the results. Check with an Ace Hardware Store. I think they carry Formby products.

If that doesn't yield the results you want, then the next level of attack is to strip the old varnish. The good news is that old varnish strips easily--much more easily than paint. Heat from a heat gun or heat plate will not work on varnish; you'll need to use a chemical stripper. My choice of stripper for varnish is Klean Kutter from a company called Klean Strip. (Very clever with the Ks, don't you think?) Lowe's and Home Depot stock Klean Strip products according to the company's website. I like this product for varnish because it is thin and cuts through varnish better than thick paste strippers. But those strip-

pers work better on paint where Klean Kutter won't do much to strip paint.

Brush on the stripper and wait a few minutes until you see the finish bubble up and then scrape off the goo with a putty knife. Follow up by rubbing down the wood with a coarse steel wool (#2) dipped into a little stripper. Before applying stain (if you want to enhance or change the color of the wood) or the top coat finish, wipe down all the surfaces with a clean rag dampened with mineral spirits to clean and neutralize any stripper residue.

I am sure I don't have to caution you to be careful with this procedure--but what the heck--I'm going to be a nag anyway. Protect any surface you don't want stripped and ruined. Mask off those areas with sheets of heavy plastic and duct tape. Lots of old newspapers will help absorb any stray liquids. Protect yourself, too. Wear heavy rubber stripping gloves (available at home centers and hardware stores) and a long sleeve shirt. Protect your eyes with goggles. Make sure you have lots of ventilation so you are not breathing air thick with toxins. And be careful to avoid any fire hazards. Read and follow label directions for any product you use. (Whew, now I feel better that I got that out of my system.)

(Next Month: Staining and top coating woodwork and a different prescription for refinishing a front door.)

### 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](mailto:dbrowsers@cox.net)

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## Doc on the Block

### What is jaundice?

Jaundice is caused by an increased amount of yellow pigment called bilirubin in the body. Bilirubin comes from the normal breakdown of red blood cells. Newborns are prone to an increase in bilirubin because it takes about a week for their liver to efficiently process the pigment and send into their intestines.

There are several types of jaundice. Physiologic jaundice occurs in more than 50% of babies. The jaundice starts on day of life 2 to 3, peaks at day 5 to 7 and disappears by two weeks of age. It is usually harmless. Breast-feeding jaundice occurs when the baby is not nursing well or not getting enough milk. It occurs in 5% of babies. The baby's bilirubin levels can go much higher than with physiologic jaundice. Breast-milk jaundice occurs in 2% of babies and can last 1 to 2 months. A substance in breast milk causes the baby's intestine to absorb more bilirubin back into the bloodstream. This type of jaundice is harmless.

Sometimes if the mother and baby's blood types are different, there can be antibodies from mom that break down the baby's red blood cells and cause increased production of bilirubin. This can be a more serious type of jaundice.

When babies have jaundice of any type it is important that they feed well. Having bowel movements helps the

body get rid of the bilirubin. Both breast-fed and bottle fed babies should feed often. If the bilirubin levels get too high, then the baby can be treated with phototherapy. A specific wavelength of light helps the body process the bilirubin more quickly. This is used with a special lighted bassinet or belt that the baby wears.

Jaundice is usually harmless but if the bilirubin levels get above 25 or 30, the baby can develop deafness, cerebral palsy, or brain damage from staining of the brain by the pigment. This, fortunately, is not common. Most babies are treated with phototherapy to keep their levels below 20 to 25. Ask your doctor if you're concerned about your baby having jaundice.

Pat Specht, M.D. Children's Physicians Dundee, referenced from B.D. Schmitt, M.D. Clinical Advisor

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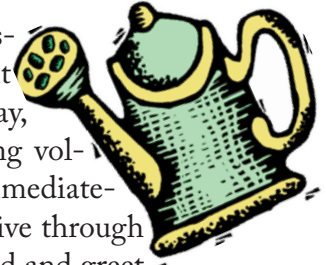
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# WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

As the flower baskets are hung on our light poles around Mother's Day, Dan Rock will be needing volunteers to do watering immediately. Enjoy an evening's drive through our peaceful neighborhood and greet neighbors you have not seen all winter while you and a spouse or friend water a few flower baskets. It is easy and fulfilling work. Pitch in and make our neighborhood baskets beautiful! Call Dan Rock at 558-4913 to volunteer.

If you can help hang the flower baskets on May 8, 9 or 10th, please call Dan also.



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# 200 Attend Neighborhood Safety Meeting

By Chris Kilroy

On Wednesday, April 2nd, friends and neighbors of the Dundee Memorial-Park Association attended a forum on safety at the Dundee Elementary School Gym. The main purpose was to reinvigorate existing neighborhood watches and take volunteers for starting new ones. Restarting the Citizens' Patrol in our area, dormant for over seven years, was also discussed.

Speakers included Councilman Jim Vokal, Omaha Coalition of Citizens' Patrols(OCCP) President Chris Costantakos. Also on hand from the Omaha Police Department's (OPD) Northwest Precinct was Capt. William Rock and Crime Prevention Specialist Bridget Fitzpatrick.

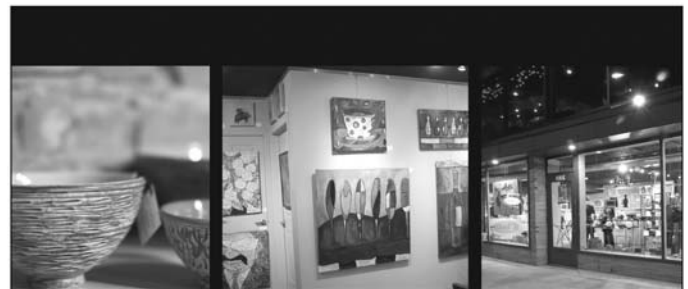
Ms. Fitzpatrick explained that your block must do several things to be recognized by the city as a neighborhood watch block. First, a captain must step forward and be willing to visit neighbors and gather contact information (phone and email). The neighborhood block captain is not necessarily the same person as the Flower Basket block captain. Second, a minimum of sixty percent of residents on the block must be willing to participate. Once this is done, the block captain would contact their Crime Prevention Specialist to schedule an orientation meeting. Bridget Fitzpatrick (444-6478) is responsible for the area North of Dodge Street. Contact Pam Ehrhart (444-7928) if your block is South of Dodge.

According to OPD, our neighborhood currently has 37 active watch blocks. Councilman Vokal stated that he'd like to see that number double. Nearly thirty attendees of the meeting registered to learn more about the program—a great start! If you weren't able to attend, please contact your OPD Crime Prevention Specialist today and volunteer to captain your block.

Chris Costantakos of OCCP discussed the patrol program, and its success in other areas of Omaha. She stated that patrols are not to be confused with vigilantism. Participants merely witness suspicious activity and report it to OPD for follow up. This program requires that volunteers complete an evening of certification training. Magnetic signs reading 'Citizen's Patrol' are placed on side and top of patrol vehicles. There are typically two persons per patrol vehicle, and patrols run on Friday and Saturday nights.

Remember that even the smallest crimes must be reported. OPD Capt. Rock stated that he hears people at public meetings say that they didn't want to bother the police. "We're in the business of being bothered", Rock said. Dial 911 for emergency and 444-5600 for non-emergency call.

Please consider volunteering for Citizens' Patrol or as a block captain. You can make a difference. Call me (Chris Kilroy-558-2111) if you need help getting started, and I'll point you in the right direction.



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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. Humane Society Volunteer, Chris Tracey is this month's Village Voices.

*What brought me to Omaha was my husband, Richard, who had just received a very nice job at Brandeis, the old Brandeis downtown. It was very difficult for me because I was left behind to sell our house in Springfield, Massachusetts and we had four little kids, 11 and under.*

*I was very unhappy and I did not want to move. I had to look at a map to see where Nebraska was and which states bordered it. That was 1967. Same home for 40 plus years. I love it now. I do believe I am the oldest on the block.*

*The neighborhood was very appealing. Both of us loved it because of the mature trees. It reminded us so much of New England. Of the four homes Richard had narrowed it down to we purchased the most expensive-\$37,500. You can't beat these old houses. Brandeis was a huge help because they had tradesmen down there that Richard got to know and they did a lot of work here in the house.*

*We moved in around Halloween of 1967. School had already started. Our youngest was barely two years old. The kids walked to Dundee School back in the days when there was no lunch program...so they would come home at noon and go back after lunch...a healthy walk...using the underpass on Dodge Street.*

*So initially I stayed home with our youngest, worked on resurrecting the house and during our first year a neighbor and I were having coffee talking about what we could do about the loss of all the Dutch elms. We contacted the city forester, Orville Hatcher, and he gave a talk to many of the neighbors living on South 53rd Street between Farnam and Jackson. It was a community project, most everybody cooperated and was excited about having a planted tree for \$75 each to replace the diseased Dutch elms. They were small but they grew quickly, like two inches in diameter each year and they all survived until '97 and then boom, boom, boom, many of them came down in the big, wet snowstorm.*

*I could not say enough good things about our neighborhood. In the summertime we have a block party and the first Sunday evening in December the neighbors come together for the annual holiday party. Everyone knows the cars we drive, the dogs or cats we own plus we have an active Neighborhood Watch. It's very stable. Recently a house came up for sale on the block—prior to that it has been ten years since any turnover.*

*When Richard died in '91, I considered moving back to Boston where my two girls live. It was too expensive and I could not have lived nearly as nicely as I do nor could I ever afford a house like this in New England. I grew up in an apartment in New York City and I'll take a*

*big house any day. I love every minute and I think I use every room. I don't think I'd be happy with a small house.*

*What appeals to me about my house is that I can spread my wings and not have to worry about arrangement of furniture or inviting as many as 60 people over. It's an easy house to entertain in because it's got a nice flow. I'm not interested in selling but I'm delighted when young people knock on my door and indicate they would like to purchase my home.*

*My oldest daughter, Pam, was just here visiting from Boston, and we were reminiscing with my two sons who live in Omaha, Chip and Pete. They would get caught every once in a while as teenagers coming in at all hours of the night. Their father would hear them and they got caught a couple of times when there was a bed check in the middle of the night. One of the boys said, "Yeah, we used to crawl out of the window, jump on the landing, and shimmy down the post there." I'm glad I never knew that. My kids have fond memories of this house.*

*Once, Chip, when he was 11, was chasing Pam and our front door was open but the glass storm door was locked. She was in a hurry, missed the doorknob and went right through the glass. Our neighbor across the street, Dr. Gerald O'Neil, Pediatrician, happened to be home, jumped into his car and took her to Clarkson and stitched her up. To this day Pam has one remaining bad scar.....she was terribly lucky that she did not hit any arteries.*

*On the lighter side, I'll never forget the Cleo story. They previous owners of our house moved to a house just one block north of Dodge, to 53rd and Davenport. Several days after they moved we heard this howling at the terrace doors and it was Cleo...their rather large, overweight Bassett. How she got across Dodge Street I'll never know. She must have stopped traffic going both ways. Anyway, it was fun but she finally realized that it was no longer her home.*



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# Cirque de Soleil in Dundee

A gathering of nearly 300 people enjoyed entertainment from a troupe of street performers from the Cirque de Soleil “Saltimbanco Bus” at eCreamery on Sunday, March 30. Families interacted with colorful stilt walkers and mimes on while sampling ice cream & gelato with friends and family on a long awaited Spring-like afternoon.

The 10 feet tall stilted mimes recieved great reviews from local attendees.

*“He is the coolest guy I have ever seen. But they shouldn't wear baby shoes if they don't eat baby food,”* said Trevor West, age 4, upon seeing the stilts in 2 inch shoes.

*“Scary, really scary,”* commented Caroline Sall, age 3.

eCreamery offered a special edition “Saltimbanco” flavor of pistachio gelato with marachino cherries and chocolate swirls during the event only.

Cirque de Soleil offers a unique performance style that embraces theatre, dance and music with dazzling costumes and a spectacle of staging. Cirque de Soleil’s “Saltimbanco” was promoting their performance at the Qwest Center April 2 - 6th and made several stops across the metro area.





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