DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASOCIATION



DMPA

Next Meeting May 13th

Meeting: Spring/Summer Gardening Tips from Indian Creek Nursery

Also brief updates from:
Midtown Crossing Amanda Trieber
LOCAL - Chris Foster

Location and times:

Dundee Presbyterian Church 53rd & Underwood Ave

7:00 Social
7:30pm Meeting
Bring your questions and
a friend or two.

Look Inside:

Gigantic Yard Sale Weekend...

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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Letter From the President

Greetings to all,

This spring is certainly one to remember – with no warm weather in March or April, making it seem like winter has stretched far into the first half of the year, very much unlike recent years when we could enjoy shirtsleeve weather in our yards and patios in April, if not some teasers in March. I guess 2013 is a distinctive reminder that we live in Nebraska!

April's Meeting. Since the March 11th meeting, with its scheduled candidates' forum, was cancelled due to heavy snow, the candidates who survived the primary attended our April meeting for the informal social period before the program. It was a strong candidate turnout, with neighbors having the opportunity to speak with the candidates, ask questions and voice concerns. Thank you to all the candidates for making room in your busy schedules to meet with our Dundee-Memorial Park neighbors.

May 13th Meeting. In addition to the program scheduled for the May meeting, we will be doing some "house cleaning." The DMPA bylaws are outdated and do not reflect the way the organization has functioned over the past decade or so. At the May meeting, revised bylaws adopted by the Board of Directors on May 6th will be presented for affirmation.

Streetscape Update. On April 12, the first visible, physical work for the new streetscape began. A week before the work, the trees along Underwood were marked for removal, which caused quite a stir among some residents, who, using social media, initiated many conversations, on line and on the sidewalks. It is always sad to see trees come down, especially trees that have been well loved and enjoyed by many for years. The Dundee streetscape was redesigned about 30 years ago, and it was then that the iconic clock was installed, brick nodes were built, new benches placed, and honey locust trees planted in the nodes along Underwood. While the design was beautiful when new, it has not aged well. I am sure many of you have noticed that trees have died (and were removed), curbs have crumbled and the brick paving in the nodes has heaved, creating safety hazards. Five years ago, those issues and other aspects about the current streetscape acted as the impetus to renovate. Now, after five years of planning, presenting the plans to the Omaha Planning Board, Urban Design Review Board, City Council, and to the public in numerous public meetings, and after raising the funds (75% from private sources) to implement the plans, we have a contractor who has bid the project within our budget, so we can start construction, with a ground breaking scheduled for April 29.

So, back to the trees. From 49th to 51st Streets on the north side of Underwood, MUD will be installing a new water supply line, and do some sewer work. MUD needs a deep trench all along that stretch of road. This work will take an estimated two to two and a half months. The trees along that stretch include some very old silver maples that are not in good health,

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DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

May 13th

Spring/Summer Gardening Tips from Indian Creek Nursery also updates from: Midtown Crossing -Amanda Trieber LOCAL - Chris Foster

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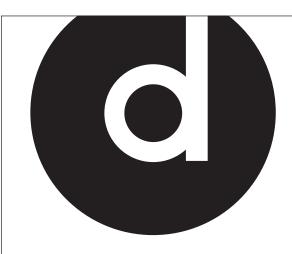
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President's Message

Continued from front page.

and even if they were, would be so traumatized by the construction, their lives would be further shortened and they would have to be removed within a few years. Most of the other trees along the north side are the locust trees planted 30 years ago, and most of them are also not in good health, in part due to the root girdling caused by the highly confining wells in which they were planted, and in part due to the stress of having paving covering the expanse of the nodes, preventing rainwater from making its way to the root systems.

On the south side of the street, west of 50th, there is only one tree, a locust that is highly stressed and near the end of its life. The others on that side of the street that were planted 30 years ago have already died and been removed. East of 50th, there are some healthy trees that are being removed to accommodate the new design, but most of these trees are still young and do not represent old growth; they have been planted within the past decade or so, and the new trees will catch up in size, and eventually reach greater height and maturity.

There are two features of the new design that deserve mention. One, the design calls for new nodes planted with ground-level plants and trees arranged along Underwood, with nodes on the north and south sides of the street arranged facing each other to act as traffic-calming influences. Making the neighborhood as pedestrian friendly as possible was the primary goal of the redesign project. With the nodes built in this opposing arrangement, it will help to slow traffic, as urban traffic engineers assure us. Further, the new trees will be of varying species, to reduce a sense of uniformity and to avoid a mono-culture. Visually, some will have broader canopies, others will be more columnar. Some will be more yellow in fall, while others will be more red. The final selections have not been made, but planting a variety of species is the principle upon which those decisions will be made.

The second feature is that there will be an increased number of parking spaces, much of it east of 50th Street, including some along 49th Street and east of 49th on the north side of Underwood, in front of Underwood Towers. While many Dundee residents will enjoy walking to the business district, many do drive, especially those who live quite a few blocks away, are infirm, or have stickers for handicap parking.

Again, it is sad to see trees that are old friends go, but we are looking to the future and what we are creating for our children and grandchildren. This time, we are aiming for a streetscape that will last well beyond the 30 years – aiming at 40 or 50. We are building a new plaza as a gathering place and improving some existing gathering places.

The new design calls for planting more trees along Underwood than were removed. We are confident that as the new trees mature, the Dundee business district tree canopy will flourish and be beautiful, more beautiful than ever before. We are thrilled to see that the project that began as a part of a wish list is about to become reality.

Support Your Dundee Merchants During Streetscape Construction. One more word about the streetscape project,

the schedule calls for reducing Underwood down to one lane, east bound only, for the duration of the construction period, which is estimated to be from May through August and into September, depending on weather among other things. The constricted flow of traffic will cause inconvenience to all, and may cause financial hardship for your Dundee neighbors who operate businesses along Underwood. I encourage you to give all the Dundee merchants as much of a boost as you can, support them through this period, since many non-Dundee Omaha patrons will be avoiding the construction zone, and the Dundee merchants will be relying on their Dundee and Memorial Park neighbors to help them through the summer.

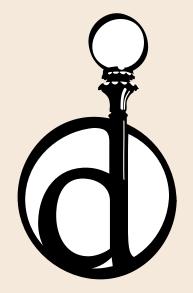
"Gigantic Garage Sale" Weekend. – Dundee's annual event is scheduled for May 17, 18 and 19. This event brings many garage sale shoppers to the area, and allows us to find new homes for the usable things – or "stuff" – that we no longer need or decide would be better off in someone else's possession. Truly, it must warm up by then, and won't we be eager to spend some time outside feeling the sun? Check inside this newsletter for the sign-up form, which must be returned by May 6 to be included in the listings. A big "Thank you" goes to Raquel Ahlvers for all her help on organizing the garage sale. In addition, she also brings the treats (a delightful mix of healthy and seasonal treats, along with indulgent sweets) to our neighborhood meetings, just another example of Dundee folks caring for Dundee folks and making a difference.

Dundee Community Garden. As this letter goes to press, the Dundee Community Garden's sponsors have almost reached their fundraising goal. A fundraising brunch was held at Marks Bistro April 28 (on a Sunday, when Marks is normally closed), with all the funds going to the garden. Marks donated all the food and labor so the garden would receive the maximum benefit from the event. The Dundee Community Garden, another "wish list" dream about to become a reality! Please consider donating to keep the garden in Dundee, keep the green space green! Dundee is such a great community – and I feel we are all so fortunate to be a part of it.

Enjoy your spring – I sure hope it is on its way!

Molly Romero, DMPA President





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ANOTHER SUMMER IN ELMWOOD PARK

An eighth season of planting, weeding and general maintenance of Elmwood Park/stream is planned for this summer. The following dates have been set aside: Saturdays May 18, June 15, July 20 and Sept. 21. The plan is to work from 9:00-11 a.m after meeting in the grotto parking area. The City is providing the equipment truck for our use so gardening tools will available.

Our work is a very necessary component of the general well-being of the park as the park maintenance crew has many parks to maintain. We will be planting annuals at the pool, weeding and trimming vegetation in the grotto, cleaning storm drains, litter pick-up and stream clean-up. The more helping hands we have, the more we get done!

There are many high schools which require community service hours and we would welcome these students with an adult supervisor. Hope to see you in the park!

Trilety Wade and Marty Myers



Dundee Community Garden to Become Permanent

The Dundee Community Garden is extremely pleased to announce that we have been awarded two grants from local foundations. When coupled with the donations from our many neighborhood supporters, we have met our fundraising goal for purchasing the property where the garden is located, and making the garden a permanent part of the Dundee neighborhood.

The Sherwood Foundation is donating \$45,000 to the DCG to purchase the property, at 4902 Underwood Ave. The Peter Kiewit Foundation is donating the final \$8,200 that was needed to reach our initial \$65,000 goal.

With these funds we will be purchasing the property, doing some needed grading, and putting in our own water supply. We plan to construct a small tool shed at the garden, and purchase an electric lawn mower. As a model of sustainability, the lawn mower will be powered by solar panels on the roof of the shed.

Additional improvements call for increased plantings of edible landscaping, including the planting of 6 to 9 dwarf fruit trees along the northern edge of the garden (along the alley).

We would like to thank the many Dundee neighbors and friends who have donated so generously to help us make the garden permanent! Thank you—we could not have done this without strong neighborhood support. We'd also like to thank eCreamery for hosting an ice cream benefit in March, and Marks Bistro for donating all the food for a Sunday Brunch Buffet benefit in April.

We are continuing to accept donations, which will be used for additional improvements that were not part of our original grant request... including improving the garden entrance, improving some garden walkways, etc. It's not too late to donate, and your donation will make a difference! Donate on-line at dundee-garden.org, or send checks, made out to DCG, to DCG c/o Rose Edzie, 4902 Capitol Ave., Apt. 304, Omaha, NE 68132.

Donations of \$150 and over will earn you a spot on the permanent plaque in the garden.

Cheap at Twice the Price

By Jean Sigler

I hate shopping for bargains. I don't hate shopping; I just don't have the energy it takes to get a price break these days. It used to be that a sale was 20% off or 50% if it was the January White Sale. Done deal. That was then. Now it takes a Philadelphia lawyer to figure out where the best bargain is to be found and decipher the rules of the sale.

One store offers a percentage off certain items excluding some items, if you bring in an item to be donated to a charitable organization. I happened to be at this store on the day of this sale. When I took my items to check out, the woman said I could get 10% off one of the items if I opened a store charge account. I thanked her but said I would stick with my airline card that gets me to see the grandbabies. She then suggested that on three of the items I was purchasing, I could get 20% off if I donated an item to the charitable organization. I told her I didn't know there was such a sale going on, so I stupidly forgot to bring an old worn household or clothing item with me. She said that I could go upstairs to Bed and Bath, purchase one wash cloth, and bring it back to her whereupon she would put it in the donation bag and I could get the discount. I told her I had probably given one hundred and seventy six wash cloths to second hand stores over the years and asked if she could maybe just take my word for it and give me the discount anyway. She couldn't, of course, but she suggested I come back the following Saturday, purchase a coupon booklet and get a discount that way. I didn't want to go home and come back and I was purchasing quite a few items, so I bit the bullet and went upstairs to Bed and Bath. By this time I had quite a headache, so I bought two washcloths, soaked one in cold water and applied it to my forehead before taking the other one back to the sales lady and gathering my now discounted items. I am convinced there is a team of highly paid professionals somewhere who do nothing but come up with complicated sales formulas for this store. One local store gives generous discounts to people who hold shares of stock in the company that owns the store. I think this is a cruel joke on the rest of us. These people don't need bargains. They could sell one share of their stock and furnish my entire house. I need the bargains! I am one of the misguided investors who bought Level 3. How about a special day for us?

Then there is the one day only sale. Prices are slashed but only until the doors close for the night. Then, presumably they shoot right back up unless you have a coupon or a cash card or a store credit because you spent over fifty dollars the week before. I have a drawer at

home where I keep the gift, credit, bonus, krazy kash cards that will no longer fit in my wallet which is stuffed full of cards I keep forgetting to use. I think there might be a method in this madness. Have you noticed that not very many stores give cash back any more — only the cards. I'm sure they are counting on people like me who will take these cards to their graves. Well, probably not, because I'm sure I will forget them at home.

I thought it might be easier to shop online bargains. I went to a department store website and found a dizzying number of sales options. One of them was the "Daily Deal" page which has a countdown clock telling how many days, hours, minutes and seconds are left in the daily deal for that day. I felt so pressured I almost bought a nine hundred dollar treadmill simply because there were only thirty seven minutes and twenty two seconds left before the sale ended.

I remember when the Dollar Stores first came on the scene. Then, as now, every item in the store went for \$1. The difference between then and now is the atmosphere in the stores. The aisles used to be filled with good natured sales staff who loved a good joke. Every ten minutes or so one of them would shout, "Price Check!" The rest of the employees shouted back merrily, "A dollar!" They never tired of the joke. Somewhere along the line the jocular sales staff was replaced with one harried cashier frantically punching in the purchases of the customers. I can't help but wonder if this process couldn't be streamlined by the cashier counting the items each customer is purchasing, multiplying by 1, and adding sales tax. I guess there needs to be an itemized receipt in case an item is returned and the cashier has to verify the cost. Really?





For the old house owner, windows can be a blessing and a curse. A blessing because old houses typically have lots of windows that let the sunshine

stream in. A curse because after 60,70, 80 years or more, your old windows may be in sad shape. A recent letter from a Dundee neighbor posed some interesting questions about window repair and replacement.

Dear Don,

Hoping to get your insight on replacing old windows. We have old double hung windows with original storms. Unfortunately, we did not inherit the screens. On the top half of our double hungs, we have the 6 panes of glass. Many of these small panes are cracked or broken. To add to this, we have 4 young children who are at risk of lead poisoning every time we open the windows (which isn't often due to most of them are painted or caulked shut, and the necessity of using an 8-10 inch indoor screen- so much for "cracking" a window!) The internal wells of the windows as well as the storms are displaying the "alligator" pattern so typical of deteriorating lead paint.

So for all of these reasons, not to mention the draftiness caused by them, we're considering the process of window replacement. We can't afford to do the whole house as we have many. We're considering a few rooms at a time or the second floor/first floor plan.

What knowledge or info do you have regarding any company or type of window replacement that would keep the integrity of the old house intact, yet improve the energy efficiency? My neighbors have "new windows" on their wood clapboard house but the external window frame is now wrapped in vinyl. Any opinions? Any advise about minimizing lead dust hazards?

Basically, I want to have thermo-efficient windows that I can open to enjoy the fresh breezes while not endangering my children, yet maintaining the integrity of my wood clapboard home. Any input is appreciated!

Sincerely, Tressa Hoover

Dear Tressa,

I favor renovating old windows rather than replacing them. While it takes some work, the cost savings is very significant. For a few dollars a window the old windows can be restored to their original working condition. New windows, including installation expenses, will cost about \$350-\$500 each. I have restored about 35 windows on our old house (with about 15 more to go.) All of the restored double hungs can be opened with just one finger and cold drafts don't leak in around them. The only thing we don't have is the double pane, gas-sealed, low-e glass of new windows. However, window manufacturers exaggerate the energy savings of replacement windows. The

University of Vermont estimated that the annual fuel savings for double pane glass is about \$3 per window per year. So the payback for a replacement window will take a long time. The greatest heat loss for windows is the air infiltration around the window, which can be solved with weather-stripping, caulking and proper maintenance.

However, having said all that, window renovation has its downsides, too. First it takes time and patience. Time is the commodity we all find in very short supply. The lead paint risks you mention are also a concern, especially since you have young children in the house. A contractor trained and equipped to safely handle lead paint waste should be the one to strip the paint from the sashes and frame.

When replacing windows you have three general options. With the first option you can replace just the sash and glazing (glass) and use the existing frames. Most window manufacturers sell "sash-packs". This is the cheapest alternative. If you are reasonably handy you can do-it-yourself and save \$250-\$300 per window. You could hire a contractor to install the most difficult window(s) with the understanding that you're going to watch and learn how to install the others. The inside of the frames would still have to be stripped so you would still have the lead paint issue to deal with.

The second option is one I don't recommend for houses of our vintage, but I'll explain it for the sake of completeness. This is the "frame within a frame" option. With this option the sashes are removed and a new window installed in the opening complete with a new frame. Since the window now has two frames, the area of glass will be reduced. If the existing window frames are out-of-square or suffer any rot, the "frame-within-frame" will not work. It is for these reasons most window manufacturers advise against this method of window replacement for wood window frames. I would also be concerned about how these windows would affect the exterior appearance of your old home.

The final option is full replacement where the full window--including sashes, glazing and frame are removed and replaced. This is the most expensive option.

I agree with you that the vinyl or aluminum clad windows do not look appropriate for an old house. Luckily many manufacturers produce good wood windows. Marvin, Kolbe & Kolbe, Pella, and Andersen sell all-wood windows according to their websites. (And, I am sure there are many other companies that offer all wood windows as well.) Wood windows are considered a 20-25 year replacement item. However, with regular maintenance they can last for generations. As proof I have the windows in my old house, which are 80 years old. When we bought the house we thought they'd have to be replaced because they looked so bad. After stripping, reglazing, replacing sash cords and hardware, they look and function like they



2013 DMPA Gigantic Garage Sale Weekend



May 17, 18, 19

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Continued from page 8

And before you sign the contract, ask for and check their did in 1921.

There are many good window makers, so brand name is not as important as installation. If the windows are not installed properly, you'll get a bigger old house headache rather than curing one. Ask the window distributors for the names of reliable installers if they do not install them. references and a give the Better Business Bureau a call, too.

Fenestration is a ten-dollar architectural word that describes the look of your windows as part of the overall design of your home's exterior. Unless you are planning on moving any windows, the ranking or window placement will not be an issue. But the design of the individual win-

dows should replicate the windows you are replacing. Your double hungs are "six-over-ones"; the upper sash is divided into six lights or

panes with a single pane in the lower sash. Replacement windows can be obtained that have true divided upper sash or have wood grills that mimic the divided look. Unfortunately too many divided light windows in our neighborhood have been replaced with "one-over-ones" or casement windows and even situations where two side-by-side double hungs were replaced with a single slab of a picture window. The change in the home's appearance can be quite striking, leaving the house with a sort of dull, vacant-looking stare.

Tressa, I hope this information is some help to you. Good luck on your window project.

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Kids' Programs

Lego Club - Wednesdays, May 1, 15 & 29 | 4:30 PM

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

Yoga Storytime - Friday, May 3 | 5 PM

Storytime comes alive as we demonstrate books through yoga. Suggested for kids up to age 6.

Fit Club - Saturday, May 4 | 2 PM

Have fun while working out! Play video games that will get your heart pumping!

Froggy Storytime - Wednesday, May 8 | 10:15 AM

Bring your camera to storytime and meet Froggy!

Mother's Day Craft for Kids - Saturday, May 11 | 3 PM

Make something for your mom just in time for Mother's Day!

Game Time | 2-4 PM

Have fun with your friends playing Wii & Xbox 360 Kinect games.

Saturday, May 25: Just Dance 4 Thursday, May 30: you choose

Teen Programs

Lego Club - Wednesdays, May 1, 15 & 29 | 4:30 PM

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

Fit Club - Saturday, May 4 | 2 PM

Have fun while working out! Play video games that will get your heart pumping!

Mother's Day Craft for Teens - Tuesday, May 7 | 4:30 PM

Make something for your mom just in time for Mother's Day! Registration required.

Game Time | 2-4 PM

Have fun with your friends playing Wii & Xbox 360 Kinect games.

Saturday, May 25: Just Dance 4 Thursday, May 30: you choose

Adult Programs

Beginning Internet for Adults - Wednesdays, May 1 & 8 | 10 AM-2 PM

Learn more about the Internet, and sign up for these two classes taught by Metropolitan Community College. Registration required. (Limit 7)

Scrabble - Thursdays | 1 PM

Join us for some fun with this classic board game!

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, May 4 | 1 PM

Read and discuss Billy Boyle by James R. Benn.

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, May 7 | 4:30 PM

Read and discuss Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout.

HisMys Book Club - Saturday, May 11 | 10:30 AM

Read and discuss The Conjure-Man Dies by Rudolph Fisher.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, May 18 | 1 PM

Read and discuss The Beekeeper's Apprentice by Laurie R. King.



Dundee 4825 Dodge St.

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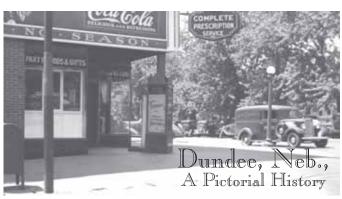
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Dundee Day

Dundee Merchants decided to schedule Dundee Day for September 28th due to the streetscape construction. This is the only September Saturday with no Husker football game



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