

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"

www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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Vol. 18, No 11, November 2008

President's Message

Wooooo-weeee!! If you missed the October Association meeting you missed an inspiring occasion. We heard from six candidates for office in the November elections, three for the Learning Community Council (I was ready to move to District Two so I could vote for Justin Wayne!!), one for Nebraska Legislature, one for County Board and one for the M.U.D. Board. These folks were thoughtful, had a clear understanding of the duties of the office they were seeking and able to express their ideas very well.

Following the candidates we were delivered an inspiring talk, illustrated with moving photos, by Michael Alley of Alley-Poyner Macchietto Architecture....and a Dundee resident. Michael came with Matt Dougherty who recently acquired the building on the north-west corner of 49th and Dodge Streets. The former hotel and long time home of Reniers Piano and Keyboard is to be rehabilitated/restored to serve as the new home for Matt's State Farm Insurance Agency. The restoration, with a beginning date yet to be decided, will also include other retail space, offices, residential area AND parking. Michael presented his discussion of the enhancement of the building against a background of the idea of the infill/restoration of neighborhoods as opposed to urban sprawl and he used photos of a large number of his firm's projects in the downtown, midtown and north downtown areas to reinforce his thoughts. The talk was followed by a lively question and discussion period. Frankly, I was disappointed to have to call a halt due to the lateness of the hour. You just knew it was going to be an interesting and lively evening by the quantity and spirit of the discussion during the social time which preceded the meeting. (Too bad that had to be terminated as well!)

The November Association meeting will feature Winnie Callahan. Many of you will remember Winnie as the Principle of Dundee School and later as Communication Director for OPS Central Administration. Winnie is now Director of the Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science and Technology on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Come hear about the work of and the latest developments at the Institute...and catch up on old times with Winnie as well.

I also remind you that I continue to seek your suggestions for programs of wide interest that will attract you to meetings. Please call or write with your ideas and do include the names of knowledgeable presenters. Attendance has been good this fall... but can always be improved. I would love to set up more chairs as the meeting is about to begin...which means we guessed wrong earlier.

Our days have grown noticeably shorter (I know because I have had to change the time clocks on my outdoor lighting several times) and there are more red, gold and brown (uuug...) leaves on the trees, and yes, the ground. This is a warning that the fall/winter holidays are fast approaching. (Continued on Page 4.)

DMPA Meeting

November 10th

Dundee Presbyterian Church
53rd & Underwood Ave

7:00 PM - Social

7:30 Business Meeting

8:00 Program

November 10th

Winnie Callahan, Director of the
Peter Kiewit Institute of Information
Science and Technology

No Meeting in December

Make THE LIST!

An impartial panel of judges is making the rounds on Sunday, Nov. 30 to find the most worthy house decorations so the residences can be listed in the December DMPA newsletter.

Take advantage of the nice weather and decorate your homes for the holidays.

You too can make the list!



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DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

November 10th

Winnie Callahan, Executive Director of the Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science and Technology at UNO.

No Meeting in December

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Revised list, members current 10/08 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@netzero.net



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President's Message

(Continued from front page.)

Each year the Association encourages "holiday lighting and displays" by our friends/neighbors/membership. You can't really call it a contest because there are no winners or prizes...but there is recognition. On the Sunday evening following Thanksgiving, November 30, a group of Association Board members (unbiased without a doubt) will be touring the neighborhood, viewing home decorations and putting together a list of "not to be missed" homes for the December newsletter that when seen will enhance your holiday experience. We know you might feel that Thanksgiving weekend is a little early to finish outdoor decorating but it is a way to avoid the rush that comes later. (And it helps us get the December issue out in a timely manner.) If you are interested in having members see your handiwork, finish by dark on November 30. And committee members promise to make another pass later in December with their families to see the work of those decorators who didn't make the viewing deadline. Two helpful hints from your often late decorating President; it is often warmer to decorate in November rather than December and, you only need to turn your lights on early one evening, November 30,...and then save them for whenever you think is appropriate. Join the fun...decorate early!!

Bob Welk

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South Dundee Flower Island volunteers

By Ellen Zinn

As the growing season is soon coming to end, we would like to send out a big Thank you to acknowledge the efforts of our island gardeners who quietly volunteer their time and efforts to plant/weed/water/mow our South Dundee islands. If you see these following people around town, give them a pat on the back and a big thanks to:

Dan Rock-56th and Farnam island;

Lauren Kotulak – Happy Hollow and Dodge island;
Jan Neumann, Joyce Egan, and Rob Burbach – 56th and Howard;

John Gawecki – 57th and Emile, and

Nick Manhart and family at 52nd and Jackson island.



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Dundee Business Liaison Report

LOOKING AT THE BIG PICTURE

The merchants have been exploring two major initiatives designed to protect the business district, as well as beautify Underwood Avenue. The first is a Neighborhood Conservation and Enhancement Plan. This list of additional restrictions will be placed over the existing zoning requirements in the business district properties, and is based on the framework of the newly adopted Omaha by Design standards. It will limit the size of new buildings in Dundee and encourage uses that will be friendly to the neighborhood and pedestrians. The guidelines will affect development within property lines only. Also recently started is a Great Streets project along Underwood. This effort will look at street and public right-of-way issues including sidewalks, parking, signage, seating, etc. Work on this exciting project has just begun and a public meeting to generate ideas and to get public input is being planned for January, so please look for further announcements and plan on being part of the redesign of Beautiful Downtown Dundee.

Bill Stott with The Architectural offices had been coordinating the NCE plan while Molly Romero of Mark's has been coordinating the Great Streets effort. Both are being aided by Jed Moulton, manager of the City of Omaha's Urban Design Department.

BITS AND PIECES

A number of ideas are being kicked around by the merchant's, some are just ideas that may not come to

fruition, but others are being seriously explored and will hopefully benefit the business district and the residential neighborhood.

- Christmas lights will be going up in Dundee soon. The business district is looking into hiring a holiday lighting company to manage the installation of Christmas lights along Underwood this year.
- Recycling dumpsters are being looked into for the business district as well as the neighborhood. The idea is to place a recycling station on either side of 50th Street that would accept cardboard, paper, aluminum and plastic. Locations are currently being studied. These stations will need to be used by the entire neighborhood to make them economically feasible.
- Combining dumpster service for trash is being studied as well. A single trash collection contract could reduce costs as well as keep trash pickup to a single morning, unlike the current situation.
- The merchants are also exploring the idea of hiring an off-duty Omaha Police Officer to patrol the business district on weekend evenings. There has been a trial program running over the last several weeks, and the officer was able to keep a number of situations from getting out of hand.

Bill Stott

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The mission of the Nebraska Kidney Association is to improve the lives of all Nebraskans through advocacy, education, early disease detection and patient services.

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Report

Infinite Liquor License Denied

The Liquor Control Commission voted 3-0 to deny the liquor license applications for the Infinite Stores at 52nd & Leavenworth, 30th & Parker, Park Ave. & Woolworth and 33rd & Cass. None of this could have happened without the great legal work that Dan Rock provided. We owe him and his law firm a big thank you! It was also great to see so many neighborhood associations from around Omaha working together in a unified effort. We certainly get a great deal more accomplished working together. Although it took over 10 months to reach this decision, an important precedent has been set that the concerns of neighborhoods must be given consideration before liquor licenses are granted.

While this is a great victory, it may not be the end. Infinite Stores can appeal the decision to the Lancaster County District Court or they can start the application process all over again with the City Council. Given that the Liquor Control Commission voted two times already to deny these applications, it will certainly be difficult for for Infinite. We will have to remain vigilant in the coming months.

One positive result of this effort is a handbook that has been created by the neighborhoods and Project Extra Mile that provides an easy to understand explanation of the licensing process so that neighborhoods can be better organized when these issues come up. The handbook will be available through the Neighborhood Center and on their website.

Thanks to everyone in DMPA who voiced their opposition to these licenses. Special thanks go out to State Senator Gwen Howard for testifying before the Liquor Control Commission and Councilman Jim Vokal for his consistent support of the neighborhood's position.

Dave Schinzel
MNA Representative

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It was just an off-the-cuff comment at a dinner party: “Well, you know granite countertops emit radon gas.” Of course, old house owners are generally used to dealing with toxic dangers like asbestos and lead in old houses, but radon in granite? For any old house owners who have updated kitchens with granite, this is a new issue.

Apparently, the possibility of granite releasing radon first surfaced about ten years ago, but resurfaced earlier this summer in an article in the New York Times. So why should you be concerned? Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking.

Radon gas is colorless and odorless and naturally created by the decay of radium in our environment. A certain amount of radon is always present in the atmosphere, but a concentration of radon gas above 4 picocuries per liter of air puts your family at risk for lung cancer. (And no, I don’t know what a picocurie is. Apparently that was covered on the day I missed physics class in high school. But there are good, competent companies that can test for the presence of radon and measure the number of picocuries of radon in your air.)

But is it true that granite emits radon? When I want to determine the veracity of urban myths, popular legends or a crackpot email message, I turn to snopes.com. Snopes says: “It’s not true that all granite countertops emit alarming amounts of radon. Most such countertops tested (by the Environmental Protection Agency) for this emission either registered no emission or in such small quantities that it was statistically insignificant. However, some granite countertops were found to emit not only measurable amounts of radon, but amounts at levels high enough to give one pause....Just how much of a risk this is to homeowners is a matter of debate, with some researchers pegging the cancer risk from granite countertops at ‘one in a million’.” (For the complete snopes.com article go to: <http://www.snopes.com/medical/toxins/granite.asp>)

The trade organization for the stone countertop industry is the Marble Institute of America. The MIA says that claims about the dangers of granite and radon are exaggerated and point a finger at the sellers of competing products for starting rumors. But in an effort to reassure the public the MIA is proposing testing to keep “hot” granites off the market, according to the New York Times. Some preliminary testing by a Rice University researcher of fifty-five granite countertop samples, found

that a handful of the samples tested at high levels of radon.

So what should you do? The short answer is: test your home for radon. Even if you don’t have granite countertops, the EPA recommends testing for radon, because most of the radon gas in homes comes from the ground. Do-it-yourself radon testing kits are available from home improvement stores like Home Depot or general retailers like Target or can be purchased online.

Use three test kits and place one in your basement or the lowest level in your home, one in your kitchen near or on a granite countertop and one in a bedroom to establish a background level of radon. If the tests come back negative, then you don’t have to worry. If the tests come back positive you should have your home tested professionally and then follow the advice of the testing company. Included among local companies that offer radon testing are: Home Buyers Protection Company, Foundation 2 Rooftop, Inc., Jerry’s Basement Waterproofing, and SureHome Inspection.

And now—as Monty Python used to say—“for something completely different”, here is another shameless plug for the window repair tutorial on the Dundee-Memorial Park website. If you have double-hung windows that need to be restored, but aren’t sure how to do it our illustrated window repair tutorial is a great place to start. Just click on the second link below the Old House Mechanic logo. (And best of all it is free!)

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: dbrowsers@cox.net For an online archive of previous articles go to: <http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org/>

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Friends of the Omaha Public Library Book Sale

Friday, December 5th 10 AM to 8 PM

Saturday December 6th 10AM -5:30PM

Members of FOPL may attend the preview sale

Thursday, December 4th 6 PM to 8:30 PM

Swanson Branch Library, 90th & West Dodge
Memberships available at the sale, starting \$15.

Mini-Book Sales during regular library hours:

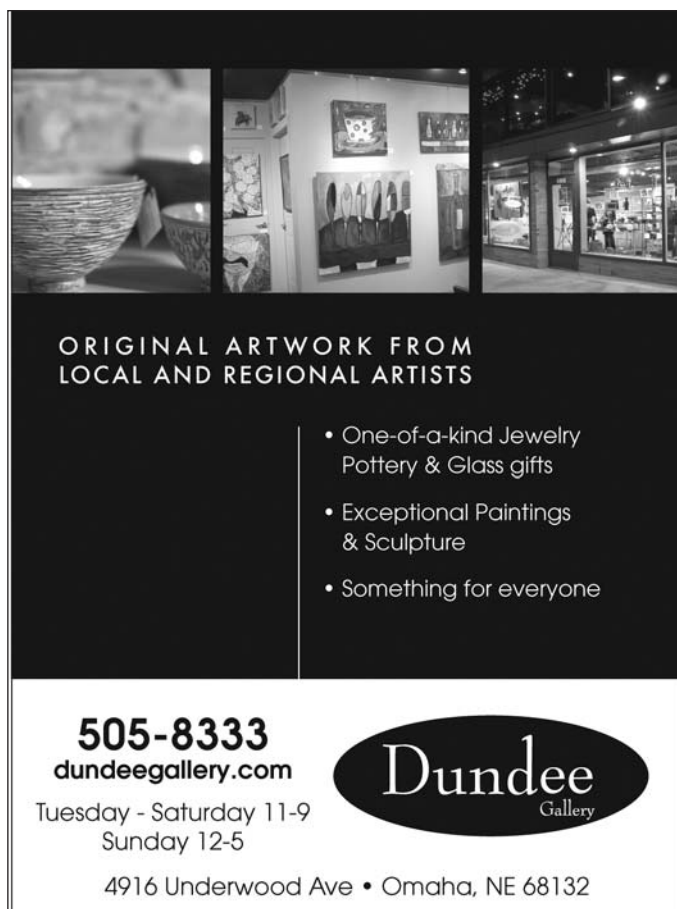
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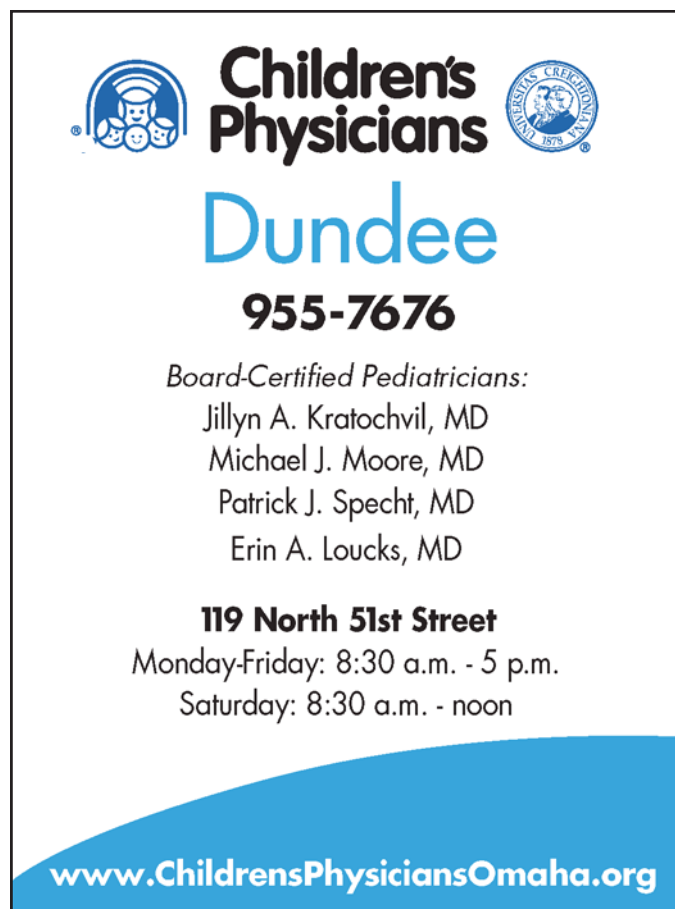


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It's That Time of Year Again.

We've been giving more FluMist this year than in year's past for a number of reasons. Several studies have suggested that FluMist gives longer and better protection than the influenza shot. Kids really like it because it's not a shot! It's also covered by most insurance companies, but not all, so you may want to check with yours. I'll try to answer some of the common questions that parents have about it. More information is available from the CDC, my source for much of this data. Does it prevent influenza? Yes, in one large study among children aged 15-85 months, the nasal-spray flu vaccine LAIV (FluMist®) reduced the chance of influenza illness by 92% compared with placebo. Who can get the FluMist? LAIV (FluMist®) is approved for use in healthy people 2-49 years of age who are not pregnant. Who can't get the FluMist?

- People less than 2 years of age
- People 50 years of age and over
- People with a medical condition that places them at high risk for complications from influenza, including those with chronic heart or lung disease, such as asthma or reactive airways disease; people with medical conditions such as diabetes or kidney failure; or people with illnesses that weaken the immune system, or who take medications that can weaken the immune system.
- Children <5 years old with a history of recurrent wheezing
- Children or adolescents receiving aspirin
- People with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome, a rare disorder of the nervous system
- Pregnant women

• People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs or who are allergic to any of the nasal spray vaccine components.

How many doses will they need? Children 2 years up to 9 years of age getting a flu vaccine for the first time will need two doses of vaccine the first year they are vaccinated, with the first dose ideally being given in September or as soon as vaccine becomes available. The second dose should be given 28 or more days after the first dose. The first dose "primes" the immune system; the second dose provides immune protection. Can children who get FluMist pass the vaccine virus to others? Yes, but the current estimated risk of getting infected with vaccine virus after close contact with a person vaccinated with the nasal-spray flu vaccine is low (0.6%-2.4%). Can my child get sick from the FluMist? Not really. Unlike the flu shot, the nasal spray flu vaccine does contain live viruses. However, the viruses are attenuated (weakened) and cannot cause flu illness. The weakened viruses are cold-adapted, which means they are designed to only cause infection at the cooler temperatures found within the nose. The viruses cannot infect the lungs or other areas where warmer temperatures exist. Some children and young adults 2-17 years of age have reported experiencing mild reactions after receiving nasal spray flu vaccine, including runny nose, nasal congestion or cough, chills, tiredness/weakness, sore throat and headache. Both FluMist and the influenza shot are safe and effective options to help you and your child decrease your risk of catching influenza. Ask your doctor about protecting your children from this miserable illness today!

Pat Specht, M.D. Children's Physician's Dundee

Please register online, in person or by phone (444-5274).

Children Activities: Storytimes

Baby & Me Story time (Infant up to 24months) - Tuesday, November 4th, 18th & 25th @ 10:30AM

Toddler Story time (Ages 2 - 3 1/2) - Wednesdays @ 10:30AM

Preschool Story time (Ages 3 1/2 - 5) - Thursday, November 6th & 13th @ 1PM

All story times include stories, songs, rhymes and age-appropriate activities. Each story time 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. Meet Hedgeie Storytime - Thursday, November 20th @ 1PM Hedgeie the Hedgehog (books by author, Jan Brett) will be at the A.V. Sorensen Library! Come to the library, listen to a story, make a craft and meet Hedgeie! Don't forget your camera! Please register.

Children's Book Clubs

Get BRIGHT Boys Book Club for 5th & 6th graders- Wednesdays @ 4:30PM Read & discuss Among the Hidden by Margaret Haddix.

Get BRIGHT Girls Book Club for 5th & 6th graders - Wednesdays @ 5:00PM Read & discuss Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan. Please register.

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 be reserved on three computers during this time for homework help.

Fetch Science Club (Ages 6-10) - Friday, November 14th & 21st @ 4:15PM

Join our Fetch Science Club and learn all about science! Get your membership card stamped each week, watch a Fetch episode on PBS, and do your own experiments! Please register.

Young Adult:

Get BRIGHT Teen Book Club - Saturdays @ 2PM

Join our YA Golden Sower Book Club! Read The Legend of Bass Reeves by Gary Paulsen and then join us in discussion of the book and enjoy refreshments. New members are welcome and every month we will read a YA Golden Sower Nominee for 2008-2009! Please register. 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.

Teens Dollars & Sense - Friday, November 14th @ 4:30PM

Help your teens get an early start in reaching their financial goals. This interactive workshop will introduce teens to the basic tools of personal finance and give them confidence in their ability to manage their money. Please register.

Get BRIGHT Lock-in: Pottery Painting from It's Yours Pottery - Friday, Nov. 21st from 6-9PM

Come to the library, enjoy refreshments, and paint your very own piece of pottery! A signed parent permission slip is required and there is a limit of 25 students so please register today!

YA Movie Day: The Game Plan - Saturday, November 29th @ 2PM

Come to the library and watch The Game Plan starring The Rock while enjoying refreshments!

Adult Book Clubs

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, November 1st @ 1PM Read & discuss The Persian Pickle Club by Sandra Dallas.

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Thursday, November 6th @ 4:30PM Read & discuss Waiting by Ha Jin.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, November 15th @ 1PM Read & discuss Crazy Horse by Mari Sandoz.

The A.V. Sorensen Library will be closed:

November 11th for Veteran's Day and November 27th & 28th for Thanksgiving

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A. V. Sorensen Library Grand Reopening Party Saturday, November 15, 2008 from 2-4 PM

Activities will include music, clowns, refreshments and the dedication of the bronze sculpture, "Children Reading on a Log" by Randolph Rose. The sculpture is a memorial in honor of Pam Scott, a former Omaha Public Library manager who passed away in September 2007. The gift from her husband, family and friends has been coordinated through the Omaha Public Library Foundation.

Stop by and enjoy the new sculpture and our newly remodeled library branch. Check out our website for more details: www.omahapubliclibrary.org.



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Residential Buyers & Sellers
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DUNDEE CLASSIFIED /WANT ADS

Denny's Handyman Service

Carpet Laying & Restretch
Painting & Home Repairs
397-4223 Area References

VineyardPainters.com

Preparation Spells
A Pro Painter
Dundee Resident
References Available
402.208.9127

**Reserve this spot
for next month**

For pennies per household.
Call 551-6787

DMPA Merchandise for Sale

When the flower baskets are taken down for the winter, why not replace the basket with a colorful Dundee-Memorial Park flag. This decorative flag has the DMPA logo on both sides and will certainly enhance the front of any residence. Each flag is \$45.00 plus tax and can be purchased at the Dundee Bank.



Also available is the new DMPA logo, long-sleeved tee-shirt. It is a charcoal gray shirt with the logo on the front. It comes in medium and large sizes for \$20.00 plus tax. The extra-large and 2X large sizes are \$22.00 plus tax. They are also available at the Dundee Bank. There are also a few large and extra-large sweatshirts left at the Bank. Wear the DMPA logo proudly!



Advertising Rates: \$8 for three lines plus \$2 for each additional line. \$14 for a three line ad run for two consecutive months. 25 characters per line, count all spaces & punctuation. Submissions will be edited to fit contracted space. **Send check to Shurson Publishing, P.O. Box 31485, 68131.**
Call 551-6787.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Please renew **before** your membership lapses.
Multi-year memberships are available.

Dundee Presbyterian Church

Loving God, Sharing Jesus Christ

Underwood at Happy Hollow · 558-2330

9 & 11 am Worship
10 am Church School for all ages



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

Send form (Photo copy acceptable) and checks to

Eli McNichols 5017 1/2 Cass St, Omaha, NE 68132

(Please DO NOT send to p.o. box.)

_____ I would like to learn about volunteer opportunities

Annual Membership Dues:

Family \$12
Senior \$6
Business \$20

**Multiple year
discounts available**



The Ahlvers Group
Jerry & Hedy Ahlvers
402-677-3020

"Working Together For You"

Email: jha@realtor.com
 Web: jerryhedyahlvers.cbshome.com



Don't Miss this Opportunity!!!

First-Time & Eligible Home buyers
Maximum \$7500 Tax Credit

(Essentially an interest free loan)

Call us for more information!
Pass this information on to your
family & friends.

"Happy Thanksgiving to All"



"Darling 1.5 Story Home in
Popular Aksarben
1029 S. 55th St.

Priced at
\$110,000



Charming Hardwood Floors
& Oak Woodwork
3 Bedrooms/ 1 Bath
Updated White Kitchen
Trendy Glass Cabinets
Finished 2nd Story (No HVAC)
3rd Bedroom, & Sitting Room
Corner Lot/Off Street Parking

Call or Email Jerry or Hedy for a full color brochure or
to Schedule a Private showing
Call about the \$7500 Tax Credit



4501 Leavenworth Street
 Omaha, NE 68106

Chris Oldenhuis

Owner

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Jack Kubat, Owner since 1991. Dundee resident.

To avoid delay... Please send all membership renewals to address on membership form, on the other side of this page. **Please. DO NOT send membership forms to P. O. Box**

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