

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



DMPA Meeting November 9th

Speaker: Hal France, Executive
Director of The Kaneko

Location and times:

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

Bring a friend or two.

**Get Ready to Decorate Your
Home for the Holidays...**
DMPA will do a drive by on
Nov 29th!



Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"

www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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Vol. 19, No 11 November 2009

President's Message

Now that winter has come and gone...just kidding...but that 4" snow fall we received was certainly a surprise...and right in the middle of one of the nicest falls that I can remember. The fall colors on the trees and flowers are absolutely gorgeous this year, especially my pin oak tree which usually just turns brown. My wife tells me that is because we seemed to have had more moisture than usual this summer. (I walked Lauritzen Gardens just before the freeze...now that was a treat). In any case, we have had a beautiful fall from which we can anticipate a graceful transition to winter...which leads me to writing about the Association's annual Holiday Lighting/Display non-contest. There are no prizes but there is recognition. The goal is to have you all complete your holiday lighting and display preparations by the Sunday evening following Thanksgiving, November 29, when a group of impartial and unbiased Association Board members will travel throughout the neighborhood and assemble a list of "not to be missed" homes to be published in the December Newsletter, that, when seen, will enhance your holiday experience. We know that the Sunday after Thanksgiving is early but that is the only way we can get the information in the December Newsletter. But...it also means you finish working outside before it turns really cold and you avoid the rush of holiday activities that occur later. Make sense? So...please join the fun, decorate...and turn Dundee/Memorial Park into a winter wonderland, decorate early, finish by dark on November 29th and...then...come to the Dundee business district...50th Street and Underwood Avenue...for the Tree Lighting Party hosted by the Dundee Merchants. All the trees will be aglow (many of the lights have already been strung) and there will be hay rack rides; cider, cocoa and cookies at the Creighton Dundee Clinic; a strolling choir; and we expect Santa to get away from his workshop for a brief period as well. See you all there.

Speaking of downtown Dundee...at the October 12 Association meeting we received an enlightening briefing on the streetscape project which has been under development for many months. Our speaker was to have been Trev Alberts, the new UNO Athletic Director, but a last minute scheduling glitch brought about a change of plans. Trev Alberts will now present the program for the January 11th Association Meeting. The Dundee streetscape presentation was particularly timely as the plan was to be presented to the Urban Design Review Board at its October 22 meeting. Bill Stott from The Architectural Office and Molly Romero from Mark's Bistro led the discussion, along with Jed Moulton, who is the Manager of Urban Design for the City of Omaha. City Councilman Pete Festersen brought additional information as he presented the initial

Continued on page 4.

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DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

November 9th -

Hal France, former Artistic Director of Opera Omaha, who has a new position as Executive Director of The Kaneko, a new creative arts center in the Old Market.

**No Meeting in December
Enjoy the Holidays!**

DMPA Business Members

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DMPA Online www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

details of his funding proposal, recently passed by the City Council, where \$550,000 in project money for the 2012-2013 budget cycle will help to fund the streetscape project. Following approval by the Design Review Board, the project will move to the working drawing stage where final details and budget will be developed. The Merchants Association will then be in a position to seek funding and develop a construction schedule. This redevelopment will not occur overnight but it is good to see progress and forward thinking.

A new restaurant is set to open this month in the Underwood Avenue business district. PITCH, a high end coal-fired pizzeria, will have its opening, I am told, during the second week of November. The kitchen equipment has been installed and tables in place. As I walked by a few days ago I saw a fire burning. We are pleased to welcome this new dining choice to the neighborhood.

I also noticed the posting of the closing notice for the Reniers Piano Store on Dodge Street for the end of the year. You may recall that Matt Dougherty and Michael Alley spoke at our October meeting last year about their plans for remodeling that building. I assume that we will see the project begin after the first of the year.

Look for the ugly, yellow signs to come down on the Infinite station at 52nd and Leavenworth. New management has been cleaning and remodeling the space. They have told me they want to create and manage a neighborhood friendly business with a new name. Call or write me with any suggestions.

Our speaker for the November Association Meeting is Hal France, Executive Director of The Kaneko, the new arts development and presentation organization and space in the Old Market. Hal tells me their support goes beyond the arts, to creativity in any field. We welcome Hal, former Music Director of Opera Omaha, as he presents plans for the development of this exciting, new venture.

Again, I 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. I am looking at programs dealing with geothermal HVAC, financial planning, the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center, and the Durham Western Heritage Museum for our spring meetings. What are your thoughts?

NEWS FLASH: We got the flower baskets down just in time to beat the frost that would have turned them black. Look for your Block Captain to be knocking on your door soon. Packets have just been released to col-

lect for the 2010 flower basket project. Please contribute! And rousing applause for all who helped to plant, hang, tend, water and take down the 2009 flower baskets and to care for the street island flower beds. These two projects are part of the heart and soul of DMPA and the neighborhood. Thanks to all who participated in any way. It is good to work together.

Remember...decorate early...I'll see you on November 9th...no meeting in December.

Bob Welk

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Dundee Elementary News for Neighbors

New Playground Coming Soon We announced our fundraising efforts in the last DMPA newsletter and are pleased to say that our \$18,000 goal was met! Installation of the new playground will begin in late-October or early November. Please be aware that there will be a short period when the playground is closed; your cooperation is appreciated. We have a ribbon-cutting ceremony tentatively planned for the afternoon of November 17 and welcome neighbors and friends to join us!

New Soccer Field In addition to the new playground, your children may have already experienced our new soccer field. To help preserve the grass for all to enjoy, please avoid the field if it is wet/muddy. Your help in reminding kids to stay off the wet/muddy field would also be appreciated.


Vehicle Traffic - We appreciate neighbors' help in keeping our kids safe as they are on their way to and from school. The busiest times of the day are 8:30 and 3:45. Please use extra caution during these times and obey the "one way" signs that are posted. We are working with families to avoid parking in the crosswalk areas and across neighbors' driveways.

Walking School Bus - You may have noticed groups of children walking together on Wednesday mornings. Dundee Elementary is participating in the Walking School Bus program by encouraging children who live within ½ mile to walk to school. Activate Omaha! provided a large satellite map of the area around Dundee so children can literally pinpoint their houses. Teachers and parents have designated "stops" on the route so children are accompanied to school.

150th Year Celebration of OPS - "Picturing the Past, Capturing the Future" - a digital, scrolling scrapbook of school photos from the earliest days of Dundee through the present, will be on display in our front lobby later this fall. Stop by to catch a glimpse of yourself and those you know from the neighborhood.

Questions? Contact Ginny and Mark Curley, PTA Presidents, 558-7119 or mjcurley@juno.com


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Brownell-Talbot Food & Mitten Drive

The traditional Brownell-Talbot Middle and Upper School Food and Mitten Drive is scheduled for November 5-20. Students will distribute flyers in the surrounding area under teacher supervision on Monday, November 16, and will collect the food and mittens on Tuesday, November 17.

The food will be given to the Omaha Food Bank, a wonderful resource for many community agencies. The mittens will be given to the Camp Fire Boys and Girls for distribution.

The drive is organized by the National Honor Society. Please keep the dates listed above in mind to help less fortunate people in our own city.

Creighton

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5002 Underwood Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68132
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To schedule an appointment, call 402.280.1185. We can often schedule appointments for the same or next day. Monday evening appointments are also available.



Conceptual plans for the revised Dundee Streetscape along Underwood Avenue from 49th to 51st

Streets have been completed and sent to the Omaha Planning Department for approval which will be followed by additional design and development work. The view above is looking west from near 50th and Underwood; a conceptual plan of the reshaped intersection. The traffic signals will be removed and replaced with stop signs to slow traffic. Pedestrian nodes will narrow the street and include benches and planters to help make the area more pedestrian friendly. Additional trees and public art may also be added features.



Anticipating winter is a like a second marriage: a triumph of hope over experience. Every year, about this time, we start hoping for a mild winter, but experience

teaches us that, like it or not, soon we will be dealing with winter with ice on the roads, snow on our sidewalks and, if we are quite unlucky, an old house with a frozen water pipe. Ice on the roads? I can't help you. Snow on your sidewalk? You'll have to scoop that yourself. But I can offer you a few tips of dealing with a frozen pipe.

The first and best solution for your pipes is to keep them from freezing in the first place. Most pipes freeze in outside walls, unheated crawl spaces or in undersink cabinets. Pipes under a sink are vulnerable on really cold nights due to a combination of tightly closed cabinets blocking heat from the house and uninsulated or poorly insulated exterior walls. The solution is to let some heat inside the cabinet either by cutting some ventilation slots or just opening the cabinet door on the coldest nights.

For pipes in exterior walls or unheated crawl spaces the best solution—but easily the most expensive—is to re-route the water line to bypass unheated areas. Another option is to wrap the pipes with heat tape. If you use heat tape that is thermostatically controlled you'll conserve electricity. Heat tape is pretty easy to install, just follow the directions carefully. Remember that you are essentially wrapping an electrical wire around your pipes, so make sure you don't cross the tape over itself and only plug into a grounded GFCI protected outlet. Once installed, heat tape should last for years. In my old house I have pipes running to my laundry room through an unheated crawl space. I installed heat tape on the pipes years ago (yes, I was tired of crawling into the crawl space to thaw out pipes) and it is still working just fine after 20 years.

As a pipe freezes the expanding ice can exert as much as 2,000 pounds of pressure so a ruptured pipe is quite possible. If you're unlucky and this happens, shut off the water to that pipe (and if you can't isolate that pipe, shut off the water at the main) and call the plumber. If you're lucky and the pipe hasn't ruptured you can start thawing. First open the faucet at the end of the pipe run. Then trace the pipe back to the unheated area: a crawl space, an exterior wall or an unheated basement area. Apply heat (I'll tell you in a moment what kind of heat so stick around for that) to the pipe starting at the end closest to the faucet and working back from there. The reason you start at the faucet end is so the ice that is turning into water and steam has an escape route and doesn't blow out the pipe or a plumbing fitting.

Never use anything with an open flame to thaw a pipe like a propane torch, a large bonfire or a flamethrower. Using an open flame device can a) start your house on fire, or b) poison you with carbon monoxide, or c) heat the water

in the pipe too rapidly causing it to boil and the pipe to explode, or d) all of the above. Some advise wrapping the pipe with a rag and pouring boiling water on it, but this is really messy and it is easy to scald yourself. If you choose this method never pour the boiling water directly on the pipe.

The best choice for thawing pipes is a powerful hair dryer or a heat lamp. If the pipe is close to a wall, place a cookie sheet between the pipe and the wall to radiate heat back toward the pipe. This will speed up the process. Inside a cabinet a portable heater will solve the problem in a jiffy.

If the frozen pipe is not directly accessible (e.g. behind a wall) you have a decision to make. Your first option is to cut a hole in the wall, floor or ceiling surface material; thaw the pipe and then, of course, face the repair work to close up the hole. Your second option is warm up the interior area near the frozen pipe. The second method naturally will take longer. You can accelerate the thaw by placing a portable heater or an infrared lamp near the location of the frozen pipe. Don't place the heater any closer than 18 inches from the surface and clear away any flammable material. Be patient. Thawing a pipe this way will take awhile, but it will work.

But you may not need any of these options; because this could be the year we have a really mild winter. Yeah, sure.

Connections

If you have a question, or a subject you'd like addressed in a future column write to me at:

The Old House Mechanic
5207 Cuming Street
Omaha, NE 68132

e-mail: dbrowers@cox.net

For an online archive of previous articles go to:
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Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Report

The pilot projects for Re-Tree Midtown were very successful. A wide variety of new trees were planted the last week of September by Indian Creek Nursery along 52nd Street between Underwood Ave. and Davenport St. Special thanks to the Kiewit Foundation, OPPD, Mayor's Neighborhood Grant and the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance for providing the funding that allowed these trees to be planted at no cost to the homeowner. As we move into winter, we will be looking at additional streets to do future plantings. The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance held its second annual Celebrate Midtown fundraiser at Joslyn Castle on October 23rd. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to projects like Re-Tree Midtown that are sponsored by the MNA.

Infinite Store Update

First, you may have seen that several former Infinite stores, including Park Ave and Woolworth, were granted liquor licenses in September. DMPA supported the efforts of our fellow Midtown Neighborhood Alliance member Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association. That decision by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission has been appealed to the Lancaster County District Court by the Ford Birthsite neighborhood. That case will not be heard for probably six months but it will have a dramatic impact on neighborhoods and their efforts to be heard.

DMPA was contacted by Ferra, Inc. which said it is going to be the new operator of the former Infinite store at 52nd & Leavenworth. The property will remain owned by Mohammed Ali (who has failed to pay property taxes the past 2 years) and it is unclear how much he will be involved in the operations of this store. This was not a surprise since Ferra, Inc. had told another neighborhood association that they "owned" the 52nd Street store back in May. In the intervening five months, Ferra, Inc. did not do any upkeep of the property prompting DMPA to write a letter to Councilman Jerram asking that the City take action. As a result of that letter, the overgrown weeds have been cut back.

There remain serious problems concerning the underground gasoline tanks on this property. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Nebraska State Fire Marshal are proceeding with legal action against the property owner because of his failure to comply with numerous orders to correct serious violations.

Ferra, Inc. has made no decision at this time on whether it will sell alcohol at 52nd & Leavenworth. They have said that they will not try to get a liquor license at 33rd & Cass because of the trouble it causes. One would think that the same would hold true for 52nd St. Ferra, Inc. currently holds a liquor license for a convenience

store at 103rd & Fort St. Ferra, Inc.'s license was suspended earlier this year for illegally selling alcohol to minors and it was also given an Enforcement Warning in July by the Nebraska State Patrol. The property had overgrown weeds and was not well-maintained when Ferra, Inc. was operating it. That store has been closed since the end of August. This certainly is not a very good track record.

As was done last year, there is a petition in opposition to a liquor license at this location. If you are interested in signing, please let me know at drschinzel@hotmail.com or <mailto:drschinzel@hotmail.com>.

Dave Schinzel

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Rep.



Dundee
955-7676

Board-Certified Pediatricians:

Jillyn A. Kratochvil, MD
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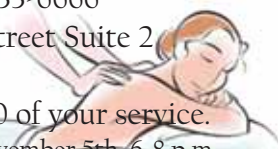
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www.ChildrensPhysiciansOmaha.org

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SEPTEMBER BOOK SALE

Friday, Dec 4th 10 AM to 8 PM

Saturday Dec 5th 10AM -5:30PM

Members of FOPL may attend the preview sale

Thursday, Dec 3rd 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:

Check out the Book Cart at Sorensen, Florence, Willa

Cather and Washington branches

and "Honors Sales", lower level at Swanson Branch.



The Library will be closed on the following dates:

Veteran's Day - Wednesday, November 11th

Thanksgiving - Thursday, Nov. 26th & Friday Nov. 27th

Children Activities:

Toddler Storytime - Wednesday, November 4th, 18th & 25th @ 10:30am

Come to the library and enjoy a storytime filled with lots of fun, songs and crafts. Please register online, in person or by phone (444-5274).

Preschool Storytime - Thurs, Nov 5th, 12th & 19th @ 1pm
Enjoy a storytime filled with lots of fun, songs and crafts. Please register online, in person or by phone (444-5274).

Movie Day: "Up" - Wed, Nov 25th @ 1pm

Enjoy popcorn while watching the movie Up.

Homework Hotspot - Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3-6pm
(All Ages) Homework help and games will be provided by the Afterschool facilitator. In addition, Tutor.com will be available during this time.

National Gaming Day @ Your Library - Sat, Nov 14th

Board Game Bonanza - 1 to 3pm

Bring along your favorite board game to share and play with others! Some board games will already be provided.

Gr. 3 & Up: Zelda Archery Tournament - 2 to 4pm

Compete to see who can get the highest score in a Zelda Archery Tournament!

Young Adult Activities:

Homework Hotspot - Tues & Thurs from 3-6pm

(All Ages) Homework help and games will be provided by the Afterschool facilitator. In addition, Tutor.com will be available during this time.

YA Book to Movie Day: "The Spiderwick Chronicles" - Friday, November 6th @ 1pm

Enjoy popcorn while watching the movie The Spiderwick Chronicles.

National Gaming Day @ Your Library - Sat, Nov 14th

Board Game Bonanza - 1 to 3pm

Come to the library and bring along your favorite board game to share and play with others! Some board games will already be provided.

Gr. 3 & Up: Link's Crossbow Training Tournament - 2 to 4pm
Compete to see who can get the highest score in a Link's Crossbow Tournament!

Gr. 6-12 Gaming Lock-in - Fri, Nov 20th from 6-9pm

Hang out with your friends! Enjoy snacks and refreshments while playing Active Life Outdoor Challenge for Wii, Wii Sports, Guitar Hero for Wii and Rock Band for PS2. A signed parent permission slip is required to participate.

Teen Book Club - Sat, Nov 21st @ 2pm

Read and discuss New Moon by Stephenie Meyer while enjoying snacks and refreshments. Please register.

TAG: Teen Advisory Group - Sat, Nov 21st @ 3pm

Enjoy snacks and refreshments while talking and sharing your ideas. Join to see what it's all about!

Adult Activities:

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tues, Nov 3rd @ 4:30pm

Read and discuss *The Long Walk Home* by Will North.

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Sat, Nov 7th @ 1pm

Read and discuss *River of Doubt* by Candice Millard.

Identity Theft Workshop - Tues, Nov 10th @ 6:30pm

Learn all about identity theft from the Lifetime Financial Group. Please register.

Computer Class: Make a Card - Fri, Nov 13th @ 10:30am
Learn how to create a card for any occasion including Christmas by using Microsoft Publisher. Please register.

Plains Pages Book Club - Sat, Nov 21st @ 1pm

Read and discuss A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry.

A.V. Sorensen Community Center

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DMPA Merchandise for Sale

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 DMPA table on Dundee Day or at Dundee Bank. When the flower baskets are down for the winter, why not replace the basket with a colorful Dundee-Memorial Park flag.



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. Wear the DMPA logo proudly!



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Multi-year memberships are available.

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Membership Form

Name (s) _____

Address: _____ Zipcode _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Multiple year membership discounts : Family 2 year - \$20, Senior 2 year -\$10, Business 2 yr \$30

Yes, you may list my name in the newsletter as a ____new member ____ renewal.

Send form (Photo copy acceptable) and checks to

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