

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



DMPA Meeting October 12th

Speaker: Trev Alberts,
UNO Athletic Director

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.



Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"

www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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Vol. 19, No 10 October 2009

President's Message

Bob Welk asked me to write this month's message as he is still enjoying the wilds of Wisconsin.

Autumn is a glorious time of the year almost anywhere you travel and especially here in the midwest. With the vibrantly colored trees of red, orange and gold and the vividly hued flowers, this season is a feast for the eyes!

Several of you (approximately 75) turned out for the DMPA trial run picnic on Sept. 6 in Elmwood Park pavilion. Many thanks to Ben Rouch for organizing the food and games for the attendees. Mayor Suttle and Nebraska State Legislator, Gwen Howard, stopped by for a scoop of ice cream and their favorite topping. The DMPA board members thought that the turn-out was a good first step and will give it a go again next summer. Suggestions for next year's picnic are always welcome.

The begonia flower baskets have been especially beautiful this season whether it is due to the cool and damp weather or the tireless volunteers who watered and fertilized the baskets. Dan Rock and his volunteers have done a monumental job for the neighborhood—thank you, thank you!!

The Adopt Elmwood Park/stream project wrapped up it's fifth year with the help of the senior class of Brownell Talbot and volunteers from Elmwood Park NA and Aksarben/Elmwood NA. Trilety Wade and I have been heading up this project for it's duration.

You might have seen Susie Buffet's "Ten best things in Omaha, NE." which aired on Good Morning America early in Sept. Mark's Bistro in Dundee was one of Susie's favorite restaurants because it is comfortable and a great neighborhood meeting place. Central High School was also on the top ten list and is the public high school for many of the kids in our area. It is also the school which graduated 5 generations of Buffets/Thompsons. Susie has always been a proponent of public education and thinks that Central High School is great example of "academic and social diversity." Kudos to Mark's and Central High School.

The Association meetings have gotten off to a rousing start. Don't forget that Trev Alberts, UNO Athletic Director, will be our speaker for the October 12 meeting. He will be giving us his ideas on the revitalizing of UNO's athletic programs and the continuing development of UNO's hockey program. There is a possibility of some freebies for distribution as well. Children are welcome at this meeting.

Continued on page 4.

Dundee-Memorial Park Association

Board of Directors

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558-2635, rwelk1@cox.net

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benjamin.rouch@tdameritrade.com

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NoDo (North of Dodge)

Ellen Zinn ellenzinn@hotmail.com

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only their support makes
this newsletter possible.

DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

October 12th -

UNO Athletic Director,
Trev Alberts

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.

DMPA Business Members

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Revised list, members current 9/09 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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Elizabeth McNichols, 5017 1/2 Cass St., Omaha, NE 68132.
Questions call 551-5246 or email: elimci@cox.net

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

Pete Festersen, City Councilman, has been working with the Dundee Merchants' Association trying to obtain monies for the implementation of the new street scape design for the Dundee business district. He was able to set aside \$550,000 in the 2012-2013 budget year for the Dundee business district for this purpose. This money will be used to begin the renovation of Dundee's business district. Thank you Pete!

As I was driving the red flower basket watering truck recently, it struck me that the Dundee-Memorial Park neighborhood is looking fabulous with trees, flowers, well-appointed and well-maintained homes. It is very hard work to keep up an old home and you should all be applauded. Get out and enjoy the sights and sounds of autumn in Dundee before the north winds blow.

Marty Myers

Newsletter Deadline

The 15th of the preceding month
for all advertising and article submissions.

Reminders ...

DMPA Meeting - October 12th
DMPA Meeting - November 9th



Think about helping an elderly or disabled neighbor with their leaves. A great project for children of all ages and something you can feel good about.

Dundee Book Fair

Shop for some incredible books at the Dundee School "Scholastic Book Fair: Read Around the World"

We hope you can come and visit our Elementary School Book Fair at Dundee Elementary, 310 N. 51st Street. The dates and times are October 15 and 20 – from 3:30pm-7:30pm. The proceeds of the book fair, the Dundee PTA provides free or discounted books to many children as well as the school classroom and library. Children's literature is emphasized but adult fiction, non-fiction and cookbooks are also available. Hope to see you there!



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Omaha, NE 68183

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www.co.douglas.ne.us/omaha/city

Douglas County, NE Web site

Mayor's Office: (402) 444-5000

Mayor's Hotline: (402) 444-5555

District 3 City Council Representative, Chris
Jerram (402) 444-5525

District 1 City Council Representative
Pete Festersen 444.5527

City Attorneys Office: (402) 444-5115

City Clerk: (402) 444-5550

Community Development: (402) 444-5142

Dewey Park Outdoor Center: (402) 444-4284

Greater Omaha Convention & Visitors Bureau:
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Greater Omaha Workforce Development: (402)
444-4700

Omaha Fire Department,

Information/Administration: (402) 444-5700

Omaha Police Department: (402) 444-5657

Community Resource Center: (402) 444-4873

Neighborhood Watch Groups: (402) 444-4873

Park Maintenance: (402) 444-5955

Parks, Recreation & Public Property Department:
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Permits & Inspections: (402) 444-5350

Planning Department: (402) 444-5150

Problem Resolution Team: (402) 444-5488

Public Works Department: (402) 444-5220



TO ADVERTISE
551-6787

Old House Services Directory

If you have employed a contractor to work on your old house in the past two years and have been pleased with their work, please take the time to go to our website dundee-memorialpark.org to get a form. You can recommend more than one contractor, but please use a separate form for each. Recommendations will only be accepted from Dundee Memorial Park residents.

Creighton

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Dundee Clinic

5002 Underwood Avenue
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402.280.1185

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HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS



Anytime a child has an accident, it's tragic. The last thing that you want to happen is for your child to be hurt on a holiday, it would forever live in the minds of the child and the family.

There are many ways to keep your child safe at Halloween, when they are more prone to accidents and injuries. The excitement of children and adults at this time of year sometimes makes them forget to be careful. Simple common sense can do a lot to stop any tragedies from happening.

Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make it fire proof, the eye holes should be large enough for good peripheral vision.

If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, make sure that they are far enough out of the way so that kids costumes won't accidentally be set on fire.

Make sure that if your child is carrying a prop, such as a scythe, butcher knife or a pitchfork, that the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fall on on.

Kids always want to help with the pumpkin carving. Small children shouldn't be allowed to use a sharp knife to cut the top or the face. There are many kits available that come with tiny saws that work better than knives and are safer, although you can be cut by them as well. It's best to let the kids clean out the pumpkin and draw a face on it, which you can carve for them.

Treating your kids to a spooky Halloween dinner will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect before you have a chance to check it for them.

Teaching your kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and crossing when the lights tell you to, will help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating.

Make Halloween a fun, safe and happy time for your kids and they'll carry on the tradition that you taught them to their own families some day!



Now here is some shocking news: According to This Old House Magazine more than two-thirds of all accidental electrocutions in homes can be prevented with a simple electrical upgrade. Do I have your attention? Good, because every year about 200 people in the U.S. die from accidental electrocution.

Upgrading your electrical system with a device called a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) may be the best investment you can make in improving the safety of your old house. GFCIs are now required by code in certain locations in new homes, but they can be easily added to old houses, as well. The cost is quite reasonable, too.

Invented in 1961 by a University of California electrical engineer, a GFCI has internal circuitry that monitors the electricity that flows into and out of an electrical device (like a drill, a hair dryer or that electric fondue pot you got as a wedding gift). If the difference between the inflow and the outflow drops by more than 5 milliamps indicating a ground fault (a short in the circuit) the GFCI trips an internal breaker and cuts off the electricity to the device in as little as twenty-five thousandths of a second. Once the offending device is unplugged, the GFCI can be reset with a simple push of a button.

Code requirements for new houses mandate GFCI outlets in kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms, crawl spaces and for outdoor outlets. These locations are recommended places to add GFCIs in old houses, too. But another application for GFCIs for old houses is installing them in places where adding a grounding wire isn't feasible—a great way to add a safety margin that might not otherwise be possible. I ran into that situation recently in a third floor bedroom which is a long way away from the grounding strap in the basement breaker box. At one time, the solution to a lack of a ground wire in old houses was to run a wire to the nearest cold water pipe, but that is now prohibited under the electrical code. The code does allow a GFCI outlet to be installed without a ground wire present, because of how the circuitry works. However, while it's okay use GFCIs for a few remote outlets, I would not recommend GFCIs for a whole house in lieu of upgrading to properly grounded circuits.

There are two ways to add GFCI protection. One option is a GFCI receptacle which replaces a wall plug-in receptacle and fits into the same electrical box. GFCI receptacles cost about ten bucks and an electrician can install one in about half an hour or if you're comfortable with light duty electrical repairs you can install them yourself. The other option is GFCI circuit breakers that install in your service panel. The cost is higher—between \$50 and \$100 per breaker—but you are protecting an entire circuit with one breaker. If your old house still has a fuse box, you're out of luck on this second option.

To install a GFCI receptacle yourself, turn off the electricity to the outlet you are replacing and double-check the outlet with a circuit tester to be sure it's off. Remove the outlet cover plate. Remove the screws holding the existing receptacle in place and then loosen the screws to release the electrical wires. Attach the black (hot) wire to the brass colored screw on the new GFCI receptacle and the white (neutral) wire to the silver screw. Make sure you get a good snug connection with the wires wrapped tightly around the screw.

The "U" shaped loop in the wire should wrap clockwise around the screw, so as you tighten the screw it will pull in toward the shank of the screw and not be pushed away from it. Carefully feed the wires the receptacle and into the wall box, secure the device with the new screws that came with it, put on the cover plate, test the outlet by pressing the "Test" and "Reset" buttons and you're done. Because power surges can damage a GFCI's internal circuit, outlets should be tested monthly.

In an old house there can be a hitch in this procedure: The wires in the outlet box may be so old and dirty that you can't tell the white wire from the black wire or—as it is in my old house—both wires are black. There is a way to determine which is the hot wire and which is the neutral wire, but if you don't already know how to do this, my advice is to put this project in the capable hands of a licensed electrician. I believe you will find the cost quite reasonable especially when you factor in the protection of your family.

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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Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Report

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Re-Tree Midtown project received grant funding from the Kiewit Foundation, OPPD, Mayor's Grant and the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Fireworks Show to fully fund all of the pilot tree projects. The pilot project in Dundee-Memorial Park is located on 52nd Street between California St. and Davenport St. A total of 8 property owners agreed to participate in the project which involves the planting of a total of 12 trees including Sugar Maple, White Swamp Oak, American Sentry Linden, Ivory Silk Japanese Lilac, Sugar Tyme Flowering Crabapple and Prairiefire Flowering Crabapple in the public right of way at no expense to the homeowner. The trees were planted by Indian Creek Nursery the last week of September. Be sure to drive down 52nd Street and see the results of this Midtown Neighborhood Alliance project.

Now that the pilot projects have been completed, Re-Tree Midtown will begin work on new projects and applying for additional grants. If a block is interested in participating in possible future plantings, please let me know at drschinzel@hotmail.com .

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance will be holding the 2nd Annual Celebrate Midtown fundraiser on Friday, October 23rd from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Joslyn Castle.

Infinite Store Update

While there has been great news about the new owner of the old Wohlner's Grocery and the restoration of that building, the same cannot be said for the Infinite store. As you may have noticed, the building has been covered with graffiti since the beginning of August and the inside of the building remains a mess. For the second year in a row, the property taxes were not paid by the owner. The State Fire Marshal and the Environmental Protection Agency have begun prosecuting the property owner for violations involving the gas pumps and tanks. The workers who had been in the building in early June were associated with Farra, Inc. which is leasing the former Infinite Store at 33rd & Cass and has said it is leasing the 52nd Street store. Farra, Inc. had another store in Omaha which had its liquor license suspended in May for selling to a minor. The property has been turned into the City for numerous code violations. Please feel free to contact Councilman Chris Jerram to let him know this eyesore needs to be cleaned up and that the City needs to hold the property owner accountable.

Dave Schinzel
Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Representative



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Dundee Elementary Gets New Playground Equipment

Dundee Elementary was thrilled to be selected by the Sherwood Foundation to receive a grant for playground renovation. Guaranteed \$125,000, the Foundation also agreed to match any funds donated by the school for a total grant of \$200,000. We are well on our way to achieving that goal! The Dundee Direct fundraiser eliminates all product sales by the students and instead asks for direct giving by families and friends of Dundee School. Students participated in a "Dash for Dundee Direct" walk-a-thon on Thursday, September 24th so they could ask for pledges from neighbors and friends. As of this date, we have raised \$16,803! The new playground will be installed this fall, if all goes as planned, and include three new play structures along with the replacement of the rocks with a rubber surface. All existing structures will be removed from the south side of the school. The Dundee PTA website offers a place to make online donations (www.dundeepta.org). We know the vibrant Dundee Elementary community is a mirror of our neighborhood and this playground will be a wonderful addition! Questions can be directed to Dundee PTA presidents, Ginny and Mark Curley at 558-7119 or mjcurley@juno.com



Photo by Jo Bartikoski, August 5, 2009

WE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Larry and Amy Roland
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- ❖ No Smear Tuck-pointing ❖ Chimney Repair
- ❖ Porch Repair or Replacement

References

Call John 680-3793

Over 30 Years Experience

Dundee Community Garden

The Dundee Community Garden is preparing for autumn. Oh, but what a successful growing summer we've had. Our members have taken home many sacks of fresh produce to share with their families and friends, and we've donated approximately 300 pounds of produce to the Together, Inc. food pantry downtown.

The sea of giant leaves on the 49th Street parking produced several varieties of squash, Halloween pumpkins, and the beautiful French heirloom squash "Brode Galeux," meaning "embroidered with warts." These squash have a pale salmon skin covered with amazing protruding warts that look like peanut shells.

The little tee-pee is now covered with Bird's Nest gourds, but you'll have to look inside to see them all hanging there. And take a look at the GIANT sunflowers by the alley

Our booth at Dundee Day was a huge success, raising over \$200 for the garden. Thank you to all the Dundee neighbors who supported us! You can continue to support us over the fall and winter by purchasing Chico reusable bags. These bags make great gifts and stocking stuffers! Made of nylon, they fold into a stuff pouch allowing them to fit easily into a pocket or purse. They sell for \$5 and can be purchased at the Bread Oven; 50% of the sale price goes to the garden.

Thank you to the many people in the neighborhood who have volunteered their time to make our first year so successful. And we'd also like to thank our sponsors: Chip James/ Lockwood Development, Grandpa's Food Mart, the Dundee Bank, the Dundee Dell, Mark's Bistro, the Bread Oven, Dario's Brassiere, Holland Basham Architects, and Indian Creek Nursery. If you've eaten at Mark's Bistro or the Bread Oven recently, you may have had some produce grown in the Dundee Community Garden!

We'll be finishing the gardening season with a clean-up party in mid-October. But rest assured, we'll be meeting over the winter months to make sure that next year, our second season, is even more successful than our first year. Visit our website www.dundee garden.org any time when you want to check out what's happening at the garden.

One last gardening thought: What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?

Pumpkin pi

Sharon Conlon and Mary Green, garden co-directors

A.V. Sorensen Community Center

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\$15.00 / One day Camp

Mon. Sept 28th 11- 3 p.m.

Thur. Oct 22nd 11- 3 p.m.

Ages 6 – 12

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\$10.00 / One day Camp

Mon. Dec 21st 11 - 3 p.m.

Ages 7 – 14

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Class starts 10/15

Thurs. 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Ages: 6 and older Co-ed

Limited to the first 15 registered.

This is a class you don't want to miss out on. Get your move on.

Pick up dodge ball FREE

Tuesday's 6:45 – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday's 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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Grades 1 – 3

Thurs. 6:45 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Grades 4 – 6

Thurs. 7:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Sports, sports and more sports! Grab your friends and sign up for this great program. Each week we Discover a new sport, meet new friends, and seek new challenges.

Sign up today at A.V. Sorensen.

Youth Basketball Tournaments

Nov 6th - 8th Girls 5th & 6th Grade

Nov 13th -15th Boys 5th & 6th Grade

Dec 4th - 6th Boys 7th & 8th Grade

Dec 11th - 13th Girls 7th & 8th Grade

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Class starts 10/19 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Ages: 4 – 5

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Pee Wee Tennis

Ages: Co-ed 3 –6 years

Wed. 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Session starts 10/14

This class is designed to introduce young students to a sport that can be a source of exercise.

Sign up today at A.V. Sorensen Center.

Little Kickers Soccer

Ages: Co-ed 3 –6 years

Wed. 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Session starts 10/14

This class is the perfect opportunity For your little ones to burn off excess energy while learning how to play soccer.

Sign up today at today!

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\$1.00 Drop in fee

Thurs. 10:30 a.m. – Noon

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Nisha's Preschool

Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Contact Nisha at 315-3585 to register.

Many new classes being offered. Stop by and pick up your fall brochure today to see a complete listing of activities. Right here in your neighborhood.

A V Sorensen Branch



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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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