

# DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



## DMPA Meeting September 8th

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

**Rivka Sass**, Director Omaha  
Public Libraries and **Kay**  
**Scarpello**, Sorenson Branch  
**Topic: Sorensen Branch**  
remodel and services

Also,  
Debora Knott, Exec Dir of the  
Midtown Neighborhood  
Alliance plans to retree mid-  
town.

**Join DMPA Today**  
**Membership Form**  
**Inside Back Page**

## Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

*"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"*

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

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Vol. 18, No 9, September 2008

## President's Message

Where, oh where, did the summer go? We often think that the dog days of summer dra-a-a-g by...but that certainly was not the case this summer. I do hope you and your family enjoyed Dundee Day. A big THANK YOU to the Dundee merchants who again sponsored this exciting, annual event.

Despite heavy rain, hail, wind and heat, the flower baskets still look great. The hail side of some baskets did not fully recover but, by and large, the baskets remain to beautify our neighborhood. Thanks to all who had a hand in the restoration process. It continues to amaze me how well the baskets respond to water...so pour it on. Rain or shine. Watering the baskets cannot be overdone. We still have a month to go before the baskets come down in October. Check your calendars and see where you have some time to help with the water brigade. Call Dan Rock at 558-4913 to volunteer. And remember, the cab of both trucks has a second row of seats so that "kids ride free." Or make a party of it and have another couple ride along. Check it out and you will also have a chance to view how well the neighborhood has revived from the June storm.

After the summer break, DMPA's monthly meetings begin again on September 8. Meetings will continue to be held in the dining room at Dundee Presbyterian Church, on the corner of Happy Hollow Boulevard and Underwood Avenue. Enter the church on the east side, go down the stairs, turn left and follow the hallway around to the right to the meeting room. Meetings begin with a social time at 7:00 p.m., followed by the business portion of the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Rarely do we go beyond 8:30. Deborah Knott, the new Executive Director of the Midtown Neighborhood alliance, will join us to bring us up to date on the work of the Alliance and how we may participate. A prime part of her message will be how the Alliance is leading an effort to restore the tree cover of midtown. The program portion of the meeting will feature Rivka Sass, Director of the Omaha Public Libraries, and Kay Scarpello, Director of our Sorensen neighbor branch library. They will be reporting on the remodeling/reopening and many services offered at the Sorensen branch.

Our October 13 meeting will feature Michael Alley of Alley-Poyner Macchietto Architecture and Matt Daugherty from State Farm who will review their plans for the redevelopment of the Reniers Piano and Keyboards building at 49th & Dodge. The former hotel will feature commercial, office, residential AND parking spaces. See if your guess is correct as to how that trick will be performed.

Winnie Callahan, former Principal at Dundee School and currently Executive Director of the Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science and Technology at UNO, will be our guest at the November 10 meeting. Come learn about the many exciting programs that are the work of the Institute...and review old times with Winnie.

Mark your calendars now for these dates so you don't miss out on the action as the events of the fall quickly heat up. As we will all too soon remember, the summer to fall transition is rapid, eventful...and hectic.

Bob Welk

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## DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

### September 8th

**Rivka Sass, Director**

Omaha Public Libraries

and **Kay Scarpello,**

Sorenson Branch

### October 13th

Redevelopment of

the Reniers

### November 10th

Winnie Callahan, Executive

Director of the Peter Kiewit

Institute of Information

Science and Technology at

UNO.

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Revised list, members current 8/08 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](http://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](mailto:elimci@netzero.net)**



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# Dundee Day 2008

By B.J. Reed

It starts about 5:30 in the morning. Pat Gobel is making hundreds of gallons of coffee. The Pancake man is laying out the grill. Volunteers are putting up tables, filling syrup bottles and moving equipment. As is traditionally the case a few cars are towed and display tables end up in the wrong place but by 8:30 all is well for another Dundee Day celebration.

August 23, 2008 was a glorious day for a celebration and Dundee did it up just right. The parade went off without any major hitch (remember last year?). The

crowds were large and enthusiastic. I have never seen so many double strollers in my life! Chip Maxell, on the spur of the moment decided to do his radio show in front of Dundee Bank. Kids and dogs joined in the fun in large numbers and it seemed like more events were designed especially for children. Adults seemed just as happy as the kids. Music played through the afternoon into the evening. What is sometimes amazing is how there is something for everyone at Dundee Days.

All of what makes Dundee Days so special would not happen without the volunteers, the merchants and the neighbors who all pitch in to make it a community wide success story. There have been problems in the past. Concerns have included music being too loud or going on too long, some destruction of property surrounding the business area and a few unruly persons who have clearly had too much to drink. Merchants have responded by closing events before midnight and increasing security personnel. There may always be a few people who behave poorly but this is far outweighed by the positive experiences that occur as a result of Dundee Days.




Photos by B.J. Reed



As I mentioned on Chip Maxwell's radio show, Dundee is unique. When I talk to friends who have moved away from the neighborhood or who have always lived somewhere else they still love the "idea" of Dundee. Its sense of place, its economic and social diversity, its vitality and sense of community make it stand out. For all the quality and vibrancy of Village Pointe and the new AkSarBen Village, the true compliment is that they strive to be what Dundee has been all along. Dundee Days celebrates that legacy.






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This mandate means we must replace our combined sewers or install other systems to control releases of sewage into the Missouri River and the Papio Creek.

The City of Omaha, engineers, community groups and citizens have been meeting to look at ways to meet the new federal regulations, including considerations for both non-monetary concerns as well as cost-effective solutions.

Community acceptance of the proposed clean solutions is a very important aspect of the work being completed.

How can you get involved?

- Invite the City to make a presentation to an organization or neighborhood group by calling Linda Lovgren, Public Facilitator, at 397-7158 or email [lovgren@lovgren.com](mailto:lovgren@lovgren.com).

- Offer to set up the City's display at your place of business, worship, neighborhood association meeting or other public meeting/event.

- Attend a community public meeting and learn more about this major project. You do not have to reside in the particular sector to attend. Upcoming sector public meetings (locations to be announced):

Southwest sector      Thursday, Sept. 18

Northeast sector      Tuesday, Oct. 7

Southeast sector      Thursday, Oct. 23

- Visit [www.omahacso.com](http://www.omahacso.com) or call the CSO Hotline at 402-341-0235 for updated information.



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Saturday September 13th 10AM -5:30PM

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Everyday we are reminded how the high cost of oil is driving up the cost of almost everything including old house renovation. A couple of weeks ago I asked the clerk at

the special order counter of a local home improvement center for a price on a wooden storm door. The price he shot back to me of \$329 didn't seem out of line, but I was completely taken aback when he added, "And the freight charges will be an additional \$240." Ouch. For that kind of money I could buy the door its own airline ticket! (And a cocktail and in the in-flight movie.) So I am resigned to repairing my old door.

This experience got me to thinking about ways to save on repairing or updating an old house without having to cut corners. Here are a few ideas.

You may be able to find the building materials you need at a steep discount if you look in some unusual places. For example, try Craig's List. If you're not familiar with Craig's List, it is a free online want ad section. Craig's List started in San Francisco but has grown to cover almost every city in the country including Omaha. Even if you know about Craig's List you may not know there is a section called "Materials". In this section you'll find all kinds of building materials for sale—maybe just what you need. You can find the local home page at <http://omaha.craigslist.org/>. Then just click on "material" under "For Sale". And if you are looking for used appliances, click on the "Household" section.

Another off-the-beaten-path source for building materials is Habitat for Humanity's ReStore at 1003 S. 24th Street (one block south of Leavenworth). Habitat accepts donations of surplus building materials and then sells them at their store to support their mission of building homes for low income families. They will also accept donations of your surplus building materials and reusable salvage. If you are tearing out cabinets or fixtures that still have some life in them, give Habitat a call. They will be able to tell you if they can use what you have. This keeps a lot of building material out of the landfill. You can take the tax deduction for the donation and it's good for your soul. Everybody wins.

Bear in mind, however, that most contractors won't work with surplus or used building materials for liability and warranty reasons. But for work you're doing yourself, you may be able to save some bucks.

Even if you don't have all the skills to tackle a complete renovation job, maybe you can do part of the job and save some bucks. As an example, I split some roof work recently. Tree limbs crashing down in a storm had peeled the small back porch roof off our house. I replaced it with a standing seam copper roof. I have nei-

ther the tools nor the skill set to bend cooper panels, but I was able to rebuild the wood understructure and then hired McKinnis Roofing to apply the copper. The roof looks great (if I do say so myself) and I saved over a thousand dollars.

Usually, it is the initial work or the final work that is easier for a homeowner to take on. An old house owner friend of mine reminded me that projects in newer houses take much less time because you don't have to first undo old remodeling work first. If you're up for a little demo work you can save the money you would pay to a contractor for undoing old work.

Let me hasten to add a couple of cautionary notes, though. If you are tearing into walls make sure you know what's inside the walls. It could be a disaster if you cut into electrical wiring or a water supply pipe. Also, if you are taking out a substantial portion of a wall make sure it's not a load-bearing wall. If you're not sure about these things, then leave the tear out work for your contractor. You may be better suited for the finish work. If you are reasonably skilled with a paintbrush, perhaps you want apply the finish to the woodwork and paint the walls. Or maybe you don't mind doing the cleaning up. You may be able to save several hundred dollars by doing a daily task the contractor hates anyway. Of course before you divvy up any work you'll want to negotiate the details with your contractor.

If you have some money saving ideas for old house renovation work, let me know. And, if you happen to be driving back from upper Wisconsin and wouldn't mind sharing your car with a 7 foot door, definitely give me a call.

### 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 Cumming Street, Omaha, NE 68132

e-mail: [dbrowsers@cox.net](mailto:dbrowsers@cox.net) For an online archive of previous articles go to: <http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org/>

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Drop-off sites accept: glass bottles, aluminum and tin cans, newspapers, corrugated cardboard, magazines catalogs, office paper and plastic bottles (1 or 2)

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Douglas County Assessor	<a href="http://www.dcassessor.org">www.dcassessor.org</a>

## Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Report

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance met on August 20th at the Field Club.

State Senator Gwen Howard announced that she will be donating canvas grocery bags to neighborhoods to distribute this fall as a way to reduce the use of petroleum-based plastic bags. She will also be offering \$100 gift cards to Hy-Vee this holiday season to neighborhoods if they are willing to match the \$100. The neighborhood associations would then determine who in their neighborhood is deserving of these grocery cards.

It was announced at the meeting that the proposed graffiti ordinance to require homeowners to pay for the clean up of graffiti would be withdrawn after considerable neighborhood opposition. There was also discussion about the on-going fight over the Infinite liquor licenses. The representative from the Omaha Police at the meeting expressed serious concerns about what has been going on at these Infinite stores and he thanked the neighborhoods for standing up against these licenses. DMPA continues to oppose the license for 52nd & Leavenworth thanks to the continued help of Dan Rock.

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance will be asking the City of Omaha to begin the process of creating an Area of Civic Interest (ACI) overlay for Dodge Street from 49th Street to 24th Street. DMPA has already gotten the City to create an overlay for Dodge Street from 49th to 51st. This is a tool that the City hopes will set design standards along Dodge that prevent unsightly strip malls and the demolition of historic buildings.

Dave Schinzel  
MNA Representative



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DMPA has sweatshirts available for sale with our new logo! The colors are ash (light gray) and light steel (gray) with the new logo on the front of the sweatshirt. Sizes are medium, large, and extra large for \$20 and 2X for \$23. Stop by Dundee Bank and see the new DMPA apparel. **Hurry, there will be a price increase with the next order.**

Later, DMPA mugs, note cards and tee shirts will also be available.

### Do You Want to Contribute to Your Neighborhood?

**Here's How: Join the DMPA Association Today**

Please check your address label to see if your membership is current

-this will save the Association the time and expense of sending out reminders. Multi-year memberships are available. Give gift memberships or encourage your neighbors to join. Membership forms are located inside the back page.

Above all... Be A Good Neighbor! ***Good Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods***

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## Dundee Presbyterian Church

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## Dundee-Memorial Park Association Membership Form

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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### Annual Membership Dues:

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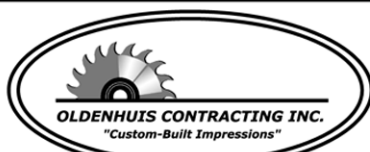
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