

# DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



## DMPA Meeting

**This Month's Meeting  
September 12th**

**Topic: Transportation  
Master Plan**  
Derek Miller

**Location and times:**  
Dundee Presbyterian Church  
53rd & Underwood Ave  
7:00 PM - Social  
7:30 Meeting

Bring a friend or two.

**Next DMPA meeting  
October 10th**

**We Love our  
Members!**

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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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## President's Report

I hope that everyone had a great summer as we celebrate Labor Day and the cooler days of fall that lie ahead. After spending several weeks on the road, it was great to get back to Dundee.

With the arrival of fall, we will once again be holding monthly association meetings the second Monday of the month at Dundee Presbyterian Church. The next meeting will be Monday, September 12th with the social hour starting at 7:00 pm and the meeting starting at 7:30 pm. I know this program will be informative and this is a great chance to come meet your neighbors.

I want to thank all of the volunteers who helped water our flower baskets through this very hot summer. Despite the heat, they all look great and show how much we care about the neighborhood we live in. Just because it is September does not mean we are done watering. Depending on the weather, the baskets can last until the middle of October so Dan Rock is still in need of volunteers to water through September. The weather is not too hot this time of year and there is no better way to see your neighborhood so please let Dan know if you can help out. It is also not too early for Block Captains to be thinking about collecting for next year's flower baskets.

In August, the City Council approved a blighted designation for the area around Crossroads Mall. The area designated as blighted was significantly reduced from the original proposal that included the areas of DMPA west of 52nd Street and north of Dodge Street. There was considerable opposition from our neighbors to the west in Fairacres about being designated as blighted. Because of their opposition as well as from the Westside School District, the designation passed by the City Council removed all areas east of 69th Street. We will now have to see what happens with the Crossroads Mall. There are big plans on the drawing board but nothing has been finalized.

Back in July, Channel 6 did a story on the unmaintained house at 52nd and Jones Streets. As a result of that story and last month's newsletter, I have heard from neighbors concerned about the condition of several other properties in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, some of them are also bank owned properties. The City and our City Councilmen have been contacted about these properties and the need for them to be cleaned up. It is very important

Continued on page 4.

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## **DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR**

**Meeting**  
**September 12th**  
**Transportation**  
**Master Plan**

**Next Meeting**  
**October 10th**

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Revised list, members current 8/11 To join as a business member, send dues with the form on the inside back page. Please send to Elizabeth McNichols, address below.

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# President's Message

Continued from front page.

tant that neighbors continue to contact the City until corrective action is taken. The squeaky wheel always gets the oil! Property owners have an obligation to keep up these properties. It is not only the neighborly thing to do, it is the law.

I have heard from several people about the rash of graffiti and inappropriate behavior that has occurred this past summer in the tunnel under Dodge Street at 51st. This is one of, if not the last pedestrian tunnel in Omaha. As the parent of a Dundee School 1st grader, I know how important this tunnel is for our kids to be able to safely get across Dodge Street going to school. Neighbors near the tunnel have done a fantastic job of painting over the graffiti when ever it appears but the graffiti continues to re-appear. A suggestion was made that we look into possibly applying for a grant to install video cameras at both ends of the tunnel. I am willing to look into what can be done to make this tunnel safe for our children because if the tunnel is closed, our children will have no safe route to school. It is unfortunate that some people show such disrespect for our community by perpetrating this vandalism.

DMPA is always looking for volunteers for the numerous projects that we undertake each year. We certainly can use YOUR help no matter the amount of time you can give. Please contact me or any of the committee chairs to get involved.

Please be sure to put September 12th on your calendar. See you there!

Dave Schinzel

## Code & Zoning Violations -

### What neighbors should look for!

#### Code Violations

- Deteriorated and cracked sidewalks and driveways.
- Deteriorated porches, decks and patios.
- Stairway with three or more steps without handrails.
- Deteriorated, broken or missing siding.
- Missing shingles / roofing.
- Deteriorated overhangs, soffits and fascia.
- Deteriorated or missing gutters and downspouts.
- Cracks or holes in foundations.
- Broken or missing windows.
- Torn or missing screens.
- Broken or missing storm or entry doors.
- Deteriorated chimneys.
- Deteriorated masonry joints.
- Exterior walls that lean or out of plumb.
- Deteriorated sheds or detached garages.
- Deteriorated fencing.
- Missing light fixtures.
- Exposed electrical wiring.
- Basement bedrooms without adequate windows.
- Hazardous electrical service entrance.
- Missing address numbers.

#### Zoning Violations

- Cars parked on unpaved surfaces.
- Inoperable or unlicensed vehicles.
- Boats, campers and R.V.'s, over 20' in length, parked in front of the house.
- Commercial vehicles parked at property.
- Outdoor storage of materials, appliances, etc.
- Fencing with the finish side facing in.
- Fences over 4 feet high in the front yard.
- Fences over 6 feet high in the rear yard.
- Noise complaints.

If you observe any of the above conditions, please call 402-444-5555 to report the conditions and address to the City of Omaha, Planning Department, Code & Zoning enforcement.



Be a good neighbor...

Please Clean up  
after your dog!!!

## Newsletter Deadline

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



# DMPA Ice Cream Social

While the topics throughout the Pavilion varied from the College World Series to the midwest floods, it was hard to beat the toppings on the table, which featured caramel, maraschino cherries and the always- favorite - Magic Shell. Dundee/Memorial Park neighborhood residents enjoyed the annual Ice Cream Social on June 17th, complete with a scorching hot day and plenty of eCreamery Ice Cream. More than 150 people attended throughout the two-hour event. Based on the number of kids and adults alike who came back for a second helping, both the ice cream and the toppings were a hit - and the friendly conversation was pretty good too.

Jen Goodman



Dundee/Memorial Park families enjoying each other's company and a great scoop of ice cream.



The Harbold family lives in Dundee and saw the Ice Cream Social advertised in the newsletter. Carrie and her daughters Hannah and Allison enjoy the end of a busy day a Mother/Daughter date.

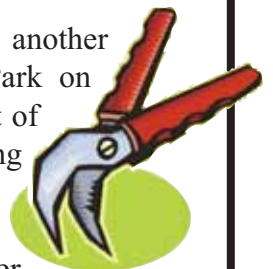
## WE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

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TAMMY VANDONK  
JIM & JUDY WIGTON

## ELMWOOD PARK WINTERIZING ON SEPTEMBER 10th

Please join me in wrapping up another growing season at Elmwood Park on Saturday, September 10th. A lot of dead-heading, trimming, weeding and general maintenance will need to be done to assure the park's condition for the winter months ahead. Bring your work gloves and favorite trimmers to the park on Sept. 10 at 9:00 a.m. I will be in the grotto parking lot. Questions--Marty Myers 556-2513

Hope to see you there.





Sometimes the worst enemy of an old house is good intentions. A case in point: Imagine you're on the final walk through on your newly purchased old

house when the seller casually drops a live grenade into the conversation. "Doesn't the woodwork look nice," he remarks. "We just painted it last month. Two coats."

Your eyes roll reflexively and your upper lip trembles. You try not to think about the yards and yards of vintage old-growth oak baseboards, door casings and crown molding choking under a blanket of white paint. But think about it you must, because now you'll have to strip that paint off.

Paul, a Dundee neighbor, phoned me recently to share this nearly exact same scenario. Paul just bought a cozy Dundee bungalow built in the Craftsman style and he intends to restore it in its original style. (Bravo, Paul!) But how to remove that infernal paint, especially from the crown molding, that was Paul's question.

Crown molding is a particularly daunting restoration project because it's high on the wall and difficult to get at and because of the curves in the molding it is considerably more difficult to strip than flat runs of baseboard.

Since Paul's molding only has two coats of paint, heat stripping with a heat gun or a heat plate is probably out of the question. These tools work best if there is a thick layer of built up paint. Sanding is also unlikely to be a satisfactory solution. Probably the only remaining choices are to use a chemical stripper or replace the woodwork. The first method is messy and dangerous the second is expensive. (Some great choices, huh? The fry-pan or the fire.)

Let's take the second solution first—replacement. The key is to get crown molding accurately milled to match by an expert. Most old house crown molding isn't just one piece but is several pieces each cut with a different profile and layered to create those wide and impressive crowns we so admire. So you have to possess above average woodworking skills to properly install it. However, sometimes replacement is your only viable option. For example, when walls have been moved or some crazed former owner whacked off a section or two of the molding, it is likely you will have to replace all the molding in that room because the new won't precisely match the old. But, as I said, this is an expensive option, especially if you have to hire a carpenter to install your new molding.

To chemically strip the molding you can either remove it from the wall or strip it in place. I'm not a big fan of removing and replacing. Old woodwork never

seems to go back in place exactly where it was before no matter how scrupulously you work.

Stripping in place is usually the best option. But I don't want to minimize the danger in this option. Many chemical strippers are flammable and nearly all are extremely caustic.

So, if you're going to chemical strip crown molding, set up a sturdy plank or scaffold to get yourself on as close to the same level as the molding as you can. Wear safety goggles, stout rubber gloves and cover your arms. Use a paste (not liquid) stripper. You can even thicken the stripper more with cornstarch. Consider using one of the new safety strippers. They take quite a bit longer to work, but they are a whole bunch safer. Make sure you have plenty of ventilation and fresh air. You will get stripper on the walls and floor, so strip the woodwork first and then refinish your walls and floor. If you are uncertain about stripping crown molding hire a pro.

Finally, never, never paint fine hardwood moldings. And if you do, don't tell the buyer of your house, unless, of course, you like to watch grown-ups weep.

### Quick Tip of the Month

If you have a lot of crown molding to strip you may want to make yourself some scrapers to fit the profiles of your molding. Use flat steel stock available at most hardware stores and grind and file the metal to the shape and size you need. Use a wood screw to attach your scraper blade to a handle made from a large dowel or salvage a section of an old broom handle.

### Connections

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

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# Meet the Merchants

Molly Romero's "Meet the Merchants" article will resume in the October issue of the DMPA newsletter. In its place in this issue is an article on the City of Omaha's Transportation Master Plan that is currently under development.

## Walk, Pedal, Ride – Choose your Mode

A note about the Omaha Transportation Master Planning

Over the past 10 months or so, the city of Omaha has been engaged in developing a Transportation Master Plan and has been encouraging public participation in its planning process. The end result will be a new Transportation Master Plan to be adopted by the city that will guide the city's transportation decisions for possibly as long as the next 30 years. It is an important development and the city is urging the public to become engaged in the process. On Thursday, September 15th, the city will be holding a third public meeting to provide information and, more importantly, to receive feedback from Omaha residents.

On July 15th, the Omaha World-Herald published an editorial, "Be Careful, Big Brother." The opinion piece warned Omaha readers of some of the more aggressive transportation policies being adopted by a few European cities. Kevin Flatowicz-Farmer, an Omaha resident and a devoted transit advocate, has been writing about Omaha's transportation infrastructure since 2008, when he published his well regarded series "Diary of a MAT man" in the Omaha City Weekly. On July 17th, the Omaha World-Herald published Kevin's opinion piece responding to the editorial.

With the Dundee-Memorial Park Association meeting on September 12th addressing the Transportation Master Plan issue, it seemed appropriate to provide some background and context for both the DMPA meeting and the city's public meeting on the issue scheduled for later in that week. Set forth below is Mr. Flatowicz-Farmer an article about the transportation planning process currently underway in Omaha. All Omahans are urged to become aware of this important issue and participate to the extent possible in the exciting developments that are being envisioned and learn how transportation planning can dramatically improve a city's livability, desirability, and economic base.

## Transportation Matters

By Kevin Flatowicz-Farmer

The era of auto-only transportation policy is at an end. On September 15, the City of Omaha is hosting a public meeting to set priorities for the city's transportation future. Omaha's transportation advocacy group, Mode Shift Omaha, encourages anyone interested in the future of Omaha transportation to attend this meeting. The decisions we make that day will shape the city for decades to come. Now is the time for Omaha to make intelligent choices.

At present, we are not in a crisis with regard to transportation. We describe ourselves as a "20 minute city" unplagued by congestion and traffic headaches. By acting now, we can make reasonable changes to avoid problems that will emerge if we do nothing, or continue on our current path. Also of note, when we speak of "20 minutes" we are only talking about one mode of transportation. As we revise our transportation policy, we must ask: do we want a city where our transportation mode is dictated by how we built the environment, or would we rather expand personal freedom and give everyone options for how they move?

Everyone is affected by transportation policy. When you leave your home to go to work, to go to the store, or meet a friend, how you go and where you go are influenced by



the shape of the city. Our present city reflects choices made long ago that favored the private automobile at the expense of other forms of transportation. While the automobile is fast and convenient, it is also costly. According to the Automobile Association of America, the average cost of automobile ownership is more than \$8,000 per year. If the city continues to build and maintain a transportation system that is car-only, we are essentially levying a de facto tax on anyone who wants access to live, work or do business in Omaha.

Forcing people to use only one mode of transportation is not only unfair, it's unsustainable. Our current system of roads is crumbling; at present we can afford to resurface our streets every 56 years, when the recommended cycle is every ten years. Building more roads means having more roads we cannot afford to maintain. If we adjust our planning priorities, we can avoid the need for more and more roads and develop a sustainable and affordable system of transportation.

While some pundits, even the Omaha World-Herald, warn that transportation freedom means forcing people out of their cars, nothing could be further from the truth.



## Meet the Merchants

Continued from page 7.

The automobile is the primary mode of transportation in Omaha, and will be for the foreseeable future. Any gains made by other modes of transportation do not subtract from the automobile infrastructure, but improve it. When people have more options available, they take advantage of them. When a few people choose the option to ride a bike or take a bus rather than a car, or walk a few blocks rather than driving, they lessen the burden on the roads. With a minimal, voluntary shift in how we get around, we can reduce the need to constantly expand roads and focus more on expanding choices. People who want to drive will have less congestion, people who want to take advantage of other modes of transportation will have real options for doing so.

Over the last few years, as the city has revised the Environmental Component of the City Master Plan and the Downtown Master Plan, the public has been urging the city to make transit, bicycling and walking more realistic modes of transportation. The process of revising the Transportation Master Plan continues the trend of looking at expanding the transportation options available to Omahans. At the meeting September 15th, the public is asked to help prioritize the projects and policies to continue shifting our transportation policy to a more sustainable and inclusive model. Everyone with an interest in how their tax dollars are spent, who cares about the future of our city, who wants a safer, freer city should attend and lend their voice to the conversation. For more information, visit [www.modeshiftomaha.org](http://www.modeshiftomaha.org). We are organizing bike rides to the meeting beginning from several points throughout the city. Please join us in building a better future for everyone.

Kevin Flatowicz-Farmer, Mode Shift Omaha

When: September 15, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Where: UNO Scott Conference Center (6450 Pine Street).

**To reserve barricades  
for your block party,  
Contact B. J. Reed via email:  
Breed@unomaha.edu**

## Trim Those Trees ... Please

**Please** be considerate of your neighbors and keep your trees and shrubs trimmed along your sidewalks. There is a city ordinance stating that there should be an 8 foot overhead clearance. And shrubs should not over hang sidewalks, so that they are obstructed and inhibit passage or views of street traffic.



Please take a careful look at all sides of your property and make sure that you are not causing problems or safety issues for others.

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Closed Sunday & Monday

**Recreation Center info:** 444-5596 [www.ci.omaha.ne.us/parks](http://www.ci.omaha.ne.us/parks) Saturday 8:30 am - 12 pm

Mon - Thurs 8:30 am - 8:30 pm Fri 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

## Kids' Activities

**Gr. 2-5 Book Club** - Thursdays | 4:30 pm Book selection to be announced at a later date.

**Baby & Me Storytime** - Fridays | 10:30 am

Mother Goose on the Loose. Parents, babies and toddlers will enjoy this nursery rhyme program that incorporates rhyming games, puppets, songs and musical instruments.

**Fit Club** - Saturday, September 3 | 2 pm

(Gr. K-12) Have fun while working out! Try out yoga, do strength training, aerobics and even balance games.

**Drama Llamas** - Saturdays | 3 pm

(Gr. 4-6) During this 12 week acting workshop, you will learn about improv, readers theater, memorizing lines, monologues and how to perform scenes with your fellow Drama Llamas. Registration is required.

**Homework Hangout** - Tuesdays | 4:30 pm

(Gr. K-12) Get basic homework help, use Tutor.com or type a paper on one of our teen computers.

**Storytime** - Wednesdays | 10:30 am

Read books, sing songs, play games and make crafts. Fun for toddlers/preschoolers.

**Skippyjon Jones Storytime** - Wednesday, September 14 | 10:30 am

Come to the Library and meet Skippyjon Jones! Remember to bring your camera!

**LEGO Club** - Wednesdays, September 14 & 28 | 4:30 pm

(All Ages) Use your imagination to build anything you want with LEGOs. Snack provided.

**Game Time: The Malgrave Incident** - Friday, September 23 | 2-4 pm

Play with friends or by yourself and find the hidden objects!

**Movie Day: "James & the Giant Peach"** - Saturday, September 24 | 1 pm

**Help us celebrate Banned Books Week** (September 24 - October 1) by watching a movie based off a book that has been banned in some libraries and schools. Popcorn will be provided.

**Gr. 2-6 Gaming Lock-In** - Friday, September 30 | 6-9 pm  
Come to the Library and hang out with your friends! Enjoy food and refreshments while playing Wii and Xbox 360 games. A signed parental permission slip is required!

## Teen Activities

**Fit Club** - Saturday, September 3 | 2 pm

(Gr. K-12) Have fun while working out! Try out yoga, do strength training, aerobics and even balance games.

**Homework Hangout** - Tuesdays | 4:30 pm

(Gr. K-12) Get basic homework help, use Tutor.com or type a paper on one of our teen computers.

**LEGO Club** - Wednesdays, September 14 & 28 | 4:30 pm

(All Ages) Use your imagination to build anything you want with LEGOs. Snack provided.

**Teen Book Club** - Saturday, September 17 | 2 pm

Come to the Library & discuss "Divergent" by Veronica Roth! Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

**Teen Advisory Board (TAB)** - Saturday, September 17 | 3 pm

Join TAB and see what it's all about! Enjoy snacks and refreshments while talking about issues, sharing your ideas and helping out at the Library.

**Game Time: The Malgrave Incident** - Friday, September 23 | 2-4 pm

Play with friends or by yourself and find the hidden objects!

## Adult Activities

**Adult Game Time: Scrabble** - Thursdays | 1 pm

Join us at the Library for some fun with the classic board game Scrabble!

**Under the Dundee Sun Book Club** - Tuesday, September 6 | 4:30 pm Read and discuss "The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" by Jamie Ford.

**HisMys Book Club** - Saturday, September 10 | 10:30 am

Read and discuss "Big Stone Gap" by Adriana Trigiani.

**Sorensen Readers Sun Book Club** - Saturday, September 10 | 1 pm Read and discuss "Billy Boyle" by James R. Benn.

**Movie Day for Adults: "The Tempest"** - Tuesday, September 13 | 5:45 pm

Watch the movie "The Tempest" starring Alfred Molina & Helen Mirren. Popcorn will be provided.

**Computer Class: "Microsoft Word Basics"** - Friday, September 16 | 10:30 am

(Limit 3) Learn how to write, edit and save word processing documents.

**Plains Pages Book Club** - Saturday, September 17 | 1 pm

Read and discuss "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte.

# Dundee Day 2011

All photos by B.J.Reed



Omaha Ballet Academy



Dundee Elementary



Line for Pancake Breakfast



Brownell Talbot



Sorensen Library



## Mary Dunbar

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