# **DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASOCIATION**



## **DMPA**

This Month's Meeting September 10th

**Meeting Speakers:** 

#### ReEnergize Omaha And

Introducing Snyder and Associates - the engineering and design firm for the **Dundee Streetscape project**:

Spring 2013 construction start date.

#### **Location and times:**

Dundee Presbyterian Church 53rd & Underwood Ave

7:00 Social
7:30pm Meeting
Bring your questions and
a friend or two.



# **Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter**

"Dedicated to Preserving the Community" www.dundee-memorialpark.org

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## **Letter From the President**

Greetings to All. As we move into September, with children resuming school schedules, football fans planning their Saturdays, and the heat of the hottest summer turns to a memory, we begin the season's monthly neighborhood association meetings.

September Meeting. For September's meeting (Monday the 10th), we have an interesting and informative presentation by the folks at reEnergize Omaha. After the hottest of summers, the folks from reEnergize will tell us how we can reduce our energy use (and our air conditioning and heating bills), with sound analysis of our homes' energy efficiency (or inefficiency) and financial assistance in the form of incentives to upgrade (and insulate) our homes. I speak from experience; the improvements I made through the reEnergize program made a huge difference in the comfort of my home in both winter and summer, in addition to reducing my energy bills. I encourage you all to attend the meeting and see what is available and ask questions to see if the program would benefit you.

The balance of this letter will be updates on things happening in the neighborhood:

Leased Parking. In July, the city began enforcing the leased parking requirements by ticketing cars parked on the city's right of way without a city-installed sign indicating a lease for the space was currently in effect. When our two councilmen, Pete Festersen and Chris Jerram learned of the ticketing, they requested that the city temporarily cease ticketing until residents could be notified of the lease requirement. The enforcement was placed on temporary hold, and the city sent letters to many residents, targeting those who had at one time had a lease for the parking pads in the right of way, informing them of the ordinance requirements. Enforcement, however, will resume soon, if it is not already taking place. If you park in the right of way and are not certain about your status, please contact Warren Weaver at the city to make certain you are not in violation of the ordinance. As a reminder, parking on the right of way is permitted only on hard surfaces (like concrete pads), and only if a lease is in place and a sign indicating the lease is in force is installed near the parking pad. Parking on soft surfaces (such as lawn) is never permitted. Cars parked in violation of the city ordinance will be ticketed.

**New Dundee Business Announced.** Le Quartier French Café and Bakery has leased space next to Pizza Hut at the corner of Underwood and 51st Street. According to Seth Quiring, co-owner with his brother, John, they expect to open some time in September. "We are very excited to be a part of the Dundee neighborhood," Seth said when I

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## DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

#### September 10th

ReEnergize Omaha and Dundee Streetscape Spring 2013 Start

October 8th

Candidates Forum

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Revised list, members current 7/2012 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.

him on his cell phone. If any of you have been to their store in Countryside Village, you will know what to expect in the Dundee spot. They will have French breads and pastries, sandwiches, soups and salads. John, the baker of the family, obtained his training in Montreal and Paris, and is creating French breads and pastries as close to the European flavor and style as seen anywhere in the Midwest. He makes his sour dough breads with a 156-year old starter he purchased in Paris. Talk about traditional French bread - his starter is older than Dundee! Le Quartier will be open seven days a week, serving croissant-based breakfast pastries beginning at 7 am Mondays through Fridays, closing at 6 pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays, open from 8 am to 4 pm. You may also be familiar with Le Quartier and their fine breads and pastries from the Farmers' Markets in both the Old Market and Aksarben. It will be terrific to have French baguettes back in the neighborhood, so please welcome Seth and John when they open for business.

Dundee Business District Streetscape Renovation. Many of you may have read or heard that the Dundee business district plan for renovating the streetscape is moving forward with a schedule calling for breaking ground in spring 2013. The \$2.5 million needed for the project has been raised and the engineering phase has begun. Funding has been provided from multiple sources, including the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Robert B Daugherty Foundation, Dundee resident Jim Mammel, city transportation bonds, state stormwater grant, a significant grant from an anonymous donor, and a financial contribution from all businesses and property owners within the district. We are extremely grateful to the funders and to Pete Festersen who took on this project several years ago and has been guiding it through the many passages that it took to get it this far. At a recent merchants association meeting, Mr Festersen introduced the Snyder & Associates project team members, whom you may spot working in the neighborhood over the next few weeks. In addition, several more public meetings will be scheduled for neighborhood final input, including one of our regularly scheduled Monday meetings. So, if you are interested in participating, please keep an eye on the schedule so that you do not miss the meeting. A beautifully renovated Dundee business district is right around the corner, and it is something we can all be proud of and enjoy.

**Transportation Master Plan.** By the time this issue lands in your hands, the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) for the city of Omaha could be approved and placed in the city's master plan. The public hearing and city council vote was scheduled for August 21. The Dundee streetscape project is a part of this master plan and was rated the most popular project of the TMP by members of the public. For the city as a whole, it is one of the most significant planning projects in recent history. I encourage anyone who

is interested to find out more about it and how it will affect our city and our neighborhood.

**Sewer Separation Project.** There are two planned sewer separation projects affecting the neighborhood, both scheduled for fall 2013 construction. We hope to arrange a presentation at one of our future neighborhood meetings describing the affected areas, the process and the scheduling. We will update this information as it develops.

We hope to see many of you at our first meeting of the season. Come and enjoy conversation with your neighbors, meet new folks, and learn what's going on while sharing coffee and cookies.

> Molly Romero DMPA President

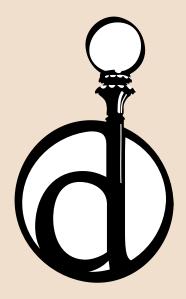
## DMPA Online

www.dundee-memorialpark.org Facebook : Dundee Memorial Park Twitter: DundeeMemorial

# New Garbage Ordinance Now in Effect

The City Council recently approved a new ordinance concerning trash cans that you should be aware of (Chapter 3, Section 307, Omaha Municipal Code). Trash cans will only be allowed to be at the curb from 5:00 pm the day before collection until 7:00 pm the day of collection. There is an exception if garbage collection is delayed. Trash containers will no longer be permitted at the curb at any other time. Leaving trash containers at the curb all of the time will no longer be allowed. Outside the collection period, all trash containers shall be placed behind a building facing the street or a screening fence. This ordinance also applies to containers for private collection. In addition, commercial dumpsters will not longer be permitted on public right of way unless space is leased from the City and the dumpster is properly screened.

The fine for violating this ordinance is \$100 for first offense and \$500 for second offense. Enforcement will be complaint driven. Appeals for all violations will be heard by the Building Board of Review and there is a process for obtaining a hardship waiver for those who have a legitimate reason that they are unable to comply with the ordinance.



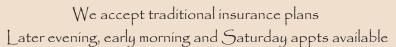
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# **Driving Miss Crazy**

By Jean Sigler

I know I'm not the first person to recognize that if everyone proceeded forward in unison when the traffic light turns green instead of keeping a car length (or four) between vehicles, many more cars would make it through before the light changes back to red. In fact, a friend of mine made the observation when we were in high school. For her, a very philosophical girl, I think it was a metaphor for life. For me it is much simpler - if everyone would just pay attention, jump on the rear bumper of the car in front of them and hit their accelerators at the same time, Jean would get where she's going faster. But no one seems to know, or in any case, care about this law of physics. I don't take this indifference to my needs lightly. Once, as I estimated that the lag time between cars in front of mine caused me to wait through three lights, I got so incensed that my skin turned green and my muscles began to pop out. Lucky for me I got through before my clothes split asunder.

I generally don't like confrontation and/or yelling at people - unless I am behind the wheel. For me the car is the ideal place to unleash the frustration and anger that has built up over all things great and small that have ever been done to me. If I roll the windows up so no one can hear, I can spew such vicious, spiteful, malevolent, and downright nasty condemnations of the offending drivers that the air inside my car turns blue. I am possessed by fury and indignation that no one but me has been taught to drive properly.

For instance, no one seems to know how to operate at a multi-stop sign intersection. Somewhere along the line, drivers of all ages and persuasions decided that the rule is to yield to the person on your right. Now let's think about this for a minute. We can use the 6 way intersection at Happy Hollow, 52nd Street, and Western Avenue as an example. Car A, whose driver is talking on her cell, is returning from the Westroads and traveling east on Western. Car B, is full of teen-aged boys headed west on Western. The driver is going way too fast and not paying attention and doesn't have his hands placed at 10 and 2 on the steering wheel even though his mother told him to. Car C, driven by a UNO student still angry at the loss of the football team, is proceeding north on Happy Hollow. Car D, late for a movie at Aksarben Village, rushes south on Happy Hollow. Car E, driven by an elderly woman whose head doesn't quite reach the top of the steering wheel and whose turn signal has been on since Jesus was in short pants, is headed north on 52nd Street. Car F is barreling south on 52nd at warp speed, radio blaring. All of the cars reach the intersection at more or less the same time. None of the distracted drivers has any idea who got there first. Now, if "yield to the person on your right" is indeed the rule, all of the cars would remain in place yielding in perpetuity, while each of them waited for the car on their right to proceed through the intersection. I'm pretty sure I'm right about this.

The city's answer to the dilemma has been to put roundabouts at these "uncontrolled intersections." Now my thinking on this is, if people can't figure out whose turn it is

to proceed cautiously through the intersection, how are they going to figure out when to enter the roundabout? There is an illustration in the DMV manual showing how to maneuver in a one or two lane roundabout. Looking at this graphic, a NASA engineer would be hard-pressed to figure out who is supposed to go when. I once got stuck at that elliptical/amoebic/ kidney shaped roundabout at the intersection of Saddle Creek and all those other streets and couldn't figure out if I should yield, proceed with caution, fish, cut bait or get off the pot. I hovered at the entrance for about 10 minutes waiting until all cars exited the roundabout so I could get in. I caught a glimpse of the driver behind me in my rear view mirror. I would like to say that the vision of her face, twisted in rage as she silently ranted at me, made me take a long hard look at myself and my behavior toward my fellow drivers. It did. I now stick strictly to intersections with stop signs where it is much easier for the other drivers to see me as I correct their sloppy habits.

And how about the person who is turning left and sits way far back from the intersection waiting for the oncoming traffic to finish coming on? Obviously, when there is a line of 30 cars coming at you, they aren't all going to make it through the light before it turns red again and the left turner is stuck waiting for a new green light in his direction. If it is a busy intersection, like 52nd & Dodge, the left turner and the dozens of cars piling up behind him could be there until they all run out of gas. Does this person not know the "What else could I do?" rule. This is the one where you pull out into the middle of the intersection to a point just shy of the fenders of the oncoming cars so that, when the light turns red, you have to turn left to make way for cross traffic, even though your light is red. What else can you do? I am appalled that students aren't taught this in Drivers Ed classes.

A neighbor gave me a book that had some wonderful ideas about how to stop the crazy demons in my head and think kind and benevolent thoughts about my fellow drivers: maybe they are distracted because they just lost their job; maybe they aren't feeling well; maybe their shoes are too tight. Another suggestion in the book is to resign myself to the fact that it will take a few minutes before I am on my way again and just luxuriate in the down time. So far these methods haven't seemed to work. In fact, I'm ashamed to admit that after a particularly stress inducing trip to the store, I roared up my driveway, slammed into the house, got the book and flung it into my neighbor's bushes. Last week when the driver in front of me didn't signal her turn, my head spun completely around a couple of times. It scared the guy behind me so much that I think he is still sitting at that intersection too terrified to proceed.

I don't think I can change this ingrained behavior at my age, but I would be horrified if I ever unleashed my fury at a fellow citizen of Dundee. So what I want people to know is that if you ever look over at the driver next to you and see a woman with snakes coming out of her head, it is probably just me, who turns right back into your friendly neighbor the minute I step out of the car.



New is not better than old. Old is not better than new.

by Don Browers

Contradictory? Maybe, but the one immutable rule of old house renovation is that there are no immutable rules. (Believe me, I've learned this the hard way. Experience has to be the best teacher. It's the most expensive.)

The right choice of replacing old house parts and materials with new or painstakingly restoring and recreating the originals depends on the situation. It requires a bit of research and some deep thinking. (At least that's what I tell my wife I'm doing when I stretch out on the sofa on a weekend afternoon.)

A case in point is plaster. Is it better to crow bar damaged plaster off the wall and then hang drywall? Or is better to patch, mend and fuss with the real McCoy? It depends. But in nine cases of out ten, I'll come down on the side of salvaging the old stuff. Unless your plaster looks like a bomb exploded in the room, it probably can be saved and the work—especially for small repairs—is well within the abilities of the average old house owner.

"But how do you repair walls and ceilings pockmarked with holes from demented electricians?" my friend and Dundee neighbor Kate asked me. (Okay, so I made up the part about the electricians being demented. But don't you think it adds some color to the story?)

This is one of the three principal types of problems you'll face when repairing plaster. The other two are delamination and hairline cracks. We'll tackle those next month.

The first step in any plaster repair is to get a solid foundation for the plaster. In our old houses this is of course the lath layer. The narrow strips of wood nailed to the studs not only hold the plaster vertical, but the spaces between them allow the wet plaster to curl behind the lath and form a "key" which provides a mechanical connection to hold the plaster in place. Sometimes to due to construction, old age or boisterous teenagers, the "keys" break off and the plaster sags

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away from the wall. If the plaster is just sagging you can resecure it to the wall with plaster washers and drywall screws. (Plaster washers are available by mail order from: Charles Street Supply Co. 54 Charles St., Boston Mass. 02114 800-382-4360 www. charlesstsupply.com). Plaster washers sell for around \$20 for 10 dozen plus shipping.)

Sometimes the plaster has completely broken away in big chunks, maybe dropping unceremoniously from the ceiling into your morning bowl of cereal. The first step in this case repair is to peel off the loose plaster until you reach the still solidly attached material. Do this gently--no need to repair more than necessary.

If your walls, like Kate's, have suffered the indignities of a reciprocal saw then you'll need to clear away the plaster until you can see half of the stud on each side of the hole and one lath above and one lath below the hole. Either nail in new short sections of lath (available at most lumberyards) or fit in a piece of metal lath. Metal lath is also available at Home Depot or at a drywall supply house like Meehan's Drywall.

Cut the metal lath with tin snips to match the shape of your hole and then nail it to the studs and use stovepipe wire to secure it to the lath above and below.

Once you have a solid foundation, use the traditional three coat method to re-plaster the hole. Before you apply the plaster, lightly mist the lath with water. The lath in an old house is very dry and it will suck the moisture out of the plaster too quickly and can weaken the plaster. For the first coat, called the scratch coat, use Structolite plaster (also available at Home Depot or Meehan's). Fill to within about 1/8 inch of the surrounding plaster. After the plaster has set up some, but before it completely hardens take a putty knife or screwdriver and scratch a series of lines horizontally across the patch about an inch apart. (Yes, that's why it's called a scratch coat.) This way the next plaster coat can mechanically bond with the first coat Then complete the job with two separate coats of finish plaster. I like to add dry finish plaster and a little water to pre-mixed drywall compound. It works easily but dries hard. Of course let the plaster dry for a full day between each of the three coats. And don't use plaster of Paris (that stuff is suitable for crafts projects not walls).

Next month: What to do with delaminating plaster and how to fix those pesky hairline cracks.

# New Name Signals Bright Future for Healthcare

The partnership between Alegent Health and Creighton University will be reflected in hospitals and clinics across the region. Effective Sept. 1, a new name prompted by Alegent and Creighton's strategic affiliation, solidifies the partnership that is built on their shared faith-based Missions.

"Alegent Creighton Health."

"This was a very big decision supported by research and based on our patients' and communities' expectations," said Richard A. Hachten II, FACHE, president and chief executive officer of Alegent Health. "The reason Alegent and Creighton are coming together is for our community, so what they think is important."

"As the new names reflect, these new healthcare entities will further the Missions of both faith-based organizations by improving local healthcare and transforming medical education for the benefit of physicians, students and the communities we serve," said Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., president of Creighton University.

The new name was approved by the Alegent Health Board of Directors and filed with the State of Nebraska on Aug. 2. That filing marks the beginning of the last stage of the acquisition and affiliation process. Alegent is on track to "close" on the acquisition of Creighton University Medical Center (CUMC), the long-term strategic affiliation with Creighton University and the academic affiliation that will make Alegent hospitals and clinics the primary teaching sites for the schools of health sciences.

As part of the strategic affiliation, Creighton University's physician practice, Creighton Medical

Associates (CMA), will become part of Alegent Health Clinic. On Sept. 1, the new physician group will be named: Alegent Creighton Clinic.

This new name personifies what this new physician practice will be – a multi-specialty clinic that offers physicians the best place to practice medicine, our staff the best place to care for patients, students the best place to learn and our community the best patient experience," said Rick Rolston, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Alegent Health Clinic."That is our goal every day." As with the Clinic, the system's new name will go into effect on Sept. 1, the same day that Alegent is expected to assume operations of CUMC and CMA.

Alegent is working closely with Creighton and with Tenet Healthcare, which is the majority owner of CUMC, to welcome employees and help them feel comfortable with their transition into Alegent.

"We recognize that change can be stressful, so it is very important to us that our new employees feel welcomed into Alegent Health," said Hachten. "

"This affiliation is the most significant event to occur in our health sciences programs in perhaps the entire history of the University. It has been extremely gratifying to see the support that members of Alegent and Creighton have shown for one another during this transition," said Fr. Lannon.

Alegent and Creighton announced their expanded affiliation on April 24 and have been working diligently toward finalizing the transition by Sept. 1.

# **DMPA Candidates Forum - October 8th**

Come to our meeting... meet the candidates.



# A.V. Sorensen Community Center

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# 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.

# LEND HAND FOR ELMWOOD PARK AND STREAM CLEAN-UP-SEPT. 8



Please join us in our last effort of the season to ready the grotto for winter and clean the stream of unwanted debris.

We will meet on Saturday, Sept. 8 at 9:00 in the Elmwood Park grotto parking lot.

Bring trimmers and gloves for grotto work and long pants and boots for stream cleaning.

Kids who have community hours to do for school are welcome, but we do request that an adult accompany the students. Questions—Marty Myers 402-556-2513

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# Newsletter Deadline

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Tues & Thurs 10 am - 8 pm Wed, Fri, Sat 10 am - 6 pm Closed Sunday & Monday Recreation Center info: 444-5596 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

Programs subject to change—visit omahalibrary.org for updates.

#### Kids' Programs

Fit Club - Saturday, September 1 | 2 PM

Have fun while working out! Try yoga, strength training, aerobics and balance games.

Toddler Storytime - Wednesdays | 10:15 AM

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

Lego Club - Wednesdays, September 5 & 19 | 4:30 PM

Use your imagination to build anything you want with Legos. Snack provided. All ages.

Baby & Me Storytime - Fridays | 10:15 AM

Parents and babies will enjoy this program with rhyming games, puppets, songs and musical instruments.

Science Club - Tuesdays, September 11 & 25 | 5 PM

(Gr. 2-6) Have fun learning about science and doing experiments! In September, we will learn about electronics and have fun assembling snap circuits.

Spot Storytime - Wednesday, September 12 | 10:30 AM

Come to the Library and meet Spot the Dog. Bring your camera!

Padmini Yoga Storytime - Friday, September 14 | 4:30 PM

Storytime comes alive as we illustrate books with yoga. The use of animated poses and basic stretching exercises promote strength, flexibility, coordination and body awareness. Suggested for kids up to age 6.

Gr. 2-6 Lego Lock-In - Friday, September 28 | 6-9 PM

Come to the Library and have fun with Legos! Enjoy food and refreshments while playing some of the Library's Wii & Xbox 360 Kinect games as well as many lego-themed activities. A signed parental permission slip is required!

#### Teen Programs

Game Time - Saturdays, September 8, 22 & 29 | 2-4 PM

Have fun at the Library playing our Wii & Xbox 360 games!

September 8: Your choice September 22: "Mario Kart"

September 29: "Just Dance 3"

Teen Book Club - Saturday, September 15 | 2 PM

Have fun discussing books that you have read in person, online or by filling out a questionnaire at the Library.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) - Saturday, September 15 | 3 PM

Enjoy snacks and refreshments while talking about issues, sharing your ideas and helping out at the Library.

#### **Adult Programs**

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, September 4 | 4:30 PM

Read and discuss "The Age of Desire" by Jenny Fields.

Adult Game Time: Scrabble - Thursdays | 1 PM

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

HisMys Book Club - Saturday, September 8 | 10:30 AM

Read and discuss "The Montmartre Investigation" by Claude Izner.

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, September 8 | 1 PM

Read and discuss "Murder at the Kennedy Center" by Margaret Truman.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, September 15 | 1 PM

Read and discuss "The Turn of the Screw" by Henry James.

Movie Day for Adults: "The Age of Innocence" - Tuesday, September 18 | Noon

Help us celebrate Omaha Reads by watching a movie set in 19th century New York and enjoying popcorn!

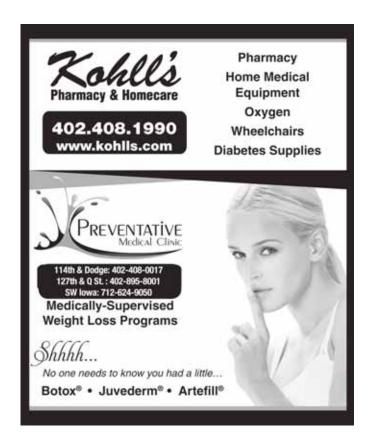
Wharton's Life - Tuesday, September 18 | 6:30 PM

Join us for a discussion of this year's Omaha Reads author led by Dr. Johanningsmeier of UNO.

Gilded Age Fashion - Thursday, September 27 | 6:30 PM

Explore the fashion of the Gilded Age with Sue McLain's vintage clothing collection. McLain has been collecting vintage clothing since 1985 and has a wide variety of artifacts from Victorian Era thru 1970.





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