

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



**No DMPA
Meetings
Until September**

**Enjoy Your
Summer!**

**Support
Dundee
Businesses...**

*Especially During
Streetscape Construction*

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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Vol. 23, No 7 July 2013

Letter From the President

I want to first thank Molly Romero for all the work she put in as DMPA President last year. I appreciate her commitment to our neighborhood and I know she will continue to be an important link between DMPA and the merchants association. We have a great board of very dedicated volunteers who make our neighborhood so great.

Although it seemed to take forever, summer has finally arrived and once again Dundee is the place to be. The Bank of the West Celebrate America concert and fireworks once again made Dundee-Memorial Park the center of attention. We are very fortunate to have such a great event that brings tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood.

Progress continues on the renovation of the Dundee Business District. I know the construction has been an inconvenience for many businesses and residents because of road closures and parking restrictions. I know there were many people who were upset with the removal of the trees along Underwood Avenue prior to the start of construction. Having worked to plant over 100 trees in Dundee over the past 6 years through Re-Tree Midtown, I am always concerned when I see trees being removed. While I sympathize with those who did not want to see the trees removed, I believe in the long run we will have a better variety of trees more suitable for the business district environment. The reality was that many of the locust trees planted during the last renovation decades ago were in bad shape and nearing the end of their lifespan. In fact, several had recently been removed because they were dead. The DMPA board is committed to being actively involved in the selection of the replacement trees so that the mistakes made in the past are not repeated and the Dundee will continue to have a healthy tree canopy.

On the subject of trees, Dundee is once again benefiting from the Re-Tree Midtown project of the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance. Over 30 trees were planted on June 22 along Capitol Avenue, Davenport Street and Chicago Street between 50th Street and 52nd Street. Originally, the trees were to be planted around Arbor Day in April but winter did not want to let go so we had to wait until the soil was warm enough for planting. The project was funded by grants applied for by DMPA which included \$5,600 from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and \$4,000 from the Mayor's Neighborhood Grant. A special thanks to Jake Runyon of Boy Scout 42 who organized the tree plantings on June 22nd and to Scott Farrington of Indian Creek Nursery who selected the variety of trees and worked to get City approval of the locations. Without their help, this project could not have been completed.

You may have noticed work being done on the island garden at Happy Hollow and Dodge St. in recent weeks. DMPA received a \$4,000 grant from the Mutual of Omaha Foundation to rejuvenate the plantings on this island .

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Seasonal Gardens

**DMPA
MEETINGS
CALENDAR**

**No Meetings until
September..**

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

The island plantings were originally installed over a decade ago. This is a very difficult environment for plants so there was a need for a renovation of this important gateway to our neighborhood. With the grant funding, all of the currently plantings were removed. New soil was brought in along with new edging for the planting area. A variety of new plants were installed June 11th which will hopefully tolerate the very harsh conditions at this location. Last fall, a new Historic Dundee sign was installed at this location. Again, this is another project that could not have been accomplished without the help of Indian Creek Nursery and the Mutual of Omaha Foundation.

It would not be summer in Dundee without the flower baskets throughout the neighborhood.

Jen Goodman and the crew who planted the baskets in March did a fantastic job once again. Dan Rock, Bob Welk and the rest of the hanging crew did a great job getting the baskets hung around Mother's Day. While we have had a wet start to the summer which has been very beneficial to the baskets, the heat of summer will take a toll on the baskets if they are not watered and fertilized. Dan Rock is always looking for volunteers to help water the baskets. My family does a week each summer on the water truck. It is a great way to see the neighborhood and help make our community a better place. If you have any time to help, please call Dan at 558-4913. He is always looking for new volunteers.

One final note concerning flower baskets. When I was out watering a few weeks ago, I was concerned at the number of blocks that did not have flower baskets especially ones that had flower baskets in the past. Our goal every year is to have baskets on every block in Dundee. When I see a block without flower baskets, that tells me there is no block captain on that street to organize the money collection from residents. If your block does not have flower baskets, I would encourage you to contact Peter Manhart at 350-3890 and become a block captain. I have been my block captain for several years and it really is not much work. In November, I contact each house on my block asking for donations for the 3 flower baskets on our block. People are always willing to donate and our block has always collected more than the \$70 per basket. Not only do the flower baskets improve your property value, they also show your block is engaged in the neighborhood.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the annual celebration of our neighborhood Dundee Day. Because of the construction in the business district, Dundee Day has been moved back to September 28 from the traditional August date.

Have a great summer!
Dave Schinzel

Dundee Community Garden: Watermelon Feed and Beekeeping

Since purchasing the property at 4902 Underwood in May, the Dundee Community Garden continues to grow and change. We are excited to share that in June, we had two yard hydrants installed, so we now have our own water supply. We still rely on rain-barrels to collect rainwater from the roof of the house next to the garden, and we use rainwater whenever possible, but we now have our own source of water when needed.

Don't let the construction on Underwood keep you from visiting the garden! We have lots of exciting changes, including new grading and plumbing work, which will enhance our ability to make the garden look its best going forward.

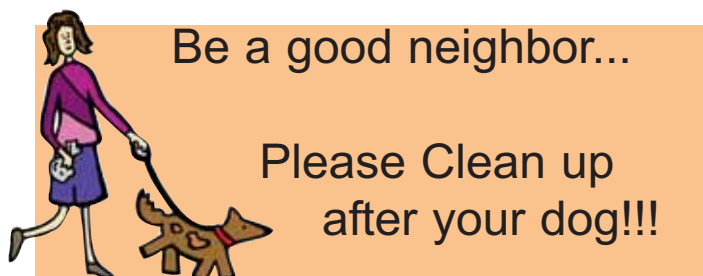
Join us on Sunday July 21, from 3-5 p.m., for our annual mid-summer **"Watermelon Feed."** We'll have cold watermelon (50¢ a slice) and show off the garden.

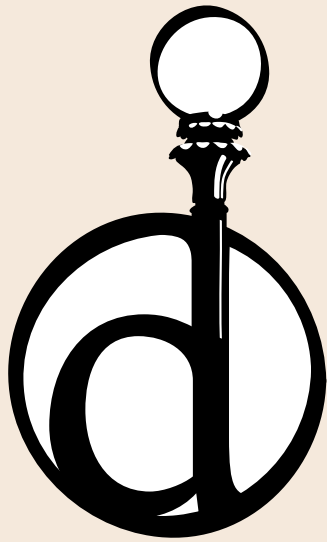


On Wed. July 31, at 7 p.m., we invite you to join us for an **"All About Bees"** presentation from the Omaha Bee Club. The speaker will bring an observation hive, and talk about urban beekeeping, the importance of pollination, types of plants from which bees can gather nectar and pollen, and more. This free program will be interesting for all ages.

Thank you to the many community members who have supported, and continue to support, the garden. We are continuing to accept donations, which will be used for additional improvements that were not part of our original grant request. It's not too late to donate, and your donation will make a difference! Donate on-line at dundee garden.org or send checks, made out to DCG, to DCG c/o Rose Edzie, 4902 Capitol Ave., Apt. 304, Omaha, NE 68132.

Dundee Community Garden is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax-deductible. Donations of \$150 and over will earn you a spot on the permanent plaque in the garden.





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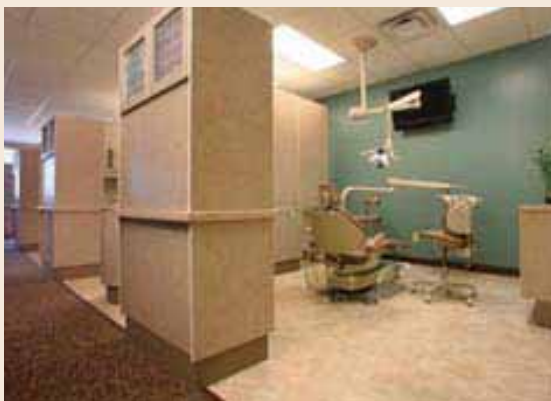


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Thanks to Our Elmwood Park Volunteers



Many thanks to our volunteers who helped tackle the weeds that had overtaken the grotto area in Elmwood Park. They were Peg Pease, Mary Ferer, Helen and Jim Deffenbacher and Nancy Hawekotte.

We worked for 2 hours weeding, trimming and ridding the park of trash. It is amazing how much can be accomplished with a few helping hands.

More volunteers are definitely needed at our July 20th meeting. Don your hat and gloves and bring your favorite trimmer and we will provide the rest! It is that easy. Hope to see you at 9:00 at the grotto parking lot on July 20. If we had enough people to help, spreading mulch would be a huge help in keeping down the weeds.

Trilety Wade and Marty Myers

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Do-do-do-do-do-do-do-do

By Jean Sigler

I think we've all probably tried to second guess the mapmakers sometime on our travels. We check the map and see a route that cuts a few miles and maybe an hour from our trip and, anxious to arrive at our destination, we choose the road less travelled. During many unanticipated side trips with my husband, Rand McNally, I thought I had learned that the most heavily travelled roads are heavily travelled for a reason. They get people where they are going.

On one trip, however, I fell victim to the sin of prideful orienteering. A friend and I were on a long trip hiking some of the great national parks in the west. We were finished with a beautiful walk through the Redwood Forest and headed toward our lodging for the night. We had planned to drive down the coast highway which runs along the shore of the Pacific, but I noticed a road a little further inland that was a more direct route to our hotel. The hour was growing late and we were ready to relax at the Holiday Inn, so named because several scenes from the Bing Crosby movie were filmed there. We had to arrive by 6:00 or pay the full price for the room, so wise travelers that we thought we had become, we headed south on a shorter road, the name of which I can no longer remember.

As we headed off down the very nice, level, low-down highway, I was feeling quite proud of myself to be saving us so much time. Before long I noticed a change in the topography. Thinking this road was almost parallel to the coast highway, I figured we would be finishing that day's leg of our journey at sea level. Instead, the road, which had been meandering through gently rolling hills, looked to be taking quite a steep climb right up to the point where it disappeared around a curve. Thus began the shortcut from hell.

As we rounded the first curve I was able to discern a couple of things. Ahead were more and more and more curves at higher and higher altitudes. I also determined, after referring to the guide book which described the route as "scenic" that I had made a terrible mistake. "Scenic" in map talk means high and narrow with hairpin curves. I tightened my seatbelt, closed my eyes and hunkered down for a terrifying ride. For more evidence of my fear of scenic drives, I refer the reader to #4 in my article in the April DMP newsletter.

But this journey would be more than frightening. Beyond the next curve was another dimension where none had gone before. Okay, so I'm mixing my 1960s sci-fi TV shows, but trust me when I tell you, this was no regular highway. We began the climb gradually, but soon the curves were tightening and the grade was increasing. We reached the apex of the first and what I hoped was the last gigantic hill. I silently thanked my stars that we still had plenty of daylight left as we suddenly and without warning plunged thousands of feet into the bowels of the earth, a place devoid of any light. It was so dark down there, slugs moved on to the

next neighborhood. My friend had her bright lights on, but they were about as much good as trying to find your way out of Jonah's belly guided by a pen light. She crept along and I cursed the gods that took away my only comfort on "scenic" drives, being at the bottom for a few minutes. As we began to climb I found myself leaning forward trying to see light. Gradually a pinprick of sunshine grew to illuminate the road. I heaved a sigh of relief as we drove for a few minutes along a ridge that had a fairly respectable strip of road between our car and death by plunging.

Of course the relief was short lived as the road narrowed again and we began to descend. Just as we entered the abyss, I looked off into the forest where I saw a man with his arms crossed over his chest, leaning against a car. He was staring off into the distance, not at me, so I wasn't too alarmed, although it was a bit spooky. We passed him by and continued to alternately dive into the depths of the forest primeval and skate around curves on roads barely wide enough to hold all four tires at once. For two hours, we never saw another car (except for the one off to the side of the road). Finally, we rolled down a hill that did not sink into pitch blackness. We emerged from the forest into a beautiful bright sun shining on acres of vineyards. I was so happy I almost wept.

In a few moments, I did weep. We weren't finished. There was another hour of the horrific road, but that wasn't the worst of it. We were rounding a curve in a barely lit part of the forest where, as God is my witness, I looked over to see the same man crossing the same arms over his chest and leaning on the same car. He had not passed us and there was no other road. To this day, I will swear it was Rod Serling.

When we finally emerged from the forest dark and deep, the fog rolled in. I couldn't see the dashboard. For the rest of the ride down the beautiful coast highway, visibility was -16. As we inched along, finally we saw rising up out of the soup, a sign for a hotel – not our scenic, romantic, Bing Crosby hotel, but a safe haven where we could spend the night. I fretted that we would have to pay for a night at the other hotel even though we didn't stay there. My friend, who had had just about enough of my crazy for one day, called the Holiday Inn and said, "We have reservations for tonight, but we are too old and too tired to come there. Charge us if you want. I just don't care any more." They didn't, and I will always be grateful to the staff at the Holiday Inn. I thank them every time Bing sings "White Christmas."



Are the plaster ceilings in your old house spider-webbed with cracks? One solution would be to get your guests to admire your new oriental rugs on the floor and hope they never

look up. Or, if you're like Vicki Scholtes, you're looking for a more permanent fix here are some ideas.

Here's Vicki's letter:

Hi,

I've enjoyed the articles you've submitted to the Benson News and appreciated much of your insight and expertise.

I have a question I'm hoping you can answer. I'm located on 53rd Street in a house built in 1940. It wasn't well taken care of and I've spent the last few years redecorating. When I moved in the ceilings were fine but these last couple of years in almost every room the ceilings are cracking, for lack of a better word.

I talked to a friend that's a roofer and he told me that if there was no discoloration then it was not a roof leak. There's no discoloration. I'd like to get the ceilings repaired and also find out why it's happening and what, if anything, I could do to avoid this problem again.

Can you give me some advice or ideas about this problem?

Thanks for any help you can tell me!

Vicki,

I agree with your roofer friend, if your problem was being caused by a water leak there would be discoloration of the plaster. Also the plaster would not be cracking but instead would be bubbling up and/or delaminating. Cracks are caused by movement. Even with an old house there can still be settling, or maybe there is enough flex to the floors to cause the ceilings below to crack. It has been my experience that patching cracks in a ceiling is not a permanent solution, the cracks will reappear with time. Maybe the cracks are very old but were repaired before you bought the house and now are reappearing with time.

My suggestion would be to have the ceilings drywalled. As long as the ceilings are relatively flat, sheets of drywall can be nailed or screwed directly on top of the ceiling surface. Because drywall is gypsum sandwiched between two layers of heavy paper, it can move quite a bit before it will crack or distort. This is a nearly permanent solution for cracked ceilings and will leave a very nice flat and attractive ceiling. In my old house this is what we are having done in each room as we restore them. Drywall comes in various thicknesses and because you would be attaching it to a solid base, 1/4 or 3/8 inch thick sheets of drywall will do nicely.

There is another solution commonly used for this problem, but I would not recommend it, that is texturing the ceiling. The texturing may hide the cracks for a while, but inevitably they reappear even through a thick layer of texture. Also, texturing is a modern technique and not appropriate for an old house.

Thanks for your letter and wish you good luck with your old house.

(Two additional notes about ceilings)

If your ceiling is stained below a bathroom it is an almost certainty that the bathroom plumbing is leaking. (DUH!)

A doctor friend of mine says in medical school they were taught to "go where the money is". No that doesn't mean recommend the most expensive medical procedures, but it means instead to look for the most likely cause of symptoms before examining the odd, unusual or rare diseases. The same holds true for old houses. Ceiling leaks under bathroom are more often than not caused by a failure of the wax ring that provides the seal under your toilet. A replacement ring is inexpensive--maybe a couple of bucks--but the stool has to be removed to replace the wax ring. If you're moderately handy with tools and have a little patience it's a do-it-yourself project. If not, it's a reasonably priced task for a plumber.

And for the old house purists who may be appalled at my "drywall-the-ceiling" suggestion, another fix for ceiling cracks is to line the ceilings with canvas. (Quality plastering jobs in old houses were often lined.)

A wallpaper store like the Diamond Vogel Decorating Center (previously called Tretiak's) can special order the liner. But be forewarned, the last time we lined a ceiling it was in our dining room and the canvas was four feet wide! Until we got it all to stick in place the project was reminiscent of a 3 Stooges movie. As soon as we'd turn our backs on a section supposedly stuck in place it would peel off and roll down on our heads. Now you know another reason I use drywall.



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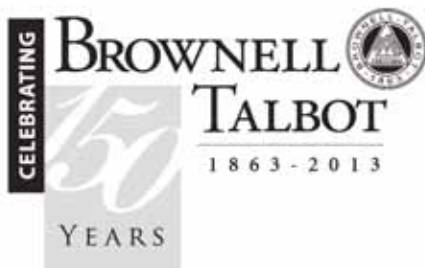
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 - Read excerpts from the commemorative book to be published in September.



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Brownell-Talbot Celebrates 150 Years



On September 17, Brownell-Talbot will celebrate 150 years of educating students in our community. The school enjoys a rich heritage – one the school is pleased to share with its Dundee-Memorial Park neighbors through a grand celebration on Saturday, September 21. Until that time, visit Brownell150.com to learn more about the history and heritage and scheduled events.

Here is an excerpt from the commemorative book that will be made available for purchase in September.

Legend has it that the young women of Brownell Hall were among the first in the Territory to witness the “spark” of a technology new to the nation. This is when Principal Hermann demonstrated the power of electricity to the students during a Friday evening social.

From the beginning, opportunities like this abounded to expand the minds of the students. On another occasion, General William Tecumseh Sherman addressed the young women of Brownell Hall, leaning against the school's piano in the process. Long after this rare address, the students were known to salute the piano upon passing it, “almost as respectfully as if it had been General Sherman himself”

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

Kids' Programs

Movie Day - Tuesdays | 1 PM

Enjoy popcorn while watching a movie at the Library. (All Ages)

July 2: *Lilo & Stitch*

July 16: *Peter Pan*

July 9: *Up*

July 23: *Smurfs*

July 30: *The Lion King*

Baby & Me Storytime - Fridays | 10:15 AM

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

Storytime Yoga - Friday, July 5 | 1 PM

Storytime comes alive as we illustrate books with yoga. Suggested for kids 3-8 years old. Registration required.

Toddler Storytime - Wednesdays, July 3, 10, 17 & 31 | 10:15 AM

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

Martha Storytime - Wednesday, July 24 | 10:15 AM

Bring your camera to the Library and get your picture taken with Martha the Dog at Storytime!

Fit Club - Saturday, July 6 | 2 PM

Have fun while working out! Play video games that will get your heart pumping!

Lego Club - Wednesdays, July 10 & 24 | 4:30 PM

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

Crafts for Kids - Fridays, July 12 & 26 | 1 PM

Have fun making crafts at the Library. Registration required.

July 12: *Make Your Own Jewelry*

July 26: *Treasure Chest*

Star Wars Party - Friday, July 19 | 1 PM

Wear your Star Wars costume and get your picture taken with the 501st Central Garrison Storm Troopers. Enjoy a lightsaber craft and refreshments.

SRP Finale Party - Wednesday, July 31 | 1-3 PM

Celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Program with fun and games at the Library!

Teen Programs

Movie Day for Teens - Tuesdays | 1 PM

Enjoy popcorn while watching a movie at the Library.

July 2: *Jaws*

July 16: *The Dark Knight*

July 30: *The Pursuit of Happyness*

July 9: *TMNT (1990)*

July 23: *The Dark Knight Rises*

Cooking for Teens - Thursdays, July 11 & 25 | 1 PM

Come to the Library and have fun learning how to cook different kinds of food! Registration required.

July 11: *Chips & Dip*

July 25: *Puppy Chow*

Game Time: Family Games - Saturday, July 13 | 2-4 PM

Have fun at the Library playing games like Family Game Night, Family Feud & classic 80s games on the Wii & Xbox 360!

Safety Pin Bracelets for Teens - Thursday, July 18 | 1 PM

Be creative and design your own safety pin bracelet! Registration required.

Gr. 6-12 Overnight Boys Lock-In - Friday, July 19 - Saturday, July 20 | 6 PM - 8 AM

Enjoy fun and games all night at the Library. Food and refreshments will be provided. A signed permission slip is required.

Adult Programs

Adult Book Clubs

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, July 2 | 4:30 PM

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, July 6 | 1 PM

HisMys Book Club - Saturday, July 13 | 10:30 AM

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, July 20 | 1 PM

Scrabble - Thursdays, July 11, 18 & 25 | 1 PM

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

Craft Time for Adults: Garden Bags - Saturday, July 13 | 2 PM

Have fun decorating your very own garden bag! Registration required.

Omnivore's Dilemma Book Discussion - Thursday, July 18 | 6:30 PM

Read & discuss "The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals" by Michael Pollan. This discussion on ethical eating will be led by members of the Dundee Community Garden.

More Trees for Dundee

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance and the Dundee-Memorial Park Association planted new shade trees in Dundee on Saturday, June 22, 2013 at 9:00 am. This was the 5th tree planting project that has been done in Dundee as part of the Re-Tree Midtown project of the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance. The new trees will be replacing older trees that have been lost due to storm damage and disease over the past several years.

Funding for this project has been provided through a 2013 Mayor's Grant and a grant from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (Trees for Nebraska Towns). The plantings will be done on Capitol Avenue, Davenport Street and Chicago Street between 50th Street and 52nd Street.

Jake Runyon, Boy Scout Troop 42, coordinated the tree planting.

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Dundee Day

Dundee Merchants decided to schedule Dundee Day for September 28th due to the streetscape construction. This is the only September Saturday with no Husker football game



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