

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



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Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

Published by Shurson Publishing, Omaha, NE 68131
Vol. 23, No 6 June 2013

Letter From the President

Greetings to all,

I cannot resist doing this! A question for you. How many days between our last shovelable snow and our first 100 degree day? Rather than keep you in the dark, I have put the answer (as verified by a good friend of mine who shoveled snow) at the end of this letter. I feel whip-sawed between cold, snow, and rain, with just a hint of the gorgeous spring I thought we would have in all of April and May. As of this writing, we have had only seven or eight truly spring-like, sunny days – with our normal being more like 20 or perhaps even 30! It makes me cherish the ones we do have even more, now that I know how scarce they can be.

This is my final letter as president of the DMPA. Dave Schinzel (President in 2011-12) takes over the Presidential reins this month for another one-year term. Adam Langdon has graciously accepted the President-Elect position and will become President in June 2014. We are truly in good hands with the two of them committed to serve.

I want to share with you that I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to serve as President for the past year. When I was asked to take on the mantle, I was not certain about doing so. After discussing it with board members and the outgoing President Ben Rouch, I was convinced that it would be something I could do and that I could bring something of value to the organization. I am very glad I did. The year has been rewarding for me and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with all the board members and neighbors who devote time, talent and work to the organization. Thank you to all who helped make my year as President so rewarding, productive, and enjoyable. It is the support of all of you that helped me do the best I could do. I want you to know that when I met many of you on the sidewalks, or chatted on the phone, or exchanged emails, and you told me you appreciated the work we are doing, or had suggestions on how we could do things better, that truly warmed my heart. I appreciate all of your support and your many, many kindnesses. Thank you.

As you know, strong neighborhoods build strong cities, and the Dundee-Memorial Park neighborhood is an important part of Omaha. I encourage anyone who is interested in helping to keep our neighborhood strong to call any of the board members (listed in the newsletter) and ask what opportunities there are to help. You will meet great people and enjoy giving your time to something bigger than all of us. (Volunteering to help water the flower baskets is always available!)

Streetscape Update. The big neighborhood news, of course, is the construction of the business district streetscape, which began on Monday, April 29th, with heavy equipment rolling in first thing in the morning. It is fascinating to watch how the workers coordinate, communicate, and move



**No DMPA
Meetings
Until September**

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Summer!**

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*Especially During
Streetscape Construction*

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CALENDAR**

**No Meetings until
September..**

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

things along. I have been very impressed with the organization of the process, and but for the few hidden "treasures" they have discovered, like the gas line running through the root system of a former tree, it is moving along smoothly.

Every Thursday at 9:00 am the engineering and design firm, the primary contractor, MUD, OPPD, the MUD subcontractor, city public works department and merchants and residents gather to review the previous week's work and describe the expected progress for the next week, identifying factors that could cause inconveniences, delays, or other issues. It is gratifying to see how the issues are raised, analyzed, and resolved by the team comprised of highly skilled, detail-oriented men intensely focused on the project at hand, full of good humor and respect for each other. It is quite an operation and I feel privileged to witness it, and even participate in it, as it progresses.

If you get the chance to give them a "Hello," a thumbs up, or an expression of gratitude, I am sure they would appreciate it. They are doing a great job.

I should mention that already, the 33 new parking spaces on Underwood just east of 49th and along 49th between Underwood and Webster are complete and ready for use, but I imagine you would have discovered that by the time you receive this. It is likely that by the time this reaches you, the new parking and sidewalks on the north side of Underwood between 49th and 50th will be finished and in full use, with new water lines, storm sewer and underground electrical installed and covered up for, I hope, another 100 years. The work will be continuing on the north side of Underwood up to 51st Street probably into July, with the work on the south side of Underwood immediately following, and moving quickly, since there is no MUD underground infrastructure work to be done on that side.

This project began as an idea over five years ago, and is finally becoming a reality. All of us hope that you will do your best to support the Dundee businesses during this construction period when many Omahans who normally come to Dundee might steer clear of the area due to the construction. Dundee is a village and what makes it a village is the business district in which people meet friends, encounter neighbors, and gather for social interaction, to say nothing of solving the world's problems in the coffee shop or in sidewalk conversations. We all know how special our neighborhood is, so let's make the effort to help the businesses through this construction inconvenience and let them know how much we appreciate them.

One final note about the streetscape. Without Pete Festersen's persistent pursuit of planning and financing, this project would not have happened. At times, it seemed Pete had only one full-time job, and it was the streetscape project. We all owe Pete a huge thank you for his skills in bringing the plan to its fruition and the project from paper to concrete. Thank you, Pete.

Flower Baskets. They are up!! A big thank you to Dan Rock, Bob Welk and the crew that installed the baskets – and began the watering. They look as beautiful as ever, and have become so iconic, it is hard to imagine Dundee without them. Getting them on the light poles is the culmination of much work and Jen Goodman, who has organized the planting each for a long time, is now retiring from that job, so we have a volunteer job opening: Flower Basket Planting Coordinator. Anyone interested in taking over this task, please give me or Dave Schinzel a call. It is a job with a definite end date each year when the planting crew spends two days in March at Indian Creek Nursery planting. Thank you, Jen, for the many years you have contributed to the beauty of our neighborhood.

If your block does not have any baskets, you may call Peter Manhart at 402-350-3890 to see if you can still get them. All it takes is paying for the baskets, and they will magically appear, provided there are still some available.

Also, please remember to water the baskets that are near your house, as the watering truck may not be enough to make the baskets flourish, and they look great when they thrive and flourish.

We have no neighborhood meetings during the summer, so our next meeting will be in September, the second Monday. Have a great summer and see you in September!

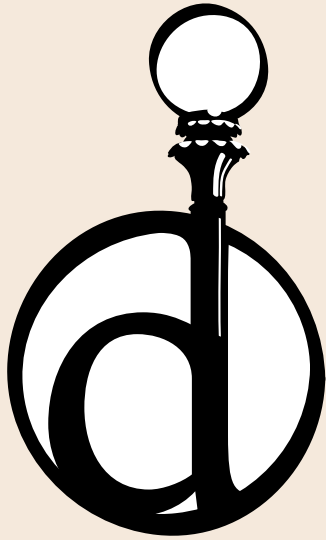
Molly Romero, DMPA President

(The answer to the question 11 days. Last snow on May 2nd and first 100-degree day on May 13! That's the Nebraska we love!)

Spring Clean Up

Spring Clean Up 2013 was another successful event with great neighborhood participation. The very helpful and dedicated volunteers ensured an efficient flow of traffic all day long. We diverted 500 pounds of electronics from the landfill this year. Thanks for taking advantage of this environmentally friendly offer. Also a big thank you for your generous donations to the AV Sorenson Library that were collected at the event. We collected \$167. The board agreed to match these funds for the library.

Special Thanks to Senator Sara Howard for providing pizza for the volunteers at the Spring Clean-up on April 27th. It was greatly appreciated!



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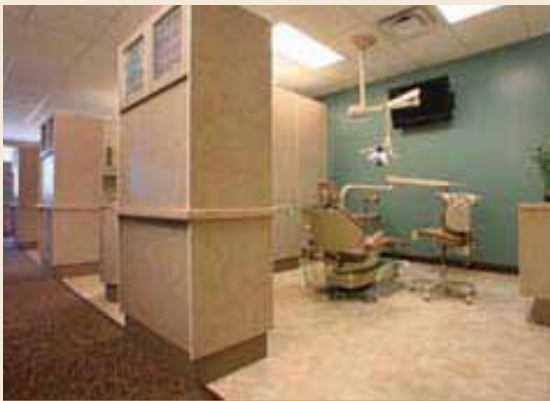


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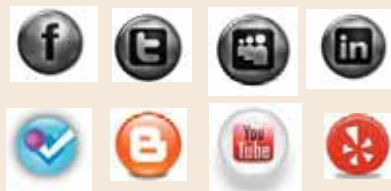
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Another Summer in Elmwood Park

An eighth season of planting, weeding and general maintenance of Elmwood Park/stream is planned for this summer. The following dates have been set aside: Saturdays June 15, July 20 and Sept. 21. The plan is to work from 9:00-11 a.m after meeting in the grotto parking area. The City is providing the equipment truck for our use so gardening tools will available.

Our work is a very necessary component of the general well-being of the park as the park maintenance crew has many parks to maintain. We will be planting annuals at the pool, weeding and trimming vegetation in the grotto, cleaning storm drains, litter pick-up and stream clean-up. The more helping hands we have, the more we get done!

There are many high schools which require community service hours and we would welcome these students with an adult supervisor. Hope to see you in the park!

Trilety Wade and Marty Myers

Dundee Community Garden

It's official—the Dundee Community Garden has purchased the land at 4902 Underwood Ave., so we are now a permanent part of the Dundee Community!

Don't let the streetscape construction on Underwood Avenue keep you from visiting the garden and its neighbors. Now that the garden is permanent, we will have the opportunity to make more improvements to the property. We'll be replanting our flowerbed borders that we had to take out due to scheduled grading work, and we will soon be installing water lines.

We will be hosting more neighborhood events once we've got our garden re-planted and looking better. Please stop by the garden at any time to see what's growing.

Thank you to the many neighbors who have supported the garden. We are continuing to accept donations, which will be used for additional improvements that were not part of our original grant request, such as improving the garden entrance and garden walkways. 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.

Happy Hollow/Farnam/Dodge Island Renovation

DMPA has been awarded a \$4,000 grant from the Mutual of Omaha Foundation to renovate the street island at the intersection of Happy Hollow Blvd, Farnam Street and Dodge Street. About a decade ago, DMPA undertook a landscaping project that included the planting of perennials and a small tree in an effort to spruce up this entrance to our neighborhood. Last fall, a new bronze Historic Dundee sign was installed at this location. While volunteers have done a great job maintaining the island, many of the plantings are in need of replacement after a decade.



With this generous grant from the Mutual of Omaha Foundation, the old soil will be removed and new soil brought in. New perennials, edging and mulch will be installed to beautify this high visibility intersection. Indian Creek Nursery will hopefully begin the work in the next few weeks.

Thank you to Mutual of Omaha Foundation for their generous support of our neighborhood.

Ride 'em Cubs!

By Jean Sigler

When I was a girl, my cousin and I took the bus to Florence Stables every Saturday morning and, for an hour, plodded along a trail in Ponca Hills seated atop bored rent-a-horses. Ever since then I had wanted to fine-tune my equestrian technique, so a few years ago I decided to take horseback riding lessons.

I arrived for my first session and was told by a young girl to go to the tack room, grab a teeny little English saddle, a blanket, grooming brushes, a lead rope and a bridle and come up to the stable. The instructor greeted me and said I would be riding Welcomesucka (not his real name) and I should go outside to the paddock and bring him in. I asked her if he would just come when I called his name and she said probably not. I needed to actually bring him into the stable which she said would be easy. He already had a halter on and I just had to hook the rope to it and lead him in. I went to the back door of the stable and looked into the paddock where I saw fifteen horses all clumped together. I could not believe this woman expected me to wade into the middle of thirty thousand pounds of muscle and sixty sharp feet that could potentially squash and/or stomp the life right out of me. She assured me that she did. Determined not to be humiliated in front of my twelve year old co-riders, I walked authoritatively over to the herd, hooked the rope onto Welcomesucka's halter, and ushered him into the stable.

Once inside I was told to brush and saddle Welcomesucka and put the bridle on. These tasks involved walking around the horse's back end where the kicking legs are located, not once but several times. The first time I had to round the rump, I actually asked Welcomesucka's permission to approach, in an attempt to ingratiate myself thereby making it harder for him to kill me. The next step was to put on the blanket and saddle and cinch up the hold-the-saddle-on-strap tight enough that Welcomesucka would be singing soprano for some time to come. The instructor said he wouldn't like it much, but if I didn't do it the saddle would fall off as soon as I tried to step into the stirrup and heave myself onto Welcomesucka's back. Having secured the saddle, I was told to pry the horse's mouth open with my own thumbs and force the bit between his huge, sharp, vice like teeth, even though he would hate that. I looked at her slack jawed. She told me it would be okay. Welcomesucka was the tamest, oldest gelding in the stable and wouldn't hurt a fly. She used him for all the new students. I forged ahead and managed to get him dressed and into the ring without incident where I dressaged around for an hour demonstrating remarkable ability for a newbie of such advanced age. All the kids said so.

The next week, there was a new student, so Welcomesucka's dance card was filled. I was told to fetch and tack up Kissyourbuttgoodbye! (not his real name). The instructor, who apparently had a sadistic sense of humor, told me to take the lead position knowing full well that

Kissyourbuttgoodbye! hated to be at the head of the pack. I guess she wanted to see how I would handle his objections. I'm pretty sure I said some bad words as he pulled at the bit and flung his head up and down, but I eventually managed to get him to accept his leadership role.

By now I was feeling quite the experienced rider. I was so comfortable after a few weeks, that at the end of the lesson one night, I grabbed my water bottle from the ledge, took my feet out of the stirrups and held on loosely to the reins as Kissyourbuttgoodbye! sauntered slowly around the ring, cooling off. Things were going just fine until we came alongside OhNoYouDidn't! (his real name), who was apparently Kissyourbuttgoodbye!'s sworn and mortal enemy. As soon as we got too close, OhNoYouDidn't! tried to bite Kissyourbuttgoodbye! who shied to the right at lightning speed. Caught unaware, I was unceremoniously dumped, landing on my wrist which immediately puffed up like a balloon.

I drove home and when I arrived, my husband was glued to the TV watching the Cubs in an extra-inning game. I told him I was going to shower and then I thought we would have to go the emergency room to get an x-ray. When I looked in the bathroom mirror I saw that my right eye was getting blacker by the minute. I told my husband that we needed to go to the hospital. He assured me there was nothing more important to him than my well-being, but could we just wait for two more pitches. I pictured the doctor saying, "I'm sorry Mrs. Sigler. We probably could have saved the arm if you had just gotten here a couple of innings earlier." When we arrived at the emergency room door, the game was going into the thirteenth inning. I told Bob there was no point in his just sitting in the waiting room while I was being x-rayed; he should finish listening to the game, which would surely be over soon and then come inside.

After a couple of hours of waiting, x-rays, and splinting my broken wrist, I gathered my prescription for pain pills and my belongings and went out to the waiting room which was empty. I saw the car out in the parking lot and walked over to it. I opened the door to find Bob sound asleep and the radio blaring some talk show. When I woke him, he was very apologetic and asked if I was alright and if by any chance I had heard the final score of the game. They say if you break a bone, you will always know when it is going to rain. I don't know about that, but when I get a twinge in my wrist, I know that somewhere the Cubs are in extra innings.



Among the many things we take for granted, plumbing has to be somewhere near the top of the list. We take it for granted, that is, until something goes wrong like a stopped up drain. And in

one of those immutable laws of the universe—like jelly bread dropped on the floor always falls face down—your drain will only stop up at night, on a weekend, or on a holiday so you can pay the plumber for double-time. (And if it's a holiday night that happens to fall on a weekend—plan on applying for a second mortgage.)

In general there are two ways to clear a stopped up drain: the chemical way and by mechanical means. I'm not a fan of using chemical drain openers. Common ingredients in chemical drain cleaners are lye or sulphuric acid. Both of them are extremely caustic and corrosive, dangerous to use and can damage old pipes. If you use chemical drain cleaners and the drain is still blocked. DO NOT try to clear the drain with a plunger or some other pressurized method. You are risking splashback. Likewise do not mix chemical drain cleaners; the result can be a witch's brew of toxic fumes.

Clearing drains mechanically is much safer. Most clogs occur at the trap under the drain. The trap is a "P" or "J" shaped pipe under the drain. Its purpose is to "trap" water in the pipe to seal the pipe and prevent sewer gas from rising up into your home. If the trap is accessible like in a bathroom or kitchen sink, remove the trap with a pipe wrench and clean it out.



A plunger is an alternative that in my experience works about half the time. The principle of a plunger is pretty simple. You are creating a vacuum and then a small column of pressurized air to move the blockage farther down the pipe. (If this seems like a bad idea, you can take some heart in knowing that the pipes get larger the farther down you go.)

The better the seal on your plunger the better it will work. Smear some Vaseline jelly on the rim of the plunger, and plug the overflow drain with a wet rag on sinks or bathtubs that have them.

If the blockage is somewhere past the trap a plumber's snake is your best bet. A snake is a flexible steel cable on a reel with a hand crank. A 25-footer should do nicely for most situations a homeowner might face. They are not expensive to buy and they are also available at most rental outfits.

Feed the cable a foot or so at a time. Lock the cable with the hand screw and then turn the hand crank. Unlock the screw feed another foot or so then lock and crank again. Repeat this until you feel you removed the obstruction. Occasionally pull out the snake to see if you've snared a big old gross-looking glob of hair (the most common cause of drain stoppage).

If this doesn't get the job done, then it's time for the professionals.

A little maintenance goes a long way to preventing stopped up drains. Go easy on the garbage disposal. Vegetable peelings, coffee grounds and the like should go directly into the trash. Use the disposal only for minor grinding. Never pour grease down the drain. A screen to catch hair is a good idea for bathroom sinks, showers and bathtubs.

Enzyme based drain cleaners work too slowly to open a stopped drain, but are good for preventative maintenance. Unlike caustic drain cleaners, the enzyme compounds will not harm your pipes but they will "eat" away grease and other organic materials that build up and cause pipes to run slowly and eventually stop up. Enzyme cleaners are readily available at most hardware and home centers. Follow label directions and pour some in each of your drains once a month. Your pipes will thank you for not taking them for granted.

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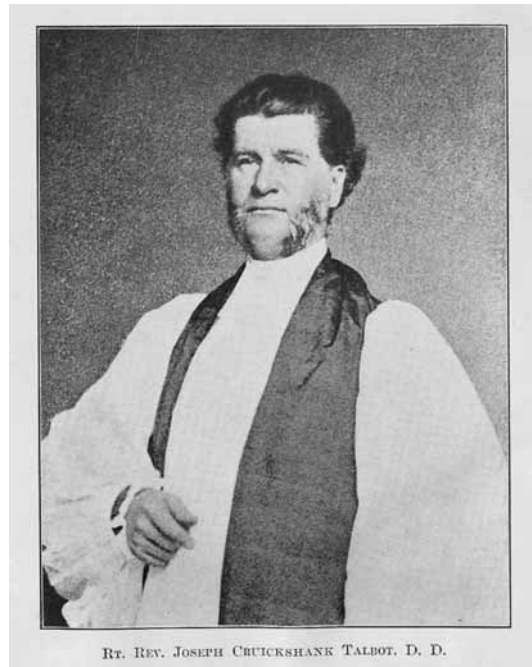
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Brownell-Talbot Celebrates 150 Years

This September, Brownell-Talbot School celebrates its 150th anniversary. Founded in 1863 by the Right Reverend Joseph Cruickshank Talbot, the school is pleased to have been a part of the Dundee neighborhood for 90 of those 150 years and looks forward to many more years on Happy Hollow Boulevard.

In 1923, the school purchased 11 acres of ground and buildings from Happy Hollow Country Club at Underwood Avenue and Happy Hollow Boulevard. The land originally belonged to the John Nelson Hayes Patrick family. The family home, which Brownell-Talbot converted into an academic building, had been known as the "Happy Hollow House." The country club directors chose to retain that name in memory of the hospitality of the Patrick family and the many events held there. Students at Brownell-Talbot affectionately called it "the old white house." Unfortunately beyond repair, this building had to be torn down in 1960. Today the campus has 7 buildings and serves 460 students.



RT. REV. JOSEPH CRUICKSHANK TALBOT, D. D.

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

Kids' Programs

SRP Kickoff Party - Saturday, June 1 | 2-4 PM

Help the Library kickoff the Summer Reading Program! Enjoy a petting zoo, Fit Club & more.

Movie Day - Tuesdays | 1 PM

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

June 4: *Despicable Me*

June 18: *The Lorax*

June 11: *Finding Nemo*

June 25: *How to Train Your Dragon*

Storytimes

Come to the Library and enjoy the following storytimes with songs, rhymes, puppets and musical instruments.

Toddler Storytime - Wednesdays | 10:15 AM

Baby & Me Storytime - Fridays, June 7, 21 & 28 | 10:15 AM

Yoga at the Library - Friday, June 7 | 1 PM

Danny the Dinosaur Storytime - Friday, June 14 | 10:15 AM

Lego Club - Wednesdays, June 12 & 26 | 4:30 PM

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

Red Wigglers: Love Your Garbage - Saturday, June 8 | 2 PM

Discover how worms and garbage can help your garden.

Princess Party - Friday, June 14 | 1 PM

Wear your royal costume and get your picture taken with Princess Whitney. Listen to her stories and snack like a princess.

Crafts for Kids: Father's Day Craft - Saturday, June 15 | 1 PM

Have fun at the Library making a Father's Day Craft. Registration required.

Wildlife Encounters - Friday, June 21 | 1 PM

"Dig into Reading" at the Library with animals from Wildlife Encounters.

Raptor Recovery - Friday, June 28 | 1 PM

Get a close look at some of Nebraska's native raptors from an educator with Raptor Recovery Nebraska.

Teen Programs

Movie Day for Teens - Tuesdays | 1 PM

Enjoy popcorn while watching a movie at the Library.

June 4: *The Hunger Games*

June 18: *The Blind Side*

June 11: *I Am Number 4*

June 25: *Men in Black III*

Zombie Makeup for Teens - Thursday, June 6 | 1 PM

Learn expert zombie makeup tips this summer from local makeup and effects artist Kari Fry! Registration required.

Game Time - Saturdays, June 8, 15 & 29 | 2-4 PM

Have fun with your friends at the Library playing some of our Wii & Xbox 360 Kinect games!

June 8: *Just Dance 1, 2 & 3*

June 15: *Kinect Star Wars*

June 29: *Mario*

Cooking for Teens - Thursdays, June 13 & 27 | 1 PM

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

June 4: *Breakfast*

June 18: *Mexican Food*

Henna for Teens - Thursday, June 20 | 1 PM

Have fun with henna at the Library! Use a stencil or make your own design. Registration required.

Gr. 6-12 Overnight Girls Lock-In - Friday, June 21 - Saturday, June 22 | 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

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, June 1 | 1 PM

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

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

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

Scrabble - Thursdays | 1 PM

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

Craft Time for Adults: Alcohol Ink Votives - Saturday, June 22 | 2 PM

Learn how to create alcohol ink votives! Registration required.

Composting Made Easy - Saturday, June 29 | 2 PM

Learn all about composting from the Dundee Community Garden.

Garage Sale Update

We had almost 60 garage sales advertised this year & the weather turned out pretty good. We had over 400 people pull the list of sales off the website & I had several requests to have it emailed. A special thanks to Mickey Harrington for putting up posters & dropping off the lists of flyers @ various Dundee businesses. That was a HUGE help!

It's fun to have people email me every year about this time looking for the list. There is one family that makes it a family event each & every year! We actually had the opportunity to hit up a few sales this year & my daughter was so excited to spend her money. It was burning a hole in her pocket. She commented on buying a diamond necklace. Wondering if she could get one for "...only like \$2?..." I tried explaining to her that she probably wouldn't find a diamond necklace @ a garage sale and if she did it would most likely be much more than \$2. Well... she proved me wrong. Not only did she find a "diamond" necklace, but it was only \$1!" She made sure I knew I was wrong. I'm sure she'll realize someday that it is far from a diamond, but for \$1 it was worth it to see her face. She was so excited. Her mission was complete.

You should have a few extra bucks in your pocket – spend it wisely & if you have stuff left over for donations remember there are many worthy causes out there. Many are willing to pick up. Please remember to return your yard signs to my front porch @ 312 S 54th St.

So until next year, have a wonderful summer & try to find time to get on the watering schedule for our beautiful flower baskets. Contact Dan Rock to get on the schedule

DUNDEE CLASSIFIED /WANT ADS

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Phone _____ E-mail: _____

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Yes, you may list my name in the newsletter as a ___new member ___ renewal.

Send form (Photo copy acceptable) and checks made out to DMPA to

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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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