

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



DMPA Meeting

Next DMPA Meeting
March 10th

**Omaha Mayor
Jean Stothert**

Location and times:
Dundee Presbyterian Church
53rd & Underwood Ave

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

**Meetings are always held
the second Monday of the
month.**

Jan - May and Sept - Nov.



Cake from the February meeting

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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Vol. 24, No 3 March 2014

Letter From the President

Although it has seemed like winter would never end, there is hope of spring as we head into March. With the change of the calendar, we can look forward to spring planting and 450 flower baskets in particular. Once again, DMPA volunteers will take on the task of preparing the flower baskets that will adorn our neighborhood from May to October. The planting dates are Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22. Mary Green and Julia Ross are looking for volunteers. This is always a great time visiting with neighbors and the donated food is always first rate. Please see the article in the newsletter for more information.

On February 10, DMPA held a volunteer recognition in place of our regular monthly meeting to thank those who have given of their time to make Dundee-Memorial Park such a great neighborhood. The turnout was fantastic and everyone enjoyed the cake and gift card door prizes. I want to thank Mark's, eCreamery, Dundee Dell, Beer & Loathing, French Bulldog, Amsterdam Falafel and State Senator Burke Harr for donating gift cards for the drawing. Please be sure to support these Dundee businesses and thank them for their support of our neighborhood association.

The highlight of the evening was the special recognition of Dan Rock for all he has given to DMPA over the years. It was great to see so many people come on a very cold night to thank Dan. The City has installed the commemorative street sign proclaiming "Dan Rock Blvd" on 53rd Street between Farnam and Howard. Dan even got a special salute from the Boy Scouts.

The DMPA board is planning on undertaking several projects for 2014. We have already submitted a grant to the Peter Kiewit Foundation to help fund the purchase of a utility vehicle to be used for the flower basket watering, tree planting and neighborhood/park clean ups. We will also be submitting a grant application to the Mutual of Omaha Foundation to help renovate the small park located at 48th and California St. Marty Myers has been working with students from Metro Community College on a sustainable design for this park since there is not a source of water at the location.

We have also set up a committee under Adam Langdon's direction to do a makeover on our DMPA website. As is often the case with technology, change happens fast and it is easy to get

Continued on page 4

Dundee-Memorial Park Association

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Dave Schinzel, President
drschinzel@hotmail.com
402-551-3742

Adam Langdon, President Elect
402-290-8084

Peg Gibbs, Secretary
Rodney Olden, Treasurer
rodney.olden@hotmail.com
402-551-2597

Committees

Newsletter Publisher/Editor
Ellen Shurson, 402-714-1016
ellenshurson@gmail.com

Street Captain Coordinator
Peter Manhart, 350-3890

Problem Solving
B.J. Reed, 402-556-5509

**Program Coordinator,
Membership Data**
Eli McNichols, 402-551-5246
elimci@cox.net

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NoDo (North of Dodge)
Jared Schademann, 402-658-8122

SoDo (South of Dodge)
Business Liaison
Molly Romero, 402-502-2203

Library & Rec Center Committee
Lucy Lewis
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Raquel Ahlvers
raquel.ahlvers@cox.net

Flower Basket Planting,
Julia Ross 402-926-9698
portlandandi@gmail.com

Mary Green megreen4@cox.net
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President's Message

Continued from front page.

behind the times. While we have a great website now, we are looking to make it even more user friendly and more functional for the association. We will also be working with professionals in the field to bring you a top notch website. The board has set a September deadline for getting this accomplished.

There are plenty of opportunities for you to volunteer. Adam Schademann and Millie Miller are always looking for volunteers to help with the island gardens. Marty Myers and her crew that clean up the Elmwood Park grotto always need help and it is never too early to get on Dan Rock's schedule to water flower baskets. All of their contact information is on the inside page of the newsletter.

If you have not yet been contacted by your block captain about donating for flower baskets on your block, please contact Peter Manhart 350-3890 and he can tell you who your block captain is. If your block does not have a block captain, please consider becoming one. It is not difficult to collect flower basket donations and it really does make your block look great all summer. Our goal each year is to have flower baskets on every block in the neighborhood. Unfortunate, we have had too many blocks in recent years not participate.

Our March Association meeting will be Monday, March 10 and we will be having Mayor Jean Stothert as our guest speaker. We appreciate her taking time to come answer your questions about City government and how things can be improved or changed in the way the City delivers services. Please plan on attending and bring a friend.

As always, if you have any issue or concerns, please let me or any other board member know.

Dave Schinzel

DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR



- March 10th** Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert
- April 14:** Omaha Architecture & history with Joni Fogarty
- May 12:** Nebraska Trees with Graham Herbst - Nebraska Forest Service
- No Meetings during the Summer

DMPA Thanks Volunteers & Honors Dan Rock's Years of Service

At the February Association meeting, DMPA thanked all of those who volunteer to make our association so strong. Despite a cold night, we had a fantastic turnout and everyone enjoyed cake and the drawing for gift cards from Dundee merchants. A special thanks to the following businesses for donating gift cards:

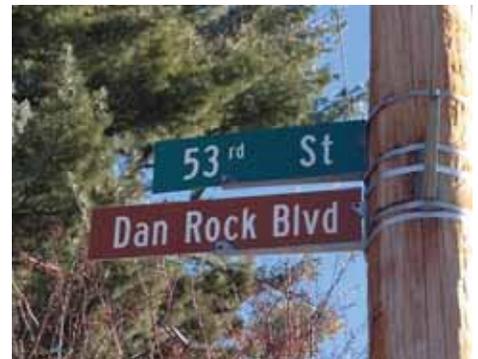
- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| State Senator Burke Harr | Mark's |
| Beer & Loathing | eCreamery |
| The French Bulldog | Dundee Dell |
| Amsterdam Falafel | |

We appreciate their support of our neighborhood!

DMPA also recognized Dan Rock for his many years of dedicated service. There are not many projects in Dundee that Dan has not been involved with. Dan is best known as the father of the 450 flower baskets that hang each year on our historic light posts for which our neighborhood is so well-known. In January, the Omaha City Council passed a resolution commemoratively naming 53rd Street between Farnam and Howard as "Dan Rock Blvd." DMPA presented Dan and his wife Susan a plaque as a small token of our appreciation. The Public Works Department installed the commemorative signs the first week of February.



Susan and Dan Rock and Dave Schinzel





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More Photos from Feb Meeting



A Few More Volunteers Needed for Flower Basket Planting!

Date: Friday March 21
Saturday March 22
Time: 10-3 (both days)
Lunch provided by local Dundee restaurants!

Location: Indian Creek Greenhouse
303 N. Saddle Creek Road
(Greenhouse, SE corner of property)

To volunteer for one or both days, sign up at the next DMPA meeting, or e-mail Mary Green at megreen4@cox.net, or call 402-556-1830.

Julia Ross and Mary Green, Flower Basket Co-Chairs

Postcards From The Past

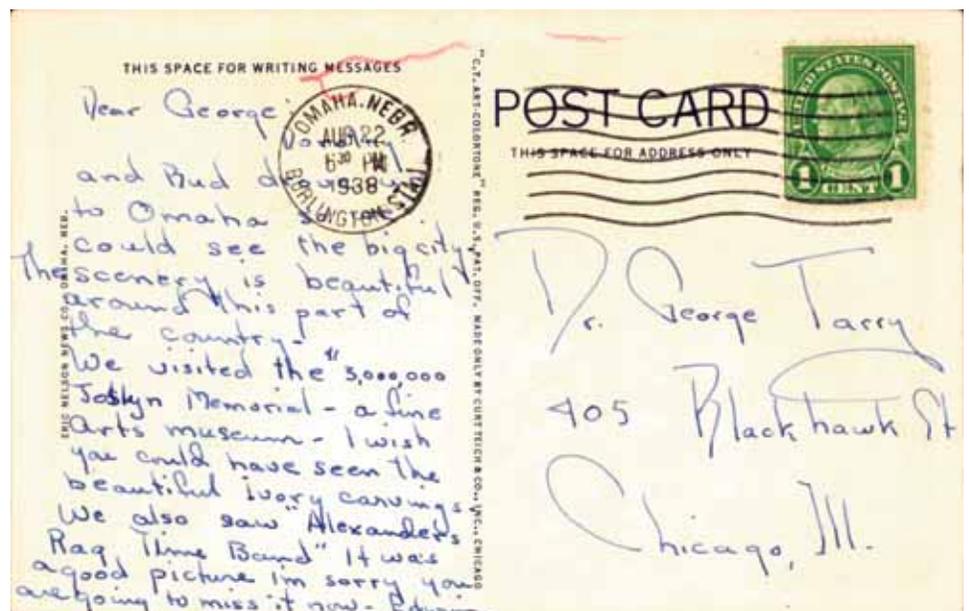
By Cate Kratville

First, a correction is due from the February Dundee postcard. Thank you to the Dundee neighbors who pointed out that the scene is indeed from 54th Street and not 53rd Street. I live on 54th and know better, however my fingers typed 53rd. Sorry for the confusion folks.

This month's postcard is a view of what once was the public mineral spring at Elmwood Park. According to Dundee, Neb. A Pictorial History, Elmwood itself was originally started in 1889 by four neighbors who donated 55 acres of land to the City of Omaha. It was on the outskirts of town and was a camper's delight. The park grew along with the population of Omaha, which was growing closer and closer to it. The familiar pavilion that is still there and busy today was built in 1917.

Among the many features of the park was a natural mineral spring that drew flocks of people from all over Omaha. People would show up with their jugs, jars and anything else they could to gather the water that some thought tasted better than Omaha's water supply. Others thought the spring water had special healing powers. Still others used it for their main household water supply. By 1947, the water had begun to show signs of contamination. Soon after, the City closed the springs. In recent years, the grotto has been renovated. However, no drinkable spring water exists due to public health concerns. City tap water has replaced it.

As you can tell, this postcard was actually used and dates to the 1930s. It is somewhat common to find and several other postcards of the spring also exist.





When I was in the Army, I learned there were two important rules to Army life: If it moves, salute it. If it doesn't move, paint it. I have less than pleasant memories of painting everything—even rocks!

It would seem sometimes homeowners take the same tack. (How else can you explain painting a brick house?) But what do you do when you want to remove the paint from an entire house? That was a question posed by this letter:

Hello Don;

About 4 years ago I settled in here near 54th and Decatur St. It is a wonderful street and neighborhood, as we know is typical of this mid-town area. My home is not actually in Dundee but close enough that my interest remains.

My little house is white-painted brick, sort of. The previous owner had "just newly painted the front (and shutters)". The sides remain kind of a "whitewashed rubbed look", which is a look I actually like a lot on other houses, as I walk the neighborhood with my dog daily. Seems those others may be more of a rough face brick that rubs (or blasts off) interestingly. My brick is smooth faced. Not really quite as "pretty" on the rubbed sides as the look on some other bricks.

The present look of the house pleases me just fine. But for long range planning for maintenance & value upkeep, there is the factor that the exterior is not exactly cohesive, with the two separate finishes on the brick. (The house is circa 1940s).

So my question, after this long introduction, is quite a simple one: Are there professional experts who offer ideas about the exterior treatment of brick--especially "to paint or not to paint", aiming at both beauty of appearance and preservation

My hunch is that getting some of the ideas into action might be labor intensive and costly. Nevertheless, knowing about alternative and recommended treatments is good information to have when one desires to maintain one's home and neighborhood attractively.

Jackie H.

Jackie:

The issues related to painted brick houses can be difficult. Personally, I have never understood the idea of painting brick. Besides its beauty, one of the great assets

of a brick house is its low maintenance. But once you paint a brick house then you have to repaint it about as often as a house with wood siding.

I agree with you that the difference in look between the front of the house and the sides probably doesn't make a house as attractive as it might be. To the best of my knowledge the choice between paint or no paint on brick is purely an aesthetic decision that has little or nothing to do with the preservation of the house. (Perhaps the only exception is some brick houses, which were made with a very soft brick and had to be painted to preserve the brick. But my research suggests that this would be true only for very old houses--houses much older than those in our neighborhoods. The idea of painting brick houses goes back to the early 1800s.)

So, you have two design choices: paint the sides to match or remove the paint from the front facade. You already know my opinion on painting the brick, but what is the best way to remove paint from bricks? The worst way to remove the paint is with sandblasting.

Sandblasting leaves the surface of the brick very rough and pitted and can leave the brick with a porous surface that gets dirty easily and is susceptible to water damage. The only other option is chemical stripping. Caustic chemical strippers--lye-based solutions--are very hazardous to use and cleanup is quite difficult, so stripping the exterior of a home is a job best left to pros. If the paint is not completely stripped off it is possible to get that sort of "whitewashed rubbed look" that you like. But as you suspect the process of paint removal is likely to be costly and labor intensive.

I'm sorry to say I don't have any names of companies in our area who do this work. I searched the Internet with no success. My best suggestion would be talk to painting contractors and ask them if they do this kind of work, and if they don't, ask them if they can tell you who does. I did not find any books on the subject or any web pages that offer more than a very cursory discussion of this subject.

Thanks for your email and good luck with your home.

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

Kids' Programs

Fit Club - Saturday, March 1 | 2 PM

Reading with Rosie & Tucker - Saturdays | 4 PM

Rosie and Tucker are registered therapy dogs. Along with their owner, children have the opportunity for a 15 minute one-on-one reading session. Registration required.

Toddler Storytime - Wednesdays | 10:30 AM

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

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

Yoga Storytime - Thursday, March 6 | 10:30 AM

Baby & Me Storytime - Fridays | 10:30 AM

Game Time | 2-4 PM

Tuesday, March 11: Twister Mania

Saturday, March 22: Kinect Star Wars

Moive Day: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 - Wednesday, March 12 | 1 PM

St. Patrick's Day Craft for Kids - Thursday, March 13 | 4:00 PM

Have fun creating a St. Patrick's Day Craft! Registration required.

Teen Programs

Minecraft Club - Tuesdays, March 4 & 18 | 4:30 PM

Have fun playing Minecraft at the Library. Program limited to ages 8-18. Registration required.

Silent Library - Thursday, March 13 | 1-3 PM

See if you have what it takes to compete in crazy challenges and win prizes! A signed parental permission slip is required.

Building Robots for Teens - Friday, March 14 | 1 PM

Celebrate Teen Tech Week by helping build different types of robots before testing them out! Registration required.

Teen Advisory Board - Saturday, March 15 | 2 PM

Gr. 6-12 Teen Lock-In - Friday, March 21 | 6-9 PM

Hang out with your friends at the Library while enjoying food and refreshments. Registration is required.

Movie Day for Teens: Catching Fire— Saturday, March 29 | 1 PM

Adult Programs

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

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

Scrabble - Thursdays | 1 PM

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

Movie Day for Adults: Fried Green Tomatoes - Saturday, March 8 | 1 PM

DIY Barbecue Rubs & Flavored Salts - Tuesday, March 11 | 6:30 PM

Learn how to make your own barbecue rubs and flavored salts. All supplies included. Registration required.

Genealogy Lock-In - Friday, March 14 | 6-9 PM

Learn tips and tricks to help you trace your women ancestors. Volunteers and instruction will be provided by the Greater Omaha Genealogy Society. Registration required.

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

DIY Votives for Adults - Tuesday, March 25 | 6:30 PM

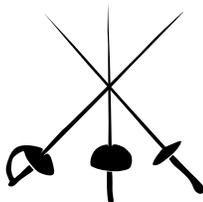
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