

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



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DMPA Meeting

Next DMPA Meeting
September 9th

Julie Reilly, Director
Joslyn Castle Trust

to talk about changes at the
Castle as well as the many new
programs being offered.

Location and times:

Dundee Presbyterian Church
53rd & Underwood Ave

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

Dundee Day September 28th

Pancake Breakfast 7 AM - 11 AM
Parade starts at 10:30 A.M

And much, much more!

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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Vol. 23, No 9 September 2013

Letter From the President

I hope everyone had a great summer. On South 50th Avenue we know that summer is coming to an end with our annual block party which is a great tradition on our block. Usually, we know fall is not too far off when we celebrate Dundee Day at the end of August. Because of the business district construction, Dundee Day has been moved back this year to Saturday, September 28th. It promises to be better than ever and the weather should be cooler than past years. More details about all of the events associated with this celebration of Dundee are in the newsletter.

The recent cooler weather has the flower baskets looking better than ever. The watering crews have done a great job and I want to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to keep this great Dundee tradition going year after year. Dan Rock is still in need of volunteers for the remaining weeks that the baskets will be up. If the weather holds, the baskets could remain up until October. That means we still need to water and fertilize them so please call Dan at 558-4913 to volunteer.

The election of a new Mayor last spring has brought some significant changes to city government. One area of change has been in the Planning Department which oversees permits, zoning, design standards and code enforcement. I recently read a story in the World-Herald about Mayor Stothert wanting to possibly weaken Omaha's new design standards to make it easier for developers. This should be a concern to anyone living in older established neighborhoods like Dundee. The article specifically mentioned the debate a few years ago over the design of the CVS at 49th & Dodge. In the article, Mayor Stothert said that debate was an example of "how the process went too far" and put an undo burden on the developer. As someone who has lived in Dundee most of my life, I could not disagree more. Whether you were for the CVS being built or against it, I never heard anyone in Dundee say that neighbors should not be involved in how this building would fit into our historic neighborhood. The CVS building that was eventually built, while not what many would have liked, is certainly better than the square cookie-cutter boxes being built in the rest of Omaha.

When I am asked about future development in Dundee, I tell people the corner of 49th & Dodge is the perfect example of one developer doing it the right way and one developer doing it the wrong way in an historic neighborhood like ours. The right way is the Old Piano Building that was completely restored to its historic condition by Matt Dougherty. Throughout his renovation, Matt Dougherty worked with

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**DMPA
MEETINGS
CALENDAR**

September 9th
Julie Reilly,
Joslyn Castle Trust

October 14th

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

the neighborhood listening to concerns and working to bring the building exterior back to what it was years ago. Because of his efforts, we now have a great landmark that Dundee can be very proud of. And directly across the street, you have CVS which had to be fought with every step of the way to make even the modest changes to the building's exterior which still does not really fit the nature of the neighborhood.

I would like to thank Jim Mulhall, Bill Kelly and the other neighbors who recently cleaned up the small park at 48th & California Street. Unfortunately, this little park has been neglected in recent years and is in need of regular maintenance to cut the grass and pull the weeds. It would be nice if someone living near the park would be willing to take this project on a regular basis. It is a very small area but it serves as a gateway to our neighborhood giving an important first impression to people driving into our neighborhood. Please let me know if this is something you might be interested in doing.

We will once again be starting up our monthly General Association meetings on Monday, September 9th. The meetings will again be in the basement of Dundee Presbyterian Church (Happy Hollow Blvd & Underwood Ave.) with social time starting at 7:00 and the program starting at 7:30. This month we are fortunate to have Julie Reilly from Joslyn Castle to talk about the many changes that have taken place at the Castle as well as the many new programs being offered.

I hope to see you on the 9th and at Dundee Day on the 28th.

Dave Schinzel

Dundee Day Book Sale

Saturday, September 28th

Book Donations

Your gently used books are needed for the annual sale which helps fund books and programs for children and adults at Sorensen Library Community Center. Donations may be brought to the Wells residence at 117 South 51 Avenue (brick house with 2 story white columns) when you read this notice. Please leave on the front porch.

No magazines, encyclopedias or text books, please.

Unsold books are donated to Friends of the Library book sales benefiting Omaha library system and A.V. Sorensen Branch.

Volunteers for the DMPA book booth are needed for 2-hour shifts between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For more information or to volunteer please contact Angie Wells 402-553-6057 or wellsarrow@msn.com



September Clean-Up of Elmwood Park

On Saturday, September 21 at 9:00 a.m. we will meet in the grotto parking lot to do our final maintenance of the park for the season. We will plan to do the necessary weeding, trimming and debris clean-up, so bring your gardening gloves and favorite trimmer. It is amazing what a few helping hands can do. Plan to join us. ??? call Marty Myers, 556-2513


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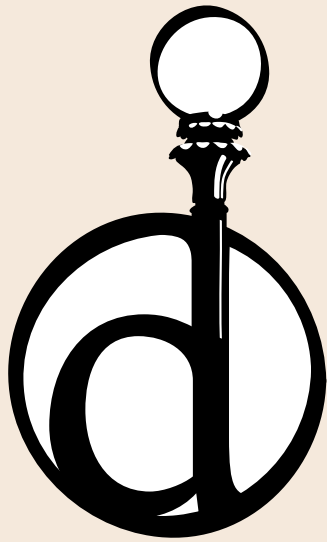
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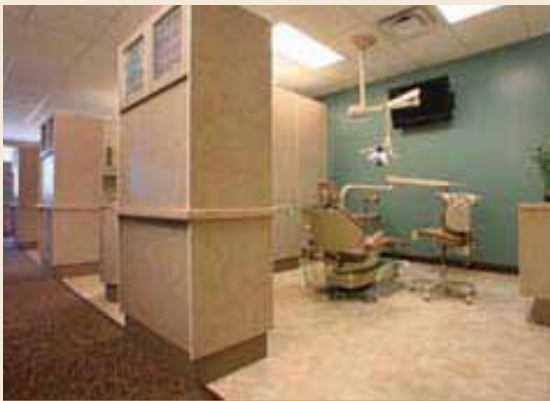


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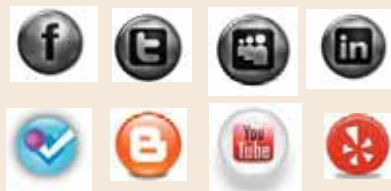
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Marks is Marking its 10th!

Hard to believe – 10 years ago we opened our doors, inviting the Dundee-Memorial Park neighbors – and all of Omaha -- to dine with us and make us a part of their social fabric. We are so grateful that you have accepted our invitation, joined us, and have become a part of our Marks family.

In the past 10 years, Dundee has undergone many changes, with the most recent (and ambitious) being the streetscape renovation. We have lost some treasured merchants, and welcomed many new ones. The business district has a great energy and vitality that should serve us all well for the next several decades. It is the support of our neighbors that has allowed Dundee merchants to thrive and to serve.

As our 10th anniversary arrives, we find ourselves reflecting on the many customers who have shared important family events – marriage proposals (especially the confident young suitor who sang his marriage proposal in the patio for all to hear), holiday dinners, family reunions, memorial lunches and dinners, weddings, book clubs, baby showers, bridal showers, investment clubs, surprise birthday parties, and the annual afternoon with the “Domino Ladies.” All these people have enriched our lives immensely and we feel so very grateful that all our customers have found us to be as comfortable as home.

To celebrate, we offer the coupon below. Come in to see us any time in September and use the coupon on your favorite Marks menu items – or try something new!

Thank you to all who have become a part of the Marks family – and we look forward to serving you for many more decades.

Mark Pluhacek
Molly Romero
Rachel Kolb
And all the Marks staff

Marks

10th Anniversary Celebration

\$10 off

your ticket of \$40 or more

Only one coupon per table, please

Expires September 30, 2013

No cash value

Nana Camp 2013

By Jean Sigler

My son and daughter-in-law asked me to provide day care for my six year old grandson for ten days last month. I jumped at the chance. I prepared a meticulous SCHEDULE that would keep Jake busy all day every day during my tenure as Camp Director. There were art projects, acts of kindness, exercise, swim lessons, board games, field trips, and on and on. There were enough activities to keep an adult busy for the better part of a month. And the great part is that the activities were by and large the kind of plain old fashioned things I had done as a child. All electronic activities would be strictly limited.

On the first day of camp, the SCHEDULE called for getting supplies for shirt painting. I pictured the day unfolding. Jake and I would work on his shirt during the morning hours then play a game, watch a nature show, do an outdoor activity, perform an act of kindness and read. By then it would be about 3:30 and time to pick up Izzy and go for frozen yogurt.

Jake talked me into getting several art projects, all of which he wanted to complete on day one. I referred him to THE SCHEDULE and told him that if we did all the projects on the first day there would be nothing left to do for the other nine days we had together. We got out the fabric paints and while I discussed possible designs and color combinations, Jake completed his shirt. It took him 3 minutes. We moved on to game playing. The boy beat me at Scrabble fourteen games to three. It was now 10:15 on the first day and we had already completed the entire morning's agenda. I caved in to Jake's wheedling and allowed him to start on the second day's project, the assembly and painting of a 3dimensional tiger. Jake soon tired of inserting balsa wood piece A into slot B whereupon piece A promptly fell out onto the table. He asked if he could play a game on my phone. I set the timer for ten minutes. It was now 11:00 on the first day. Nine minutes later I cancelled the alarm and let Jake play for just a bit longer. I'll never tell how much longer. What happens at Nana Camp and all that.

By now the SCHEDULE called for lunch followed by a nature show. I always enjoy watching nature shows with my grandson as he is very interested in all things natural and absorbs everything he sees and hears. Imagine my surprise when the animated Neanderthals began the process of peopling the earth with more Neanderthals. I jumped in front of Jake and gave him a quick tickle until the Neanderthals moved on to hunting and gathering which they should have been doing all along.

THE SCHEDULE called for some vigorous outdoor activity after lunch. It was 95 degrees with 87% humidity, which pretty much eliminated any activity performed above water. Luckily, the kids' neighbor has given them carte blanche to use her swimming pool. We were technically supposed to wait for Izzy, but we had already finished most of the sec

ond, fourth and eighth day's activities, so I told Jake we could go a little early and again later when Izzy got home. I had planned to teach him how to swim during Nana Camp, so the one-on-one time would be good. I thought I could get him water safe by the end of the first week if we spent a half hour or so per day. I began by having him jump into the water from the safety of my knees. Formal instruction could come later. After ten minutes he was jumping in, swimming halfway across the pool, and doing underwater flips. It was 12:35 of the first day.

After swimming, Jake watched three episodes of some sort of horribly loud super hero program. I figured I would tweak THE SCHEDULE a little that night and make up for the too much TV and phone games with lots of book reading during the coming days. It was finally time to pick up Izzy. After depositing both children in their car seats, I activated the navigation system on my phone and asked the babies to speak quietly so I could hear the lady tell me how to get to the yogurt store. This request prompted the two of them to begin an immediate recitation of offenses, real and imagined. "Nana, Jake touched me!" "No I didn't, Nana, and anyway she touched me first!" "I did not touch him and anyway he looked at my shoes!" "I did not look at your shoes!" "Nana, Jake talked to me!" "Well, I'm not talking to you any more!" "Nana, Jake won't talk to me!" Somewhere during the melee, GPS lady told me where to make the final and most crucial turn. I didn't hear her and navigated to the parking lot of a junior college. I mumbled something about ending up in New York and never getting yogurt, which prompted Izzy to emit an ear piercing shriek. "I don't want to go to New York!" she wailed. "Now we can't get yogurt!" I retracted my dire predictions, found the yogurt store and turned the kidlets loose on the spigots. I had my own dish of yogurt which, amazingly, tasted just like a rootbeer float. I do love these yogurt stores.

By the time we finished our yogurt, drove home and headed for our second dip in the neighbor's pool, it was time for Mommy and Daddy to take over. While they threw children into the air and pulled them around the pool in their floaties, I went back to the house, grabbed a glass of wine, and went up to my attic retreat for a self-imposed time-out. I checked the SCHEDULE, divided by twelve the total time allowed for the remaining activities. At the rate we were going, we would be out of things to do by Wednesday noon. I knew that, when working with children, one had to be flexible, so I revised the SCHEDULE. I added four Ninja games to my phone and checked the kids' Netflix subscription to make sure it was up to date. Nana Camp 2013 was going digital.



One of the features of the old house I grew up in was a built-in "early warning system". You might call it a squeaky stair, but my parents used it to keep track of when I got home during my teen years.

However, if you're like Eric, who wrote to me this month, and the squeaks are just an annoyance, here are some anti-squeak tips. Here's Eric's letter:

Don,

I have lived in Dundee for about 10 years now. First in a duplex for about 8 years and now my 1927 built home on 54th Street for about 2 years. My question is in regards to squeaky wood floors in the master bedroom and baby room. They are actually beyond squeaky. I need some advice on how to fix them myself, or someone to contact to help us fix them. I am not looking for an entirely non-squeak fix, but something to help dampen or lessen the noise.

We do not have any carpet on the floors, and we are tentatively planning on carpeting the master bedroom to make it a little warmer. I really want to fix these annoying squeaks before we proceed any further. Can you help?

*Dundee Neighbor,
Eric*

The best way to fix squeaky floors is from underneath the floor. Have someone walk on the floor above to locate the source of the squeaks and then pull the floor tight by driving a screw through the subfloor into the wood floor (being careful not to use a screw that is too long that would poke through the floorboard, of course, and use a drill stop when drilling the pilot hole so that you don't drill through the flooring). If you can see places where the joist has pulled away from the subfloor, these can be sources of squeaks also. For those places drive a thin wood shim (available pre-made at most hardware stores and home centers). I'd spread a little wood glue on them before driving them into place and then they won't slip out of place over time.

But these solutions presume you can get below the floor. If the rooms are on upper floors access is prevented by plaster ceilings (and who wants to tear out a ceiling to fix a squeak?) You can nail through the face (top) of the floorboards especially since you are planning to carpet the floors. At the point of the squeaks you can drive an 8 or 10 penny finishing nail at a 45 degree angle into the joists. The reason for the 45 degree angle is that nails put in straight down will probably work loose over time. It may take a bit of trial and error to figure out where the joists are, but once you locate one the others should be spaced 16" apart (from the center of one joist to the center of the next). To determine the direction of the joists you can look in the basement where the joists may not be covered by the ceiling. Typically the joints will run from the outside wall to the opposite outside wall along the shortest measurement of the house.

It's tough to drive a nail through oak or maple floor-

ing, so drill a small pilot hole first. Use a nail set to drive the heads of the nail well below the surface of the flooring. (If the next owners decide to refinish the wood floors they will thank you for this.) This approach doesn't work as well when refinishing the floors because of the nail holes. The holes will still be a least somewhat noticeable even after using a filler that matches the color of the finished wood. But it all depends on what bothers you more a squeak or a hole.

I have also heard a recommendation of forcing dry graphite lubricant into the seam between the floorboards at the point of the squeaks. I've never tried this, but I'm a little dubious that this would really work.

For squeaky stairs, the best fix is also from underneath, but it's not the only way. Over the years, the wood in the stairs shrinks causing the treads (the horizontal boards) to become loose where they meet the risers (the vertical boards) or over the years as the boards in your house aged they may have shrunk and moved away creating a gap between the treads and the stringers. (Stringers are the supports under the stairs. They will be located on both the left and the right side of the stairway and there will probably be one in the center. However, narrow stairways may not have a center stringer.) If you have access below the stairs, coat some wood shims with glue and drive them firmly in between the stringers and the stairs. If you can't get below the stairs re-nail the tread. If the stairs are carpeted, you'll have to peel away the carpet to get to the treads. Then locate the offending tread(s). (An assistant walking on the stairs can be helpful.)

When you've located the location of the squeak drive 8 or 10-penny finish nails at a 45-degree angle through the tread into the stringers. (There may have been a structural reason why the original builders of your house couldn't put the stringer exactly in the center, so this may take a little trial-and-error work.) If you put two nails in each stringer, make the 45-degree angles opposite of each other for a better, tighter fit. If the tread has separated from the riser, put your nails there. Just like floor repair use a nail set to set the nails below the surface and fill the holes with matching wood putty or replace the carpet to cover your work.

If, after you've eliminated all the squeaks, you're having trouble keeping track of your teenagers, try hanging a bell around their necks.



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Streetscape News – Final Progress Report

September is the month! Our relationship based on our daily greetings with the construction guys is approaching its end. In a way, it is sad to see them go; they have been wonderful in their industriousness, but also in their friendliness. I will miss them, especially Scotty, the foreman whom many of you have seen, usually in a cowboy hat, and always in hustle mode. A friendlier and more dedicated or competent man we could not find. Thanks, Scotty, for your many 15-hour days – and take a rest before your next gig!

Dundee Day is coming on Saturday, September 28 and the streetscape project, if not fully completed, will be so close as to be no interference at all to our festivities. We may even have the grand ribbon cutting ceremony on or near Dundee Day.

Prior to Dundee Day (and the ribbon cutting), the final pieces will fall into place. One of those pieces is the milling (removal of old asphalt) and repaving of Underwood Avenue from 49th to 51st Streets. This will be done in one day, but will require the closing of Underwood for close to 12 hours. For that day, the businesses will still be accessible to pedestrians, with the street opening to traffic sometime around the dinner hour. So, parking on side streets and walking to the businesses, or parking in the KFAB pay lot (entering from the alley) would be an option. Once Underwood is resurfaced, we will have full access to all stores, restaurants, and parking – and traffic will once again flow in both directions. We are almost there.

Just a reminder – this project began as an idea in the fall of 2007, and the first grant application was submitted in January 2008. From then on, it was a steady process of planning, grant writing, public participation, presentations to planning board, design board, city council, more planning, more grant writing, more presentations, then working with the design/engineering firm (Snyder & Associates), the contractor (Swain Construction) and all the sub-contractors planning for construction then during construction. And now we are almost finished – with a significant project very well done. Once again, I wish to thank Pete Festersen for his perseverance, guidance, and hands-on work from beginning to end. Thank you, Pete.

Swain Construction broke ground on April 29, and went pell mell through the summer, keeping access to the businesses as convenient as possible. With only a few rain delays (when mud made the work impossible), Swain has kept to its schedule, continually finding ways to expedite as we made our way through the process. And what a process it is. At times there were over 40 men out there (and sometimes a woman or two) doing the hard work. One time, as I approached 50th Street when it was closed to connect the water main lines, I discovered seven or eight men way down deep in a hole that had to be 20 feet deep. It made me nervous to think that the sides of the hole had to be stable enough to hold the dirt back. They looked very vulnerable down there.

We attended weekly construction meetings where what was accomplished in the past week was described, problems that arose were resolved, issues requiring change orders and budget adjustments were handled. At these meetings, we also learned what would be accomplished in the next week, which contractors needed answers to questions, addressed merchants' concerns and issues about timing and access – it was a fascinating and efficient process.

The trees and other plantings may not be installed by Dundee Day, but they are specified and will be carefully planted in the fall. Knowing that Dundee residents care a great deal about their trees, a committee of residents participated in the tree selection process, meeting several times with Graham Herbst, an arborist with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, and what an education we received. With his guidance, along with the expertise of Snyder & Associates, the committee chose a variety of species, including some of the honey locust variety that served us so well for 30 years. This time, however, the planting area is larger and more hospitable for the trees, so we are hoping they will thrive for 50 years or more. Among the new species chosen is the plane tree (subject to availability), which looks like a sycamore, with its big leaves, light, peeling-looking bark, and wide canopy. This tree lines streets in London, Paris, Brooklyn and other major cities and will be a wonderful addition to Dundee. Other species include elm, oak and the Kentucky Coffee tree.

All the merchants in the Dundee business district wish to express their gratitude for the strong support the community has given during the renovation. We understand how maneuvering the changing lanes and around the concrete trucks could be difficult and confusing, so we truly appreciate the extra effort customers exerted to reach us – and even to allow the noise of the construction to become a fixture in the neighborhood's ambience, often accompanied with the comment – “It is going to be so great when it is finished!” For us who experienced it every day, we watched as progress seemed to move along quickly – one day a big trench is there, and the next day it is not. One day nothing but dirt, and a few days later, expertly laid parking and a sidewalk. It is truly a remarkable achievement. Makes me consider how awe-struck people must have felt to watch the building of Grand Cooley Dam and other huge engineering and construction feats.

Once again, on behalf of all the Dundee merchants, we greatly appreciate your patience and invaluable support.

Molly Romero, Marks Bistro



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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

Minecraft Club - Tuesdays, September 3 & 17 | 4:30 PM

Join library staff as we use teamwork skills to build a world together in the popular game of Minecraft on the first and third Tuesdays. Program limited to ages 8-18. Registration required.

Toddler Storytime - Wednesdays | 10:30 AM

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

Lego Club - Wednesdays, September 4 & 18 | 4:30 PM

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

Yoga Storytime - Thursday, September 5 | 10:30 AM

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.

Baby & Me Storytime - Fridays | 10:30 AM

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

Gr. 2-6 Lego Lock-In - Friday, September 6 | 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!

Fit Club - Saturday, September 7 | 2 PM

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

Pajama Storytime - Tuesday, September 17 | 6:30 PM

Bring your stuffed animal and wear your pajamas to storytime at the Library! Suggested for kids 3-6.

Ladybug Girl Storytime - Wednesday, September 18 | 10:30 AM

Meet Ladybug Girl at Storytime! Remember to bring your camera and get a picture!

Teen Programs

Minecraft Club - Tuesdays, September 3 & 17 | 4:30 PM

Join library staff as we use teamwork skills to build a world together in the popular game of Minecraft on the first and third Tuesdays. Program limited to ages 8-18. Registration required.

Cooking for Teens: Smoothies - Saturday, September 14 | 2 PM

Learn how to make a variety of smoothies. Then enjoy your efforts! Registration required.

Teen Advisory Board - Saturday, September 21 | 2 PM

Enjoy snacks & refreshments while discussing issues and helping out at the Library!

Adult Programs

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, September 3 | 4:30 PM

Read and discuss "I'd Know You Anywhere" by Laura Lippman.

Adult Game Time: Scrabble - Thursdays | 1 PM

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

Movie Day: Downton Abbey

Join us at the Library for snacks & refreshments while watching the 1st season of Downton Abbey. Each episode will be shown twice during the same week.

Thursdays, August 22 - September 26 | 6 PM

Thursdays, August 23 - September 27 | 1 PM

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

Read and discuss "Face of a Stranger" by Anne Perry.

HisMys Book Club - Saturday, September 14 | 10:30 AM

Read and discuss "The House of Silk" by Anthony Horowitz.

'In Cold Blood' Book Discussion - Tuesday, September 17 | 2 PM

Join us as we discuss this year's Omaha Reads book 'In Cold Blood' by Truman Capote.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, September 21 | 1 PM

Read and discuss "Three" by Ted Dekker.

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