

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



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DMPA Meeting

**Next DMPA Meeting
October 14th**

Celebrate October, fall, and
Halloween with the Omaha
Organization for the Purpose of
Storytelling (OOPS): Lucille
Saunders will
be sharing selected
Ghost stories

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

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

**Family Friendly Event
Bring Your Children**



Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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Letter From the President

Once again, Dundee was at its best as we celebrated Dundee Day on September 28th. Although it was a month later than normal, the Dundee merchants Association did a great job. It has been a long summer as the construction continued on the new streetscape but it was worth the wait. Some final finishing touches still remain but Dundee Day was a very successful unveiling of this project. I know everyone is looking forward to the new parking spaces and to having Underwood Avenue open to all traffic.

Another much needed renovation project has been completed on Dodge Street between 50th Street and 52nd Street. The curbing has been replaced and the sidewalk has been widened. It will be much safer now for people to walk along Dodge Street without the fear of being too close to the street. As you may remember, the curb no longer existed along many parts of this stretch of Dodge Street. In addition, new light signals were installed that look much better than the old ones and several historic globe lights were installed giving the area the traditional Dundee look. While that project is completed, don't expect the orange barricades to be leaving soon. The City has received additional money from the State of Nebraska for road repairs so Dodge Street is undergoing a complete \$2.5 million resurfacing from 52nd Street to Turner Blvd. Lane restrictions and the inevitable delays are expected until the project is completed in mid-November.

Once again we had a very successful flower basket season. Dan Rock does a great job getting the baskets hung and organizing the water crews and Peter Manhart did another fantastic job organizing block captains and the collection of money. The baskets looked great all summer. Jen Goodman and the crew of volunteers did a great job planting the flower baskets last March. Finally, I want to thank all of the volunteers who faithfully watered the 450 baskets through the summer. Without the continuous watering and fertilizing, this Dundee tradition would never survived the heat of a Nebraska summer.

As the flower baskets come down for the winter, we begin planning for next summer's baskets. Unfortunately, there are too many blocks in our neighborhood that did not participate in this year's basket program. If your block is one of those without flower baskets, that means we do not have a block captain for your block. Being a block captain does not involve much work and having every block participate in the flower baskets makes a statement of our pride in our neighborhood. Our goal every year should be to have each and every block participating. If you might be interested in becoming a block captain, please contact Peter Manhart at 350-3890. For those of you who are block captains,

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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

Beautification

Millie Miller, 402-558-6023

NoDo (North of Dodge)

Jared Schademann, 402-658-8122

SoDo (South of Dodge)

Business Liaison

Molly Romero, 402-502-2203

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raquel.ahlvers@cox.net

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Mibby Schinzel 402-598-2061

Active Past Presidents

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**DMPA
MEETINGS
CALENDAR**

October 14th

Ghost Stories

Lucille Saunders

November 11th

Dundee History

Cate Kratville

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

you should be receiving materials in November for collecting flower basket donations. Please be sure to turn in your money as soon as possible because we need to pay for most of the baskets ahead of planting in March.

Fall is also an excellent time to the trimming of trees along public sidewalks. As trees begin their hibernation it is a good time to trim branches that may be hanging low over sidewalks. Not only is it the right thing to do, it is the city law.

Over the past couple of weeks, many residents have reported magazine salespersons coming to their doors. It is illegal to sell door to door in Omaha without a peddler's license from the City. According to the Omaha Police, salespersons from a company called Opportunities, Inc. have been in our neighborhood selling magazines. This company has informed the Omaha Police that it has no intentions of complying with Omaha's law and the Better Business Bureau has given the company an F rating. If someone comes to your door selling magazines or anything else, they are required to show you their peddler's license. Omaha Police encourage you to call 911 if a salesperson does not have a license or is hostile or threatening in any way.

Our next Association general meeting will be Monday, October 14th in the basement of Dundee Presbyterian Church. Social time begins at 7:00 pm and meeting will start at 7:30 pm. I hope to see you there.

Dave Schinzel

End Of Season Clean-Up in Elmwood Park

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped prepare Elmwood Park for the upcoming winter. We had enough people to spread mulch, clean storm drains, weed, trim, pick up trash and clean up the road behind the grotto. Thanks to the Central High School "O" Club lead by Ms. Jessica Renshaw and members Maddie Buller, Louise Mullen, Maddie Shafer and Alec Williams. The Citylight Church lead by Gavin and Sarah Johnson had members Billy and Kristin Huber, Jack Stortenbecker, and Dan and Sarah Torrez helping the clean-up effort. Larry and Jack Roland, Peg Pease, Alice Fleming and Dave Sunderlund rounded out the volunteer group. It was a great effort to get the park ready for the months ahead. Many thanks to my volunteers and see you next spring.

Marty Myers

Traditional Globe Lights Coming to Dundee Business District

You may have noticed that there are new street lights going up in the business district – with “acorn” light fixtures. Please do not be alarmed. The iconic “Dundee Globe” lights are on order and when they arrive the acorns will be removed and replaced with the Dundee globes. We hope the switch will be soon. Until they arrive, we will rely on the acorn lights so that we can remove the temporary wood power and light poles. When the temporary poles are removed, you will see how great Underwood Ave can look without the overhead wires. A benefit of the streetscape project is putting the Underwood power lines underground, for the first time!



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By Quinn Scahill

After seven years of success at Dario's Brasserie in Dundee, Dario is at it again with a new restaurant, Avoli Osteria, and it's just a block west of the Brasserie. After craving simple Italian fare and not finding it in Omaha, Dario opened Avoli Osteria on July 12, 2013.

The mission - like the food - is simple: to provide authentic, simple Northern Italian cuisine to the people of Omaha.

The menu consists of house-made pasta, plus grilled meats and fish. Many of the ingredients are sourced locally whenever possible. There is also a vast collection of wine and liquor, and a few beers too. Dario noted adamantly that there would be no pizza at the osteria.

Price varies from \$10-34 dollars a plate depending on what you order, but if Dario's Brasserie is any indication, you're getting premium cuisine for the price and the atmosphere.

Avoli is a combination of Dario's daughters' names, and an osteria is a straightforward establishment serving food and wine.

Hours: Closed Mondays, Tuesday through Saturday open from 5:00pm-10:00pm, and on Sunday's from 5:00pm-close.

DMPA Online

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Biking for Brainiacs

By Jean Sigler

I took a class about the brain a couple of years ago. The teacher said that the brain is indeed like a muscle and the admonition to “use it or lose it” should absolutely be heeded by people of a certain age. People of a certain age means anybody older than I, but in anticipation of the far off day when I will be a person of a certain age, I took her advice seriously. I play a variety of brain building games every day on my computer, phone and TV – backgammon, solitaire, Words with Friends, and some of the quiz shows. I also engage in (limited) physical exercise, so I was delighted last week to discover the perfect mind/body activity - cycling through Elmwood Park. Now this is in no way meant to be a criticism of the park - goers I encountered. Even though the trail runs through the park, the people on that stretch are mentally at the park, not on a bike trail. They aren't considering or even cognizant of the rules around being a pedestrian on a bike path. This makes it imperative that the biker bring all her mental acumen to the experience.

The first challenge on this particular outing was two people of a certain age walking two little yappy dogs. The man had his yappy dog on a leash on the right side of the trail and the woman had her yappy dog on the left. The leashes weren't extremely long, but they did provide the dogs plenty of room to dart back and forth across the trail yapping all the while. This left me no room to pass, so as I approached them I was forced to make a split second decision to go onto the grassy surface where I immediately got stuck in the mud left over from a recent rain. Getting stuck on a bike involves coming to a complete standstill. Since staying upright on a bike requires constant forward motion, coming to a standstill can only end one way. As I waited for the tipping over to commence I remember thinking, “This is fixin' to hurt!” However, I suddenly mustered all my problem solving skills, honed mostly by working countless crossword puzzles. I put my foot out just in time to prevent the fall and avoid the broken hip that is waiting around the corner for every person of a certain age.

The next pedestrian I came upon was a nice lady who leaped to her left when I gave the biker's warning, “On your left!” The call-out means that a cyclist is going to pass the walker on the walker's left side. This lady for some reason became totally flustered and leapt to her left. I always slow up when approaching a walker just in case such a thing might happen. It gives the walker time to reverse the course of their leap and me time to call out cheerfully, “Nope, the other left!” I really get a kick out of myself when I do that. The lady laughed with embarrassment, I adjusted my speed and passed her safely

chuckling all the while. I did worry a little though, thinking of her on the Great Getting' Up Mornin' when God tells all the righteous to go to the right of his throne. I don't know if there are any do-overs on the day of reckoning.

Next I came upon every cyclist's nightmare - the mother jogging with a twins' stroller accompanied by a toddler on a bike and a very large dog on a leash. These days, whenever I see this formation, I dismount and walk around them in the grass. I tried the “on your left” warning system once: the mother jumped and screamed turning the stroller too sharply; the twins shrieked in panic; the toddler swerved from one side of the trail to the other almost tipping over and the dog bared his teeth in anticipation of killing me. Lesson learned.

Remembering that toddler brings me to something very important to be aware of on any bike trail - the child cyclist. Don't get me wrong, I love seeing the little tykes out preparing for a healthy adult life. The problem is the child part. You can tell that a kid is coming toward you about a quarter of a mile before they reach you. The first thing you notice is the zig-zagging. These little munchkins turn their front wheel from left to right so often they could be mixing cookie dough with the spokes. Simultaneous to the wheel turning is the head pivoting as they talk to their biking companions behind them. When I see the back of a bike helmet and a bike wheel perpendicular to the bike itself, my brain goes into overdrive. I proceed very cautiously, trying to anticipate the junior biker's next zig so that I can zag. Computer Chess does wonders to develop this skill. When the mini peddlers are safely past, I pause to thank the gods that I retired this year and can bike on the week-days when the little ones are in school.

I mentioned the “on your left” warning. This is one of the foremost rules of biking etiquette. You must announce your presence. If a cyclist doesn't know you are coming up behind them to pass, she might veer to her left or stop without warning or ride up beside her fellow cyclist to chat. Any one of these actions could cause a collision. Nevertheless, on every bike trail there are people who think they are above the rules. With no warning but a whizzing noise, they fly by. They are typically going quite fast, so that if there were a crash, both bikers would probably be quite seriously hurt. Whenever one of these arrogant bikers passes me, I try to make it a teachable moment by stringing together as many inappropriate words and phrases as I can before I become a danger to myself and others. I find that watching *The Real Housewives of New Jersey* has helped me build my chastising vocabulary quite nicely.



On my list of “Things I’ve Learned About Old House Renovation.” Number 10 is: Water is the number one enemy of old houses and the cause of the vast majority of old house

problems. To quote radio handyman guru, Glen Haegge: “Water always wins. That’s why there is a Grand Canyon”.

Water attacks your house because of poor rainwater drainage or faulty plumbing. Recently Bettina, who lives near 51st and Farnam, emailed me looking for a solution to her water problem:

We are in the middle of remodeling our second floor bathroom. The floor is concrete and terrazzo. This bathroom occasionally leaks into the pantry below it and we aren’t sure what is leaking. We think we should remove the concrete so all the plumbing can be updated. Any tips on how to get the concrete out? No contractor wants to touch it. We’d appreciate any tips.

Thanks, Bettina

Hi, Bettina...

Removing the concrete and terrazzo floor is going to be tough job, but I’m sure you already know this. About the only way to remove it is with a hammer (a small sledge hammer) and a mason’s chisel. Anything more powerful than this--say a jackhammer, even a small one, is likely to cause considerable damage to the room below. In the time when most of these old houses in the neighborhood were built it was the standard construction technique to set tile in what is known as "thick-set" which means the concrete is most likely several inches thick. This is why the contractors don't want to touch it. It might help some to rent a concrete saw---a hand held one a little larger than a circular saw used for cutting wood---and make some scoring cuts to help cut the floor into easier to manage sections.

But are you really, really sure you need to remove the floor? Your leak is most likely from the drainage plumbing. If the leak was from the supply side, you’d have a constant water leak because the supply side is under pressure. It has been my experience that the majority of water leaks from bathrooms are caused by a failure of the wax ring sealing the toilet to the drainpipes. This is repair job within the abilities of the average homeowner or is not an expensive repair job by a plumber.

To replace the wax-sealing ring, shut off the water to the tank, flush the toilet and then empty out any water left in the bowl. Unhook the water supply line attached to the tank. At the base of the bowl are two bolts holding it in place, remove the nuts on these bolts. Lift the toilet up and set it aside. (There will be some water left in the trap on the bowl, so set it on a tile floor or another protected surface and be ready to mop up some water.) Gently lay the toilet on its side and scrape off the old wax ring. Also clean the flange in the floor.

Press your new wax ring (available at any hardware store or home improvement center) onto the base of the toilet. If your flange bolts are old and corroded pick up some new ones. Place the flange bolts in the floor flange. Then set the toilet straight down on the flange. It helps to have an assistant guide you. Then press the toilet in place, compressing the wax ring. Give the toilet a slight twist back and forth to help seal the ring. Then tighten the nuts on the flange bolts, but go easy. If you over tighten the nuts you’ll crack the porcelain base. Then you’ll be buying a new toilet. Caulking around the base of the toilet is optional, but probably a good idea. Your job will look more finished and it will be easier to clean around the toilet.

The second most likely culprit may be in the cast iron waste pipes. Sometimes they will leak at the hub joints. The old way of sealing the joints was to pour in hot lead, but I had one plumber tell me they use epoxy these days to repair leaking hub joints. (You’d want to consult with your plumber on this, naturally.) The plumber should be able to access the pipes by cutting into the ceiling below the bathroom. While it’s still no fun to repair a plaster ceiling, it would be far less work than chipping out a terrazzo/concrete floor. And if the floor is in otherwise good condition and does not need to be removed, I’d try every other option first.

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Postcards From The Past

By Cate Kratville

Many of you know I collect all things Dundee. One of my passions is collecting antique postcards. For over 15 years I've been searching for all the Dundee postcards I can, both old and new. Just when I think I've found every one ever made...I find something new. I'm going to start sharing my postcards here in the DMPA newsletter and on our Facebook page. Eventually they will be on our website too.

Today's card is one of the very first ones of Dundee, if not about the first one. This card is one of a series of the Elmwood lagoon that were done in the early 1900s. It was actually used and was stamped in 1913, back when Dundee was its own town. Dundee was annexed into Omaha in 1915. And for the record, while Benson, Florence and South Omaha all had their own post offices and postmarks...Dundee did not. According to the postal authorities here in Omaha and in Washington, DC, a Dundee post office never existed. If someone has proof to the contrary, please let me know.



Dundee Community Garden

The Dundee Community Garden is preparing for fall. By the time you read this newsletter, our sweet potatoes should be harvested, and we're starting to clean out our garden beds for winter. We are hoping we'll still be able to install a new tool shed, and plant fruit trees along the north alley side of the garden, yet this month, so watch for those improvements.

We hosted 60 bicycle riders at the garden in September for the annual Tour de Garden bicycle tour of midtown gardens. Thank you to the Dundee merchants who donated gift certificates for the raffle at the post-ride party: Marks Bistro, Dundee Dell, Dario's, Dundee Gallery, Le Quartier, and Great Harvest.

We'll be wrapping up our "Growing Roots" fundraising campaign at the end of this year. There's still time to donate to the campaign. Contributions of \$150 and over will earn you a spot on a permanent plaque in the garden. Donate on-line at dundeegarden.org or send checks, made out to DCG, to DCG c/o Jo Bartikoski, 1614 N. 53rd St., Omaha, NE 68104. Dundee Community Garden is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax-deductible.



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

Kids' Programs

The Dr. Seuss Show - Tuesday, October 1 | 4 PM

Join Duffy Hudson in this fast paced romp through the most loved and classic works of Dr. Seuss.

Minecraft Club - Tuesdays, October 1 & 15 | 4:30 PM

Have fun playing Minecraft at the Library. 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, October 2, 16 & 30 | 4:30 PM

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

Yoga Storytime - Thursday, October 3 | 10:30 AM

Storytime comes alive as we illustrate books with yoga. Suggested for kids up to age 6.

Baby & Me Storytime - Fridays, October 4, 18 & 25 | 10:30 AM

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

Fit Club - Saturday, October 5 | 2 PM

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

Stellaluna Storytime - Wednesday, October 16 | 10:30 AM

Come to the Library and meet Stellaluna. Remember to bring your camera and get a picture!

Gr. 2-6 Halloween Lock-In - Friday, October 25 | 6-9 PM

Enjoy food and refreshments while playing games. Costumes encouraged. A signed parental permission slip is required.

Halloween Storytime - Saturday, October 26 | 2 PM

Celebrate Halloween early at the Library! Listen to some stories and then make a Halloween craft. Costumes encouraged.

William Durbin Author Visit - Wednesday, October 30 | 4 PM

Meet author, William Durbin, and hear him talk about his book "Until the Last Spike: The Journal of Sean Sullivan".

Teen Programs

Cooking for Teens: Strawberry Ghosts - Saturday, October 12 | 2 PM

Learn how to create a strawberry ghost. Then enjoy your efforts! Registration required.

Edible Books for Teens - Thursday, October 17 | 4:30 PM

Help us celebrate Teen Read Week by learning how to create edible books! Registrations required.

Gr. 6-12 Teen Halloween Lock-In - Friday, October 18 | 6-9 PM

Enjoy Halloween-themed food and refreshments while playing games. Costumes encouraged. Signed permission slip required.

Teen Advisory Board - Saturday, October 19 | 2 PM

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

Adult Programs

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, October 1 | 4:30 PM

Read and discuss "Cleopatra's Daughter" by Michelle Moran.

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 2nd season of Downton Abbey. Each episode will be shown twice during the same week.

Thursdays, October 3 - November 14 | 6 PM

Thursdays, October 4 - November 15 | 1 PM

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, October 5 | 1 PM

Read and discuss "The Tin Drum" by Gunter Grass.

HisMys Book Club - Saturday, October 12 | 10:30 AM

Read and discuss "Death of a Schoolgirl" by Joanna Campbell-Slan.

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, October 19 | 1 PM

Read and discuss "Becoming Jane Eyre" by Sheila Kehler.

Health Insurance with the Affordable Care Act - Tuesday, October 29 | 2 PM

Learn from an AARP representative what options are open to you under the new health care law.

DMPA Merchandise for Sale

This decorative flag has the DMPA logo on both sides and will certainly enhance the front of any residence. Each flag is \$45.00 plus tax and can be purchased at Dundee Bank. When the flower baskets are down for the winter, why not replace the basket with a colorful Dundee-Memorial Park flag.



Also available is the DMPA logo, long-sleeved tee-shirt. It is a charcoal gray shirt with the logo on the front. It



comes in medium and large sizes for \$20.00 plus tax. The extra-large and 2X large sizes are \$22.00 plus tax. They are also available at the Dundee Bank. Wear the DMPA logo proudly! We also have note cards.

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Dundee-Memorial Park Association Membership Form

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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

Eli McNichols 5017 1/2 Cass St, Omaha, NE 68132

(Please DO NOT send to p.o. box.)

___ I would like to learn about volunteer opportunities.

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