

DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



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DMPA Meeting

Next DMPA Meeting
October 13th

Candidates Forum

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.



Ribbon Cutting at new entrance to
Community Garden

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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Letter From the President

Adam Langdon

402-290-8084 aalangdon@cox.net

All Hallow's Eve - better known as door to door salesperson's day or Halloween for short - will soon be upon us. Get your pumpkins! Does your street get as many trick-or-treaters as our does? Holy smokes! - cars-full, vans-full, charter buses (not really) come by Cuming Street with troves of children ages 2 to 20. Once they hit 21 years old and older, they are at the Dundee Dell with Casey Knight - but everyone 20 and under is on our street mooching candy. No problem. We have plenty.

Dodge Street Pedestrian Bridge Did you know - the Bridge over Dodge by UNO was designated an Omaha Landmark March 3, 2004? From the file at the Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission - "In the late 1960s and 1970s, concern for the safety of schoolchildren led the city to develop a pedestrian overpass system, of which the Dodge Street Pedestrian Bridge was a part. Constructed in 1968, the bridge spans one of the city's busiest east-west thoroughfares, Dodge Street, and connects the southern edge of Elmwood Park with the northern edge of Memorial Park. Durand, Jackson, and Associates, Inc. designed the bridge, an S-shaped structure with minimal supports. The result won rave reviews and even secured an award as "Most Beautiful Bridge" by the American Institute of Steel Construction in 1969. As the most gracefully designed of the dozen overpass bridges constructed, the Dodge Street Pedestrian Bridge remains an enduring legacy of this short-lived city-led initiative, which effectively ended in 1980."

There's been some rumblings about the bridge needing repair or at least some paint. Thanks Nick Manhart for contacting us and making some noise! I contacted City councilman Pete Festersen who informed me that the bridge is due for an inspection by Omaha Public Works Department in 2015. We will pursue the paint - and may be able to tie some renovations in with a 50 year anniversary celebration before 2018. After all, the bridge was dubbed "Omaha's own version of the Gateway Arch" by the Omaha World Herald in 1968.

Farnam Street Recent changes to Farnam Street from 36th to 42nd - where it was converted back to a 2 way street - prompted me to get in touch with City Councilman Chris Jerram regarding the rest of Farnam Street and possible conversion to 2 way 100%. Today, our neighborhood hosts a one-way thoroughfare type road from 7-9 am and again from 4-6pm.

**Dundee-Memorial Park
Association**

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President's Message

Continued from front page.

Councilman Jerram has been very helpful and supportive of our discussions as related to UNMC's expansion - and proposed, related development to the east and west of Saddle Creek which will have impacts on our neighborhood. Our Board of Directors recognizes this development is good for Omaha and we are glad to support it. We are very happy to see the Saddle Creek area south of Dodge improved - specifically at the site of the Omaha Steel Castings Plant.

As related, we are in favor of and strongly support Farnam Street being converted to a two way street 100% of the time between Saddle Creek and west to Dodge Street at Happy Hollow Blvd. This would complete the transition of Farnam to two way from Midtown through to UNO. Today, this is the last section of Farnam still remaining one way at variable times of the day - which is confusing and quite frankly - dangerous. Converting Farnam Street back to two way would also open up another route for UNO commuter traffic in the morning. With UNO and UNMC's combined growth, this two way flow would be an improvement.

Even with excitement around these changes, we have been warned that they do not occur quickly. The 36th to 42nd change took 5 years. Significant planning, public input, traffic studies, and money would be required to make any change. The neighborhood residents might be asked to contribute - and share in the costs. Changes in traffic flow on other streets (Howard) would need to be weighed. Whatever happens, we have asked the City and UNMC to be engaged in the discussions - and hope to have the opportunity to weigh in. Thanks for your continued support.

Election - no, not Alexander Payne's movie We have an election coming up on Tuesday November 11. Have you ever checked out the election information online at <http://www.votedouglasscounty.com/> ? It's a HUGE resource with data about the election, candidates, your specific options, and voting place. I for one have trouble remembering which district I'm in for certain elections and candidates. On the website, you can simply put your "house number" and "zip" - push the button and it tells you the rest.

We're again hosting a candidates forum - during our monthly program on Monday, October 13 at Dundee

Presbyterian Church lower level from 7pm until about 8:30. Our format is casual - with no speeches or other formal pleas by the candidates. It's your chance to meet them one on one, face to face, and get to know them and their point of view on your issues. Here's a sample of candidates who will be with us: U.S. Congress, NE Legislature district 3, Douglas County Attorney, MUD Board, Douglas County Commissioner, Metro Community College Board, and more. Please come by!

Neighborhood Heroes

- Emily Strauss - ok, I love this lady. Emily has been keeping our entrance to Dundee at 48th and California beautiful this year - despite huge challenges. You may have noticed, over the years, it's been a hit and miss little park. All on her own, Emily took over maintenance of the park this year. It looks really nice - and welcomes travelers from the East. Thank you!
- Robert (Bob) Goetschkes - Bob is a history teacher at Brownell Talbot School and has organized and coordinated a team of students this year for various events in Memorial Park including a 9/11 commemoration; Thanks Bob!
- Gary Rosenberg - our Historian! Gary has been writing grants for DMPA and will be contributing history articles from time to time. Now he is formally part of the DMPA team & board. Congratulations and thanks Gary!
- Marty Myers - past President of DMPA who has been leading Elmwood Park clean-up for many years. We just spent Saturday 9/13 with Marty, her team, and Dan from the City of Omaha for a final fall clean-up. Board member Tom Craig will be spearheading our Elmwood Park clean-up efforts next year starting in May. Thanks Marty - best wishes to you and Bob in Payson and thanks to you for many great years of leadership in Dundee.

Enjoy the Fall season. Forget the leaf blower. My wife Heike says - "get a rake and get some exercise!" See you around the neighborhood. Be sure to say "hello"!

For more on the neighborhood, events and happenings, see www.dundee-memorialpark.org



DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

October 13th
November 10th
No Meeting in December

Newsletter Deadline

The 15th of the preceding month
for all advertising and article submissions.
(check for possible extension.)



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Houses Once Planned for Memorial Park Site

What we know as Memorial Park might have become a housing development had it not been for an overly ambitious plan by Dundee Realty.

The first warning may have come in 1939, when the Dundee Golf Course still occupied the land. The University of Omaha petitioned the county board to restrict land use across Dodge Street from its campus after rumors spread about a potential commercial development. An Omaha World-Herald article stated that University President F. T. B. Martin wants “no hot dog stands or other objectionable features near its west Dodge plant.”

Shortly after this statement was released, C. C. George revealed plans of a “million-dollar development” of the golf course grounds to the city council. In addition to fine homes, the site would include “multiple-dwelling” buildings and a shopping center. He offered 29 acres of land, including George’s Lake, to the city in exchange for boulevard, park, and sewer development.

The city council gave tentative approval to the plans, but that was before it heard the objections of neighbors. And did the neighbors object—primarily to the multiple dwellings and shops.

George—who had built many of the Happy Hollow homes and who wanted to transform the golf course into a similar development—didn’t want to drop the commercial plaza, which he planned to front Dodge Street. “No homeowner would erect a home right on Dodge Street,” he told the city council. Stanley Rosewater, Earl Connolly and other area homeowners claimed the apartments and shops would harm the area. One neighbor asserted that a planned boulevard would infringe on property that the Omaha Tennis Club rented from Brownell Hall.

Meetings and hearings went on for nearly two years. C. C. George died about a year after proposing the development. His plan finally died in 1942—after several neighborhood protests—when the planning board recommended the land be zoned for single-family residences, and the city council agreed. The Nebraska Supreme Court upheld the validity of the zoning ordinance in 1944.

Meanwhile, several “objectionable features” surfaced at the site after the golf course closed in 1941. Sod was stripped from several greens, while cornfields competed with weeds on the second and fourth fairways. Ponies for rent were tethered on a weed-infested pasture on the former course. Vandals hit the clubhouse repeatedly. In 1942, a boiler, lockers and other metal parts from the clubhouse were donated for the World War II scrap drive. Later, victory gardens sprang up on sections of the course.

Condemnation proceedings and boulevard development were still being hashed out in late 1944, when, fairly suddenly, the city council approved a proposal to convert 65 acres of the former golf course into a World War II memorial. Mrs. J. W. Broad had first proposed the memorial in a January, 1944 letter to Henry Doorly, publisher of the Omaha World-Herald. Doorly and other civic leaders endorsed the idea and set about to develop a plan. Robert Storz, vice president of Storz Brewery, became president of the World War II Memorial Park Association. Other officers included Linn Campbell, president of the Byron Reed Co., and Russell Hopley, president of Northwestern Bell. They expected the site—with its proposed shrine, shrubbery, trees and flowers—to become “one of the beauty spots of the United States.”

W. O. Swanson, president of Nebraska Clothing, made the first donation to help purchase the land and develop the site. His \$10,000 donation helped the association amass more than \$100,000 in less than a month. The projected cost for the property and improvements was just over \$262,000. By late January of 1945, nearly two-thirds of the funds had been raised. Architects Leo A. Daly Co. drafted a plan for the shrine and arboretum, though the company wasn’t named the official architect until September 1945. By July of 1945, while the war in the Pacific still raged on, weeds were being cleared at the proposed site. Grading of the site followed in October, and by the following April, crews were planting scarlet oaks and spruce trees.

In May of 1946, the memorial association formally transferred the deed to the park to the city. Mayor Charles Leeman praised the park as a “milestone” in Omaha history, as it represented the first time citizens voluntarily contributed funds for a public improvement. Plans for an amphitheater designed to hold 12,000 people were announced for the west side of the park. Memorial Park would later be the site of annual concerts attracting 70,000 fans or more.

On June 5, 1948, President Harry S. Truman officially dedicated Omaha’s Memorial Park. A colonnade with eight bronze plaques memorialize more than 900 men and women from the Omaha area who gave their lives during World War II. A sculpture and plaques were later added as a tribute to those who died during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

Contact the author: grtrl@cox.net

DMPA Online www.dundee-memorialpark.org
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Dundee Community Garden Update

Thank you to the 150 friends and neighbors of the Dundee Community Garden who came to our birthday party in September to help us celebrate our 5-Year Anniversary! We enjoyed a beautiful day at the garden with live music from the outstanding jazz group The Burt Street Individuals; we feasted on home-made carrot cake made with DCG carrots by garden member Mary Kay Wolf; and we celebrated our many achievements in our first five years, including our new entranceway designed by artist Dan Newberry. It was truly a gala event, and we owe an enormous thank-you to the many community members who have contributed financial support, sage advice, talents, and skills over the years, making the DCG a success.

You can see pictures of the event, and even listen to a snippet of the music, at our Facebook page, Facebook.com/DundeeGarden

We'll be wrapping up our gardening season in October. The sweet potatoes are scheduled to be dug up the first weekend in October, and we'll be doing most of our fall clean-up at that time. Happy Fall!



Crowd at new entrance to Dundee Community



Last Elmwood Park Clean-Up Huge Success

Thanks to my group of volunteers who helped prepare the park for the upcoming winter. Board members, Tom Craig, Peg Gibbs and Adam Langdon lent a hand along with Alice Fleming and Peg Pease. Friends, Sally and Bill Duckworth, pitched in to trim, weed and rid the park of litter.

This project has been on-going for 8 years and it is my hope is that we helped make Elmwood Park a better place to bring family and friends. We have a couple of people who want to continue working in the park, so I would encourage you to look for announcements in the spring for dates and times. Thanks to all of you who have helped over the years. It has been a labor of love. marty myers



When someone is really out to get you then paranoia is just clear thinking. Not that I want to be responsible for increasing neighborhood paranoia, but there are people out to get you: burglars.

In Omaha there were more than 3,300 home burglaries in 2012 (the most recent statistics I was able to find) and the Omaha average per 100,000 residents is higher than the national average. That's the bad news. The good news is most home burglaries are crimes of convenience—that is, burglars are looking for soft targets, homes that are easy to hit. So “harden the target”, make your home less tempting to criminals.

Old houses present some unique security issues that require special attention. Start with MBWA—management by walking around. Take a walk around your old house and look for ways you may inadvertently be inviting criminals into your home.

Outside your home are the bushes and trees overgrown? If so, you are providing a place for criminals to hide while they break into your home. Not only are our houses old, but the landscaping may be also be mature. For example, the yews planted by the front porch of our old house were over ten feet tall when we moved in. The yews completely blocked any view of the porch, so a thug could have worked unobserved for hours prying open the front windows or door. We replaced them with lower to the ground plants.

Old windows can be a weak point in your security net. Replace any cracked or broken glass and repair or replace non-functioning sash locks (they only cost a few bucks) and consider key-lock sash locks for the most easily accessed windows. Second floor windows can also be attractive to criminals if they can be accessed from nearby branches, trellises or balconies. Many “smash and grab” crimes occur in our older neighborhoods in the summer because people leave valuables on counters or tables near windows. If the window is open at night to allow in cooler air in the summer, criminals just cut the window screen and grab what they want. This is especially tempting because they know in old houses the bedrooms are on the second floor and they probably won't be detected.

Consider outside lighting. Motion detector lights are inexpensive and not difficult to install by a do-it-yourselfer and not very expensive to install if you hire an electrician. Devices to turn on lights at dusk and off at dawn are available that just screw into the light socket.

Dead bolts on every exterior door are another sensible investment. Because so many old house doors have glass panes, get dead bolts that key lock from inside and outside. (But keep a spare key in a safe but accessible place near the doors so your family can escape quickly in case of an emergency.) If you have solid exterior doors, don't rely on slide chains to protect you when you open the door to see who's there. Instead install a wide angle peephole viewer so

you don't have to open the door at all. Peephole viewers are also inexpensive and easy to install.

Alarm systems should be installed by professionals and are more expensive. But they offer a lot of peace of mind and most home insurance companies offer meaningful discounts for alarm protected homes. An Omaha policeman told me he is amazed at the number of homes he sees that have the alarm code written on a piece of paper next to the alarm key pad. Don't do this. Don't make it easy for the criminals. Alarm companies provide window stickers and yard signs. Use them. Most criminals are looking for easy pickings so the signs will deter them from zeroing in on your house. (Even if you don't have an alarm you can buy stickers that say you do.)

The detached garages in old neighborhoods are another vulnerability. Keep your garage door closed except when you are entering, exiting or are nearby. Also don't leave visible valuables in your car. I have heard many stories about the theft of cash, computers, credit cards, etc. from garaged cars. Get in the habit of locking your car even when it's in the garage. With the prevalence of remote locks, add an extra layer of protection with just the push of a button.

When you are away use lights on timers to make it appear someone is home. Be sure to stop the paper delivery and put a hold on your mail. You do both of these online these days. Go to www.omaha.com to stop the delivery of the Omaha World Herald and to www.usps.com for a mail hold. It only takes a few minutes and you can do it at any time of the day.

Probably your best defense is your neighbors. Get to know them. Let them know when you'll be gone so they can keep an eye on your house and reciprocate when they're away.

Short of turning your home into Fort Knox, you probably can't stop a determined professional burglar. But most burglars are amateurs looking for vulnerable homes. Don't be the patsy.

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We Need Your Help Restore the Historic Dundee Subway

Yes, Dundee does have a subway (also known as a pedestrian tunnel).

In 1934, a “subway” was constructed at 51st & Dodge St. as part of a New Deal public works project that widened Dodge Street. The subway was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. It is the last remaining pedestrian tunnel in Omaha. The primary reason for the subway was to provide a safe way for school children to cross Dodge Street.

As the tunnel reaches 80 years old, it is in need of renovation. The Dundee Memorial Park Association has decided to take on a renovation and rejuvenation of this historic landmark. This is where we need your help.

The project will do the following:

- Install brighter, longer lasting, energy efficient LED lighting
- Install new historic signage
- Install skid-resistant coating on the ramps
- Make minor concrete and masonry repairs
- Install a mural designed by Dundee School students inside the tunnel

Leo A. Daly Co. has generously provided in-kind design work to get the project started. The City of Omaha has committed \$1,000 from a federal anti-graffiti grant for the mural. The overall project is estimated to cost \$30,000.

This is where we NEED your financial support. Dundee-Memorial Park has always been willing to come together to financially support projects that better our neighborhood like the flower baskets, the Dundee Clock and the Streetcar Monument.

There are two ways you can donate:

1. Online at www.dundee-memorialpark.org by clicking on Donate at bottom of the Home Page and selecting “Dodge St. Subway/Tunnel”
 2. Write a check payable to Dundee-Memorial Park Association and mail to: Dave Schinzel, 319 So. 50th Ave. 68132
- All donations of \$250 or more will be recognized on a special plaque in the tunnel.

Dundee-Memorial Park Association is a recognized 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

PLEASE VISIT THE DUNDEE-MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION or Contact Dave Schinzel at drschinzel@hotmail.com or 402-551-3742

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

Kids' Programs

Toddler Storytime - Wednesdays | 10:30 AM

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

Lego Club - Wednesdays, October 1, 15 & 29 | 4:30 PM

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

Baby & Me Storytime - Fridays | 10:30 AM

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

Fit Club - Saturday, October 4 | 2 PM

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

Minecraft Club - Tuesdays, October 7 & 21 | 4:30 PM

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

Little Critter Visits Sorensen Branch - Wednesday, October 22 | 10:30 AM

Little Critter wants to meet the kids at Sorensen Branch, so she's joining us for a special storytime! Remember your camera!

Movie Day - Thursday, October 23 | 1 PM

Enjoy popcorn while watching a movie about what happens when Dracula's teen-aged daughter falls in love with a human.

Gr. 2-6 Halloween Craft - Friday, October 24 | 2 PM

Have fun making a Halloween-themed craft just in time for the holiday. Registration required.

Teen Programs

Literary Cupcakes for Teens - Tuesday, October 14 | 4:30 PM

Celebrate Teen Read Week by decorating cupcakes with book-inspired designs. Registration required.

Discarded Book Art for Teens - Thursday, October 16 | 4:30 PM

Celebrate Teen Read Week by creating a work of art using discarded books. Registration required.

Gr. 6-12 Teen Halloween Lock-In - Friday, October 17 | 6-9 PM

Hang out with your friends at the Library while enjoying Halloween-themed food and refreshments. Costumes encouraged. A signed parental permission slip is required.

Teen Advisory Board - Saturday, October 18 | 2 PM

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

Gross Halloween Treats for Teens - Saturday, October 25 | 2 PM

Have fun creating gross-looking treats that taste delicious just in time for Halloween. Registration required.

Adult Programs

Scrabble - Thursdays | 1 PM

Sorensen Readers Book Club - Saturday, October 4 | 1 PM

Under the Dundee Sun Book Club - Tuesday, October 7 | 4:30 PM

Plains Pages Book Club - Saturday, October 18 | 1 PM

Common Soil: Winterizing Your Garden - Tuesday, October 21 | 6:30 PM

Learn how to get your garden ready for these cold winter months. Learn how and what to plant for cover crop (which builds the soil and replenishes it for the following year). Want to savor the flavors of summer? Learn what herbs and flowers you can bring in your home over winter. Registration required.

**We Love
our Members!**

New and Renewing Members

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