



# Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

"Dedicated to Preserving the Community"  
[www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org)

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## Letter From the President

**Adam Langdon**

402-290-8084 [aalangdon@cox.net](mailto:aalangdon@cox.net)

*Happy New Year!*

Imagine, your perfect day. What does it include?  
Imagine the best year ever. How would that work?

If it's time to regroup, go simple:



**Mind:** Give your brain a workout. Smart people read (didn't we learn that in 5th grade?). I challenged myself to read a book a week last year. I got about 30. Set a goal to learn something new: a language, scuba diving, aviation, knitting, computers, or Rosetta Stone. Try the crossword (with your spouse). If your job isn't giving you enough of a workout, reconfigure your job.

**Body:** Exercise. Eat healthy foods. Try walking, biking, or running. Yoga, massage, and meditation are rejuvenating. Plan a destination or travel for skiing or hiking. The most important key to improving your health is to engage with supporters: the YMCA for example, or join a common group on Facebook. This is why week from 8am until midnight and have an after-hours hotline if needed. Their staff was prompt, courteous, and took the possum away.

Continued on page 4

### DMPA Meeting

No Meeting in December

Next DMPA Meeting  
January 11th

**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.



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To join as a business member, send dues with the form on the inside back page. Please send to Elizabeth McNichols, address below.

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Elizabeth McNichols, 5017 1/2 Cass St., Omaha, NE 68132.  
**Questions call 402- 551-5246 or email: elimci@cox.net**



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# President's Message

Continued from front page.

**Spirit:** Relationships. Make new friends. Strengthen old friendships. Spend some time with family – & not just your favorites. Engage God. Write a letter. Send a postcard. Volunteer. Hug someone.

To start, take a personal inventory and write it down. I challenge you to try one new item – even if that item is to simplify and remove items! 2016 is going to be our best year ever!

## Not Good Pets

We recently had two juvenile raccoons living at our house. We figured out that they were climbing up on our roof every night – perhaps for a better view of the moon or to enjoy the fall breeze. I'm pretty sure they weren't inspecting our attic for a possible winter lair! It was all fun and games until they managed to break some Paolo Soleri wind chimes hanging on our house. Now, they've made Heike mad.

Not wanting to do any harm, I thought it would make sense to capture the raccoons in a trap and then take them out to the country and release them. I went to Lowes and purchased the largest trap they have – about \$60, and definitely big enough for a raccoon. Based on expert advice from all sorts of neighbors, I determined the best bait is a glazed donut, preferably a day old from AB's. It took a little figuring out, but I got the trap assembled and baited.

After night one, I found the trap empty, broken, and on my neighbor's driveway about 20 yards away from where I set it up. Ok. So, you have to weight them down or secure them somehow. After night two, and repairing, securing, and re-baiting the trap – I came out to find my bait, scrumptious day old apple fritter this time, gone and no critter. Thieves!!

I forgot to get a donut for night three, but in the morning I had a possum. Apparently, they are not so smart. They go into empty traps for no reason except just to check it out and then get caught. So, now that we actually had an ugly, smelly critter in the trap, I wasn't so eager to take it to the country. I called Animal Control.

Douglas County Animal Control is handled by the Nebraska Humane Society: 402-444-7800 ext. 1 or <http://www.nehumanesociety.org/community-services/animal-control/> They are available to help 7 days a week from 8am until midnight and have an after-hours hotline if needed. Their staff was prompt, courteous, and took the possum away.

Unfortunately, they don't take them very far. Per some state law, they can't take the captured guest more than 100 yards away from your home. Our critter probably went to the Happy Hollow creek with all other removed Dundee animal convicts. The only way they get permanently

removed is if a captured critter is sick or injured. The officers will remove the animal and if possible, try to rehabilitate it through a partnership with Nebraska Wildlife Rehab Inc.

Another option for animal problems is to call a service and pay for removal. In hindsight, I probably should have done this. Companies like Critter Control Omaha or Pest Solutions365 will work to trap and remove the problem animals. It's not cheap. My mother paid over \$250 per raccoon to have some removed.

To avoid all the headaches and games, your best bet is to secure your house so that no critters can get in. Make sure your foundation doesn't have any holes around it. Make sure they're not under your porch or under your garage. Seal the attic. That way they just live down at the creek (or at your neighbor's house)!

## Other News

Dr. John and Ruth Sage were recently recognized for their contributions to the Memorial Park Rose Garden. The entrance to the garden was given a facelift by the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation. Some new bronze memorial signs were also added to tie in with Memorial Park's purpose. The entire project was funded by the Sage's. Drop by sometime and enjoy the upgrades. Thanks Doc.

Restoration of the Colonnade itself, along with the Korean-Vietnam Peace Memorial, is also high priority needs for which the City is currently seeking funding. These projects all provide donor opportunities for those who enjoy this important civic space and it's commemoration of those who gave their lives in World War II and the Korean-Vietnam Wars. Please contact Emily Burgess, Special Projects Coordinator with the City of Omaha if you are interested: 402-444-4640

Wishing you and your family a fantastic new year – Heike and I hope to see you on the trails or in the neighborhood. Be sure to say "hello".

For more on our neighborhood history, events, important contacts, check out our website at [www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org). For up to the minute action – "like" our Facebook page – [www.facebook/Dundee Memorial Park Neighborhood Association](http://www.facebook/Dundee%20Memorial%20Park%20Neighborhood%20Association).



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It's time for some "equal time". In past columns we've discussed repair and restoration options for brick exteriors. But what about all the fine homes in old Omaha

neighborhoods with wood exteriors? To my eye cedar shingling is one of the most handsome and distinctive exterior covering choices. There are many fine examples of shingle-style homes in Omaha.

A while back a Dundee neighbor, who lives on South 52nd Street, posed these questions via e-mail about his shingle-sided home.

Could you do an article on siding? My house is red cedar shingle and needs to be replaced because some fool painted it (or should I say coated it) with lead paint. I am searching for solutions such as clapboard, shingling, etc. Then my next step is to find a contractor. Any suggestions?

How unfortunate that a previous owner painted the cedar shingles. Paint is poor choice for shingle siding.

To the best of my knowledge there is no good way to remove the paint. Chemical stripping is probably out of the question because of the cost, the size of the job and the health hazards involved. Sandblasting would gouge and pit the soft cedar siding. And it is probably cheaper to replace the siding than to strip it anyway.

I've had a little experience in shingle siding. I replaced some rather pathetic looking drop siding on a small addition to the back of my house. The dormers on our house have clay tile shingles--yes clay tile--which is somewhat unusual, but looks very nice. So to try to tie the addition into the look of the house as best I could, I used cedar shingles which looks a lot more appealing. The drop siding did not match any part of the house and even worse it was painted white against a medium brown brick house. (Can you say—"Sticks out like a sore thumb"?)

I was able to shingle the addition myself; the work wasn't at all bad. (But I do understand a whole house is another matter.) What helped me was a very good article in "Fine Homebuilding" magazine (Volume 102 April/May 1996 pp. 55-56.) The Omaha Public Library (downtown branch) subscribes to the magazine.

Even if you're going to use a contractor, reading up a little will be helpful, because there are some tricks to a good shingle job—

- "Weaving" the corners to make them watertight (as opposed using clunky looking metal caps or corner boards),

- Using stainless steel nails on the exposed corners because galvanized nails exposed to the weather on cedar will streak and stain the shin

gles. (By the way I had to order the nails from Chicago, because locally no one stocks them.)

- Using a chalk line or board tacked temporarily to the wall to keep the courses straight.

After installing the shingles I stained the shingles to closely match the color of the brick. I took a sample of my brick to Sherwin-Williams and they matched it quite nicely. Staining is the preferred choice because it will allow moisture to escape whereas paint will trap the moisture and either causes the paint to peel or the shingles to rot. Also it isn't an awful chore to reapply the stain when it will be needed again in a few years.

Since I did my own work I don't have a contractor to recommend to you. However, shingling a house is not complex work and I wouldn't wonder if a roofing contractor skilled in shingle roofs couldn't also side a house in shingles. If not, they would probably know whom to contact.

Finally, if you have a house that was originally shingled I would encourage you to re-shingle rather than use drop siding or some other substitute. Re-shingling will most likely be more expensive. Clapboard is faster and easier to install but what you're giving up is a unique and distinctive American home style.

Next month, we'll look at drop siding options and the pros and cons of replacing wood siding with vinyl or aluminum.

### Connections

For an online archive of previous articles go to: <http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org/>

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# Flower Basket Planting: Call for Volunteers

It seems like just last a few weeks ago when our beautiful neighborhood flower baskets were taken down, but it's already time to start planning for this summer's baskets. We'll need the help of many neighbors to get them planted in March!

Our annual flower basket planting event takes place on Fri. and Sat., March 18 and 19, at Indian Creek Nursery (303 N. Saddle Creek Road.) Indian Creek Nursery will care for the baskets through the spring. In May, the beautiful baskets will be hung on the historic Dundee street lights, spreading the unique charm that says Dundee all through the neighborhood.

Planting starts at 10 a.m. and lasts until about 3 p.m., with a mid-day break for a delicious lunch donated by neighborhood restaurants. No gardening experience required! This is a great way to beautify the neighborhood, make new friends, and catch up with old friends.

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

Mary Green, Flower Basket Chair

  
**Children's**  
PHYSICIANS

**Dundee**  
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Recreation Center info: 444-5596 [www.cityofomaha.org/parks](http://www.cityofomaha.org/parks)

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](http://omahalibrary.org) for updates.*

### **Kids' Programs**

**Fit Club** - Saturday, January 2 | 2 PM

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

**Minecraft Club** - Tuesdays, January 5 & 19 | 4:30 PM

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

**Toddler Storytime** - Wednesdays | 10:30 AM

Recommended for ages 15 months to 3 years, though children of all ages are welcome. Enjoy simple songs, creative movement, and short stories with the toddler in your life. Join in the fun by interacting and participating. Explore the early literacy skills of singing, playing, reading, talking and writing. Childcare groups, please call in advance.

**Baby Storytime** - Fridays, January 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 10:30 AM

Recommended for ages birth to 15 months, though children of all ages are welcome. Enjoy very simple books, rhymes, music and play designed to promote development and learning. Explore early literacy skills like singing, playing, reading and talking with each storytime.

**Clothespin Commitments Craft** - Saturday, January 9 | 2 PM

Create a fun New Year's resolution craft with elementary-aged children that will help remind them of their goals all year long. The Clothespin Commitments kit contains craft supplies for three different types of craft; a simple resolution magnet, clothespin magnet, or mini-chalkboard. Registration required.

**Lego Club** - Wednesdays, January 13 & 27 | 4:30 PM

Use your imagination to build unique LEGO creations. Snack provided.

### **Teen Programs**

**Teen Advisory Board** - Saturday, January 16 | 2 PM

Let your voice be heard! Gain leadership experience while enjoying snacks, talking about issues, sharing ideas, planning programs and make friends.

**Game Time** - Saturday, January 23 | 2-4 PM

Have fun with your friends playing the Library's Wii, Xbox 360 Kinect & Wii U games.

### **Adult Programs**

**Sorensen Readers Book Club** - Saturday, January 2 | 1 PM

**Under the Dundee Sun Book Club** - Tuesday, January 5 | 4:30 PM

**Plains Pages Book Club** - Saturday, January 16 | 1 PM

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

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Please renew before your membership lapses.  
Multi-year memberships are available.

## Dundee-Memorial Park Association Membership Form

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple year membership discounts : Family 2 year - \$20, Senior 2 year -\$10, Business 2 yr \$30

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.)**

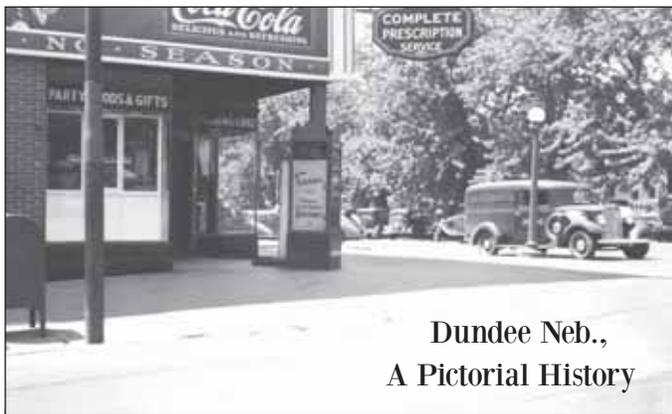
\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to learn about volunteer opportunities.

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