



# Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

Published by Shurson Publishing, Omaha, NE 68131  
Vol. 26, No 12 December 2016

## Letter From the President

### Holiday Season Is Here!

The Dundee Merchants Association celebrates the start of the season with its annual Lights on Dundee event. This year's event is on Thursday, December 1st from 5:00 to 7:00, with the traditional hay rack rides sponsored by Dundee Bank, cookie decorating contests, holiday songs sung by a choir, and a visit from Santa. A festive event to kick off the season, putting visions of sugar plums in children's heads!

### Leonard Cohen

One of my favorite singers/songwriters/poets philosophers, Leonard Cohen, recently died, which most of you probably know as it was covered extensively in the media. A dear friend of mine sent me an email this past week with a quote from one of his songs, and I wish to share it as it seems to fit how people are feeling after such a contentious election season.

Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in.  
--Leonard Cohen, "Anthem."

### The Power of One and the Strength of Many

In mid-November, Dundee resident, library supporter, and one of the A. V. Sorensen Library's original organizers, Kay Bashus, sent a public thank you note to Kitty Prinz, the inspiration for our library branch, printed in the Omaha World-Herald Public Pulse. In this letter, expanded to an article in this issue of this newsletter, Kay described how the library branch came to be, highlighting Kitty Prinz's critical role, and in her actions, the "Power of One." She also thanked the Dundee residents who joined Kitty in making the library happen, acknowledging the strength of neighborhoods when the residents pull together toward a specific goal. Please enjoy reading Kay's article here, a second public expression of gratitude for the neighborhood service of the few and the many.

To add another voice to the joyful "thank you," I wish to give my personal thanks to Kitty Prinz, Kay Bashus, Lannie McNichols, George Haecker and Gary Bowen for their successful efforts in bringing to Dundee its own library branch that recently celebrated its \_\_\_\_ birthday!

## DMPA Meeting No Meeting in December

Next meeting January 9th

**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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pay it forward

is a phrase  
we hear most every day  
but all this month  
we're living it  
in a tiny, simple way

a touch of hope

some wonder, too  
a bit of joy somewhere  
if you hear from us  
please do your part  
and let it spread from there

joyous holidays



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# President's Message

Continued from front page.

Ash Borer

At our November neighborhood meeting, certified arborist Diana Failla, gave us a timely, important and very informative presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer and how it will affect our ash trees. The news media has spread the word that the infestation has arrived in Omaha, but that leaves each of us who has one or more ash trees on our own to decide what to do about it. The options are clear, but making the choice may not be.

Our options include: doing nothing and waiting to see if our trees might be among the few that could have an immunity and survive; while waiting, planting an understory tree of a different species; preempting the infestation by immediately removing our ash trees; or treating the trees with toxic injections, with all its negative side effects (including poisoning birds through dead insects), expense, and failure to avoid the tree's imminent demise. Please see Diana's article in this newsletter for detailed information.

In the meantime, Diana and her group are marking ash trees by wrapping them in green ribbon. This does not indicate the trees are scheduled for removal; the ribbons are only to raise awareness of how many ash trees we have and where they are. Please do not remove the ribbons, as doing so will not help the trees, and will undo the valuable work that is being done, all in the name of love for trees.

## Tree Trimming (as in pruning, not decorating) Demonstration and Workshop

And, speaking of trees, did you know there are city codes in place that apply to trees in the city's right of way? These codes are intended to assure pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety on the streets and sidewalks. David Austin of the City's Parks and Recreation and Public Property Department says that trimming young trees in the proper way, with code compliance in mind, can prevent a city citation followed by a costly remedial tree trimming, and even benefits the health of the trees. He will be offering one or more workshops for homeowners to demonstrate how this preventive trimming can be done, explain the reasoning and thought process, and help residents prevent problems that could be costly to cure when allowed to develop untended.

The first workshop/demonstration will be Friday, December 9 at 1:00 pm. This is free and open to anyone interested in learning about tree trimming and code compliance. This is a great opportunity for homeowners, garden clubs, master gardeners, and anyone with an interest in learning the art of tree trimming.

The meeting place for this first workshop is the public right of way in front of 5203 Burt Street. After a demonstration on a tree there, the group will move onto

another location for an additional demonstration, so bring your car, as the next tree may be more than a walk away. This is an informal demonstration which could last an hour or more, depending on how many questions the group asks – but people are free to leave at any time and need not stay until the end.

The DMPA will work with Mr. Austin to arrange another workshop in March and we will post the information on the DMPA website and send out emails to share the schedule with you.

## Complete Streets Photography Contest

The City of Omaha and Omaha by Design are sponsoring a photo contest – and seeking admissions. The photos will help in the development of Omaha's first "Complete Streets Design Manual." Let's think about our favorite streets, what makes them so livable and lovable, get out there and take photos of them and submit them to Omaha by Design. The sponsors want not only images of Omaha's best, but images of street ripe for improvement – those that, with imagination and care, can become among Omaha's best. There are prizes to be won, but the best prizes of all, are Omaha's improved streetscapes. The deadline is midnight, New Year's Eve 2016, so you have plenty of time to scour the city with an eye for its beauty and potential. For more information, go to [www.CompleteStreetsOmaha.org](http://www.CompleteStreetsOmaha.org).

Have a great December and enjoy the spirit of the season with giving gifts of love and joy. As the Beatles sang, "Love is all there is."

Stay up to date on our news through our website:  
[www.Dundee-Memorial Park.org](http://www.Dundee-Memorial Park.org)



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Santa Sundays: 11/27, 12/4, & 12/11 1-3 p.m.  
Saturday Craft Classes: Winter Pots 11/26,  
Wreaths 12/3, Bow Tying 12/10  
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Family. Friendly. Neighbors.

# Gift to the neighborhood ~ A.V. Sorensen Library Community Center

Never underestimate the power of the voice of one person. Early in 1973 Dundee resident, Kitty Prinz, wrote to the OWH Public Pulse suggesting that a branch library be located in the vacated Hinky Dinky Grocery at 50th and Underwood. While many people were concerned the vacated grocery store could become a blight on the neighborhood, Kitty took action and publically identified a need in the area.

The idea took wing. R.E.A.D. (Recreation and Education Association of Dundee) was formed. Mid-city neighbors put their time and talents behind the dream which grew to include a Community Center. Working with a multitude of city departments and leaders, challenged by the usual city budget problems, in the summer of 1973 the group joyously accepted a donation of land at 48th and Cass Streets from former Mayor A.V. Sorensen. His offer was made based on the completion of a library community center in three years. The city floated a bond issue which helped finance the new library as well as several other projects around town. Mayor Sorensen sure knew how to move a project along, didn't he?!

Opened to the public in August 1976, the A.V. Sorensen Library Community Center was formally dedicated November 13, 1976. This city facility stands as a tribute to the grass roots efforts of people working together to meet a need.

Thank you good neighbors, too numerous to name here. You have worked faithfully all these years, currently with the support of DMPA, to assure the continued presence of this mid-city amenity.

Thank you, Kitty, for speaking up and motivating us to pursue the dream of a Library Community Center. And of course, thank you Mayor Sorensen for making this gift to the neighborhood a possibility. We are proud to have named the Library Center in your honor.

Submitted by Kay Bashus

## DMPA Online

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## DMPA Meeting Schedule

No DMPA meeting in December  
Next meeting January 9th, 2017





Do you have some sticks of incense left over from your hippie days? Good. This month we're going to put them to a practical use—finding and eliminating drafts in

your old house.

It could be the number one complaint about old houses—they can be drafty. With winter now at the front door and knocking to be let in, now is the perfect time to track down drafts which is where the incense comes in handy.

On a windy day, light the incense and hold the stick near possible sites of air infiltration: windows, doors, electrical outlets and plumbing fixtures. Anywhere you see the smoke from the incense blowing horizontally make a note of it.

Fixing gaps where air is working its way from the outside to inside isn't hard and there are shopping carts full of specialized products to make gap-filling easy.

Tear off chunks of fiberglass insulation to fill in voids around windows and doors. But pack it loosely, not tightly. It is the trapped air that provided the insulating power and if you pack too tight you eliminate the air pockets. For around electrical outlets, home improvement stores sell pre-cut rubber or foam gaskets that seal up outlets easily and efficiently.

If you have gaps where gas or water pipes or TV cables come into your home, expanding foam sold in aerosol cans will close up those gaps. Go easy in filling the holes, though, this stuff really expands. In fact they sell low expansion foam that is better suited, in my opinion for this kind of application. The foam stuff can get really messy, so wear some disposable latex gloves. (A much better alternative than soaking your foam-covered fingers in bad smelling, highly flammable solvent, don't you think?) If you get too much expanding foam in the hole, let it cure completely (give it a couple of hours) and then slice off the excess with a single edge razor blade or a really sharp knife.

Next crawl around in your attic and inspect the area where a large cast iron pipe penetrates the attic floor and extends through the roof. This is the soil stack, and you may have more than one. There shouldn't be any gaps around the soil stack. If there are, the gaps create a chimney effect—that is warm up is drawn up through the gaps. This is a bigger source of drafts than leaky windows and doors. Pack fiberglass insulation around the soil stacks.

While you're in the attic look at the fiberglass insulation between the attic floor and the ceiling below. (You do have this area well insulated, don't you?) If you see black streaks in the insulation, this is a sure sign of air infiltration. The air is most likely moving through holes cut for electrical wiring. Seal the holes with expanding foam.

Cold air can also infiltrate through your fireplace flue. Even with the damper closed, a chimney in an old house leaks out a lot of expensively heated air. If you're rea-

sonably handy with a saw, a flue plug will make noticeable difference. Measure the inside of your flue near the damper and cut a piece of 1/2 inch thick plywood 1/2 inch smaller on each side than the flue opening. On the back of the plywood attach a slab of foam insulation with construction adhesive. Then wrap the edge of the plywood with foam backer rod 3/4 inches in diameter. Mount some sort of handle (a window sash pull works nicely) on the wood side (the inside) of your plywood so you can get the flue plug out when you need to. Then push the flue plug into place. The foam backer rod will compress to hold the plug in place. Just remember to remove your plug before you light the fireplace. I have also seen inflatable flue plugs. They are like a balloon on steroids that you tuck into the flue opening and inflate to wedge it in tight. I haven't seen them for sale at any local retail outlet but I have seen them for sale on the Internet. eems like a good idea.

Besides making your old house more comfortable, these fixes have an almost immediate payback. You will recoup the very modest cost of these fixes in one heating season.

Every old house renovation finally comes to an end (thankfully) and it's time to hang up your tools. And so it is also with this column. This is the last Old House Mechanic column. It's time for me to hang it up. I owe a big thank you to all my loyal readers and the dozens of old house owners who have emailed or phoned me with their questions and their encouragement. Thank you also goes to this newsletter's publisher/editor, Ellen Shurson, whose patience I have tested with my tardiness almost every month for 22 years.

But these days everything lives forever on the internet (like those embarrassing Facebook photos of you from that holiday party). The archive of all the Old House Mechanic articles can be found at [dundeoldhousemechanic.org](http://dundeoldhousemechanic.org). (Thank you, Bill Kelly for building and maintaining this website.)

Keep on renovating! And remember that we are not really owners of our old houses, we are merely caretakers for the next generations who will live, laugh, and raise their families in these wonderful homes.

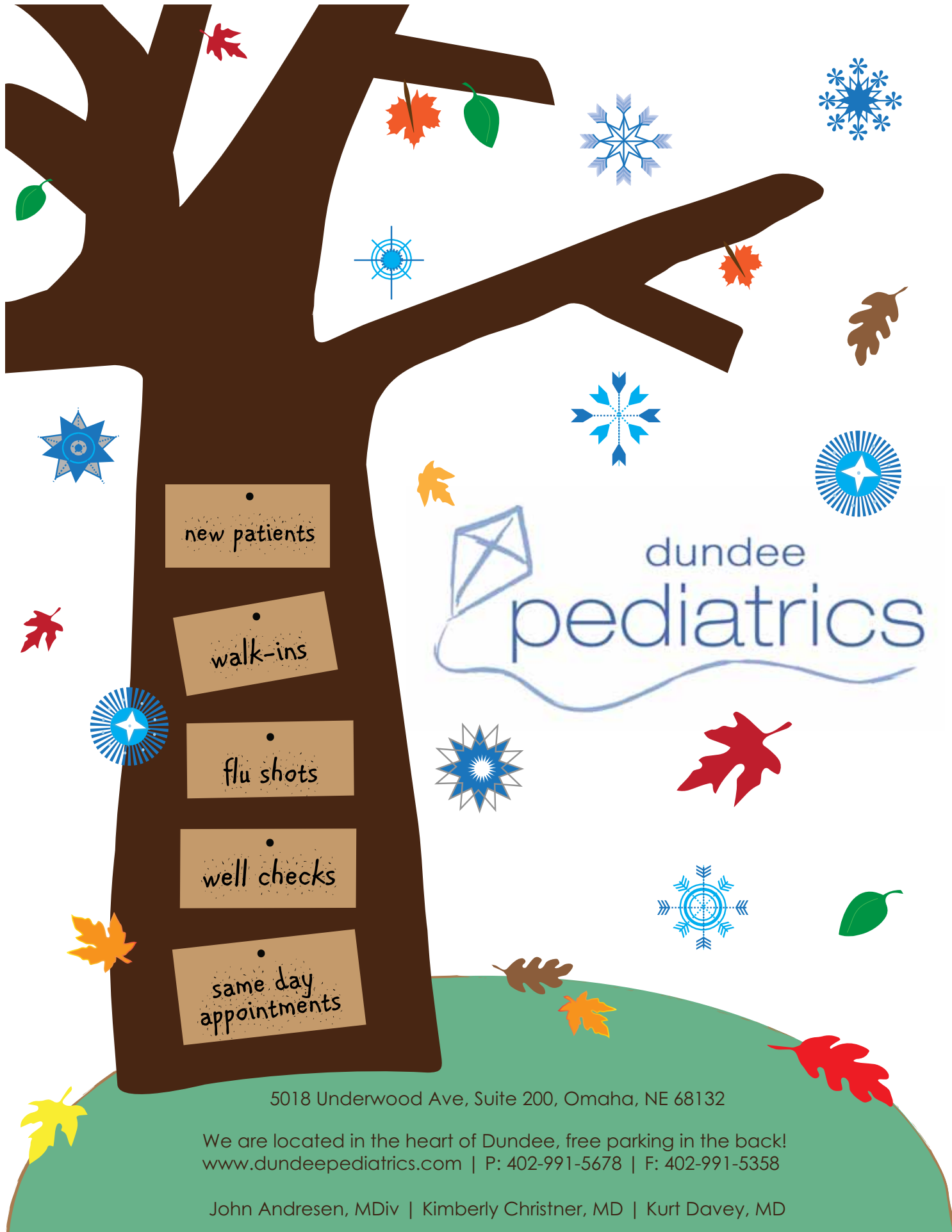
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# A.V. Sorensen Library & Recreation Center

48th & Cass Streets

Library Info: 444-5274 [www.omahapubliclibrary.org](http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org)

Tues & Thurs 10 am - 8 pm Wed, Fri, Sat 10 am - 6 pm Closed Sunday & Monday

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**

***Baby Storytime*** - Fridays | 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.

***Fit Club*** - Saturday, December 3 | 2 PM

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

***Santa Visits Sorensen Branch*** - Tuesday, December 6 | 10:30 AM - 12 PM

Come and see Santa! You will also enjoy a Santa Storytime, create a Santa craft, and play in a bounce house. The whole family is invited. This event is co-sponsored by Omaha Public Library and the Omaha Parks and Recreation Department.

***Minecraft Club*** - Tuesdays, December 6 & 20 | 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.

***Lego Club*** - Wednesdays, December 14 & 28 | 4:30 PM

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

***Handmade Holiday*** - Registration required.

Thursday, December 15 | 4:30 PM | Christmas Tree Cones      Thursday, December 22 | 4:30 PM | Kids Holiday Craft

***Movie Day: The Secret Life of Pets*** - Friday, December 23 | 1 PM

Watch a movie at A.V. Sorensen Branch! Enjoy a snack and relax.

***Movie Day: Finding Dory*** - Thursday, December 29 | 1 PM

Watch a movie at A.V. Sorensen Branch! Enjoy a snack and relax.

***Noon Year's Eve Party at Sorensen*** - Thursday, December 31 | 10:30 AM - 12 PM

Celebrate the New Year with a storytime, craft for kids, bounce house, photo backdrop, DJ, and a balloon drop at 12:00 pm!

## **Teen Programs**

***Ornament Making for Teens*** - Saturday, December 10 | 2 PM

Join us for a lesson in creating a variety of Christmas ornaments using various supplies and techniques. All supplies included. Registration required.

***Christmas Cookie Decorating for Teens*** - Tuesday, December 13 | 4:30 PM

Have fun designing and decorating sugar cookies with your friends. All supplies included. Registration required.

***Game Time*** - Tuesday, December 27 | 2-4 PM

Have fun playing the Library's Wii, Xbox 360 Kinect & Wii U games as well as experience virtual reality games with Google Cardboard. Life-size Jenga and Life-Size Connect 4 in addition to other board games like Pandemic, Codenames and The Resistance will be available to play.

## **Adult Programs**

***Get Crafty: Holiday Cards*** - Saturday, December 3 | 9 AM - 12 PM

Join Connie and her elves for an enjoyable morning of "getting in the Holiday Mood" crafting her unique cards. All supplies will be provided to guarantee you go home with an assortment of her one-of-a-kind holiday cards. Registration required.

***Sorensen Readers Book Club*** - Saturday, December 3 | 1 PM

***Under the Dundee Sun Book Club*** - Tuesday, December 6 | 4:30 PM

***Plains Pages Book Club*** - Saturday, December 17 | 1 PM

***Holiday Strings & Open House*** - Saturday, December 17 | 3:30 PM

Let the music fill the air! Join us during our holiday open house and enjoy the beautiful sounds of the season with Cecilia on the viola and Heidi on the violin.

# Fairacres Road Historic District Nomination

By Gary Rosenberg

If all goes as planned, the Fairacres Road will soon join Dundee, Country Club, Minne Lusa and other Omaha neighborhoods on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

Charles George first platted the district in 1907. George, who headed the Dundee Realty Company, could “claim a share of responsibility for the success of both Dundee and Happy Hollow,” according to Matthew Pelz, who is working with Restoration Exchange Omaha to write the nomination. .

The garden suburb is what drove the development of Fairacres, Pelz said. “What drives our decision making on how to draw the boundaries of the district is what the landscape looks like now,” he said, noting that most of the properties included in the nomination front the curving, brick-paved Fairacres Road. Some of those original large lots were subdivided and now contain several houses.

Ebenezer Howard of England is credited as the creator of the garden suburb philosophy, and Frederick Law Olmstead is regarded as its most famous American practitioner. With its curved roads, tree-lined streets and assorted collection of period revival styles of architecture, the Fairacres neighborhood embodied the ideals of Howard and Olmstead, and it represented the fullest extension of George’s efforts to attract an elite clientele, Pelz noted. It is believed renowned landscape architect George Kessler, based in St. Louis, helped craft the landscape along with Hare and Hare out of Kansas City.

“One of the fun things about doing the research so far has been speaking with the people who lived in the neighborhood for a long time,” Pelz said. Edson Bridges, whose grandmother lived at 6301 Chicago St, has provided insight about the neighborhood. His grandmother hired an architect to build two houses on her lot. One of those houses, which remains today, was built with bricks that came from a barn on the Fairacres development, Pelz said.

The nomination is expected to go before the local Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission in early 2017. If approved, it will then go before the state historic preservation board.

A graduate of Clemson University’s historic preservation program based in historic Charleston, SC, Pelz joined Restoration Exchange Omaha this year as a researcher.



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## Cub Scout Pack 17 and Boy Scout Troop 42 Christmas Tree Collection Service Project

The Dundee neighborhood Scouts are again offering to pick your Christmas tree and deliver for recycling. Dates are: ♦ Saturday, December 31st, 2016 ♦ Saturday, January 7 th, 2016

This project demonstrates renewable resources, solid waste reduction, and community service in our neighborhood. There is not a charge for the service, but cash donations accepted. Thank you!

To have your tree on our schedule

1. Return sign-up form
2. Remove decorations from your tree
3. Place tree on your curb by 9 a.m

### Christmas Tree Collection Request

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Collection date (circle one): December 31st or Jan 7, 2016 Return by December 28th to:

Size of tree: LARGE \_\_\_\_\_ SMALL \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas Tree Collection Project c/o Marc Anderson, 4914 Chicago St., Omaha, NE 68132

Or call 402-558-0727 or email [troop42communications@gmail.com](mailto:troop42communications@gmail.com) to make a reservation

Please make checks payable to Troop 42

## New Addition to Subway

A new painting has been added to an open space inside the Dodge St. Subway. After the murals were installed last October, a space remained open that could be an inviting target for possible graffiti. It was also noticed that none of the murals in the tunnel depicted Dundee's historic light posts and flower baskets. That is no longer the case. Dundee School 6th grader Catrina Schinzel deigned and painted a new mural showing one of our light posts and flower baskets. The new painting was installed on November 16th. Be sure to stop by and see this new addition.

Picture: Catrina Schinzel, Dundee School 6th grader, stands next to her completed painting in the subway.



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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.

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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.

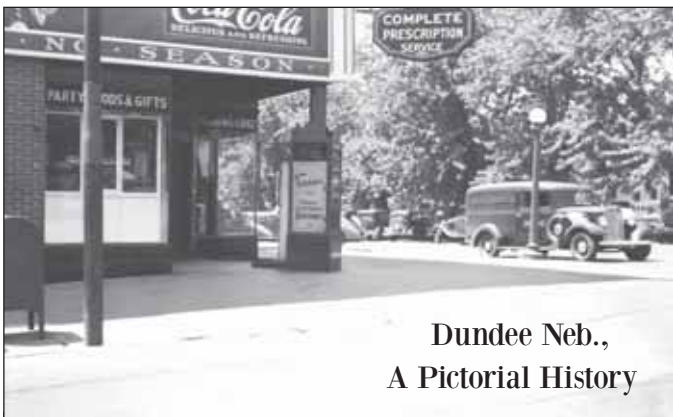
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