

# DUNDEE- MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION



## DMPA Meeting

Next DMPA Meeting  
November 10th

**Dave Schinzel**  
Historical Presentation on  
The Dundee Subway

**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.



Sweet Potato Dig at  
Dundee Community Garden

## 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 Armistice Day! Originally established to celebrate the conclusion of World War I, today, the holiday is known more commonly as Veterans Day. November 11, is a day to thank all of our veterans for their service, patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. The holiday was officially established in 1968 – and fell on an October day. An Omaha connection, President Gerald R. Ford, made November 11 our official Veteran's Day in 1975. Thanks to you if you are a Veteran!

Veteran's Day falls on a Tuesday this year. It is a federal holiday – so, no mail or banking will be happening on Tuesday 11/11. Bellevue and Offutt Air Force Base will host Nebraska's official 15th annual Veteran's Day parade on Saturday November 8. In our neighborhood, Memorial Park will be hosting different events during the day for officials paying their respects and reflecting on service of our veterans.

### **Memorial Park thanks Brownell Talbot School and Green Apple day of Service**

On Saturday, September 27th, 142 Brownell Talbot students, faculty members, and their families, participated in the third annual Green Apple Day of Service. What is the Green Apple Day of Service? Green Apple is a global movement to put all children in schools where they have clean and healthy air to breathe, where energy and resources are conserved, and where they can be inspired to dream of a brighter future. With this vision in mind, Brownell partnered with Keep Omaha Beautiful to clean up their campus as well as Memorial Park.

For more information about Green Apple day of Service and Keep Omaha Beautiful Events, please check out:  
<http://mygreenapple.org/home> <http://www.keepomahabeautiful.org/>

Thanks for being such great neighbors Brownell Talbot! Great job.

### **Elmwood Park Playground Expansion**

Our board member Tom Craig recently attended a meeting at the Elmwood Park pavilion hosted by the city regarding the playground expansion at Elmwood. An anonymous donor gave \$50,000 to the parks foundation which was matched by \$50,000 from the city of Omaha to make \$100,000 in improvements to the park. The plans aren't definite yet; however, it sounds like the focus is on playground structures for young children. In addition, more benches, picnic tables, bike racks, and grills will be added. Thanks Tom and thanks to our Anonymous Donor!

Continued on page 4

**Dundee-Memorial Park  
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# President's Message

Continued from front page.

## Development in Dundee

Michael Alley of Alley Poyner Macchietto Architects kindly led a presentation and overview of the Grandpa C's Market (5018 Underwood) re-development at our last DMPA board meeting. Eric Weiseler of First Management Inc. and the Developer – Dr. Kurt Davey were also on hand to give us their hand as new neighbors. I was glad to have our good friend Bill Stott (The architectural offices) with the DMPA team to see the value of the work he and others did to establish an architecture overlay for Dundee's business district.

I can report to you that the building looks good. It's a \$4.4 million investment into our business district – and appears to conform with all the overlay requirements. Height wise, it will be 3 stories but will be about the same height as the Harte building on the corner of 50th and Underwood. It will have 2 restaurants or cafes on the main floor, physician's offices on the second floor, and 6 apartments on the 3rd floor. The look will be cool – fitting with our neighborhood with some modern touches.

We appreciate this kind of interaction and respect the developer and architect gave us – the neighbors. It gives us a chance to really get comfortable with the project and the people behind it. We also asked about potential additional developments in the Dundee business district. Based on the responses we received, I think more, big development is a sure thing. The developers have their eyes on two parking lots in particular – the KFAB lot and the lot at 50th and Webster. Of obvious concern are 1)business district parking and 2)neighborhood traffic. We will keep our eyes on developments as they happen.

## Small Bites:

Dan Rock – thanks once again for coordinating the hanging, watering, and removing of over 400 flower baskets in our neighborhood. Those baskets have become an iconic symbol of our great neighborhood highlighting our unique lamps and fantastic volunteers. It was sad to see Dan and Bob Welk taking them down in October. Thanks to you and so many fantastic volunteers. Atta Way!

2015 Flower basket donations: It's that time of year – we are ordering the baskets for next year and we need a count for the neighborhood. Planting begins in early March – coordinated by Mary Green and Julia Ross at Indian Creek

Nursery. All donations will need to be collected before the planting begins in March. Your block captain will be collecting if you prefer cash or checks. However, you can donate online – at [www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org) Your donation will be connected back to your block. Thanks to Peter Manhart for working with our block captains to collect and track donations!

Dave Schinzel – thank you for coordinating our tree planting efforts. With help from Scott Farrington of Indian Creek Nursery, DMPA volunteers planted 44 trees from 48th to 50th between Cass and Davenport Streets. The first weekend was handled by Marshall Dawkins – an Eagle Scout candidate from the neighborhood who earned his wings. Great job Marshall!

Election – November 11th - go vote! More information can be found at [www.votedouglascounty.gov](http://www.votedouglascounty.gov) or [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)

The League of Women voters has a new office in Dundee at 115 S. 49th Ave if you are interested.

**Subway!** – yes, the Dodge Street Subway project to update and upgrade the underpass under Dodge Street at 51st Street is moving along. The hope is to start work in the Spring 2015. Dave Schinzel continues to secure donations from supporters. We are hoping to win a few grants as well – as the project is going to cost close to \$30,000. The city will help very little. We need your support. Donate online at [www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org) or call / email Dave for more information.

FYI: Le Quartier and Great Harvest Bread take orders for Thanksgiving rolls – usually a week in advance. They're awesome! Don't forget some ice cream to go with the pie. You know where – [ecreamery.com](http://ecreamery.com)

Heike's busy changing out our house to flannel sheets and the winter quilts. We recently installed a new bathroom floor with floor heat on a thermostat – which was turned to "on". Love those old home updates! See you around the neighborhood. Be sure to say "hello"!

For more on the neighborhood, events and happenings, see [www.dundee-memorialpark.org](http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org)

For up to the minute action – "like" our facebook page – Dundee Memorial Park Neighborhood Association



## DMPA MEETINGS CALENDAR

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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## Over 40 New Trees Planted This Year in Dundee

Once again this year, Dundee-Memorial Park has participated in the Re-Tree Midtown Project of the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance. On October 4th and October 18th, volunteers organized by Boy Scout Marshall Dawkins from Troop 42 planted over 40 new trees in Dundee.

The trees were planted in the public right of way at no cost to adjoining property owners. Funding for these plantings came from the Kiewit Foundation, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance. This program has been extremely beneficial to Dundee-Memorial Park as we continue to restore the tree canopy in our neighborhood. Trees were planted on California St., Cass St., Chicago St. and Davenport St. between 48th St. and 50th St.

A special thanks to the volunteers who came out to plant these trees and to Indian Creek Nursery for all of their assistance with this project.

Thank you Bob Welk, Adam Langdon, John Ramson and the Indian Creek Nursery crew for all of their help with the plantings!



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# Dundee Community Garden Update

The 2014 gardening season at the Dundee Community Garden has come to a close, with our annual sweet potato harvest always a fall highlight. This year we dug up 1040 pounds on Oct. 4—not quite as much as last year, but still a very respectable harvest! We donated about half of the sweet potatoes to the residents of the Underwood Tower, and the rest were distributed to our garden members and supporters, with a tub being dropped off at Marks Bistro and another box dropped off for our local firefighters. (The firefighters used to drive by each year while we were digging up potatoes, and we've missed them the past couple years, so we decided to take the sweet potatoes to them!)

We're excited that our new compost bins are filling up. We're alternating layers of greens and browns, to provide nitrogen and carbon, using garden waste and fallen leaves. We've also added extra nitrogen in the form of coffee grounds. Coffee grounds function similarly to grass clippings in a compost pile: they create a lot of heat, so they are good at speeding up the composting process. Did you know that you can get free (brewed) coffee grounds at many coffee shops, including at Blue Line Coffee in Dundee? Blue Line loves to see their used grounds put to good use, so stop in and ask for some!

We also purchased a composting thermometer, so we can monitor how well our compost pile is heating up, which happens when organic materials break down. Our compost pile temperatures were often in the active zone, between 100-120° in October, with occasional temperatures in the hot zone, up to 140°. Stop by the garden any time to see our compost bin design. (Thanks again to Boy Scout Troop 42 who built them as part of Jack McCullough's Eagle Project!) We hope to have lots of good rich compost ready for digging into our garden beds come spring.



## 2014 Sweet Potato Dig





If Earle Stanley Gardner (the celebrated writer of the Perry Mason mysteries) were writing this month's column perhaps he'd call it "The Case of the Contradictory Contractors".

Our story begins with this e-mail from a Dundee family:

*We moved into Dundee about a year ago and love our "old house!" We recently had our fireplace/chimney inspected because we want to install a gas log. We wanted to make sure the chimney was safe and clean before the installation.*

*We had a "reputable," licensed company do the inspection. They informed us that our chimney is unsafe, may fall over, etc. quoting a \$10,000 bid to get the work done to make it functional (including tearing current chimney down to roof line, relining both furnace side and fireplace side, then rebuilding chimney). This sweep told us not to use the fireplace and to make sure we have carbon monoxide detectors (which we do) because the furnace side was equally dangerous.*

*The sweep determined all of this from an external inspection; he didn't even look down into the chimney because of the cap and height of our chimney. I found out from my neighbor that this same company told them almost the exact same story about their chimney a year ago.*

*Needless to say, we got a second opinion!*

*The second "reputable," licensed sweep came out and said the chimney needs tuck pointing, and "relining" only to be within the parameters of the current codes, but that the chimney is not going to fall over. He said we're not in danger of dying from carbon monoxide, that the chimney is lined with clay tiles and are a little off, but that they may have been laid that way when the house was built.*

*We are in a quandary because the two opinions we have so far are rather on opposite sides of the extreme! Can you recommend anyone, in your experience, who would be able to assess our situation, and do the work necessary? We're having trouble finding anyone to even give us bids on "tuck pointing."*

*The first chimney sweep company has warned us not to just find a bricklayer to do the work because "they don't know chimneys, safety, codes, etc." like sweeps do. Help?!?*

*We want to enjoy our home and we want our home to be safe, but spending \$10,000 on a problem we're not sure we need to fix is not a small pill to swallow!*

What would Perry do? Buzz Della Street on the intercom? Dispatch fiction's greatest gumshoe, Paul Drake, to investigate?

Any old house detective would be suspicious of the first contractor. How can the chimney sweep determine all this alleged damage without even removing the cap and looking down the chimney? These neighbors were wise to get a second opinion. I disagree with his assertion that a bricklayer doesn't know enough about chimneys to make a determination and make any needed repairs. Any masonry contractor who has been in the business any length of time has probably built and repaired plenty of chimneys.

But what to do? I have two suggestions for these homeowners:

1. There are companies that offer video inspection. You could see for yourself on a monitor what the inside of the chimney looks like and even tape it to show to another contractor.

2. Check the Better Business Bureau to see if there are any adverse reports on either of the two sweeps you've already talked to.

These homeowners did have a video inspection conducted by the second contractor. While the video showed some cracks and small gaps in the chimney lining most were above the roofline. It was this contractor's opinion that a high percentage of the chimneys in Dundee are probably in the same condition.

The biggest threat posed by cracks in the liner is a house fire. If a chimney fire develops the flames can seep through the cracks and ignite the house's framing. Chimney fires most often are the result of an excessive build up of creosote or burning improper, highly combustible materials like wrapping paper in the fireplace. If you don't know how long it's been since your chimney was cleaned or you know that it has been many years, do it now.

On the recommendations of the second contractor, the homeowners plan to have the chimney cleaned, waterproofed and tuck pointed.

Mystery solved!

#### Connections

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

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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](http://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](mailto:drschinzel@hotmail.com) or 402-551-3742

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*Programs subject to change—visit [omahalibrary.org](http://omahalibrary.org) for updates.*

### **Kids' Programs**

**Fit Club** - Saturday, November 1 | 2 PM

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

**Minecraft Club** - Tuesdays, November 4 & 18 | 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.

**Baby & Me Storytime** - Fridays, November 7, 14 & 21 | 10:30 AM

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

**Mouse Visits Sorensen Branch** - Wednesday, November 19 | 10:30 AM

Mouse wants to meet the kids at Sorensen Branch, so he's joining us for a special storytime!

Remember your camera!

**Lego Club** - Wednesdays, November 12 & 26 | 4:30 PM

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

**Thanksgiving Craft for Kids** - Saturday, November 22 | 2 PM

Create a Thanksgiving craft at the Library. Registration required.

### **Teen Programs**

**Game Time** - Saturday, November 8 | 2-4 PM

Have fun with your friends playing one of the Library's Wii or Xbox 360 Kinect games.

**Teen Advisory Board** - Saturday, November 15 | 2 PM

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

**Cooking for Teens: Pumpkin Desserts** - Tuesday, November 25 | 6 PM

Learn how to make some pumpkin desserts. Then enjoy your efforts.

### **Adult Programs**

**Sorensen Readers Book Club** - Saturday, November 1 | 1 PM

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

**Scrabble** - Thursdays, November 6, 13 & 20 | 1 PM

**Plains Pages Book Club** - Saturday, November 15 | 1 PM

# Trim Those Trees ... Please

**Please** be considerate of your neighbors and keep your trees and shrubs trimmed along your sidewalks. There is a city ordinance stating that there should be an 8 foot overhead clearance. And shrubs should not over hang sidewalks, so that they are obstructed and inhibit passage or views of street traffic.



Please take a careful look at all sides of your property and make sure that you are not causing problems or safety issues for others.

To join DMPA simply fill out the form below.  
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## Dundee-Memorial Park Association

## Membership Form

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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.

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**Send form (Photo copy acceptable) and checks made out to DMPA to**  
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