

Next DMPA Meeting March 13th

Speakers:

Tiffany Regan, Memorial Park Celebration

Robert Fuchs, Naturalist

More speaker information on page 4.

Location and times:
Brownell Talbot School
400 N. Happy Hollow Blvd
7:00 pm Meeting
Bring a friend or two.

Meetings will now be held quarterly the second Monday of the month.

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter

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

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Letter From the President

John Ashford Johnnyash 5@gmail.com

Hi Neighbor!

This is going to be a very memorable summer with two once-in-a-generation events coming to our neighborhood parks. You can read more about both inside, but the Memorial Park 75th birthday celebration is shaping up to be incredibly fun for all ages. In honor of President Truman's dedication to our Memorial Park in 1948, his oldest grandson will be in attendance. There will be people jumping out of planes into the park. I mean, how cool is that? You can hear more about it at our in person meeting March 13th at 7pm at Brownell Talbot!

The other event is the return of the Roadshow to Elmwood Park. DMPA has just become a proud sponsor. This talent show was a beloved tradition and you can read more about the details inside, but I can guarantee that it is going to be an extraordinary experience for our neighborhood. Board member Nancy Johnson has even threatened us with her baton act from back in the day and still has all her stuff for it in the attic. We will have to wait and see if she follows through!

Lastly, one of the great joys of living in Dundee is walking through our residential green spaces. Gardeners will need to be in attendance for our in-person meeting to listen to a great presentation on native gardening and insects. Robert Fuchs is a certified Nebraska Master Naturalist as well as a long time neighbor and he will be offering some great tips for our gardens. New neighbors and master gardeners Todd Lemen and Paula Ashford have taught me how to garden these past few years. I have to give them a shout out because they double as wonderful (and now close) grandparents for my daughter Rosie.

Have a fun and safe St Patrick's Day and I look forward to seeing you outside as the days get warmer!

John Ashford, DMPA President

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March DMPA Meeting

Join us for our March in person meeting at Brownell Talbot! It will be on March 13th at 7pm in the cafeteria on the Happy Hollow side.

Robert Fuchs, longtime neighbor and Master Naturalist will talk to us about gardening this spring and how to incorporate techniques that are plant and insect friendly.

Tiffany Regan will keep us up to date on the birthday party we are throwing for Memorial Park and the exciting new construction taking place and what it means for the park.

I will also give a brief update on what the DMPA has been doing to support homeowners on Farnam as the roundabout votes draw near. Hope to see you there!

John Asford, DMPA President



Show Wagon

On Sunday, July 16, the Omaha Mobile Stage will host Show Wagon, a youth talent show for ages 3 - 19, in Elmwood Park. Winners will advance to a Finals competition at Gene Leahy Mall in downtown Omaha on August 20. This event is sponsored by the Dundee-Memorial Park Association. All registered acts, ages 5+, are invited to the Omaha Community Playhouse for Youth Performing Arts Summer Camp on June 1 and July 18. Registration and events are free and open to the public. To register, visit www.omahamobilestage.org. For questions, contact Kaylea at Kaylea@livable.org.

Bring your entire family and friends to enjoy a night of entertainment!



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Unofficial Traffic Survey:

Do you agree or disagree that red light running is to be expected on Dodge Street?

By Jim McGee

I was curious how long it would take to catch a photo of a red-light runner blowing through the intersection of Dodge Street at 52nd Street. The answer: 30 seconds. Before I could count 1-2-3, a westbound car blasted through the red light. I posted an "Unofficial Traffic Safety Question" on Facebook to get an idea what my Dundee neighbors thought.

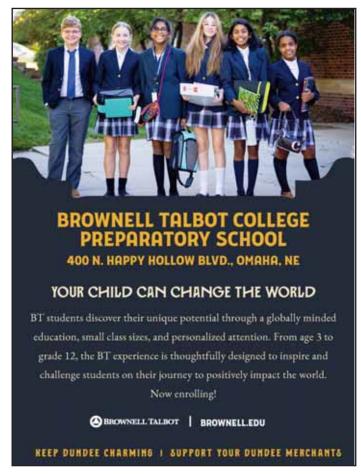
Do you expect red light runners on Dodge Street?

The response was great... over 60 responses. To read what your neighbors have to say on the matter go to;

www.dundee-memorialpark.org.

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Jan. 27, 2023

City Council Member Pete Festersen City Council Member Danny Begley 1819 Farnam St. Omaha, NE 68183

RE: Farnam St. Two-Way Conversion

Dear Pete and Danny,

Last May the Dundee-Memorial Park Association proposed an Alternative #4 plan for the Farnam Street Conversion that would return Farnam St. to two-way traffic 24 hours a day, but would involve no new construction, turn lanes, or roundabouts. In November, we held a DMPA Neighborhood Meeting (which you both attended) to allow a broader section of the neighborhood to learn more about the City's proposed two-roundabouts project, and to share their thoughts and feelings about the City's plan and other options. This letter comes as a follow-up to that November meeting, to let you know that the DMPA board continues to support our Alternative #4 with no new construction. Additionally, the DMPA board urges you to vote "NO" on any request for funding related to the roundabout planning or implementation, or any authorization that would move the proposed roundabout project forward in any way.

At our November Neighborhood Meeting, we heard loud and clear from our fellow neighbors that there is continued strong opposition to roundabouts. Additionally, we heard research compiled by some of the directly impacted property owners raising concerns about the effectiveness of roundabouts when there is uneven traffic flow, as there is at both the 50th and 52nd Street intersections. Steady east-west traffic during rush hour will cause north-south traffic to be unable to merge into the roundabout, as well as make it extremely difficult and dangerous for residents trying to back out of their driveways. Stakeholder research also challenged the claimed "success" of the city's roundabout at 78th & Crown Point Ave., which the City says is similar in traffic volume and flow to Farnam Street. Dundee neighborhood stakeholders found that neighbors to the Crown Point roundabout are very unhappy with the roundabouts, and are experiencing frequent motor vehicle accidents and associated problems, including multiple car intrusions onto their property causing property damage including damage requiring fence repairs.

Additionally, the DMPA Board has significant concerns about pedestrian safety. While roundabouts may improve safety for vehicles, making vehicle accidents less severe, if not less frequent, the safety for pedestrians presents a decidedly mixed picture. Pedestrians must rely on timing gaps, if any, and with the steady traffic on Farnam there may be very few gaps giving sufficient time for a walking pedestrian to cross safely. Additionally, driver behavior is more unpredictable, as the pedestrian does not know whether a driver will exit the roundabout in front of them or keep going, making pedestrian crossing even more challenging and dangerous. These concerns are magnified for pedestrians with visual impairments or other disabilities, children, and the elderly. At the same time, drivers who reasonably expect to have the right of way and not have to stop for pedestrians are focused on merging into traffic or exiting, and so are less focused on pedestrians. Dundee is well-loved because it is a walkable, pedestrian-friendly neighborhood, and it is of paramount importance to our residents to keep it that way.

Continued



Dundee-Memorial Park Association

Dundee residents and the Dundee-Memorial Park Association have advocated for the end of the dangerous one-way traffic shifts on Farnam St. for decades. As you know, the DMPA Board voted last May to support Alternative #4 that returns Farnam St. to two-way traffic 24 hours a day, but also saves taxpayer money and eliminates the need to take property and remove mature trees. Again, the specifics of our proposed Alternative #4 are:

- 1. Farnam St. is to be converted to its original two-way traffic 24 hours, every day of the week
- 2. No construction of new turn lanes or roundabouts
- 3. Increased enforcement of speeding violations by Police

The Board continues to support changing Farnam St. to two-way traffic without any of the expensive construction being proposed at 50th and 52nd, and allowing for a period of 6 months to a year to see what impact the changes have on traffic flow, with such data collection and analysis to be conducted after the roundabout at 46th Street is completed. The Board believes this is the most fiscally responsible thing to do, as the proposed changes could cost up to \$3 million. This time period could also be used to obtain more up-to-date data. The traffic data being used by Public Works was collected before or during 2019, and assumes traffic will return to pre-pandemic levels. However, employers are treating working from home far differently than they did in 2019, with many companies offering more flexible work-from-home policies. We should be making decisions based on current data rather than pre-pandemic 2019 data. Moreover, once the 46th Street roundabout is completed, the entire traffic pattern along Farnam is likely to change.

The accident data provided by Public Works showed that there are more accidents on Farnam St. during the hours that the street is one-way, but that those accidents are primarily caused by high speeds and drivers running red lights. We do appreciate the change in traffic light timing that has recently been implemented, with longer wait times, allowing pedestrians to start crossing the street before cars are allowed to start—this has been a helpful and positive change.

In summary, the Dundee-Memorial Park Association Board continues to strongly support our proposed Alternative #4. This is how Farnam is most of each week—for 148 hours out of a 168 hour week, Alternative #4 is the reality, and it works very well. If there are traffic flow issues as a result of implementing Alternative #4 for the additional 20 hours per week that we are asking for, then other options could still be considered. If, as we anticipate, Alternative #4 is successful, solving Farnam's problems without costly new construction, we will have saved \$3 million of taxpayer money, prevented the loss of homeowner property as well as the removal of numerous mature trees, and will have preserved the beloved character and pedestrian-friendliness of our treasured neighborhood. Please join us in supporting the fiscally responsible Alternative #4, and DO NOT ALLOW THE PROPOSED ROUNDABOUTS TO PROCEED, by preventing approval of any and all requests for the allocation of City funding towards planning or implementing the roundabout project.

Sincerely,

John Ashford President, Dundee-Memorial Park Association 664 N. 56th St.Omaha NE 68132 johnnyash5@gmail.com (402) 779-6157

cc: Mayor Jean Stothert
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Memorial Park Celebrates 75 Years!

Friends and neighbors, this year marks 75 years of Omaha's World War II Memorial Park. As Jim McGee's previous articles demonstrated – the park's history is rich! It has been our privilege, alongside Jim McGee and Nick Manhart to study the city, Omaha World Herald, Durham, and library archives to continue to tell the park's story.

In correspondence dated February 20, 1946, the Executive Committee of the World War II Memorial Park Association wrote:

"Our boys and girls formed themselves into the most powerful military force of all time, and won a victory exceeding our fondest expectation. More than 30,000 went from this community. Nearly 800 will never return. The least we can do to show our appreciation is to build for them a living memorial, which they and all succeeding generations of beauty lovers will learn to visit and enjoy."

Continuing that vision into the next 75+ years, the Omaha Parks Foundation is working with the City of Omaha's Parks, Recreation, & Public Property department, architect Merle Rambo, and others on improvements to the park.

The most noticeable enhancement will be the addition of a plaza at the south side of the present circular drive at Memorial Park overlooking Dodge Street between the staircases. The plaza will create a long needed, ADA accessible, flexible gathering space complete with electricity, updated lighting, and potentially added security features. A similar concept was originally drawn by Leo A. Daly but not created due to funding constraints. The plaza was designed to complement the current layout and will mimic the facade of the colonnade and new landscaping will be planted. Construction of the new plaza is expected to begin in March.

The "first dance" on this new amenity will be a temporary art exhibit featuring the sculpture Embracing Peace by Seward Johnson. This truly larger than life sculpture will be on display in Omaha from May through November. The sculpture, inspired by the events of Victory over Japan (V-J) Day in 1945 reflects a sailor kissing a nurse similar to many iconic images of that jubilant day.

Additional improvements will include new flag poles, planting of roses bushes, and re-grading and sodding of parking areas.

Mark your calendars: a re-dedication of the park and celebration will take place on June 4, 2023, at 2:00 pm. This is one day shy of President Truman officially dedicating Memorial Park 75 years ago. Special guests will include Nebraska University System President Ted Carter; President Truman's eldest grandson, Clifton Truman Daniel; former Senator and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel; and Governor Jim Pillen. The event will something special that you don't want to miss!

An exhibit covering Memorial's rich history will be featured at the Durham Museum from Memorial Day to Labor Day. We were amazed at how much documentation was kept and want to share it with the community. The exhibit will include pictures of the land prior to the World War II Memorial Park Association being formed, the construction of the park, and what it's meant to the community of the last 75 years.

Just as our original founders saw a need to create Memorial Park 75 plus years ago, we look forward to sharing our park with future generations. Look for more information in upcoming March and April newsletters or visit omahaparksfoundation.org or scan the QR code below.

Omaha Parks Foundation







Dundee 4825 Dodge St.

Jamie A. Drake, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Jillyn A. Kratochvil, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Erin A. Loucks, M.D., F.A.A.P., I.B.C.L.C., R.L.C.
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Spring Cleanup Day Coming Soon!

Watch for details and the date for the Spring Neighborhood Cleanup in next months newsletter.





The Spring DMPA Garage Sale is Back!

Friday, May 12 Saturday, May 13 Sunday, May 14

The Annual Spring DMPA Garage Sale Is Coming Up! And it will be here before you know it. Start going through your closets, storage room, attic, garage and wherever else you have stashed all those goodies. All Dundee-Memorial Park Association members whose memberships are current are eligible to participate. You decide which dates to have your sale and set your own hours. The Association will promote the event with yard signs, advertising and a complete listing of sale locations on our website. DMPA is going back to just one garage sale per year, so get signed up soon.

SIGN UP ONLINE BY FRIDAY, APRIL 28 AT

www.dundee-memorialpark.org

Questions? Can't Get Signed Up Online? Call Mickey Harrington at 402-553-3143



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"\$280,000 "	4913 Burt Street	3	3	1	1.5 Story	"1,360"	
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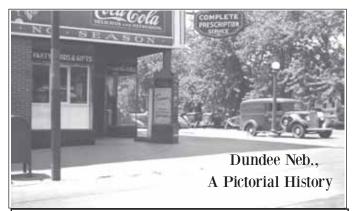
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