Luck of the Irish!

I received a great phone call the other day. Craig Moody rang, asking to grab a quick bite, and discuss some neighborhood “opportunities”. We met at Mark’s and got down to some serious business.

Amongst other things – the idea that seemed most exciting was around improving the creek scene on Happy Hollow. Specifically, we discussed the area on the south side of Dodge – near the round-about. It’s not surprising to see kids going down there frequently – especially in warmer months. Sometimes, older kids – like college aged and up are trekking down there. I’ve peeked down there a few times and noticed it’s pretty trashy. There’s not an easy way to navigate around – but it’s clearly a cool spot for some to go hang out. Leprechaun’s perhaps!

Now, I don’t think Craig’s proposing a multimillion dollar remodel of the creek area. Out of the gate, we’re not really shooting for a lodge, outdoor fire pit, and tree top lights; however, some basic clean-up is in order. Craig’s putting together a plan to make some improvements. If you have any ideas or would like to help, feel free to get in touch with him at: craig@verdisgroup.com. He would appreciate your thoughts and / or help.

Thanks Craig!

Remodel, Repair, Restore Your Home

The Restore Omaha Conference just wrapped up at the end of February and hopefully got you in the mood to fix up your house! Thanks to Restoration Exchange Omaha who with the help of many including Chris Foster and Martin Janousek put on this great event.

Heike and I did some serious updates to our 1919 bungalow style home last year. What started with an upstairs bathroom quickly grew to encompass almost every part of our house. Because the bathrooms are stacked above each other, we re-did both bathrooms, and then added a toilet to the basement. Now finished, I’m not sure which we like better – our “West Omaha” (modern) style shower, or the heated bathroom floor. Both are pretty cool and make our home so much more enjoyable. By the way, the floor heating was really very affordable!

The messiest part of the project and least expensive was actually the ceilings. After years of wear, and with beautiful “popcorn” styling, our ceilings were due to be replaced. Having all the ceilings in our home re-covered with drywall took about 3 days total – and about $3,000. Not bad compared to the bathrooms which ran closer to 4 weeks and $7,500 each.
Dundee-Memorial Park Association

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The biggest thing we learned through the updates, was that you need to plan everything out. Figure out what you want to do, what your budget is, and what order you need to follow. With old houses in particular, one project usually necessitates another, related one. It helps if you can tackle them all at once – but if not, know what else will be impacted. For help with planning or ideas, check out www.houzz.com. You can dream all day on this site.

The other most important part of updating your home is choosing a contractor to work with. Bill Kelly and Sara Nelson have revived the Old House Mechanic on our website to help you with recommendations. You will find the link under history / Architecture near the bottom. In addition, our March 9 meeting at Dundee Presbyterian Church will feature “The” original Old House Mechanic - Don Browsers and a small panel of recommended and notable handymen: Chris Oldenhuis, Dick Grace of Grace Plastering, and Jay Rybin of formerly Rybin Heating and Plumbing, now Eymen Plumbing. If you are having thoughts about making some improvements, join us for some free tips!

Our Library - the A.V. Sorensen Branch

Our neighborhood Library – the A.V. Sorensen Branch at 4808 Cass Street, has a new manager. Welcome Matt Couch who has been hired to replace Lucy Lewis who retired in December. We thank Deirdre Routt who is manger of the Florence Branch who has been serving as our interim manager. Matt just started at A.V. Sorensen at the beginning of March, so go easy on him. He’s also a neighbor and lives over on Harney Street near Happy Hollow Blvd with his wife Juliet Summers and their 1 year old son Teddy. You might even see him walking to work in the summer! We’re in good hands with Mr. Couch.

The Library is open 10-8pm on Tuesday and Thursday. Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday hours are 10-6pm. It is closed on Sunday and Monday. The recreation center is managed separately and has different hours. Call 444-5274 for more information.

Also - good news related to the Library: our neighborhood association has added Fran Teply to our board of directors in charge of the Library Committee. Many of you know that Kay Bashus had served in that role for many years. It’s no small task keeping the facility beautiful, raising funds to support the branch through Friends of the Library, and keeping the neighbors engaged. Fran is the right person for the job. She’s a retired schoolteacher and lives in the neighborhood just a short walk away.

Our City Councilmen Chris Jerram and Pete Festsersen were quick to offer congratulations and thanks to Matt, Lucy, Deirdre, Fran, and Kay. I am glad to pass that along. If you have any interest in the library and would like to talk to Fran, her email is fteply@yahoo.com.

Garage Sale Weekend

Raquel Ahlvers has locked in our Garage Sale weekend dates – May 15-17. You can fill out a form online at www.dundee-memorialpark.org to request participation in the neighborhood event. Remember, this weekend is when our neighborhood gets a little crazy. I think our garage sales have a good reputation around town. We will have lots of visitors in the neighborhood looking for a bargain or just cool stuff. Lock up your pets! If you need to reach Raquel, her email is as follows: Raquel.ahlvers@cox.net

Spring Clean-up will be in April or May. Wiff will let you know when we have dates!

It’s almost time to start running outside again. I can’t wait. Since Brad Ashford’s in Washington now, I wonder if his son John will be on the Happy Hollow running trail? Any which way, I’ll see you around 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. For up to the minute action – “like” our facebook page – www.facebook/Dundee Memorial Park Neighborhood Association.

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Serving Dundee for Over 30 Years
Flower Basket Planting Needs More Volunteers!

The Dundee neighborhood will once again look beautiful this spring with hanging baskets of flowers throughout the business and residential areas, BUT we still need a LOT more volunteers for planting the baskets at Indian Creek Nursery on Fri. March 20 & Sat. March 21. Planting is from 10-3, and lunch will be provided by neighborhood restaurants. This is a great opportunity to do a good turn for the neighborhood and get to know your neighbors. This all-volunteer effort depends on the involvement of people like you!

This is our 13th year of planting and hanging the flower baskets. The baskets, filled with red begonias, are part of what makes our Dundee neighborhood so charming, and one of the top livable neighborhoods in the country. Please help us keep this wonderful tradition going!

If you can help on either (or both) days, contact Mary Green at megreen4@cox.net, or (402) 556-1830, or you can sign up on our website at www.dundee-memorialpark.org. Thank you for helping keep Dundee in flowers!

Mary Green, Flower Basket Chair

Community Garden:
Free Gardening Workshop and Spring Groundbreaking

Spring is just around the corner, and we’re gearing up for gardening! We will be hosting our annual workshop “What to Plant and When,” on Sat. March 28, 10-11 a.m. This workshop is for the beginning gardener and gives an overview of vegetable gardening basics, including soil preparation, starting from seeds vs. from starter plants, and how to grow healthy plants.

The workshop is free and open to the public (refreshments provided!) so please join us if you would like to learn more about how to get started growing vegetables. Due to construction at the Sorenson Center, we will be meeting at the Dundee Dell at 5007 Underwood.

Weather permitting, we will also be kicking off the gardening season with a spring groundbreaking at the garden on March 28. We’ll plant our cool-season crops: greens such as lettuce, spinach, and kale; and also radishes, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, and peas.

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DMPA Page 6
Subway Project On Track

Fundraising for the Dodge Street Subway continues to go very well. It is not too late to become a part of this project by making a financial donation. Donations can be made online at www.dundee-memorialpark.org or by mailing a check payable to DMPA to Dave Schinzel, 319 South 50th Avenue, Omaha, NE. 68132. DMPA was awarded in February a $750 grant for the project from the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance’s Mini-Grant Program which is generously funded annually by Security National Bank.

Leo A. Daly Co is in the process of finalizing the plan for the new energy efficient lighting and concrete repair. Students at Dundee School have been working on a mural design since January as part of the after school enrichment program. Art education students from UNO have been doing a great job leading the mural design work. DMPA is very appreciative of all of the help UNO has given on this project.

When completed, this will be another great neighborhood landmark for Dundee.

Dundee-Memorial Park Association Wishes to Thank Those Who Have Donated to the Subway Project

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One of the great, unsung pleasures of old house living is watching a winter storm out the window while you’re sitting on a toasty-warm radiator. Until we bought our old house I never fully appreciated the many pleasures of hot water heat. Compared with forced air heat: it’s even, it doesn’t wring so much moisture out of the air, and (although I haven’t attempted to prove this scientifically) I believe it’s more efficient.

But there are disadvantages, not the least of which are the radiators themselves. Those big chunks of cast iron are, for all intents and purposes, another piece of furniture in every room. When the paint on them becomes chipped, scarred, discolored or just doesn’t match your décor, you have to do something about it.

Just how do you repaint a radiator? There are three approaches to spiffing up radiators: covering them up, adding another coat of paint, and stripping down to bare metal and then repainting.

You can purchase ready-made radiator covers. For sources google "radiator covers". However, the ones I’ve seen advertised are fabricated from sheet metal and I just don’t think they are very attractive. Plus the cost can be significant. If you have fair to middling woodworking skills you can build a cover which can more closely match the rest of your woodwork. You can find easy-to-follow plans on the Internet. Just be sure to allow open space at the base for cool air to be pulled toward the radiator and air vents or lattice work at the top for the warmed air back into the room.

Another plus for a radiator cover is you can make the top a window seat or a place to display items. For some radiators I have built a simple cap to provide some additional places to put things. This is especially helpful in small bathrooms.

If the base coat of paint on your radiator is solid and not peeling away you may be able to get by with just prepping the surface and repainting.

To prep the radiator, wash it thoroughly to remove any grease or dirt. TSP (Tri-Sodium Phosphate) or some other strong degreaser is recommended. Use a medium grit sandpaper to feather out any paint chips. To assure a solid bond lightly sanding the whole radiator is a good idea, but frankly, on the odd shaped radiator vanes a real pain in the butt. I have had good luck using a sanding prep solution (available at any hardware store). Wiping the surfaces with this solvent etches the surface to provide a good bond for the new paint. As with all strong chemicals wear rubber gloves and eye protection and make sure you have lots of ventilation.

Spot prime any bare metal and you’re ready for the topcoat. You have several application options. You can use canned spray paint, but take the time to mask off a wide area around the radiator. Even paintbrushes will give you satisfactory results. You’ll need a lot of patience if you select this option. (Patience has never been one of my virtues. “Lord, give me patience and give it to me RIGHT NOW”.) A special long handled radiator brush will make it easier to reach down between the radiator fins and to get behind the radiator.

As for what kind of paint to use, I have only used alkyd (oil base) paints. If you are considering other types of paint, I suggest you talk with experts at the paint or hardware store and tell them what you plan to do and ask for their advice.

A common myth is that too many layers of paint will reduce the heating efficiency of a radiator, According to my research this just isn’t true with one exception. Metallic paints apparently reduce the ability of the radiator to transfer heat, so you may want to avoid those kinds of paint.

But what if your radiators are really bad? They are rusty? Or the paint is very badly chipped? Or the paint is wrinkled and flaking off (probably because oil and latex paints were applied on top of each other)? Then you’ll have to face the music and strip the radiator to bare metal—a time consuming and unappealing task to be sure.

Connections
For an online archive of previous articles go to: http://www.dundee-memorialpark.org/
REMINDER
It’s that time of year again!

Friday, May 15th
Saturday, May 16th
Sunday, May 17th

Deadline to sign up is Monday, May 4th

DMPA Annual Garage Sale Weekend will be here before you know it. Start going through your closets, storage room, attic, garage and wherever else you have “stored” all those goodies.

Make 2015 the year to get organized!

www.dundee-memorialpark.org

If you don’t have Internet access & can’t sign up online, please email me the information w/ the subject line “DMPA SALE” or fill this out & mail it to me @ 312 S 54th St. Omaha, NE 68132

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Any questions, please contact Raquel Ahlvers #402.301.7653 - raquel.ahlvers@cbshome.com
Programs subject to change—visit omahalibrary.org for updates.

**Kids’ Programs**

**Minecraft Club** - Tuesdays, March 3 & 17 | 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 | 10:30 AM
Parents & babies will enjoy this program with rhyming games, puppets, songs & musical instruments.

**Fit Club** - Saturday, March 7 | 2 PM
Have fun while working out! Play video games that will get your heart pumping.

**Movie Day: 101 Dalmatians** - Tuesday, March 10 | 1 PM
Enjoy popcorn while watching a movie about what happens when an evil villain kidnaps a litter of puppies.

**Movie Day: Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day** - Friday, March 13 | 1 PM
Enjoy popcorn while watching a movie based on the book ‘Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.’

**Peter Rabbit Visits Sorensen Branch** - Wednesday, March 11 | 10:30 AM
Peter Rabbit wants to meet the kids at Sorensen Branch, so he’s joining us for a special storytime! Remember your camera!

**Lego Club** - Wednesdays, March 11 & 25 | 4:30 PM
Use your imagination to build anything you want with Legos. Snack provided.

**St Patrick’s Day Craft for Kids** - Thursday, March 12 | 2 PM
Have fun creating a St. Patrick’s Day Craft! Registration required.

**Teen Programs**

**Teen Tech Time** - March 10-14 | 4:30 PM
Celebrate Teen Tech Week by stopping by the Library & experimenting with cool technology like Cubelets & a 3-D Printing Pen.

**Game Time: Wii U** - Saturday, March 14 | 2-4 PM
Have fun with your friends playing games on the Library’s Wii U.

**Teen Advisory Board** - Saturday, March 21 | 2 PM
Enjoy snacks & refreshments while discussing issues and helping out at the Library!

**Gr. 6-12 Teen Lock-In** - Friday, March 27 | 6-9 PM
Hang out with your friends at the Library while enjoying food and refreshments. Have fun playing Wii & Xbox 360 Kinect games. Registration is required as well as a signed parental permission slip.

**DIY Terrariums for Teens** - Saturday, March 28 | 2 PM
Create your own terrarium or glitter globe. All supplies included. Registration required.

**Adult Programs**

**Under the Dundee Sun Book Club** - Tuesday, March 3 | 4:30 PM

**Sorensen Readers Book Club** - Saturday, March 7 | 1 PM

**Technology Corner** - Tuesdays, March 10 & 24 | 6:30 PM
Receive assistance with uploading a resume, downloading an eBook or free music, creating an email account, or almost anything else technology related—for free. Our tech savvy staff is here to help. Registration required.

**Social Security Strategies** - Thursday, March 19 | 6:30 PM
Learn how to make the most of your Social Security decision and how to integrate with your other retirement income sources. Registration required.

**Plains Pages Book Club** - Saturday, March 21 | 1 PM

**Retirement Income Planning** - Tuesday, March 24 | 6:30 PM
Learn how to manage risks while creating a paycheck from your accumulated assets for the rest of your life. Registration required.

**Long Term Care** - Thursday, March 26 | 6:30 PM
Learn several strategies for obtaining coverage for the high cost of care in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and in-home care services. Registration required.
Dundee-Memorial Park Association

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