

# Midtown Monitor



Serving Midtown Omaha neighborhoods

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Online... check out [www.midtownmonitor.com](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)

## Roof-Top Garden at Marks

### Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme

Having become accustomed to valuing every square inch of space, Mark Pluhacek, founder and co-owner of Marks Bistro in Dundee, hungrily eyed the flat roof top with access from the second floor and envisioned a garden that could provide Marks' kitchen with fresh tomatoes and a wide selection of herbs, including all of those of Simon and Garfunkle fame – parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme. Now in its second year, the garden is flourishing, as are Mark's skills as a roof-top gardener. Even though this year's late spring arrival gave him a late start, the first roof-top tomatoes were harvested in mid-July, with the fresh herbs in use since June.

Mark designed and built the garden boxes and watering system, assuring that the plants would relish the hot, mid-summer sun and grow to their maximum potential. With help from his wife, Kristin, and son, Leo, he planted the boxes in May and has nursed them along with great care.

It is not unusual for passersby on the sidewalk to catch a glimpse of Chef James Davis harvesting the freshest basil, thyme, rosemary and parsley for his culinary creations. Using the herbs in many of his specials, he also uses them daily in regular menu items such as the bruschetta, caprese salad, and mussels, not to mention bartender, Tim Kelly's, use of the freshly harvested mint in his popular mojitos.

When passing by Marks, take a look up and see how the garden grows – you may catch a glimpse of Mark tending his garden or Chef James reaping the harvest.



View of roof top garden from street level.



Mark tending the garden



Chef James Davis harvesting herbs.



Mark tending the garden.

# Joslyn Castle Literary Festival

All events are at the Joslyn Castle unless noted.

## August 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7, 2013 – 7 p.m.

Scott and Zelda: Drama Duet – a dynamic dual theatrical evening - half with Zelda and half with F. Scott - get both sides of the story

The one-woman drama about Zelda Fitzgerald is "The Last Flapper." It is written by William Luce (who wrote "The Belle of Amherst" and "Bronte" which was the drama from the 2011 Joslyn Castle Literary Festival) and stars Jill Anderson.

"Expensive Jazz" is a world-premiere drama commissioned for the festival. The one-man show is written by Brendan Kelly and stars him. The drama will run nightly, August 1 through August 7. Tickets \$30.

## August 9 and 10, 2013 – 7 p.m.

The Speakeasy - This evening of dance, flappers, music, hooch and frivolity rounds out the festival in a colorful celebration of all that made the 20s roar! Performance and Fitzgerald readings add texture. Password is required for entry. Tickets \$75.

## August 10, 2013 at 2 pm and 5 pm

at Opera Omaha, 1850 Farnam Street  
Gatsby Goes to the Opera -- Another exciting musical collaboration with Opera Omaha involves selections from John Harbison's 1999 opera based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel The Great Gatsby. Tickets \$20 for general public; \$15 for members of Joslyn Castle or Opera Omaha subscribers

Tickets to all events can be purchased online at [www.joslyncastle.com](http://www.joslyncastle.com) or call 402-595-2199

THE 2013 JOSLYN CASTLE LITERARY FESTIVAL

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# END OF SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

FRIDAYS | AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 27 | 7 PM  
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AUGUST 23

BILLY MCGUIGAN

AUGUST 30

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SEPTEMBER 6

CHARLIE WORSHAM &  
ERIC PASLAY

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## Backyard Gardening with Permaculture Gus

When: Thursday, August 22nd from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
 Where: Paparazzi by Appointment (4871 NW Radial Hwy.)

Join the Sierra Club for a look at a demonstration permaculture garden. Meet behind Gustave von Roenn's studio, Paparazzi by Appointment, in the Benson neighborhood. The backyard of the studio features a small garden with many permaculture design features. In other words, it is designed for sustainability. Learn about permaculture from Gus, and see first-hand how it works. Sierra Club programs are free and open to the public.

For more information, visit: <http://sierranebraska.org>



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## City Leaders use the “Good Neighbor” Ordinance

Ongoing alcohol-related problems at the edge of the Old Market prompted the Omaha City Council to use the “Good Neighbor” ordinance for the first time earlier this month. The ordinance, approved by the council in 2012, uses the city’s zoning powers to set conditions around alcohol-sales establishments that better reflect our community standards, and allows the city more authority to address problem outlets. The standards simply encourage businesses to be a good neighbor by not adversely affecting or jeopardizing the public health, peace or safety of persons residing, working or using the surrounding area.

This summer, police officers have had to deal with several incidents involving bar patrons that have all been located near 11th and Farnam, where the restaurant and bar Maria Sangria serves food during the day and early evenings, but becomes a nightclub on some nights. The recent violence and crime in the Old Market raised the concern of many about the area’s high density of alcohol outlets, and the outlet-related incidents that created community havoc and drained our city’s police resources. The business will have the opportunity to clean up their business practices and abate the nuisances by adhering to acts set forth by the City Planning Department within the specified time frame. If they don’t abate the nuisance as directed, the city council will have the ability to suspend or revoke the certificate of occupancy.

The City’s first use of the “Good Neighbor” ordinance sends a strong message to all alcohol-sales establishments across the city – you have a responsibility to be a good neighbor, and the city is taking alcohol-related problems seriously in an effort to improve public health and safety, reduce crime, and provide cost savings to the taxpayers of the city.

We continue to be focused on ensuring that the city uses this valuable policy tool. We are asking neighborhood representatives to help us document any problems they are having with alcohol-sales businesses in their areas. With this documentation, we can help the city craft a process that will help city leadership quickly and efficiently address problems related to alcohol-sales establishments before they get out of hand. To learn more

about LOCAL, the “Good Neighbor” ordinance or to report problems related to an alcohol-sales establishment, check out our website at [www.thelocalcampaign.com](http://www.thelocalcampaign.com).



## Tour de Garden – Community Garden Bicycle Tour

Sunday September 1st, 2013 9AM-12pm  
Post ride garden party at Benson Community Garden starting at 12pm  
[www.tourdegarden.com](http://www.tourdegarden.com)



The first Tour de Garden was held in September of 2012 and was inspired by a conversation at a National League of Cities meeting in Chicago about the vibrant cycling community of Portland and the thriving community gardens in Omaha. The discussion focused on how those two community strengths (community gardens and bicycle transportation) both empower a city and can complement each other. From there the concept of a bike ride tour of community gardens was hatched. The first ride featured seven community gardens (Benson Community Garden, The Big Garden, City Sprouts, Dundee Community Garden, Farnam Farm, Gifford Park Community Garden, and Hands to Harvest Community Garden). Riders were welcomed at each garden by a range of refreshments and were able to tour the garden space and learn more about it. Tour de Garden 2013 scheduled for Sunday, September 1st 2013 will include additional sites, a salsa contest, have a raffle, and a post-ride party at Benson Community Garden! It is meant to be a fun ride celebrating community, cycling and urban agriculture. Hop on your saddle and join us for a one-of-a-kind bicycle adventure, visiting some of Omaha’s finest community gardens. [www.tourdegarden.com](http://www.tourdegarden.com)



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# Green Omaha Coalition

## Heartland Commuter Challenge

**When:** Thursday, August 1st through  
Saturday, August 31st  
from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Omaha-Council Bluffs Area

The Heartland Commuter Challenge is an alternative transportation challenge for Omaha-Council Bluffs area employees. This is a biking, bus, carpool and walking challenge aimed at educating the public about alternative transportation and rewarding those who already use it! Participants log commutes to be eligible for weekly raffles, grand prizes and to help compete for the company prize!

For more information and complete competition instructions, visit:  
[www.heartlandcommuterchallenge.com](http://www.heartlandcommuterchallenge.com)

## Summer Is In Session

An international public art project will hit Omaha from Aug. 24-Sept. 8, produced by Omaha Creative Institute. The event, called Play Me, I'm Yours, features 10 pianos located across the metro that have been designed and decorated by area artists. Passersby can enjoy the pianos and play whatever they like during daylight hours.

### Play Me I'm Yours

**Where:** Omaha Metro Area, Omaha, NE (US).  
**Date:** Aug 24, 2013 - Sep 08, 2013  
**Time:** 12:01 AM - 11:59 PM

**Event description:**  
Play Me, I'm Yours is an international, interactive public art project that originated in the United Kingdom from artist Luke Jerram.

#### .INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:

[OmahaCreativeInstitute.org](http://OmahaCreativeInstitute.org)

#### QUESTIONS:

[Rebecca@OmahaCreativeInstitute.org](mailto:Rebecca@OmahaCreativeInstitute.org) or 785.218.3061

# Benson Community Garden Event

## Community Garden seeks Bands, Silent Auction items for annual Oktoberfest celebration

For their third year, the Benson Community Garden will present "Benson Oktoberfest" in September. This year the group scheduled the event for Saturday, September 14th starting at 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$10, which includes live music, bratwurst, side dishes, a silent auction and more. German beer and refreshments will be available in their enclosed biergarten tent. All ages are welcome, but those under 21 years of age must be accompanied by a parent.

"We are booking local musicians and bands to entertain the attendees," said Kurt Goetzinger, garden founder. "For our silent auction, we are seeking local businesses to donate items and gift certificates."

Funds raised from the Oktoberfest event will support outreach and programming at the garden.

Founded in 2011, the Benson Community Garden has become one of Omaha's more active and notable community gardens. The space includes 36 plots for individuals to grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables. In 2012 the organization started the "Neighbor Garden" which features nearly 400 square feet of vegetables for area residents. An "Earth Stage" was built to provide a venue for live music, cooking demonstrations and more.

Traditionally, Oktoberfest is a 16-day festival celebrating beer held annually in Munich, Bavaria, Germany. Running from late September to the first weekend in October. It is one of the most famous events in Germany and is the world's largest fair, with more than 6 million people from around the world attending the event every year.

**WHAT:** Benson Oktoberfest  
**WHEN:** Saturday, September 14, 2013  
**WHERE:** Benson Community Garden,  
1302 North 60th  
**WHY:** Nonprofit Fundraiser  
**WHO:** Open to all residents  
**INFO:** [goetzinger2@cox.net](mailto:goetzinger2@cox.net)

# Midtown Churches

## God is not a jerk.

"We proclaim that God is inclusive and loving and liberating and still speaking."

– The Rev. Dr. E. Scott Jones,  
June 2, 2013

*No matter who you are, or where you are  
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SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
Adult discussion group: 9:10 a.m.  
Music & message for all ages: 10:30 a.m.



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## Events

These Open Forums are free and open to the public, and will be held at First Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located in midtown at the corner of 36th and Harney Streets, at 9:10 a.m. on the dates noted. For more information, you may call 402-345-1533.

### August 4, 11, and 18 Rev. What Does It Mean?

How we read (and write) is changing. Again. Books to e-readers, letters to text messages. Harold Bloom wrote, "We read to find ourselves, more fully and more strange than otherwise we could hope to find." We read looking for meaning, but this is not as straightforward as it seems. There is an entire discipline, called hermeneutics devoted to our search for meaning in the way we read, understand, and interpret texts, particularly the Bible. We'll explore all these topics and more by reading and discussing the provocative book *A Short Introduction to Hermeneutics* by David Jasper. Led by Rev. Dr. Scott Jones, Senior Minister at First Central

### August 4: The Rise of Liberalism

If I bring my own feelings to reading, or the latest historical and scientific information, then what I believe about the Bible, especially, will change. Following developments in the sciences and the Romantic age, we understood ourselves and world differently and, in the process, reading became a threat to traditional interpretations of scripture.

### August 11: Things Fall Apart

The Twentieth Century was not a liberal triumph, but saw the rise of fundamentalisms and global violence, while technology brought us into the age of mass media. Modernism collapsed, leaving some wondering "Is meaning even possible?" Did we reach the end of interpretation?

### August 18: A Web of Endless Intertextuality

"What is quite clear is that texts do not live in isolation from one another and that to read one text is a kind of gateway into all other texts that have gone before and that will come after it." We enjoy (or are trapped in?) a variety of postmodernisms and a widely expanding concept of texts that includes film, television, and cyberspace. Is there meaning in this labyrinth?

**We'd Like to Hear From You ...** If you are located in midtown and have events, fundraisers or other news of interest to Midtown residents and businesses, please send it to

**[midtownmonitor.omaha@gmail.com](mailto:midtownmonitor.omaha@gmail.com)**

Please try to send **at least one month in advance** of event whenever possible.

**Check our website for even more midtown events [www.midtownmonitor.com](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)**

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\$105,000	6472 Pierce St	3	1	1	Mlti-Lvl	1,532
\$110,000	816 S 50 St	3	2	0	2 Story	1,644
\$115,000	5145 Woolworth	2	2	1	R Ranch	1,932
\$127,000	2148 S 62 St	3	1	1	1.5 Story	1,404
\$135,000	1703 S 58 St	3	2	1	1.5 Story	1,306
\$140,000	1305 S 55 Ave	3	2	1	Ranch	1,793
\$145,000	5627 Hickory St	2	2	1	Ranch	1,535
\$145,000	110 S 50th Ave	4	3	3	2.5 Story	2,168
\$165,000	306 S 49th Ave	2	1	2	2 Story	1,336
\$178,000	5805 Rees	3	2	1	1.5 Story	1,670
\$185,000	532 S 55 St	3	1	1	2.5 Story	1,604
\$190,000	313 S 52 St	2	2	2	2 Story	1,982
\$221,490	307 S 51st St	4	2	0	2.5 Story	2,395
\$257,000	5606 Emile St	4	2	2	2.5 Story	2,37
\$269,500	308 S 52nd St	3	3	2	2.5 Story	2,619
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The next MBA meeting will be Sept 25th, 2013

**Speaker**-Molly Romero- Dundee BID and Streetscape  
Noon, UNMC private dining room, just \$10. for lunch.  
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