

Midtown Monitor

Serving Midtown Omaha neighborhoods

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Online... check out www.midtownmonitor.com

Neighborhood Elementary School ?

T

There is a renewed effort by the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) and surrounding neighborhoods to bring back a neighborhood school to the Gifford Park neighborhood where children can walk to school and receive all the positive benefits of having a neighborhood school close by. As some of you know, in 1999 our neighborhood school, Yates Elementary at 32nd & Davenport Street, was closed by OPS because the building was too small to handle the number of children in our neighborhood. Currently of the 353 Yates attendance area children in grades K-6, 165 are assigned to Kellom School, and 188 of our children are bused to 39 different schools in the district.

With new OPS Board members and a new Superintendent developing a strategic plan for the first time in years, there is a great opportunity for OPS leadership to look at several options for making this happen. In conversations with OPS, the GPNA has floated several scenarios that could possibly work for a neighborhood school.

1. Re-open Yates (may require expansion, purchasing adjacent properties, use of nearby vacant properties);
2. Use the old Tech High School/TAC building and perhaps accommodate not only pre-K through 6th grades, it would likely be able to have pre-K through 8th grades. The old Tech High School/TAC building has lots of space, and current adult administration and staff could be relocated.
3. Build a new school (on land owned by OPS and Alegent-Creighton currently occupied by several large parking lots between 30th to 32nd St. and California to Burt St).

There are many benefits to having a school near to where students live in and around Gifford Park: it is good for children, families and a stronger community; it affords more parent involvement-an absolutely vital piece to a child's success; it offers participation in before & after school programs closer to home; it is healthier physically to walk; it offers students a chance to build better relationships with neighborhood and community leaders; it weaves a "web" of neighborhood safety and ownership; there are better opportunities to partner with Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA), local businesses and institutions; and we believe students who live near their school take more pride and ownership in not only their school but also in their neighborhood.

Parent participation in school activities creates limitless opportunities for mentorship and leadership (in fact the GPNA was formed by Yates PTA board members in 1988...and until OPS closed Yates, it was the longest running active PTA in Nebraska). A neighborhood school is the lifeblood of a community.

Surrounding neighborhoods would likely benefit from adding a neighborhood school including Joslyn Castle neighborhood (Yates attendance area includes a part of their neighborhood, and OPS closed their former neighborhood school Saunders in the 1980's), Dundee neighborhood (could relieve Dundee School overcrowding), and other neighborhoods surrounding the Gifford Park neighborhood, including Bemis Park. Letters of support to bring back a neighborhood school in the Gifford Park neighborhood have been sent to OPS from the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association, Dundee Memorial Park Neighborhood Association, and Midtown Neighborhood Alliance.



Yates School today

Continued on page

Home and Away: Recent Paintings
Judith Welk



Opening Reception | Friday, November 1, 6-9pm
Exhibition | November 1-17, 2013

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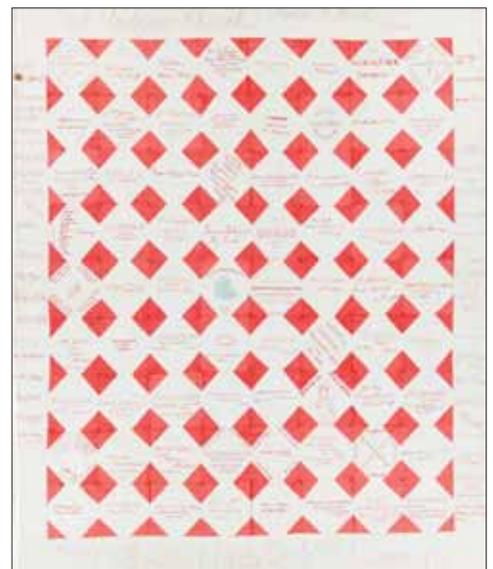
Sometimes a Quilt Isn't Just a Bed Cover

Does your buggy or your carriage need new bearings? Would you like a new soft Stetson hat? How about a cure for stammering? Or a load of coal to heat your home? An 1898 “commerce” quilt top which recently revealed itself in the archives of First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney Street, offers these goods and services, and much more, to be had in downtown Omaha. Back then, when a dollar bought a whole lot more than it does today, you might have bought your groceries at the Buffett store rather than Wohlner’s. At that time present-day Midtown was a good bit west of center.

In 1898, just as now, through good times and bad, through growth and recession, people’s economic, social, religious, and technological lives were changing. First Unitarian Church was then located at 17th and Cass Streets, and as was frequently the case, in need of funds. A group of members, Ladies Circle #1, decided it would mount a money-raising project by soliciting donations, receipts for which were to appear on a quilt, done in then-popular “red work.” Many of the white muslin and Turkey red snowball blocks advertised local businesses and their addresses, and even a four-digit telephone number or two, embroidered in red. Today, some of the names of individuals who bought blocks appear as street names or are recognizable in other ways.

The quilt, which has been restored, is a fascinating historical artifact of 1898 life in Omaha. On Saturday, December 7, from 10 AM to 2 PM, First Unitarian Church will welcome the public to see it. The following day, services will be a celebration of women’s work, and quilts as history and art. Following the second service which starts at 11:15 AM, the quilt will be presented as a gift to the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln.

Come to see this fascinating bit from Omaha’s past, and enjoy a peek into the life of the city 115 years ago.



Miracle
ON FARNAM

NOVEMBER 23
to **JANUARY 1**

www.miracleonfarnam.com

Omaha's most celebrated holiday tradition is back for a second season. Stroll in the glow of sparkling lights, dine at one of our four-star restaurants and tour the dazzling *Miracle on Farnam* window displays! Bring your family, invite your friends and celebrate the season at Midtown Crossing!

Omaha Creative Institute

Sketch, Paint and Party

November Schedule

Nov. 2, 10 a.m.-noon: WATERCOLOR with Madalyn Bruning at Omaha Creative Institute (\$35)

Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-noon: TRAVEL JOURNALING AND SKETCHING with Nancy Lepo at Omaha Creative Institute (\$35)

Nov. 12, 6 p.m.: OMAHA CREATIVE INSTITUTE PATRON PARTY at a private residence (\$125)

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:
OmahaCreativeInstitute.org

QUESTIONS:
Rebecca@OmahaCreativeInstitute.org or 785.218.3061

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:
OmahaCreativeInstitute.org

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(Except Holidays)

The Eclectic Book Review Club,

organized Oct 11, 1949, continues this season at the Omaha Field Club, 3615 Woolworth Avenue. A noon lunch will be followed by the 12:30 review.

Creighton University Journalism professor Eileen Wirth will review her book From Society Page to Front Page, NE Women in Journalism at the November 19th meeting.

To reserve your seat, call Rita at 402-553-3147. Reservation deadline Monday morning prior to the Tuesday meeting. Lunches are \$13.00.

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Please thank them for their support!**

Elementary School Cont. from page 1

Kellom is currently our neighborhood school – it's very unsafe for children to walk (they must cross 30th St, under I-480, 24th St, Cuming...another equally dangerous route is to walk under the Cuming St overpass with little room for error, then Hamilton, over the I-480 bridge, 30th St, 24th St.)

It is more difficult to attract homeowners and families into a neighborhood without a close neighborhood school. In order for any neighborhood to be safe, strong and vibrant, especially an inner city neighborhood, it needs to have a strong number of invested homeowners.

For more information on this effort, please contact:
Chris Foster (GPNA Board member): 402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net
Marque Snow (OPS Board member): 605-675-9251, marque.snow@ops.org

**View Updates and Other
Community Affairs /Calendar Listings
Online at www.midtownmonitor.com**

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New SculpuSend all articles for submission and press releases to (Preferred) e-mail to ellenshurson@gmail.com or mail Shurson Publishing, 131 N. 31 Ave, Omaha, NE 68131, to arrive by the 1st of the month preceding publication. Please send articles as Word documents with photo as separate TIFF or JPEG attachments. Content may be edited for clarity and space considerations. No warranties of the products or services printed herein are expressed or implied by Shurson Publishing. Shurson Publishing reserves the right to reject unsuitable advertising or articles.

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Colorful Cuisine at the Zephyr Lily Café

4950 Dodge St. – 402-932-9971

ZephyLilyCafe.com

By Quinn Scahill

When I walked into the Zephyr Lily the first thing that caught my eye was the tile flooring – yes, the flooring. It consisted of a vibrant mosaic stretching the entire span of the restaurant, snaking right into the rest-rooms and through the kitchen. A floor may seem like an odd thing to notice about a restaurant, but even such a mundane aspect says a lot about Zephyr Lily.

First, it's colorful. The local art that drapes the walls of the dining area is immediately eye-catching, and the restaurant's aim to create a local, communal dining spot is clearly conveyed with the arrangement of tables, chairs, and sofas. The size of the restaurant is just right, not too large and crowded, yet not too small and stuffy. It makes for a quaint, unassuming dining experience. Also, reservations can be made for dinner parties or other special events like art shows.

Now...about the food: as you might have guessed, it's just as colorful as the flooring, and like the Zephyr Lily, it's built from the ground up. What I mean is, the Zephyr Lily buys from local, organic gardens whenever possible. Everything is fresh, creative, and yes – colorful. Even better, the meals are affordable, running anywhere from \$9 to \$13.

The menu at the Zephyr Lily mirrors the gardens where their food comes from, changing seasonally and even weekly. The menu offers sandwiches like grilled

pork tenderloin with raspberry mustard and feta, an array of sliders including an avocado-bacon meatloaf slider, and entrees such as Jambalaya or Wild Mushroom Risotto. The menu is also very manageable; it's not too large to leave you indecisive, yet not too small to keep you unsatisfied. Carnivores, vegetarians and vegans will all surely find something palatable on this atypical menu.

The Zephyr Lily draws its name from the Zephyranthes candida flower, which is known for its remarkable ability to recreate itself in a new form every season. The café is similar in its attempt to serve colorful, organic fare that matches the seasonal offerings.

The owner, G.K. Gammon, was a former executive chef at Espana and V. Mertz, and he specializes in handcrafted cuisines. With the Zephyr Lily he hopes to create a flavor profile that he can call his own, and offer it at an affordable price.

The Zephyr Lily is in the process of acquiring a liquor license, so you must bring your own beer & wine for now, but even after the license is acquired you may bring your own beverages in. Corkage, at least for the time being, is free as well.

Open from 11:30am-9pm Mon-Fri
Saturday 11:30am-4:30pm



Green Omaha Coalition

2013 Green Home Tour & Smart Energy Expo - NEW!

Green Home Tour

When: Saturday, November 9th 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tour seven homes in the greater Omaha region, from recently completed homes by Charles Thomas Homes, Dwell Omaha, and Doug Kiser Construction, to remodels by homeowners in Bellevue and downtown. A variety of new construction, remodels, and even green remodels under-way will be featured.

Smart Energy Expo

When: Sunday, November 10th 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Millard Lumber (12900 I St.)

The Green Omaha Coalition is happy to partner with the Omaha World-Herald to host a Smart Energy Expo in coordination with the 2013 Green Home Tour. This event will create awareness of products and services available that add value, save money and promote energy efficiency for your home and lifestyle. Better choices will add value to your home – achieving greater comfort, a healthier and safer home, while also saving energy costs. The GOC supports taking small steps toward a greener Omaha, keeping your comfort, health and budget in mind. The event will feature exhibitors who are industry leaders in their respective category.

To participate in the Smart Energy Expo, please contact Tam Webb at tam.webb@owh.com.

Heartland 2050 Regional Visioning Workshops

Douglas County

When: Tuesday, November 5th from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Burke High School (12200 Burke St.)

Midtown Neighborhood Workshop

When: November 7, 2013, Doors will open at 5:30 pm with programming from 6:00–8:30 pm. Food and drinks will be provided to attendees.

Where: Midtown Omaha Lewis & Clark Middle School (6901 Burt Street, Omaha, NE)

Join Heartland 2050 for the Douglas County Regional Visioning Workshop. Have the opportunity to have your voice heard in a discussion about how we want Douglas County, as well as the entire region, to grow to the year 2050. Food and drinks will be provided.

Also, don't miss out on the neighborhood workshops happening in Downtown Omaha, South Omaha, East Pottawattamie County, Midtown Omaha, and Northeast Omaha.

For more information, visit:
<http://heartland2050.org/events/>

Miracle on Farnam

It is a throwback to the past – and an eye-catching preview of what is to come at Midtown Crossing this holiday season. The creative team at The Durham Museum has designed, installed and unveiled what can be deemed the year's first Miracle on Farnam window display. Located on the promenade between Crave and Cantina Laredo, the window is a six-panel tribute to the old Brandeis department store tradition of imaginative displays, an inspiration for Midtown Crossing's season-long Miracle on Farnam celebration. The display features four replica windows from the Brandeis store (with historical insights) and two center panels promoting Miracle on Farnam 2013 sponsored by the Baer Foundation.

Back in the day, a holiday trip to the ten-story Brandeis Building, 16th & Douglas St., was a must so the crowds could gaze at the intricately-designed window displays, especially the animated scenes. Afterward, they would head up to Toyland, an entire 10th floor devoted to Christmas.

In the Brandeis tradition, Midtown Crossing's Miracle on Farnam will showcase the artistry and imagination of at least 20 of Omaha's most respected arts and cultural organizations. The most miraculous display, determined by a public vote, will earn a \$3000 donation courtesy of the Baer Foundation, a philanthropic endeavor that generously supports various charities, including Nebraska arts and educational agencies.

The Baer connection to Miracle on Farnam takes on added significance with a little historic context. The late Alan Baer's great grandfather, Jonas L. Brandeis, founded Omaha's J.L. Brandeis & Sons Department Store.

"With Miracle on Farnam, a cherished holiday – and family – tradition has returned to Omaha. We are thrilled to be a part of the celebration and the warm memories to come," said Ted Baer, Alan Baer's son and Foundation president. "We look forward to seeing the rich ways some of Omaha's most creative minds are going to express themselves."

Miracle on Farnam debuts at dusk on Saturday, November 23, an evening that will also include the perennial debut of Midtown Crossing's holiday lights and a fireworks spectacular. The displays will be available for viewing every day from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. through New Year's Day. It is all free to the public, three hours of garage parking included.

Water Conservation in Your Home

1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.

2. Don't use the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or other small bit of trash, five to seven gallons of water is wasted.

3. Check your toilets for leaks Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

4. Use your water meter to check for hidden water leaks Read the house water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

5. Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators Inexpensive water-saving low-flow shower heads or restrictors are easy for the homeowner to install. Also, long, hot showers can use five to ten gallons every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off. "Low-flow" means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute. You can easily install a ShowerStart showerhead, or add a ShowerStart converter to existing showerheads, which automatically pauses a running shower once it gets warm.

Also, all household faucets should be fit with aerators. This single best home water conservation method is also the cheapest!

6. Put plastic bottles or float booster in your toilet tank

To cut down on water waste, put an inch or two of sand or pebbles inside each of two plastic bottles to weigh them down. Fill the bottles with water, screw the lids on, and put them in your toilet tank, safely away from the operating mechanisms. Or, buy an inexpensive tank ball or float booster. This may save ten or more gallons of water per day.

Be sure at least 3 gallons of water remain in the tank so it will flush properly. For new installations, consider buying "low flush" toilets, which use 1 to 2 gallons per flush instead of the usual 3 to 5 gallons.

Replacing an 18 liter per flush toilet with an ultra-low volume (ULV) 6 liter flush model represents a 70% savings in water flushed and will cut indoor water use by about 30%.

7. Insulate your water pipes.

It's easy and inexpensive to insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. You'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.

8. Take shorter showers. One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower after soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water.

9. Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.

10. Rinse your razor in the sink Fill the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your razor just as well as running water, with far less waste of water.

11. Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads Automatic dishwashers and clothes washers should be fully loaded for optimum water conservation. Most makers of dishwashing soap recommend not pre-rinsing dishes which is a big water savings.

For partial loads, adjust water levels to match the size of the load. Replace old clothes washers. New Energy Star rated washers use 35 - 50% less water and 50% less energy per load. If you're in the market for a new clothes washer, consider buying a water-saving frontload washer.

12. Minimize use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units In-sink 'garburators' require lots of water to operate properly, and also add considerably to the volume of solids in a septic tank which can lead to maintenance problems. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing food waste.

13. When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing If you have a double-basin, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have a single-basin sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a panful of hot water. Dual-swivel aerators are available to make this easier. If using a dishwasher, there is usually no need to pre-rinse the dishes.

14. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables Just rinse them in a stoppered sink or a pan of clean water. Use a dual-setting aerator.

15. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge. Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Store drinking water in the fridge in a safe drinking bottle.



Aksarben Village

Lights of Aksarben NOVEMBER 29

Tree lighting ceremony DECEMBER 6-20

Every Friday there will be holiday activities in Stinson Park.

Holiday Market DECEMBER 7-8



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Two Authors Visit

Two authors to visit Omaha Public Library in November

Omaha Public Library (OPL) is pleased to welcome two visiting authors in November. Omaha local Leo Adam Biga will present from his book, *Alexander Payne: His Journey in Film*, and Washington, D.C. journalist Marianne Szegedy-Maszak will present her debut book, *I Kiss Your Hands Many Times*. These events provide an opportunity to meet authors and learn more about the inspiration behind their work. All events are free and books will be available for purchase and signing following most author discussions. Register at omahalibrary.org or call the hosting OPL location.

Leo Adam Biga's book is a compilation of many articles he has written about writer and director Alexander Payne over a 16-year period. The book shares Payne's creative process and follows the progress of the cinema artist's Oscar-winning career. Biga will share insights gleaned from visits to Payne's sets and from a recent glimpse at the final edit-mix process on the filmmaker's new feature, *Nebraska*.

· Saturday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m. at Willa Cather Branch, 1905 S. 44th St., 402.444.4851

· Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6 p.m. at W. Clarke Swanson Branch, 9101 W. Dodge Rd., 402.444.4852

· Saturday, Nov. 23, 1 p.m. at Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch, 2100 Reading Plz., 402.289.4367

· Tuesday, Nov. 26, 6:30 p.m. at Milton R. Abrahams Branch, 5111 N. 90th St., 402.444.6284

· Tuesday, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m. at Millard Branch, 13214 Westwood Ln., 402.444.4848

Marianne Szegedy-Maszak's journalism career has spanned over 25 years and included covering the collapse of communism, the Republican Revolution, 9/11 and social policy for such publications as *New York Times Magazine*, *Esquire*, *Harpers Bazaar*, *The New Republic* and *Newsweek* among others. Her first book shares the love story between her parents set against World War II in Hungary and its aftermath. Meet the author in person on Saturday, Nov. 23, 3:30 p.m. at Millard Branch.

Visit omahalibrary.org for information about additional programs offered at Omaha Public Library's 12 metro locations.



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Recreation Center info: 402-444-5596 www.cityofomaha.org/parks

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Adult discussion group: 9:10 a.m.
Music & message for all ages: 10:30 a.m.



**First Central
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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FirstCentral.org

Fall at the Cathedral

Sunderland Gallery

Sacred Threads: Art Quilts, Sept 15 - Nov 10th,
Paul Konhagulian: Men at Work!
New Sculptures, Nov 17th - January 12

Luther Memorial Church 61st and Western

8:45 Traditional Worship and 11am The Spirit Alive Worship
10 am Christian Education for all ages
<http://lmlchurch.org> 402- 551-4488

These Events 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 the times and dates noted. For more information, you may call 345-1533.

November 3

THE 6TH MAJOR EXTINCTION

Rick Brenneman , member of First Central and conservation geneticist

Dr. Rick Brenneman, conservation geneticist, will discuss just where we may be in the 6th Major Extinction and how just one species, Homo sapiens, is capable of either affecting the planet similar to the comet 64 million years ago or taking the measures to prevent its completion.

November 17

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Fred Nielsen ,Member of First Central and history instructor at UNO

November 19 marks the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, a brief speech that, in the words of one scholar, “remade American history.” Without doubt, it is central to the ongoing conversation about the meaning of the United States. We will discuss what Lincoln said, what he did not say (which is almost as important), and the continuing significance of the nation's most famous speech.

November 24,

December 1, 8, & 15

LECTURES ON THE OLD TESTAMENT

AMY-JILL LEVINE VIDEO SERIES

Deb Kirwan, member of First Central

Professor Amy-Jill Levine continues her fascinating exploration of the Old Testament, beginning with Moses, the reluctant hero, and culminating in an investigation of what it means for God and the people of Israel to enter into a covenant. These sessions pick up from where we left off in the summer, though you don't need to have attended those lectures to jump in at this point.

Join us for four more lectures by Professor Levine from her Old Testament course (part of the Great Courses DVD series). Professor Levine is Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and the College of Arts and Sciences. The lectures will each be followed by discussion led by Deb Kirwan.

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**

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

Midtown Business Directory



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Email: midtownmonitor.omaha@gmail.com to inquire about display advertising rates.



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Recent Midtown Homes Sold

Price	Address	BR	BA	Car	Style	SQFT
\$59,500	4860 Burt Street	2	1	0	2 Story	1,190
\$78,156	715 S 68 Avenue	3	1	1	1.5 Story	1,288
\$95,500	4833 FARNAM ST	4	2	1	2.5 Story	1,899
\$99,000	4651 Douglas Street	3	1	1	2 Story	1,407
\$104,000	6310 Parker Street	4	2	1	Ranch	1,800
\$109,500	6909 Seward Street	3	2	2	Ranch	1,542
\$110,000	826 S 49 Avenue	4	2	0	Ranch	1,399
\$115,000	5145 Woolworth Ave	2	2	1	R Ranch	1,932
\$130,000	1944 S 61 Street	2	2	1	Ranch	1,215
\$132,000	6319 Lafayette Ave	2	2	2	Ranch	1,911
\$135,000	5524 Pierce	3	2	1	1.5 Story	1,654
\$147,500	803 S 59th Street	4	2	1	1.5 Story	1,694
\$150,000	5439 Hamilton Street	3	3	1	2 Story	1,910
\$152,500	5514 Pierce Street	3	2	1	1.5 Story	2,036
\$154,000	1915 S 61 Street	3	2	1	RRanch	1,694
\$167,500	203 S 70 Avenue	2	3	1	2.5 Story	1,651
\$182,000	827 S 55 Street	3	3	1	2 Story	1,742
\$185,000	5839 Woolworth Ave	3	3	1	1.5 Story	2,160
\$212,000	5507 Dodge Street	3	3	1	2 Story	2,716
\$232,500	5159 Jackson Street	3	2	1	2 Story	1,900
\$260,000	5165 Jackson Street	4	3	2	2 Story	2,153
\$282,000	816 S 67th Street	3	3	1	1.5 Story	3,928
\$345,000	5228 Jones Street	4	4	2	2.5 Story	2,345
\$302,500	519 S 55 Street	4	4	2	2.5 Story	2,560
\$282,500	5660 Marcy Street	3	4	2	2.5 Story	3,290

Our thanks to Raquel Ahlvers, The Ahlvers Group, CBSHOME Real Estate for providing this information.

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