

# Midtown Monitor

June 2014

## Concert Season Begins



### Inside this issue:

- Summer Concert Schedule
- Wheelchair Car Arrives in Omaha
- Gallery and Theater Events
- Midtown Events and much more...

# Summer Concerts in Midtown



Midtown Crossing unveils Jam-packed Summer Concert Lineup as part of their highly anticipated Thursdays in the Park series

No matter the concert, attendance is free. Shows will be held on consecutive Thursday evenings (June 12 - September 25) with performers making use of the iconic, new Pavilion in Turner Park.

Thursdays in the Park: Summer Kickoff Concert Series

New this year, Midtown Crossing is opening the season with its **Summer Kickoff Concert Series**. Two home-grown favorites were tapped to take the Pavilion stage:

- June 12: Lemon Fresh Day
- June 19: The Confidentials

The Summer Kickoff shows will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the Turner Park venue opening at 5:00 p.m.

### Thursdays in the Park: Playing with Fire

Playing with Fire, featuring the best in jazz, blues, soul, R & B and rock, makes its move to Turner Park in 2014 after spending its first 10 years at Lewis & Clark Landing.

June 26: Opening act: Hector Anchondo

Supporting act: The 9s

Headliner: Jonas & the Massive Attraction

- July 3: Opening act: Mojo Bag

Supporting act: Randy Oxford Band

Headliner: The Madame Louise Project, featuring Lulu Hughes (with fireworks to follow)

### Thursdays in the Park: Jazz on the Green

Presented by Omaha Performing Arts

A treasured Omaha tradition, Jazz on the Green will run six consecutive Thursdays, from July 10 to August 14. The free concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m. The venue, Turner Park, opens at 5 p.m. for all shows except the July 17 concert, which features a lawn opening after 5:45 p.m.

**July 10: The 9s**

**July 17: Great Lakes Horizon Navy Band** (The evening begins with a special appearance by the United States Navy Parachute Team at 5:45 p.m. and ends with a fireworks spectacular.) **July 24: Conjunto Chappottin Y Sus Estrellas** (Free salsa dance lessons begin at 6:45 p.m.)

**July 31: Big Sam's Funky Nation**

**August 7: Sing, Sing, Swing Orchestra** (Free swing dance lessons will begin at 6:45 p.m.)

**August 14: Dirty Dozen Brass Band**



## JUNE

14 **Finest Hour Concert** 7pm– 10pm

21 **Eckophonics Concert** 7pm – 10pm

22 **White Rhino Music Festival** 2pm– 10pm

29 **Nebraska Wind Symphony** 7pm– 9pm

## JULY

12 **High Heel Concert** 7pm – 10pm

19 **Recaptured – Journey Tribute Band** 7– 10pm

26 **Hi-Fi Hangover Concert** 7pm – 10pm

## AUGUST

2 **Omaha Crush – Wine Festival** 1pm – 5pm

2 **The 402 Concert** 7pm – 10pm

9 **John Doe Concert** 7pm – 10pm

16 **MAHA Music Festival** 12pm – 12am

23 **The Confidentials** 7pm – 10pm

30 **Taxi Driver Concert** 7pm – 10pm

## SEPTEMBER

6 **Fishheads Concert – Close of Series** 7– 10pm

27-28 **ARTsarben Art Festival** 10am – 5pm

Full Schedules listed on  
[www.midtownmonitor.com](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)



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# The 46th Munroe-Meyer Guild Garden Walk in Midtown June 8th

WHEN: Sunday, June 8, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Rain or Shine!

WHERE: Individuals can tour the following gardens at their leisure.

1. Elmwood Park-- 808 South 67th Street
2. Dillon's Fairacres -- 718 J.E. George Boulevard
3. Memorial Park -- 725 North 57th Street
4. Dundee -- 5121 Cuming Street
5. Dundee -- 308 South 51st Avenue
6. Joslyn Castle -- 3902 Davenport Street

**TICKET INFO:**

For admission to all gardens: Advance ticket: \$15  
Day of event ticket: \$20  
(Children under 5 admitted free; no strollers are allowed in the gardens).

Advance tickets available for purchase at [unmc.edu/mmi/2014gardenwalk.htm](http://unmc.edu/mmi/2014gardenwalk.htm) and at the following Midtown locations:

- Hy-Vee Stores • Joslyn Castle • Indian Creek Nursery

# Farmers Markets

**Omaha Farmers Market - Aksarben Village**

67th & Center St. 402.345.5401  
Sunday 9am-1pm May 5-October 20

**Benson Military Ave. at Maple St.**

402.571.1785  
Saturday 8am-1pm May 4-September 28

**Gifford Park Neighborhood** 33rd & California St.

402.558.4070  
Friday 4pm-8pm May 23rd-September 26

**Omaha Farmers Market - Old Market**

11th & Jackson St.  
402.345.5401  
Saturday 8am-12:30pm May 4-October 19



*Thursdays*  
**IN THE PARK**

**JUNE 12 & JUNE 19**  
SUMMER KICKOFF CONCERT SERIES

**JUNE 26 & JULY 3**  
PLAYING WITH FIRE  
Fireworks following July 3 concert

**JULY 10 - AUGUST 14**  
JAZZ ON THE GREEN  
presented by Omaha Performing Arts

**AUGUST 21 - SEPTEMBER 25**  
END OF SUMMER CONCERT SERIES  
presented by the University of Nebraska at Omaha

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For a complete list of performers visit [www.midtowncrossing.com](http://www.midtowncrossing.com)

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**Gary Rosenberg**  
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### **On the Cover:**

**Photographer: Brad Willimas**  
**Crowd enjoying Jazz on the Green Concert 2013**

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# Annual Chamber Concert Series Returns to Ideal Midtown Site

Midtown again will become the center of expressive, beautiful music, as the Omaha Chamber Music Society returns to First Central Congregational Church, 36th and Harney Sts., to present its Summer Concert Series.

The 13th annual series includes exciting concerts on June 8, 15, 22 and 29. All begin at 3 p.m., following a brief talk at 2:40. The audience is invited to meet the performers at casual receptions following the June 8 and 22 programs.

The 2014 series continues the tradition of featuring a wide range of extraordinary chamber works, including a few pieces that cannot be heard anywhere else in Omaha. All performers are top professional musicians with ties to Omaha.

The schedule follows:

**June 8 - "Romantic Voices"** - Mary Bircher, harp; Leslie Fagan, flute; Shelby VanNordstrand, voice; Tim Strang, cello.

**June 15 - "Brahms and Beethoven"** - Anne Nagosky and Juliet Yoshida, violin; Thomas Kluge, viola; Paul Ledwon, cello.

**June 22 - "Striking and Sonorous"** - Dwight Thomas, timpani; Jeff Nelson, percussion; Christi Zuniga and Yulia Kalashnikova, keyboard.

**June 29 - "Wild Winds"** - Maria Harding, flute; Darci Gamerl, oboe; John Klinghammer, clarinet; Ross Snyder, horn; Jim Compton, bassoon; Craig Fuller, tuba.

Ticket information is available at [omahachambermusic.org](http://omahachambermusic.org) or 402.960.6943.



## Vintage Market Sundays

at the Castle


June 15, July 20, August 17

This summer, the Castle is hosting Vintage Market Sundays on the third Sunday of every month: June 15, July 20, and August 17. Local vendors will have booths on the Castle grounds where they will be selling vintage and repurposed items. The names of the vendors will be listed on the Joslyn Castle website soon.

In addition to shopping, guests will enjoy scrumptious cuisine from local food trucks, take a tour of the Castle, and listen to live music! The cost is \$5 per person. Registrations can be made online at [www.joslyncastle.com](http://www.joslyncastle.com) or on arrival at the entrance. Come enjoy the day! Spread the word!



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# First in the World Wheelchair Car Launched in Omaha

The Chairiot Solo, a single-passenger car built specifically for wheelchair-bound individuals, will make its world debut in Omaha in early May. Kohll's Pharmacy & Homecare division, Wheelchair Vans of Kohll's was chosen by Chairiot Mobility to launch the first wheel-in car designed to empower wheelchair users and give complete independence.



The Chairiot Solo is an electric, Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) which is approved for driving on any street and requires valid driver's license. The electrically driven rear hatch opens in 11 seconds with a wireless key fob. The rear access ramp adjusts automatically for entry from the ground or a curb. The driver wheels into the car and a special bracket on the wheelchair, along with a custom floor lock secures the chair into the car, while a three-point seatbelt safely secures the driver. From the door opening to driving takes less than forty seconds.

The Chairiot Solo is driven by a steering wheel and a hand bar control that combines throttle and brake functions. Both feature a light touch that needs modest upper body strength. The digital instrument gauges include a display from the rear back-up sensors with visual and audio feedback. A left hand switch panel has the controls for the accessories of the car. The Chairiot Solo is fully equipped for night driving with headlights, interior dome light and a spot lamp for the rear ramp area.

Chairiot drivers experience increased independence, as they do not need to request transportation assistance from friends, family or public services to complete their day-to-day activities. Its easy entry/exit is ideal for keeping wheelchair users on the go and in charge of their own schedules. The electric Chairiot Solo can drive on local streets at speeds up to 25 mph (in some states and local jurisdictions 35 mph). Environmentally-friendly electric charge powered by two hub motors built into the rear wheels lets drivers go for up to 50 miles before plugging into any standard 110 volt outlet. It is fully charged in six to eight hours, costing approximately \$0.70 in electricity.

# Air conditioner Servicing

By David Holtzclaw of Transduction Technologies

“Home Performance Guild of Nebraska”

We are constantly being asked for a list of “good contractors”. Often, this is difficult because “good” is both subjective and conditional. It is conditional in that an insulating company may be excellent at installing attic insulation, but terrible at installing insulation into the walls or crawlspace. Or an HVAC company that excels at service and repairs, but performs poorly at installing new air conditioners. It is also subjective in that the contractor may have done their job technically well, but left a mess behind. This is why the contractor recommendation from your neighbor turned out so bad you haven't spoken to him in 6 months. The mess didn't bother your neighbor, but drove you crazy!

Like most cities, Omaha has its share of good and bad residential contractors. I've never met a contractor trying to do a “bad” job, but it does happen. The solution isn't Angie's List, but commissioning.

The term commissioning comes from shipbuilding. A commissioned ship is one deemed ready for service. Before being awarded this title, however, a ship must pass several milestones. Equipment is installed and tested, problems are identified and corrected, and the prospective crew is extensively trained. A commissioned ship is one whose materials, systems, and staff have successfully completed a thorough quality assurance process. In commercial construction, most new buildings undergo this process. The process also works for existing commercial buildings (termed retro-commissioning), where the goal is to improve how the building performs.

The retrocommissioning process also exists in the residential market. The Home Performance Guild of Nebraska (<http://www.hpguildne.org/>) is a 501(c)6 non-profit committed to promoting safe, healthy, comfortable, sustainable, high performing, and energy efficient homes based on applied building science. Like traditional guilds and trade associations, one of the main goals of the Home Performance Guild of Nebraska (NE Guild) is to “raise the bar” among local residential contractors both professionally and technically. The NE Guild meets monthly for training, guest speakers, share ideas, talk about new building products, and discuss building science theory. More importantly to midtown home owners, the NE Guild also provides homeowners with a retrocommissioning process to improve their home's performance. This 3-step process includes a home evaluation or inspection, written scope of work for home performance upgrades, contractor pool to perform the scope of work, and finally 3rd party independent verification of the upgrade work. The NE Guild also provides education and free advice from our contractor pool to the general public at events like Earth Day and the restore Omaha Conference. For more information, visit their website.

# Midtown Galleries & Theaters

## **Cathedral Arts Project, Sunderland Gallery**

3900 Webster St. 402-551-4888

[www.cathedralartsproject.org](http://www.cathedralartsproject.org)

Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., third Sunday of each month  
April 13 to June 8

Winnebago Images by photographer Don Doll, SJ  
June 15 to August 31

A Life of Art: Brother Mel Meyer, SM (1928-2013)  
Opening reception, June 15, 1 to 3 p.m.

## **Connect Gallery**

3901 Leavenworth St. 402-991-8234

[www.connectgallery.net](http://www.connectgallery.net)

Gallery hours: Wednesday to Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
June 3 to 28

Oil Paintings – Landscapes by Terry Hager  
Artist Reception: Friday, June 20, 5 to 8 p.m.

## **Dundee Gallery**

4916 Underwood Ave., Lower Level 402-505-8333

[dundeegallery.com](http://dundeegallery.com)

Gallery hours: Tues to Thurs 11  
a.m. to 7 p.m., Fri to Sat 11 a.m. to  
9 p.m., Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The gallery now features ceramic  
bowls by Deb Anderson, purses by  
Liz Ferguson, “clockbots” and  
“coffeebots” by Mary Kolar, prints  
by Jill Rizzo, pastels by Kristin  
Pluhacek, and many other art-  
works.



## **Anderson O'Brien Fine Art Old Market**

1108 Jackson Street 402-884-0911

[www.aobfineart.com](http://www.aobfineart.com)

Gallery hours: Mon to Wed, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thurs to  
Sat, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sun 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

New works include paintings by Christina Narwicz,  
Rebecca Hermann, Jean Jack, pottery by Susan McGilvrey,  
and jewelry by Pamela Adger.

## **Modern Artists Midtown (MAM)**

3615 Dodge St. 402-520-8737

[www.modernartsmidtown.com](http://www.modernartsmidtown.com)

Gallery hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
June 6 to 28

Cool Abstraction 2 by Colin C. Smith  
Contemporary paintings and sculpture.  
Opening reception June 6, 6 to 8 p.m.

## **Omaha Community Playhouse**

6915 Cass St.

402-553-0800

[www.omahaplayhouse.com](http://www.omahaplayhouse.com)

Race — through June 8

Race is a fast-paced legal thriller  
that tackles issues of sexual assault, gender discrimination  
and race.

Young Frankenstein May 30 to June 29

The Mel Brooks masterpiece is the riotously funny story of  
Dr. Frankenstein and his adventures as he embraces the  
family name and takes on “the reanimation of dead tissue.”



## **Shelterbelt Theatre**

3225 California St.

402-341-2757

[www.shelterbelt.org](http://www.shelterbelt.org)

Abby in the Summer July 9 to Aug. 3

A coming-of-age story about Abigail Bergson, who recently  
graduated at the top of her class and works as a waitress at  
Candy's Bar and Grill in her hometown of Jaconda, Neb., a  
fictional town.

## **SNAP Productions**

3225 California St.

402-341-2757

[www.snapproductions.com](http://www.snapproductions.com)

Voices from the Closet May 29 to June 22

Eight monologues echo remembrances from the struggles of  
a “closeted” existence and touch on immigration, the turmoil  
of revelation, and cyber-bullying.

## **Blue Barn Theatre**

614 S. 11th St.

402-345-1576

[www.bluebarn.org](http://www.bluebarn.org)

33 Variations – through June 8

A play about passion, parenthood, and the moments of  
beauty that can transform a life. Twin storylines in New  
York and Austria explore obsession, struggle and compas-  
sion.

**View Updates and Other  
Community Affairs /Calendar Listings  
Online at [www.midtownmonitor.com](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)**

# Unique Business Moves to Midtown

By Gary Rosenberg

Cali Commons at 40th and California Streets is part art gallery, part communal workspace, an event site and a community-gathering place. The name comes from the shortened form of California and the common workspace it offers. It also references a stem-brewed beer from the golden state.

Artists Luke Armstrong and Molly Nicklin bought the building in August 2013 and presented their first gallery show just three months later. The 1922 building for many years housed Mike's Grocery Store. More recently, it was home to a chocolate shop and a photography studio, both short-lived businesses.

Armstrong's company, RenMind, operates out of the building. It provides web-based software, primarily for the franchising and manufacturing industries. Software developer Nick Zielinski and animator Chloe Karr also have offices in the building.

Armstrong and Nicklin formerly had a studio in Benson. They are traditional visual artists and also practitioners of performance art. For the past six years they have created art collaboratively in front of an audience, often to live musical accompaniment.

As Midtown enthusiasts, they thought the building would be an ideal space for themselves and a few friends. They are in the process of converting the basement into an art studio. In addition to housing an art gallery, they wanted to create a "co-working" space that would attract entrepreneurs, coders, writers and other creative types. Aside from a place to plug in a laptop, Cali Commons affords Wi-Fi and internet access, coffee, tea, and other refreshments.

It also provides something you can't get at your average coffee shop: collaboration. Armstrong and Nicklin want artists and entrepreneurs to find inspiration and productivity in a relaxed natural setting while building relationships and community. They rent space at an affordable price. Armstrong said one of the co-working tenants spends less than he used to spend at a coffee shop. Cali Commons has played host to three events to date—an art fair, a political rally and an entrepreneurial start-up launch. The owners hope to continue that trend and make Cali Commons a community hub for creativity.

"The art community has been very supportive of our endeavors," Nicklin said. "People from the neighborhood as well as people from around the city have been curious, welcoming, and excited for us."



Luke Armstrong and Molly Nicklin outside Cali Commons. The two plan to install an exterior sign that fits the time period of the building.

## More Fun Midtown Events

### Elmwood Park

Scandinavian Midsummer Festival June 21

Shakespeare on the Green June 19 to July 6

### Memorial Park

Bank of the West Celebrates America  
Blues Traveler, Sugar Ray, Uncle Kracker and  
Smash Mouth  
June 27th 6 to 10 p.m.

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More information can be found at [www.midtownmonitor.com](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)



# Radical.

That was Jesus, alright. Who ever heard of loving *everybody*?

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



**First Central Congregational**  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

36th & Harney  
 402-345-1533  
 FirstCentral.org

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, call 402-345-1533.

**June 1: ARCH Alumni**

This recovery group meets weekly at First Central. Jim Dingman, Facilitator, will describe the group, talk a little about recovery, and express their appreciation of the blessing the church brings to their group.

**June 8 Widen the Welcome: First Central for Mental Health**

Panel: Bonnie Mierau, Charlene Wozny, Kelly Beaman, Jim Harmon, members of First Central.

As part of the UCC observance of this day, our panel will lead a discussion surrounding issues of mental health and mental illness. Our panel will share their particular areas of expertise and emphasis in treating mental illness and attempt to answer any questions. While there is no “cure” for mental illness, there are ways to treat it and help persons with mental illness and their family members lead happier and healthier lives.

**June 15 Environmental Sustainability and the Church**  
 Kim Morrow, Project Director of Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light and Minister of Sustainability at First-Plymouth UCC, Lincoln. “The mission of Nebraska Interfaith Power & Light is to improve environmental sustainability in the state of Nebraska by facilitating the faith community’s response to climate change through community programs, education and advocacy.”

**June 22 Civil Rights Act of 1964**

Kent Kirwan, Member of First Central, Emeritus Professor of History UNO

Kent will describe the passage of The Civil Rights Act of 1964, a landmark piece of legislation.

**June 29 Queering the Bible**

Scott Jones, Senior Pastor at First Central

On LGBT Pride Sunday, Scott will address how queer issues intersect the interpretation of scripture. “Queering” is the verb form used to describe an interpretive method that deviates from the traditional approaches.

**Luther Memorial Church 61st and Western**  
 8:45 Traditional Worship and 11am The Spirit Alive Worship  
 10 am Christain Education for all ages  
<http://lmlchurch.org> 402- 551-4488

**Luther Memorial Church 61st and Western**  
 Opens their grassy areas to neighbors and their guests on the evening of the Memorial Park concert and fireworks celebration for the Fourth of July. People bring in their blankets and lawn chairs, visit with each other, and enjoy the Memorial Park fireworks display from the lawn of Luther Memorial.

**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](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)**

# Midtown Business Directory



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1/2 business card size ad. \$45. one time or two for \$80., 3 for \$115.  
1/4 bc size \$25. or two for \$45., 3 for \$63.  
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## Attention

**Midtown Business Owners**  
You're invited to the

**Midtown Business Association Meeting**  
**Speaker: Brad Iwen, Iwen Exposures**

The next MBA meeting will be July 23rd, 2014  
Noon, UNMC private dining room, just \$10. for lunch.  
Must make reservations by Friday prior to meeting.

E-mail [contact@midtownbusinessassociation.org](mailto:contact@midtownbusinessassociation.org)  
or call Judy Alderman at 402-213-6474.

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\$115,000	1004 S 51st Ave	3	1	1	1.5 Stry	1,360
\$115,000	5624 Walnut Stt	2	2	1	Ranch	1,173
\$117,500	809 N 48th Ave	3	1	1	2.5 Stry	1,198
\$132,500	332 S 69 Street	3	2	1	Ranch	1,617
\$134,000	310 S 50 Street	3	1	1	2.5 Stry	1,799
\$135,000	1419 S 63 Street	3	1	1	1.5 Stry	1,477
\$146,000	318 S 49th Ave	4	2	1	2 Stry	1,722
\$147,000	6035 Walnut	4	2	1	1.5 Stry	1,729
\$150,000	5435 Seward St	2	2	2	1.5 Stry	1,806
\$168,500	901 S 68 Street	3	2	1	1.5 Stry	1,699
\$172,500	2422 N 56th	3	2	2	1.5 Stry	2,120
\$197,250	4420 William St	3	2	1	1.5 Stry	1,637
\$199,000	4922 Chicago	4	3	1	2.5 Stry	2,394
\$220,000	5404 Parker St	3	3	2	2 Stry	1,694
\$221,500	1320 N 52 St	4	3	2	2.5 Stry	2,281
\$230,000	2040 N 52 St	3	3	1	1.5 Stry	2,342
\$250,000	5204 Jones St	3	2	2	2 Stry	2,170
\$650,000	652 N 59 St	4	6	2	2.5 Stry	3,241
\$842,000	5302 Davenport	6	6	3	2.5 Stry	6,015

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

## For Rent Midtown Duplex 618 N. 40th Street -

Two great apartments both available in August. 1200 square feet in each apartment. Restored home, separate entrances. Near Creighton Shuttle UNMC. High ceilings, large windows with lots of light. No Smoking building. Off Street parking for one car per apartment. Great woodwork. Garden space available. Both have washer and dryers in apt.

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Send only your two favorite photos for submission to [midtownmonitor.omaha@gmail.com](mailto:midtownmonitor.omaha@gmail.com) (do not send whole collections, thumbnails etc.) Send along a detailed caption and statement that all permissions were obtained for photos of people, especially children.