

# Midtown Monitor

July 2014

## Community Garden Flourishes



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- Community Garden Watermelon Feed and Ice Cream Social
- Blackstone Neighborhood Revitalized
- Gallery and Theater Events
- Midtown Events and much more...

# Dundee Community Garden Watermelon Feed July 20

It's watermelon time! Please stop by the Dundee Community Garden at 4902 Underwood on Sunday July 20, from 3-5 p.m., for a slice of cold watermelon (50¢ a slice.) While you're at the garden, we'll give you a tour: we'll show you the solar-powered lawnmower (powered by the solar panels on the tool shed), the new strawberry patch under the fruit trees, and our native wildflower pollinator plant area.

**Solar Power:** In spring 2014, we installed three solar panels on our tool shed, to power the electric lawn mower and weed whacker. The sloped south-facing roof of the shed is ideal for solar energy generation. The solar panels produce DC (Direct Current) electricity that is stored in a large battery inside the shed. Then an inverter turns that power into AC (Alternating Current) with a standard wall outlet plug. Our "green machines" are charged with clean energy to keep the garden looking great all season long. Contact DCG for a tour of our off-grid solar system.

**Native Wildflower Pollinator Area:** Pollinators are needed for the reproduction of over 85% of flowering plants, and one third of our food supply is dependent on pollinators. Unfortunately, due to habitat loss and pesticides, pollinator populations are in serious decline. The most important step individuals can take is to plant flowers in their own home gardens, no matter the size of the garden, and to choose native plants wherever possible, as they have evolved with native pollinators and the local environment.

DCG is grateful to Tom Lundahl of Meristem Nursery for his donation of native prairie wildflowers, which are very attractive to pollinators. Donated plants include Rattlesnake Master, Wild Quinine, Spiderwort, and American Mountain Mint. These plants were planted along the north (alley) side of the garden in June. Meristem Nursery is in Papillion and can be found at the Farmers Market on Sundays at Aksarben.

We also appreciate the donation of five flats of flowers from Rebecca Bloom of Bloom's Organics.

Donated plants include zinnias, whose bright colors draw pollinators to the garden, and butterfly milkweed, which is essential to the survival of monarch butterflies. Monarchs will only lay their eggs on milkweed, and their larvae appear to feed exclusively on milkweed.

## **Educational Events:**

On Wednesday, July 30th, at 7 p.m., DCG will host an "Herbs from the Garden" workshop with Chelsea Taxman, co-founder of Black Iris Botanicals. Chelsea will lead participants through the Dundee Community Garden to explore herbs. She will provide tips and techniques for preserving herbs for culinary purposes, and participants will make some simple home salves and lip balms. Cost or workshop materials is \$5. Workshop size is limited and RSVP required: [info@dundee garden.org](mailto:info@dundee garden.org), or call 402-415-1081.

Our final class in collaboration with the library's Summer Reading program will be teaching a composting class for elementary-school age children, "Red Wigglers: Composting with Worms," on Sat. July 19, from 2-3 p.m. at AV Sorenson Library.

**Entranceway Coming Soon:** Our new entranceway construction should be underway very soon. The Dundee Community Garden serves as an entry to the Dundee neighborhood, and we hope that the new entranceway will welcome people to the garden and to the Dundee neighborhood.

**Ice Cream Social:** The Dundee Community Garden hosted an Ice Cream Social at the garden on June 22. Over 100 people came to enjoy making their own ice cream sundaes, stroll through the garden, and visit with neighbors and new friends. Children (and adults) were treated to free face-painting. Special thanks to eCreamery for the generous donation of chocolate chip and salted caramel ice creams!

More photos of the Ice Cream Social can be found in the DMPA Newsletter.



Learning about solar shed.



Enjoying ice cream.

Greater Beth-el Temple  
**GBT** **FREE Family Health Fair & Blood Drive**

Saturday July 19, 2014  
 9:00 AM-1:00PM  
 Greater Beth-el Temple  
 1502 N. 52nd Street  
 (Enter on 53rd and Seward)

The blood drive and health fair sponsored by GBT Health Professionals is free, open to the public,

There will be over 20 information booths as well as free screenings for blood pressure, blood glucose, hearing and vision The American Red Cross will be conducting a blood drive from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. There will be activities also for the children. For additional information regarding registration for participating in the blood drive contact:

Ella Tisdell, Health Professionals Chair  
 (402) 391-2682 ella.tisdell@gmail.com  
 Visit [www.gbtomaha.org](http://www.gbtomaha.org) for info on GBT

# 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

**SUMMER**  
 TWENTYFOURTEEN

MIDTOWN CROSSING

- PLAYING WITH FIRE  
THURSDAY | JULY 3
- YOGA ROCKS THE PARK  
SUNDAYS | THRU JULY 6
- JAZZ ON THE GREEN  
THURSDAYS | JULY 10 - AUGUST 14
- SIDEWALK SALES  
SUNDAYS | JULY 27 & AUGUST 24
- MONDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES  
MONDAYS | THRU AUGUST 4
- END OF SUMMER CONCERTS  
THURSDAYS | AUGUST 21 - SEPTEMBER 25
- MIDTOWN CAR SHOW  
SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 7

NEW EVENTS BEING ADDED REGULARLY. FOR A FULL LISTING OF EVENTS VISIT [WWW.MIDTOWNCROSSING.COM](http://WWW.MIDTOWNCROSSING.COM)

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**Publisher**  
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or  
402-551-6787

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Distribution Manager  
Community Affairs

The Midtown Monitor is published monthly by Shurson Publishing. Direct all advertising inquiries to Ellen Shurson, Publisher at 402-714-1016.

The Midtown Monitor is distributed with the Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter, AEPNA and select midtown businesses, online and through email subscriptions.

Send all articles for submission and press releases to (Preferred) e-mail to [ellenshurson@gmail.com](mailto: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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Please thank them for their support!**

#### **On the Cover:**

Dundee Community Garden 2013.  
Adam Langdon, Mary Green and Heike Langdon

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# 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

## 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 fire-works 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**



## 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)

## Vintage Market Sundays

at the Castle  
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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Swanson Library 90th & W. Dodge Rd. **BOOK SALES**

**Thursdays 10 am - 3 pm**  
(Except holidays)

**First Saturday of every month 10 am - 3 pm**  
(Except holidays)

# What is a Little Free Library?

It's a "take a book, return a book" gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. You can, too!

Denise Pecha first read about Little Free Libraries two years ago. She and her husband, Ted Kyster, believed in the mission of the Little Free Libraries: To promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide. To build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations.

Ted and Denise installed their Little Free Library (charter name: Long Time Coming) on Father's Day this year in their front yard at 5803 Rees St. The response has been better than they expected. The library is not just encouraging reading, it's giving neighbors opportunities to get to know each other. "We have met more neighbors in the past couple weeks than in years of walking our dog daily!" There are books for all ages and the neighborhood has embraced the Little Free Library. For example: a toddler excitedly jumping up and down in front of the Little Free Library ready to return the nursery rhyme book and select a Paddington Bear book which she will open and "read" on the walk home. The



young man walking his dog stating "This is a really great idea and makes me want to go home and bring back a really cool book." New books are added to the library almost daily. We encourage everyone to "check out" this Little Free Library or one in their neighborhood.

**Pictured above:** Denise Pecha, with their Little Free Library and border collie Darby. Ted and Denise built the library with the help of a family friend and Denise's father. Plans are available at website: [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org).

## The Omaha Press Club Educational Series

Presents

Dr. Cliff A. Robertson

CEO of Catholic Health Initiative's (CHI)

Nebraska/South-west, Iowa Network.

THURSDAY, July 24, 2014

At the OPC Educational Forum on July 24 he will discuss his vision and plans under study and development by Alegent Creighton Health, named for the second consecutive year as one of the nation's 15 top health systems, by the Truven Health Analytics.

Noon to one P.M (forum begins immediately at noon)  
\$15 Per person includes lunch (lunch is served beginning at 11:30) CALL 402-345-8008 For Reservations.

Non-Press Club members are welcome

Validated parking in the Doubletree Hotel garage.

Bring your ticket. The Omaha Press Club 22nd floor-First National Center, 1620 Dodge St.



### 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.

# Midtown Galleries & Theaters

## 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.

July 5 to 26 A Mid-Summer Exhibition

Contemporary paintings and sculpture.

Opening reception July 5, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## 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

Through August 31

A Life of Art: Brother Mel Meyer, SM (1928-2013)

## 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.

July 2 to August 2 Graphite Drawings – Portraits by Julie Schram (image below)

Artist Reception: Friday, July 18, 5:30 to 9 p.m.



## Dundee Gallery

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

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

Gallery hours: Tuesday to Thursday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday to Saturday 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 artworks.

## Anderson O'Brien Fine Art Old Market

1108 Jackson Street 402-884-0911 [www.aobfineart.com](http://www.aobfineart.com)

Gallery hours: Monday to Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 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.

## Omaha Community Playhouse

6915 Cass St.

402-553-0800

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

New season begins August 15 in the Howard Drew Theatre.

Enron — August 15 to September 14

A satire by Lucy Prebble that exposes the corruption and deceit of a company whose predecessor called Omaha home.



## 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)

No productions scheduled for the summer.

## Blue Barn Theatre

614 S. 11th St.

402-345-1576

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

No productions scheduled for the summer.

## Cali Commons Gallery

518 N. 40th St.

The cartoon art of Steven M. Hill July 23, 2014, 5-8pm;

Opening Reception Saturday July 26th,

7-10 pm, followed by an exhibit on July 30th, from 5-8pm.

The closing reception will be held Saturday

August 2nd, from 7-10 pm.

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

# Blackstone Neighborhood Revitalized

By Gary Rosenberg

In 1913 the deadliest tornado to ever strike Omaha damaged buildings in the 40th and Farnam area as it headed northeast across the city. Residents of the fashionable district, then known as West Farnam, recovered and rebuilt.

Following a two-decade period of neglect and crime that saw many storefronts boarded up, the residents and business owners of the area have again recovered and rebuilt. The area now known as the Blackstone District is a whirlwind of activity and optimism.

Two new businesses have opened since May and several others are set to open in the next six months.

Photographer Brad Iwen, who heads the Blackstone Business Improvement District, has been a catalyst for change. Since purchasing and rehabbing his studio at 3925 Farnam St. in 2008, Iwen has been on a mission to reinvigorate the neighborhood. A big part of that mission—which will be realized in September—has been to convert Farnam to a two-way street between 36th and 42nd Streets. He and his wife, Julie, even organized festivals to raise awareness of the neighborhood and its potential. The two-way designation goes beyond painting a yellow center line. Aside from making traffic patterns more conducive to a neighborhood, there will be aesthetic and commercial improvements: underground electrical wires, diagonal parking stalls, and new street lights and poles. Banners touting the newly christened neighborhood will adorn those.

Dan Godsey, who set up his woodworking and remodeling business at 3920 Farnam St. in the former Kaufmann Pastry Shoppe, has seen an unexpected uptick in business from his neighbors since arriving two years ago. When he moved to the neighborhood, it was “pretty well boarded up,” Godsey said. He has worked on several projects in the area, including building a walnut bar for Sullivan’s. “It’s really exciting to see the things that are going on,” he said.

Sullivan’s Bar has called the neighborhood home since 1954. Seeking more space and more light, owner Dan Houlihan and crew moved the drinking establishment to the southeast corner of the intersection after purchasing and rehabilitating that building. Bartender Patrick Capecci said he,

Houlihan and other staff put a lot of “sweat labor” into shoring up the foundation and roof of the formerly condemned property. In refurbishing the building—most recently Cheater’s Lounge and for 50 years home to the Embassy Club—the staff uncovered original arched windows and exposed ceiling trusses. He said it’s exciting to see all the changes in the neighborhood. “There’s no competition. We all support each other, everybody gets along great,” Capecci said.

Chef Hiomara van den Boogaart and restaurateur Michael Sanchez opened Mula’s Mexican Kitchen and Tequileria on the northeast corner of 40th and Farnam in late June. Opening weekend saw good business at the establishment, which features “street style” Mexican food, tequila cocktails and Mexican beer.

Next door at Archetype Coffee, owner and barista Isaiah Sheese is pursuing excellence in the coffee trade as he welcomes neighbors to his business, the former home of Sullivan’s Bar. A Bloomington, Indiana native, Sheese has 10 years experience in the coffee business and hopes to cater to both coffee aficionados and novices.

Still to come is Scriptown, a microbrewery named for an old subdivision of Omaha. Brewer John Fahrer and restaurant owner Scott Stephens are renovating 3922 and 3924 Farnam into a tasting room, brewing area and patio. It will likely open in late summer.

Mula’s, Archetype Coffee and Scriptown are all part of Blackstone Place, owned by developers Jay Lund and Matt Sweeney. The two restored the former Mitchel Apartments on the second floor of the building into seven one-bedroom apartments.

Lund and Sweeney are also behind Blackstone Corner at 39th and Farnam. Blackstone Corner will house a yoga studio and three other businesses in the former Katelman’s Antiques warehouse. The adjacent home once occupied by Katelman’s Antiques at 144 S. 39th St. will now house 10 office spaces, along with a kitchen and conference room. The project may be completed by the end of the year. Longtime businesses in the district include Oxide, a design firm, and The Icon Studio, a hair salon. Little Lambs Daycare and Preschool has been operating on the south side of Farnam since 2010.





# You save, we serve.

Our Evergreen thrift shop (located on the church's north side) is a browser's paradise, filled with household needs, clothing, antiques and collectibles, furniture, books, jewelry and more, all at amazingly low prices. Profits go into our community service programs, right here in Midtown.

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
Adult discussion group: 9:10 a.m.  
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**First Central  
Congregational**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

**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

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.

## July 6 First Person Stories of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's

A panel of First Central members who were active in the Civil Rights movement will share memories and stories of that time period.

## July 13 PACE – Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly

Deborah Marasco, Community Outreach Manager, Immanuel Pathways.

Immanuel Pathways is a provider-sponsored health plan for 55 years or older adults who have been assessed as meeting nursing facility level of care but are able to live safely in their own homes with the support of PACE services.

## July 20 Hymnology

Stephen Bouma, Director of Music at First Central

In connection with the annual Hymn Sing, Stephen will discuss some different modern approaches and briefly explore some of the history of congregational singing.

## July 27 Caring for our Elders

A panel discussion with Health Team members and a spouse who will share their experiences of caring for their elders and offer ideas and resources. It is our hope this will increase the knowledge of those attending, and the awareness that support is easily available

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

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## Do You Have a Great Photo of Midtown?

Submit your photo possible for publication in the Midtown Monitor and/or online. Of particular interest would be great, high resolution, colorful photos for the front cover. Could be just about anything that relates to Midtown. A great scene, historic house, garden, fun event.

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.

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Find them online  
[www.midtownmonitor.com](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)



Photo by Robert Klien Engler of midtown garden and Veterans Memorial, Memorial Park.



Photo by Jeremy Schieffer of view looking east from roof top of Midtown Crossing Condos May 5th, 2014





# CONVENIENT CARE

Walk-In Medical Center



Farid Sadr,  
M.D.

105 North 31st Avenue,  
Omaha, NE  
*Across from Midtown Crossing*  
**402-346-1111**

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*at Metro Crossing*  
**712-256-7172**

Hours: Monday - Friday: 8am-8pm  
Saturday: 8:30am-3pm  
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## Light The Bridge

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Photo of all of the students at Saint Cecilia Cathedral on the last day of school.

Mark Krest Photography