

Midtown Monitor

January 2015

Serving Midtown Neighborhoods

Happy New Year



**Beware of
These Scams!**

Inside this issue:

- IRS and Medicare Scams
- Gallery and Theater Events
- Important Save the Dates
- Utility Bills
- and much more...

IRS and Medicare Scams

When I was speaking with a relative over the holidays, she told me of a threatening call she received from someone who said he was with the IRS. So I'm passing along the following information from the Better Business Bureau website. You can find more informations on scams on Midtownmonitor.com ... The IRS will never call you, they would send any notice by mail. So just hang up. Publisher note.

BBB serving Nebraska, South Dakota, The Kansas Plains and Southwest Iowa is warning consumers to be on the alert for phone scams involving con artists pretending to be Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents who try to gain access to your personal information.

IRS impersonators are calling consumers and telling them that they are late on paying their taxes, and after being probed for private information, like their Social Security number, are told to send the funds via a prepaid Green Dot MoneyPak card or a wire transfer. Some of the calls come with threats of jail time, deportation, and suspension of business or driver's licenses. Yesterday, one consumer reported to BBB that he was told the IRS had mailed documents to him, and since he had not replied, he was going to be arrested unless he remitted \$9,000. Luckily, he checked with BBB before sending the money.

The fake IRS agents have been known to use a computer program to make the real IRS phone number appear on the person's caller ID. Some of the scammers quote false badge numbers and use call centers with background noise to make them seem legitimate. There have also been reports of callers having personal information, like your name, address and Social Security number. In addition, threats and bullying are often used to try to extract information, or they call back numerous times, trying to wear you down.

Other con artists, seeking personal information, may also say they are representatives from Medicare or the Treasury Department. Seniors know that Medicare enrollment is open during this time of year, and callers use this as a reason to keep their prey on the phone. The scammer may claim that new benefit cards are being issued or that, because of recent changes to Medicare, they require information to update your file. Their goal is the same as those claiming to be from the IRS to try to gain access to personal information that will allow them to steal your money, health benefits or identity.



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Omaha Public Power District's Annual Sustainability Update

Speaker: Dean Mueller, OPPD Division Manager, Sustainable Energy & Environmental Stewardship

When: January 8th – 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: UNO's Community Engagement Center, 64th & Dodge, Room 201

Mr. Mueller will present a summary of Omaha Public Power District's sustainable energy and environmental stewardship initiatives. This summary is reported annually to the OPPD Board of Directors.

Mr. Mueller began his career with OPPD in 1975 as an engineer in the Engineering Division. He holds a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska Omaha as well as a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Nebraska.

In 2007 OPPD formed the Sustainable Energy and Environmental Stewardship Division and appointed Mr. Mueller as Manager. In 2009 OPPD established the goals of 20% renewable energy by 2020 and 50 megawatts of peak load reduction by 2012. In 2014 OPPD established new goals: 33% renewable energy by 2018 and 300 megawatts peak load reduction by 2023. OPPD's sustainable energy initiatives also include these programs: Green Power; Green Tag; Energy Efficiency & Lighting; and Energy Star, among others. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about each of these programs as well as OPPD's environmental stewardship initiatives.

The forum is open to the public. Free parking is available in the reserved lot to the north of the Community Engagement Center, near the Durham Bell Tower, and in adjacent lots. Let the lot attendant know you're there for the Nebraskans for Solar workshop in Room 201.

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Save the Date

Restore Omaha Conference 2015

February 27th Opening Reception The Pella
(Event facility inside the former Pella Lutheran Church,
303 South 41 Street

Conference all day February 28th
at The Metropolitan Community College
South Omaha Campus

Watch for all the details in next month's Monitor.



Omaha Public Library and Small Business Association Will Offer New Business Series

Starting one's own business can be a daunting task, but also one of the most rewarding for anyone who has ever dreamed of being their own boss. Omaha Public Library (OPL) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) are partnering to offer a series of workshops designed to help potential new business owners navigate the ins and outs of starting and maintaining a successful business. All workshops are free and registration is requested through the hosting OPL branch or at omahalibrary.org. Lunch will be provided during each hour-long session.

Take the Mystery out of SBA Loans: Are you looking for financing for your small business or start-up? A SBA representative will explain what lenders and the SBA look for in a borrower's application for federally-guaranteed loans.

- Tuesday, Jan. 6, noon at Milton R. Abrahams Branch, 5111 N. 90th St., 402-444-6284
- Tuesday, Jan. 27, noon at W. Dale Clark Main Library, 215 S. 15th St., 402-444-4800

Start Your Online Business the Right Way: Think about how to offer something no one else does and how to define your business with an online store and social media presence. Learn how to set up a merchant account and whether being an affiliate marketer is right for you. Get the facts on federal, state and local tax requirements, and how to comply with online business regulations. This program will also touch on international trade laws.

- Tuesday, Jan. 13, noon at Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch, 2100 Reading Plz., 402-289-4367
- Tuesday, Feb. 3, noon at Saddlebrook Branch, 14850 Laurel Ave., 402-884-7473

Where's the Money Going in My Small Business? Learn how to deliver unique value to your customer and capture how that value affects your bottom line. Think about what drives the costs of a business and why it's easier to control costs than to make it up on the price you charge your customers.

- Tuesday, Jan. 20, noon at South Omaha Library, 2808 Q St., 402-444-4850
- Tuesday, Feb. 10, noon at A.V. Sorensen Branch, 4808 Cass St., 402-444-5274

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

The Eclectic Book Review Club

The 65-year-old Eclectic Book Review Club continues its 2014-2015 season on February 17 at the Omaha Field Club, 3615 Woolworth Avenue. A noon lunch will be followed by the 12:30 review:

February 17 Omaha Librarian Judy Shannon will review "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand

March 17 UNL Fine Arts Professor Karen Shoemaker will review her book "The Meaning of Names," OMAHA READS selection for 2014

April 21 Eclectic Club Member Ann Van Hoff will review "Mrs. Queen Takes the Train" by William Kuhn

May 19 UNL English Professor Timothy Schaffert will review his book "The Swan Gondola."

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

Jane Meehan, Program Chairman
E mail: 0422.J@cox.net

www.edwardjones.com

Life Doesn't Stand Still

and Neither Should Your Investments.

Time can affect you as much as your investments. While you can't stop change, you can help ensure your investments match your current circumstances and goals.

Fortunately, doing that may be as easy as meeting with your financial advisor. A complimentary portfolio review from Edward Jones can help identify where your investments stand in relation to your goals and how to get them moving in the same direction.

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Midtown's Car Care Experts

Omaha Sierra Club presents:

“Environmental Features of a LEED-Certified Grocery Store” with Tally Mertes Thurs. Jan. 22, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Hy-Vee at 180th & Pacific (1000 S. 178th St.)

(Meet in the “Club Room” on east side of store near the international cheeses.)

“Building Green” applies to all kinds of buildings, including homes, businesses, and even grocery stores. Hy-Vee has made a commitment to build all of its new stores according to LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) principles, and those strategies will be on display as we take a tour of the Hy-Vee located at 180th and Pacific Streets. The store takes advantage of natural lighting, and has many other features including automatic freezer lights, artificial flex lighting, and a light-reflecting concrete parking lot. Store manager Tally Mertes has added many new features to reduce the store’s carbon footprint in the three years since she’s been at the store, and she is excited to share them with us.


Join us for a visit to this LEED-certified Hy-Vee. We’ll start with a brief talk from Tally in the Club Room, to learn about the construction and design features that went into building the store. Afterwards, we’ll have a walking tour through the building as Tally points out energy-saving features of the store’s lighting and refrigeration systems, and resource-conserving features relating to water consumption and packaging.

Sierra Club programs are free and open to the public. Bring a friend! More information at sierranebraska.org

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Visit: www.midtownmonitor.com



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Omaha Press Club Educational Form January 15th, 2015

“Implication of President Obama Executive Orders
Dealing with Immigration”:

This presentation moderated by Dr. Jim Van Arsdall, Omaha Press Club Education Committee member will cover the legal background of Administrative Relief and who qualifies, the history of executive action as it pertains to immigration, a brief history of most recent immigration changes in the law, including the 1986

Immigration Reform and Control Act and 1996’s Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Response Act. The presenters will also cover the realities of this executive order for Nebraskans and how the impacted community has responded.

The two panelists from Justice for Our Neighbors, a major immigration legal service which has been at the forefront in the immigration law implementation will be Charles S. Ellison, Esq. Regional Attorney/Legal Director And Virginia Maynes, Esq. Staff Attorney
12:00 Noon to 1 o'clock \$15.00 per person includes lunch
Reservations - call (402) 345-8008 OR email opc-jeanie@gmail.com Guest and non-members welcome
The Omaha Press Club 22nd Flr - First National Center
1620 Dodge Street Validated parking in the Doubletree Hotel garage. Bring your ticket



Midtown Business Owners You’re invited to the MBA Meeting

The next MBA meeting will be Jan 28th, 2014
Noon, UNMC private dining room, just \$10. for lunch.
Must make reservations by Friday prior to meeting.
E-mail contact@midtownbusinessassociation.org
or call Judy Alderman at 402-213-6474.

How Much Should I be Spending on my Utility Bills?

By David Holtzclaw of Transduction Technologies

How much do you spend per year on electricity and natural gas? How much electricity and natural gas do you consume? How much electricity and natural gas should you consume? For many different reasons, many people today want to consume less energy, but few actually know their energy consumption, and fewer have any idea if they consume too little or too much compared to their neighbor. Well, you're about to find out. Warning – this involves math!

In 2013, the average OPPD residential customer consumed 11,565 kWh/year (approximately \$1,404/year including service fees and taxes), and the four year average (2010-2013) was 11,723 kWh/year (\$1,421/year). What is a kWh? Residential electricity is sold in units of kilowatt hours (kWh), which is the electricity need to provide 1000 watts per second for one hour. So, if a 60 W bulb for a desk lamp was on for an 8 hours per day, that bulb would consume 0.48 kWh (60 watts x 8 hours per day = 480 watt-hours / 1000 = 0.48 kilowatt hour or 0.48 kWh) per work day or 120 kWh per year. At an average cost of \$0.1034/kWh, that one 60W light bulb will cost you \$12.41/per year to turn on for 8 hours/day.

Likewise, natural gas (provided by MUD) is sold in units of therms. One therm is equivalent to 100 cubic feet of natural gas, and when burned, produces 100,000 British Thermal Units (BTU) of heat energy. One BTU is approximately equal to the heat energy produced by a single burning match. Most midtown home furnaces are rated at 100,000 therms. In 2012, the average MUD res-

idential customer consumed 801 therms/year, and the 12 year residential MUD average (2001-2012) was 878 therms/year or \$771/year (including taxes and fees). Even worse, most midtown homes consume 10-30% above average energy due to the older housing stock.

Most Omahans are shocked that they spend, on average, \$2,192/year on energy. Since we pay our utilities monthly, we often ignore the annual cost. But it could be worse. Omaha ranks as the 5th lowest for U.S residential natural gas (2013 Memphis Light Gas and Water Utility Bill Comparison survey) and OPPD retail rates were 16.4% below the national average in 2013.

To determine your annual energy consumption, first obtain copies of your 2013 energy bills. Copies of your OPPD bills can be obtained online (<https://myaccount.oppd.com/myaccount/>) or by phone (402-536-4131). Likewise, copies of your MUD bills can be obtained online at (<https://myaccount.mudomaha.com/Welcome.action>) or by phone (402-554-6666). Please note, your MUD bill covers natural gas, water, and sewer charges, so make sure you are only using your natural gas charges. Simply add up your electricity and natural gas consumption for the year and compared your annual energy consumption to the average numbers above to see where you stand.

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

**Friends of the Omaha Public Library
Annual Meeting**
Saturday, January 10th, 1 PM
W. Dale Clark Main Library,
215 Soth 15th, 4th floor
Guest Speaker: Sarah Baker Hansen, Omaha
World Herald Food Critic.
"Omaha's Food Evolution"
The Public is welcome.

Do You Have a Great Photo of Midtown?

Submit your photo for possible 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 (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.

Midtown Galleries & Theaters

Modern Artists Midtown (MAM)

3615 Dodge St. 402-520-8737
www.modernartsmidtown.com
Gallery hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
January 9 to February 28
The Abstract Show
Featuring works by Graceann Warn, Robert Spellman, Steve Mueller, Larry Roots, Thomas Jewell-Vitale, Rick Johns, Cathy Palmer, Teresa Schmidt, and Mike Baur.
Opening reception, Friday, January 9, 6 to 8 p.m.

Cathedral Arts Project, Sunderland Gallery

3900 Webster St. 402-551-4888
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
December 7 to January 31
What a Wonderful World: Photographs by Dan Bishop
Opening Reception, Sunday, December 7, 1 to 3 p.m.

Connect Gallery

3901 Leavenworth St.
402-991-8234 www.connectgallery.net
Gallery hours: Wednesday to Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Works include those of Al Rhea, Jean Sitzman, Jim Scholz, JK Thorsen, and Robert Wigton.

Anderson O'Brien Fine Art Old Market

1108 Jackson Street 402-884-0911
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 oils by Christina Narwicz and Stephen Dinsmore, jewelry by Linda Blumel, and acrylics by Rein Vanderhill.



"Autumn 1" by Rein Vanderhill.

Michael Phipps Gallery at the Omaha Public Library's Main Library, 215 S. 15th St., 1st Floor, from January 5 through February 21, 2015.

Alicia Armentrout's exhibit, *Motivating to Grandeur*, of photos taken at the Allwine Prairie and Glacier Creek Preserve in Bennington, NE will be on display. Opening Reception January 9th, 4 - 6:00pm.

Omaha Community Playhouse

6915 Cass St.
402-553-0800
www.omahaplayhouse.com

Hawks Mainstage Theater

Little Women—January 23 to February 22
This production brings Louisa May Alcott's classic novel to life as four very different sisters, guided by their beloved Marmee, find strength in themselves and each other to endure heartache and loss and celebrate joys and accomplishments.

Howard Drew Theater

Shelterbelt Theatre

3225 California St. 402-341-2757
www.shelterbelt.org
Next production in January.
brevis of childhood.

SNAP Productions

3225 California St. 402-341-2757
www.snapproductions.com
Next production in March.

Blue Barn Theatre

614 S. 11th St.
402-345-1576 www.bluebarn.org
Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays—January 8-10 and 15-17
Two little words and suddenly your whole world changes. Unique takes on the moments before, during and after "I do."



"Fractal -001" by Alicia Armentrout

Remember church? This isn't that.

We kept the parts you liked, but this time God *really does* love everybody.

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.

January 4 – 25, 2015

“The Good Life: Philosophical Ideas”

Scott Jones, Senior minister at First Central
Philosophy begins in wonder at our experience of the world around us, and its ultimate goal is to become a better person. In this series, our Senior Minister Scott Jones will share some of the elements of the Intro to Philosophy class he teaches at Creighton University, with an emphasis on what we can learn about the good life.

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

Save the Date Alert

Holland Lecture Wednesday March 4th, 2015

Holland Performing Arts Center

Free Lecture

Topic: Prison Reform: Real or Imagined

Speaker: Angela Davis

Angela Davis, is a writer, activist and scholar and comes to Omaha to share her unique perspectives on prison reform, a topic front and center in current state as well as national debates. She envisions a future without prisons and advocates for dissolving what she coined the “prison industrial complex.” Ms. Davis grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, giving her a front row seat to the Civil Rights Movement. In the 1960s, her social activism, involvement in the Communist Party and “alleged” association with the Soledad Brothers attempted courtroom escape made her a controversial figure. The latter led to an intense police search that ended with her arrest, trial and eventual acquittal of the charges. Ms. Davis has written nine books and is Professor Emerita in the History of Consciousness and the Feminist Studies departments at the University of California Santa Cruz.



<http://www.firstuomaha.org/#!holland-lecture-series/c1jv2>

The Holland Lecture Series is sponsored by First Unitarian Church of Omaha, 3114 Harney Street.

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



Branches Missing from Your Family Tree?

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Business card \$80 one time (larger example above)
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.
All advertising must be prepaid for entire schedule, ads run consecutive months.

Call 402-714-1016

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



For Rent Midtown Duplex 618 N. 40th Street -

First Floor apartment 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. \$750.00
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Oak floors newly refinished. High ceilings, large windows with lots of light. Great woodwork. 1100 square feet. Restored home. No Smoking building. Off Street parking for one car. Near Creighton Shuttle UNMC Garden space available. Apt size washer and dryer in apt. Credit check, references required. No sec 8. One month rent for deposit. Cat allowed. Available Now. 402-714-1016 Email Paintedlady0@gmail.com Please do not call after 9 pm.

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\$775,000	5210 Davenport	4	5	2	2.5 Story	4,739
\$650,000	652 N 59 St	4	6	2	2.5 Story	3,241
\$645,000	5406 Izard St	4	4	2	2 Story	3,576
\$500,000	102 N 53 St	5	5	4	2.5 Story	4,945
\$385,000	6456 Cuming St	3	4	2	Ranch	2,956
\$360,000	5119 Izard St	4	4	2	2.5 Story	2,730
\$332,000	530 S 53 St	4	3	2	2 Story	2,320
\$322,000	669 N 59 St	3	2	1	2 Story	2,048
\$233,000	1705 S 61 Ave	3	3	1	1.5 Story	2,682
\$225,000	5026 Burt St	3	3	2	2 Story	2,310
\$189,000	6934 Burt St	3	2	2	2 Story	2,508
\$185,000	822 S 55 St	3	2	2	1.5 Story	1,718
\$179,900	6227 Poppleton	3	2	1	1.5 Story	1,692
\$175,000	5649 Poppleton	3	2	1	1.5 Story	1,935
\$171,000	5022 Cuming St	4	3	1	2 Story	1,574
\$160,000	4834 Farnam St	4	3	2	2.5 Story	2,052
\$156,000	6720 Pacific St	3	3	4	Split Entry	1,693
\$155,000	1712 S 54 St	3	2	1	R Ranch	1,681
\$153,000	912 N 49 St	3	2	1	1.5 Story	1,719
\$150,000	4924 Capitol Ave	5	4	2	2.5 Story	2,600
\$145,000	1610 N 59th St	3	2	1	Ranch	2,430
\$124,500	6321 Seward St	4	3	3	2 Story	1,916
\$123,000	615 S 68 Ave	3	1	1	R Ranch	1,308
\$115,000	5145 Woolworth	2	2	1	R Ranch	1,932
\$114,000	1943 S 63 St	2	1	1	R Ranch	1,000
\$109,000	811 N 50 St	2	2	1	1.5 Story	1,336
\$105,000	1615 S 54 St	3	1	1	Ranch	1,410

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

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