

Midtown Monitor

Serving Midtown Neighborhoods

May 2015

Farmers Markets Open

Inside this issue:

- Farmers Markets
- Notable Upcoming Events
- Gangsters and Tunnels
- Gallery and Theater Events
- Crawl Space Renovations
- and much more...

MEET OUR ROCK STAR MORTGAGE TEAM

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These students want to come to the US to practice English and learn about our culture. As a host family, you simply provide a bed, family meals and invite your student to participate in your family's traditions and introduce them to our American culture. To learn more about the opening your heart and home to an exchange student contact Heather Lundgren (402)670-3371/ heather.i.experience@gmail.com. You can also visit www.international-experience.net to learn more.

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2015 Farmers Markets

Omaha Farmers Market - Aksarben Village

67th & Center St. 402.345.5401

Sunday 9am–1 pm May 3–October 18

Benson- Military Ave.

at new location

Omaha Home For Boys

402.571.1785

Saturday 8am–1pm

May 2–September



Gifford Park Neighborhood 33rd & California St.

402.558.4070

Friday 4pm–8pm May 29th–September

Omaha Farmers Market - Old Market

11th & Jackson St.

402.345.5401

Saturday 8am–12:30pm May 2–October 17

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Plant Sales

The Annual Super Sale!

at First Central Congregational Church, 421 S. 36th St.

May 16th from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Please enter through the Evergreen Thrift Shop entrance, at the northeast corner of the building. The sale will again include the usual fabulous thrift shop merchandise, a large book sale, and a plant sale. Plants will include many perennials from the gardens of church members, and some annuals grown from seed.

Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions about the plants.

Men's Garden Club Plant Sale

Friday, May 1, 2015 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Saturday, May 2, 2015 9AM - 2 PM

Our loyal customers from years past will want to notice that the sale location is changing this year.

Keystone Event Center 7803 Military Ave

The Event Center is on the lower level of this strip mall Lots of parking available

1. A large selection of perennials from Bluebird Nursery in Clarkson, NE.
2. A number of popular annuals.
3. Omaha's largest selection of Heirloom tomatoes.



Gangsters and Tunnels

Gangsters and Tunnels: Douglas County and Prohibition exhibit opens to the public April 19th and will run for a year at Fort Crook house.

The Douglas County Historical Society (DCHS) takes a look at the history of Prohibition in Omaha – the Temperance movement, the distillers, the bootleggers, and the gangsters. Please join us in our exhibit space to explore one of Omaha’s – and America’s – most tumultuous eras.

Omaha was one of the earliest states for the debate regarding legal alcohol, with Nebraska briefly banning the sale of liquor in 1917, three years before the rest of the country followed. At the time, the manufacture and sale of liquor was a wedge between Omaha – a city of distilleries and beer brewers – and the rest of Nebraska, who saw Omaha’s alcohol trade as one more vice in a city notorious for vice.

But, of course, Prohibition didn’t end the sale of liquor in Omaha, but drove it underground and created a new industry for Tom Dennison, already Omaha’s crime boss. The next decade and a half would be one of booze, music, crime, and corruption, culminating in a series of murders and arrests that splashed Omaha across America’s front page.



DCHS will represent this era with stories, artifacts, and recreations of the people, places, and events of the era.

Notable Upcoming Events

Music in Midtown:

“Here Comes the Sun: A Beatles Tribute,”

Sunday, June 14, 2015 at 6:00 PM,

1st Central Congregational Church.

Omaha’s Master Singers, under the direction of Dr. D. Lauren Pickle, are presenting their final concert of the 2014-2015 season: “Here Comes the Sun: A Beatles Tribute. This concert will be performed entirely a cappella. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students/seniors and are available at the door or at their website: www.mastersingersomaha.org. Children twelve and under are free.

Dundee -Memorial Park Neighborhood Garage Sale Weekend.

May 15, 16, 17th. Hundreds of Great Garage Sales

May 3 at 9:10 am. **The Garden of Eatin’**
(Food Gardening in the City)

Jan Riggenbach, gardening expert, columnist, and member of First Central, shares her gardening wisdom. It doesn’t take a lot of space or much time to grow some of your own healthy produce. Come and get some ideas for your garden.

First Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located in midtown at the corner of 36th and Harney Streets, For more information, call 402-345-1533.

Dundee Day - August 29th, Full Day of Fun For Everyone! Pancake Breakfast, parade on Underwood Avenue, exhibits, beer garden.

National Association of Letter Carrier’s Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive May 9th.

Leave your non perishable food donations at your door for pickup by your letter carrier.

The Omaha Press Club Educational Series

Presents Former Senator Mike Flood
Thursday, May 21, 2015

Please join us as Mike discusses the huge potential market that the community should be tapping into with the increasing presence of Hispanics in Nebraska.
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 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.

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402-714-1016

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402-551-6787

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Midtown's Car Care Experts

Summer Fun Begins

Midtown Crossing is planning to make the summer sizzle with a jam-packed mix of new events and established fan favorites – everything from live music to outdoor movies, bocce ball to yoga.

Live Music:

Thursdays in the Park | Thursdays, June 4 – Sept. 3
Back by popular demand, Thursdays in the Park will, once again, encompass four separate Turner Park concert experiences:

Summer Kickoff Concert Series – June 4, 11
Playing with Fire – June 18, 25; July 2
Omaha Performing Arts' Jazz on the Green – July 9, 16, 23, 30; August 6, 13
End of Summer Concert Series – August 20, 27; September 3; sponsored by the University of Nebraska at Omaha
Zydeco Festival | Saturday, June 27

Movies – and Shows:

Monday Night at the Movies | Mondays, June 1 – July 27

Midtown Car Show | Sundays, May 17 & September 13

Fitness and Fun:

Yoga Rocks the Park | Sundays, May 10 – June 28
Big O! Bocce Ball League | Tuesdays, Spring & Summer

The good times always roll during Big O! Bocce's spring and summer leagues in Turner Park.

Spirit of Giving Festival, Billy McGuigan and Fireworks Launch Midtown Crossing's Summer Concert Schedule

Raising up local charities and getting down with a fan favorite – that's the plan for Thursday, June 4, as Midtown Crossing celebrates the start of its high-powered summer concert schedule.

Omaha original Billy McGuigan returns by popular demand to rock the iconic Pavilion in Turner Park that evening and launch Midtown Crossing's summer-long Thursdays in the Park total concert experience. The creator of three nationally-touring shows: Rave On!, Yesterday and Today, and Rock Legends, McGuigan's performances have broken box office and attendance records in theaters across the country. He will take the stage at 7:00 p.m. and the evening will be capped in grand style with a fireworks extravaganza over Turner Park.

To complement McGuigan's free Summer Kickoff Concert and raise awareness of local charities, Turner Park is also hosting a Spirit of Giving Festival on June 4, starting at 5:00 p.m.

The festival will bring more than 35 nonprofits together to share their missions, create connections and excitement, and celebrate the community's spirit of giving with a fun and interactive outdoor expo.

The Spirit of Giving Festival will run until 8:00 p.m. All concerts are free to the public. The Turner Park venue opens at 5 p.m.

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May 7 - FREE & open to the public at Historic Fort Omaha

5:30 pm Crook House Museum - free meal and entertainment
7 pm Swanson Conference Center - musical performance, program discussion led by Dr. Kent Blansett, and talk back panel to follow

A DCHS annual tribute to the Standing Bear Trial

To reserve your seat or for more information, call 402.455.9990 or visit www.DouglasCoHistory.org



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Crawl Space Renovations

By David Holtzclaw of Transduction Technologies

A crawl space is just that – a space usually 2-4 feet in height sandwich between the main floor trusses and the ground. Crawl spaces are usually created by an addition to a house like a sun room, porch, family room, or expanded kitchen. Energywise, crawl spaces cost as much as basements, but with none of their advantages. Furthermore, the space above the crawl space is inevitably uncomfortable – cold in the winter and hot in the summer.

Crawl spaces can be vented or unvented (i.e. closed). Vented crawl spaces will have passive vents to the exterior and the air, vapor, and thermal barriers of the house will be in the floor assembly above the crawl space. Unvented crawl spaces do not have passive ventilation and are insulation at the perimeter of the crawl with a continuous air and class 1 vapor barrier on the ground and running up the perimeter wall to the sill plate or to a termite inspection strip. In eastern Nebraska, sealed, unvented crawl spaces work much better than vented crawl spaces for several reasons including moisture management, mold prevention, improved indoor air quality, and fewer frozen pipes.

So, if you have an accessible crawl space with a dirt floor, the first goal is to keep the crawl space dry by correcting any exterior grading problems so that the exterior grade slopes away from the crawl space. Remove all rocks and

debris from the crawl space floor, and rake the dirt smooth. Ideally, the crawl space floor will be higher than the exterior grade, although keeping the grade high on the interior of a crawl space is not always possible. Next, add a continuous air and vapor retarder with taped seams over the dirt floor. The edges of the vapor retarder should extend at least 6 inches up the crawl space stem walls and seal at the top plate or termite inspection strip.

The next step is to insulate the crawl space walls and remove any insulation along the crawl space ceiling. Without question, you want to insulate your crawl space walls. This is less about energy savings and more about comfort and moisture management. In general, unless you are going to frame the walls, do not use fiberglass, cellulose, or polyisocyanurate in basements or crawl spaces because they will absorb moisture. We recommend at least 2 inches rigid foam insulation (R-10 minimum). Seams should be taped and offset. The boundary should be sealed with spray foam, caulk, or tape. Adhere with foam-compatible adhesive. Building codes require most types of spray foam insulation to be protected by an ignition barrier except for rim joists. If your crawl space has stone-and-mortar walls or you just can't insulate the walls with rigid foam; the only type of insulation that makes sense is closed-cell spray polyurethane foam or insulating from the exterior of the crawl space walls.

Renewable Energy Development In Nebraska

UNO's Community Engagement Center, Room 201

May 14 - 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Speaker: John Atkeison, Energy Policy Director for the Nebraska Wildlife Federation and Co-Director of Clean Energy Nebraska

John is a campaigner, publicist, and lobbyist in the energy policy arena. Global warming is his primary focus. He has worked professionally as a campaign manager at the congressional level, a publisher, and an information technology consultant.

John is a certified installer of grid-tied photovoltaic systems, and has worked in the solar energy field in Nebraska. He is the principal author of the 2012 report "Harness the Sun," which presents an analysis of the real world costs of small-to-medium sized solar electric systems in Nebraska during that year. He works with organizations and electric power utilities on issues related to clean energy. He is eager to provide programs about clean renewable energy for civic and community organizations.

The workshop is free & open to the public. Refreshments provided. Free parking is available in the reserved lot to the north of the Community Engagement Center, near the Durham Bell Tower, plus adjacent lots.

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.

May 1 to 30

Paintings by Judith Burton

Opening reception, Friday, May 1, 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 through May 29

New works by Kristin Pluhacek

Connect Gallery

3901 Leavenworth St.

402-991-8234 www.connectgallery.net

April 1 to May 2

New York featuring works by J.K. Thorsen and Evelyn

Render-Katz

Artist reception, Friday, April 17, 5 to 9 p.m.

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

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 mixed media by Sharon Booma, oil paintings by Jean Jack, jewelry by Donna Burdic, and prints by Kat Moser.



Sybil by Pete Wroblewski

Omaha Community Playhouse

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

Hawks Mainstage Theater

I Hate Hamlet—April 17 to May 10

Aspiring actor Andrew has landed what most would call the role of a lifetime as Hamlet. Only problem, he hates Hamlet. He's also landed in the New York apartment where John Barrymore once lived. It seems that Barrymore's ghost still resides there. He mentors Andrew on all the tricks of the trade. But will he get him to like Hamlet?

Spamalot—May 29 to June 28

The title comes from a line in the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail: "We eat ham and jam and spam a lot." This reworking of the film's retelling of King Arthur and his knights includes characters named Sir Lancelot the Homicidally Brave and Not Dead Fred. Among the many songs are "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" and "You Won't Succeed on Broadway."

Shelterbelt Theatre

3225 California St. 402-341-2757

www.shelterbelt.org

In the Jungle You Must Wait—Through May 10

Workers at this office are just trying to cope, when they're suddenly pressed to find meaning in their lives. As they struggle to raise funds for their brash janitor who's diagnosed with cancer, they discover more about themselves than they ever cared to know. Slam poetry, satire, and a searing truth all find their places in this fast-paced production.

SNAP Productions

3225 California St. 402-341-2757

www.snapproductions.com

Calendar Girls—May 28 to June 21

The play is based on the true story of 11 women who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the leukemia research. The news of the women's charitable venture spreads like wildfire, and hordes of press soon descend on their village. The calendar is a success, but friendships are put to the test under the strain of their newfound fame.

Blue Barn Theatre

614 S. 11th St.

402-345-1576 www.bluebarn.org

Our Town—May 7 to June 7

Thornton Wilder tracks the day-to-day activities in the fictional hamlet of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. The play shows the residents' triumphs, sorrows, casual conversations and formal traditions and seems to suggest that people should appreciate the details and interactions of everyday life while they live them.

Gifford Park Playground

This May the Gifford Park Community Garden is excited to be introducing a new element: The Sallie Foster Adventure Playground. It will consist of 'loose-parts' materials that enhance imaginative play: tarps, sticks, wood, bungee cords, fabric, paint, cardboard, large spools, and more. These objects, along with the conscious assistance of on-site adult staff will provide a rich play environment for neighborhood kids. We believe that if given space and materials to explore their ideas, kids can have a really amazing time doing what they love. Importantly, the playground will be considered the kid's own space- adults are present to help things along, but we hope that the kids who use it will think of the space as theirs.

The Omaha Adventure Play Group is a team of volunteers who have lead this project to its current state through organizing with the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association and the Community Garden. We are extremely grateful to those who have helped the project up to this point, and see the Adventure Playground as an exciting addition to our neighborhood. I am personally so excited for this summer! Adventure Playground hours will be Saturdays from 12-4pm and tentatively Sundays from 2-5 pm.

We will consider donations of all kinds of materials, but due to our limited storage space, can only accept some items. If you have donations for the playground, would like to volunteer, or have questions, please get in contact with Teal at adventureplayomaha@gmail.com. Check out our Facebook page at facebook.com/adventureplayomaha, and of course, stop by the Playground during open hours!



Friends of Omaha Public Library **Book Sales**

Swanson Library 90th & W. Dodge Rd.

Thursdays 10 am - 3 pm
(Except holidays)

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

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:

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

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"\$106,500 "	1915 S 55 St	3	2	0	Ranch	"1,216"
"\$115,000 "	5145 Woolworth	2	2	1	R Ranch	"1,932"
"\$115,500 "	5127 Pierce St	2	2	2	Ranch	828
"\$121,000 "	719 S 68 Avenue	3	2	1	R Ranch	"1,448"
"\$121,000 "	5625 Dorcas St	3	1	2	Ranch	"1,756"
"\$121,500 "	701 S 68 Street	3	2	1	R Ranch	"1,300"
"\$127,000 "	1510 S 52nd St	3	1	1	1.5 Story	"1,393"
"\$128,000 "	1803 S 55th St	3	1	1	1.5 Story	"1,078"
"\$130,500 "	6467 Pierce St	2	2	1	R Ranch	"1,082"
"\$135,500 "	5146 Poppleton	3	1	1	1.5 Story	"1,476"
"\$145,000 "	1914 N 58 St	3	2	2	Ranch	"2,198"
"\$160,000 "	2730 S 50 St	4	2	10	1.5 Story	"1,533"
"\$161,000 "	1702 S 60 St	4	3	2	2 Story	"2,677"
"\$171,000 "	5568 Walnut St	2	3	1	Ranch	"2,070"
"\$178,000 "	5511 Leavenworth	4	2	2	2 Story	"2,675"
"\$188,000 "	5016 Lafayette	4	3	1	1.5 Story	"2,277"
"\$189,000 "	5711 Mayberry	3	2	2	1.5 Story	"2,018"
"\$199,000 "	1610 N 59 St	3	2	2	Ranch	"2,605"
"\$200,000 "	516 S 50 Ave	3	3	1	1.5 Story	"2,520"
"\$200,000 "	910 S 58 Street	3	3	2	1.5 Story	"1,971"
"\$220,000 "	108 S 70 Street	2	3	2	Ranch	"3,709"
"\$225,500 "	5920 Poppleton	3	2	1	Mlti-Lvl	"2,070"

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

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Sunday, June 14th 6:00 PM

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Summer Concert Series 2015

Last and First—June 7
Brass Alive—June 14
Crossing the Atlantic—June 21
Moran Woodwind Quintet—June 28

All concerts take place at 3 PM
Post-concert receptions on June 7, 21 and 28

Location:
First Central Congregational Church
421 South 36th Street, Omaha

For more information
402-960-6943
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