

Midtown Monitor

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March 2017

Growing a Low-Maintenance Butterfly Garden



Each new garden year holds so much excitement and promise – warm weather and gorgeous flowers blooming beneath a sunny sky. And on those flowers will be butterflies as well as other pollinators celebrating the garden's feast. Supporting these creatures is now more important than ever, especially as monarch butterfly numbers have fallen and as bees – who pollinate a large portion of our food crops – are also diminishing. In many ways, your home landscape can be a meaningful wildlife refuge.

Having a pollinator garden doesn't have to be a lot of work. In fact, in my large 4,500 foot garden, I work less than one day a year. Here are some strategies to help you create an oasis of life for you and your family to enjoy.

1) Use native plants. Local pollinators have evolved with these plants, and so benefit more from the pollen and nectar, all while being able to lay eggs on the leaves. Our native plants are also adapted to local climate and better able to shrug off extreme weather patterns.

2) Choose the right plant for the right place. This means doing a bit of research to ensure your new plants will thrive in your soil, light, and drainage conditions. And when you match the plant to your soil, you won't have to add pricey amendments. Many of our native prairie plants love clay, for example, but will perform poorly in a rich, amended soil.

3) Use plants in place of mulch. Wood mulch requires annual expense and labor. Instead, consider using more plants, which can act as a natural, living mulch to shade out weeds. Place plants closer together, and use a variety of flowers mixed in with grasses.

4) Leave the garden up in fall. A winter garden left standing is healthier – it's better able to withstand snow and ice, and provides shelter for hibernating butterflies and caterpillars. If you've used perennial grasses and flowers, just take a weed whacker to the entire bed in late March and leave the cuttings as a natural fertilizer. New growth will soon pop through.

5) Forget the pesticides. They almost always do more harm than good and cost money. If you have a garden with diverse plants and a large variety of flowers, beneficial predator insects will soon move in to rid you of aphids and more. Treasure predators like spiders and wasps who are often too busy to care about you smelling a nearby flower.

Here's hoping you have a successful year gardening with nature and for pollinators!

Some of the best native flowers for pollinators:

Black-Eyed Susan, Rattlesnake master, Purple Prairie Clover, Virginia Mountain Mint, Red Milkweed, Smooth Aster, Zigzag Goldenrod

Benjamin Vogt is a garden designer with Monarch Gardens LLC, writes for Houzz.com, and speaks nationally on landscaping with native plants.

Sierra Club Monthly Program:

"Living with Cougars" with Penny Maldonado, Executive Director, the Cougar Fund

Thurs. March 23, 7 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St. Omaha Enter north door 'Education' wing

Cougars, or mountain lions, are native to Nebraska, but were eliminated from the state by the late 1800s after being over-hunted by settlers. However, the species survived in neighboring states, and eventually returned to Nebraska, with the first confirmed mountain lion sighting in Nebraska in modern times coming in 1991 in the Pine Ridge.

The Cougar Fund is a national conservation organization based in Jackson Wyoming. Executive Director Penny Maldonado will share the story of The Cougar Fund's formation, and explore how communities can learn to discern the myth from the reality of this most magnificent and elusive animal. Her presentation will discuss how we can value the ecological contributions of cougars, and secure a safe place for them, in an ever-decreasing natural landscape.

Please join us for this interesting and informative presentation. Sierra Club programs are free and open to the public. More information at <http://www.sierraclub.org/nebraska>

**The Omaha Press Club
Education Series Remembers
Nebraska Statehood**

It was 150 years ago that Nebraska became a state. As part of its noon forum series the Omaha Press Club is sponsoring an appearance by Omaha re-enactor Darrel Draper playing the role of Peter Sarpy for whom Sarpy County is named.

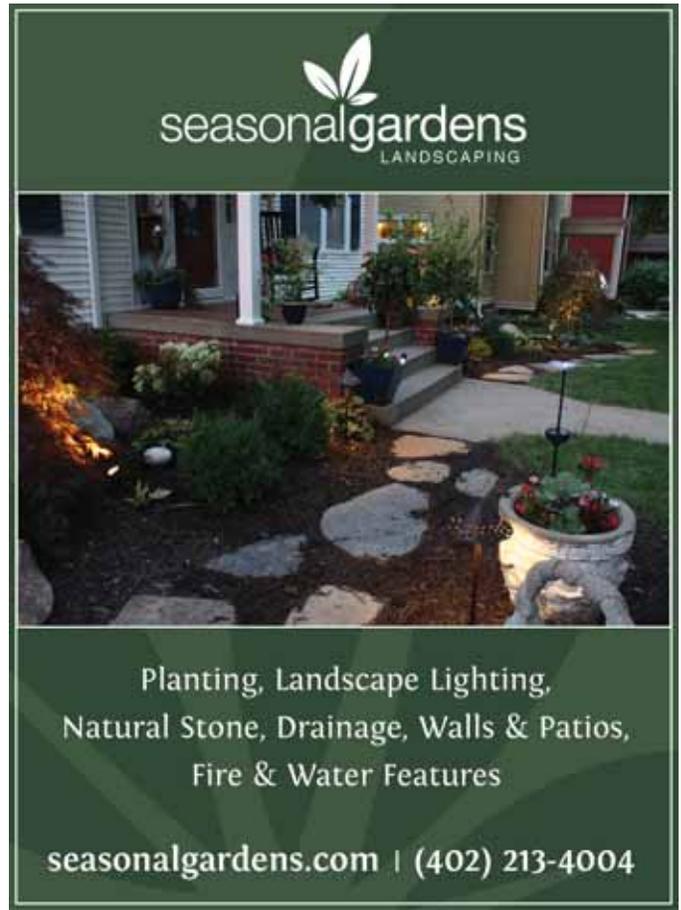
Dressed in period costume and speaking in his native French accent and using humor and factual historical anecdotes Peter Sarpy will describe the transformation of Nebraska from French colony to statehood.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017
12 noon to one p.m.

Forum begins immediately at noon

\$17 per person includes lunch which begins at 11:30
CALL 401-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS OR email
Jeanie at jeaniec@opc.omhcoxmail.com
24 hour cancellation policy

NON-PRESS CLUB MEMBERS WELCOME
Validated parking in the Doubletree Hotel garage for members. Bring your ticket.
The Omaha Press Club 22nd floor—First National Center, 1620 Dodge St.



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**PECHA KUCHA
OPEN HOUSE**

Monday, March 20th
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

The Slowdown
729 N 14th St.

Green Omaha Coalition, in collaboration with Earth Day Omaha Coalition, is hosting a Pecha Kucha style open house. Join us for a fun, inclusive event promoting collaboration among the sustainable and environmental groups that are making a difference in Omaha.

Interested in being a presenting organization?
Contact us at events@greenomahacoalition.org.

More information coming soon!

Recent Midtown Homes Sold

Sold Price	Address	Br	Bth	G	Style	TSqFt
"\$71,000 "	1311 N 66 Street	2	2	0	Ranch	"1,268"
"\$84,000 "	5416 Pacific Street	2	1	1	Ranch	888
"\$91,500 "	849 S 50 Avenue	2	1	0	Ranch	"1,034"
"\$94,000 "	1201 N 72nd St	3	2	1	Split Entry	"1,140"
"\$98,500 "	5825 Erskine St	3	2	0	1.5 Story	"1,608"
"\$106,000 "	815 S 49 Street	2	2	1	Ranch	975
"\$112,500 "	710 S 68 Avenue	3	1	1	Ranch	"1,320"
"\$115,000 "	6817 Mayberry St	3	2	1	Ranch	"1,229"
"\$115,000 "	5145 Woolworth	2	2	1	R Ranch	"1,932"
"\$126,400 "	6166 Walnut St	2	1	1	Multi-Lvl	"1,202"
"\$130,000 "	6327 Pacific Street	3	2	1	1.5 Story	"1,266"
"\$158,100 "	3110 S 50 Street	3	3	2	Split Entry	"1,813"
"\$160,000 "	339 S 70th Street	3	2	2	Ranch	1,656"
"\$161,000 "	1003 N 69 Street	3	2	1	Ranch	"1,965"
"\$165,000 "	910 N 49th Street	4	3	2	2 Story	"2,002"
"\$191,000 "	4917 Cass Street	2	3	1	Ranch	"1,320"
"\$230,000 "	5706 Harney Street	3	3	2	2 Story	"1,767"
"\$252,500 "	1311 S 52 Street	3	3	1	2 Story	"2,145"
"\$259,900 "	5603 Harney Street	3	2	1	2 Story	"2,179"
"\$352,500 "	1142 N 66 Street	4	4	2	2.5 Story	"2,939"

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

Kari Byron to headline 2017 Nebraska Science Festival

Keynote is host of popular reality-based science shows

Kari Byron, best known as a host on Discovery Channel's "Mythbusters" and "The White Rabbit Project" on Netflix, will headline the 2017 Nebraska Science Festival on April 21.

For more than a decade Byron has been a strong presence in the world of reality-based science television. In addition to "Mythbusters" and "The White Rabbit Project," she has gone on to host and produce shows spanning several networks: "Head Rush," "Punkin Chunkin," "LDRS," "Thrill Factor," "Strange Trips" and "America Declassified."

"Kari Byron is a strong advocate of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) programming on television so we're especially proud to spotlight her in this, our fifth year of the Nebraska Science Festival," said SciFest coordinator Kacie Baum.

The Nebraska Science Festival – scheduled for April 20-29 – will feature an array of science- and technology-related activities in communities across the state with the goal of making science accessible, interactive, relevant and fun for all ages.

On April 21, join Byron in a moderated discussion at Joslyn Museum's Witherspoon Concert Hall in Omaha. Her 7:30 p.m. presentation is free to the public (but requires a reserved ticket) and is suitable for all ages.

Tickets for the general admission seating to Byron's presentation will be released on April 1 on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets will be released online at Event Brite (four per person); please check nescifest.com for more information. Although the presentation is free, tickets are required for admittance when doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Fostering her curious nature, Byron spent a lifetime acquiring odd skills and interests. After graduating college and traveling the world she decided to settle in San Francisco and pursue a career as a sculptor. Special effects and prop making seemed like a perfect fit.

Trying to break into the field, she got an internship at M5 Industries with Jamie Hyneman. Her first day turned out to be the beginning of "Mythbusters," and a career in television. Though her dream was to be a working artist somehow handling poop, eating bugs, wiring explosives and scraping chicken guts off the ceiling turned out to be her real dream job.

Her passion for smart entertainment has lead her around the world, speaking on the role of STEAM programming on television, as well as hosting science fairs from Silicon Valley to the White House.

Past SciFest speakers have included scientist Bill Nye, "Animal Planet" host and conservationist Jeff Corwan, meteorologist and extreme storm chaser Reed Timmer and most recently, actor LeVar Burton, who discussed merging technology, storytelling and science fiction.

Presented by the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the Nebraska Science Festival is a collaboration of organizations and individuals interested in the advancement of science literacy. In addition to UNMC, other sponsors, to date, are Nebraska Medicine, Metro Credit Union and media sponsors KETV and the Omaha World-Herald.

In addition to NeSciFest.com, you will find SciFest updates and information on Twitter (@NESciFest) and Facebook (NE SciFest).

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New Mediterranean Concept Coming to Midtown Crossing

SamFam LLC, owner of the recently opened Herbe Sainte in Aksarben Village, is set to debut a seafood-inspired, Mediterranean concept in Midtown Crossing in late April 2017. Called Della Costa, the new restaurant will feature regional dishes from the coasts of Italy, France, Spain, Morocco and Greece.

Owners Ron Samuelson and Justin and Aaron Halbert say Della Costa gives them a unique opportunity to showcase the flavorful and diverse cuisines of the vibrant Mediterranean coast. Executive chef Jeff Owen, chef de cuisine Shawn Phifer and pastry chef Tina Tweedy are developing a distinctive array of items blending the flavors and cultures of this popular region.

“It opens up a whole, new range of opportunity for oysters, clams and whole-grilled fish. It will definitely be trending more toward the seafood side of the Mediterranean palate,” Samuelson says. “We are really excited to explore this region in depth and find the authentic feel of the area with small, sharable bar appetizers; quick and interesting lunch items; and a dinner menu that will feature everything from pasta, grilled seafood, and aged steaks. The dessert menu will showcase Tina’s unique and whimsical take on classics and modern sweets from the area.”

The new concept will take over the space formerly occupied by Brix – A Wine and Spirits Experience. From the color scheme, lighting and music to use of the large outdoor patio, Justin Halbert said the goal is to create an intimate, casual space, “where we can build relationships, and inspire guests to visit on a regular basis. We don’t want the space to feel like a once- or twice-a-year celebratory space.”

“We really like the idea of bringing something fresh to the Omaha market that hasn’t really ever been expanded upon,” Samuelson says.

The company’s resident sommelier, Aaron Halbert, is developing a broad and inspired wine and cocktail program, designed to complement the bold flavors of the menu and enhance the experience of the outdoor patio, which is among the most popular in the area.

“Aaron specializes in finding family-owned properties with small batch production and hopes to bring some of these new-found gems to Omaha for the first time,” Samuelson says.

Aaron Halbert’s expertise in mixology will also be utilized in the expanded bar area that is planned along the Farnam Street side of the restaurant.

Omaha MasterSingers Seeking Singers for Youth Choir

The Omaha MasterSingers are currently seeking young singers, in third through eighth grade to be a part of our brand new youth choir, Diminuendo.

This high fun, low stress choir is designed to inspire a love of music in children of all ages. Diminuendo will be joining the Omaha MasterSingers adult choir at our April 2nd performance, Modern Troubadours, a celebration of the greatest singer-songwriters of the modern era. Join us as we perform hits from Simon & Garfunkle, Billy Joel, James Taylor & many more!

Diminuendo rehearsals are held from 6:00 to 6:50 p.m. Monday evenings, January 30th through March 27th with one Thursday rehearsal on March 30th. Our concert will be held on Sunday, April 2nd at 6:00 p.m. All rehearsals & our concert will take place at First Central Congregational Church, 421 S. 36th Street in Omaha. Registration is \$25.00 for your first child & \$15.00 for each additional child. Scholarship funds are available. Please visit our website, www.mastersingersomaha.com for a full rehearsal schedule and more information.

Please visit our website, www.mastersingersomaha.com to register online or email us at mastersingersomaha@gmail.com today!

Find us online at: www.mastersingersomaha.com and www.facebook.com/MasterSingersOmahaNE

Joslyn Castle

The Castle will be open for tours on Mondays in March! Join us at 10:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. on March 6, 13, 20, and 27. Kids on spring break? Got company in from out of town? Call 402.595.2199 to reserve your spot!

The Castle will not be open for tours on Sunday, March 5.

Spring Lecture Series

This April the Castle will be alive with discussion about your gardens. This year our series will be centered on caring for your trees. Following the success of our inaugural Garden Lecture Series in 2016, we are planning for four events on Wednesday evenings in April where you can learn tips and techniques to care for and protect one of your most significant landscape investments – your trees.

Each lecture will be free to the public with a suggested good-will donation. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. each evening with the presentation beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The lectures planned are as follows:

April 5: Justin Evertson: “Old Trees, Young Trees – We Need Them All!”

April 12: John Royster: “The Cultural Landscape – Sorting Fact from Fiction on the Design and Development of Joslyn Castle’s Landscape”

April 19: Steve Rhody: “Tree Identification and Morphology – What is Your Tree Doing this Spring?”

April 26: Phil Pierce: “Joslyn Castle Grounds Tree Tour and Planting”

New this year, we have set up an online community through Google Docs where you can weekly track observations and ask questions about your own trees. Find us at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aspX3MP2exw2a3t9WRnN8cXAOkdFSb2kPMc8O2rIWT0/pubhtml>

For additional information about the lecture series, please call 402.595.2199.

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

3114 Harney Street All are welcome
For more info visit. www.firstuomaha.org

Awakening the Dreamer Symposium

Sunday, March 5 at 2pm in the Common Room. This symposium is a profound inquiry into a bold vision to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on this planet. You will gain fresh insights about our world, find hope and inspiration and become clearer on your role in creating a new future. RSVP to Omaha@DSymposium.com. For questions contact stevetorneten@gmail.com.

March 6. "Freeheld". After detective Laurel (Julianne Moore) is diagnosed with cancer, she learns government officials won't award her pension benefits to her domestic partner, Stacie.

AHA (Agnostics, Humanists, Atheists) Discussion Group
Thursday, March 9 at 7pm in the Common Room. For those interested in “bring your own dinner,” doors open at 6pm. We will discuss

Trump v. Humanism: Immigration and Refugees in Omaha. Three members will share their experiences and observations about welcoming refugees to Omaha. How have Unitarians rallied around the most vulnerable among us?

March 20. "The Occupation of the American Mind". A sweeping analysis of Israel's decades-long battle for the hearts and minds and tax dollars of the American people, at a time when tensions in the Middle East are extremely high.

Completely KIDS Author Luncheon

The Completely KIDSSM Guild is pleased to bring Dr. Tina Payne Bryson to Hilton Omaha on Thursday, March 2, 2017 as the Author Luncheon special guest speaker. Bryson is co-author (with Dan Siegel) of the New York Times best-selling books, *The Whole-Brain Child* and *No-Drama Discipline*, and through her work, teaches individuals and organizations like ours to show children how to be happier, healthier and more confident. Reservations for this event may be purchased at completelykids.org or (402) 397-5809. Patron includes luncheon and a signed book at \$100; Individual includes luncheon at \$75. Presented by Pinnacle Bank.

Midtown Galleries

Midtown Theaters

onGallery 1516

1515 Leavenworth Street
www.gallery1516.org

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

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

Connect Gallery

3901 Leavenworth St.
402-991-8234 www.connectgallery.net
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

the little gallery

5901 Maple St. (we moved down the block)
402.681.1901
the little gallery @polecat hq
Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday from 3 to 6pm; Saturday
from 10am to 1pm; + by appointment
Group show from the Midwest Fiber Arts Alliance features
many works by fiber artists runs through March 31st.
opening reception for Text'ure Friday, March 3, from 6:00
to 9:00pm.

Omaha Community Playhouse

6915 Cass St. 402-553-0800
www.omahaplayhouse.com
Howard Drew Theater
Hawks Mainstage Theater

Shelterbelt Theatre

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

SNAP Productions

3225 California St. 402-341-2757
www.snapproductions.com

Blue Barn Theatre

1106 S. 10th St.
402-345-1576 www.bluebarn.org

PART Theatre (Performing Artists Repertory Theatre)

Continues Season Celebration with Beehive, The 60's
Musical at The PART Theatre at the Crossroads, 7400
Dodge Street
showing on Friday's and Sunday's. Friday's at 7pm and
Sunday's at 2pm and 6pm. Doors open 45-minutes before
each show. Seating is on a first come first served basis.
Tickets may be purchased by calling 402-706-0778. Tickets
are \$35 for Regular admission, \$30 for Seniors, \$25 for
Students.

Coming Attractions: Opening on March 17 and 18 only:
An Evening of Irish stories and song starring John
Morrissey. Opening on March 24- April 2 is Jason Robert
Brown's musical The Last Five Years starring Leanne Hill
Carlson and John Jones.

We'd Like to Hear From You

If you are **located in midtown** and have news of interest to Midtown residents and businesses, please send it to midtownmonitor.omaha@gmail.com Word docs are preferred with separate tiff or jpeg images Please try to send **at least one month in advance** of event whenever possible.

A.V. Sorensen Community Center 4808 Cass St

Recreation Center info: 444-5596
To view the many offerings of classes and activities visit
www.cityofomaha.org/parks
Hours: Monday 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm



Midtown Business Owners

You're invited to the
MBA Meeting March 22, 2017
Rachel Jacobson, Filmstreams

Noon, UNMC private dining room, just \$10. for lunch.
Must make reservations by Friday prior to meeting.
E mail: Paul Swanson at paul.swanson@owh.com or
by phone at 402-444-1248.

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Benson, NE 68104

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