

# Midtown Monitor

Published by Shurson Publishing      Volume 13, No 4 April 2017  
Online... check out [www.midtownmonitor.com](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)

April 2017

## Exploring nature — and the power company?

**A perfect slice of nature exists in the heart of Omaha.**

Since opening in 2004, OPPD's Arboretum has been an attraction for anyone wanting to enjoy the outdoors without having to leave the city. The Arboretum, at 108th and Blondo streets, near Interstate 680, has proved popular for educational hikes, dog-walkers and group get-togethers.

The 26-acre site was created to educate visitors as to what trees and shrubs are best planted around overhead and buried power lines, where to plant them and how landscape plantings are important for energy conservation. There is also educational signage throughout the site which explains the different plants and shows how they look mature.

"The original purpose was for our customers to come out and see the different kinds of trees and which ones to plant near lines," said David Walsh, utility Forester. "Over the years it has evolved into a place where a lot of photographers come. We want to make it as nice as possible for the people who come here. This is a good place to come out and relax in the city."



If you go, make sure to bring your camera. The beautiful scenery is a hidden gem for area photographers looking for that perfect backdrop for senior pictures, wedding photos or shots of the little ones.

The Arboretum is open from dusk to dawn year-round and is a Nebraska Statewide Arboretum affiliate site.

There are two miles of walking trails and an outdoor classroom that seats about 30 students. The area is vibrant and colorful, particularly in spring and fall. There are two acres of native grasses and wildflowers and 16 acres of formal planting/turf area. Between camera clicks or a jog on the woodchip trails, visitors can also learn a little.

Students from Metropolitan and Iowa Western Community colleges occasionally hold classes and the tree-trimming companies OPPD contracts with also hold training sessions at the Arboretum, Walsh said.

The site, believed to be the nation's first large-scale, utility-owned arboretum, easily sees about 150 to 200 people on a weekend day when the weather's nice, Walsh said.

Explore OPPD's Arboretum, either in-person or via our photo galleries. One of the city's most scenic spots is just a short drive away and is located close to the interstate for easy access for out of town visitors.

Jason Kuiper joined OPPD as a communications specialist in 2015. He formerly worked as a staff writer and reporter at the Omaha World-Herald. Article reprinted with permission from <http://oppdthewire.com/oppd-nature-arboretum-about/>

## Eclectic Book Review Club

The Eclectic Book Review Club, founded in 1949, Spring 2017 schedule.

Apr. 18 – Joe Starita of the UNL Journalism Department will review his new book, “A Warrior of the People: How Susan La Flesche overcame Racial & Gender Inequality to Become America’s First Indian Doctor.”

May 16 – Evelyn McKnight, a Hepatitis C survivor, will review her book, “A Never Event: Exposing the Largest Outbreak of Hepatitis C in American Health Care History.”

The monthly meetings, which includes lunch and a book review, are held at noon at the Field Club, 3615 Woolworth Ave. The cost is \$13 per person per month.

To reserve a seat, call Rita at 402-553-3147. The reservation deadline is the Monday morning prior to the Tuesday meeting.

Jane Meehan, program chairman 402-556-9452

## Recent Midtown Homes Sold

Sold Price	Address	Br	Bth	G	Style	TSqFt
"\$71,500 "	4844 Charles St	2	1	1	Ranch	976
"\$78,500 "	4811 Seward St	2	1	0	Ranch	636
"\$90,000 "	6809 Mayberry St	2	1	0	Ranch	700
"\$105,000 "	1804 N 48th Ave	2	1	1	R Ranch	1,530
"\$112,000 "	5403 Hickory St	2	1	1	1.5 Story	858
"\$115,000 "	5145 Woolworth	2	2	1	RRanch	"1,932"
"\$115,000 "	1323 S 51 Avenue	2	2	1	Ranch	1,040"
"\$115,000 "	4671 Hickory St	3	1	1	1.5 Story	"1,134"
"\$119,000 "	651 S 69th Street	3	1	1	Ranch	1,014"
"\$120,000 "	4930 Walnut Street	3	1	1	R Ranch	"1,248"
"\$125,000 "	6307 Pierce Street	2	1	1	1.5 Story	910
"\$130,000 "	1410 S 52 Street	3	2	1	1.5 Story	"1,212"
"\$135,000 "	5447 Seward St	3	1	2	RRanch	"1,588"
"\$138,000 "	4939 Hickory St	2	2	3	Bungalow	"1,225"
"\$145,000 "	6185 Hickory St	2	2	1	1.5 Story	"1,174"
"\$150,000 "	5021 Cuming St	3	1	2	1.5 Story	"1,556"
"\$152,000 "	2140 S 61st Street	2	2	1	R Ranch	"1,400"
"\$155,000 "	4611 Davenport St	3	2	4	1.5 Story	"1,836"
"\$177,000 "	5639 Emile Street	3	1	1	2 Story	"1,330"
"\$185,000 "	106 S 50th Avenue	4	2	1	2.5 Story	"2,236"
"\$201,250 "	1503 N 50 Street	4	2	2	Ranch	2013
"\$257,000 "	330 S 68 Avenue	3	3	1	1.5 Story	"2,557"
"\$260,000 "	530 S 52nd Street	5	2	2	2.5 Story	"2,312"
"\$270,000 "	5119 Webster St	3	3	2	2.5 Story	"1,743"
"\$320,000 "	428 N 61 Street	3	3	2	2 Story	"2,397"
"\$322,500 "	5639 Jones Street	3	3	1	2 Story	"2,406"
"\$335,000 "	511 S 51 Avenue	4	2	2	1.5 Story	"2,248"
"\$342,500 "	5107 Lafayette Ave	4	4	2	2.5 Story	"2,438"

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




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## HOLY WEEK



**April 9 Palm Sunday 10:30 am**  
"Celebrating the Triumphal Entry of our Lord"

**April 13 Maundy Thursday "Living Last Supper" 6:30 pm**  
At First Presbyterian Church /Combined with West Hills Church

**April 14 Good Friday 6:30 pm, "The Seven Last Words of Christ"** At West Hills Church/Combines with FPC 6:30 pm 3015 S 82 Ave.

**April 15 Community Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am**  
First Presbyterian Church  
Enter on 34th Street Entrance

**April 16 Easter Morning 10:30 am,**  
Celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ: "He Lives!"



Nursery Provided 

216 So. 34th Street 402-345-5383  
www.fpcmaha.org

# Earth Day Omaha

WHEN: Saturday, April 22nd from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Elmwood Park

Earth Day Omaha is celebrating its 28th year as the single largest environmental event in Omaha – and possibly the oldest continually running Earth Day in the country! With a continued mission to educate and mobilize people to protect our environment, Earth Day Omaha celebrates a collective expression of a public desire to create a sustainable society.



There will be speakers, booths, demonstration and children tents, tree climbing, the Friend of the Environment awards, bands and much more.

## GOC Demonstration Tent

Green Omaha Coalition is proud to sponsor the Demonstration Tent at Earth Day Omaha. Participate in brief, interactive demonstrations covering topics such as stormwater and rain gardens, urban chickens and beekeeping, tree planting, composting and recycling, solar panels and energy efficiency, monarch butterflies, and more!

Free Tree Climb Opportunity! Climb Nebraska's state champion swamp white oak with a rope and harness from 11am-4pm. -Presented by Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

"Dust of your Bike" & Valet Bike Parking! A kids safety course will be taught from 1-2pm and free helmets will be given to the first 50 kids to complete the safety training. -Presented by Omaha Bikes  
Electronic Recycling! Recycle anything with a cord, motor or battery! (Small fees apply for televisions and CRT monitors.) – Presented by Cross Electronic Recycling

Beer Garden & Food Court!

To see a full list of events go to <http://earthdayomaha.org/schedule/>

## Free Electronics Recycling Collections

WHEN: April 15th, 20th, 22nd, 29th, 30th

Drop off your unwanted or obsolete electronic items – working or not. Anything with a battery, cord or motor will be accepted. Environmental fees apply to recycle CRT items and alkaline batteries, but everything else is free!

For more info and locations visit: <http://www.nrcne.org/events/cross-electronics-free-recycling-events.html>



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# Nebraska Science Festival to release tickets April 1 for Kari Byron

Free tickets to be released online on first-come, first-served basis

Don't miss your opportunity to obtain free tickets to Kari Byron, best known as a host on Discovery Channel's Mythbusters and The White Rabbit Project on Netflix. Byron will headline this year's Nebraska Science Festival in a moderated discussion April 21 at Joslyn Museum's Witherspoon Concert Hall in Omaha.

General admission tickets will be released online Saturday (April 1) at noon on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets will be available only online at Eventbrite ([www.EventBrite.com](http://www.EventBrite.com)). Users will need to create a login and password, and then search for "Kari Byron NE SciFest Keynote Presentation." Once there, you may reserve up to four free tickets. Although the presentation is free, tickets are required for admittance on April 21 when doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for past keynote speakers - scientist Bill Nye, "Animal Planet" host and conservationist Jeff Corwan, meteorologist and extreme storm chaser Reed Timmer and most recently, actor LeVar Burton - went quickly. If you are unable to obtain tickets online, you may come to the venue and any open seats at 7:25 p.m. will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The fifth annual Nebraska Science Festival -- scheduled for April 20-29 -- will feature more than 100 science- and technology-related activities in communities across the state with the goal of making science accessible, interactive, relevant and fun for all ages. Check [NeSciFest.com](http://NeSciFest.com) for a full list of activities and communities.

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.

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 (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) programming on television, as well as hosting science fairs from Silicon Valley to the White House.

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](http://NeSciFest.com), you will find SciFest updates and information on Twitter (@NESciFest) and Facebook (NE SciFest).

# New Whiskey and Craft Cocktail Bar Coming to Midtown Crossing

Proof, a new upscale lounge specializing in a wide whiskey selection, craft cocktails and a personal approach, is coming to Midtown Crossing.

“Our guests can expect consistent, high-quality service and cocktails while enjoying their visit in a laid back, engaging and quaint prohibition-themed bar,” says Joel Lavelle who is partnering with Kyron O’Brien on the concept. It will occupy the former Grane space at 120 S. 31st Ave.

“We love the view of Turner Park, the layout of Midtown Crossing and the different types of people that frequent the area,” Lavelle says.

Backed by a passionate, knowledgeable and friendly team, Proof promises fresh cocktail ingredients, including herbs grown on the patio; house made syrups and the “most personable experience in Omaha.”

“We plan on scaling back the whiskey dispensing concept, allowing us to engage our guests more one-on-one,” Lavelle says. “We also plan on tailoring our pricing to be more consumer friendly and offering our guests very competitive retail ordering options.”

In addition to whiskey and craft cocktails, Proof will have local craft beers on tap. Lavelle and O’Brien hope to open their new establishment by mid-May.

“We are beyond excited to have our grand opening and look forward to becoming a part of the Omaha community,” Lavelle says.

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## Backyard Chickens

WHEN: Saturday, April 8th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
WHERE: City Sprouts (4002 Seward St.)

Interested in starting your own backyard flock? This presentation will talk through the basics of coop design, chicken breeds, and chicken care to get you off on the right track to being an urban chicken farmer.

## 2017 Speaker Series: Climate Change

WHEN: Sunday, April 9th from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
WHERE: Hitchcock Nature Center  
(27792 Ski Hill Loop, Honey Creek, IA)

Join Hitchcock Nature Center for its brand new 2017 Speaker Series. Learn from and interact with various authorities in the fields of conservation and environmental science. For the first session, presenter Connie Mutel will look at climate change from the viewpoint of an Iowa woodland. Hear Connie's own stories of how she has watched the world change around her from her own backyard.

<http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Pottawattamie/Park/Hitchcock-Nature-Center/Events/9479/2017-Speaker-Series-Climate-Change.aspx>

## Emerald Ash Borer Symposium

WHEN: April 6 - April 7  
WHERE: Douglas County Extension (8015 W Center Rd.)

With Nebraska communities facing the loss of street trees to emerald ash borer over the next decade or more, an April symposium is focused on being proactive toward the changes that lie ahead. Topics span from “What to do once it’s discovered,” to “What to do with all the waste.” The information is aimed at community leaders, public works employees, landscape managers, city foresters, tree boards, green industry professionals, natural resource district managers and extension specialists.

Registration is \$30 per day or \$50 for both days  
For more information or to register go to:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/emerald-ash-borer-what-communities-can-do-to-reduce-the-impact-of-an-infestation-tickets-32241208322?ref=ecount>

# Joslyn Castle

## First Unitarian Church of Omaha

3114 Harney Street All are welcome  
For more info visit. [www.firstuomaha.org](http://www.firstuomaha.org)

## 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.

## Holland Lecture

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 7:00 pm

Speaker: Jacob Hacker

Topic: American Amnesia: How the War on Government Led Us to Forget What Made America Prosper

This is a free event but tickets are needed.

Call Ticket Omaha at 402-345-0606 or at [www.ticketomaha.com](http://www.ticketomaha.com)

## Adult Religious Education at First Unitarian

### People’s Film Festival - 1st in April

Monday, April 3 at 7pm in the Common Room. The movie we’ll watch is *The House I Live In*. The documentary shines a harsh light on America's "war on drugs" and its long-term impact on society. Filmmaker Eugene Jarecki captures the stories of dealers, police officers, prison inmates and others affected by the crusade. Details:

[www.facebook.com/events/262995880790252/](http://www.facebook.com/events/262995880790252/)

### AHA (Agnostics, Humanists, Atheists) Discussion Group

Thursday, April 13 at 7pm in the Common Room. For those interested in “bring your own dinner,” doors open at 6pm. Our series continues with special guest speaker Leslie J. Seymore. She is a long-time ACLU Nebraska board member and is their representative to the ACLU National Board of Directors. Leslie has been invited to tell us what is most concerning about “Trumpism” to our local and national ACLU in the current climate. Also, what can be done to confront those concerns and how we can help. This talk is pertinent for all social liberals regard-less of theology. The program will include Q&A. Everyone and all viewpoints are welcome. Questions may go to [aha@firstuomaha.org](mailto:aha@firstuomaha.org).

### People's Film Festival - 2nd in April

Monday, April 17 at 7pm in the Common Room. The movie we’ll watch is *National Bird* which gives rare insight into the U.S. drone program through the eyes of veterans and survivors, connecting their stories as never seen before in a documentary. Its images haunt the audience and bring a faraway issue close to home. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/259129814545199/>

### Book Club

Monday, May 1 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. Book: *American Amnesia: How the War on Government Led Us to Forget What Made America Prosper* by Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson. Hacker will deliver the final Holland Lecture on May 10.

# 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  
Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday from 3 to 6pm; Saturday  
from 10am to 1pm; + by appointment  
Show: "They're at the Door"  
April 7-30th, Artist Sean Jackson. Opening reception, April  
7 6 to 9 pm.  
info@poleatcommunications.com

## **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](mailto: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](http://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 April 26, 2017  
Diana Failla, Emeral Ash Borer

May 24, 2017 - Brad Ashford, Midtown Vision 2050

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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# Midtown Business Directory

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Benson, NE 68104

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- 1/4 bc size \$25. or two for \$45., 3 for \$63.
- All advertising must be prepaid for entire schedule, ads run consecutive months.

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