

THE MIDTOWNER

Oct / Nov 2007

The Official Newsletter of Historic Midtown Citizens Association

Walking Tour of Historic Homes is Here! Saturday and Sunday, October 13 and 14



This stately home at 1359 N. Emporia will be open on this year's tour.

The 2006 Historic Midtown Walking Tour of homes is just around the corner...Saturday, October 14 and Sunday, October 15. Please see the flyer in this newsletter with more information.

This annual fall event features our Midtown community at its best. This year's tour themed *Renovation Revisited* will be in the Topeka/Emporia Historic District and will include five homes on North Emporia plus the historic St. Paul's United Methodist

Church on Broadway.

Homes on the tour this year include the Pratt-Campbell Home, plus two that have been extensively renovated since the last time they were on tour. Tour-goers will have the opportunities to see the amazing changes made to these homes in just a few short years.

The tour features guides in period clothing, the sounds of the organ grinder and other musicians, antique cars, refreshments, and the lovely homes to see.

This year, \$1 from each ticket will be donated to the preservation of the historic Murdock House at Old Cowtown, a home originally located in the heart of Historic Midtown. The remaining proceeds from annual tour will be used to fund the many neighborhood projects HMCA initiates and supports.

Tour tickets are \$10.00 for adults (no charge under age 12) and can be purchased the days of the tour at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1356 N. Broadway, or may be purchased in advance at www.HistoricHomeTours.com. Tour times are October 13, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and October 14, noon to 5:00 p.m.

Visit www.HistoricMidtown.org

Historic Walking Tour Needs You - Volunteers Can Sign Up Now

We desperately need your help! The 2007 Historic Midtown Walking Tour of historic homes is just around the corner and we are still in need of volunteers. This year's tour is Saturday & Sunday, October 13 & 14.

We are still seeking tour guides for the five beautiful homes on tour. Docents guide tour-goers through the homes and share interesting facts about the house and the architecture. We even have costumes to get you in the spirit!

Volunteers are needed for 3-hour shifts on Saturday, October 13 (shifts are 11:00-2:00 and 2:00-5:00) and 2 1/2 hour shifts on Sunday, October 14

(shifts are 12:00-2:30 and 2:30-5:00).

Volunteering gets you free admission to tour all six tour properties and an invitation to the HMCA holiday volunteer appreciation dinner and awards ceremony.

One dollar from each ticket sold will be donated to the preservation of the Historic Murdock House in Old Cowtown Museum.

If you would like to share in this fun and exciting neighborhood event, please call Rachel Schober at 316-262-9172 or email at schoberrachel@yahoo.com for more information.

Neighbors Learn about Hazardous Waste

Disposal Made Easy



Neighbors learn where to dispose of hazardous waste.

On Tuesday, September 4, residents of three neighborhoods - Historic Midtown, North Riverside, and Riverside - gathered for a tri-neighborhood meeting. The featured speaker was Lloyd Bonham of the Sedgwick County Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Mr. Bonham's presentation included information about the waste facility, how residents can easily dispose of their hazardous waste, and some statistics about the amount of material collected each year. All Sedgwick County residents can dispose of old chemicals and household hazardous waste free of charge at the facility.

Materials are accepted from individuals only (no businesses) and can include automotive, garden/garage, and household chemicals, plus pharmaceuticals. Examples include motor oil, oil filters, anti-freeze, fertilizers, pesticides, paint, solvents, household cleaners, rechargeable batteries, expired prescriptions, and over-the-counter medications. None of these materials should be disposed of in the regular trash that goes to the landfill.

Items that CANNOT be accepted include appliances, tires, explosives, radioactive material, asbestos, biological/infectious material, or recyclable items such as newspaper, cans, paper, etc. The facility publishes a very handy guide with information where all these materials, and more, can be recycled in our area.

Dropping your materials off is easy. Simply visit the facility during operating hours and friendly staff will help you unload items from your car or truck. While you're there, you can also check out the "Swap Shop" area, which features free materials residents may take home with them. Look for garden products, paints, stains, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, and much more - all free for the taking to anyone who visits, whether you bring materials to recycle or not. The center also sells 5-gallon buckets of beige, white,

and gray paint for just \$20 each!

The Sedgwick County Hazardous Waste Facility recycles 1,500,000 million pounds of hazardous waste material each year and saves it from being improperly dumped in the landfill! About 70% of the material collected is recycled in its current form by others who will use the products. The remainder is transported to hazardous waste storage facilities or converted into fuels for other uses.

Located at 801 Stillwell, the facility is easy to find. It's just five blocks south of Kellogg and two blocks east of Seneca. Hours are 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Tuesday - Friday, and 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, call 660-7464 or visit www.sedgwickcounty.org.

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828 W. 11th Phone 303-0887

Visit www.HistoricMidtown.org

**Midtown Greenway Moves Forward
City Council gives final approval**



Construction on the Midtown Greenway is slated to begin in late 2007.

An exciting community development project called the Midtown Greenway began in 2002 when a group of active Midtowners wrote a grant application for federal transportation funding through the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT).

In an almost unheard of first-time application approval, grant funds were awarded to the project! The Greenway project was then incorporated into the Midtown Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, which was adopted by the City Council and the County Commission in 2003.

The Greenway project was then approved in the City's 2005 Capital Improvement Plan with the required matching funds. And then finally, the City Council voted in September 2007 to give the final approval needed to authorize the spending of the federal grant funds and the local matching money!

The Midtown Greenway will follow the abandoned railroad lines that used to run through the middle of the neighborhood from 15th and Broadway to Murdock Street. It will link three neighborhood schools - Park Elementary, Horace Mann, and Irving Elementary, and will provide residents with a safe, accessible pathway for walking, biking, and running. In addition, it will eliminate what is now a blighted, overgrown, and trash-filled corridor that is

menace to the area.

Construction is expected to begin in late 2007 and be completed in the spring of 2008. Be sure to watch for signs that work on the new

Helpful Telephone Numbers

Alley Maintenance Needed	268-4060
Animal Control	268-8378
Building Permits	268-4461
Evergreen City Hall	303-8042
Gang Activity Report Line	267-7228
HMCA Information	264-2988
Housing Assistance Programs	462-3700
(weatherization / emergency repairs / other)	
Midtown Community Resource Center	264-4636
Neighborhood Action Line	529-9999
Neighborhood Inspector (housing)	268-4481
(To report deteriorated properties)	
Neighborhood Inspector (environment)	268-8351
(To report trash / junk / tall grass)	
North Police Station & Community Police	688-9500
Park Department	268-4361
6 th District City Council	268-4331
Storm Sewer Stoppages	268-4090
Street Lights Not Working	268-4448
Street Maintenance Needed	268-4071

Historic Midtown Neighborhood Boundaries

The neighborhood boundaries are 21st Street on the north, Santa Fe railroad tracks on the east, Central Ave. on the south, and the Little Arkansas River on the west.

Midtowner Newsletter Information

Janet Miller, Editor . . . 264-2988

Articles may be submitted to:
1102 Jefferson Ave. Wichita, KS 67203
or e-mailed to editor@historicmidtown.org

Call 267-8950 for Advertising Rates
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Everyone But You Have a New Roof? Wish you had called your insurance company?

Did you own your home or rental property on April 24, 2006, the day of the golf ball size hailstorm? Did you turn a claim in to your insurance company? Do you think you missed the boat and now it's too late to turn in your claim?

If you owned your home or rental property on the day of the big storm you can still make a claim, and it's especially easy if you have the same insurance company. Insurance companies would like you to think you have a specifically short amount of time to make a claim after the storm, but that is not the case. The insurance company is responsible for the damage and will pay for repairs, but not always without significant effort on your part.

Last summer (July '07), I was talking with a friend who complained about their leaky roof and the fact that they had missed their chance to turn it in after the big hail. At first, I was surprised they hadn't turned it in, but as the conversation went on I realized that they hadn't been careless but were actually intimidated by the thought of working with their insurance company and were afraid their premiums would go up. Long story short, I looked at their roof and found extensive damage from several separate hailstorms and wind damage as well. We couldn't absolutely

know the date of all of the damage, but they had continuous coverage by the same insurance company since they bought the house over 10 years ago.

As a licensed contractor, I prepared an estimate for repairs and wrote a letter advising them and their insurance company of the damage. As a result of the letter, one meeting on the roof with the adjuster and several phone conversations with the same adjuster, they now have a new Class 4 roof, designed to withstand 100 mph winds and up to 2 inch hail, paid for by their insurance company. It gets even better; they will be seeing a significant reduction in the cost of their homeowner's insurance as the result of installing the Class 4 roof.

If you find yourself in my friend's position, don't despair. Stop beating yourself up for not getting that new roof. Get someone up on your roof now- someone who knows how to recognize hail damage. If you and your contractor do it right, you can get the new roof you are entitled to along with peace of mind during the next thunderstorm.

If you have any questions, or could use some help, feel free to call me at 264-8530. *Submitted by: Leon Moeder, Moeder & Associates, General Contractors*



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The Mission of the
Historic Midtown
Citizens Association
(HMCA) is to preserve, develop,
and promote Wichita's
Historic Midtown neighborhood
as a unified, vital and
diverse residential community.



The Historic Pratt-Campbell Home at 1313 N. Emporia

Historic Midtown Citizens Association
Presents its

2007 Historic Home Tour *Renovation Revisited*

- ❖ *Take a stroll and experience the sights and sounds of by-gone days between 11th and 13th streets on North Emporia.*
- ❖ *Tour five beautiful homes and the historic St. Paul's United Methodist Church.*
- ❖ *View vintage cars and hear live music, including the Wichita Caledonian Pipes and Drums on Saturday, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.*

Saturday, October 13th, 11am to 5pm
Sunday, October 14th, Noon to 5pm

Tickets \$10

Available the hours of the tour at
St. Paul's United Methodist, 1356 N. Broadway,
or anytime at www.HistoricHomeTours.com

For information, call Historic Midtown Citizens Association at 316-209-3691.

Community Police Here to Help Share your concerns



Historic Midtown has two community police officers assigned within our boundaries. These officers are Beat Coordinators and are

responsible for coordinating police activities and projects within our neighborhood. For the most part, they do not respond to 911 calls, but rather, focus on solving reoccurring problems reported by citizens in the area.

One of our Community Policing Beat Coordinators, Officer Bart Norton, is assigned to Beat 41 (west of Broadway). Our other Community Policing Beat Coordinator is Officer Greg Feuerborn, who is assigned to Beat 42 (east of Broadway).

If you have concerns about suspicious activity, vandalism, or crime on your block, contact your community police officer for help. Officer Norton can be reached at 688-9500 or at bnorton@wichita.gov. Officer Feuerborn can be reached at 303-9019 or gfeuerborn@wichita.gov.

We have Good News for You at



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
925 N. Waco 263-0810

Worship Services 8:45 a.m. (contemporary) and 10:45 a.m. (traditional)

Pre-School Daycare for Ages 3-5 years (263-2433)
GoZoneS! After-School Youth Program (Tues., Wed., Thurs. 263-0810)
English Classes for Adults (9:30 - 12 a.m. Mon-Thurs, 263-0810)
Community Halloween Party - Saturday Oct. 27th, 5-7 p.m.

Our Mission is Making Disciples to Make Peace - Come Grow with Us.

Historic Sign Disappears Theft leaves empty space

In the spring of 2004, Midtowners worked with the City of Wichita and a local firm to create and install a sign denoting historic Park Villa. Part of the project was paid for by a grant from District 6 and part by HMCA.

The narrative on the sign told the story of Laura Ford Buckwalter whose name is engraved on the building's cornerstone. The cornerstone reads, "Mrs. Laura Buckwalter - Contractor."

Mrs. Buckwalter started with the idea of a "picnic house" near the river and saw the project all the way to completion. She did have the help of architect U.G. Charles, but pretty much everything else was done either by her or under her direct supervision.

Some time this spring, I drove by and noticed that the sign was missing. At first I thought perhaps the City workers might have had to reattach it. A few days later I received an email from the City telling me that the sign was apparently stolen.

My first reaction was, "Who would do such a thing?" The sign was bronze. Perhaps someone thought they could get some money out of recycling that metal.

The HMCA board is considering how we will proceed in replacing the sign. If anyone reading this article would like to contribute to recast and reattach it the sign (with very large bolts), please call me at 265-7178.

Submitted by Dan Fitzgerald, HMCA President

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M-S: 9:00 - 7:30 SUN: 11:00 - 5:30

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REMEMBER TO USE OUR ADVERTISERS

Riverside Body Bath and More New store now open

Have you stopped by one of our newest neighborhood stores? Riverside Body Bath and More opened July 7 on the northeast corner of 11th and Biting Streets. Located at 828 W. 11th Street, the new store is owned and operated by Midtowner Gerald Thompson.

Gerald started his home-based business of bath and body products last year. The increasing demand for his homemade products sold under the Viele House Gifts label, combined with his love of the neighborhood, inspired Gerald to open the store. He felt area residents would enjoy shopping in the neighborhood rather than always driving to the suburbs.

The Viele House Gifts line of products made with natural ingredients includes scrubs, lotions, washes, salts, shampoo and conditioners, all offered in a wide range of scents and fragrances. Products may be purchased individually or in trendy gift bag sets.

Riverside Body Bath and More also offers a variety of unique gift items, including wind chimes, home décor, hand-thrown pottery, greeting cards, jewelry, Aspen Trading Company teas and mulling spices, and more. The store hosts an outdoor market

on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, weather permitting.

Store hours are Monday -Thursday 5:30- 9:00 p.m., Friday 5:30-10:00 p.m. and Saturday noon to 10:00 p.m. Call 303-0887 for more information.

Don't wait until the next time you need a gift to stop by Riverside Body Bath and More. Stop in soon and find that perfect something just for yourself!

Message from the Editor

Thanks to the numerous contributors to this edition of *The Midtowner* newsletter. If you have an interesting neighborhood story (past or present) to tell, please consider submitting it for publication. You're welcome to submit it already written, or you can email or call me with your idea. I can be reached at 264-2988, or by email at janmiller2@cox.net. Our next deadline is December 10. I look forward to hearing from you. *Janet Miller*



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



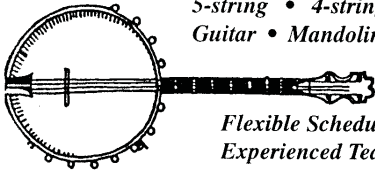
Meetings are held at Midtown Center, 1150 N Broadway, at 7 P.M. unless otherwise noted.

- October 13/14 Historic Home Walking Tour, tickets at 1356 N. Broadway
- October 27 Coffee with Council Member Sharon Fearey, Le Parc Restaurant at
BroadviewHotel, 400 W. Douglas, 9:00 a.m.
- November 5 District 6 Advisory Board Meeting, Evergreen Recreation Center, 7:00 p.m.
- November 19 Tri-Neighborhood Meeting: Commissioner Kelly Parks, at Woodland
Methodist Church, 14th and Payne, 7:00 p.m.
- November 24 Coffee with Council Member Sharon Fearey, Le Parc Restaurant at
Broadview Hotel, 400 W. Douglas, 9:00 a.m.
- December 4 Holiday Volunteer Thank You Dinner, Free to volunteers; \$5 for all others, 6:00 p.m.

Deadline for the December 2007 / January 2008 Midtowner is November 10th..

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