

# THE MIDTOWNER

February / March  
2008

The Official Newsletter of Historic Midtown Citizens Association

## New Businesses Come to Midtown Unique foods, products and gifts



When Pete White moved from the northwest of England to Wichita seven years ago, he didn't know he would eventually be opening one retail shop, let alone two. But that's exactly what he and his wife, Amy White, have done in the northwest corner of Midtown. Located in Minisa Corner shopping center, the two little shops are tucked behind the Riverside Café, at 725 W. 13th Street.

White began making his own shaving oil at the young age of 17. In later years, he expanded to other bath and beauty products using essential oils. Then he stumbled on to the soybean and the many uses and benefits of the wonderful little bean rich in Vitamin E.

Today, one of his shops, Good Stuff, features soy-based bath and beauty products in a variety of forms and fragrances. The natural handmade products include lotions, bath bombs, soap by the ounce, lip balm, candles, and more. Everything is made right in the back of the store by White and his employees. One unique candle features a low-temperature "wax" that can be used as a hand lotion. It's wonderful!

White's second shop, The Corner Market, is right next door to Good Stuff and features a unique selection of English foods and products, plus homemade pies. He explained that to the English, "pies" are a savory main dish made with meat, potato, and vegetable fillings. Tasty fillings include various meats, cheeses, onion, and potatoes, tucked into a homemade double crust. All are made from old English recipes. The cheese and onion pie offered for sampling was delicious!

Other products sold at The Corner Market include English jams, jellies, teas, scone mixes and more. The shop also offers cooking demonstrations and classes. An

Photos: Upper Left - Owner Pete White in his Good Stuff shop featuring soy-based bath and beauty products. Upper Right - White and his shop manager Brent prepare pies for the day. Above - White sets out cheese and onion pie for customers to sample.



upcoming cooking class will feature Super Bowl Snacks with Kay Hamil.

White says business was so brisk over the holidays that they've struggled a bit to replenish their product supply. But that's a good problem to have, and White says he's appreciative of the many customers who enjoy shopping locally right in the neighborhood.

Both stores can be reached at 440-3928. Be sure to stop in and check out their many offerings. You'll be glad you did!



A backhoe gets swamped during construction of the temporary footbridge across the river near North High.

## Midtown Road Construction Projects 13th Street closures scheduled

Two major projects scheduled for 2008 will significantly impact 13th Street traffic between Broadway and Biting Streets in Historic Midtown. The two projects include the 13th Street (Minisa) Bridge at the Little Arkansas River and the intersection of 13th Street and Broadway.

The \$2.6 million bridge reconstruction project began with the closing of the bridge on January 15, as there wasn't room to carry traffic and rebuild the bridge at the same time. A low-water footbridge was constructed north of the Minisa Bridge, for North High students and other pedestrians to cross the river.

When the project is completed (October 2008, if the weather cooperates), the historic bridge will have slightly wider lanes and badly-needed, new structural support. The historic elements of the 75-year old bridge, including the Carthalite images of Native Americans and buffaloes, as well as brick paving, will be preserved. These historic elements helped the City secure \$1,000,000 in federal funds for the rehabilitation of the bridge.

Public Works officials plan to open the bridge to limited traffic (one lane in each direction) before the start of the 2008 school year. While the designated detour is Waco, to 21st Street, to Amidon, those of us who live in the area can also use Biting, River Boulevard, and Arkansas (among other approaches) to get to our favorite restaurants and businesses on 13th Street. Don't let the orange cones discourage you from visiting. They'll be glad to see us!

The construction at 13th & Broadway, which begins in February will widen both streets at the intersection and add protected left-turn lanes in all four directions. During the widening project, traffic through the intersection will be limited to one lane in each direction, with no left turns allowed. A sidewalk will remain open on one side. The intersection is expected to reopen to regular traffic in September 2008 if the weather cooperates.

Note: For a story about the Minisa Bridge published in a 1932 North High yearbook, visit [www.HistoricMidtown.org](http://www.HistoricMidtown.org) and click on "Minisa Bridge"



Last year's Victorian Valentine Affair featured an elegantly laden buffet table at the Pratt-Campbell Home, hosted by the Krulls.

## Victorian Valentine Affair Elegant evening planned

Historic Midtown Community Development Association invites you to an enchanting evening of luscious libations, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and decadent desserts on Thursday, February 14, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

This unique alternative to the traditional Valentine's Day dinner, will feature beautiful music, lively conversation, tours, and limousine shuttle between two of Historic Midtown's most elegant turn-of-the-century homes.

Tickets to the event are \$50 per person. Proceeds from the event will benefit the non-profit Community Development Association and its mission of rehabilitating affordable housing in the center city. Forty dollars of each ticket is tax deductible.

For tickets or more information, call 264-2988 or email [janmiller2@cox.net](mailto:janmiller2@cox.net). Reservations are limited and will be accepted through February 8. Don't miss out on this elegant Victorian Valentine evening!



Steve and Janie Krull welcomed guests at the 2007 Victorian Valentine Affair fundraiser.

**New Face at Midtown Community Resource Center  
Jo Bogan joins Center as new Executive Director**



Jo Bogan recently joined Midtown Community Resource Center as its new executive director.

The Midtown Community Resource Center (MCRC) recently hired Jo Bogan as the new executive director. Bogan replaces outgoing director Adrienne DeGraffenreed who had been with the center for the past six years. DeGraffenreed left the center in early December to pursue a new challenge.

A native Wichitan, Bogan has lived and worked her entire adult life in Wichita. She spent 28 years in the aircraft industry, followed by a stint at the Urban League as a workforce manager working with low income youth. She has recently been working as a substitute teacher for middle and high school students in USD 259.

Bogan is a graduate of Friends University where she obtained both her undergraduate degree and her Master's degree in Human Resources and Organizational Development. She has been a volunteer at the Midtown Community Resource Center for the past three years.

Bogan noted that her first experience with the center was when she attended a professional development workshop there three years ago while employed at Raytheon. At that time she was impressed with the center and got to know director DeGraffenreed who quickly recruited her as a volunteer. She's been an active supporter ever since.

Bogan is a member of Unity Church, an avid reader, and active runner, participating in as many local runs as she can. She is a mother of two grown children and has two grandchildren. Bogan says she looks forward to helping the center grow and develop in its service to the community.

MCRC board president David Cullen said, "Jo brings to the job a familiarity with MCRC from the inside, having worked as a volunteer with Adrienne for three years, and a wealth of professional management skills from her career in the aviation industry. She has already taken on a number of challenging tasks and shown she has the right stuff for the job."

Drop by the center next time you're in the area and welcome Jo to the neighborhood. We will surely miss Adrienne, but we're glad to have Jo, who has been such an avid supporter of the center, join us at the MCRC.

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Marshall students participate in "Make a Difference Day," where they cleaned up the yard of an elderly woman who needed help.

## Marshall Middle School to Restructure Community input requested

Although significant academic gains have been made over the past several years, Marshall Middle School has yet to meet all the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. As a result, Marshall is going through the restructuring process.

This is a two-year process where discussions and planning are involved to create major changes. For Marshall to start over in the NCLB cycle, it will need to become a "new" school in the eyes of the State.

For this to occur, there are several options the school can choose from, including some of the following: 1) significantly change the staff and leadership, 2) change the grade level structure of the school such as having a sixth grade center, 3) change how the curriculum is being delivered and some of the classes that are being offered, and 4) become a theme or magnet school. These are some, but not all, of the options.

To move further in this process Marshall needs parent and community input. The school needs to know what you see as important for the school and its students. Principal Mark Jolliffe invites you to visit or call any time to discuss your ideas about restructuring, and to find out the dates of any community meetings that might be scheduled about this process. He can be reached at 973-9000.

## Annual HMCA Gala Moves to June Mark your calendar now for June 28

Every April for the past nine years, Historic Midtown Citizens Association has held a special benefit gala to raise funds for the Midtown Community Resource Center, which it helped establish in the mid-1990s. The annual event raises in excess of \$6,000 for the non-profit center.

This year the gala has been moved to June. So mark your calendar now for Saturday, June 28, 2008. This year's gala, the 10<sup>th</sup> annual, is sure to be a fun evening of food, auction items, and entertainment. You won't want to miss it!

## 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](mailto:janmiller2@cox.net). Our next deadline is March 10th. I look forward to hearing from you. *Janet Miller*

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**Representative  
Dillmore  
Reports  
2008  
Legislative  
Update**

The 2008 legislative session holds promise for addressing issues of importance to Kansans, but has the potential of being a political stalemate that is frustrating to voters.

Taking center stage this year will be three issues that many of you have expressed as having a high priority:

1. What is the future of energy generation for Kansas?
2. How can we improve health and expand insurance coverage?
3. What can the state do to fight illegal immigration?

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation proposed a new coal fired power plant to be located near Holcomb Kansas. This expansion was projected to be a \$3 billion investment in three 700 MW generation plants in Western Kansas. In November, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Environment denied the permit for the construction creating a flurry of threats to legislatively override the department.

The legislature directed the Kansas Health Policy Authority to develop a health reform plan to be presented and acted upon during the 2008 session. After many

months of reviewing health reform options and meeting with over 1,000 Kansans, 21 health reform options were published. The goals targeted in this initiative are to promote personal responsibility, pay for prevention and promote medical homes, and provide and protect affordable health insurance.

In 2004, I introduced legislation that increased the penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants. Although it has taken four years, it appears that the legislature is about to act on my proposal. I will also introduce measures to encourage our federal representatives to get serious about securing our borders and developing a national policy regarding immigration.

To follow these and other issues during the session, please see [www.niledillmore.com](http://www.niledillmore.com) and [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

*Submitted by Nile Dillmore  
State Rep., 92 District*

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**St. Paul's will have Ash Wednesday Services on  
Feb. 6 to begin observation of Lent and will  
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**Visit [www.HistoricMidtown.org](http://www.HistoricMidtown.org)**

**Helpful Telephone Numbers**

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

**Números de Teléfonos Útiles**

Mantenimiento de callejones . . . . .	268-4060
Control de Animales . . . . .	268-8351
Permiso de Obras . . . . .	268-4461
Municipalidad (Evergreen) . . . . .	303-8042
Línea de Informes de Actividad Pandillera . . . . .	267-7228
La Misión de la Asociación Histórica de Midtown (HMCA) . . . . .	264-2988
Programas de Asistencia para Vivienda . . . . .	462-3700
El Centro de Recursos de Midtown . . . . .	264-4636
Línea de Acción del Vecindario . . . . .	529-9999
Inspector del Vecindario . . . . .	268-4481
(para reportar propiedades deterioradas, basura y cesped)	
Estación de Policía del Norte y Policía Comunitaria . . . . .	688-9500
Departamento de Parques . . . . .	268-4361
Municipalidad Distrito 6 . . . . .	268-4331
Alcantarilla de drenaje . . . . .	268-4090
Luces de la Calle . . . . .	268-4448
Mantenimiento de Luces de la Calle . . . . .	268-4071

**Water Shortages Could Hurt Wichita, Too**

**North High student shares some insights**

With all of the changes the earth is going through as a result of global warming, it is no surprise that some real issues are arising.

One emerging crises is exemplified by the water shortage in Atlanta and surrounding communities. According to Connect Savannah Online, this crises occurred because of a combination of drought, excessive water usage, and poor management of water. For example, one homeowner in Marietta, GA, was using an average of 440,000 gallons a month, according to the New York Times.

Lake Lanier, the region's main water source, is only four feet above its record all-time low. The situation is so dire that some communities have banned car washing, outdoor water use, and have implemented many water-saving city laws. Failure to comply with the harsh but necessary city laws has resulted in fines up to \$500 and cutting water to the offender's home. With only 80 days left of water, all that residents can do is wait for rain to come and replenish Lake Lanier.

Could this ever happen in Wichita? It's possible. Water is a renewable resource, but if demand were to surpass supply and stay that way, for a while, there would be problems. Wichita and the surrounding community's main water source is Cheney Reservoir. It supplies about 60% of the region's water.

If Cheney Reservoir were to run dry, it would be a crisis. Not only would a water shortage affect metropolitan areas, but farmers as well. Farmers need water for irrigation when rainfall is insufficient. Kansas is, after all, the wheat state, and if crops fail, so does our economy.

What can high school students do to help ensure that a water shortage doesn't happen in Wichita? Here are some simple ideas.

- 1) Wash your car less. It feels invigorating to roll into school with a nice, clean, spotless car, but more than likely, nobody notices or cares.
- 2) Take showers instead of baths. A quick shower uses much less water than filling up an entire bathtub.



- 3) Turn off the water in the bathroom sink when you are not using it, like when you are brushing your teeth or fixing your hair.
- 4) If you have a garden, water early in the morning. When you water when the sun is out and it's hot, water is more likely to evaporate.
- 5) Write to your area representative in the state capitol and voice your support for water conserving laws.

A little bit goes a long way, and if everyone does their part, it can make a big difference and prevent a crisis.

*Submitted by Camille Gaddis  
North High Junior and North Star Writer*

*Happy Valentines Day!*

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# Citizens Involved in Parks Planning - Neighborhoods Dream in Green

A community planning charrette, where people gather together in small working groups to share design ideas, was held last fall to plan for the future of Wichita's parks, recreational opportunities, and open spaces. It was a great success with more than 60 citizens participating.

Held at Edgemoor Recreation Center and titled *Dream in Green*, the charrette gave citizens the opportunity to dream, visualize and articulate what they would like to see happen in Wichita's parks and green spaces. A diverse range of people participated in the charrette, including Wichita City Council Members, members of Wichita's Park Board, business people, architects, citizens, students, planners, and community and greenway advocates.

The participants were divided into seven small groups/teams, providing everyone with a hands-on planning experience. The seven small groups concentrated their efforts on one of five community focus areas: Community Health and Lifetime Recreation, Environmental Sustainability, Youth and Family, Culture and Diversity, Attracting and Retaining Workforce and Business.

As they worked, teams developed ideas that ranged from very imaginative, to small specific ideas that can easily be accomplished. One idea was for a winter events area at the former Brooks landfill, another called for community gardens, while another focused on city street trees and landscaping that would help to absorb storm water. All of these ideas and more were illustrated on maps, lists, and other materials that helped to show what the ideal parks system would look like.

The ideas from the charrette will be combined with other public input from the local parks planning process to develop a Community Needs and Resources Assessment. This assessment will then be used to craft the master plan for Wichita's Parks, Recreational opportunities, and Open Spaces, known as the PROS Plan. Be sure to check out the website at [www.WichitaProsPlan.org](http://www.WichitaProsPlan.org) for the latest information and to see the ideas from the charrette event.

Watch for information coming out later this spring about additional opportunities to participate in the parks planning process. If you belong to a group that would like a presentation about parks, recreation, and the PROS planning process, call Janet Miller at 264-2988 or reach her by email at [janmiller2@cox.net](mailto:janmiller2@cox.net).

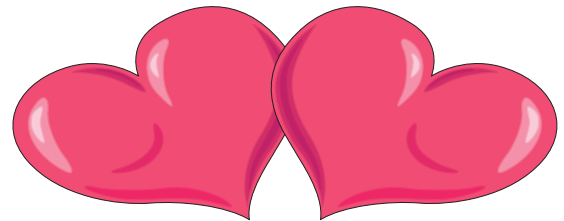


Participants share ideas about parks and recreation in Wichita.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



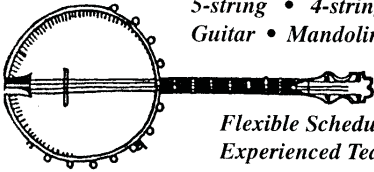
Meetings are held at the Midtown Community Resource Center (MCRC),  
1150 N Broadway, unless otherwise noted.

- February 5 HMCA General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Wichita Festivals presentation
- February 14 HMCDA's Victorian Valentine Event (264-2988 for information)
- February 23 Coffee with Council Member Sharon Fearey, 9:00 a.m., Le Parc Restaurant at Broadview Hotel, 400 W. Douglas
- March 3 District 6 Advisory Board, 6:30 p.m., Evergreen Recreation Center
- March 4 HMCA General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- March 22 Coffee with Council Member Sharon Fearey, 9:00 a.m., Le Parc Restaurant at Broadview Hotel, 400 W. Douglas

**Deadline for April/May Midtowners is March 10, 2008**

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