

THE MIDTOWNER

July/August
2010

The Official Newsletter of Historic Midtown Citizens Association

Special thanks to the MCRC

Special thanks to the Midtown Community Resource Center (MCRC) for the great clean-up on June 19th!

Members of the MCRC Board, the Director and lots of volunteers were out early to pick up litter throughout the neighborhood. And neighbors also brought lots of tree branches, litter and just plain old junk to the big skids in the MCRC parking lot. Thanks!



These are members of the MCRC Board of Directors - Drew Brenner is on the left and he organized the clean-up. Good job, Drew! Jo Bogan is next to him and she's the Executive Director of MCRC.



Midtown's Own Rain garden

We have a beautiful rain garden in the midst of the bike path in Otis Park, 13th and Market Streets. This is a lovely garden, and if you haven't seen it, you're really missing something.

If you're interested in helping to keep the garden weeded, the City folks will be glad to show you which are the plants that stay in the garden and which are the weeds. If a few people will volunteer to weed just once in awhile, the garden will stay looking beautiful. Contact Larry Hoetmer at Lhoetmer@wichita.gov.



National Night Out August 3, 2010

HMCA has supported National Night Out for many years, encouraging neighbors to get together on the evening of August 3. Plan a barbecue, or share some watermelon. It doesn't have to be elaborate - just a gathering of your neighbors.

Or, just sit out and enjoy the evening.

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.



Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society

1203 N. Main
316-264-3611



Julyapalooza 2010 -- A 'Read', White & Blue Event, Saturday, July 10, 11am-3pm, at 1203 N. Main, Wichita. Select vintage cars, food, music; genealogical books & research materials for sale. Take a tour of the Library. There will be hourly drawings. This is a first-ever, family event, open to the public and it's free. There is ample on-street parking. Keep July sizzling and extend your celebration at Midwest Historical & Genealogical Library.

The Genealogical Road Trip to Oklahoma is on Monday, August 2, 2010. The bus leaves MHGS Library, 1203 N. Main at 7am and returns 10pm. Visit the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center and view American Indian archives, photo collections, maps, and Territorial information, and listen to oral histories. The cost is \$40 for MHGS members; \$50 for non-members (meals not included). Registration is due July 24, 2010. For information and to register, contact Sara, 316-682-5209; gjones63@cox.net.

Peace and Social Justice Center

1407 N. Topeka

The Peace and Social Justice Center invites you to hear Rev. Thomas Smith, President of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization/Pastors for Peace, speak on July 14, 6:30 pm, at 1407 N. Topeka. A potluck will be served. This will be the 21st Friendship Caravan to Cuba.

Tri-Neighborhood Picnic

We had another successful picnic with HMCA, Riverside and North Riverside residents all bringing potluck items to share for dinner. This event has been held for a number of years and we always seem to have the best food! Plan on attending next year, the second weekend in June.



HMCA's House Tour 2010 October 9 and 10

The annual House Tour will be held on Market Street this year. These tours have been taking place almost annually since 1972. They've been all over the midtown area - we even had a tour one year of some of the neighborhood churches.

We always need volunteers for the Tour, and it's quite a good deal for those volunteers. You get a free pass to all the houses on the tour. And, to top it off, you get invited to our free annual Thank You Dinner in December. (This is a catered event, open for free to all our volunteers; others may attend for a nominal price.)

To volunteer, please call Rachel at 262-9172.

Counterfeit Bills Being Used at Garage Sales

The Wichita Police Department would like to caution everyone that may be having a garage sale in the upcoming months to be wary of anyone that tries to use a large denomination bill. There is a couple that is going around to garage sales in the city using counterfeit \$100 bills. Using the currency pen that is supposed to turn colors on a counterfeit bill is not sufficient. The bills they are using has been treated so the pen writing will not show that the bills are counterfeit. If someone comes to your garage sale and wants to use a \$100 bill call 911 immediately, try to get a license plate of the vehicle the person is in.

Senior Services

Neighborhood Connection is gearing up again for the summer. Besides mowing, they have some volunteer groups that can help with bigger projects like yard clean-up and painting. Call John at 267-0122 ext. 208.



Nile and Janet serving ice cream at picnic

Helpful Telephone Numbers

Alley Maintenance Needed 268-4060
 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 462-3700
 (weatherization/emergency repairs/other)
 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
 6th 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) 303-8080
 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 Node 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

Visit us at:
www.midtownwichita.org



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Midtowner Newsletter Information

The Midtowner is the official newsletter of the Historic Midtown Citizens Association.

Karen Fitzgerald 265-7178

Articles may be submitted to:
1309 N. Topeka Wichita, Ks 67213
or e-mailed to: karenfitzgerald06@gmail.com

Call 262-7347 for Advertising Rates
or email: midwestprint0809@sbcglobal.net



Seek & Find

PIANO LESSONS: Beginner thru advanced; classical, fake, gospel, etc. Experienced, references. **Piano by F#.** Francene Davis Sharp (Midtown Resident) **316-262-5780**



**Don't forget to Vote
August 3, 2010**

Riverside Citizens Association presents:

4th of July

Pancake Breakfast and Children's Parade

Bicycle/Tricycle or you can walk parade.
Decorate your bike and yourself!
(For safety reasons, NO pets please)

Sunday, July 4, 2010

**at the Pagoda Building
in CENTRAL RIVERSIDE PARK.**

7:00 to 11:00 a.m. - Breakfast by - Chris Cakes

Adults \$6.00 Children \$4.00 (10 and under)

8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Parade registration to pick up goody-bags
and be eligible for prizes at the drawing.

10:00 a.m. - Parade - FREE - "Grand Marshall" Officer Birdwell

10:45 a.m. - Parade Prize Drawings

Come join the fun!

All proceeds go to the RCA Park Fund.

Questions/Information: 262-6165

OLETHA FAUST-GOUDEAU

FOR
4th District Sedgwick County
COMMISSIONER



*The Leader
Who Works
for US!*

Lifetime Resident
of District 4.
8 years representing
our District 4 concerns
in the State Legislature

ALREADY DELIVERING :

ECONOMIC PROGRESS & JOBS

- Aviation Centers & Aircraft Factory Expansion** funded to keep aircraft jobs in Sedgwick County.
- Historic Building Tax Credit** to revive neighborhoods, and to create jobs.
- Local Water System** given state support to reduce future utility costs and save jobs.
- State Transportation Plan** backed, to improve our roadways & economy – creating real jobs.

SERVING EVERYONE

- State Minimum Wage** increase co-sponsored.
- Full Medicare coverage** funding restored for Kansas seniors.
- Meals on Wheels** protected for our seniors.
- Auto Insurance Credit Score Rules** changed to exempt catastrophic illness from your score.
- Grandparents as Caregivers Act** assisting grandparents who raise their grandchildren

A BETTER LIFE

- Fatherhood Mentoring Initiative** created, to strengthen families.
- More Cost-Effective Corrections** sought for non-violent offenders, to reduce jail populations.
- Drug Paraphernalia Law** improved, to reduce drug abuse & crime.
- Financial Literacy for Teens & Young Adults** for financial responsibility, security & opportunity.

*I need YOUR vote,
August 3rd!*

Let's Work Together, for a Better Future!

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at
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

925 N. Waco - 263-0810

stpauls-wichita.org

Summer worship hour is 9:45 a.m.
(beginning May 23)

School year worship hours
8:45 and 10:45 a.m.

Vacation Bible School (High Seas Expedition)
is June 7-11 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Kid's Kingdom Learning Center for ages 3-5
7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F has openings
call 263-2433

Sharon
FEAREY

County Commission

District 4



"I look forward to meeting you personally and hearing about your concerns and ideas for the future of Sedgwick County. Please join me on **Saturday, July 17** at one of the following times and locations. I hope to have the opportunity to see you then."

Sharon

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

All Occasions Center
4940 E. 21st St. North (21st and Oliver)

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Midtown Community Resource Center
1150 N. Broadway



1323 N. Emporia
Wichita, KS 67214
Cell (316) 650.0006 • Home (316) 263.8054
sfearey@cox.net

www.sharonfearey.com

Paid for by Sharon Fearey for County Commission,
Thomas R. Docking, Treasurer



**HMCA and Via Christi Health
A look at the early years of St. Francis
Hospital and HMCA**

Five Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother arrived in Wichita from Rome in 1889 to begin the religious community's first health care mission in a 12 bed hospital in a three-story house. The Sisters treated 12 patients that first year. From there grew St. Francis Hospital; and today, Via Christi Health.

Throughout the years, the hospital continued to grow and expand, and by 1972, this created a number of problems with Historic Midtown Citizens Association. St. Francis acquired a number of houses north of the hospital on Emporia and St. Francis streets. The idea of saving old houses was not seen as a priority and many perceived that the neighborhood was old and run down.

The issue came to a head in 1975 over the property owned by the hospital at 1103 N. Emporia. This house was built in 1907 and had distinctive architectural features. But it had become dilapidated. HMCA proposed the house for local landmark status. Hospital officials told HMCA that it would keep members informed of its plans for the house and HMCA would be given salvage rights if the property was to be demolished.

Unfortunately, St. Francis did not adhere to this commitment. At exactly the time that the landmark commission began meeting, the hospital was granted a demolition permit for the house. Hospital officials did not inform HMCA members of the permit and while the landmark meeting was taking place, the house was being demolished. The location became a parking lot.

(Continued on page 7)

**St Paul's &
El Mesías**
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316-262-3323 (Spanish)
www.st-pauls-umc.org

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Spanish - 11:00 AM

Sunday Worship Times

Spanish - 9:00 AM
English - 11:00 AM

Please join us • por favor Acompañenos

Our House, Virginia Place

Our house has been on HMCA's House Tour four times. The first time, we had just done some minor renovations in the dining room. As in many houses built around the time our house was built, there was a butler's pantry off the kitchen which was the passageway to the diningroom. In our house, the diningroom had been converted into a bedroom and the butler's pantry was made into the bathroom. So, when we bought the house and re-converted the bedroom back into the diningroom, the only way to get from the kitchen to the diningroom was through the bathroom. This was gross to me! So, we moved a door and made a direct passage from the kitchen to the diningroom.

During the next many years, and for the next two Tours we were on, we made extensive changes in the kitchen area and upstairs bathroom. We tore out the existing plumbing and re-plumbed the whole house. We put in a beautiful brand new kitchen, and re-arranged both the downstairs and upstairs bathrooms. This took years, literally, and for seven years, the kitchen ceiling was not done. You could see all the plumbing for the upstairs bathroom. Our plumber was always so proud of the way his plumbing job looked, and was quite disappointed when we actually put in a kitchen ceiling and hid the plumbing.

Before the last Tour, we re-did a closet in our upstairs bedroom. Like many houses built at this time, closets were not a priority. We actually had a large closet in our bedroom, but you couldn't get to it because there was only a tiny door opening. I had often said that one day we should take down the wall so we could access the entire closet. I came home from work one day, and Dan had indeed taken down the wall! What a surprise, and what a big closet was now available to us. We had a closet system put in, complete with shelves, hanging areas, the whole bit! It's great.

But, we never did refinish the floors, so there was the unfinished part where the old walls had been, part of the closet floor was stained a different color, and some wasn't stained at all. For the last Tour that our house was on, someone looked at the floor in our upstairs bedroom and said, "Have you ever considered having your floor re-finished?"

So, we've now had the floor of that bedroom re-finished, along with all the downstairs floors. There were some unforeseen problems. It was too humid and the first coat didn't dry when it was supposed to, so the second coat couldn't be put on right away. We endured dust, funny smells, and the floors taking much too long to dry between coats. But, they look beautiful now.

We have four framed posters from each of the House Tours that our house has been in. They fit nicely up one wall in our back parlor. I don't know if we'll have our house on another Tour, as there's simply no room for another poster on that wall. So those of you who have toured our house in the past will just have to imagine how the floor in our upstairs bedroom now looks!

Karen Fitzgerald

HMCA and Via Christi Health

(From page 6)

This incident represented the low point in relations between HMCA and St. Francis Hospital. By the late 1970's and early 1980's, St. Francis and HMCA acknowledged their differences and continued to seek acceptable compromises. Both organizations agreed that one of their shared goals was a better neighborhood. Under the direction of Sister Sylvia, who joined St. Francis as the administrator in 1979, St. Francis hired a neighborhood liaison who attended many of HMCA's Board Meetings. As plans for the expanded development of St. Francis Hospital were being made, Sr. Sylvia presented the hospital's plans to HMCA and requested recommendations and suggestions from the neighbors. Later, trees and quince bushes were donated to the neighborhood. In 1986, HMCA honored Sister Sylvia with the "Good Neighbor Award." (Preceding from "A Tradition of Caring 1889-1989. St. Francis Regional Medical Center.")

St. Francis has become Via Christi Health, and good relations have continued. Via Christi worked with HMCA to develop the Midtown Community Resource Center (MCRC) at the corner of 11th and Broadway. The building was a Safeway building, then became a storage facility for Via Christi. Sister Joan Angela worked with HMCA to identify a need for the building, helped set up a Board of Directors, and assisted in hiring the first Director of MCRC. Today, Via Christi continues to own the building, and leases it to MCRC for a nominal fee. Both Via Christi and HMCA have representatives on the MCRC Board of Directors.



THE MIDTOWNER
1150 N. Broadway
Wichita, KS 67214

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 4: Pancake Breakfast and Children's Parade in Central Riverside Park

Monday, July 26: HMCA Board Meeting at MCRC, 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, August 3: National Night Out. Get to know your neighbors.

Monday, September 27: HMCA Board Meeting at MCRC, 6:30 pm.

Saturday and Sunday, October 9-10: HMCA's Annual House Tour.

Please visit HMCA's website : www.midtownwichita.org

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