

# THE MIDTOWNER

March/April  
2010

The Official Newsletter of Historic Midtown Citizens Association

## Midtown House Is Featured in National Magazine

The current owners purchased the house at 1924 N. Arkansas three years ago. It was built in 1880 by William Little, one of the first lawyers here in Wichita. Notable owners since then have included Col. R.T. Bean, a veteran of the Civil War, and the Ottaway family, the founders of Joyland and Ottaway Amusements. The house was broken up into four apartments some time in the late 1920's and was rehabilitated in the early 1970's by the previous owner. All of the electrical and plumbing in the house was updated.



" . . . . featured in the Photoshop Redo of an upcoming online issue."

For the past three years the current owners have been able to focus mainly on aesthetics inside the house, including removing the shag carpet and refinishing the floors. Several photos of the house were submitted to the magazine, "This Old House" and it was selected to be featured in the photoshop re-do of an upcoming online issue. The architect assigned to re-do the house has given the owners some reasonably priced ideas.

Look for some painting and renovating on the outside of the house soon.

*(From the Editor: I met the latest owner of Ottaway Amusements last summer and thought some of you might be interested in a little history of Joyland and the Ottaway family. They are, after all, an "old" Midtown family.)*

Joyland Park was founded by Lester Ottaway and his sons, Herbert and Harold, to serve as the home for a miniature 12-inch (300 mm) gauge steam locomotive that Herb Ottaway had purchased in Fort Scott in 1933. The train had been part of a defunct amusement park in Fort Scott and was originally built by the Miniature Railway Company of Elgin, Illinois between 1905 and 1910. By 1934, Herb Ottaway, who worked as a race car builder, had fully refurbished and restored the steam locomotive and cars and began transporting the miniature train to county fairs in western Kansas and eastern Colorado. Ottaway soon built a track for his miniature locomotive around the Manitou Springs, Colorado racetrack and operated the train there for some time. The current location of Joyland Amusement Park came into existence on June 12, 1949, primarily to give Harold's miniature locomotive a permanent home in Kansas. After Lester Ottaway's death in the mid-1950s, his three sons, Herbert, Harold, and Eddie, continued running the park as a family operation. It is now being passed down to the next generation.

## Preserving Photos

Midwest Historical and Genealogical Library, will be presenting a workshop on Preserving Photos for Generations, on Saturday, March 13 at 1 pm. The program is open to the public and will be held in the basement of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 13th and Broadway. Information will be given on enhancing/colorizing, merging with voices, music and text from slides, Beta and VHS, and putting this on DVD. The program is free but donations will be accepted.

Reservations are required - call 264-3611 or 866-2715.

The Midwest Library, 1203 N. Main, is open Tuesday and Saturday, 9 - 4.

## The NoMar Theatre

On April 3rd, 1929 the NoMar Theatre at the north end of Midtown at 2141 N. Market opened to a sold-out house of 800 patrons. The Wichita Eagle reported that "the theatre's interior was a blaze of color, was of Spanish Architectural Style and cost \$125,000 to build. The cost of a ticket to attend an event was twenty-five cents. The theatre had a parking lot to accommodate 400 cars and parking was free."



The opening film "The Shopworn Angel" starring Gary Cooper and Nancy Carrol, was described as an "all-talkie film and other special features."

Exactly eighty years later on April 3, 2009, a group of citizens came together to form a Board of Directors of the NoMar Theatre. They began the process of filing for non-profit status to oversee a restoration and renewal of the NoMar Theatre. The By-laws have been approved and it is a charitable organization.

With Wichita's plan to revitalize the 21st Street area, this effort to restore the NoMar Theatre is well-timed. Although the building is structurally sound and in good condition it needs new heating/AC, new electrical and plumbing, new bathrooms, flooring and furniture. The restoration is anticipated to cost \$3 million. Many original fixtures remain intact.

The Vision Statement adopted by the Board of Directors is: The NoMar Theatre, Inc. will become a superior historic theatre that will embrace and enhance the diversity of the Nomar International Marketplace while meeting the needs of an active and vibrant arts community through state-of-the-art technology, culturally diverse programming and arts education for all ages and abilities.

Events being considered include Sundance and International films, concerts, live theatrical productions, and community/neighborhood events.

During the summer, theater camps may be offered for middle and high school students who will be educated in all aspects of producing a show.

In support of this restoration effort, the Board of Directors of HMCA recently donated \$750 toward the incorporation expenses.

There is a "basic" website set up to allow people to write their memories of the theatre. Go to [www.nomartheatre.org](http://www.nomartheatre.org). For further information contact Pam Bugler at [pbugler@swbell.net](mailto:pbugler@swbell.net) or 250-5337.

## Fairview Christian Church News

Fairview Christian Church is beginning a new program for elementary students, Vacation Bible School with a Tilt. Like VBC, this program will be free. It will meet once a week on Tuesdays, from 5:30 to 6:45. We'll start with a light, kid friendly meal at 5:30, which parents are invited to share in as well. Next we'll work on reading and math through themes that interest kids, including Bible stories. There will be music, drama, crafts and games. We'll end by 6:45. If you have questions or wish to sign your child up, please call the church at 263-9332.

## 13th Street

Surely everyone has noticed the reconstruction of 13th Street from Santa Fe to Washington, including the 13th and Mosley intersection. The \$1.6 million project will provide new pavement, water lines, storm sewer, traffic signals and landscaping. The new intersection will have left turn lanes in all four directions. The project is anticipated to be completed in early April 2010, with landscaping work to follow.

"This intersection carries a lot of commercial truck traffic as well as passenger vehicles, both of which will find it safer and easier to negotiate once the protected left turns are constructed," said City Engineer Jim Armour.



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.

### From Rep. Nile Dillmore

As you probably already know, Kansas is entangled in a terrible financial crisis. State revenues have declined four straight years; this has never happened before. There have been five rounds of state budget cuts in the last 18 months, equaling a total spending reduction of \$1 billion. Unfortunately, we haven't hit bottom yet . The consensus revenue estimating group is predicting yet another \$400 million shortfall in the next fiscal year.

Serving on the Appropriations Committee I know constant review and trimming of state government services and programs is both healthy and necessary. It is critical that we be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. However, we are long past the point of "trimming the fat." An additional \$400 million in cuts to state services would severely impact every Kansas citizen.

This is about public school teachers being laid off, your child in a classroom with 30+ other students, offenders released early from prison and with no supervision, skyrocketing tuition for college students. Further cuts mean more seniors going to nursing homes and less inspections of those facilities, no more Meals on Wheels, and greater waiting lists for services to the disabled. These are not abstract "what ifs" on the distant horizon. This is where we are today.

Governor Parkinson proposed a 1% sales tax increase and a tobacco tax increase as a means of partially filling the budget hole. It is important to note that this budget proposal does not increase state spending. The \$1 billion in cuts enacted last

year will stay in place. The revenue package he presented is only a means of maintaining current funding.

Others have suggested that we close some of the \$1 billion plus tax exemptions that are currently on the books. This would mean closing many tax loop-holes and collecting sales taxes from non-profits. It could also mean collecting sales taxes on utility bills.

I am committed to working with both sides of the political divide. There is always a lot of give and take in this process. I owe it to Kansans to give every proposal a fair examination, even if it is something I am not inclined to support.

Ultimately, you elected me to make responsible decisions that protect and grow our state. That's what I'm here to do. In that effort, I am willing to give every proposal fair consideration. Governor Parkinson's proposed budget is a good starting point for this discussion, but we are a long way from a final package.

### Riverside Citizens Association Meetings

The Riverside Citizen Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month. (With the exception of June, July & December) The meetings are held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1101 N. River Blvd. Meetings begin promptly at 7:00pm and generally last one hour. The March 9 meeting is on the history of the Riverside Park System and April's meeting is on the Wichita Festivals and the WATER Center.

#### 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 (weatherization/emergency repairs/other)	462-3700
Midtown Community Resource Center	264-4636
Neighborhood Action Line	529-9999
Neighborhood Inspector (To report deteriorated properties, trash junk, tall grass/weeds, graffiti, parking in yards. ect.).	268-4481
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 (para reportar propiedades deterioradas, basura y cesped)	268-4481
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



# St Paul's & El Mesías

United Methodist Churches

**2** Congregations in  
Congregaciones en

1356 N. Broadway  
Wichita KS 67214  
316-267-3263 (English)  
316-262-3323 (Spanish)  
www.st-pauls-umc.org

**1** Building Serving  
edificio Sirviendo a

**1** God  
Dios

<b>Sunday School Times</b>	<b>Sunday Worship Times</b>
English – 9:15 AM	Spanish – 9:00 AM
Spanish – 11:00 AM	English – 11:00 AM

Please join us • por favor Acompañenos



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[www.midtownwichita.org](http://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:

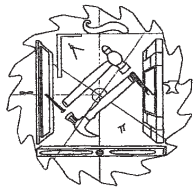
1309 N. Topeka Wichita, Ks 67213  
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Goody/Clancy, the consulting firm working on the new downtown development plan, gave their first update and presentation to a full house at the Scottish Rite Consistory on January 13. They updated the audience on four aspects of the plan - the downtown housing market, the downtown commercial market (office buildings, hotels, etc.), the downtown retail market and the "Walkshop" that they held here in December.

If you would like to learn more about the plan and their presentation, you can go to <http://www.Downtownwichita.org>. The "Walkshop" is a program that they do in which citizens are asked to spend time taking pictures and short videos of what they like and don't like about their community. The pictures that were taken in our city can be viewed at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/walkshops/>.

Finally, if you have specific questions about downtown after you have looked at the information that is out there, please email me at [sfearey@cox.net](mailto:sfearey@cox.net), Jeff Fluhr, President of WDDC at [jeff@downtownwichita.org](mailto:jeff@downtownwichita.org), David Dixon at [david.dixon@goodyclancy.com](mailto:david.dixon@goodyclancy.com) or Ben Carlson at [ben.carlson@goodyclancy.com](mailto:ben.carlson@goodyclancy.com). We will work hard to get an answer for you as soon as possible.

Sharon Fearey, Mayor's Appointment  
Downtown Steering Committee

We have Good News  
for YOU! at

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
925 N. Waco - 263-0810  
[stpauls-wichita.org](http://stpauls-wichita.org)  
Worship Services Sundays  
8:45 and 10:45 a.m.

**The Midtown Community  
Resource Center (MCRC)  
Needs YOU!**

This wonderful facility is at the corner of 11th and Broadway, and what a jewel it is for Midtown. Our neighborhood association, Historic Midtown Citizens Association was instrumental in setting up the Center, including providing financial support during these past 11 years. The MCRC provides many services to our neighborhood. The MCRC is a 501 c 3 non profit organization.

We need a few more Board members. We meet once a month on the third Wednesday of the month. You are always welcome to just visit one of our Board meetings. If you'd like more information, call Jo Bogan at 264-4636.

**Job Fair**

We are having our annual Job Fair for Seniors on Tues., March 16, 9-11 a.m. at Senior Services, 200 S Walnut.

Folks must be 55 and preregister with us. Questions? Call 267-1771.

**Historic Midtown Clean-ups this  
Spring**

There will be two neighborhood clean-ups organized by Safe Streets Wichita. HMCA is supporting this effort with a donation.

**March 27, Saturday, 8 am to Noon.** Meet in parking lot of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 925 N. Waco - north side of the church. The Clean-up boundaries are 9th to 13th and Waco to the Little Arkansas River. Lunch will be served to volunteers following the clean-up at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

**June 5, Saturday, 8 am to Noon.** Boundaries of the clean-up are 17th to 21st and Broadway to Waco. More details to come.

For further information or questions contact Cindy Galstad at 263-1389 or 641-1118.

**Unique Antique Market****15th Annual Spring Show**

Sedgwick County Extension Center  
7001 W 21st St. N. (21st & Ridge)  
Wichita, KS

**Sunday, March 21, 2010**

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

FREE admission and parking

**THE MIDTOWNER**  
**1150 N. Broadway**  
**Wichita, KS 67214**

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## Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 27, Neighborhood Clean-up. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 8am to Noon.  
Monday, March 22, HMCA Board of Directors Meeting, 11th and Broadway, 6:30 pm.  
Saturday, April 3, Walk Against Gang Violence. North High School, 10 am to 1 pm.  
Monday, May 24, HMCA Board of Directors Meeting, 11th and Broadway, 6:30 pm.  
Saturday, June 5, Neighborhood Clean-up. Contact Cindy Galstad at 263-1389 or 641-1118.

Please visit HMCA's website : [www.midtownwichita.org](http://www.midtownwichita.org)

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