

# THE MIDTOWNER

November/December  
2010

The Official Newsletter of Historic Midtown Citizens Association

## Annual House Tour

We held our annual House Tour again in mid-October, and it was quite a success. We had several houses that had never been in a Tour before. The weather was perfect on Saturday, but a little wet and rainy on Sunday. Thanks to the home owners for opening their homes, and to all the volunteers who graciously gave of their time again this year.

All of the funds raised on these Tours goes to support HMCA projects, including support for the Midtown Community Resource Center, an endowed scholarship at WSU for a Midtown resident, assistance setting up a Neighborhood Watch, and many other projects - including printing and mailing these Midtowners.

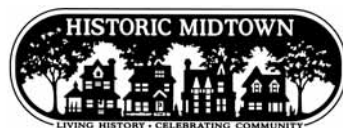


## Bowers House

One of the fulfilling aspects of owning an old home is the knowledge that the dwelling served countless people on its journey through history. While I was confident that my residence was no exception to that rule, any evidence or supporting details seemed to have faded away with time. That changed just a few weeks ago during the HMCA 2010 house tour. During that tour my home was displayed as a work in progress, illustrating that there are folks in the neighborhood trying to preserve old structures, and give them new life to

serve for years to come. Of the many people I had the pleasure of meeting during the tour, Cliff Clark stood out. Cliff was joined by family all making a point to visit my residence with him, including a daughter who flew in from Washington DC .

Cliff was not just an attendee who loved old homes; he was one who had a special connection to mine. He informed me that he resided in the home from the late 1920's to the early 1950's. That revelation sent me scrambling for a pen and paper - to note what undoubtedly would be a gold mine of first-person narratives of old-times. Cliff explained to me things he did as a child including jumping off the garage, climbing the corner of the house, and sitting on the roof at night overlooking 1930's Wichita. "I now know a few things to watch out for when I have a kid of my own." His descriptions included the home's original four hitching posts, built to match the house, along with a fire place, fish pond, incinerator, and cistern that have all been lost to time. He also explained why the missing bricks in the back of my garage were removed - to fit his father's Lincoln. I was impressed with Cliff's recollection because it is unlikely that he has seen the interior of the garage in the last half-century, but indeed the bricks are missing. The next time someone incorrectly insists that my sleeping porch was an addition in the 1970's, I can now refer them to a man who slept in it with his family before the Empire State Building's grand opening. The porch below, which I now share with friends, once sheltered New Deal workers renovating North Broadway during the great depression, drawn in by Mrs. Clark's exceptional cooking. The parking area now used by visitors once was a thriving "victory" garden used during World War II to lessen the food demand so our troops would remain adequately fed. Thanks to a Park Elementary school boy who planted the large Elm between my home and Market street seven decades ago, I am no longer confined to imagining my home's journey through history.



## Project Beauty Christmas Tour Includes two Midtown Houses

Project Beauty will be having a Christmas House Tour on Saturday, December 4, 2 pm - 6 pm. Houses on the tour: 1402 N. Garland, 961 Back Bay Boulevard, and JR Koontz Flower Shop at 633 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$15 and available the day of the tour at any of the houses. Refreshments and a 20% discount on items from JR Koontz's shop will be available with a tour ticket and only on that day. For additional information, call 691-2220. Proceeds from the tour will help fund new sculpture for the median strip garden at Waco and Douglas.

These homes will be decorated for the Holidays, so don't miss this event.

## WICHITA NAMED "Playful City USA" for the 2nd consecutive year

The City of Wichita is one of 118 communities across the nation to receive the 2010 "Playful City USA" honor. The recognition was awarded by KaBOOM, a national nonprofit which promotes a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America. In the fourth year of this program, KaBOOM? selected Wichita for its dedication and commitment to outdoor play. Wichita was the first Kansas community to receive this recognition and has now been recognized for the 2nd consecutive year.

"Seeing Wichita receive this award for the second time is exciting," Wichita City Council Member Lavonta Williams said. "I am proud to live in a 'playful community' and enjoy seeing the positive impact being made on the lives of our children and families as we strive to live up to the title."

"An extreme misconception exists in our country that play among children is a luxury when, in fact, it's an absolute necessity," said Darell Hammond, KaBOOM CEO and Co-founder. "For decades, this notion dominated our actions and we continue to see the damaging results: a monumental lack of play spaces for children and sky-rocketing childhood obesity rates. Wichita refused to adhere to the status quo and realized all children deserve a municipal commitment to the cause of play. Wichita serves as a beacon for the rest of our nation that an investment in children is an investment in our future."

The Wichita Play Commission is focused on making children healthier and happier with creative commitments to the cause of play and increasing play opportunities.

## Jack's North Hi is open again

The almost 60 year old business is cooking and waiting for you.

The new owner, Austin Herron, has made a commitment to bring Jack's back into it's full glory. In February 2007, the building experienced a fire. It was bought by the previous owners who did a lot of renovations. But, due to the passing of one of the owners, Jack's had to go on the auction block again. Austin saw this as a great opportunity to build a quality burger place. "It's a beautiful neighborhood with wonderful people," said Austin. "We couldn't have picked a better place."

Placing an emphasis on food flavor and quality, Austin and his family have put together a delicious menu of classic greats. Burgers and fries, including chili cheese burgers, top the menu, but don't stop there. Jack's has hot dogs, chicken strips, patty melts, chicken strip sandwiches, and Frito pies. To make life easier on parents, we do have chicken strip or grilled cheese kids deals with fries. Many topping options to make you happy, including your choice of fresh or grilled onions. For a little extra you can get jalapenos and/or bacon.

While, Jack's is a Carryout, we have dine in seating with a wonderful view of North High and the 13th street bridge. Jack's is located just south of North High School on 13th a few blocks west of 13th and Waco (603 W 13th St N). Come by, and check out the store. Jack's is open from 10:30 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday (closed Sunday). For now Jack's is cash only. Stay for a few and chat, or grab your food and go, Jack's won't disappoint. Call 264-2644.



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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 .....	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 .....	350-3400
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

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Mantenimiento de callejones .....	268-4060
Control de Animales .....	268-8351
Permiso de Obras .....	268-4461
Municipalidad (Evergreen) .....	303-8080
Linea 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
Linea de Acción del Vecindario .....	529-9999
Inspector del Vecindario .....	268-4481
(para reportar propiedades deterioradas, basura y cespel)	
Estación de Policía del Node y Policía Comunitaria .....	350-3400
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 Lutheran Church**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 925 N. Waco will have special Advent activities beginning Sunday November 28. Worship times are 8:45 a.m. (Contemporary) and 10:45 a.m. (Traditional). There will be just one service the week of the Children's Christmas Program (probably Dec. 5).

On Christmas Eve there will be an early and a late Candlelight Holy Communion Service. Check [stpauls-wichita.org](http://stpauls-wichita.org) for times or call the church at 263-0810.

St. Paul's community ministries are in full swing in the fall and winter. St. Paul's Lutheran Church is the site for a Free Community Breakfast from 8-9:30 a.m. every Saturday of the month except the 1st Saturday. St. Paul's is collecting socks and caps and hygiene items for neighbors attending the breakfast who are in need of those items as the weather turns colder.

English Classes are offered Monday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. - 12. Classes are offered at 4 levels, the tuition is low and the instruction is high quality. Volunteer instructors are needed. Call coordinator Leon Rausch for information at 263-0180.

The Kid's Kingdom Learning Center at St. Paul's has a pre-school curriculum in the mornings as well as providing full-day day care Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. and is for ages 3-5. Call 263-2433 for information.

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



**Candlelight Christmas Eve Services Dec. 24**  
**7 p.m. & 11 p.m.**  
(call to confirm time)

St. Paul's Community Ministries include After-School programming for kids grades K-5 (Tues-Thurs), ESOL classes for adults (Mon. - Thurs. a.m.) Saturday Community Breakfasts and the St. Paul's Kid's Kingdom Learning Center for children ages 3-5. Join us in Making Disciples to Make Peace.



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**Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society**

1203 N. Main, Wichita, Ks  
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The Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society (MHGS) expressed appreciation to HMCA for asking MHGS to be a part of this year's tour, and also extended thanks to all the MHGS members who helped with the house tour. The event was a huge success, from an MHGS point of view, with approximately 500 visitors to the MHGS library over those two days (the rain didn't seem to affect attendance on Sunday much at all), most of them were already somewhat interested in history and therefore inclined to be curious about what we do at MHGS. As a direct result of the tour:

We have two new co-members

We sold a cemetery book to the Colwich Library's librarian and were able to show her where the Sedgwick County cemetery listings were located online

MHGS will be receiving as a donation a book about the descendants of John Henry Bailey.

**Photo Scanning Opportunity in Wichita**

For a great family season gifting opportunity, the Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society of Wichita is offering 2 days of photo scanning. Why scan your photos? For protection from fading and disasters, sharing, and family genealogy.

On Saturday, November 6 and December 4, the MHGS, 1203 N. Main, Wichita, will be offering this service to members and the public. Make an appointment by calling 316-264-3611 Tues/Sat when the library is open or leave a message; write to PO Box 1121, 67201; or email: mhgs1121@aol.com.

This scanning opportunity is for pictures only; no negatives, slides, or other media. The photo must be at least 3"x3" up to 8"x12". Polaroids

will be accepted; no tin-types, odd-shaped or laminated photos, or newspapers.

Copyrights last for 70 years, so a copyright release from the photographer must be included with any commercial photos.

There will be a limit of 15 minutes per person, but approximately 250 photos (at 300 dpi) can be scanned during this time. Larger photos take longer scan time. Special pre-sorting of your photos by size will help.

This special service is being offered to MHGS members and to the public at a minimum fee of 300 dpi = MHGS members, \$.10/ each, non-members \$.15/each.; 600 dpi = MHGS members, \$.20/each, non-members, \$.30/each.

Please bring a flash drive or blank CD for scanned photos, or purchase a CD from MHGS for \$1.

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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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### Wichita Library News

Don't miss the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Celebrity Storytime at your library? On Wednesday, November 17, at 10:30 a.m., author Katherine Ayres will visit the Evergreen Branch Library, 2601 N. Arkansas, to read her picture book ?Up, Down , and Around.? Illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott, Ayres' book shows how food grows in the garden. For more information, visit [www.wichita.lib.ks.us](http://www.wichita.lib.ks.us) or call (316) 303-8181.

The Wichita Public Library will host celebrities galore as Kansas Reads to Preschoolers November 15-19. Visits by author Katherine Ayres, B98-FM's Tracy Cassidy, City Manager Robert Layton, the Wichita Eagle's Carrie Rengers, KSN's John Snyder and Council Member Lavonta Williams highlight the week of special storytimes. For a full schedule, visit [www.wichita.lib.ks.us](http://www.wichita.lib.ks.us), your favorite library location or call (316) 261-8500.

Yee-haw! Western Days are back again! The Wichita Public Library brings poetry, music, talks and more to celebrate cowboy and cowgirl culture. Most events occur at the Alford Branch Library, 3447 S. Meridian. For a full schedule, visit [www.wichita.lib.ks.us](http://www.wichita.lib.ks.us), your favorite library location or call (316) 261-8500.

### Pictures of the Walking Home Tours



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## Patrol North Report



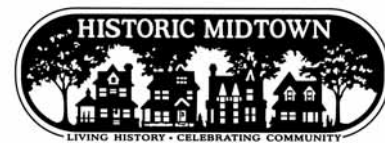
Officers' from Patrol North continued to concentrate their efforts on gangs, drugs, prostitution, vagrants and improving the overall safety for the surrounding community in the area between Central and 13th and Waco and Sante Fe over the past 3 months. This was accomplished through four Special Assignments utilizing a "Zero Tolerance" policy for those we came into contact with. During these assignments officers' utilized Foot and Bike Patrol, as well as help from our Mounted Unit and undercover section. During these assignments officers' made over 100 contacts with citizens issuing 81 citations, and making 64 arrests. Part 1 & 2 crimes decreased over 50% in all areas of crimes in these 3 months, compared to the previous 3. In your area, Officers utilized over 100 hours of Bike Patrol in the month of September, attempting to deter crime, and making themselves more available to citizens of the community. Officer Burnett rode 50 hours himself during September, and will continue to ride at least one shift per week (weather permitting) throughout the remainder of the year.

In regards to crime trends in the area, there has not been a dramatic increase in Residential Burglaries, but I understand that even one in your neighborhood, is one too much. The majority of the burglaries have been occurring during the day, when most are at work, and are primarily being done by folks who drive around in the area watching for residents to leave their home for work. YOU can assist us by changing up your schedule from time to time. Example-car pooling, leaving at different times, asking your neighbors to keep an eye on your home. YOU are an officers' best tool in making the arrest of, or ridding the area of, potential burglars, by phoning 911 about any suspicious persons or vehicles you see in the area you live in. You are not required to have officers' contact you when you phone in suspicious activity. We don't mind going out on calls that turn out to be nothing. We would rather do that, then come out later in the day writing 2 pages of reports on your loss.

Finally, a neighborhood watch is the best tool for neighbors to keep their community safe. This not only keeps you in contact with your Community Officer and Field Officers more often, it also gets you to know most, if not all, of your neighbors. These folks are going to be your best tool for keeping yourself and your belongings safe, by knowing when someone doesn't look right or seems out of place at your home.

For those of you I have not yet met, my name is Officer Chad Burnett. I have been employed by the City since 2001, and have been in this area since I got out of the Academy. I have been the Community Police Officer for 42 Beat since May of this year. I am more than eager to answer any questions you may have or problems you have in your area.

Thanks,  
**OFFICER CHAD BURNETT #2004**  
**WICHITA POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER - 42 BEAT**  
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 316-262-3323 (Español)

**Beginning September 15, 2010 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

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 Adult Special Interest Classes  
 Kidz Klub for Kids with music, games, crafts, stories, puppetry and more  
 Free Light Dinner

**Sunday School Times**  
**Sunday Times Escuela**  
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 Español - 11:00 AM

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## The 2010 Midtown Scholarship Recipient

This year's scholarship was awarded to North High 2010 graduate, Gabriel Garcia. Gabriel will be majoring in Accounting in the W. Frank Barton School of Business at WSU. While at North High Gabriel volunteered over 200 hours at Via Christi Hospital as well as at elementary and middle schools in the Connecting Through Community program. He also participated as a mentor/tutor for the Real Men Real Heroes organization. We wish Gabriel much success at WSU.

## 2010 House Tour Dedicated to the Memory of Bob Pickens

About a week before the tour our long time friend and neighbor, Bob Pickens, passed away. Bob was a resident of Midtown for many years and was an exemplary landlord. He was a soft-spoken, kind gentleman who was always ready to help. Bob served as Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Neighborhood Plan in 2003. At the Volunteer Dinner that year HMCA presented him with the Good Neighbor Award. For several years Bob served on the House Tour committee in charge of street closings and traffic issues. Bob will be missed by many Midtowners.



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## Volunteer Dinner

On Tuesday, December 7, we will celebrate another successful year with our annual Volunteer Dinner. If you've volunteered at any of HMCA's events this year, you're invited to attend at no cost.

Guests may come for dinner for a nominal charge. This end-of-year event started almost 40 years ago. In the early years it was a potluck format but now we have it catered. Dinnertime is 6:00 pm at the Midtown Community Resource Center at 11th and Broadway. Since we need to tell the caterer how many meals to plan for, please make your reservation by calling Dan Fitzgerald at 265-7178 by Wednesday, December 1.

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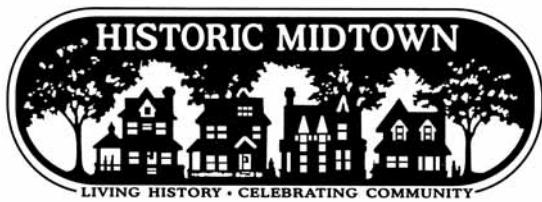
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## Upcoming Events

**Monday, November 22, HMCA Board Meeting at the MCRC, 6:30 pm.**

**Tuesday, December 7, Annual HMCA Thank You Dinner.**

**Monday, January 24, HMCA Board Meeting at MCRC, 6:30 pm.**

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

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