

THE MIDTOWNER

September/October
2010

The Official Newsletter of Historic Midtown Citizens Association

Walking Tour of Historic Homes is Here! Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10

The 2010 Historic Midtown Walking Tour of homes is Saturday, October 9 and Sunday, October 10.

This annual fall event features our Midtown community at its best. This year's tour, themed "Meet Me on Market" will include four homes in the 1000 block of North Market, as well as the Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society at 11th and Main.

The annual tour features guides in period clothing, the sounds of the organ grinder and other musicians, antique cars, refreshments, and the beautiful homes. Homeowners generously open their homes for the tour each year and receive no compensation. All proceeds from the tour support the many neighborhood projects HMCA initiates and supports, including the Midtown Community Resource Center, neighborhood schools, historic home preservation, a college scholarship, and more.

Tour tickets are \$10.00 for adults (no charge for children 12 and under) and can be purchased the days of the tour at Breakthrough, 1010 N Main, or in advance at www.historichometours.com.

Tour times are October 9, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and October 10, 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tour Volunteers Needed Call today to sign up

We need your help! The 2010 Historic Midtown Walking Tour of homes is just around the corner and we are still in need of volunteers. This year's tour is Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10. We are still seeking tour guides for the four 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! All information about the homes is provided - you'll get a "script" to use.

Volunteers are needed for 3-hour shifts on Saturday, October 9 (shifts are 11:00 -2:00 and 2:00-5:00) and 2 1/2 hour shifts on Sunday, October 10 (shifts are 12:00-2:30 and 2:30- 5:00). Volunteering entitles you to tour all open properties and an invitation to the HMCA holiday volunteer appreciation dinner and awards ceremony.

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

1982 HMCA House Tour Featuring the Basham House at 1063 N. Market - also on this year's Tour

The Basham House was on the 3rd House Tour in May 1982. The Basham House had been in the newspapers and on television when it was moved to its present location, and people were interested in seeing it. The two day tour was deemed a "success" by Norma Scheall, who lived in the house at that time, with more than 2,000 people touring the homes.



House Tour (continued from page 1)

Today, the House Tours help raise funds to support local projects. HMCA is a non-profit 501 c 3 organization. Previous tours have helped support the renovation of the Murdock House in Cowtown (once a Midtown home), Habitat for Humanity, the Girl Scout Little House within Midtown's boundaries in the Riverside area, the restoration of the brick piers surrounding the Clapp Compound (a work not yet started), college scholarships, and other Midtown projects.



Midtown didn't lose all its marbles!

We still have the one at Broadway and 9th Street.



At one time, marble street signs were at the intersections from 3rd to 14th Streets on Broadway. Installed in 1938 by W.B. Carter Construction Company, these "signs" were more desirable for aesthetic reasons than regular street signs. They were also functional as they were made to reflect car headlights.



Historic Midtown Plan Steering Committee Forming

In 2003 and 2004, residents of Historic Midtown went through a comprehensive planning process facilitated by Metropolitan Area Planning Department staff. The result was the Midtown Neighborhood Plan, adopted by the Wichita City Council and the Sedgwick County Commission in June of 2004. The plan's purpose is to address key issues and concerns regarding the conservation and revitalization of the neighborhood. The 10-chapter plan includes neighborhood history, a needs assessment and analysis, neighborhood vision and mission, goals, objectives and strategies.

Funding has now become available for the next steps in the planning process. These next steps will involve creating two implementation plans. One is a landscaping and streetscape design plan to add neighborhood amenities such as historic light fixtures, benches, and bus shelters, and to visually buffer homes from incompatible land uses. The second is a transportation, parking and pedestrian plan that will address such issues as discouraging through traffic, installing traffic calming measures, improving pedestrian safety, and increasing street lighting.

Neighborhood input will be an essential component in this next round of the planning process. We are now seeking a number of individuals who live and/or work within the boundaries of the plan area to serve on a planning Steering Committee. The area boundaries are 18th Street, Santa Fe, Murdock, and the Little Arkansas River.

If you are interested in serving on this steering committee, please email District 6 City Council Member Janet Miller at jlmliller@wichita.gov with the following information: **1)** Name, **2)** Address, **3)** Phone Number, and **4)** and statement of why you're interested in serving. Alternately, you may send your expression of interest in writing to Janet Miller at 455 N. Main, Wichita, KS, 67202. Please respond no later than September 15, 2010.

Midtown Community Resource Center (MCRC) Gala

After hosting the Gala for 11 years, HMCA turned over the event to the MCRC Board this year. The Gala raised almost \$5,000 to help fund this important community resource center.

The first Gala was held even before the Center opened in the home of Steve and Janie Krull. Subsequent Gala's have been held at the Center, and they've all featured some of the most unique silent bid auction items. Entertainment and fantastic food have also been a part of this event.

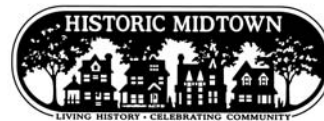
Helpful Telephone Numbers

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 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 |
| 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 | 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



News from Fairview Christian Church

Tutoring Time for elementary kids begins at Fairview Christian Church on Tuesday September 14. We'll read (including some Bible Stories), do some math, play some games, maybe sing some songs and even have a bite to eat. If there's homework to be done, we'll be glad to help with it. Among the volunteers there are 2 certified teachers, one a Reading Specialist, and the other a Special Education teacher. If your child needs some help, please bring him/her. If your child just needs to practice reading, bring him/her. If your child needs the time with other kids, bring him/her. We'll meet on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:45. The church is at 1650 Fairview, and the phone 263-9332. Call for more information (weekdays before 1 pm) and to let us know if you'll let us include your child in the program. If you forget to call, come anyway!

Don't forget the neighborhood breakfast at Fairview Christian Church on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8:30 to 10:00. There's plenty of food and plenty of people to visit with. We were getting in the range of 150 persons each breakfast, mostly homeless men. But not all are homeless, and all are welcome regardless of ability to pay. It's free. If you've a heart for the homeless, be on the lookout for items like shoes, jeans, blankets,

sheets, towels, hygiene products, and just about anything else you can think of. If you and I need it, so do the homeless! Deliver items to the church (1650 Fairview), during the week before 1 pm. The phone is 263-9332.

Stoplights at the corners of Topeka and Emporia and 13th Street

Residents will soon see some major traffic changes. In a plan to remove the stoplights along 13th Street at Topeka and Emporia, blinking red/yellow lights will replace the current stoplights. The traffic will be monitored, and, if it appears feasible, the stoplights will be removed.

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W.H. Sternberg Mansion is on the Kansas Preservation Alliance's Most Endangered Historic Places List for 2010

The Sternberg Mansion, at 1065 N. Waco, was constructed for his personal residence in 1886 by William H. Sternberg, the most productive builder in Wichita during the late 19th century. The mansion was the first property designated on the Wichita/Sedgwick County historic register, and it is also listed on the National and Kansas Register of Historic Places. After a renovation in 1977 by Sally and Dave Dewey, Wichita's Historic Preservation Officer stated, "this house is one of a few remaining homes of this elaborate style in the city and is regarded as a quintessential product of the late Queen Anne residential design." The mansion was nominated for the Endangered Historic Places list by the present owner, Ken Elliott, because the property is threatened by deterioration.

(From *Preservation News*, 2nd Quarter 2010)

The Pratt-Campbell house at 1313 N. Emporia, the Aley House at 1505 N. Fairview were also constructed by W.H. Sternberg, as well as many other buildings throughout Wichita.

Restoration/Preservation Problems 1313 N. Emporia

Even the best preservation efforts can go horribly wrong, through no fault of your own. We found this out recently, when we discovered some areas of our porches had wood rot. We had primed and painted and primed and painted again to ensure this didn't happen, but water did still seep in. Willard Ebersole did some investigating after we showed him what was happening. He found out that all cypress is not created equal.

Virgin growth cypress is impervious to wood rot; so Willard built the areas of our porches that were exposed to the elements all of cypress. Willard later found out that farmed cypress is not impervious to wood rot and the lumber yards can't tell which is which. Consequently, we had areas of our porches that were completely rotted; right next to areas that were perfectly sound...both made of cypress and treated exactly the same.

We also found out that rotted wood, even a tiny bit, attracts carpenter ants. We had several colonies feasting on our porches, and we had no idea until Dick Rohloff started to tear things off. He took off one façade of a column on our front porch and "thousands of ants came pouring out". We called the exterminator and they come out every month now to treat.

So if you have wooden porches, please be aware of the dangers of even a small amount of wood rot. We don't want any of our neighbors to have to deal with these pesky creatures. We are happy to report that our porches are now fully restored...again.

Park Elementary School News

Park Elementary has kicked off another exciting school year! You might have seen many teachers visiting students in their homes the week before school started. This was a tremendous opportunity for students and teachers to learn about each other and develop a positive connection before the first day of school. In addition, students and parents were invited to family meetings on Friday, August 13 to tour the school and learn more about Park.

Our partnership with the First United Methodist church continues and was celebrated with our 4th Annual Back to School Lunch in their reception hall. Staff members met and visited with church mentors and tutors. Before returning to school we were showered with school supplies to use and share with our students. We are extremely fortunate to have First Church as a friend.

Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society invites you to enter a Photo Contest

Submit up to two original photographs taken in the Midwest that capture unique images of historical (subject of image 50 years or older) and/or genealogical interest. Photos may be in color, black and white, or sepia tones in 5x7 or larger format.

There are three levels of competition: 17 and under, Adult Amateur, and Adult Professional. There will be three winners in each of the three categories. Cash prizes will be awarded to the three first place winners.

Entries must be postmarked between September 15-October 31, 2010. For additional information and an entry form, call the MHGS at 264-3611.

Cultivating Healthy Neighborhoods HMCA WILL PAY REGISTRATION FEE

Saturday, September 18, 8 am - 1:30 pm, lunch included.

It's time to register for the Neighborhood University, and HMCA will help Midtowners attend by paying the registration fee for up to 10 people. So, go online, fill out a registration form, and contact Dan Fitzgerald, 265-7178.

<http://www.winwichita.com/neighborhood-university.html>

The conference provides a great opportunity for attendees to participate in information-packed workshops, listen to thought provoking speakers, view exhibits, and engage in unparalleled networking opportunities with many neighborhood advocates. The one thing all attendees have in common is their interest in improving Wichita neighborhoods. As a part of a community, wherever you work, live, or play, your neighborhood is a central part of your life and deserves your attention.

As we begin another conference, please join us as we work together in realizing that the future of Wichita and Kansas lies in the success of our neighborhoods and in the faith of those who strengthen them.

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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

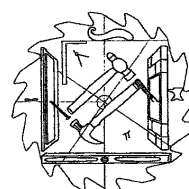
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BOTANICA
WICHITA



Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 16 from 2-5pm for our annual fall festival, BOOtanica! At BOOtanica, the Gardens turn into fun, educational activity stations that celebrate the things in nature that make the fall so festive. All activities are free with paid admission of \$7 per person. Children under 2 are free. We look forward to having great fall fun with your family!

Advance tickets are now available for purchase for Illuminations 2010. Tickets are \$7 for adults (\$6 for Botanica members) and \$3 for youth (2-12) and are good for any of the eight nights of the event (Nov 26-27, Dec 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18). Group rates are available for blocks of 50 or more tickets. Area non-profit organizations can receive a group rate for blocks of 25 or more tickets.

Tickets make great gifts for neighbors, employees, clients, co-workers, family and friends.

To purchase advance tickets, or for more information, please contact Kathy Scott at 316.264.0448 or membership@botanica.org.

WiFi Now Available at Your Library

All Wichita Public Library locations now have free wireless access! All you need is your mobile device (laptop, phone, etc.) and your WPL library card. There's no time limit with WiFi, so it's easy to get more work done. Do you just need to print a resume or report? You can even print from Windows wireless devices for just 10 cents a page. For more information, visit www.wichita.lib.ks.us or ask at your favorite branch.

The Big Read is Coming Soon

The big Read will return to Wichita in October 2010. Citizens around the region are challenged to read Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. It's the story of Janie Crawford, a woman who finds love on her own terms. Save the date for the free kickoff at the Wichita Art Museum from 2-4 pm on Saturday, October 2. For more information, visit www.bigreadwichita.org or contact any Wichita Public Library.

Neighborhood associations, homeowners groups, churches and other groups are encouraged to become partners and hold book discussions,

attend free events around the community, and/or help share the news! There is no cost to becoming a partner and we supply promotional materials for your group. All that's required is filling out a simple form, providing an estimate of in-kind expenses (newsletter notices, book discussion time, etc.) and attendance at any events. Partnership is completely flexible to your group's needs. Give me a call if you're interested. Jennifer Heinicke, 261-8524.

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musica y mas
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Sunday School Times Sunday Times Escuela

English - 9:15 AM
Español - 11:00 AM

Sunday Worship Times Adoración Sunday Times

Español - 9:00 AM
English - 11:00 AM



Experience Matters

- ◆ Helps constituents cut through red tape and solve problems
- ◆ Protected Kansans from increases in their insurance premiums
- ◆ Saved millions during his service on the Facilities Closure Commission
- ◆ Holds the line on agency expenditures and cuts waste and inefficiency

A Vision for Kansas

- ◆ Get people back to work
- ◆ Get our state on the path to recovery
- ◆ Streamline state government
- ◆ Reform education funding
- ◆ Reduce our state debt
- ◆ Maintain safety net programs



VOTE for Nile Dillmore
November 2nd

Together We Will Build a Better Kansas

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Nile Dillmore
 Janet Miller, Treasurer



Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 18, Neighborhood University. See information inside (page 5) on how to have HMCA pay your registration fee.

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

Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10, House Tour.

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

Tuesday, December 7, Annual HMCA Thank You Dinner.

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

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