



Midtown Moments

Dedicated To Quality Living In The Center City
Midtown Neighborhood Association
PO Box 214 Springfield, MO 65801
www.midtown-springfield-mo.com

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Wiemer Receives NOVA Award

Steve Wiemer was honored by Midtown and Caring Communities with the Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Award (NOVA) at the annual NOVA Banquet last month. Steve has been highly involved with Midtown for many years. He served on the board until this year, has served on several committees/task forces for Midtown and currently serves as President of the UNA Board of Directors.

He is always willing to donate his time for projects, especially the annual 4th of July parade & celebration, Neighborhood Night Out and the Victorian Christmas Homes Tour, and for many years he has been the caretaker of the landscaping and lawn at the Midtown House. He also donates

his time and his copy machine every month to print the Midtown newsletter at no cost to the neighborhood and is always willing to go door to door delivering flyers to get the word out about events.

Steve's pride in Midtown is always apparent—he is always enthusiastic and excited to bring new folks into the neighborhood!

NOVA stands for Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Award. Caring Communities offers the NOVA's each year as a way to recognize the hard work that takes place in all of the Caring Communities neighborhoods and to reflect on the achievements and contributions made by each volunteer.

Midtown Board Prepares for 2011; Members Needed For Committees

At its January board meeting, the Midtown board formed committees for 2011 in anticipation of preparing for the new year.

"The key to a successful year is resident involvement in the activities we plan and the work we do," stated President Dee Ogilvy. "We hope many residents of Midtown will decide to get involved."

The committees for this year include: Newsletter/Communication; Hospitality; Membership; Fundraising; Fall & Spring Clean-Ups; Concerts in the Park; Back to School Social/Neighborhood Night Out; Pancake Breakfast; Victorian Christmas Homes Tour; and 4th of July Parade.

If you are interested in being on a committee, please contact Dee Ogilvy at 863-8112 or benz.zen@gmail.com.

Midtown Neighborhood Association Mission Statement

To promote and preserve the character and quality of living in the Midtown Neighborhood, including Springfield's largest nationally registered historic district.

President's Message



BRRRRRR!

This is the time of year when we all think about staying home by a fire watching a movie, reading a great book or listening to some good music. In fact it is a good time to get out and meet the neighbors. Please join us for a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING, February 3rd, 2011, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, St John's Episcopal Church, 515 East Division Street. I want to personally thank Randy Greer, who as always puts a great deal of time and effort into educating us on how to make our neighborhood a safer neighborhood.

On that note, I want to thank Bob Horton for putting together the panel of Chief of Police, Park Rangers, Crime Prevention Officers and the School Resource Officers that was held earlier this month. Midtown had the largest turnout and seven different neighborhoods were represented at the meeting. The interaction between panel and audience was excellent; I feel we all learned a lot.

It might be a good time as well to get involved in an exercise program at Cox North. With your Midtown membership card you will receive the "Corporate" rate. Or maybe you want to start a Tai Chi Class at Drury (contact Dee for further information). So neighbor, I hope to see you out and about despite the frigid temps.

M. Dee Hackett Ogilvy

President

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING—February 3rd, 2011 6:30-8:30 pm St John's Episcopal Church —515 East Division Street--Springfield, MO

Everyone is welcome to attend. On the agenda will be information from our last meeting with local law enforcement officers, Block Captain\Watcher recruitment, and Neighborhood Incidents. Federal Officer Mike Cupp and former Special Investigation Agent Lieutenant Wayne Morris will join us.

The issue of gangs is an age old problem and the presence of gangs is recognized in all cities across the nation. Presenter Mike Cupp will discuss "Gang Recognition" and what can be done to suppress gang activity in neighborhoods in our city.

Local law enforcement expressly promotes the existence of Neighborhood Watch Programs. Let's make ours a success! For more information on this event, call Randy Greer at 831-5911.

Mark the Date

Midtown Neighborhood-Wide Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday, March 24, 2011

6:30 pm—St. John's Episcopal Church
515 E. Division

FREE! FREE! FREE! FREE!

*Guest Speaker: Tony Stokes
Cox Health North Fitness Center*



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UNA Awarded Grant For Emergency Home Repairs

Through a \$288,750 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, the Urban Neighborhoods Alliance has developed the *Creating Healthy Homes* program, which will assist residents within the UNA footprint by helping with emergency home repairs to eliminate potential City of Springfield code violations and address health risks.

This grant, with a retention period of five years, will help bridge the gap between homeowners that are able to take out a loan and those that desperately need home repairs but are unable to borrow money from a traditional lender because of financial conditions.

For the most part, these repairs are **exterior** repairs. Cosmetic improvements to the house (both interior and exterior) are not eligible unless they pose a health risk or present code violations.

One time emergency home repairs may be available (subject to funding availability and income

requirements) for home improvements, such as:

- Roof, soffit & gutter repair and or replacement;
- Window and door repairs and/or replacement;
- Porch steps, decking, handrail repair and/or replacement; and
- Sewer repair and/or replacement.

The homeowner will be responsible for a \$100 application fee at the time of closing and will be required to attend the Caring Communities CASH class and a post purchase homebuyer education class.

The maximum income for participation in the program for is \$30,100 for a 1-person household, \$34,000 for a 2-person household, \$38,240 for a 3-person household and \$42,480 for a 4-person household.

For a grant application, visit the UNA website at www.unaonline.org or call the UNA office at 865-4774.



What's Happening at Drury...



Drury Basketball – O'Reilly Family Event Center—Maryville University

January 27 • Women's 5:45 pm • Men's 8:00 pm

Drury Basketball – O'Reilly Family Event Center—University of Missouri-St. Louis

January 29 • Men's 1 pm • Women's 3:15 pm

Drury Basketball – O'Reilly Family Event Center—University of Indianapolis

February 3 • Women's 5:45 pm • Men's 8:00 pm

Running with the Engine: The Fire Photography of Harry K. Garvin —Harry K. Garvin

Opening Reception: Friday, February 4, 6-9 p.m. • Showing February 4 - 25 • Pool Art Center

Drury Basketball – O'Reilly Family Event Center—Northern Kentucky University

February 5 • Women's 1:00 pm • Men's 3:15 pm

Student Recital—Lauren Avers, Soprano

4 p.m. • Sunday, February 6 • Stone Chapel

Drury Basketball – O'Reilly Family Event Center—Missouri University of Science & Technology

February 14 • Women's 5:15 pm • Men's 8:00 pm

Springfield-Drury Civic Orchestra—Stephen H. Good Memorial Concert

7:30 p.m. • Thursday, February 17 • Stone Chapel

Drury Basketball – O'Reilly Family Event Center—Rockhurst University

February 20 • Men's 3:00 pm • Women's 5:15 pm

Peter and the Wolf

10:30 a.m & 12:30 p.m. • Tuesday, February 22 • O'Reilly FEC

Scape Shifting: The O'Reilly Family Event Center and Tindle Mills -Rebecca Miller, Documentary Photographs

Artist Talk: Friday, March 4, 6-7 p.m.

Opening Reception: Friday, March 4, 6-9 p.m. • Showing March 4 - 25 • Pool Art Center

Midtown School Garden Update

January, 2011

Happy New Year! 2010 was a good year for the Midtown School Garden, located on Cox North property just south of Division Street. Students from Boyd and Pipkin visited the garden helping to plant seeds, water, maintain and pick a bountiful harvest of tomatoes, peppers, squash zucchini, potatoes, corn, eggplant, flowers and more. Aside from the reward of a harvest, the biggest reward has been the student excitement and wonder as they work in the garden.

Because of the partnerships formed and the support of the Midtown Neighborhood, the first year for the garden was a large success. A special thanks to community members who regularly volunteer, Community Partnership's Caring Communities Initiative, CoxHealth, and Drury University.

A Boyd kindergarten class, taught by Mrs. Krista Pyle, is still enjoying a weekly lesson even when the weather is too cold for a visit to the garden site. We've had to move the lessons to their classroom, but the garden is still top of mind. A recent unit covering culture and community allowed the students to look at photos from gardens around the world, discovering different cultural practices and discussing similarities and differences. They've created garden journals and are reflecting on the ideas they've shared and learned after each lesson and are eager for warmer weather allowing them to return to the garden site. Their wishes could soon be granted as we're anxiously waiting the delivery of a high tunnel, allowing the students to work in covered, much warmer-than-outside conditions. A high tunnel, sometimes called a hoop house, is an unheated greenhouse structure that will extend the growing season, allowing for year-round production. Since it's a job for several people to erect the high tunnel, we're looking for volunteers to assist. Please email lucy@springfielduac.org and we'll be sure to keep in touch regarding a date for construction. The kids are getting really excited about the high tunnel. Each week at least one kindergarten student asks when the 'tunnel' will be here; they're ready to get back outside and work in the garden. We're looking forward to additional classes from Boyd and Pipkin returning to the garden as the weather gets warmer.

Want to help? We can always use extra hands!

Midtown School Garden Work Day: Saturday, January 29

9am to noon at the garden site

There are various tasks to complete—filling beds with compost, hanging our new garden scale in the new volunteer station, overall clean up and bed repair as well as trimming. We're also looking for cardboard donations—any large boxes could be used.

For any questions about the garden, donations needed or to volunteer, please contact Lucy or Melissa with Springfield Urban Agriculture Coalition at (417) 873-6343. For more information on SUAC, visit www.springfielduac.org and keep up with the Midtown School Garden happenings here: <http://www.springfielduac.org/blog/>



FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

The ATLS Coalition is pleased to offer the VITA free tax preparation program again this year in Springfield! VITA offers free tax help to low-to moderate-income (generally \$49,000 and below) people. Certified volunteers receive training to help prepare basic tax returns as well as help with special tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Child Tax Credit, and the Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled. Most sites offer free electronic filing (e-filing), which allows refunds to be received in half the time compared to returns filed on paper and even faster when direct deposit is used.

There are several sites close to Midtown this year that will be offering both walk-in and appointments: Drury University, Legal Services of Southern Missouri and the Midtown Library. Sites open on February 4th and will continue until April 15th. For more information or to make an appointment, please call the Caring Communities Neighborhood Resource Center at 864-0030.

ATLS Coalition partners include Missouri State University, Community Partnership's Caring Communities Initiative, Drury University, IRS-SPEC, Springfield-Greene County Library District, United Way of the Ozarks, Legal Services of Southern Missouri, University of Missouri Extension, Southwest Missouri Office on Aging, and the Missouri Dept. of Revenue.



**COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP**

Caring Communities Initiative

Caring Communities Corner

by Andrew Foell

FREE G.E.D. CLASSES

Tuesday Evenings: Pathways United Methodist Church (1232 E Dale St.)

· Dinner served 5pm-5:30pm Class begins at 5:30pm-8pm

Thursday Mornings: Pathways United Methodist Church (1232 E Dale St.)

· Class begins at 9am-12pm · No Meal

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER FOR DINNER
AND/OR CHILD CARE CALL 864-6020**

Upcoming Events From the Midtown Library

January 22 & February 19, 2011

Ready to Garden: Vegetable Gardening for Beginners 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. Looking forward to fresh veggies from your own garden this year? Discuss vegetable gardening basics with Master Gardener Gina Marie Walden. Registration starts January 11; call 862-0135.

February 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26-2011 TIMES VARY—CALL FOR DETAILS

Free Tax Help Federal and state tax return preparation, e-filing, Missouri property Tax Credit (PTC), Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and other required federal and state tax forms will be offered for low-to-moderate income families and individuals including those with disabilities, non-English speakers and older adults by Missouri State University students working with the ATLS Coalition. Help will also be available for federal tax controversy issues or letters from the IRS that you do not understand.

February 5, 2011

KnitLit 11:00 am to 12:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room A combination knitting/crochet circle and book discussion group. Get together and enjoy your favorite needle craft while visiting about your favorite knitlit – fiction and nonfiction.

Seasonal Treats 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room for ages 4-10. The Queen of Hearts has lost her tarts! Can you help her find them? Come in for a story, tart hunt and to decorate tarts. Registration starts January 17; call 862-0135.

February 9, 2011

Playing with Your Food! 12:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room for age 18 and over. Got a little time on your hands? Take off for lunch and head to the Library for an hour of fun and games. Bring your lunch and play a variety of card and board games.

Rockin' Saturdays 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room for all ages. The Farnum Family will perform a blend of bluegrass, gospel, western and old-time music. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

February 14, 2011

TAB Meeting 3:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room for grades 6-12. Teen Advisory Board members help the Library decide what to buy, what programs to plan and how to make the Library a great place for teens.

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Midtown January/February Church Schedules

Benton Avenue AME Church
510 E. Central—(864-8815)

Center City Church
1700 N. Benton—379-1100
Sunday Morning Prayer—10:00 am
Sunday Morning Gathering—10:30 am

Central Christian Church
1475 N. Washington—(869-7241)
Sunday Worship Services 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School Follows At 10:45 a.m.

Crimson House Ministries
1616 N. Robberson
Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 6:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1609 N. Summit—(869-3646)
Monday-Thursday Weekday Services 8:00 a.m.
Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.
PSR Classes 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Spanish Mass Sunday 12:30 p.m. & 6:00 pm



St. John's Episcopal Church
515 E. Division—(869-6351)
Sunday Services 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Mass @ 6:00 pm
Thursday 12:00 noon.-Healing Services
Solid Rock International
1040 N. Sherman—(830-2092)
Sunday School Begins At 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Services At 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Services 7:00 p.m.

Timmins Temple Church of God in Christ
934 E. Webster—(831-1484)
Sunday School: 10:00 am
Sunday Services: 11:00 am & 6:00 pm
Noon Day Prayer—12:00 pm Wednesday
Bible Study & Children Minstry—7:00 pm Wednesday

Washington Avenue Baptist
1722 N National—(866-2750)
Sunday School begins At 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Services Follow At 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Night Activities 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study & "Children Hanging With Jesus"