Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association

August 2026

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JCNA Board of Directors

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JOSLYN CASTLE NEIGHBORHOOD

JCNA President's Column
By Amy Wagenknecht

Another fun and beautiful summer events season has come and gone.

I hope you were able to attend at least one of the many Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association (JCNA) events. We had excellent turn out at the monthly picnics as well as ideal summer evening weather — something we've struggled with in years past.

We also had another successful summer of weekly Saturday morning Yoga at the Castle classes — only a few rained out and more people in attendance than last summer! We love offering these free community-building events for you all, but boy does it take a lot of work!

You can help continue to make these events available and accessible by becoming a JCNA member or renewing your membership yearly. It's only $15 a year!

If you want to take the next step and become more involved, come to one of our monthly open board meetings. We always love to see new faces!



The August "Trash Mob" poses in front of the meeting place, Cali Commons at 40th and California. This volunteer clean-up crew continues to gather the first Saturday of each month to pick up litter.

This and That

Refugee Women Rising Founder; Towers for Chimney Swifts; Storm Damage; Successful Drinks Stand; Summer Yoga

Recognized: Founder of Refugee Women Rising

Pam Font-Gabel, the founder of Refugee Women Rising, has been nominated for the Women's Center for Advancement's 2026 Tribute to Women award, which honors Omaha women whose dedication has shaped the lives of women and girls in our community. Refugee Women Rising, headquartered at Joslyn Castle, is a non-profit that provides refugee and immigrant women with driving education, culinary training, wellness programs and social connections. Refugee Women Rising is a JCNA Business Member

Nesting Tower at Joslyn Castle & Gardens

A Chimney Swift nesting tower will be constructed on the grounds of the Joslyn Castle & Gardens, part of the $17,000 grant from the Claire M. Hubbard Foundation that has been awarded to The Audubon Society of Omaha. Working with Bluebirds Across Nebraska, this will be a collaborative project to build five new nesting towers in Omaha for the Chimney Swifts. Building towers designed specifically for these birds can mitigate the loss of historic nesting habitat. Signs will provide an educational description about this.



Liam Wagenknecht and Shamblav Patel do a good business selling lemonade and lavender drinks at Picnics at the Castle. Below, lawn play at a Castle picnic, and Saturday morning Yoga at the Castle

Power Surge Knocked Out AC Units

A late June storm woke up Emma Tanner, apartments manager at The Artisan on 39th Street, a JCNA Business Member, with what sounded like a "bomb going off". A power surge, possibly from a terminal being hit by lightning, knocked out air-conditioning units for 38 apartments. Early morning storms this summer also canceled two of the Saturday morning Yoga at the Castle sessions *(photo lower right)* led by Dr. Devashree Patel, Ph.D.



Young Entrepreneurs

Their Lemonade and Lavender Stand was such a big hit at the July First Tuesday Picnic at the Castle that the young entrepreneurs, Liam Wagenknecht and Shamblav Patel, aimed to do it again for the National Night Out Picnic in August. Customers could order a glass of either, or get an infusion of both, which was very refreshing!

Castle Partnership

The First Tuesday Picnics at the Castle and the Saturday morning sessions of Yoga at the Castle were well attended this year. Joslyn Castle & Gardens is a JCNA Business Member and has been our partner in what have become annual summer events on their grounds.
It is doubtful that any other neighborhood in the whole of America has a castle where people can hang out in its backyard in the summer!



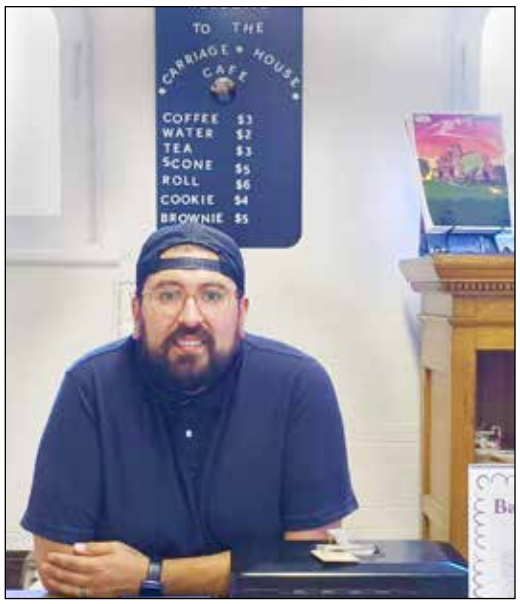
The Carriage House Café

Joslyn Castle & Gardens and Munroe-Meyer Institute Team To Create Workforce Opportunities for Young Adults

The Carriage House Café is now open Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. serving Amateur Coffee cold brew, hot coffee and tea, and delectable treats from Sweet Magnolias Bakery.

The café is a new social enterprise designed to provide meaningful workforce development experiences for young adults served by the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute. Through hands-on training in a real-world setting, participants can build essential job skills including customer service, teamwork and food service operations, all while engaging with the community in a welcoming and supportive environment.

"This café has been a dream of ours for years, and Munroe-Meyer is the perfect partner to bring it to life," said Joslyn Castle Executive Director Amy Richardson. "Our hope with the café is that our guests and neighbors will feel welcomed to spend more time on campus with us, whether it be to meet a friend to catch up over a cup of coffee, visit our rotating exhibitions, or picnic in the gardens."



Say "Hi" to Chris when you stop in at the Carriage House Café



Happenings in the Joslyn Castle Neighborhood

Mark your calendar

First Saturdays:

Trash Mob one-hour neighborhood cleanup, 10-11 a.m. Meet in front of Cali Commons, 518 N. 40th St. Buckets, vests and pickers provided. Bring your own gloves.
Sept. 5, Oct. 3 & Nov. 7.

Second Mondays:

JCNA meetings at Cali Commons, 518 N. 40th St., 6:30-8 p.m. Sept.14, Oct. 12 & Nov. 9 ***(election of 2027 Board Members)***.

Third Thursdays:

Art Walks, 5-8 p.m. Castle & Cathedral District. Stroll 40th Street from Joslyn Castle and Cali Commons to Sunderland Gallery behind Saint Cecilia. Sept. 17 & Oct. 15.

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Cathedral Fest runs Friday through Sunday, Oct. 2-4. Blessing of the Animals will be Oct. 3.

Have an Idea? Nominations for JCNA Board

Have you ever found yourself thinking about something that would be cool if the neighborhood was doing it? Previous and current JCNA Board Members have done just that with the new Clarkson Park playground equipment, the Tardis Little Free Library, the Trash Mob, the Pollinator Garden and Citizens Patrol. Not all ideas stick to the wall but new people bring life experience and fresh goals that inspire improvements.

This could be the time you take a more active role in your neighborhood and submit your nomination to the JCNA Board by Monday, Nov. 9. The requirements to be on the board are to be a current paid member of the JCNA (see the back of this newsletter for a membership form), and to live or work within the JCNA boundaries: **Dodge Street to Cuming Street, and Saddle Creek Road to 37th Street**.

A board member is obligated to attend the monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month (excepting July and December) that last approximately one hour, 7-8 p.m. The board has been meeting at Cali Commons, 518 N. 40th St. It is also always appreciated if board members can occasionally volunteer for events, such as the Art Walks or Dumpster Day. And to bring your ideas to the table!

The current board members will vote for the slate of directors at the Nov. 9 meeting. Elected board members will then begin their duties starting in January 2027. An informal meeting in December 2026 will highlight discussions about goals for the next year.
Contact JCNA Board President Amy Wagenknecht if you are interested or have questions.

Teresa Goodall Designer Jewelry Available At Cathedral's Sunderland Gallery Gift Shop

By Deirdre Evans

The Sunderland Gallery gift shop always has remarkable treasures for sale, but I couldn't help but notice the fabulous necklaces on display this year.

The designer, Teresa Goodall, was a self-taught jewelry maker from the Midwest whose interest as a child had her creating jewelry from junk she found in her father's scrap yard, and crafting necklaces from vintage buttons her family collected for her.

When she became successful as an adult, she had representatives showing her wares in markets all over the nation. She had a passion for color. She was asked to design pieces to go with an exhibition of Henri Rousseau art in Washington D.C. Actress Lily Tomlin wore one of the necklaces in the television series "Grace and Frankie".

Six years ago Teresa Goodall died unexpectedly, and her brother Mark Goodall, an Omaha attorney, came to possess all the sample jewelry she had saved. The jewelry on sale at the gift shop is part of that collection.

When I talked with Mark about his sister, I remarked on how well constructed the pieces were. He told me that her studio tested them for sturdiness by throwing them hard at a wall! Teresa employed fewer than a dozen women who handmade thousands of pieces of jewelry as piecework in their homes. Truly made in the U.S.A.

Visit the gift shop soon to discover these fine pieces of colorful, creative and delightful jewelry that will always draw compliments — at least I got them for the necklace that I bought. The Sunderland Gallery is



The necklaces on display at gift shop

located in the Cultural Center off Webster Street and behind Saint Cecilia Cathedral on 40th Street.

Tell them Deirdre sent you.

Cathedral Arts Project's 2026-27 Season Openers

Aug. 20 to Oct. 4: Artist Invitational



The season begins with a traditional opener, The Artist Invitational, a professionally curated show encompassing numerous media and styles. Come to see more than 80 new works by more than four dozen Midlands artists, all available for purchase. It's the perfect place to begin or enlarge a personal or institutional collection of the very best art from our region. Opens at the August Art Walk, Thursday, Aug. 20, in the Sunderland Gallery and runs until Sunday, Oct. 4.

September 12: Manhart on Libraries

Nick Manhart returns for an informative and captivating talk on Omaha's libraries; 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, in the O'Donnell Lecture Hall.

English-Style Teas: During Shopping

Traditional English-style teas will return to the Cultural Center during shopping at the Holiday Fiber Arts Show and Vintage Christmas Market. Reservations recommended, 402-551-4888.

Save These Contacts

Mayor's Hotline:
Call 402-444-5555 or file a report at Omaha Hotline at omahahotline.com

Missed Trash Pick-Up
Call 402-444-5238 to report

Street Lights, Outages, Downed Lines, Poles
Call 1-800-554-6773 or report using the MyOPPD app

Omaha Police Department Northeast Precinct
Call 402-444-6916

Omaha Public Works street maintenance
Potholes, alleys, debris, 402-444-4919

Omaha Sewer Maintenance
Call 402-444-5332

City Councilman Danny Begley District 3
Call 402-444-5520 Council office or Danny.Begley@cityofomaha.org

Youth Poetry Workshops Provide Odes of Fun



Matt Mason

In the first weeks of July, Matt Mason, Poet Artist-in Residence at the Castle, led two writing workshops at Cali Commons for young writers.

"We worked on some odes and poems about what makes us *us*," Matt reported.

"The four young poets who came were a joy to work with, coming up with fun, creative poems."

At right is a poem written during the workshops by Marielle Kolterman.

Ode to My Grey Toe Socks

By Marielle Kolterman

Oh my grey toe socks how much
joy have you brought to my life.
The first time I saw you
wrapped in shiny plastic
waiting in a wooden closet,
I knew you belonged on my feet.
The greatest gift from my
visit to Japan was not engraved chopsticks
nor the immaculate food (though a close second),
my greatest gift was you.
Your soft cotton fibers
embrace my troubled toes.
Your sleek divit perfectly
isolates my big toe.
Thanks to you I can now
comfortably wear flip-flops
in the cold.

Kids Create Portable Mural at Art Camp

By Margie Magnuson

At the beginning of summer, a free camp for neighborhood children interested in learning about mural art was sponsored by the JCNA, Cali Commons and Joslyn Castle. The camp was led by local artist Sarah Rowe, a well-known mural artist. Sarah has done multiple murals around Omaha. The most notable may be the silo mural near 29th and F Streets, seen from Highway 75.

On the first day of camp, the kids took a bus tour of three mural sites painted by Sarah and other artists to see the various styles and images of murals and to learn about the process of creating a mural. The following two weeks the kids created their own images which were later transferred onto a 6-by-9-foot vinyl banner.

Sarah helped the kids place and blend all the images on the banner: flowers, an exploding sun, dragonflies, mythical creatures, butterflies, a swirling tornado and, in the middle, the silent mountain people, each sporting their own individual symbol. The kids painted each of their images, adding little touches like tiny stick people caught up in the tornado, flying ducks or people just flying by saying "Hi!"

The kids had a great time and took such pride in adding their own images to the project. On the final day, the kids were asked to create a title of their mural. They called it *A Normal Day in the Neighborhood*. Perfect!



Mural makers at work during Art Camp

The mural was painted on vinyl so it could be moved around the neighborhood during the art district walks and JCNA events throughout the summer. We hope you were able to view the mural at an event.

Note: *We thank George Garrett from Cali Commons and Margie Magnuson from JCNA, who helped host this camp. Also, thanks to the Nebraska Arts Council for its monetary support of the Castle & Cathedral District so the JCNA could offer this free camp.*



Staff outside the former Offutt Manor in the JCNA neighborhood

Mental Health Association of Nebraska

Peer Support House 'Terrapin Station' Provides Hope, Support and Healing

By The Mental Health Association

The Mental Health Association of Nebraska (MHA) recently celebrated 25 years of serving Lincoln and surrounding areas. We were grateful for the opportunity to expand into the Omaha area last year; it has been great getting to know this wonderful community.

MHA is a non-profit that serves individuals living with mental health issues, substance use, trauma, previous incarceration and other life challenges. Our mission is to provide hope and healing through Intentional Peer Support. Peer Support is at the root of all MHA programs, using our own lived experience to create mutually supportive connections and a sense of belonging and space for individuals to heal, grow and thrive. In Omaha, MHA runs two Intentional Peer Support houses, Terrapin Station (formally the Offutt Manor) and the Green House (named after MHA's previous executive director).

At each house, MHA provides a safe and inclusive space with wrap-around services including employment support, basic needs, connection to local resources, and 24/7 peer support. Every day we support folks in maintaining gainful employment, rebuilding relationships with friends and family, and giving them space to create a healthy foundation for the rest of their journey as they re-enter the community.

By building authentic relationships, practicing honesty and transparency, and moving through life's challenges together, MHA's housing programs can help create stronger individuals, stronger neighborhoods, and a stronger Omaha community.

Appreciating the Generosity of JCNA Deca Boosters

The JCNA welcomes the generosity of our growing list of Deca Boosters. You can save money and join them, gaining 12 years of membership in your neighborhood association while only paying the price of 10.

For details, turn to the back page membership form.

Thank you to these Deca Boosters:

John and Joyce Passarelli, Fergus and Orna Hoban, Aaron and NeEtta Gillespie, Michael and Kimberly Joyce, Jim Winston, Steven and Deirdre Evans, Natasha Kraft, Jerry and Millie Johnson, Ryan and Mandy Vandement, Paul Mileris and Robin Behlers, Thomas and Marcia Riley, Michael and Joy (Voltz) Doll, James DeVaney, Lori Reed and Jon Iversen, Jeanne DeMars, Mary Helen McDermott, John Campbell and Robyn Tait, Brad and Amy Schaap, Matt and Maggie Jones, Michael Berry. Bob Broom and Mary Clarkson, Alex and Lia Nester, Madison Haugland, Karl and Suzanne Kehm, Doug and Joyce Sasse, Michael and Katie Schill, Roger and Cathy Carroll, Ryan and Kim Isherwood, Patrick Murray and Jeanne Schuler, Adella Wacker, the Mental Health Association of Nebraska, Barb Bakhit, Joseph A. Ramirez, Razors and Blazers, Russell Bowie, Craig and Cathy Lyons, Tim and Megan Smith, Scott and Jenni Herchenbach, Jason Payne, Rose Kohl.



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We value the support of our JCNA Advertisers and Business Members and encourage our neighborhood to support them in return.

Our Advertisers are essential to our quarterly newsletter reaching the entire neighborhood and we thank them: **Sonny Gerber Auto Sales, Dino's Storage, Ideal Hardware and Window Repair, and Indian Creek Nursery.**

We also welcome the support of our JCNA Business Members and thank them:

The Artisan at 39th Street
Amateur Coffee
Cathedral Arts Project
St. Cecilia Cathedral
The Law Center
Premier Bank
Ideal Hardware and Window Repair
Joslyn Castle and Gardens
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Cali Commons
Lisa's Cafe
Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart
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Omaha, NE 68131



A portable mural created by participants in the Kids' Mural Workshop this summer. See article, Page 5.

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JOSLYN CASTLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Current JCNA members will receive postcard or email reminders of when they need to renew their membership. If you have a question about your status, please email Deirdre Evans at devans1950@gmail.com or call: 402-551-9005

If you received this newsletter then you live within the boundaries of the Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association, which goes from 37th Street to Saddle Creek Road and from Dodge Street to Cuming Street.

Dues for a year's JCNA Membership are $15.00, $30.00 for a Business Membership.
A new category of JCNA Membership is DECA BOOSTER. You can now get 12 years of membership for $150.00, saving $30.00.

Send payment and this form to:
JCNA
PO Box 31764
Omaha NE 68131

Or use PayPal link on our website:
www.jcnaomaha.org

Thank you for joining us in making our neighborhood a great place to live!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

❑ I would like to hear about volunteer opportunities