

**Joslyn Castle
Neighborhood Association**

March 2026
www.jcnaomaha.org

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JCNA President's Column

By Amy Wagenknecht

Phew it was a busy year!!

In December, JCNA board members met for our end of year meeting, during which we reflected on our accomplishments from 2025 and set goals for the year to come.

In 2025 we were awarded the Mayor's Neighborhood Grant, which paid for painting the Clarkson Park swing set and ordering two new swings, which were installed recently.

We also convinced the city to change 40th and Davenport into a 4-way stop, which has slowed traffic and made that pedestrian crossing safer. This spring you'll notice that we placed some pollinator plants in that intersection's planter as well: a small part of our beautification goal.

We had a strong core group of attendees for our monthly Trash Mobs and picked up dozens of bags of trash. We held a summer art camp for kids that was so successful we're planning to do it again! We also hosted multiple picnics and art walks, the holiday party and yoga sessions at the Joslyn Castle.

This coming year, we hope to improve our relationship with several neighborhood partners and businesses and collaborate on events and initiatives. We plan to continue the monthly Trash Mobs, art camp, and summer events. We also hope to continue sustainability efforts in the neighborhood by planting trees and pollinator plants in multiple locations. We hope to improve the health and safety of our neighbors by having the Little Free Pantry rebuilt and enlarged, and beginning efforts to slow traffic through our neighborhood on several of the main streets.

I'm so proud to be a part of the JCNA family, and I'm excited to see what we accomplish in 2026.



Amy Wagenknecht and the January Trash Mob

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Houses SOLD in JCNA Boundaries During 2025

3822 California\$119,000	4171 Wakeley St.\$237,000	510 N. 41st St.\$275,000
4415 California\$135,000	126 N. 38th St.\$240,000	4188 Chicago St.\$285,000
806 N. 39th St.\$140,000	626 N. 44th St.\$240,000	350 N. 41st Ave.\$300,000
115 N. 43rd Ave.\$150,000	4320 Wakeley St.\$243,000	134/136 N.38th St.\$325,000
626 N. 44th St.\$170,000	4315 California\$248,000	3916 Chicago St.\$335,000
3828 Cass St.\$187,500	306 N. 43rd St.\$250,000	806 N. 39th St.\$355,000
3830 Cass St.\$189,900	4150 Davenport\$251,000	118 N. 41st St.\$365,000
806 N. 43rd St.\$195,000	801 N. 42nd St.\$252,500	319 N. 37th St.\$395,000
4402 Chicago St.\$197,000	4032 Burt St.\$253,000	129 N. 43rd St.\$430,000
608 N. 41st Ave.\$199,000	609 N.43rd St.\$255,000	443 N.38th St.\$450,000
819 N. 43rd St.\$219,000	4156 California\$255,000	426 N. 38th Ave.\$455,000
3821 Davenport\$227,500	4161 Cass St.\$260,000	345 N. 37th St.\$525,000
616 N. 41st Ave.\$228,000	316 N. 43rd St.\$260,000	3858 Cass St.\$625,000
629 N. 42nd St.\$229,000	812 N. 42nd St.\$261,700	
4312 Davenport\$235,000	828 N. 41st Ave.\$265,000	

Joslyn Castle & Gardens: a Sneak Peek at Spring Line-Up and More

By Melissa McCarthy
Castle Communications Specialist

Opera in Conversation

Join us on Tuesdays from 6-7 pm for Opera In Conversation, brought to you free by Opera Omaha in partnership with Joslyn Castle & Gardens. Check our website for the full schedule, www.joslyncastle.com

The Castle Closet: A Vintage Affair: Saturday, March 21, 3-8pm

Do you have a flair for the eccentric? Find yourself haunting estate sales and swap meets?

Come all ye dedicated followers of fashion to the Castle to shop a selection of the finest vintage clothing vendors to be found in these Great Plains.

We will partner with Conscious Collections Festival to bring you a vintage clothing and sustainable fashion summit that you won't want to miss!

Castlecore Legends & Libations: Friday, March 27, 7-10pm

Sip craft cocktails and nibble on paired bites as we journey through the Joslyn Castle by candlelight and learn about medieval culture.

Castlecore Spectacular: Saturday, March 28, 2-5pm

Gather round with your friends for a family-friendly celebration of all things medieval, at Omaha's own Joslyn Castle.

Our artisan market will return for guests to shop handmade goods from local artists.

The Fontenelle Forest Raptor Program will grace us with a presentation on owls and their importance in the medieval era, featuring birds from its rescue program.



Bluebeard's Castle Goth Night: Saturday, April 18, 9pm-1am

Goth Night DJ Cemetery Gates is at it again in April for Bluebeard's Castle, an evening of dancing and revelry inspired by Opera Omaha's upcoming production.

Art Walk Vendor Fair: Thursday, May 21, 5-8pm

The Castle & Cathedral District Art Walk 2026 season begins with a "garden party" theme. Shop from local artists and makers while enjoying live music and a performance by TBD dance collective on the Omaha Mobile Stage.

This and That — Summer Art Camp Planned for June

JCNA and Cali Common will partner to host a Mural Camp in June for kids ages 9 to 14.

The project would kick off the first Monday in June with a bus tour of three mural sites created by Sarah Rowe, a nationally known artist. Sarah will host the tour so the youth have a clear understanding of what a mural is and how it is created.

Then, on the next five Wednesdays and Mondays (June 3rd-17th) the kids will create a collaborative mural on canvas or vinyl. This “mural” will then be easily moved so it could be displayed at the Castle & Cathedral District art walks or other neighborhood venues throughout the year.

Of course, this camp is pending funding from the Nebraska Arts Council so stay tuned to a future announcement. There might be a small fee for the camp, and an attendance cap as well.

Two Cathedral Arts Project Spring Events

Listen to the Annual Bach Celebration Concert on March 22 at 3 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Cathedral with Dr. Michael Bauer as guest lecturer. The Young Artists Art Exhibit opening at the Sutherland Gallery in the Cultural Center will be April 12, 11:30-2:30 p.m. This will be followed by the Young Artists Concert, in cooperation with the Omaha Conservatory of Music, at 3 p.m.

Tiny Art Goes Anywhere

No room for more art? Check out the Tiny Art exhibit at Cali Commons April 17-19th. Cali Commons has long been a JCNA Business Member and been represented on the JCNA Board as a Business representative, plus providing a space for the monthly JCNA meetings. Both the Little Free Library, the Tardis, and the Little Free Pantry are installed in front of Cali Commons, at 40th and California, as it is in the center of the JCNA neighborhood. The JCNA is grateful to have an artistic endeavor in its heartspace. See article on Page 4 for more information.

Duchesne Campaign

Duchesne Academy's A Bold Step Forward capital campaign is well underway! The commons and athletic complex are set to be complete by the start of the 2026-27 academic year. The geothermal installation and soccer field will be finished after the commons and athletic complex. To stay up to date on Duchesne's historic project, please visit bold.duchesneacademy.org.



*Happenings in the
Joslyn Castle Neighborhood*

Mark your calendar

First Saturdays: Trash Mob one-hour neighborhood cleanup, 11 a.m. to noon. Meet in front of Cali Commons, 518 N. 40th Street. Buckets, vests and pickers provided. Bring your own gloves. March 7, April 4, May 2

Second Mondays: JCNA meetings at Cali Commons, 518 N. 40th Street, 6:30-8 p.m. March 9, April 13, May 11

Third Thursdays: Art Walks, 5-8 p.m. Castle & Cathedral District. Stroll 40th Street from Joslyn Castle and Cali Commons to Sutherland Gallery behind Saint Cecilia, April 16, May 21



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Tiny Art, Big Impact: Cali Commons to Host an Art Fundraiser April 17-19

By Kelli Sweet

Cali Commons at 40th & California is celebrating creativity on a small scale with its upcoming Tiny Art Show & Fundraiser running April 17-19.

Artists are challenged to create pieces no larger than 6" x 6" x 6" — a constraint that sparked an incredible range of interpretations at the 2025 show.

Every artwork in the show will be available for purchase, offering visitors a chance to grow their collection while supporting a beloved community arts space, Cali Commons. Sales are split 50/50, with half benefiting Cali Commons and half going directly to the artist. It's a simple, meaningful way to uplift local creativity and help sustain the programs and opportunities Cali Commons provides.

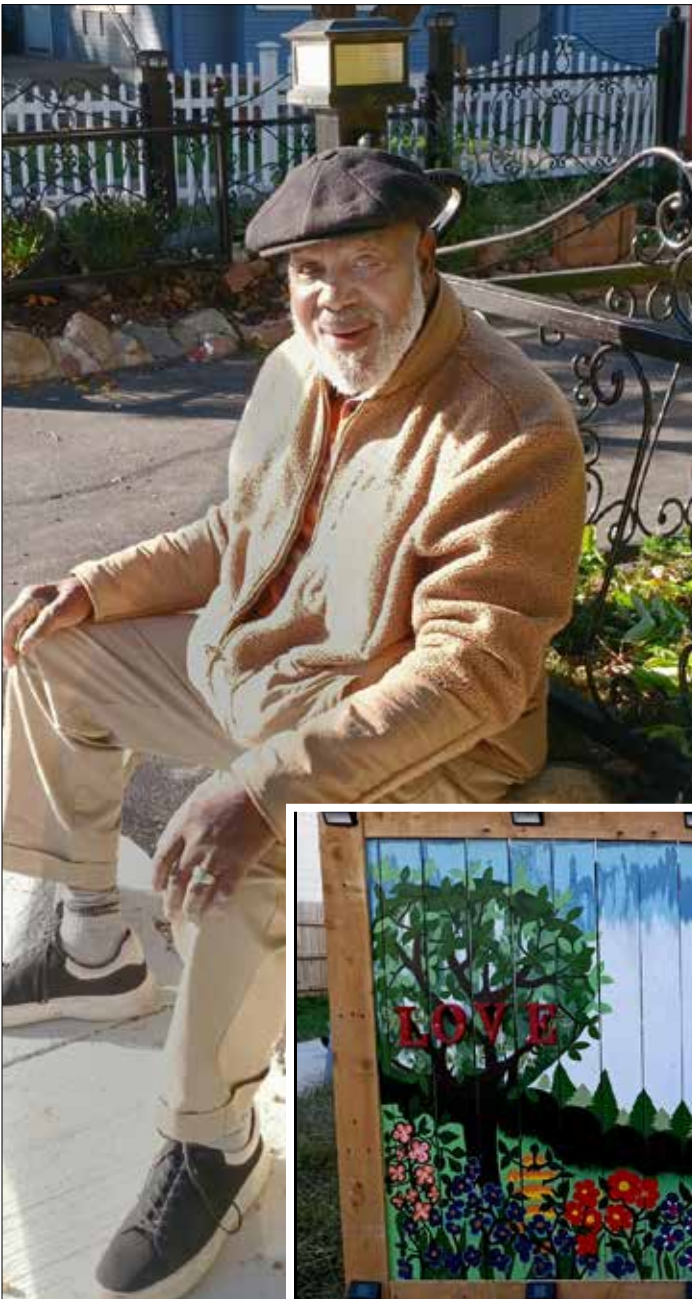
Cali Commons welcomes new sponsors and supporters to help sustain our mission, and every contribution — large or small — truly matters.

Explore how we uplift local artists by visiting www.calicommons.com, or reach out to us at events@calicommons.com to learn how to make a meaningful impact on our creative community.

Join us April 17-19th to celebrate small works with big impact — and help support the future of Cali Commons in our neighborhood.



Longtime JCNA resident Harvey Burtley, at left, created a colorful mural on California Street to lift the spirits of his fellow neighbors.



Saddle Creek Marketplace Construction Planned for Spring

By Jim Winston

Woodsonia Saddle Creek LLC, the same people who developed The Artisan at 39th apartments, is ramping up for a new project on Saddle Creek Road, north and west of California Street.

Three existing lots are included within the boundaries of the project: the Family Fare building, the strip mall along Saddle Creek which includes the African Market and Sam's Gyros, and the retail strip mall building which includes Papa Johns and the Anytime Laundry. The project does NOT include Brakes Plus, Advance Auto, or Sonic.

The project would result in five buildings, constructed over the course of five development phases. When all phases are completed, there would be a total of 223 market-rate apartment units, and approximately 67,500 square feet of retail space.

The initial construction project (Phase 1), would be at the south end of the main lot, along California Street and south of the Family Fare building. This phase would build a four-story multi-family residential project with 138 apartments.

Planned are two stories of structured parking, with about 108 stalls, and apartments on the upper two floors.

The Phase 2 project site contains the large, existing big box retail building currently occupied by Family Fare.

The 60,800 square foot building will undergo a comprehensive rehabilitation, and will be used as a retail structure with three tenant bays.



Here is a drawing of the proposal submitted to the city.

The Phase 3 project site is located at the northwest corner of the site. It will contain a new apartment building with 85 market rate units.

Phase 4 is in the north central portion of the project site, and with a new one-story retail building of about 2,000 square feet.

Phase 5, in the northeast portion of the project site, would be a new one-story retail building of about

5,500 square feet.

In total, the project anticipates 350 permanent jobs and approximately 5,550 construction jobs.

The anticipated budget for the project is \$103 million.

The project is planned to start this spring with construction of all five phases estimated to be finished May 2030.



New Swings at Clarkson Park

In 2025 the JCNA was awarded a Mayor's Neighborhood Grant, which paid for painting the Clarkson Park swing set and ordering two new swings, shown at left.

Now installed are a parent-and-child swing and a "freedom" swing for kids with physical limitations.

There are also two regular swings for single use swinging.

Bemis Park Neighbor Initiates MUD Petition to Develop Walnut Hill Recreation Facelift

As the Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) gets closer to readying the west eight acres of the Walnut Hill Reservoir property for transfer of ownership, Mary Minturn, a Bemis Park Neighborhood resident, attended the MUD Board of Directors January meeting to promote the idea that a Parks and Rec development on the site would benefit the surrounding neighborhoods by providing features such as a splash park and basketball courts that are unavailable locally to our families. She is circulating this petition which will be presented to all appropriate city departments. If you are interested in signing, contact Mary at 402-699-9226, or email at: mtminturn34@gmail.com

Midtown Neighborhood Petition for Development of Parks and Recreation Facility at MUD Walnut Hill Reservoir Site

As the western portion of the MUD Walnut Hill Reservoir property located in the area of North 40th St between Nicholas and Hamilton Sts will be readied for redevelopment likely by the end of 2026, we the undersigned living in the surrounding neighborhoods, are calling on Omaha City Planners, the Parks and Recreation Dept. and community leaders to prioritize the development of a Parks and Recreation facility at the site.

As indicated in a recent study commissioned by the City of Omaha to serve as a blueprint for a 20-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, our neighborhoods have been overlooked for quality Parks and Recreation development.

The children and families of Walnut Hill, Orchard Hill, Bemis Park, Montclair East, Gifford Park, and Joslyn Castle neighborhoods have no area access to a splash park or pool, basketball courts, picnic areas, skate area, or community center.

The availability of this property in the near future presents an opportunity to fulfill a Master Plan stated goal of providing equity in local access to quality park facilities across the city.

Petition initiated by Mary Minturn

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Thank you, JCNA DECA Boosters

The JCNA welcomes the generosity of our growing list of DECA Boosters. You can join them, and gain 12 years of membership for the price of 10. (See back page).

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, and Madison Haugland, Karl and Suzanne Kehm, Doug and Joyce Sasse, Michael and Katie Schill, Roger and Cathy Carroll, Ryan and Kim Isherwood, and Patrick Murray and Jeanne Schuler, Adella Wacker, the Mental Health Association of Nebraska, Barb Bakhit, and Joseph A. Ramirez.

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JCNA purchased new swings for Clarkson Park using the 2025 Mayor Grant. Here is the new Freedom Swing in use!

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 go from 37th Street to Saddle Creek Road and from Dodge Street to Cumming 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: _____

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☐ I would like to hear about volunteer opportunities