

# *Midtown Monitor*

January 2016



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- Gallery and Theater Events
- Library Events
- Utility Rate Changes for 2016
- Feeding Birds in Winter
- and much more...

**First Unitarian Church of Omaha**  
Please Join Us for Services at 9:30am & 11:15am

**Happy New Year**

Tolerant Atheist Group (TAG)  
Movie and Discussion 1/14 at 7pm  
Exploring Humanistic Perspectives in Literature: The Golden Heresy of Truth with Ron Knapp 1/26 at 7pm

Sunday Social Gathering 1/10 at 7pm  
Join LGBTQ friends and allies for social time and a GLBT-themed movie.

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## Food for Birds in Winter

Birds need our help finding food, shelter and water in the winter. Most birds that visit backyards in snowy weather thrive on seeds, since insects and fruit are harder to find naturally during the winter. The best foods to offer birds in colder weather have a high fat or oil content that will provide abundant energy for winter survival. Nutritious winter foods for birds include:

Black oil sunflower seed	Hulled peanuts
Niger seed	Suet mixes with seeds or fruit
Peanut butter	White millet seed

When choosing birdseed and other foods for winter feeding, take into consideration which bird species are present in the winter and what foods they prefer to avoid excess wasted seed. Many birders also prefer to use no-mess seed mixes such as hulled sunflower seeds in the winter to avoid several months' of hull accumulation beneath feeders in the spring.

### More Winter Bird Feeding Tips

Clean off feeders, platforms and perches after each storm so seed is easily accessible. Leave fruit and berries on trees, hedges and bushes to provide a natural source of food throughout the winter. Add a heated birdbath to your backyard or place a safe heating element in a regular birdbath to provide birds with liquid water. Stamp or shovel snow around feeders to provide easier access to spilled seed for ground feeding birds. Leave nesting boxes and birdhouses up all year round to provide winter roosting sites. With care and consideration, backyard birding can be an exhilarating hobby throughout the winter, with birdsong and backyard visits to brighten the coldest, darkest days of the season.







## Gifford Park Neighborhood School/Save Yates Effort - Update By Chris Foster



On behalf of our Gifford Park Neighborhood School/Save Yates effort, THANKS to all of you who have and continue to support our neighborhood vision of encouraging OPS and Creighton to work together so our new elementary school can be built on vacant Creighton parking lot land (that is for sale) near 32nd & Webster St, and save Yates Community Center. The support has been very inspiring – 150+ attended our November 10 communi-

ty meeting at Yates; 12 excellent speakers at 3 OPS board meetings in late October and November; and very positive media coverage! Many thanks to our Neighborhood School/Save Yates Effort leadership team of Leslie Wessel, Eliza Perry, Matt Cronin, Martin Janousek, Chris Foster and Mike Caban.

Regarding the new school, there is nearly \$17 million slated in the OPS facility plan to build our new elementary school. We have been unified since last year about the goals and needs of our neighborhood children and families, and the neighborhood as a whole. We do not want OPS to tear down the existing historic Yates School building at 32nd & Davenport Street, nor tear down existing homes around Yates. Our neighborhood’s vision is to see the Yates building continue to serve as public use (as the existing migrant/refugee/pre-K/community center programs do) and even serve more as a community center for ours and surrounding neighborhoods in the future

A few more updates:

-We have been told by OPS and Creighton officials that the two entities are talking, and we will relay to you any updates we receive from official channels as soon as we receive any.

-On December 11, we delivered two packages of nearly 700 support letters, one package to Creighton President Daniel Hendrickson and one package to the Chairman of the Creighton Board of Trustees Mike McCarthy.

-We distributed almost 250 “SAVE YATES” yard signs in and around the Gifford Park neighborhood.

OPS officials have told us this timeline for our neighborhood school:

- January 2017 to September 2017 - building design
- October 2017 through December 2017 - construction procurement
- January 2018 through July 2019 – construction
- August 2019 – move in.

OPS plans a thorough process for deciding location and design, our neighborhood will be involved in this process.

If you’re interested in helping with this effort, you can:

-Sign the online petition at <https://www.change.org/p/creighton-university-omaha-public-schools-save-historic-yates-building-and-protect-refugee-immigrant-programming-in-gifford-park>

-Like the group’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/gifford-parkneighborhoodschooleffort](http://www.facebook.com/gifford-parkneighborhoodschooleffort)

-Write a letter of support to OPS and Creighton University officials and email it to one of the below email addresses.

If you would like to receive updates, get a “SAVE YATES” yard sign, or for more information, please contact Chris Foster 402-290-8187/[foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net), or Eliza Perry 207-590-9880/[yrrepazile@gmail.com](mailto:yrrepazile@gmail.com).



# Roundtable Discussion with Local Solar Installers

WHEN: Tuesday, January 5th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: UNO's Community Engagement Center, OPPD Community Dialogue Rooms 230-231 (6401 Dodge St.)

Join Nebraskans for Solar for a roundtable discussion with five local solar installers:

David Holtzclaw, owner of Transduction Technologies

Graham Christensen, GC Resolve LLC

Jon Dixon, Dixon Power Systems

Michael Shonka, Solar Heat & Electric

Monte Anthis, Nebraska Solar & Wind Power, Division of Monster Electric

Brief introductions from the facilitators will proceed the roundtable discussion, with audience members invited to ask all the questions they've ever wanted to ask about solar energy. People who have already installed solar are encouraged to attend and share information with others who may be considering it. Refreshments will be served.

Reserved parking is available in the lot just to the north of the Community Engagement Center, near the Durham Bell Tower.

## Restoration Exchange's Launches Old-Home Resource Page

Do you know of a business, organization or service that helps owners of older homes and buildings restore their property? Encourage them to sign up for Restoration Exchange Omaha's FREE online resource directory.

<http://www.restorationexchange.org/resources/online-resource-directory-signup/>

Restoration Exchange Omaha's goal is to provide a one-stop local online resource filled with products, services and resources to help in restoring older properties. The place to find local plumbers, masons, roofers, electricians, plasterers, woodworkers, window repairers, architects and others who have experience working on older homes and buildings. And a place with links to products and "how-to" guides for home and building owners as they work to restore their older property.

A review committee will convene on a regular basis in order to review new submittals and the ongoing performance of current listings.

Restoration Exchange receives calls daily for recommendations. We can't recommend people if we don't know about them. This is a great way for business to promote themselves for FREE by signing up. If you have used someone in the past who you have loved, please encourage them to sign-up for the online directory by sending them the above link.



**RESPECHT**  
OMAHA HISTORY

For the latest info on the effort to save the Specht building visit [restorationexchange.org](http://restorationexchange.org)



## Save the Dates

**March 4th and 5th**

The 11th annual Restore Omaha Conference is Saturday, March 5, at Metropolitan Community College's South Campus, 27th and Q Streets. The conference opens with a reception on Friday, March 4, times and location to be announced.

More info here in next month's newsletter or go to [restorationexchange.org](http://restorationexchange.org).

## SHURSON Publishing

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**Publisher**  
402-714-1016

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Transduction Technologies  
Contributing Writer

The Midtown Monitor is published monthly by Shurson Publishing. Direct all advertising inquiries to Ellen Shurson, Publisher at 402-714-1016.

The Midtown Monitor is distributed with the Dundee-Memorial Park Association Newsletter, AEPNA and select midtown businesses, online and through email subscriptions.

Send all articles for submission and press releases to (Preferred) e-mail to [ellenshurson@gmail.com](mailto:ellenshurson@gmail.com) or mail Shurson Publishing, 131 N. 31 Ave, Omaha, NE 68131, to arrive by the 1st of the month preceding publication. Please send articles as Word documents with photo as separate TIFF or JPEG attachments. Content may be edited for clarity and space considerations. No warranties of the products or services printed herein are expressed or implied by Shurson Publishing. Shurson Publishing reserves the right to reject unsuitable advertising or articles.

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<b>Transduction Technologies</b> <a href="http://www.transductiontechnologies.com">www.transductiontechnologies.com</a>	402-213-3788

**They make this newsletter possible..  
Please thank them for their support!**





## New Year, New Business series returns to Omaha Public Library

Starting one's own business can be a daunting task, but also one of the most rewarding for anyone who has ever dreamed of being their own boss. Omaha Public Library (OPL) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) are partnering together to offer a series of workshops designed to help potential new business owners navigate the ins and outs of starting and maintaining a successful business. All workshops are free and registration is requested through the hosting OPL branch or at [omahalibrary.org](http://omahalibrary.org).

Take the Mystery out of SBA Loans:

Tuesday, Jan. 5, noon at W. Dale Clark Main Library, 215 S. 15th St., 402-444-4800

Tuesday, Feb. 2, noon at Saddlebrook Branch, 14850 Laurel Ave., 402-884-7473

Start Your Online/Home-Based Business the Right Way: Start thinking about how to offer your unique product and define yourself in cyberspace and social media. Learn about online and mobile payment processing systems, how affiliate marketing works, and the basics on federal, state, and local tax requirements.

Thursday, Jan. 7, noon at Benson Branch, 6015 Binney St., 402-444-4846

Small Business Resources: Learn about a variety of free and low-cost resources to help.

• Thursday, Jan. 14, noon at Charles B. Washington Branch, 2868 Ames Ave., 402-444-4849

• Thursday, Feb. 11, noon at Benson Branch

Start-up Business Basics: This seminar is designed to give you an introductory course on business start-up including choosing a corporate structure, federal and state taxes, economics, financing options and resources.

Thursday, Feb. 18, noon at Charles B. Washington Branch

Sell to the World's Biggest Customer: The federal government.

Tuesday, Jan. 26, noon, W. Dale Clark Main Library

Tuesday, Feb. 23, noon at Saddlebrook Branch

Basic Business Plans: A well-developed, thorough business plan is crucial to a business' success and to obtain financing. Thursday, Jan. 28, noon at W. Clarke Swanson Branch, 9101 W. Dodge Rd., 402-444-4852

Thursday, Feb. 25, noon at Willa Cather Branch, 1905 S. 44th St., 402-444-4851

Visit [omahalibrary.org](http://omahalibrary.org) for information about additional programs offered at Omaha Public Library's 12 metro locations.

## Recent Midtown Homes Sold

Find them online

[www.midtownmonitor.com](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)

"\$103,000 "	6190 Walnut St	2	1	1	Bungalow	698
"\$111,264 "	1323 S 51st Ave	2	2	1	Ranch	"1,040"
"\$113,000 "	4808 Harney St	2	1	0	1.5 Story	"1,317"
"\$113,500 "	5710 Mayberry St	3	1	1	1.5 Story	"1,348"
"\$115,000 "	5145 Woolworth	2	2	1	R Ranch	"1,932"
"\$120,000 "	1312 S 51 Avenue	2	1	1	Ranch	"1,152"
"\$120,000 "	6109 Charles St	3	2	1	Ranch	"2,016"
"\$123,500 "	6602 Lafayette	3	2	2	Ranch	"1,296"
"\$125,800 "	4514 B Street	3	2	1	R Ranch	"1,730"
"\$131,000 "	13019 Nebraska	3	2	2	Split Entry	"1,301"
"\$133,000 "	5141 Woolworth	3	2	1	Ranch	"1,306"
"\$144,000 "	5815 Briggs St	3	3	2	1.5 Story	"1,758"
"\$146,900 "	6303 Pacific St	3	2	1	Ranch	"1,625"
"\$151,000 "	6119 Lafayette	3	2	4	Ranch	"1,986"
"\$165,000 "	530 S 51 Street	3	2	1	1.5 Story	"2,104"
"\$168,000 "	5529 Emile St	3	3	2	2 Story	"1,878"
"\$169,000 "	404 S 48 Ave	3	2	0	2 Story	"2,118"
"\$173,500 "	626 S 67th St	3	2	2	Ranch	"2,398"
"\$175,000 "	319 S 51 Street	4	1	0	2.5 Story	"1,618"
"\$180,500 "	4560 Poppleton	3	3	1	1.5 Story	"2,090"
"\$199,250 "	6020 Pine Street	3	2	3	1.5 Story	"2,079"
"\$205,000 "	4848 Hickory St	4	2	2	2 Story	"1,740"
"\$222,500 "	5821 Pine Street	3	2	1	1.5 Story	"1,866"
"\$225,000 "	127 S 70 Street	3	2	1	1.5 Story	"2,047"
"\$255,000 "	2015 N 54 Street	3	2	1	1.5 Story	"1,981"
"\$350,000 "	680 N 59 Street	5	3	2	2.5 Story	"2,749"
"\$584,678 "	314 S 67 Street	4	5	2	Ranch	"4,970"
"\$600,000 "	5209 Burt Street	5	6	3	2.5 Story	"6,364"
"\$952,500 "	651 Fairacres Rd	4	5	3	2 Story	"4,587"

Our thanks to Raquel Ahlvers, The Ahlvers Group, CBSHOME Real Estate for providing this information.

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# Utility Rate Changes for 2016

By David Holtzclaw of Transduction Technologies

When you get your 2016 utility bills in the next few weeks, you're in for a bit of a surprise. In short, your electric (OPPD) bills will increase as will your water bill (MUD), but the natural gas portion of your MUD bill should decrease due to the decreasing cost of natural gas. Starting January 1, 2016, all OPPD residential electricity rates (¢/kWh) increased 4.6%, while small commercial (rate 230) electricity rates (¢/kWh) increased 2.5%. Then, starting June 1, 2016, residential OPPD service charge (\$/month) will increase from \$10.25/month to \$15/month, while small commercial service charge will increase from \$13/month to \$18/month. Both the residential and small commercial service charges will increase annually on January 1 by \$5/month from 2017 - 2019, topping out at \$30/month residential and \$33/month small commercial. In conjunction with each service charge increase, OPPD says it will decrease electricity rates (¢/kWh) approximately 9%, 16%, 22%, and 28% from the January 1, 2016 electricity rates. I say "approximately" because when I asked OPPD for a hard number for their electricity rates on June 1, 2016 when the fix fees change, OPPD would not give me any: "we cannot commit to specific usage rates for the summer and winter because of the number of unknown variables that factor into those calculations".

Starting January 2, 2016, monthly MUD water service charge increased by 3.5% to \$12.96/month (standard 5/8" meter). Likewise, MUD water consumption

rate (\$/100 cubic feet of water or CCF) also increased 3.5%, but the water infrastructure cost remained constant (\$4/month). The 3.5% service charge and water usage increase occurred across all sectors (residential, commercial, and industrial). MUD predicts this increase will cost the average residential customer an additional \$10.61/year. MUD also predicts a 2.9% increase per year in water service charge and usage rates in 2017-2020.

Finally some good news, MUD did not increase either the natural gas service charge (\$14/month) or the gas infrastructure replacement cost (\$3/month) for 2016. However, MUD predicts a 2% increase per year in natural gas service charge for 2017-2020. More good news, the cost of natural gas is predicted to remain low or even decrease in 2016, and 2016 is projected to be another mild winter. Natural gas is a commodity, openly traded on wholesale markets. This is why the cost of natural gas per CCF (volume of natural gas) on your MUD bill differs month-to-month depending on supply and demand. Electricity is also a commodity, but electricity providers are required to set fixed rate schedules for a given time period, usually per year. Changes to the rate schedule require approval by either the state public utility commission or publically elected board members.



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For updates on events and other information

Visit: [www.midtownmonitor.com](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)

# Midtown Galleries & Theaters

## Modern Artists Midtown (MAM)

3615 Dodge St. 402-520-8737

[www.modernartsmidtown.com](http://www.modernartsmidtown.com)

Gallery hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Cathedral Arts Project, Sunderland Gallery

3900 Webster St. 402-551-4888

[www.cathedralartsproject.org](http://www.cathedralartsproject.org)

Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., third Sunday of each month  
through December 30th.

Next exhibition in February

## Connect Gallery

3901 Leavenworth St.

402-991-8234 [www.connectgallery.net](http://www.connectgallery.net)

Gallery hours: Wednesday to Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
January 5 to 30

Michael Montag, sculptor — Works in Progress

Artist Reception, January 15, 5:30 to 9 p.m.

## Anderson O'Brien Fine Art Old Market

1108 Jackson Street 402-884-0911

[www.aobfineart.com](http://www.aobfineart.com)

Gallery hours: Monday to Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5:30  
p.m., Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 12  
a.m. to 3 p.m.

New works include oil paintings by Lisa Tubach, vases by  
Cuong Ta, acrylics by Jane Booth



Cave for the Nurse Shark by Lisa Tubach

## Omaha Community Playhouse

6915 Cass St. 402-553-0800 [www.omahaplayhouse.com](http://www.omahaplayhouse.com)

Hawks Mainstage Theater

Love, Loss and What I Wore— January 22 to February 14  
An endearing and witty collection of stories shared by a cast  
of women sitting side by side, accompanied by illustrations  
from the original work. The fabric of their tales of life's  
struggles and celebrations is woven with the common thread  
of the all-important outfits they wore for each occasion.  
This production contains strong language.

## Shelterbelt Theatre

3225 California St. 402-341-2757

[www.shelterbelt.org](http://www.shelterbelt.org)

Untitled Series #7—A Comedy January 22 to February 14  
Art, divorce, failure, dating, and the internet try to paint a  
picture of hell when a white lie sets off a Rube Goldberg  
machine of events in this romantic comedy set in Chicago's  
contemporary art scene. The play was written by Omaha  
playwright Ellen Struve.

## SNAP Productions

3225 California St. 402-341-2757

[www.snapproductions.com](http://www.snapproductions.com)

Next production in March.

## Blue Barn Theatre

1106 S. 10th St. (New Location)

402-345-1576

[www.bluebarn.org](http://www.bluebarn.org)

Next production in February.

## A.V. Sorensen Community Center 4808 Cass St

Recreation Center info: 444-5596

To view the many offerings of classes and activities visit

[www.cityofomaha.org/parks](http://www.cityofomaha.org/parks)

NEW Hours: Monday 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 am - 8:30 pm

Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

**View Updates and Other Community Events  
Online at [www.midtownmonitor.com](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)**



**First Central Congregational Church United Church of Christ**

421 South 36th Street

These Open Forums are free and open to the public, at 9:10 a.m. on the dates noted. For more information, you may call 402-345-1533.

January 3, 2016

Explore Cameroon: People, Culture, Economy  
Allison Adams, from Red Oak, Iowa, recently returned Peace Corps volunteer  
Allison shares her Peace Corps experiences in Batie, Cameroon, West Africa.

January 10, 2016

The United States, Greece & the Euro Crisis  
Bruce Garver, Professor Emeritus of history, UNO and member of First Central  
Bruce will survey the ongoing Euro Crisis with reference not only to Greece but also to the economy and national security of the United States. Even though the Greek economy is smaller than that of each of the fifteen largest American cities, Greece's political instability and enormous debts to European creditors continue to be of great concern to all members of NATO as well as the governments of all Eurozone countries. Questions from the audience will be discussed.

**Omaha Table Talk  
The Heartland Interfaith Dialogue  
January 2016**

Tuesday, January 12th from 6:00 pm—7:30 pm  
Hosted at: UNO's Community Engagement Center  
6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182

This event is free and open to the public.

**First Unitarian Church of Omaha**

3114 Harney Street All are welcome  
For more info visit. [www.firstuomaha.org](http://www.firstuomaha.org)

**The Tolerant Atheist Group** Meets Thurs, January 14th.  
TAG's fall series of second Thursday monthly meetings continues Thursday evening with the fourth of the four part DVD video series "American Free Thought", a history of Free Thought in America. The videos are somewhat sequential but it is not necessary to have seen the very well received previous part. This is the sixth year of TAG's connecting our Atheist, Agnostic, Humanist, and whomever "Free Thinkers" at First Unitarian. All are cordially invited to come together for the 7:00 PM video and discussion in the Common Room. As usual the doors will open at 6:00 for those interested in "Bring Your Own Dinner" and conversation. Questions? Contact [tag@firstuomaha.org](mailto:tag@firstuomaha.org)

**People's Film Festival**

Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 7pm in the Common Room. All are welcome to this showing of "Empire Files" plus two short extras .all on the topic of the notorious School of the Americas inFort Benning, Georgia, a school largely hidden from the American public. The documentary features interviews with School Of the Americas Watch founder Father Roy Bourgeois and other SOA Watch leaders. This easily ties in with previously shown immigration film "Harvest of Empire." It is short enough to allow good discussion time, etc.

**Exploring Humanistic Perspectives in Literature: The Golden Heresy of Truth With Ron Knapp**

Tuesday, January 26 at 7pm in the Common Room. This program will include readings from Blaise Pascal, Emily Dickinson, Gwendolyn Brooks, Stephen Crane, Johh Tyndal, and William March. Come and enjoy literature, conversation and refreshments in a coffee house atmosphere.

**Course in Miracles**

Thursdays: January 7, January 21, February 4, February 11, February 18, February 25 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. Reserve your spot by emailing [admin@firstuomaha.org](mailto:admin@firstuomaha.org).

for more info on all these visit [firstuomaha.org](http://firstuomaha.org)

**Luther Memorial Church 61st and Western**

8:45 Traditional Worship and 11am The Spirit Alive Worship  
10 am Christain Education for all ages  
<http://lmlchurch.org> 402- 551-4488

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## HELP WANTED FOR TAX SEASON

Associated Tax is a locally owned, well established company that has been around for over 40 years. We have two locations, 48th & Dodge and 30th & Meredith. We are looking to hire a few seasonal employees to join our team this year. We are looking to hire tax preparers, receptionists, bookkeepers and payroll clerks. If any of these positions sound like a good fit for you, please give us a call for more details. Pay is based on experience; however the minimum pay would be no less than \$10 per hour. Flexible hours between 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. are available. Please call 402-551-1755 for more details.

## Advertising Rates for Business Directory...

Business card \$80 one time (larger example above)

1/2 business card size ad. \$45. one time or two for \$80., 3 for \$115.

1/4 bc size \$25. or two for \$45., 3 for \$63.

All advertising must be prepaid for entire schedule, ads run consecutive months.

Call 402-714-1016

Email: [midtownmonitor.omaha@gmail.com](mailto:midtownmonitor.omaha@gmail.com) to inquire about display advertising rates.



## Midtown Business Owners

You're invited to the

MBA Meeting January 27th, 2016

Noon, UNMC private dining room, just \$10. for lunch.  
Must make reservations by Friday prior to meeting.

E-mail [contact@midtownbusinessassociation.org](mailto:contact@midtownbusinessassociation.org)  
or Peggy Case at [pcase@snbomaha.com](mailto:pcase@snbomaha.com) 402-449-0920

## Friends of

Omaha Public Library

## Book Sales

Swanson Library 90th & W. Dodge Rd.

Thursdays 10 am - 3 pm

(Except holidays)

First Saturday of every month 10 am - 3 pm

(Except holidays)

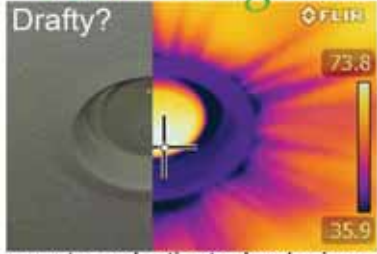
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## UNMC Ice Skating Rink Open until January 31

The University of Nebraska Medical Center will open its outdoor ice skating rink on Nov. 28. It will remain open through Jan 31.

The rink is located just east of 42nd Street, midway between Emile Street and Dewey Avenue on the north side of the Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education building. Admission is \$7, which includes skates (cash or credit card only—no checks or debit cards).

Hours of operation are: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Noon to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

The rink will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The rink is closed on Mondays for the UNMC student broomball league. Free parking is available in Lot 4 (southeast corner of 42nd and Emile St.) and Lot 15S (surface lot on 40th Street between Dewey & Emile streets) located on the north and east sides of the Student Life Center.

The ice rink will be closed if the wind-chill is zero degrees or below, based on the Weather Channel. In the event of extreme snow, please call 402.559.0697 in advance to make sure the rink is open.

This year, the UNMC Skate-a-thon for Parkinson's will begin at noon on Jan. 22 and end at noon on Jan. 23. This will mark the sixth consecutive year that UNMC has hosted the event that raises money for Parkinson's research at UNMC and assists families dealing with Parkinson's. More details will be forthcoming.

For more information contact, Candace Peteler at 402 559-5192 or [candace.peteler@unmc.edu](mailto:candace.peteler@unmc.edu).

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