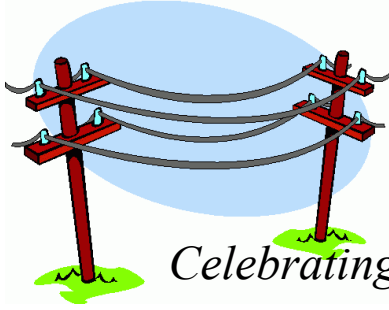


The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE



Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 26
Issue 2



February 2011

Goals for 2011

At the General Membership meeting in January we discussed a number of action items for our group. A draft of these goals were listed in the January Exchange. These were discussed and modified during that meeting and this month, we will vote to adopt them.

To determine the feasibility of getting these sorts of things accomplished here is a review of what was challenged for 2010:

+ Increase membership. Family = 150; Business = 50.

Results: Family = 69; Business = 48.

+ Collect EXCHANGE advertising revenue. **Results:** \$930. Thank you advertisers!

+ Increase Public Relations with the Omaha World Herald Community Connections. **Results:** Each meeting was listed in the newspaper in addition to various events that were highlighted throughout the year. Thank you OWH reporter Sue Story Truax.

+ Apply for a garden planting grant. **Results:** Received Mayor's Grant of \$5000. Thank you Mayor Suttle!

+ Increase the size of the stairwell wall. **Results:** The wall was expanded, trees were trimmed. Thank you volunteers!

Goals continued on Page 2

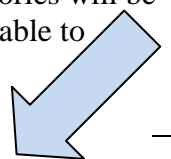
Chili Cook-off Contest!!



It has become an LNA tradition to feed the members with a toasty bowl of chili at the General Membership Meeting in February. But this is not just an ordinary bowl. Each member, whether receiving a culinary arts degree or from a recipe passed down from Grandpa, has an opportunity to share their special concoction.

Last year there were eight entries into this cook-off contest. After multiple samples by all the members, judging occurs and the winner gets some bragging rights and a gift certificate. Surprisingly, we had a four way tie for the best chili! Sorry to report that no winning recipe was put in the newsletter. Perhaps those are secrets that these neighborhood "chefs" want to hold.

Bring your crock pot on down for the annual cook-off. If you enter the contest, please bring your own ladle or serving spoon as the VFW does not have a supply. Plates and accessories will be provided and beverages will be available to purchase upstairs. YUM!!



Reminder! The next LNA meeting will be **February 17, 2011, 7:00 PM** at the VFW at 3302 Leavenworth St (in the meeting hall on the lower level). Enter on the south side main entrance facing Leavenworth OR on the north side to avoid using stairs. **Mark it down!**

Goals continued from Page 1

+ Create another public mural. **Results:** A new mural was painted on the fence of the Hands to Harvest Garden. Thank you Kent Bellows Foundation!

+ Obliterate graffiti on all utility boxes. **Results:** graffiti still prevalent. Call OPPD at 402-636-3330 to report locations.

+ Encourage Metro Area Transit to maintain their bus stops. **Results:** No action taken.

+ Conduct another Brush Down at Dewey Park. **Results:** THREE Brush Down's were held. Thank you to volunteers from Mutual of Omaha and the stairway project volunteers!!

As one can see from these actions, 2010 was a pretty good year for improving our neighborhood. It can only be done with the hands-on help of many and the gracious generosity of those who can provide funding where needed. So, here is what we have outlined for 2011:

- > Create and install entrance signs to the LNA neighborhood.
- > Add art, e.g., sculptures, in our gardens.
- > Establish "water play" areas in park space.
- > Install "doggy posts" along the Turner Blvd. Trail (these hold plastic bags for doo-doo clean-up).
- > Develop a Master Plan for Dewey Park, north and west side.
- > Develop a Strategic Plan for public spaces for artwork and mixed use.
- > "Brush down" at least one park area this year.
- > Implement an opt-out plan for the printed newsletter.

> Get after the state to clean up highway entrance and exit ramp areas.

Keep in mind that these goals are in addition to the ongoing work of the neighborhood such as watching for crime, reporting junk vehicles, the annual spring clean-up, Christmas Cheer, etc.

After these goals and any new ones are established, the agendas for the various committees will fall in place. Or if one or more persons have a particular desire to work on one of their favorites, they are more than welcome. And it is clear that we cannot accomplish some of these without the partnership we have with the City of Omaha and others to make things happen.

Bring your ideas, bring your ambitions and let us all continue to make this a thriving neighborhood that we can celebrate within.

Final Budget Approved

At the January General Membership Meeting we voted on the budget for this year. The following amounts are presented:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Newsletter (includes printing, postage expense, labels, etc.) | \$ 2000.00 |
| Garden (includes flowers, rental of equipment, fertilizer, etc.) | \$ 800.00 |
| Clean-up (t-shirts) | \$ 225.00 |
| Membership/Social (includes promotional mailings, stamps, items for events, etc.) | \$ 1200.00 |
| Misc. | <u>\$ 800.00</u> |
| Total: | \$ 5025.00 |

Want to receive The Exchange by e-mail?

Simply send an email message to zippijd@aol.com and request that you'd like to start receiving the electronic version of the LNA newsletter. Each month, you will be sent a full color pdf version of the newsletter ahead of the print mailing.

Information for Contributors

To contribute to *the Exchange*, please contact
Jim Thompson, zippijd@aol.com.
 Deadline for the February issue is
February 3, 2011.
 Content submitted may be edited as needed.

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Oops!

In thanking those who helped fill the Christmas Cheer bags at Jackson School in mid-December, we failed to include one person who did a huge amount of work – Ann Lawless' husband Tony. Tony not only helped assemble the bags but also helped Ann bring all the gift items from Camp Fire to the school. We really appreciate your help, Tony, and apologize for failing to recognize your huge contribution!

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New Event In Midtown

By Phil Abraham

Landmark Group's Race 2 re:Cycle is a unique and fun filled cycling event taking place on Saturday, May 14, 2011, at Omaha's Midtown Crossing. Created to build awareness and help make the city of Omaha synonymous with both cycling and recycling, this family friendly event will include the longest tri- state bicycle relay race in the Midwest, a family fun ride, Omaha's only children's tricycle ride, and many more activities for the entire family!

Prizes will be awarded throughout the day for numerous games and contest. To become a corporate sponsor or volunteer, contact Jennifer Russell at jennifer@landmarkomaha.com

Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity.

Go to: www.omaharace2recycle.com to get further details on this wonderful event.



Untitled

I didn't wash the supper dishes
 I have a good excuse,
 Tried doing them in the dark
 Really, it was no use.
 Too many rejects to be found
 When they were put away,
 Instead of hearing these complaints
 I'll wait until the light of day.
 This problem would not exist
 Then I'd be able to see,
 If somebody would take the time
 Fix that broken switch for me.

M. Thompson 1968

Neighborhood Builders 2011

By Ronald Abdouch, Executive Director, Neighborhood Center

Greetings Friends and Neighbors!

Neighborhood Builders 2011 is all new.

One the primary goals of the Neighborhood Center is to provide educational resources that allow you to be successful as a neighborhood and community leader. We know your time is valuable so we want to make sure you are able to take full advantage of every opportunity to learn. We have discontinued our "Block of Builders" workshops and are now simply calling all our workshops "Neighborhood Builders."

This new format replaces the previous sessions held on Saturdays in February with a series of monthly meetings that will cover much of the same information, plus a great deal more. We will also be attentive to your needs, and if there are additional topics that arise during the year, we will schedule additional sessions. Also, this year we are attaching a small fee to cover our cost for materials. No one will be refused access to these workshops since a number of scholarships will be available upon request.

The information at each workshop will be applicable to all cities and towns in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties. We hope you will plan to attend as many Neighborhood Builders sessions as possible and become a true Neighborhood Builder! For more information on the dates, times and locations, call or visit the Neighborhood Center: 402-599-9486

www.unomaha.edu/ncenter

We are on facebook! check us out under Neighborhood Center, Follow us on Twitter: neighborhoodctr

Letter From the President....

What a great turnout at the meeting in January! New faces, new ideas, new energy for the upcoming year. Thank you to all who signed up to serve on one or more committees. The next thing to do is assign leaders of these groups. The list of goals might seem to be huge, but as we have found out through the years, a LOT can be accomplished with the help of many. It all leads to a better neighborhood in which to work, live and play.

Changes continue on the landscape of the neighborhood. As I drive the streets I have noticed many, many construction dumpsters. This is a clear sign that new construction and remodeling is rockin'. Take a trip down Marcy Street for example. As the years moves forward you will see a significant transition on this previously neglected street. Rumors are flying about the development on Park Ave. and Leavenworth Street. I cannot report any details yet, but stay tuned!!

Keep those sidewalks clear, stay warm, and join us for some chili on the 17th!

Jim Thompson



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No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

NEWS RELEASE

The sanctuary at First Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is now open Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for prayer and meditation. First Central invites you to take a break from the stresses of the day for a period of quiet contemplation.

March 6, 13, 20 Spiritual Poetry: The search for God has inspired poets throughout the ages. In these sessions, our pastor, Rev. Dr. Scott Jones, will explore some of his favorite spiritual poetry.

To print our monthly newsletter, the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association proudly uses

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Neighborhood Scan

By Carol Haas

Over a year ago, the LNA voted to begin a "Scan" project in our neighborhood; however, to date, the project has not been initiated. Because I volunteered to coordinate the project, we have brought it up again at the January meeting to determine if there is enough interest to proceed.

The Scan project is a proactive effort to look at the residences and buildings within the neighborhood and identify external items requiring repair/remediation. Currently, the Scan project is being coordinated by the Neighborhood Center (NC) and NC representatives discussed the procedure at the January meeting. NC personnel will train neighborhood volunteers in the use of hand-held devices used to survey properties and record problems noted. This information is summarized by Neighborhood Center personnel and provided to property owners. Property owners are asked to make appropriate repairs and are provided with a list of repair resources.

It is anticipated that a small section of the neighborhood would be scanned initially and residents would be notified prior to commencement of the scan so that they understand this is an effort to improve the neighborhood and that the neighborhood association is **not** acting as code enforcement police. The purpose is to help property owners improve their properties thereby improving the neighborhood for all of us.

Before we can begin this project, we need to be assured that there are adequate volunteers committed to participating in the training and assisting in the actual scanning process. With enough volunteers, no one will be required to spend an inordinate amount of time on the project. If you are willing to participate in this project, please plan to attend the February meeting or contact me at 345-6085 or at maximom1@cox.net. We will not go forward without adequate volunteers.

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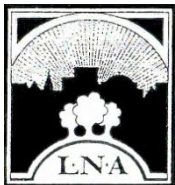


LEAVENWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
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February 2011

"Celebrating together as friends and neighbors"



THE LEAVENWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Who We Are

A neighborhood association advocating growth and pride for families and business in the heart of the city -- working to provide a safe, attractive, and welcoming environment in which to live, work, and play. The LNA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Our Board Members

President: Jim Thompson Phone: 342-4371
 Email: zippijd@aol.com
 Vice-President: Anne Meysenburg Phone: 707-3979
 Email: anne@kentbellows.org
 Secretary: John Costanzo Phone: 344-3867
 Email: costanzoj@cox.net
 Treasurer: Zach Johnson
 Email: znj@mac.com
 At Large: Phil Abraham Phone: 510-1045
 Email: abesway101@aol.com

Join us for our monthly meetings -- the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., V.F.W., 3302 Leavenworth St.

Website: www.LNAomaha.org

Become a Member of the LNA

Name: _____

Address: _____

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E-mail: _____

Family membership: \$10 annually

Business membership: \$20 annually

Name of Business: _____

New Member

Renewal

Make checks payable to LNA. Dues are for Jan.-Dec.
 Mail to LNA, 3031 Leavenworth St, Omaha, NE 68105.

Each adult 18 or older, 2 max. per family or business who pay dues and lives, owns property, or owns/operates a business in the LNA boundaries shall be eligible to vote on Association matters.

LNA boundaries: East - 29th St., North - Dodge St.,
 South - Pacific St., West - 36th St.