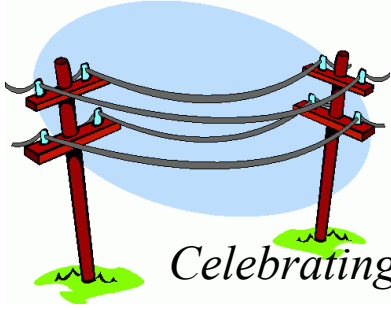


The

LEAVENWORTH

EXCHANGE



Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 26
Issue 8



August 2011

Annual LNA Picnic Thursday, August 18 6:00 PM Leavenworth Park

All members are welcome!! Bring a neighbor, eat and be merry!! As one of the benefits of LNA membership, we will be providing the meat and beverages. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish or snack of their choice (please include a serving utensil if applicable).

Plates, napkins, etc. will be available.

This event is in lieu of the regular membership meeting normally held at the VFW. Those meetings will resume in September.

See you there!!!!

Reminder! The next LNA meeting will be **September 15, 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!

Out Of The Seats And On The Streets!

By Cassandra Mayo with Zachory Klebba

There is a revolution happening amongst Omaha's young adults. Take a look around, and you'll find more and more 20-35 year olds stepping out of their seats and onto the streets to make a difference. As a young adult myself, I've noticed a sense of pride rising in my generation. At this stage in our lives we are jump starting professional careers and families, and in addition to this, we are finding it is not enough to simply voice our concerns about the world around us; we must find a way to convert our beliefs into action. We have begun stepping up to the plate by working side by side with local neighborhoods, communities, and lawmakers to become the change we want to see. We are committing ourselves to making a difference in our city. We have hope. And we know it is contagious and want to infect the city with the radical idea that young adults can make a lasting difference in Omaha.

This is why I want to write and share with you about a group of young adult professionals here in Omaha who are striving to create transformation in their city. These individuals come from all walks of life, social and economic backgrounds, and even geographic locations. What they all have in common is the key: they call Omaha home. Simply put, these are the young adults hosting and organizing the Omaha Midnight Run.

So what exactly is the Omaha Midnight Run? It is a 5k race/run/jog/walk to be held on Friday, September 9th, at 11:59pm on the streets of downtown Omaha. All participants of the run will receive a complimentary gift bag from Complete Nutrition, a light-weight polyester t-shirt, a glow stick, and everyone is invited to join the after-party to refuel on heart-healthy snacks and receive prizes from the event. Each runner will also be automatically entered for a chance to win one of many prizes donated from local business like Legacy Spa and Nails, Blue Barn Theatre, Roja Mexican Grill, Blue Sushi, Sage Aesthetics, Ashley Lynn's, Kosama Complete Body Transformation, Saddle Creek Records, O.M.A.H.A Chiropractic and acupuncture, and many more!

100% of the proceeds from the Omaha Midnight Run will go to Abide Network of Omaha to enhance their efforts of community development. Although there is

still a long way to go, Abide Network's efforts have been monumental in the restoration of Omaha. The Abide Network extensively transforms the city by reaching out to individuals, families, and entire neighborhoods through programs such as Youth Club, Mentoring/Tutoring, Food Pantry, Children's Meals Program, Holiday Food Distribution, Neighborhood Block Parties, and Home Construction and Maintenance, just to name a few. Through the Omaha Midnight Run, young adults are partnering with the Abide Network to help address the broken, the hurting and the ignored here in Omaha.

As a neighboring community and excited citizen, I would like to invite you to come run with my husband and I as we support the young adults of Omaha and their efforts to make an impact on this city. Please check out their website at: www.omahamidnightrun.com to register and for more general information about the run and Abide Network.

Let's Start Building Energy Smart Communities

The reEnergize program helps homeowners and commercial building owners make energy-saving upgrades that improve the comfort and value of their buildings.

Start Zone homeowners can receive incentives on energy-saving upgrades, and Start Zone commercial building owners can get assistance in planning and implementing energy-efficiency improvements. A map of the Omaha Start Zone is below.

Visit www.reEnergizeProgram.org or call (402) 403-3981 for more details.



Building Energy Smart Communities starts one building at a time.
reEnergize is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Energy and the Cities of Omaha and Lincoln.



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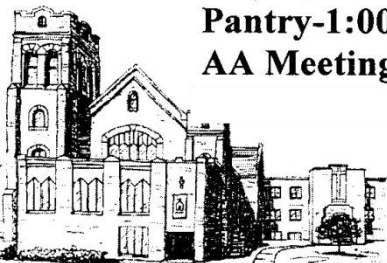
firstlutheranomaha.org

Worship-Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday School-10:45 am

Pantry-1:00-2:30 Mon.-Fri.

AA Meetings-7:00 pm Mon.



*Building a Neighborhood
for Christ*

SONA Meeting - August 5, 2011

By Carol Haas

The Stephens Center and Museo Latino were accepted as new members of SONA.

Nathan Prehim (MindMixer's co-founder and COO) discussed the Mayor's website www.EngageOmaha.com and fielded numerous questions from the membership. Additionally, representatives of the Fred Leroy Health & Wellness Clinic (provides medical, dental, and behavioral health services to the Native American population). The Clinic has been in South Omaha since 1998 and is proposing to acquire properties adjacent to its present building to expand. Several waivers are required from the planning department to enable acquisition and expansion. SONA agreed to send a letter to the planning department supporting the Clinic's plan.

Over the summer, Deer Park NA spearheaded a project called Community/Neighborhood Leaders that involved seventeen south Omaha high school students. SONA members were invited to attend Deer Park's meeting on August 10 when the students will make a report.

WANTED

A volunteer with a bit of talent....

The Membership Committee has long needed to create an updated brochure to have available to promote the LNA. The ideas are there, the data is readily available, we just need a push from someone to format into a nice, tri-fold brochure.

If you have the skills and a few extra hours, contact:

Jim Thompson

(zippijd@aol.com) or

Laura Green

(lauraleagreen@cox.net)

National Night Out A Success!

By John Costanzo

Each year, as summer vacation draws to an end, the neighborhood associations gathers for National Night Out. As long as I can remember, the LNA has done this with an ice cream social.

I personally enjoy this, as nothing says summer to me as does good neighbors and ice cream. Twelve adults and six children ate, socialized and played at the gathering. As the children engaged in a game of hide and seek and the adults sat discussing, I thought to myself, what a wonderful place to live and raise a family.



The LNA Banner graces the entrance to the Ice Cream Social.
Photo: John Costanzo



Darlene Krin enjoying ice cream!!



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Information for Contributors or Share your Writing Skills!!!!

To contribute to *the Exchange*, please contact **Jim Thompson, zippijd@aol.com**.

Deadline for the September issue is **September 1, 2011.**

Letter From the President.....

- + Jazz on the Green. WOW!
- + Renovation of Park Ave/Leavenworth. FANTASTIC!
- + More restaurants at Midtown Crossing. YUM!
- + Live music at the Sidedoor Lounge. Cool.
- + Art studios opening on Leavenworth. Simply divine!

The list keeps growing. What's next? A Farman Street Festival? Oh wait, there IS one coming up. Check the link on our facebook page, or just mark down August 27 starting at 5:00 PM. This is the second annual and includes music, libations, and a darn good time. And within walking distance from the LNA at 40th & Farnam. Sorry, no kids, must be 21 to attend.

I hope you don't get bored hearing me say how I really like this neighborhood. I liked this place when I moved in thirty years ago. As my neighbor stated at the Ice Cream Social when witnessing the kids running around, "The cycle continues." These things are all good, and makes for a great place to live and work. And it's good to see some of the younger folks who have chosen to live in the LNA to join the wheel that keeps on turning.

We still have work to do. For example, the mattresses and junk piled near the curbs. The owners need to take responsibility for this crap. One drives down the boulevard and these distractions take away from the beauty of the neighborhood.

August is time for a picnic and socializing. Hopefully the weather will cooperate! See you there!

Jim Thompson

Business Profile....


Eat, Drink, and Be Married - A Merry Occasion, 3205 Harney St.

Merry and Steve Johnson bought the old Swanson Golden Funeral Home in 1989 and knew there was a need for extensive remodeling. The building, now 100 years old, had to meet handicap codes and requirements to permit opening their business idea.

In 1991 they opened Omaha's first wedding chapel! Along with acquiring restaurant and liquor licenses for a reception all, their idea became reality.

To date, they have held over 1,000 weddings. It is a charming and intimate venue to rent for any "merry" occasion, especially geared towards groups under 100 guests. The business can also accommodate your desire for birthday parties, anniversary celebrations, reunions, company events, etc. If you have not seen the facility and want to tour, it will be open to the public on a daily basis from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. They hope you will stop in soon!

They are opening a new "Lunch Hour" place for inexpensive food, located within an eclectic gift boutique. The boutique has an assortment of accessories and gifts, from \$1 to \$1000, some old - some new. Their website, www.amerryoccasion.com shows pictures and includes information about wedding and party rentals. Catering prices are also posted. Merry encourages you to call anytime, 402-341-9276. Their motto is "You invite the guests - we do the rest."



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Art Studios

By Carol Haas

Kristin Pluhacek and Robert Miller, both Omaha artists, have opened studios at 35th Street and Leavenworth. Robert is a sculptor and painter. Kristin works in pastels and has recently been selected to exhibit pastels at the State of Nebraska Governor's residence.

The Governor's Residence and the Nebraska Arts Council partner to select ten artists from across the state for solo exhibitions each year and Kristin was one of the artists selected. Her work will be on display from mid-December 2011 to mid-January 2012.

Welcome to the neighborhood!!!

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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.

August 14 Refugee Settlement

Refugees are people who have fled from their home because their lives are in danger. They are arriving in Omaha on a weekly basis, having fled from Burma, Bhutan, and other places around the globe. Come learn about why the US accepts refugees and the resettlement process. Other topics include the refugee's situation in Omaha, what happened around the world to bring them to our door, and how you can help. Presented by **Renee Overbeek**, Lutheran Refugee Services- Sponsorship Development & Housing and Donations Coordinator

August 21 Nourishing the Congregation

Many families need to make adjustments in their meal planning and food preparation to promote a healthy lifestyle, or to accommodate special dietary needs. Join our conversation about eating well and being well, led by **Patrick Sharp**, Professional Chef and member of First Central, who has been developing recipes and menus for gluten-free foods and other special needs. Patrick trained at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, has worked at Wheatfields and Whole Foods, and is currently employed in the Alegent Healthcare central kitchens.

Aug 28 Interfaith Relations, the Mission of the Church, and the Post-9/11 Context

One of the most important questions of our time is "How can we live responsibly as devout and faithful adherents of one religion in a world of many religions?" (Phyllis Tickle). This question took on increased importance after the events of 9/11/2001. **Rev. Dr. Scott Jones** will lead a discussion of these topics as part of the preparation for our congregation's remembrance of the tenth anniversary of this significant event.

I am not what I ought to be, not what I want to be, not what I am going to be, but I am thankful that I am better than I used to be.

Coach John Wooden



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8:00PM – Midnight**



**Saturday, 6:00 – 10:00PM
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Scan Project Update

By Carol Haas

If you're still waiting for results of the recent Scan project, we ask for your patience! This is our first try and we're still working out the kinks. We have about 400 additional properties within our boundaries remaining to be scanned; however, we want to be sure to get our first section done accurately before we move on.

Thanks to those of you who have volunteered for the project and are willing to continue.

Congratulations!

Lisa Costanzo recently obtained her nurse's degree and has passed the Nebraska State Board exams. All the while, working full-time and taking care of the family! Great Job, Lisa!

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August 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: _____

Phone: _____

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.