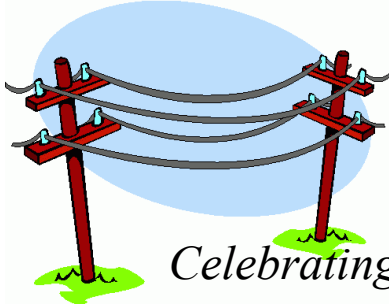


The

LEAVENWORTH

EXCHANGE



Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 26
Issue 9



September 2011

BEWARE: SCRAP METAL THIEVES!!!

They are roaming our neighborhood. They can work alone or in pairs. And they usually drive pick-up trucks. They will invade your property and steal. We need to put a stop to this thievery!!

Surely you have noticed the slow moving vehicles roaming up and down the streets and alleys. The high price of scrap metal has generated a competition for what some see as trash, but home owners see as property. Nothing is sacred for these thieves. If its metal, they will steal it. Fences, gas grills, chairs.....if it is not tied down it will be swiped from your yard.

If you see these low-lifes crawling the alleys, take down their license plate and call it into 911.

Omaha has attempted to control this crime by requiring finger prints and ID's at the local scrap yards. What a joke that has turned into. Does anyone *really* think the scrap yard buyers care where the metal comes from? How about a "hotline" or email alert for ALL buyers of metal for reported thefts? Better enforcement will lend credibility to the industry and hopefully nail some of these thieves.

Guest Speaker: Howard Hamilton Omaha Historian

Do you know the origin of name "Leavenworth Street"? How about which movie stars were born in our neighborhood? And as many times as you have driven by Jorgensen Awnings, do you know what that building was originally built as?

Howard Hamilton will share his vast knowledge of Omaha Trivia at our general membership meeting on September 15. If you have not met Howard, he is always willing to let you know the facts behind our streets, places and people of this young town. His talks have always been fascinating and leaves one with a different perspective of Omaha.

And who do you think Dodge Street was named for? How about Farnam, Harney, Jones, Dewey, Mason, Pacific? And do you think Park Avenue was named because it terminates into Hanscom Park? No! Find out the answers, and more, when you meet Mr. Hamilton.

Join us for our regular meeting, meet your neighbors, and get a fresh history lesson about our city.

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!

Midtown Crossing gallery is a space for collaboration

By Mandy Mowers

When husband-and-wife creative duo Daphne Eck and Caleb Coppock were offered the chance to have a gallery/worksite space in Midtown Crossing, they were flooded with ideas. The most prevalent was how it could be a collaborative space. They opened Peerless at 3157 Farnam St. in June. It has crisp white walls and wide-open breathing space. And it is a space where collaboration has indeed taken root.

One way it shows up is in getting a show together. Peerless has featured a new artist each month and hosted a one-night event, “Les Femmes Folles Presents Pop-Up Show.”

Friday, Sept. 2, marked the opening of the third monthly show, “Readiness Is All,” which features Ying Zhu’s explorations with the idea of comfort. Ying was born and raised in China. She studied at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for her M.F.A., which she completed in 2010. This year, she is the artist in residence at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art.

“Ying’s work is always incredibly intricate. She often works in paper or odd materials that you wouldn’t necessarily associate with fine art, like eggshells or scotch tape or paper towels,” Daphne said. “I always think of Ying as someone who works in multiples of one million. It’s intricate yet epic.”

See what she’s talking about by checking out yingzhu.org.

Ying is someone Daphne and Caleb are thrilled to be working with in this capacity. Displaying someone’s work “gives us a way to work with an artist to promote their work and help push them forward, and to work together and make something beautiful come out of it. These are people we want to see succeed. We believe in them and love their work,” Daphne explained.

The collaboration piece comes in as they are able to think through the show together: work out placement, figure out necessary materials and install it. And they have a network of friends and colleagues who help.

Collaboration, Cont. on Page 7

Pre-Meeting Tour: Park Ave/Leavenworth Renovation Project

Join Jerry Reimer from Urban Village and get a close-up look at the progress and plans for the above redevelopment. The tour will start at 6:00 PM on Thursday, Sept. 15. Please meet at 30th & Mason.

No flip-flops, and please do not wear loose clothing that can get caught on something in this construction area.

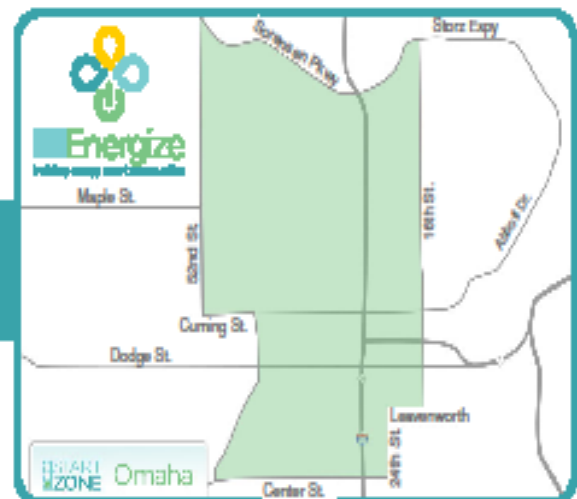
If time permits, Jerry will also show the progress on the house at 3116 Marcy. The tour will end in time for our General Membership Meeting at the VFW.

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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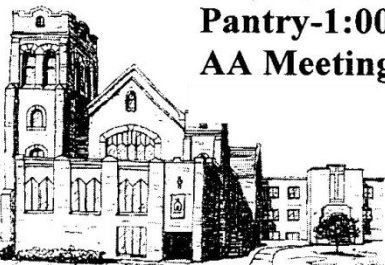
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Worship-Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday School-10:45 am

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

AA Meetings-7:00 pm Mon.



*Building a Neighborhood
for Christ*

City's Transportation Master Plan

Contributed by Mike Battershell

When: September 15, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Where: UNO Scott Conference Center (6450 Pine Street).*

Why: Choices are being made about the future of transportation and your voice matters.

More: <http://www.ci.omaha.ne.us/tmplan/>

As you may know, the City of Omaha is in the process of updating transportation and planning policies that will provide citizens of Omaha with more choices in how they get around the City. The TMP will direct all future transportation projects within the City of Omaha, and define how our tax dollars are spent.

Public awareness and involvement is crucial to this TMP process. At the public meeting, citizens will have an opportunity to vote on transportation preferences and signal to the City Council and Mayor that citizens are interested in greater transportation choice in Omaha. Please forward information on this meeting to your members or clients and encourage them to attend?

Here's a great video that explains why the transportation plan so important:

<http://vimeo.com/21942694>.

I'm contacting you as part of a new organization called Mode Shift Omaha. The mission of Mode Shift Omaha is to advocate for greater transportation choice for everyone our city. Issues of transportation affect everyone, and the midtown neighborhoods have a particular interest in transportation policy as they are the current pathway between the western growth and downtown commerce. Please visit our website for more information or to get involved:

<http://modeshiftomaha.org/>.

* **How to Get There:** The Scott Conference Center is located on the south campus of UNOmaha between Aksarben Village and Elmwood Park. Cyclists have easy access to the Keystone trail and bike parking is available near the building. Metro bus routes 15/55 and 11 also pass near the Center. For bus schedules go to the Metro bus website: <http://ometro.com/>.

Omaha By Design to soon launch QR Code Tour

By Carol Haas

Within the next few weeks, Omaha By Design plans to launch "Explore Omaha" – a QR code tour of urban design and environmental concepts at work across the city. QR (Quick Response) code is a two-dimensional barcode designed to be read by smart phones. This technology will bring you to 10 locations in the metro and then explain what you're seeing while you're seeing it.

Each location will be marked with an Explore Omaha sign. The signs "start" QR code directs you to www.exploreomahaobd.com, the tour's web page. The signs "learn" QR code explains the concepts at work in that particular location. The signs "explore" QR code will direct you to the next stop on the tour. Some of the locations involve projects Omaha by Design has been directly involved with, like The Cole Creek Project in Orchard Park. Others illustrate urban design and environmental concepts that stem from recommendations outlined in the two major public policy pieces OBD helped the City and its citizens create during the past decade – the Urban Design Element and the Environmental Element.

The temporary QR code signs will be installed at the 10 locations in mid-September and will be up for 90 days. This is a great opportunity to take a look at various sites in Omaha and become more familiar with some of the efforts of Omaha By Design.

And, guess what – The Hands to Harvest Community Garden is one of the 10 locations! For those who don't know, this community garden was begun last year as a joint project between Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association and the LNA!

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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 October issue is **Oct. 6, 2011.**



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NOW ACCEPTING 

Hi there,

Do you or someone you know need a building or resources to open a small business or organization? Are you considering sharing office, manufacturing or retail space, but you are not sure where to begin? Are you overwhelmed at the thought of having to navigate City Hall with zoning, permitting, parking, etc.? Do you want to be part of a great, close-knit neighborhood that has committed community members and solid roots? Do you see potential and hope where others see doubt and despair? Do you find it rewarding to work with a team to overcome obstacles?

If so, please join us for a practical and tactical discussion on your needs, wants, challenges and ideas as they relate to starting, keeping the doors open, and/or growing your business or organization in an East Omaha neighborhood!

The Greater Omaha Chamber's Community Development program and the Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership are leading a team of consultants on a project that is analyzing and planning for redevelopment of four neighborhood business districts (Vinton Street, Gifford Park, Leavenworth District and Park Avenue). The redevelopment possibilities for these area (and others) are endless. With your guidance and input we can be sure we are creating and tapping into resources that can help you fulfill your dream AND make our community a better place for everyone.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Jamie Grayson-Berglund
jgrayson@omahachamber.org
 Direct: 402-233-7142
 Main: 402-346-5000

Letter From the President.....

The rescheduled annual picnic was a success. Sorry for those who did not get the notice that it had been changed because of the storm event. Notice did go out to the email listing of members and it was posted on both our website and facebook page. For those who are not tuned into these computer sources, we need to think of a quick way to get the message to you. And no, there are no leftovers to share. The hamburgers were great, along with meeting old and new neighbors.

Thank you to all who put this event together. Thank you Tony for providing the music. I think everyone had a good time and it was wonderful seeing all the kids enjoying our park.

The September meeting promises to be a very interesting one with our guest. Believe me, you will forever gain a greater appreciation as you travel the streets of the neighborhood. Hope to see you there!

Jim Thompson

"Engage in a meaningful conversation about Omaha's future while exploring Omaha's past"

Time: September 16th at 6:30


Where: Avanza Grocery Store parking lot - 2900 Leavenworth Street

After a very successful and fun gathering at Malara's Restaurant last month, we took some feedback from the group and chose something that fits perfectly with our theme. This month, Jerry Reimer from **Urban Village** (<http://uvomaha.com/>) has graciously volunteered to give us a tour of his company's new project in the Park Avenue Neighborhood and share his vision of his company, the neighborhood and Omaha.

After our tour, we will reconvene in The Avanza parking lot to the **TACO Truck** for an authentic Mexican meal. (We've heard that it's good!) Picnic tables will be available for us to dine upon.

After our mobile Mexican cuisine, we will proceed to **The Side Door Lounge** at 3530 Leavenworth Street for a few cocktails and a discussion.

Please feel free to drive, ride or bike to the event. There will be a group of us riding up Leavenworth to the Side Door Lounge. Feel free to bring friends or invite others! "Like" us on Facebook to keep up-to-date with our events and to share ideas on future events. You can find us listed under "Moonshine Hour"



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Celebrate Midtown Masquerade Party

Saturday, October 22, 6:00 p.m. to
10:00 p.m. at Joslyn Castle
3902 Davenport Street.

Activities include a costume contest,
tarot card readers, silent auction, live
entertainment, heavy hors d'oeuvres
from Midtown restaurants and a cash
bar.

For tickets, visit
www.midtownomaha.org
or at Hy-Vee, 50th & Center.

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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.

October 2: The Civil War: Forgiving and Forgetting
Presented by *Fred Nielsen*, Professor of History, UNO.

October 9: Inclusivity – How's the Fit?

First Central Congregational takes pride being an inclusive
congregation. This focus forum will expand awareness and
examine ways that we can more effectively reach out to our
neighbors. It will increase our personal awareness of the
process of inclusivity, while also examining our personal
blocks that may interfere with our best intentions.
Presented by *Nikki Zimmerman* and *John Campbell*,
Licensed Mental Health Practitioners.

October 16: Focusing on Mission

Table Grace is a non-profit downtown cafe which
“nourishes hungry bodies and souls.” The menu is well
balanced and there are no set prices – the diners are asked to
donate what they can. Volunteers are always needed
to work in the kitchen, which can be a fair trade for the meal
or potential job training. The organization is looking for
faith community partners who are interested in combating
hunger in our neighborhood. *Matt & Simone Weber* will
educate us about how First Central can help the Table Grace
initiative.

EngageOmaha.com

A new online tool will assist Omaha residents to
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listed.



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**Fridays, 5:00 – 9:00PM
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8:00PM – Midnight**

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Collaboration, Cont. from Page 2

“We get to be a piece in the puzzle in a way that’s a little different from most galleries,” Daphne said.

Another way they collaborate is to co-office. “It’s organic and natural. Just being around people, you play off each other, get new ideas,” Daphne said. “It’s easy and natural when officing together to find links in our work.”

They do have artists in their work space, where people may be able to do bigger things than in their own studio space. Wanda Ewing, of Les Femmes Folles, for example, prepared a piece for the show right there in the space. But it’s more than just artists. And that’s the goal. “We want it to be multi-disciplinary — artists, designers, writers, scientists. All these different people hopefully influencing one another and informing each other’s work, perhaps inspiring something new,” Daphne said.

“We’ve really enjoyed having a gallery and a worksite,” she said. “But it seems like the first six months we’ve been more focused on the gallery side. We’re hoping, if this space continues another six months, that the worksite will become more the focus. That’s what we’re most excited about: a network of partner that can collaborate on larger works.” Daphne smiled as she said this. Then added, “Gives us practice achieving something bigger than what we can do on our own.”

Stop by most days between 11 and 5 to see Ying’s and others’ works, and to meet some of these really great people who believe in collaboration.

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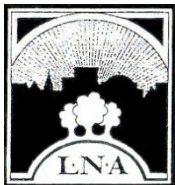
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"Celebrating together as friends and neighbors"



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.

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

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 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.
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