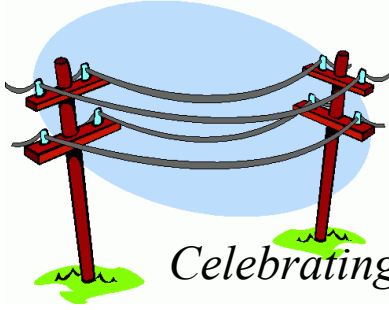


The

# LEAVENWORTH

# EXCHANGE



*Celebrating together as friends and neighbors*

Volume 25  
Issue 8



August 2010

## Perks of LNA Membership

By John Costanzo

If you have ever wondered, “So what has your paid membership in the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association done for you lately?” Well, in addition to the Clean-up in the spring and the Ice Cream Social on National Night out, the August meeting of the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association is picnic night. It is held each year at the pavilion in Leavenworth Park.

The picnic is in lieu of the meeting, so it takes place Thursday the 19th of August. We will start cooking between 5:30 and 6:00. This hopefully will give you time to get off work, change into something comfortable and join us for dinner. The LNA will be providing the fixing for a picnic style dinner for all the members who attend. All you need to bring is yourself, your immediate family and possibly a lawn chair. This is an excellent way to meet, get caught up on neighborhood happenings, come together as neighbors and enjoy each other’s company. So, if you were wondering, membership really does have its benefits! Hope to see you all there!!

## LNA Annual Picnic

Thursday, August 19 starting at 5:30 PM, Leavenworth Park.

All members are welcome!! Bring a neighbor, eat and be merry!!

This event is in lieu of the regular membership meeting normally held at the VFW. Those meetings will resume in September with guest speaker, Chief Alex Hayes, Omaha Police Department.

## President’s Letter....

I recently met with the new pastor of First Central Congregational Church. Rev. Scott Jones just moved here to take on the duties at this old, established church. In addition to the normal welcome to this neighbor, I took the opportunity to view parts of the building that I had never seen before. And after living here for as long as I have, I wondered why it took me sooo long to do this simple thing. What a treasure this building is! I have traveled past this space on 36<sup>th</sup> and Harney thousands of times and never, ever realized how massive the sanctuary is or the fact that they have a full size gymnasium on the grounds! The history of the structure is vast and I won’t go into the details, but suffice it to say that it opened my eyes to one more asset we have in our neighborhood.

And it made me think of the mini-tour I received when I stopped in to talk to Nicki at Jorgensen Awnings awhile back. That building used to be a theater! I wondered if Marlon Brando’s parents took him to see some plays there.....

This neighborhood contains some historic structures. We take too many of them for granted as we traverse the streets. Sure, some change their function, some get facelifts. But they all add to the historic fabric of the Leavenworth Neighborhood and it makes me proud to be a part of that.

What can you put on YOUR own personal tour?? Let us know what you discover. **Jim Thompson**

## Potential Dog Park at Hanscom Park

The Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association in conjunction with the LNA, Hanscom Park N.A. and Field Club Homeowners League is considering a dog park in the area. The exact location has not been determined nor has funding been identified. There is plenty of room at Hanscom Park, with the northeast corner being a favored location.

The benefits of such a park are many. One is a deterrent to crime. The more “eyes on the street”, the better it is in a residential neighborhood. And we all know that dog owners **MUST** take their pets for walks. Another benefit is the social aspect of meeting your neighbors. Something in common, no matter what breed a dog may be, usually starts a friendly conversation. And then we have the undeveloped part of Hanscom Park that desperately needs some help. The size, exact location, permission from the city, etc., are all in the thinking stage.

The first source of funding for this venture would be a Mayor’s grant. And of course there are many other ways to raise the money for notable projects. If none of you have actually seen a dog park there is only one located in western Omaha. Putting one in our neighborhood would be nothing short of cool.

Let any of the Board members know what you think and if you want to get involved with the design, etc., for this project, let us know.

### Information for Contributors

To contribute to *the Exchange*, please contact

**Jim Thompson, [zippijd@aol.com](mailto:zippijd@aol.com).**

Deadline for the issue is

**September 2, 2010.**

Content submitted may be edited as needed.

### Want to receive The Exchange by e-mail?

Simply send an email message to [zippijd@aol.com](mailto: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.

## LNA Events Calendar

**Every Thursday:** Yoga Classes

First Lutheran Church,  
542 S. 31<sup>st</sup> St.

9-10 a.m., free-will offering.

All fitness levels welcome.

**August 22: First Lutheran Church Picnic - 10:00 AM** 31st & Jackson

## Need Some Help – Look Around the Neighborhood

By Carol Haas

I recently went to get my car out of the garage to run some errands (including getting medicine for my mom) and turned on the switch – nothing – turned on the lights – none – couldn’t even honk the horn. Surely this has happened to you sometime. But, I’m not a patient or happy person. So I call my neighbor. Darn he’s not home. What to do? It’s hot, hot, hot, I can’t walk on all my errands. It’s probably the alternator if there even is one on this car. It is a relief though that the car was in the garage not somewhere in west Omaha, and it wasn’t night, and I wasn’t taking mom to an appointment. But I do need a working vehicle!

A quick phone call to Fred’s Friendly Service. Ron comes within a few minutes, pushes my car out of the garage enough to open the hood (you’ve got to see the garage to understand that this is not an easy task!), and attaches the jumper cable thingy. It starts, but he says not to turn it off. So, he waits while I run in the house to fetch my purse, etc. Within a few minutes, I’m at Fred’s and they quickly install a new battery. Whew! What a relief!

Just a reminder – we have some great businesses in our neighborhood. Don’t forget to stop by Fred’s for service and a big dose of neighborliness.

## Soccer in the Neighborhood.....

*Howard Dotson has taken an active role in helping to organize a youth soccer team from the area. He reports, “Every Friday night they play at Albright Park thru August 22, 5-8 PM. Officer Espejo of the OPD Gang Unit was awarded the National Latino Peace Officer Association Award for the Soccer and Baseball leagues he founded in South Omaha. On August 28th we are taking the kids to Calvin Crest Camp so they can get a break from the city and enjoy the beauty of God’s creation.”*

## Can YOU Lend a Hand?

As you all know the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association is proud to support and maintain four gardens within our boundaries. These not only enhance the green space but also provide an opportunity for involvement. The most prominent, "The Community Garden" is on 31<sup>st</sup> and the juncture of St. Mary's and Leavenworth Street. We are grateful to have Fred Nielson spend lots of his time weeding and maintaining the flower beds. We are also grateful to have Bill Kline and his sporadic group of volunteers available to cut the grass. The LNA owns a lawnmower for this purpose and we have gotten our money's worth.

Due to work schedules and other commitments, additional volunteers are needed to cut the grass in these small garden areas. The only trick is maneuvering around the beds. The other space needing mowing is the Jackson Triangle Garden (Turner Blvd & Jackson St). Please give strong consideration in taking on this task. Once per month would help spread the duty nicely.

There is no formal sign-up sheet for this. When you drive by and see that the grass needs cutting, do it! Bill keeps a very good eye on the space and usually will take it on as soon as he can. But we need help in this task. If you would like to use the LNA mower, call him at 884-1224.

Being an all volunteer organization, we sometimes get too dependent on just a few folks that come forward. This is one opportunity to share in this very visible element of pride in our neighborhood. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation and teamwork.



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## Boat Cruise Anyone?

Rev. Howard Dotson

Westminster Presbyterian Church has a partnership with the UNMC Pediatric Transplant Unit and Field Club Elementary. On average, every month 6 new families are at the Lied Center for a transplant. At any given time, there are about 30 pediatric transplant families. After the transplant, many families relocate to Omaha in order to be close to the Lied specialists.

Our hospitality team is trying to organize special field trips especially for the siblings of transplant patients, most of whom attend Field Club Elementary. It can be tough for these kids playing second fiddle to the brother and sister receiving treatments.

We are looking for volunteers and financial support for the River City Star Cruise trip on September 13th, starting at 5:00 PM. Our long term hope is to recruit potential mentors to accompany these kids throughout the school year at Field Club Elementary. They come from far away to preserve their child's life. The most sacred fight for any family.

May they find a community that embraces them as strangers who have become our friends. Call me at 402-889-8410.

## Changes at the Marylebone.....

After much consideration, it is with regret that we have made the decision to stop serving food at the Bone. Our last lunch will be August 25<sup>th</sup> (Prime Rib).

This was not an easy decision. We want all our loyal lunch customers to know how truly grateful we are for their years of support and friendship. You have seen us through the good times and the bad. From the smoking ban to more important events like the loss of loved ones; you have been there. It is a sad but necessary decision. We will continue to serve the best drinks in town at the most reasonable price. It is also our hope to reintroduce a limited appetizer menu at a later date.

Again, please know how much we appreciate all of you. And please, support your locally owned bars and restaurants. Looks like tough times ahead for small business.

Thank you,  
Dawn

## Stop by Cirino's . . . And Stay for Awhile

By Bill Kline

Located at 1107 Park Avenue, Cirino's is a casual venue offering a combination of value-priced food, pool tables, video games and a friendly atmosphere. Owned and operated by Cirino Caniglia and his partner Deanne, it has been in operation since July 5th of this year. Both Cirino and Deanne are longtime veterans of the Leavenworth Cafe, having worked there for years. They are well-versed in the hospitality business and realize that friendly customer service keeps people coming back.

The cafe offers a menu featuring burgers, tacos, pork tenderloin and chicken philly sandwiches, nachos and more. I've had both a burger and tacos on the two occasions I visited and was stuffed each time. Currently no alcohol is sold. Beverages are pop, iced tea, coffee and hot chocolate. Ice cream sundaes and root beer floats round out the dessert portion of the menu.

A major feature of the cafe are the seven pool tables. They can be rented by the game for \$1.00, or by the hour for \$5.50. An 8-ball pool tournament is hosted every Tuesday night, with a \$10.00 entry fee. Cirino is an accomplished player himself and is happy to provide pointers and demonstrate a few trick shots.

Hours of operation are:  
 Mon-Th - 11am to 10pm  
 Fri-Sat - 11am to 1am  
 Sun - 12pm to 1am

Stop by the cafe and welcome Cirino and Deanne to the neighborhood. You'll be glad you did.



The Ice Cream Social held on Aug. 3 netted a couple of soccer teams!!! Howard Dotson proudly displays his flock, of course more interested in the ice cream than the camera!!

## A Sticky Old Problem

By Todd Wyatt

An interesting thing happened to me on the way back from Jazz on the Green a couple of weeks ago. A young trio consisting of a man (possibly a father) and a woman (possibly a mother) in their 20's with a young girl of about 4 or 5 years old (possibly their daughter) had stopped at the intersection of Turner Boulevard and Harney Street beside our Destination Midtown identity garden in front of First Unitarian Church. As I observed them in the evening daylight, I noticed that this presumed "family" was doing something to a fire hydrant. To my absolute surprise, I watched the mother instructing the daughter in how to apply a graphic sticker to the fire hydrant. The trio then rapidly crossed the street toward Dewey Park.

I must confess that my first reaction when I inspected this unusual red amorphous decal was shock that a mother would instruct her child on how to vandalize public property!

However, my initial shock eventually gave way to a general realization that I have officially joined the "Older Generation." I simply don't identify any longer with the idea that guerilla art and street art are wonderfully liberating self-expressions of individualism. Instead, it seems to me that if you are living in a neighborhood, you might want to work with your community to support art that can be long-lasting and accessible for all to experience as opposed to imposing one's individual taste in art upon all. I also can't identify with the argument that this form of vandalism should be protected as free speech. It seems that if you have an opinion or a perspective, you should be able to relay that in an artistic form that does not involve spray-painting my garage door. Finally, it just seems anathematic to me that a mother would physically instruct her child to vandalize public property. Doesn't this rob the kid of the opportunity to rebel as a teenager by vandalizing public property if her parents think it's cool to do it?

I guess I'm just getting old and cranky for no good reason. It turns out that there's no law against putting your own hipster-stickers on fire hydrants. Fire hydrants are the property of the Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) and MUD is responsible for their condition. MUD has its own set of Water Rules that govern the use of hydrants (Section 7.1\*), but there is no specific rule against affixing your gorilla art decal on their fireplugs. This raises two important conclusions: 1) I have no business being concerned about something that neither the City, the Fire Department, nor MUD cares about, and 2) Just how cool and edgy is it to put decals on a fire hydrant in an act of public rebellion when no one cares?

\*Thanks to Dan Crouchley of MUD for providing expert legal information for this article.



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**Sept. 19 - Sustainability and Endangered Habitats** – presented by **Dr. Rick Brenneman**, Conservation Geneticist, Henry Doorly Zoo and First Central member - "When conservation of endangered habitats in biodiversity hotspots encroaches on the livelihood and survival of the local human populations, how can we get the local community to buy in to the whole concept of conservation? The Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership, an NGO spin-off of the Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo's Conservation Genetics Department, is doing just that. The project combines education with community development alternatives that permit sustainable co-existence between the people of the Kianjavato Commune and the regional habitat while re-establishing continuous forests from the village to the Vatovavy Mountain about 20 km away."

**Sept. 26 - The Gulf Oil Spill** – presented by **Dr. John Schalles**, Professor of Aquatic Science at Creighton University and First Central member - Dr. Schalles will discuss the effects the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill will have on the habitat and marine ecology of the area.

## Bike Rodeo

By John Costanzo

A worthwhile event will be taking place in the neighborhood this coming September: the annual Youth Bike Rodeo sponsored by the VFW. It was originally planned for August but was changed to September 11th due to schedule issues at the post. So the good news is you haven't missed out on a great opportunity to get the young person in your family involved. This event is for any young person, under 12 years of age, either associated with the VFW Post 247 or who resides in the boundaries of the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association.

The rodeo will begin at 10:00 AM with a bicycle safety inspection of the bike that each child has brought with them. There will be an obstacle course to challenge the riding and safety skills of the children, along with a chance to speak with and see demonstrations from the Omaha Police Bicycle Patrol.

The big news this year is that through the generosity of donations from organizations like the LNA, the VFW was able to purchase six new bicycles! These will be drawn for and handed out to six lucky children on the day of the rodeo. The rodeo will finish up by 12:00 PM with a hotdog lunch served to the participants and their families inside the VFW. This is a wonderful event which my children have taken part in, so mark your calendars for 10 AM, Saturday, September 11 and we will see you at the VFW!

### **BENJAMIN PETRZILKA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

BEN WAS ONE OF THE SCOUTS WHO DIED IN THE TORNADO THAT HIT THE LITTLE SIOUX SCOUT CAMP ON JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> 2008. IN BEN'S MEMORY THIS TOURNAMENT WILL RAISE FUNDS TO BUILD STORM SHELTERS AT THE LITTLE SIOUX SCOUT CAMP AND POSSIBLE OTHERS

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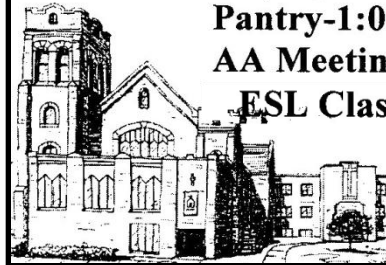
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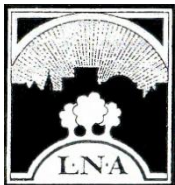
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## THE LEAVENWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### 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 Meysenberg Phone: 707-3979  
 Email: anne@kentbellows.org  
 Secretary: John Costanzo Phone: 344-3867  
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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.

Website: [www.LNAomaha.org](http://www.LNAomaha.org)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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, PO Box 55193, Omaha, NE 68155.

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.