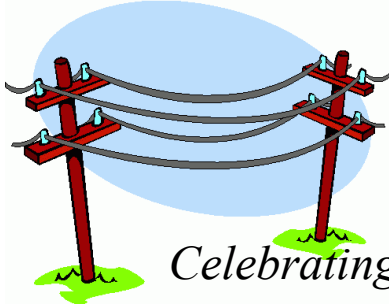


The

LEAVENWORTH

EXCHANGE



Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 26
Issue 4



April 2011

Guest Speaker.....Theresa Baker reEnergize Program

At our April General Membership meeting, Ms. Baker will talk about the reEnergize Program currently underway in our part of the community. This is a collaborative effort between the Cities of Omaha and Lincoln to build energy smart communities. The plan is to work with highly qualified contractors to complete energy evaluations on a total of 263 commercial and nonprofit buildings and make energy upgrades on 3,193 residences over five stages of the program. This is a partnership between the reEnergize Program and local residents to build value in our community's homes and neighborhoods.

The initial focus of the reEnergize Program is owner-occupied residential and commercial buildings. However, the goal is to grow the reEnergize Program over time to allow owners of all building types within our community access to the streamlined process, financing opportunities, and a qualified workforce for energy efficient homes and buildings.

The program serves as a catalyst, intending to build consumer demand and contractor supply for energy-saving building improvements and to reduce the overall energy use of local homes by 25 percent.

Check out www.reEnergizeProgram.org for details of the effort. And bring your questions to the meeting.

Graffiti - Make It Disappear

By Jim Thompson

Recently I sent out a electronic "crime alert" of a number of spots down Leavenworth that had been hit on a Thursday night. The Graffiti Van took care of the spots very quickly. In following up with the Omaha Police Department, I was curious what the letters were attempting to say. The response I received was this is was an act of typical taggers, not gang related.

If you see ANY graffiti, please call the Mayor's Hot Line 402-444-5555. Or if you want to report it on-line:

<http://cityofomaha.org/mayor/component/wordpress/contact/graffiti>

It is an easy to use format and you do not have to give your name.

Also, if you see graffiti on utility boxes, call Steve Fanslau at OPPD, (402) 636-3330, or send him an e-mail at sfanslau@oppd.com with the particular location.

Please do not wait and assume that others have called it in. It is really easy to report, but if you are traveling in your vehicle, be careful when calling.

Reminder! The next LNA meeting will be **April 21, 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!**

"How 'Bout We Call It "The EXCHANGE"?"

Wally Heun, 1927 - 2011

By Jim Thompson

It wasn't too long after the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association started the newsletter when we had a contest to name it. I remember his enthusiasm when he came up with the title. His rationale was simple, "We use it to exchange information about the neighborhood." And thus was born decades of this publication, geared towards the ongoing exchange of information from, to, and about neighbors, friends, and businesses. And every time I put the "Volume No.____, Issue No.____ " on the masthead, I think of Wally Heun and his innocent, but perfect enthusiasm for living in the neighborhood.

Frequently he could be seen on the front porch swing, ready to wave, ready to bring up topics from A to Z. Roll down the window and he hops up to greet you. "Did you hear 'bout.....?" would be a common thread. And "What is happening down there on" his inquisitive mind would present. Wally lived alone but in all the years I had known him, he never appeared lonely. Whether it was talking about Hamburger Night at the Disabled American Veterans post or his errant golf game, he could make a good half of a long conversation.

Wally participated in the neighborhood Clean-up's from the beginning. He was a big man and showed some strength in those bones. When he got a bit older and wasn't able to spend the day, he would cart his junk across Leavenworth Street in a wheelbarrow. When told that we can have a pick-up truck stop by his alley, he would politely decline and displayed a good chunk of pride by not taking up our time, but doing it himself. He was like that, but never bragged about it.

Wally lived most of his life in our neighborhood and saw many, many changes. And he was quite content to adjust to it all, sit back, and look at life in a positive manner. Perhaps we could say he lived a simple life, into his many routines of when and where breakfast is served, the timing of the handoff from the mailman, and the creation of his unique colors and decorating style of his small bungalow on 31st. Yes, a simple life. And yes, a good neighbor.



Neighborhood Scan Update

By Carol Haas

As noted in previous newsletter articles, the LNA will begin a neighborhood scan project in the southeast portion of the area in early June.

Notification of the upcoming scan will be mailed to neighbors included in the initial area in mid to late May. For those of you who have volunteered to help, we will hold a short meeting in late April to review plans. Stay tuned!!

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. Or let us know if you want additional e-mail addresses of neighbors, co-workers, friends added to our listing!!

Information for Contributors
 To contribute to *the Exchange*, please contact
Jim Thompson, zippijd@aol.com.
 Deadline for the April issue is
May 5, 2011.
 Content submitted may be edited as needed.

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Save the date.....

*"Color It Clean", our annual
 neighborhood clean-up, is set
 for Saturday, May 21.
 Stay tuned for details!*



Upcoming Event NOT In Midtown
 By Phil Abraham

We've Moved!

The Race 2 re:Cycle will now be held at **Miller's Landing**
 (151 Freedom Park Road, Omaha NE 68102).

The new location will offer a safer route for the families participating in the day's events! *(Were all about safety!)*
 Our new Family Fun Ride route now offers a slightly shorter 12 mile route starting and ending at Miller's Landing with an optional turn around at Harvey's Blvd for a 6 mile route.

It is a beautiful route, and we're all hoping for some beautiful weather!

FAMILY FUN ZONE!

In order to allow our relay participants the opportunity to attend the Family Fun Zone activities, the Family Fun Zone will be open from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. The Family Fun Ride will coincide with the Family Fun Zone and begin at 2:00 pm; the course will be open until 5:00 pm. Children's Trike Race will now begin at 1:00 pm. Post Awards Ceremony will still be held at 8:00 pm.

Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity.

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



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At the General Membership meeting in February we re-established the former policy of allowing single issue advertisements. For \$15.00, you can run your business card size ad in the EXCHANGE. If you want to run it for two months, you would get the third month free!!

We depend a lot on our advertisers for the production of this newsletter and the support is very much appreciated.

Please contact Jim Thompson, Editor, at 402-342-4371 or zippijd@aol.com.

Needed - Used Bicycles

As part of neighborhood clean-up we end up with a number of "used" bicycles. For the last couple of years we have donated these to the Community Bike Shop where they teach repair skills

They are truly a home-grown bike shop and could use more "gently used" bicycles. Their mission is simple: To strengthen Omaha neighborhoods by promoting the bicycle as viable, reliable, and fun transportation

The shop hours are Saturday, noon - 4PM, Wednesdays 6 - 8 PM, Thursday 6 - 8 PM. They are located at 525 N. 33rd Street. To donate a bike, please call Matt Martin 402-957-2454.

Earth Day Omaha 2011

When: Saturday, April 23rd from 11:00am-6:00pm

Where: Elmwood Park (802 S. 60th St.)

First Lutheran Church 542 So. 31 Street
345-7506 Dial-a-Meditation 345-1555

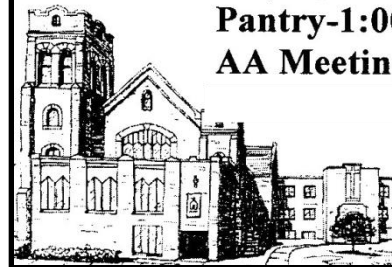
firstlutheranomaha.org

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*

Letter From the President.....

The weather broke, the rakes came alive, and today the yard waste bags hold sentinel duty on the curbs. What a great reminder how we work our yards and spruce up the neighborhood. Last night friends from the Field Club neighborhood stopped over and asked how I got everyone to clean up their yards as they are looking great! I had to confess that people are simply doing it on their own. What a great compliment from our neighbors to the south.

And so it goes, as we start to think about checking off the list of projects for our yards and houses. Remember creating those lists while stuck in the house, looking at all that ice and snow outside? Now is the time! Get those gloves on, work those muscles until they are sore, and relax on the front porch when the job is done.

Please take a moment to note the structure of the houses in our neighborhood. A front porch is pretty common. Over the years they have been "windowed" shut. Many, many neighbors are opening them back up. Take a stroll down Marcy Street for example. The breezes, the sun, the fact that sitting on them allows a mutual wave to passersby. It seems that all they have in west Omaha are decks. Hmmm. I like the porch idea.

So, sit back, relax, and take some pride in the job you have done. You might feel sore, but it will feel right.

Jim Thompson

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In Memoriam - Steve Hillmer, Levenson's Industrial Supply

Co-owner of the "Ma and Pop Shop" on Leavenworth Street, Steve Hillmer passed away after a long battle with cancer. Steve was born in 1942 and began his career in the graphics business. In 1991 he started Levenson's in a building on 14th and Harney. In 1996 he moved it to the former Missouri Valley Limb and Brace building next to Bud Olson's. He was married to wife Doris for 34 years and he was not shy about cooking, doing laundry and, according to Doris, spoiling her.

Levenson's has been a member of the LNA for a long time. Doris and daughter Trenna will continue to carry on the business. (If you have not stopped in lately, you would be pleasantly surprised with the extent of their product line!) Steve, and his discussion of politics, will be missed. Along with Tom Olson and Pat McCall, they make a good stretch of businesses in Downtown LNA. The politics will still be discussed, but somehow not as lively as before. Our condolences to the family and friends of Steve Hillmer.

Spring Cleaning

By Scott Jones

Spring seems finally to have arrived, and we have greeted it with a series of "Spring Cleaning" work days here at the First Central Congregational United Church of Christ at 36th and Harney. Sunday, April 2 was the first of these and it was sunny and warm.

By my count 39 people participated ranging in ages from elementary school to octogenarian. In fact, so many showed up that we hadn't planned for enough supplies for all of them. In the sanctuary, which dates from the 1920's and has a traditional architecture filled with wood paneling, we oiled everything – walls, pews, furniture, and doors. We've been marveling at how much it now shines.

Out on the patio, which houses our prayer and meditation labyrinth, a group worked to clean up all the grime and debris from winter and get all the beds and pots prepared for planting. In other parts of the building a crew sorted through poorly stored documents and files and placed them in better storage. This freed up some bookshelves that were moved for use by our Evergreen Thrift Shop. Two more such work days are scheduled this April. Our building will be bright, shiny, clean, and hospitable for Easter services and for all the various programs and events that occur daily in our building – from yoga classes, to basketball games, to alcohol recovery programs.

My favorite moment of the entire day occurred while one of our elementary age members was cleaning inside the heat and air grills in the sanctuary. He was just the right height to open the iron grill and walk in and clean. One of our retired teachers was working with him, and they got into a long conversation about spiders and the novel *Charlotte's Web*. This moment reinforced how workdays like this one can achieve other goals of neighborliness, like intergenerational engagement.



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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.

May 8th, The Evolving United Church of Christ: What's changing in the UCC? What issues will be discussed at the General Synod (July 1-3, 2011, in Tampa, Florida). Our local UCC representative, *Daryl Malena* will fill us in on what's happening at the national level.

May 15th, The Spirituality of the Labyrinth: The labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again, out into the world. Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. We will learn about worship through this ancient symbol.

Maundy Thursday will be observed on Thursday, **April 21st**, at 6 p.m. with a light supper, followed by worship. Maundy Thursday is a remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

Good Friday services will be held at First Central on Friday, **April 22nd**, at 7:30 p.m., in an ecumenical service involving several other midtown churches. A reception will be held beforehand, at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday will be celebrated in a sunrise service at Memorial Park on Sunday, **April 24th**, at 6:15 a.m., and during our regular service at the church at 10:30 a.m.



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Congratulations!

The YWCA Omaha has selected 11 women from the community to be honored at the annual YWCA Tribute to Women luncheon in June. One of the honorees is Rev Stephanie Ahlschwede, Executive Director, United Methodist Ministries, and former LNA President.

The honorees are selected on the basis of living, working, or volunteering in the Omaha metropolitan area; achievement and impact on and involvement within the community; and a demonstrated commitment to helping women and their families build lives of strength, growth, and self-sufficiency.

Congratulations, Stephanie!

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Call: Any LNA Board Member for details.

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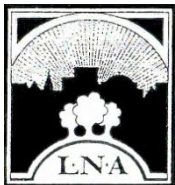


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April 2011

"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.