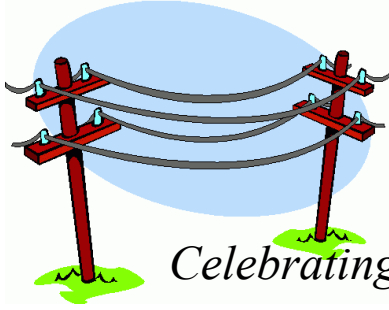


The

LEAVENWORTH

EXCHANGE



Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 27
Issue 1



January 2012

LNA Master Plan for 2012 and Beyond

From the Board

At the January Board Meeting, the following items were discussed as targets to work towards for this year, and likely years to come. This list is not all inclusive and will be refined as time goes on. These long term plans will be refined with not only input from the general membership, but implementation details as well. Some may seem ambitious but the Board feels that with the assistance from everyone, with appropriate financial means, with the application of a good amount of energy, these goals are obtainable. In no particular order of importance or priority:

- > Embellish our gardens with art and/or sculptures.
- > Install "doggy posts" for holding doo-doo clean-up bags along the Turner Boulevard Trail.
- > Establish a Strategic Plan for public spaces for artwork and mixed use.
- > Perform "Brush Down" efforts in the various parks and green spaces in the neighborhood.

"Plan" continued on page 2

Reminder! The next LNA meeting will be **JANUARY 19, 2012, 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!**

Membership Dues are Due

It is that time of the year that we ask each and every one of you to renew or join this active neighborhood association. Here is what you can expect for your membership:

- Chili Supper in February
- Free bulk garbage pick-up in the spring
- Ice Cream Social
- Picnic in August
- Popcorn at the membership meetings
- Security of a Driving Patrol
- "Crime Alert" emails of burglaries, etc.
- Subscription to an informative and popular newsletter (this one!)
- Enforcement of graffiti violations
- Enforcement of code violations
- Enjoyment of four flower gardens
- Continued efforts to clean litter from your neighborhood
- Opportunity to use a plot in a community vegetable garden
- Pride

The food alone is worth your investment. And it takes more than a small, dedicated group of volunteers to continue to make this a great association. Please see the back page and renew or join now. Thank you!!!!

Committee Assignments.....

From the Board

Each year we review our standing committees and re-group with volunteers who want to continue or to join one of our specialty programs. There is plenty of room on each, and yes, you can serve on multiple committees, no limits! There are no set meeting times nor dates, as the mission of each takes on a life of their own depending on what is needed or desired.

All of you have some skills and some expertise that can help the neighborhood in one capacity or another. These committees offer a great opportunity to channel energy and cooperation in facing the challenges of the neighborhood and making it a better place to live and work. Leaders of these committees will be forthcoming. Your participation in any or all is most welcome and appreciated.

Parks and Green Space Committee

With three major parks within our boundaries, and all the green space along Turner Boulevard, this prime real estate is in constant need of attention and action. Work may involve coordinating litter clean-up, brush/tree trimming, etc., in coordination with the City of Omaha.

Neighborhood Watch/Driving Patrol

This aspect of the LNA may involve joining teams in driving around the neighborhood, recruiting Watch Groups on various blocks, communicating crime reports and in general being a liaison with the Omaha Police Department. Two way digital radios and a police scanner are available to assist in this endeavor.

Jackson School Committee

We have partnered with the school on different issues, most prominently Christmas Cheer. This committee works to continue our relationship with Jackson School and the operation of the Jim Krin Fund.

Membership/Social Committee

Perhaps one of the most important, this committee shall solicit members, record the proper membership data, and provide to the Secretary the membership roster. Membership drives, particularly this time of year are essential to continue the strength of this association. We reward LNA members each with the February Chili Feed, Annual Picnic, and the Ice Cream Social. The "social" part of the committee works out the details for these events or any other social activity one can dream up.

Newsletter Committee

This committee will be responsible for publishing the LNA "Exchange" newsletter and maintaining an appropriate mailing list, both hard copy and electronic distribution.

Garden Committee

Leavenworth Community, Zodiac, Jackson Triangle, Identity and in partnership with Ford Birthsite, the Hands to Harvest, are the garden areas we currently maintain. Work involves coordinating and perhaps doing some grass mowing, weeding, planting flowers, etc. Certain tasks are done at certain periods during the calendar year.

As the year progresses we often find many opportunities for involvement and this may or may not be part of any committee. For example, the spring clean-up campaign is not part of any committee but requires more than a handful of volunteers. And the number of ideas that pop up during the year may or may not be assigned to a formal committee. As we have done for decades, it's simply a question of who wants to help on any goals and ideas.

Certainly, ALL are welcome to join in to one degree or another. It takes a bit of dedication and concern to continue to make this a solid association.

"Plan" continued from page 1

- > Encourage the State Department of Roads to clean-up the I-480 corridor, especially the entrance and exit ramps.
- > Establish a loose litter clean-up for each block in the neighborhood by means of volunteers adopting their block.
- > Re-hang banners on Leavenworth Street.
- > Hang flower baskets on the main streets of the neighborhood.
- > Install additional playground equipment at Leavenworth Park, including a canopy.

Do you have some additional ideas? Let us hear from you. Come to the meeting on January 19. If you are unable to make it, give any Board member a call or send them an e-mail. Your input is not only appreciated but needed.

LNA Officers - 2012

As stated in our by-laws, after the annual election of Board members, the successful candidates caucus to select officers. The results were:

President: Jim Thompson
 Vice President: Zack Johnson
 Secretary: Nick Mayo
 Treasurer: Jack Henry
 At-Large: Sandy Jochim

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Remember... The LNA is on facebook

Simply enter Leavenworth
 Neighborhood Association.
 Become a "friend" TODAY!

2011 Christmas Cheer

By Carol Haas

Another successful Christmas Cheer Project was completed on December 14, 2011, when volunteers filled the gift bags for the kids at Jackson Elementary School. Thanks very much to all those representing the LNA who helped: Jerry Reimer, Sophie and Ashton, Jim Thompson and Cindy Mitchell, Sandy Jochim, Nick and Kassie Mayo, Pat O'Donnell and Kathy. And a big thank you to Katie Freemyer, Ann Lawless, Mary Johnson and son Eddie, Carla Rizzo, and Nolan Springer representing Completely Kids.

Special thanks also to Brian at Avanza for the donation of apples for each of the kids; to Kiewit for providing the backpacks; and to Trish Ruffino, Store Manager at Walgreens for helping us with the items purchased. We appreciate **all** of you who donated to the project as well – we could not do it without your generosity!

This year we received donations of \$1,155.00 and incurred expenses of \$1,163.29 excluding cost of postage for thank you letters. Again, thank you to everyone who participated in any way for making the 2011 Christmas Cheer project a great success!

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Budget for 2012

From the Board

At the January General Membership Meeting we will vote on the budget for this year. After reviewing the expenses of last year and looking at the plan for 2012, 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 (promotion)	\$ 200.00
Membership/Social (includes promotional mailings, stamps, items for events, etc.)	\$ 1500.00
Misc.	\$ 800.00
Total:	\$ 5300.00

If you have any questions please come to the meeting to discuss.

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AA Meetings Tues. 8 pm Thur. 7:30 pm



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

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

Deadline for the
February issue is
Feb. 2, 2012.

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life's journey, you are welcome here.*

Report Card - LNA Goals 2011

By Jim Thompson

The year went by quick it seemed, especially looking back at what we were able to accomplish in 2011. We set some ambitious marks for the year and the following is a result:

> Create and install entrance signs to the LNA neighborhood. Did not happen, although the area on the northeast corner of the Avanza parking lot was landscaped as part of the Park Ave. Improvement Project. This is one area where an entrance sign could be placed.

> Add art, e.g., sculptures, in our gardens.
Did not happen.

> Establish "water play" areas in park space.
Did not happen

> Install "doggy posts" along the Turner Blvd. Trail (these hold plastic bags for doo-doo clean-up).
Did not happen

> Develop a Master Plan for Dewey Park, north and west side.
Grant request was denied.

> Develop a Strategic Plan for public spaces for artwork and mixed use.
Still a thought, but no action.

> "Brush down" at least one park area this year.
Dewey Park was done on the 33rd St. side.
in June.

> Implement an opt-out plan for the printed newsletter.

Continuing as readers notify the Editor

> Get after the state to clean up highway entrance and exit ramp areas
Did not happen.

Keep in mind the above are items that were identified as beyond our "normal" neighborhood activities. Consequently, it is essential to list some of the things that we DID accomplish in 2011:

+ Had a great Chili Feed in February with an unprecedented tie for first place, Scott Redd and Scott Jones sharing the honors.

+ Established a facebook page for the LNA.
(THANK YOU Scott Redd!)

+ Established the e-mail Crime Alert message system that goes to all our e-mail subscribers.

+ Received another Mayor's grant to aid in the continued efforts of the driving patrol (THANK YOU Mayor Suttle!)

+ Held another neighborhood clean-up in May and filled three packer trucks, recycled scrap metal, appliances, and tires. (THANK YOU volunteers!)

+ Performed a "Sidewalk Sweep" of Leavenworth Street, eliminating the winter build-up of sand and grit. (THANK YOU volunteers and Colorburst Landscape and Design!)

+ Stayed within our operating budget. (THANK YOU to all the businesses, advertisers, and members who provided financial support!)

+ Witnessed the tremendous effort of Urban Village springing into action to redevelop the Park Avenue and Leavenworth area. (THANK YOU Jerry, Scott, and others!)

+ Completed a major phase of the Neighborhood Scan project. (THANK YOU Carol Haas and Bill Kline!)

+ Said goodbye to Wally Huen and Steve Hilmer. May they continue to rest in peace.

+ Held an Ice Cream Social on National Night Out. (THANK YOU John and Lisa Costanzo!)

+ Became part of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce Business District Study of Park Avenue.

+ Saw the construction and dedication of Omaha's second dog park in Hanscom Park.

+ Created the Krin Steps Reading Area in Jackson School, with the help of paint and materials from the Jim Krin Memorial Fund.

+ Continued to maintain five garden areas, including the prominent Community Garden on St. Marys and Leavenworth intersection.

Wow! Are you all ready for 2012??



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Letter from the President....

Thank you to ALL of the volunteers, neighbors and friends, to made 2011 another successful year in this neighborhood. We accomplished a lot, but there is still a lot more we can do. And the rewards? Pride, for one. Can't put a value on that, but it can put a smile on everyone's face. Financial reward? Perhaps, when property values increase because of better looking surroundings. Increased quality of life? I think THAT is a big one, and I am happy to contribute in whatever way I can.

This year we will concentrate more on the actions and needs of the various committees to achieve greater success in making this a wonderful area to live, work, and raise a family. It does take a certain amount of commitment, perhaps an hour or two a month. Maybe more depending on how much physical activity one desires or needs. And a Board of five does not monopolize ALL the ideas. So come on down! See ya' at the meeting.

Jim Thompson



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Neighborhood Center Breakfast

On March 29, 2012, the Neighborhood Center will hold its annual Mayor's Breakfast at the TipTop Ballroom in North Downtown.

The theme for this year's breakfast is "Service Comes in All Forms." The breakfast will be a great opportunity to meet with representatives from other neighborhood associations as well as representatives from various City Departments.

Mark this date on your calendar. Further details will be provided in future newsletters.

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.



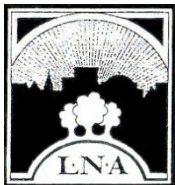
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January 2012

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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.

Our Board Members

- President: Jim Thompson Phone: 402-342-4371
Email: zippijd@aol.com
- Vice-President: Zack Johnson
Email: : znj@mac.com
- Secretary: Nick Mayo
Email: nimayo83@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Jack Henry 402-650-3761
Email: jack.austin.henry@gmail.com
- At Large: Sandy Jochim 402-505-6040, ext. #1
Email: sandy.jochim@uvomaha.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

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E-mail: _____

Family membership: \$10 annually
 Business membership: \$20 annually

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____ 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.