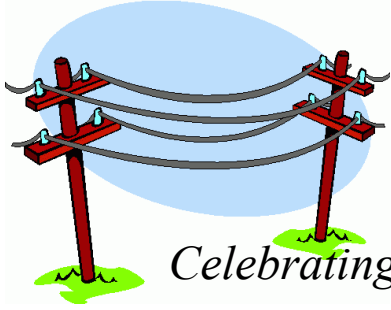


The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE



Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 26
Issue 3



March 2011

Crime Alert - The Need to Communicate

By Jim Thompson

A couple of weeks ago I received an e-mail from a member alerting me about a break-in near 35th and Jones Street. It happened on a Friday night where the burglar climbed on top of a garage and entered the building through a window. There were also a couple of recent vehicle break-ins around this time in other parts of our neighborhood. It was a very simple task to forward this information to our current list of electronic 'subscribers' to the EXCHANGE as an important crime alert.

I would like to take this a step further. The e-mail listing of the newsletter is an historic compilation of neighbors, businesses and others, gathered from a variety of sources. Obviously, there are hundreds of others out there with email addresses that have a need to know what is going on in our neighborhood. I would like to establish a special "Crime Alert" blind copy e-mail listing. It is intended to have a separate list from the newsletter recipients. Of course, this would entail grabbing those e-mail names from neighbors, landlords or business owners.

Use of the list and the identification of those on it would be limited to only a couple of individuals. And of course, it would not be used for solicitation purposes. ALL would be encouraged to forward the alerts to whoever they feel would need it to help broaden the scope of people protecting our neighborhood. With smart phones in the hands of many of our neighbors, feedback on criminal activity could be instantaneous. We just might catch them quicker.

zippiid@aol.com

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY... and we are still having our meeting!!

Leavenworth Street bustles this particular day with a lot of the bars celebrating this Irish tradition. Corned beef and cabbage, green beer, shamrocks all over the place. Walk careful, and if you must drive, *please* have a designated driver. No amount of green beer is worth the problems of the potential for accidents.

The membership meeting is scheduled for 7:00 and the agenda is light. We need to keep the momentum going, especially as we address the many things we would like to accomplish. Top on the agenda is the submission for a Mayor's Grant. The only idea to date is to purchase communication radios for the driving patrol. This is an important tool that can be used in the ongoing effort to battle criminal activity in our area.

With spring upon us, more people will be out and about. This will allow more of us to see those who have hibernated. It will also afford us the opportunity to work in our yards and gardens. Was the winter *really* that long and horrible??



Come to the meeting, THEN go out and celebrate!!!

Reminder! The next LNA meeting will be **March 17, 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!**

Neighborhood Scan Update

By Carol Haas

As has been previously discussed, we will be doing a Neighborhood Scan project in the neighborhood with the assistance of the Omaha Neighborhood Center. The program will help us inventory the condition of housing stock, focusing on land use, environmental conditions and overall housing conditions. The program is being conducted in an effort to take a proactive approach to maintaining home values and the quality of life we enjoy. The initial area to be scanned will be from Interstate 480 to 33rd Street, between Leavenworth and Pacific.

Target dates for the scan project are as follows:

Mid-May	Postcards explaining project mailed to all households within the selected area
Various	Volunteers complete on-line training for use of handheld computers
June 4	Meeting of volunteers and kick-off of scan project
June 4 – June 18	Volunteers complete scan in selected area
June 20	Pocket PC's returned to Neighborhood Center for compilation of data

The Neighborhood Center will assist in preparing and mailing postcards notifying residents of the upcoming scan; participate in scan kick off; compile results of the scan; and assist in notifying homeowners of scan results. Neighborhood Center representatives will also be available to summarize scan results to the general membership at a regular meeting.

When homeowners are notified of scan results, they will be provided with information identifying agencies, etc. that may be helpful in making any needed repairs. Additionally, it is hoped that members of the neighborhood association may be able to assist in making minor repairs.

Chili Cook-off Winners!!



Congratulations to the Scotts!!! No, that doesn't mean the guys from Scotland. The first place winner in the February Chili Cook-off was Scott Redd. His vegetarian concoction was the hit of the evening. It was an extremely close contest though. Scott Jones was the runner-up with his recipe.

Together, there were five entries, and Bill Kline whipped up the spiciest dish for those who like to sweat when they eat. Thank you to all who took the time to feed the crowd. The two winners received LNA t-shirts for their work.

Footnote to the Chili Feed.....

One of midtown's newest restaurants, Casablanca Moroccan Cafe, is located at 3025 Farnam St. next to the Clarinda at the corner of Farnam and Turner Boulevard. Telephone: 402-884-3382.

The owner and head chef, Hamid Tariqui, donated grilled chicken, grilled vegetables, rice, hummus, and bread for the February 2011 LNA meeting.

On the menu you'll find authentic Moroccan appetizers like hummus, zaalouk, chekchouka and tabouli. Entree dishes include falafel, chicken, grilled vegetables, brochette, kefta, shawarma, and burgers. Side items include salads, fries, smashed potatoes, and rice.

There are frequently off menu items available, like lamb, and fava bean spread. Hamid is always happy to customize dishes to suit your particular tastes or dietary restrictions. No matter what you order, Hamid will always make you feel like family and won't let you leave until you are completely satisfied.

You can access their Facebook fan page at:
<http://on.fb.me/casablancacafe>.

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
April 7, 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 In Midtown

By Phil Abraham

Landmark Group's Race 2 re:Cycle is a unique and fun filled cycling event taking place on Saturday, May 14, 2011, at Omaha's Midtown Crossing. Created to build awareness and help make the city of Omaha synonymous with both cycling and recycling, this family friendly event will include the longest tri- state bicycle relay race in the Midwest, a family fun ride, Omaha's only children's tricycle ride, and many more activities for the entire family!

Prizes will be awarded throughout the day for numerous games and contest. To become a corporate sponsor or volunteer, contact Jennifer Russell at jennifer@landmarkomaha.com

Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity.

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



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Your Ad Here.....

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 if 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.

Audit of 2010 Accounts/Records

The audit of the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association was performed on February 8, 2010 by members Laura Green, Bill Kline, and Carol Haas.

Deposits and payments were randomly reviewed as well as all transactions for one month. Appropriate documentation was available to support disbursements and bank statements were reconciled on a reasonably timely basis.

The committee recommended that two uncashed checks (from 2006 and 2008) be written off (completed during the audit). It was noted that not all Board Members are listed as authorized signers on the bank accounts and the committee recommends that they be added as soon as possible. Additionally, the committee suggested that several items be transferred to different ledger accounts to more appropriately record the transactions. In this regard, expenses incurred for refreshments in conjunction with LNA activities should be recorded as membership/social expenses rather than charged to the related activity (Christmas Cheer; Mayor's Grant).

We also recommend that financial statements be prepared and reviewed at each Board Meeting with particular attention to expenditures. Additionally, all Board Members should be aware of IRS requirements for maintaining the LNA 501(c) 3 status.

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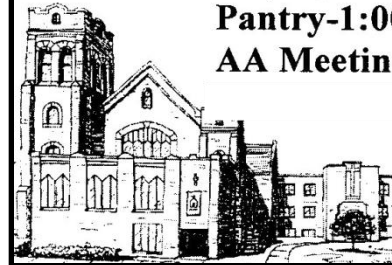
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Worship-Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday School-10:45 am

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

AA Meetings-7:00 pm Mon.



*Building a Neighborhood
for Christ*

Other recommendations follow:

1. If a Board Member is a payee for a disbursement, that member should not be one of the co-signers on the check
2. Checks received by the Treasurer should be deposited on a regular basis; ideally, at least twice a month
3. Board Members signing checks should review the details associated with the disbursements
4. A monthly summary of income and expenses should be printed and made available for review at monthly general meetings as part of the Treasurer's report
5. A report comparing budget to income statement should be completed periodically (perhaps, quarterly) for review by the Board and also the general membership

The committee also suggested that invoices be issued as soon as possible to advertisers in "The Exchange" as advertising income is a primary source of revenue for the LNA.

Records were generally appropriate and adequate with the exception of items noted and recommendations. We recognize the time required to maintain the LNA financial records and appreciate the efforts of Treasurer Zach Johnson.

Laura Green Bill Kline Carol Haas

Audit Report accepted at the General Membership meeting, February 17, 2011.

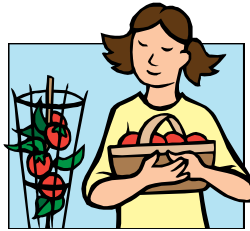
Hands to Harvest Community Vegetable Garden

By Carol Haas

It won't be long before it will be garden time again. The Garden Committee held its first meeting on February 23 and scheduled a work day on March 19 from 1:00 to 3:00 (weather permitting). We will be adding soil to beds as needed, spreading mulch, etc.

If you are interesting in renting a plot this year, please e-mail: handstoharvest@gmail.com or call 402-345-6085. Plot rental will be \$10. We are planning an event in April to assign plots and kick off the gardening season – stay tuned for additional information!

We will soon have a message board installed at the garden that will list upcoming activities.



Letter From the President....

What a great selection of chili at the February meeting!! Thank you to all who contributed. It was a decent night out, but cold enough to appreciate a good bowl, or five, of different chili recipes. The added touch from Casablanca Moroccan Cafe was wonderful. For the price of a membership, this alone was worth the \$10.

Thank you to all who chose to participate in our various committees. Laura Green and Janelle Domeyer have agreed to Co-Chair the Membership Social Committee. This means they will be asking for your dues. And the dues from your neighbors. The money really does go a looong way in helping out the efforts of the association. More importantly, the involvement of the neighbors in our causes helps tremendously. Please remember that you do not have to own property to belong. We are NOT a homeowners association, but a group of neighbors. I encourage ALL landlords to join, along with their tenants. No one person can accomplish this sense of pride that has built up over the years. We need the help of all those living, and for that matter working, in the neighborhood.

Katie Hulstein and Carol Haas will be Co-Chairing the Jackson School Committee. By the way, I think we have over \$400 in the Jim Krin Fund for the school!!

I do not know if we have an official Chairperson of the Garden Committee, but I think Carol Haas has been chosen. All green thumbs are welcome to join in however. Word on the street is that our long time volunteer, Fred Nielsen, may be having difficulty in his activities this year. Help is definitely needed at the Community Garden on Leavenworth & St. Mary's. Many, many years have been invested in making this a showcase for those commuting down Leavenworth Street. Fred has done a superb job and it has been a joy to be able to have this space available for the guy to keep his livelihood intact. But he needs help and anything anyone can do will be appreciated.

Spring is about here. Time to pick up all that litter that has been hidden by the snow, including those unsightly Wednesday newspaper ads that keep getting thrown towards our yards. Who IS doing that?? And when you plan for your flowers, remember the marigold is the LNA official flower!!

Jim Thompson



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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.

March 6, 13, 20 Spiritual Poetry: The search for God has inspired poets throughout the ages. In these sessions, our pastor, Rev. Dr. Scott Jones, will explore some of his favorite spiritual poetry.

April 3rd: Social Media is changing our lives: An intergenerational discussion between teens, young adults, and older generational on how they use social media and what to be careful of.

April 10th: The Status of Education in Omaha: The Learning Community was formed in 2008 – where does it stand now and what has been accomplished? Led by *Jack Heidel*, Learning Community Representative.

April 17th: The Status of Education in Omaha: The Omaha Public Schools faces many challenges as it strives to offer equal educational opportunities to all students. How's it going? Led by *Marian Fey*, OPS Board Member



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Congratulations!

The Omaha World Herald recently named Lauren Ruhe Advertising Sales Assistant of the Year. Way to go, Lauren!

Another Midtown Crossing Adventure....

By Jim Thompson

It's Friday night, my wife gets off of work and tells me I'm taking her out for some drinks and food. Ok, how about **Crave**? Sure, they have Happy Hour going on.

Yum, yum, yum. The Mojitos were wonderful. The Lucky Bucket beer on tap hit the spot. And of course we had to try their Happy Hour food specials. Being from Minnesota, we were reluctant to try the walleye since we were NOT in Minnesota. I don't know how they did it, but the tempura walleye fingers were exquisite. Fresh, meaty, wonderfully prepared. The combination with jalapeno aioli instead of tartar sauce was fantastic. The Korean chicken nuggets were next. Yum, yum, yum. Tempura battered with sweet and spicy meso. Of course to balance the meaty diet we tried the edamame. Quite enough for both of us.

The truffle fries with hollandaise sauce were out of this world. A great match with Lucky Bucket.

Great food, good atmosphere, smiley and friendly staff.....welcome to the neighborhood **Crave!!!**

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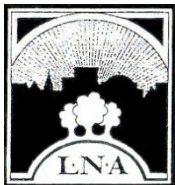
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March 2011

It's March....GREEN UP!!!

"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: _____

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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.