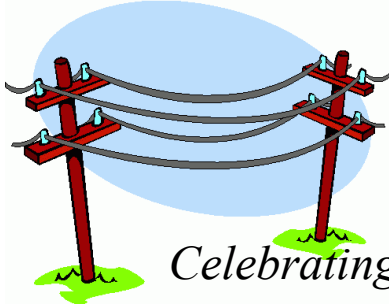


The

LEAVENWORTH

EXCHANGE



Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 25
Issue 2



February 2010

Letter from the President

I don't think I have seen a groundhog in our neighborhood. I have seen plenty of stray cats, lots of squirrels, even a woodchuck roaming my alley. Unfortunately, I was out of town on February 2 so I don't know if any thing saw their shadow on that day. And would an LNA woodchuck count as a substitute for Punxsutawney Phil? But the thought of six more weeks of winter is driving me nuts. How many of you really cannot wait to go out and do yard work? I look forward to sweeping up the sand in the driveway, sidewalks and of course, all the indoor rooms. And sure enough, I get a letter reminding the LNA that the city-wide clean-up is coming in April and May. Sounds like a good plan. Get ready. Kids, get ready to make rivers and dams in the gutters as the snow and ice melt.

The January meeting was very productive and I feel we are getting off to a good start. The goals have been established and the budget has been set. As everyone knows, this organization can only be successful based on the effort of all of us volunteers. In addition to family, work and other commitments, it is rewarding when I see so many chip in to help the overall goal of making this neighborhood a comfortable and safe place to live. These rewards are sometimes immediate but other times long lasting as I interact with other organizations and hear about all the good things the LNA has accomplished. I recently had to update our entries into the city's neighborhood directory and one of the items was "Examples of past community accomplishments". I simply and truthfully entered "too numerous to mention". And if this sounds like bragging, it might be. But sincerely, in looking at the last 25 years there really are too many to mention. And we are not done yet. People come and go. Challenges continue to face the neighborhood in a lot of ways. But the time and energy we invest to make it all better is worth it. This is OUR neighborhood and if nothing else, I have found that together we can make a positive difference.

Join us at the meeting, coffee shop, local watering hole, or leaning over the fence as we talk about how much snow used to be on the ground below us. *Jim Thompson*

Chili Feed!!

Be sure and come to the meeting in February and either bring your crock of favorite, home-made chili or a hearty appetite. This event is always a favorite and results in some very interesting combinations of an old wintery stand-by food. Judging will be made on the best chili with a gift certificate awarded to the winner!!! If you enter the contest, please bring your own ladle or serving spoon as the VFW does not have a supply. Plates and accessories will be provided and beverages will be available to purchase upstairs. YUM!!

LNA Goals for 2010

Please note in the minutes of January's general membership meeting inside this issue that the membership established some important goals for the group. Of course, these are not all inclusive as we realize additional items will crop up during the year. Bring your ideas to the meeting or contact any Board member to express your concern or ideas.

Reminder! The next LNA meeting will be February 18, 2010, 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!**

Leavenworth Neighborhood Association (LNA) Regular Meeting January 21, 2010

7:05 Jim Thompson opened the meeting. Board members-Anne Meysenburg, John Costanzo and Ruth Spurgin present. Neighbor introductions made. (22 neighbors present)

Reports:

Treasurer

(Laura Green)- Laura read bank account. It was mentioned that Jeff Shannon received a \$250.00 check from ConAgra's, Dollars for Doers project for the time he spent on the LNA board.

(Jim Thompson)-talked about the need to write off accounts receivable for ads in the Leavenworth Exchange. The previous year, we collected 80% of the ads but it should be 100%. Notices have been sent out to non-paid accounts. A motion was made to write off past accounts receivable. The motion was seconded and passed.

(Jim Thompson)-Volunteers were request to do the annual audit, Carol Haas, Scott Hennarty and Wyatt Spurgin volunteered.

Secretaries Report

Printed report was read individually, a motion was made to except the report, was seconded and carried.

Mid-town Association Report

(Steve Cross)-MNA will hold their open house in March or April, date to be announced.

Jackson Academy Report

(Carol Haas)-Christmas Cheer raised \$2135.00 in donations. 290 children from Jackson school participated. Next year we are planning to put baskets together in the evening so more LNA members will have a chance to participate.

Social Committee

(John Costanzo)-Next month at the regular membership meeting will be the annual LNA Chili Cook-off. Anyone interested should bring their chili in a crock pot or cooker. Pop, bowls, utensils, napkins, cheese and crackers will be supplied.

Membership/Branding Committee

(Laura Green)-At present we have 21 paid families and 1 paid business.

((Zach Johnson)-Discussed the need to send out renewal letters to families and businesses that have been past members. We should think about a

(continued on page 3)

LNA Events Calendar

Every Monday and Wednesday: LNA Walking Club, 9 a.m.. North Entrance of Jackson Elementary. Call Irene Perez for information at 541-6374.

Every Thursday: Yoga Classes

First Lutheran Church,
542 S. 31st St.

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

All fitness levels welcome.

Audit Report

By Carol Haas

An audit of the LNA accounts and records was conducted on January 28, 2010 by Wyatt Spurgin, Scott Hennarty, and Carol Haas. Spot evaluations of monthly bank statements and reconciliations were performed and account activity for the year was reviewed with no discrepancies noted. Documentation was adequate, payments were issued promptly, and debits and credits were posted to appropriate accounts. Bank signature cards will be updated to reflect the current board in the near future.

The audit committee suggests that the Board develop a formal retention period for financial records.

On behalf of the LNA, we would like thank Laura Green for the many years she has served as Treasurer of the LNA. We appreciate her commitment and efforts in maintaining accurate and complete records for our organization.

Information for Contributors

To contribute to *the Exchange*, please contact

Ruth Spurgin at peekatchyoo@aol.com.

Or

Jim Thompson at zippijd@aol.com

Deadline for the March issue is

March 4, 2010.

Content submitted may be edited as needed.

Want to receive The Exchange by e-mail?

Simply send an email message to peekatchyoo@aol.com or 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.

Restore Omaha Conference

Local opportunity to give right kind of advice for maintaining older homes. Older homes, like those in Midtown, need a special kind of love. Built with meticulous attention to detail by genuine craftsman, they've stood the test of time for generations. But without the right kind of maintenance, they can quickly fall into disrepair.

Timed perfectly with the neighborhood revitalization efforts happening across the area, the fifth annual Restore Omaha Conference was created to make sure owners have the knowledge and tools to make the right decisions about maintaining their historic homes. Taking place March 5 - 6 at the South Omaha campus of Metropolitan Community College, Restore Omaha provides a wide-range of learning opportunities to promote the practice of historic restoration to the public and professionals. Their focus is on mid-20th century and older homes and business properties.

Conference co-organizer Martin Janousek, an associate at the LEO A DALY architectural firm, bills Restore Omaha as a gathering of like-minded individuals who share an appreciation for older homes and a desire to properly maintain them.

"This isn't a home show. We aren't trying to sell hot tubs. It's really a one-stop shop for information on historical preservation," he said. "We have so many great neighborhoods with great homes. This conference gives people a chance to get together, share stories about home improvement and leave with great ideas."

On Saturday, March 6, sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the campus' Industrial Training Center. Concurrent sessions are scheduled on a variety of topics, including stained glass restoration, historic gardening, window reglazing, hiring a contractor and much more. "Our hope is that people walk away from this conference with a new appreciation for the beauty of their home and a desire to make it better," Janousek added.

For more conference and registration information, go to www.restoreomaha.com.

January Minutes (continued)

branding exercise to create an overall vision for the LNA brand.

Old Business:

(Laura Green)-A new website agreement has been signed. Our old package has been downsized to better fit our needs. Our domain name has been paid for use for ten years. \$267.68 was paid for the Hosting fee for the next three years. Carol Haas has volunteer to work on the website

New Business:

(Jim Thompson)-Goals for 2010 were read, and a lively discussion followed. It was discussed that individual committee goals should be discussed next month over a bowl of chili. A motion was made to except the 8 following, broad goals for the LNA for 2010: 1. Increase Membership (family to 150 and business to 50), 2. Collect EXCHANGE advertising revenue, 3. Apply for a garden grant, 4. Increase the size of the stairwell wall, 5. Create a new public mural, 6. Obliterate graffiti on all utility boxes, 7. Encourage Metro Area Transit to maintain bus stops, 8. Conduct another brush down at Dewey Park. Motion was seconded and passed. (Jim Thompson) read the budget as proposed by the LNA board. Another lively discussion followed. A motion was made to except the budget as follows: Garden-\$500, Membership-\$200, Clean-up-\$225, Newsletter-\$1500, Christmas Cheer-\$250, Branding-\$750, and Miscellaneous-\$330. The total Budget for 2010 is \$3755.00. Budget was approved.

Special Election-to fill the vacancy created by Jeff Shannon's resignation. Zach Johnson was nominated. No other nominations were made. Zach was elected by acclamation.

Special Guests Introduced

-Omaha Police Officers pass around pictures of several individuals being sought for questioning in neighborhood crimes. Cars parked in no parking areas can be called into 911 or the Mayor's Hotline.

Brian Henkel, from the Ford Birth Site Neighborhood Association talked about the opportunity to create a Neighborhood garden on 30th and 31st street just south of Pacific Street. Anyone interested can attend the FBSNA meeting next Tuesday, 1/26/10, 7pm here at the VFW meeting hall.

Other topics mentioned by Jim Thompson-Walgreen's liquor license; Snow Removal ideas: A motion was made and seconded to submit our suggestions for snow removal in our midtown neighborhood to the Mayor's office; Destination Midtown's 2010 Strategic plan.

8:35 Motion to adjourn was made. The motion was seconded and carried.

Fire on 30th Avenue
 By Lisa Chudomelka

An unfortunate fire occurred on our block on January 19 of this year. It was reported shortly after 6 p.m. and firefighters were on the scene until about midnight. The building is now yellow-tagged and MUD has come and not just shut off, but disconnected gas service, in preparation for the building's demolition.

This is an old house that the owners were in the process of renovating.

Anna Chudomelka took this picture.



Tax Tip

Brought to you by Ruth Spurgin

If you are a working parent or were working and are now looking for a job, you may be able to claim a credit for your child care expense. The credit maybe as much as \$1050 for the expenses for one qualifying child or \$2,100 for more than one child, depending on your adjusted gross income.

Check with your tax consultant for details.

Final Budget Approved!

At the general membership meeting in January the draft budget was worked on and numbers were thrown out, revised, and finally agreed upon. Keep in mind that as the year progresses, there will undoubtedly be instances where ideas come forth and additional expenditures will be acted upon. Here are the working numbers that voted on:

2010 LNA Budget

Garden	\$500
Membership/Social	\$200
Chili Feed	\$50
Picnic	\$150
Clean up	\$225
Newsletter	\$1500
Christmas Cheer	\$250
Miscellaneous	\$330
Promotion (LNA Branding And member recruitment)	\$750
 Total 2010 Budget	 \$3755

Midtown Crossing Update

[Ed. Note: this information is gathered from various sources and final determination on what the actually outcome may be will have to be verified when visiting Midtown Crossing!]

Parliament Pub Midtown. This will be an upscale bar with a British theme. Currently, there is a location in the Shops at Legacy on 168th and Center. No food will be served.

Delice European Bakery and Cafe. Formally in the Old Market, this bakery will offer delightful treats as you sit outside enjoying the view.

Cantina Laredo. With 29 locations in eight states from Florida to Arizona, Cantina Laredo offers gourmet Mexican food in a sophisticated atmosphere.

Advertising Rates

You have noticed on page 4 of this issue that we have a healthy expenditure for the printing and mailing of the EXCHANGE. The only way we can support this is through the generous assistance of our neighborhood businesses and organizations. Some of these folks support us all year long and to that, we give a hearty salute! As you frequent these businesses, be sure and thank them accordingly. Also, if you have a need to spread the word about your own business, whether it is an at-home venture or even an upcoming yard sale, please let us know. Or if you want to reach a significant portion of midtown residents and business to promote your campaign, please drop any Board member a note!

	Per Issue	Quarterly*	Annually**
Business Card Size.....	\$10		\$120
1/4 Page	\$35	\$70	\$210
1/2 Page	\$60	\$120	\$360
Full Page	\$110	\$220	\$660

*If purchasing two months, get the third month free.

** If purchasing 3 quarters, get the fourth quarter free.

Snow Removal Suggestions for Midtown Omaha

At the general membership meeting in January the important issue of what to do with all the snow and how to get rid of it was discussed. Alternatives were discussed, even shipping some off to the winter Olympics. However, on the practical side, the general membership concluded that the following will be communicate to Mayor Suttle as the best way to address the needs in this midtown area:

- + Declare a snow emergency immediately.
- + Remove all abandoned cars.
- + Declare an even street/odd street or north/south snow plowing technique.
- + Enforce the sidewalk law.

General Membership Meeting February 18, 2010 Tentative Agenda

- Introductions
- Treasurer's Report
- Secretary's Report
- Old Business
 - o Audit Report
 - o Other
- Chili Feed!
- Committee Reports
 - o Grant Report
 - o Other Committees
- Other New Business
- Announcements
- Adjourn

Introducing Treasurer Johnson...

Zach was elected at the last membership meeting to replace outgoing Treasurer Shannon. The Johnson's have lived in the LNA for over 5 years but grew up in Field Club. You will often see his brown dog "Tucker" leading him around the 'hood. Zach is married to former Board member Nicki and they have three youngsters. Zach is a practicing Sagittarius. His favorite ice cream is Ben & Jerry's mint chip.

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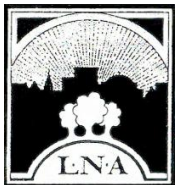
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Celebrating together as friends and neighbors



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.

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
 Email: costanzoj@cox.net
 Treasurer: Zach Johnson
 Email: znj@mac.com
 At Large: Ruth Spurgin Phone: 960-7817
 Email: peekatchyoo@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

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Family membership: \$10 annually
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____ 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.