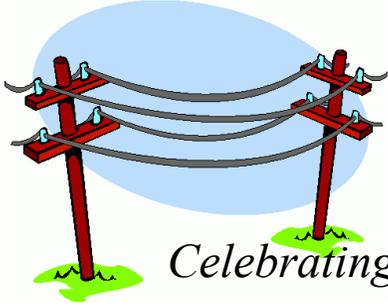


The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE



Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 29
Issue 2



February 2014

Presidents Letter.....

February is such an odd time of year. One is expected to have thoughts of roses, chocolates, and cards while driving on frozen rutted roads with dirty salt covered cars. The month of *love* is bullied by the tyranny of winter. The white snow a few months ago has lost its innocence and purity as the winter season has trudged upon it to leave imprints of burdensome thoughts. Yet amongst all the heaviness of winter's breath, love is expected to be dazzled and swooned from within the heart.

It seems cruel to ask that a display of love be brought to its peek when our surroundings seem to want nothing to do with showcasing the main event. But, perhaps that is the very thing we need to survive the emptiness of winter. To be called out and challenged to rise above the circumstances, to make a decision to happen to life rather letting life happen to us. After all, isn't that what love is? A decision, a decision to move forward regardless of what life has given us.

It is love, not as feelings of butterflies in the stomach, but as a decision to permeate the darkness around us that I hope flows throughout our neighborhood. Though we may not always feel like it, or our circumstances foster the thought of it, I hope that we can let the challenge of love influence our decisions for the betterment of our neighbors. So whether you are eating chocolates or cursing the snow let it be a reminder of the calling to decide to love thy neighbor.

Nick Mayo

Chili Cook-off Contest!!



It has become an LNA tradition to feed the members with a toasty bowl of chili at the General Membership Meeting in February. But this is not just an ordinary bowl. Each member has an opportunity to share their special concoction from recipes they inherited, garnered from the internet, or just plain made up from emptying the contents of the cupboard.

Not only is this a chance to feed your belly, but it is also a good opportunity to get to know your neighbors.

After multiple samples by all the members, judging occurs and the winner gets some bragging rights and a prize! Perhaps the winner may reveal the best recipe for the next newsletter.

Bring your crock pot on down for the annual cook-off. 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!!



Reminder! The next LNA meeting will be **February 20, 2014, 7:00 PM** at the VFW at **3302 Leavenworth St.**

Distribution of the EXCHANGE

At the General Membership meeting in January it was voted on to distribute the monthly newsletter electronically. We realize there are a number of recipients that either do not have regular computer access nor want to receive the email version. In those situations we will mail a copy using first class postage.

And we realize the actual mailing list needs to be verified to assure those who receive the newsletter still desire it. Of course all members of the LNA will receive it and we encourage the method to be electronic.

And we realize there will need to be a phasing in of this change. May is the target month to transmit the newsletter. This means that email addresses need to be provided to the editor. **It is our policy that this email list will NOT be shared with outsiders, nor used for political purposes.**

Considering the need to have copies available for distribution to potential members, it has been suggested that a quantity of the newsletter be placed at strategic locations within the LNA. Details on this suggestion will be discussed at the next meeting.

There has already been some positive response from the column presented last month on this issue. But not a whole lot. Does that mean the recipients don't really care? Or even read the newsletter?? Does it end up in a pile of junk mail before being discarded?

The method of communication has changed dramatically since Vol. 1, No. 1 was first printed on colored paper, stapled together, and handed out door-to-door. Electronic transmission is the logical direction we feel is necessary. However, we respect the desire of those wanting to sit down with the document in hand and will work that into the process.

Cost has become a significant factor considering the printing and mailing of the newsletter. Again, we need to verify and update our distribution list. And if there are two or more persons in the household or business that you want on the email list let us know. Or remember to forward it to whoever you want to. Let Jim know at: zippijd@aol.com

2014 Budget Approved

Newsletter (includes printing, postage expense, labels, etc.) \$ 2000.00

Garden (includes flowers, rental of equipment, fertilizer, water, etc.)\$ 600.00

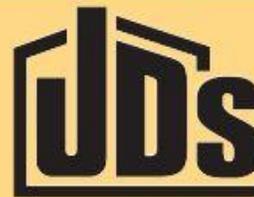
Membership/Social (includes promotional mailings, stamps, items for events, etc.)

\$ 1230.00

Misc. \$ 200.00

Total: \$ 4030.00

There are and will continue to be multiple grant opportunities to accomplish projects that cannot be done within the budget. The LNA, being a 501(c)(3) organization, is fortunate to qualify for many of these. We have been extremely successful in receiving dollars over the years to take on special projects. Grant writing and carrying out these projects take some time and energy. Volunteers are needed.



Jim Thompson

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LNA Master Plan

By Jim Thompson

Last year we changed our normal, yearly goal setting with the idea of a Master Plan. At the beginning of the year we developed a list of things that will continue to help this neighborhood improve.

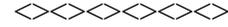
You have undoubtedly chosen to live or work in this part of town for a reason. The area covered by the Leavenworth Neighborhood has not changed geographically, but grown substantially as to what it has to offer. It is only getting better. And having witnessed these changes over decades, one thing comes to mind for the involvement of a group like ours: PRIDE.

There have been quite a number of projects carried out by this group since the inception back in 1984. As a totally volunteer group, thirty years and thriving, we can look back and be proud of those accomplishments. And look forward to what we, as volunteers, can further accomplish. We have five gardens that are the most visible to people driving by. We have Christmas Cheer for an example of intangible. What else can we do?

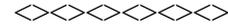
The limits are left to the imagination and energy level of each of us. We enjoy a well seasoned structure of the LNA with many resources at our fingertips. Please come to the meetings and give us a wave as to what you would like to generate for another level of pride. It will feel good.

QUICK SNIPS.....

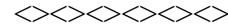
When the snow melts the "winter litter" will quickly appear. Take the extra bit of effort to pick up the old flyers, fast food wrappers, etc., that have been hibernating under the snow. Easy to do.



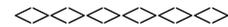
It appears the alley between Dewey/Harney, 34th to 35th has been peppered with graffiti. Do the parents of these vandals know what their kids are up to? The cold does not appear to be a deterrent. When you see the graffiti, do not be shy nor assume others have reported it. Call 402-444-5555. Of course if you see these kids in action call 911.



Neighborhood watching.....or being Gladys Kravitz. For you youngsters out there, you will have to google the name. For those who remember the show, Mrs. Kravitz was always looking out her window, wondering what the neighbors were doing. Was this the beginning of Neighborhood Watch??



What do you think about Frisbee or disc golf along Turner Boulevard? Can we stretch 18 holes from Turner Park to Hanscom Park? How would THAT make your stroll down the trail more enjoyable!??



There is a coalition to address "smoke free parks" that is hoping to eliminate tobacco products from these public spaces. I think we all know the dangers of smoking and tobacco use. But should they ban these products from parks?



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Leavenworth Kid's Corner

By *Kassandra Mayo* at *agapemayo@gmail.com*

This month we will be highlighting some tips from Allison McDonald. If you have any contributions for this column please send them to me!!

Encouraging Storytelling With Family Photos

Encouraging children to tell stories can be as simple as saying, "Tell me a story!" to a natural storyteller. But to a child who is apprehensive, this can be truly frightening. His mind goes blank, and he has no idea where to start!

Working on literacy with your kids at home shouldn't cause them stress. One tool I think is universally awesome when it comes to storytelling is a family photo album. Who says that storytelling has to only be fiction?

Here are some ways you can use family photos to encourage storytelling:

1. Flip through pictures with your child and take turns telling stories about what you see. My 3-year-old loves hearing about her birth, and my 6-year-old likes to recount a story about the night when our car broke down. It's OK if they want to tell the same one over and over -- just keep offering new ones with new pictures worked in from time to time.
2. Print out some pictures from a fun occasion -- like a birthday party, family vacation, or holiday -- and ask your child to put them in order of events.
3. Print out or show your child a picture of an event from your childhood or life before she was born, and ask her to make up a story using clues in the picture.
4. Tell a life story in 10 pictures or less. Print out a number of pictures and have your child pick 10 or fewer to put in chronological order to tell the story of his life. Include all the major milestones and some fun little details too. It's always fascinating to see what events kids choose to include. More than once, a birth of a sibling has been completely ignored! After putting the life story together, have your child tell you the story picture by picture.

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OWH weekly advertising circulars...

By Carol Haas

Recently, neighbors have been posting on the "Nextdoor" site how annoyed they are with the weekly Omaha World Herald advertising circulars that end up littering the sidewalks, gutters, and yards throughout our neighborhoods. Apparently, you can "unsubscribe" to these ads by contacting the OWH circulation department at 402-444-1482. But some neighbors say that makes no difference. Most people don't bother to pick the circulars up out of their driveways and yards – which just makes for trash everywhere! I understand that the fliers are important to some people; however, there should be a way to limit distribution to only those who want to receive them.

An active member of an adjacent neighborhood association contacted the OWH circulation department, the Mayor's hotline, and Councilman Chris Jerram. She also requested that the OWH send someone out to clean up the mess. Councilman Jerram had been noticing the large number of circulars during his regular jogs and indicated several council members had commented that their constituents were also complaining. Consequently, Chris is working on an ordinance to prohibit distribution of the circulars. He asks that we keep an eye on the City Council agendas to our voices can be heard when the proposal comes before the Council for public hearing.

Thanks to Councilman Jerram and our great neighbor to the east for bringing the problem to the forefront.



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2014 Restore Omaha Conference Aims to Educate and Motivate Attendees to Restore Older Properties

Where can you get ideas on how to make compatible additions and renovations to an older home? How do you repair an old window to make it more energy efficient? Where can you tour and hear about restoration projects happening now in Omaha?

At the ninth annual Restore Omaha Conference, Saturday, March 1, at Metropolitan Community College's South Campus, 27th and Q Streets.

This year's conference opens with a reception from 7 to 10 PM on Friday, Feb. 28 sponsored by Lund-Ross Constructors featuring "Sneak Peek" tours of the KETV restoration of their new home at The Burlington Station. Participants will meet for drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the nearby Durham Museum.

Saturday's conference runs from 8 to 5 PM. Bernice Radle, a young preservationist who is saving homes from demolition, will open the conference. Keynote lecture sponsored by AIA Omaha features Gordon Bock, editor of Old-House Journal. Attendees choose from three educational sessions, live demonstrations, and a host of exhibitors. Lunch will be provided.

Eighteen breakout sessions will happen throughout the day ranging from historic paint colors, recreating historic landscapes, remodeling kitchens in historic homes to the restoration of the Rose Theater and the Burlington Station.

It all ends with the Restore Jam, where all attendees are invited to share before-and-after photos of their own restoration project. Cost to attend both the reception and conference is \$60 (\$40 for conference only, \$25 reception only). Restoration Exchange members receive a discount.

For more information and to register, visit www.restoreomaha.org or call (402) 679-5854. To see a short video from last year's conference visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYHuAyt31A>.



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Mutual of Omaha Expansion

By Jim Thompson

A recent article in the Omaha World Herald identified some of the expansion plans of Mutual of Omaha. Popularly known as Midtown Crossing, these plans have included the purchasing and demolition of various buildings. The ugly white, non-descript building that formerly housed PSI is now dirt. The North Twin Tower has been razed. And there are a number of other structures on Farnam that are clearly part of a master plan from Mutual. In my opinion it is all very exciting and a welcome change.

Some of these structures have served their purpose. Some have been dormant or have seen multiple tenants over the years. The area behind Runza has been nothing but a weed cropping scalp of asphalt for the over 30 years I have lived here. Perhaps some of structures can be incorporated into the long range plans that continue to be drawn.

Times change and I feel fortunate to have a corporate neighbor willing to continue to dress up the landscape and institute a functional plan for this area.

The Clarinda and Paige condo buildings have also been recently highlighted in the paper. These structures have seen better times but the preservationists in Omaha see value in their appearance. Our neighborhood association has not taken an official position on whether these structures should be spared.

Renovation of old properties to make them livable can be good. This process has been applied successfully to many of the structures in the City, especially the Park Avenue/Leavenworth Street area. Unfortunately these two buildings seem to have reached the limit on economical renovation. The Page, in particular, has been boarded up for decades. Perhaps the architectural style from these two buildings should be copied for the new elementary school in the Gifford Park area! Of course make the interior functional for today's educational needs.

There will be many coffee shop discussions on the fate of this corner and I encourage that healthy dialogue. Suffice it to say that the brick and mortar that make up the buildings we live and work in will always be changing. Let us all hope that the human element within continues to grow in a positive direction.

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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: Nick Mayo 402-216-1502
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