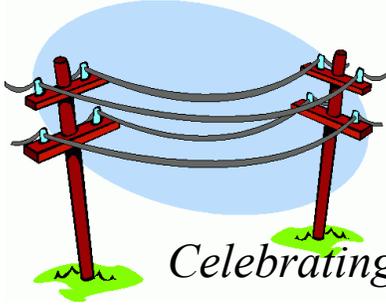


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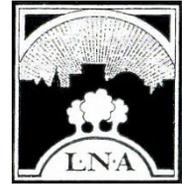
LEAVENWORTH

EXCHANGE



Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 29
Issue 3



March 2014

Presidents Letter.....

The Leavenworth Neighborhood is in a season of change. There are lots of new projects being built, plans being made, and people taking interest in our community. Some love that new things are being done in hopes of making the community better, while others are concerned identity will be lost and some who cannot afford the newer living standards may be displaced. Because both viewpoints carry their worth, I have noticed an increasing divide beginning to develop in the community.

It is this division that has me most concerned. I believe kindhearted people with good intentions stand on both sides of the argument. It is the misunderstandings and words not spoken that end up twisting the situation and causing ill will between both sides. I am one to believe that a house divided amongst itself cannot stand. Which is why I believe the LNA is one of the greatest assets our neighborhood has.

It is my hope that the LNA can restore unity in the good hearts of her community by offering a safe place where all voices big or small, loud or quiet can be heard and understood. I hope that if you feel alone, misunderstood, or unsure about something going on in our neighborhood, please know that you will always be welcomed amongst the good hearted neighbors of the LNA. We are here for each other and together we can come up with solutions that unify our community.

Nick Mayo

Color It Clean - 2014

By Jim Thompson

The snow is about gone. The dead branches, leaves and grass are about ready to be attacked with a rake. And the quick change in weather has folks thinking about cleaning the garage, basement or perhaps the attic.

Save those bulky items you find for the upcoming neighborhood clean-up. This year we again have a relatively early date - Saturday, April 12. As it has for the last 25 years or so the City has found it in the budget to fund this worthwhile neighborhood event. It has not only become an event of production while cleaning the alleys and backyards of this diverse neighborhood, but it has become a day of prideful socialization with all of us volunteers.

The assistance of our business partners on providing food and beverages for the crew also makes it healthy as well. No one goes hungry nor thirsty. Thank you in advance you pizza places!

The day always proves to be a workout as vehicle after vehicle line up with their treasures. Last year we filled over two packer trucks and expect more of the same. Don't ask me where this stuff keeps coming from, but I've been witnessing it for about 25 years and it amazes

Cont. on page 3

Reminder! The next LNA meeting will be **March 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 or call 402-342-4371



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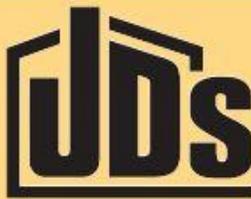
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**Lenten and Easter season is with us.
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Jim Thompson
PRESIDENT
zippijd@aol.com
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Clean Up, continued from page 1

me the amount of trash that can be generated in the neighborhood. Of course, there are always folks from outside the LNA that contribute.

We are again planning on recycling scrap metal and electronics. Do not let the alley scraping thieves steal your metal objects. Call us and we will pick them up. The proceeds help with our garden expense. Please note that if you have a big old computer terminal it will cost you \$10 to recycle it. Tires and appliances will be recycled at other sites on that day and vehicles will be redirected accordingly.

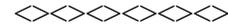
If you are unable to haul stuff to the site, call me at 402-672-0603 to arrange one of our trucks to stop over. Of course we always encourage additional volunteers to participate in this rewarding event. The more the merrier and the more the cleaner the neighborhood becomes. Please help with a few hours, morning or afternoon shift.

This year we will be collecting marketable items for collection by a thrift store. The arrangements allow a percentage to be donated to the Paralyzed Veterans of America. In addition, we will be gathering worn out bicycles for the Community Bike Project on N. 33rd St. They rehab them and they become reusable and provided to neighborhood kids.

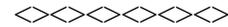
And the celebration of coloring the neighborhood clean concludes with our traditional Bloody Mary meeting at Bud Olson's. If you cannot make it during the day, meet us around 3:00 when the work concludes.

QUICK SNIPS.....

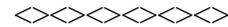
Seen in the vicinity of Mason and 35th, a HUGE bird, likely a hawk or a small eagle. The wing span must have been three feet!! Stood on a light pole and was about 18" high. Nice bit of nature right here in Midtown.



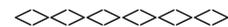
Some of it has been removed, but the alley between Jackson and Jones, 34th to 35th has been peppered with graffiti. Do the parents of these vandals know what their kids are up to? When you see the graffiti, do not be shy nor assume others have reported it. Call **402-444-5555**. Of course if you see these vandals in action call 911.



Share your Writing Skills!!!! To contribute to *The Exchange*, please contact Jim Thompson, zippijd@aol.com. Deadline for each issue is the first Thursday of the month.



Had a **smoked** Reuben sandwich at the Crescent Moon recently. Wow. Unlike the "normal" faire, served in the shadow of the Blackstone where the sandwich was invented, the smoked version was a notch better. Try it.



Seen on youtube, a really nice video created by our own Inflight Productions about the Urban Village developments. Check it out:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfYpvJS2LwU>



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Leavenworth Kid's Corner

By Cassandra Mayo at agapemayo@gmail.com

Spring is a wonderful time to get out and discover the budding world with the kiddos in your life. It's also a chance for families and neighbors to gather and celebrate the warm weather! Check out the following link from spoonfull.com and learn how other countries celebrate spring: <http://spoonful.com/family-fun/spring-around-the-world>



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OWH weekly advertising circulars...

Revisited

By Carol Haas

The dislike for the weekly ads called “Food Express”, delivered to your lawn by the Omaha World Herald, is growing. Neighbors have asked how to stop receiving the paper. Here is the latest information we have. Also we know Councilman Jerram is working a group of concerned citizens and the OWH to resolve the issue long term.

Dennis Cronin is the Circulation Director for the Omaha World Herald. His responsibilities include ensuring accurate, consistent delivery of our Food Express, a weekly publication that contains food related news and advertising inserts from numerous local businesses. Food Express is delivered every Tuesday/Wednesday to residents in Douglas and Sarpy counties. The following information was received from Mr. Cronin.

“Due to some customer feedback, we recently conducted a thorough analysis of our Food Express delivery. The results of that study indicated that our Food Express is a popular publication. Overall, our distribution was meeting the high standards we’ve established for the publication. However, the study also alerted us to some isolated areas where our delivery was not up to these standards, specifically with unwanted deliveries at some addresses. One of the purposes of my email to you today is to let you know we are committed to doing whatever we need to do to fix these isolated instances. Over just the last few weeks we have added staff and contracted with additional delivery personnel and assigned them to the areas we found the delivery issues. We will continue to monitor our progress and implement additional measures as needed.

The other purpose for my email is to ask for your help in getting this message to your neighbors. If they experience any delivery related issue with the Food Express, we want to know about it. If they have attempted to get a Food Express delivery issue addressed in the past and they were not satisfied with the results, we definitely want to hear from them.

If you or any of your neighbors have any delivery issues- and that goes for our Food Express or the World-Herald- please ask them to call Kevin O’Neil, our home delivery manager, at 402-444-1491, or email Kevin.O'Neil@owh.com or myself at 402-444-1482 or email Dennis.Cronin@owh.com.

A representative of the World-Herald will check in periodically to see how we’re doing in your neighborhood. In the meantime, if you or your neighbors have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time.”

At the March 6, SONA meeting there was extensive discussion of this issue including comments from a neighborhood representative who is working with Councilman Jerram on this issue. The SONA group was very interested in a possible “opt-in” option for these weekly ads

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Mutual of Omaha Expansion - Part II of Many Parts....

By Jim Thompson

It seems the discussion of the future of the Clarinda/Page apartment buildings is heating up. In their newsletter the Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association took a position to support keeping these structures above ground. Also, the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance supposedly took a similar stance at the recent meeting of their board. Unfortunately, a missing ingredient in these positions is an analysis of what the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association thinks about the whole deal. After all, these structures are within our neighborhood and no one has asked us what we think. Being a member of the Midtown Alliance, our thoughts on the matter were not solicited, but I am not surprised.

By the time this newsletter hits the presses the Landmarks Preservation Commission will have met and made their recommendation to the Planning Board. Ultimately the City Council will decide the fate. By then, the LNA will have had a meeting to discuss what we feel is best for our neighborhood.

Now, as these things unfold, I feel obligated to lend some neighborhood perspective based on the 30+ years I have witnessed our growth. Simply stated, I am sick and tired of boarded up buildings. Why is it that we, in Midtown, must continue to put up with such eyesores? If there would be an unoccupied building on 132nd Street for example, don't you think it would be taken care of relatively quickly?

I commend the developers who have come to the rescue of many of these structures. Urban Village is a prime example. But these guys can't do EVERY building. In the case of the Clarinda/Page, it has been tried. And failed. Others had them for awhile. Where are they now? The current owners have tried hard and gave them the best from their pocketbook. From the renovations, the Clarinda is cool. People are living there even though the electricity goes out. The Page is a boarded up piece of eye irritant that is past it's time.

Just how long must one wait, looking at what appears to be a "Classic Georgian Revival" style brick building, before boards get removed? Further south on Turner Boulevard is a "Mid-Century", classic, rock stone faced structure that also sits boarded up. Those rocks must be millions of years old and on display.

Of course there are now vagrants living in this building because of open doors. Or maybe they enter through the broken windows. Whatever, that structure has been boarded up for the decade that the Page has been dressed in its ugly make-up. Why do we have to tolerate these messes?

IF a developer wants to come in, clean up the Page, take the ugly boards away and put up nice energy efficient windows, I think we would all welcome that. But the economics of doing that, and providing off street parking as today's residents desire, just don't seem to be there. But at the same time that developer must make the Clarinda whole again. This would also require making those who have a vested interest achieve their economic viability. As a neighbor who merely commutes by now and then, my interest is what my eyes reveal. Plywood windows are NOT pleasing.

When I moved into this neighborhood we had some real problems on Leavenworth and Park Avenue. They are gone, only existing in the depths of discussions at the coffee shop. There were a number of wooden houses that had to be sacrificed to make that particular development what it is today. How many of you remember the cool building on Farnam that housed a ton of antiques? I can still hear the sound of the old floor boards creak as I ventured through the aisles. But now I bring my dog in for a bath at Three Dog Bakery on the same spot. Things change.

North of the Hanscom Apartments on Park Avenue there were dilapidated structures. They are gone and although we now look at fencing, it is an improvement. And I remember driving down 31st to Dodge looking at multiple rectangles of plain office buildings. I think the architects who designed those must have been low bid.

Mutual of Omaha made decisions that were not only good for them, but also put the shot of adrenaline in developing what we have in Midtown. Jazz on the Green and the Summer Concert Series for example have become assets for the entire City. I look forward to seeing the rest of the hodgepodge of structures in my neighborhood morph in which the entire City can receive benefit. Have you seen the plans for the triangle at St. Marys and Leavenworth? Gone will be the blue building, the red building and the old 10-seat Park Ave. Bar. Things change.

Perhaps a new form of architectural style is emerging: "Classic Leavenworth Revival". I like it.



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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: Nick Mayo 402-216-1502
 Email: nimayo83@gmail.com
 Vice-President: Evan Freemyer 712-307-0091
 Email: evabfreemyer@gmail.com
 Secretary: Zack Johnson
 Email: znj@mac.com
 Treasurer: Aaron Onufrock 402-960-0346
 Email: aonufrock@gmail.com
 At Large: Jen Beirola 402-980-5713
 Email: jbeirola@gmail.com

Join us for our monthly meetings -- the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., V.F.W., 3302 Leavenworth St.

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Renewal

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 Mail to LNA, 3031 Leavenworth St, Omaha, NE 68105.
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LNA boundaries: East - 29th St., North - Dodge St.,
 South - Pacific St., West - 36th St.