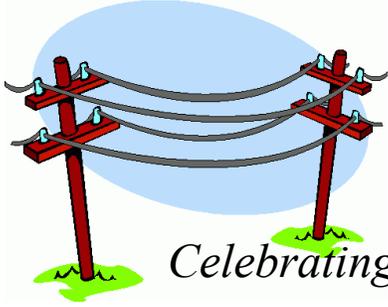


# The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE



*Celebrating together as friends and neighbors*

Volume 29  
Issue 10



October 2014

## President's Letter.....

The branding process is well under way. Over the past few months we have gone door to door asking questions and have had some late night meetings to discuss what we think and what the community thinks the Leavenworth area needs from a neighborhood association. Jackson and West are working on a couple of ideas and in a few weeks we should be moving forward and able to give the membership some concrete visuals of what the branding process is creating. Though we have not accomplished much this year through the master plan, I believe this year has been about collecting ourselves and adapting with changes that are continuing to happen to the Leavenworth area.

Personally, Kassie and I are attending the Citizens' Academy for Omaha's Future. This is a six-week class with fifteen students and is being sponsored by Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Douglas County Health Department, Live Well Omaha, and Mode Shift Omaha. We will be learning how to work with various city organizations, the plans and direction of the City of Omaha, and how to effectively develop and implement projects in our communities.

I hope that, with the combined efforts of learning from the Citizens' Academy and the process we have been going through this past year as a neighborhood association, we will be able to start moving forward in a focused direction and effectively continue to make the Leavenworth Neighborhood a better place to live, work and play.

Please remember that elections will be coming up in November and if you would like to nominate someone please contact one of the board members. Also, if you would like more information about the Citizens' Academy for Omaha's Future, you can click on the following link <http://livewellomaha.org/caof/> We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

*Nick Mayo*

## Board Elections Coming in November

The annual meeting is always held in November, on the 20th this year. At that meeting we will elect two Board members. The terms of Zack Johnson and Jen Beirloa expire. Consequently, we will elect two people to the two-year term.

Zack has stated he is interested in running for re-election. Jen has become too busy with her businesses to continue on our Board and will not seek re-election.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of this dynamic association please let us know. The work can be very rewarding and with any volunteer organization, does take a certain amount of time. Meetings are usually held in the evening.

After elections are held, the current Board members and the elected members convene to determine the officers.

**Reminder!** The next LNA Membership meeting will be **Oct. 16, 2014, 7:00 PM**, at Tin Box, 3502 Leavenworth. Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

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3031 Leavenworth St,  
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### **Our Sympathies.....**

To Chris Foster and family in the passing of his wife, Sallie. The Fosters are from our neighbors to the north, Gifford Park. Chris has been a long time volunteer, past president and community advocate for the area. Sallie was involved in many youth activities around Gifford Park, including the beautiful community garden on Cass St. The Fosters have put in countless hours and resources to make their neighborhood a better place to live.

Sallie was best known for her documentation of the activities within the association through her photography. She worked hard behind the scenes and deeply cared about the neighborhood. May she rest in peace.

### **Pumpkin Carving Contest!!!**

By Cassandra Mayo

In the spirit of Halloween, the Membership Committee would like to host a pumpkin carving contest!

For eligibility, post a picture of YOUR artwork to our Facebook page, complete with the name and age of the artist (if under 21). Please have this done by October 30th. This will give you a chance to win a gift certificate!

The winner will be chosen by LNA President, Nick Mayo, and will be announced and notified on October 31st!!



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

To contribute to *the Exchange*, please contact  
**Jim Thompson, [zippijd@aol.com](mailto:zippijd@aol.com).**

Deadline for each issue is the first Thursday of the month.



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**QUICK SNIPS.....**

Did you know LNA is on **Facebook and Twitter**? Well, we are and it's a wonderful way to keep up to date on neighborhood happenings as well as receive content from our newsletter.

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**Christmas Cheer** is right around the corner! During the month of November, we will be collecting monetary donations to create goodie bags for the children of Jackson Elementary. If you would like to contribute funds or donations, help organize, or would just like more information, please contact Cassandra Mayo at: [agapemayo@gmail.com](mailto:agapemayo@gmail.com)

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Have you heard of the local website called "**NextDoor Leavenworth**"? Nextdoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it's free. Please go to [wwwNextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com) to sign up for the Leavenworth area. This network includes our nearby neighborhood associations such as Field Club and Hanscom Park.

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Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert has named the first members of the Omaha Municipal Land Bank Board of Directors. Congratulations to **Scott Semrad** of Urban Village for his appointment to the Board. The Nebraska Legislature authorized local land banks in 2013, allowing cities to establish land banks to acquire delinquent properties. The Omaha Municipal Land Bank was created by Omaha city ordinance.



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## Leavenworth Kid's Corner

Contributed by Kassandra Mayo [agapemayo@gmail.com](mailto:agapemayo@gmail.com)

October is Fire Safety month, does your family have a "Get Out" plan? If not, check out <http://www.sparky.org/> for kid-friendly activities and ideas.

Halloween is coming and we want to make sure our littlest residents are safe. Check out the following links for more information to share with your little goons and goblins.

[http://www.omaha.com/momaha/blogs/a-guide-on-how-to-stay-safe-this-halloween/article\\_d08cb49e-6004-5327-803b-5b96eee3467f.html](http://www.omaha.com/momaha/blogs/a-guide-on-how-to-stay-safe-this-halloween/article_d08cb49e-6004-5327-803b-5b96eee3467f.html)

<http://www.cityofomaha.org/police/crime-information/prevention/crc-newsletter/153-09-08-halloween-safety-tips-for-kids-a-pet-owners>

<http://www.omaha-fire.org/safety-information/holiday-safety/halloween-safety-tips>

## Junk on the Street and in the Alley

By Jim Thompson

It has always been a pet peeve of mine to see the results of inconsiderate neighbors leaving their used mattresses, chairs, couches, etc. on the curb or next to dumpsters. These people must think that the Garbage Fairy swoops down and eats these things up. I must give a bit of credit to some of these folks who take the energy to stuff a whole couch, on end, into a two cubic yard dumpster. Of course their logic fails when the dump truck cannot empty the darn thing.

And the ingenuity of some individuals who put a "free" note on the old couch on the curb. Cool. Nice price! Sharing. But the day after a rainfall, when do these "free" offers ever get concluded?

So what can be done? Unfortunately we do not employ Garbage Police to catch these idiots. We do have littering laws on the books though, and perhaps the property owners just might get cited. (The number to call is 402-444-5555). And unfortunately we do not have a neighborhood clean-up every week to take care of our neighborhood trash.

Every household consumes furniture to one degree or another. It gets worn out, used, and it's life finally is over. But proper disposal of such items is the responsibility of those who own the items. Need to junk it and don't have a truck? Find a friend who does. Or call one of numerous entrepreneurs who are listed on craigslist, phone book, paper, etc.

Or should the LNA, in keeping with our mission, provide a stipend to our members who have a truck and are willing to haul these things? The cost of dumping a pick-up load at River City Recycling is about \$25.00. Can we put some money in the budget for such??

### Want to receive The Exchange by e-mail?

Simply send an email message to [zippijd@aol.com](mailto: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.



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# "MEET & TREAT"

The Southeast Precinct is having its fifth annual Halloween "MEET & TREAT" on Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 4 - 7 pm at the Southeast precinct at 25th & Vinton.

We are transforming the Southeast precinct into a "Haunted Precinct" and have lots of fun activities for the everyone. There will be music, dancing, kids will get candy from the officers, play games, some will dare to enter the "Haunted Precinct" and parents can pick up some helpful tips about Halloween safety and other safety information.

This is a FREE event where kids have the opportunity to see officers in a fun and friendly environment and we invite you to be part of it. If you would like to help with this event or would like to be part of the planning committee, you can contact me at 402-444-7743 or email [orobles@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:orobles@ci.omaha.ne.us)

These are areas where we need your help:

Donation of candy: we will begin accepting candy at the precinct starting September 30th. Candy can be dropped off at the Southeast precinct (25th & Vinton) Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Set Up and decorating: October 20 - 24th in the evenings. Materials will be provided. We will meet at the Southeast Precinct.

Costume characters: SCARY characters for haunted house: zombies, vampires etc. FRIENDLY characters for the little ones (outside): kid movie characters i.e., Woody from Toys Story, Disney's princesses, Super heroes.

Entertainment: Dancers for the Thriller dance and other Halloween dances.

Volunteers: to handle games, clowns, face painting.

We appreciate all your help with the success of this event. Thanks again for your support.



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## World War I and a Neighborhood Landmark

By Rev. Scott Jones

In recent months much has been made of this year being the centennial of the start of the First World War. I just finished this year's Omaha Reads book, *The Meaning of Names* by Karen Gettert Shoemaker. It is a novel set in north central Nebraska among a German immigrant community as it experiences discrimination during the war and then copes with the deadly influenza virus. I enjoyed the book and recommend it to you.

All this activity drew my thoughts back to the role the First World War played in the history of the First Central Congregational Church, located at 36<sup>th</sup> and Harney. During the war **Rev. Gustave Hulbert** was the pastor of Central Congregational Church, which was then located at 27<sup>th</sup> and St. Mary's Avenue. One of First Central's history books records, "Dr. Hulbert was much influenced by World War I and the effect upon our soldiers overseas. Many letters came to him from boys in the trenches." Then, there is an excerpt from one in which a young man informs Dr. Hulbert that he wasn't much of a Christian before the war, but clearly neither were the churches, otherwise the war never would have occurred. The young man pledges to become a more honest Christian.

"As a result of letters like these, it was Dr. Hulbert's firm belief that unless we of the church shook off our complacency and started something really worthwhile and big, we could not hope to hold the interest of the returning soldiers." What Dr. Hulbert set himself to was building a new church building at 36<sup>th</sup> and Harney. Many of the key leaders of the city doubted that the task could be accomplished, but he pressed on.

About the same time, First Congregational, then located at 19<sup>th</sup> and Davenport, was exploring a move to Dundee, when it was determined that the best thing to do was to "join forces and develop the 36<sup>th</sup> Street property" together. Thus was born First Central Congregational Church in the merger of the two congregations.

And First Central's grand building results from this vision of a renewed Christianity, working to make the world a better place.

## Are You Ready to VOTE??

By Jim Thompson

The election cycle is in full swing. If you have not noticed there are commercials all over the place, and the yard signs will be popping up a lot in the next few weeks. How do any of these elections affect the LNA?

Although the BIG races are not included at this time, there are many that in some way affect everyone of us. Let me correct that - ALL of the races affect us in one way or another. Even though the victor may reside in Washington, D.C., or Lincoln, the actions they take can hit home with everyone.

The LNA cannot take a position on any candidate or issue because of our 501(c)(3) status. But we can encourage everyone to get out there and vote. If you have moved into or out of the neighborhood, be sure and get registered where you live. Voting, however insignificant it may seem, does make a difference to assure the right candidates are put into office.

Election Day is November 4. If you are not familiar with where you vote, or even the candidates or issues on your ballot, contact the Douglas County Election Commission at 402-444-VOTE (8683), or visit the website at [www.votedouglascounty.com](http://www.votedouglascounty.com).

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LEAVENWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
 3031 Leavenworth St.  
 Omaha, NE 68105

*"Celebrating together as  
 friends and neighbors"*



October 2014



## 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: President@LNAOmaha.org  
 Vice-President: Evan Freemyer 712-307-0091  
 Email: Vice-President@LNAOmaha.org  
 Secretary: Aaron Onufrock 402-960-0346  
 Email: Secretary@LNAOmaha.org  
 Treasurer: Zack Johnson Email: Treasurer@LNAOmaha.org  
 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.,

**Website: [www.LNAomaha.org](http://www.LNAomaha.org)**

### Become a Member of the LNA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Family membership: \$15 annually

Business membership: \$25 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.