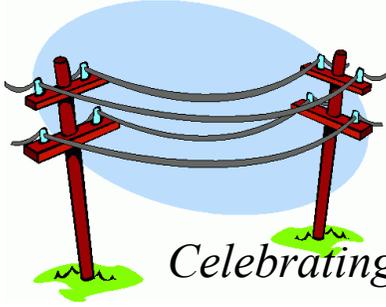


The

# LEAVENWORTH

# EXCHANGE



*Celebrating together as friends and neighbors*

Volume 30  
Issue 1



January 2015

## President's Letter.....

With the coming of each new year, one is inundated with the prospects of things to do and accomplish for the following year. In sorting out which tasks are to take priority over others, I had to evaluate the previous year.

We spent most of last year building something that the community can believe in and be strengthened by. We were creating an image that said we cared about our community and we were relevant to today. In keeping in step to building a neighborhood that is a better place to live, work, and play, it is now time to take the hard work of last year and instill it into the community.

This next year will be based on getting to know our neighbors and our neighbors getting to know us. All projects for the coming year will be passed through the filter of relationship. There will always be plenty of things to do and there will be an appropriate time for those things, but I hope this year will be a year of building relationships.

Please join us at this month's meeting. We will be reviewing the budget for the coming year and discussing ways to build relationships with the families and businesses in our neighborhood.

*Nick Mayo*

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**Reminder!!!!** The next LNA Membership meeting will be **Jan. 15, 2015,**  
7:00 PM, at Tin Box, 3502 Leavenworth.

Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

## Membership Outreach

With a new year comes new opportunities for non-members and members to get together at local businesses and hang out. Starting Wednesday, January 28th, we will meet at Farnam House Brewery at 7:00 for friends and fellowship.

See you there!

## New Board Members Elected!!!

At the November meeting elections were held for the three vacancies on the LNA Board. Two candidates were nominated and subsequently voted in. Congratulations to former Board member John Costanzo and to new Board member Andrew Flater. These two will join the other three who remain on the Board for another year.

After the election the Board recessed to choose the officers:

President: Nick Mayo  
 Vice President: Evan Freemyer  
 Secretary: John Costanzo  
 Treasurer: Andrew Flater  
 At-Large: Aaron Onufrock

Congratulations! And with the help and assistance of **all** the LNA members, we look forward to a productive 2015!

Specific contact information is on the back page of the Exchange. Feel free to contact them with any of your concerns.

## False Alarm or Good Sense??

By Carol Haas

Not what I was expecting early in this new year – My carbon monoxide detector began screaming – so loud I could hear it outside – Yikes! Changing the battery made no difference, so I called my furnace guy who had installed it. He asked if I felt sick or had a headache – which neither the cat nor I did. So he suggested I take the detector to a nearby fire station and they could check it out. So, I went over to 956 South 48<sup>th</sup> Street. The firemen said (as had my furnace man had) that the detectors only last about 5 years and mine was older so it had probably just served its useful life. The firemen also said they would come right away though and check out my house and bring a new detector. They followed me home, checked the house, and installed the new fire/carbon monoxide device. Thanks so much to the crew at Fire Station No. 34. Everything checked out fine – Big sigh of relief! And, there was no charge for the device or installation.

As a reminder – home safety is extremely important. If you think you have a problem, call 911 rather than driving off to a fire station. And, if you don't have a warning device in your home, contact the Fire Department 402 444-3560 or check out this website:

<http://blog.omahaschoolsfoundation.org/osf-wants-to-bring-you-free-smoke-detectors/>. Free smoke/carbon monoxide detectors maybe available to you if you need one.

## How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?



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## Christmas Cheer Update

By Cassandra Mayo

Due to our neighbors and fellow businesses, we raised \$975 for Christmas Cheer! Each student at Jackson Elementary received a bag with 3 books, a hat, gloves or socks, and candies.

The entire school also took part in a rocking performance by "Omaha Street Percussion" which rumor has it, Principal Northcutt was showing off a few moves of her own.

Thank you for giving to this year project!!!! And thank you to all the LNA volunteers who helped sort and pack the "cheer" for delivery to the classrooms. We cannot do these projects without you.

### Information for Contributors or 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.



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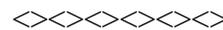
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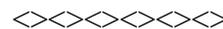
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## QUICK SNIPS.....

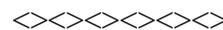
The City of Omaha Planning Department's Housing and Community Development Division has launched [www.inspireomaha.com](http://www.inspireomaha.com), a place for the public to engage, develop and discuss neighborhoods and the city as a whole. Check it out!



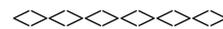
Winter is here. Snow is here. And sidewalks need to be shoveled. If you have a youngster and would like to help him or her in earning some spending money, we feel there are plenty of opportunities in our neighborhood. Please contact any of the Board members (info on last page) and perhaps we can facilitate a connection.



Speaking of snow, we usually see a marked increase in junk cars on the street during the winter time. Oh wait, they are likely there in the summer as well. However, with the obvious fact the vehicles do not move when plows go around them, it is a reminder that these objects need to be moved. If there is a "snowbird" on your street taking up a valuable parking spot, please call the Mayor's Hotline: 402-444-5555.



Have you noticed the development projects springing up in our neighborhood? If not, then you have been too busy taking your normal routes to work. Trek down Park Avenue for example. Swing by 31st and Mason. Soon you will see some action at 31st and Leavenworth/St. Marys. And the HUGE space on 36th to 37th and Jackson is soon to be filled with some sort of improvement. Stay tuned!



Did you notice the masthead on page one? Volume 30!!! Yes, **THIRTY YEARS** for the EXCHANGE!!



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## LNA Master Plan

At the beginning of the year we develop a list of things that will continue to help this neighborhood improve. The following are the items identified:

- > Embellish our gardens with art and/or sculptures.
- > Install "doggy posts" for holding doo-doo clean-up bags along the Turner Boulevard Trail.
- > Establish a Strategic Plan for public spaces for artwork and mixed use.
- > Install "entrance signs" to LNA neighborhood.
- > Perform "Brush Down" efforts in the various parks and green spaces in the neighborhood.
- > Encourage the State Department of Roads to clean-up the I-480 corridor, especially the entrance and exit ramps.
- > Establish a loose litter clean-up for each block in the neighborhood by means of volunteers adopting their block.
- > Re-hang banners on Leavenworth Street.
- > Hang flower baskets on the main streets of the neighborhood.
- > Install additional playground equipment at Leavenworth Park, including a canopy.

This past year went by fast, it seems, and the success of LNA can be measured in a lot of ways. It is important, however, to establish the above plans as ideas to which we can further direct our energy and resources. Please come to the meetings to assist with the cause!!

## More Ideas.....

By Jim Thompson

To the left is the adopted Master Plan that the membership came up with awhile back. In the past we would always set our goals for the year - remove junk cars, hold a spring clean-up, etc. We evolved into the Master Plan as an ongoing document, easily amended, since the normal stuff seems to happen without much change.

As you can see these items can take time, money, phone calls, and in general, some one or a group of two or more to coordinate and get accomplished. It seems the LNA has always had contacts and/or the financial resources to do things. Nice. It substantiates the reason to get involved to make our surroundings a great place to live, work, and play.

The Board and the membership have always allowed those with the will do many positive things for the neighborhood. The Master Plan appears to be ambitious, but it allows an agenda to anyone who desires to pick up the idea and run with it.

So, I would like to add one more item that has been on my mind for some time.

A few years ago the folks at Midtown Crossing in conjunction with the Omaha Parks and Recreation Dept., refurbished the World War I Memorial at the intersection of Turner Blvd. and Farnam. With the help of McGill Restoration, the resultant work turned out fabulous. This memorial is the largest World War I Memorial in Omaha and was financed in the early 1900's by the efforts of the American War Mothers. It is something to be very proud to have in our neighborhood.

The job is not finished however. At one time I saw a picture, not sure where, of the original dedication. On the short square, end columns and on the two larger ones flanking the inscribed stone there were a total of four oval, marble stones. These were likely fastened with a metal rod into the columns as you can still see the original holes where these were mounted. Long lost through time (or perhaps they remain in someone's back yard!), I think it's time to finish the job and get these replaced.

Besides Adrian Monk, anyone with me on this?



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## Tragedy in South Omaha

By Jim Thompson

Twenty-two people jammed into one house! Really? And no smoke detectors?? Two people die. My sympathies to their families. But was this tragedy preventable? It might take some time to figure that one out. As an active member of our neighborhood, and an advocate of following the rules, I wonder just how does this landlord get away with ignoring what needs to be done to assure not only a semblance of a quality life, but to protect life in the first place??!!!

And according to the paper this landlord was collecting \$85 per week, per person, to exist in this firetrap. Do the math. THAT is part of the tragedy. And he was quoted as saying he was not aware the smoke detectors not working. HA!! I bet he was aware of each dollar going into his checking account.

Years ago the LNA was instrumental in being one of the first groups to work to "down zone" areas of the neighborhood. This meant certain structures could not be chopped up into multi-family living units. The benefits are obvious - less density of vehicles on the streets, better quality living spaces, etc. I have to assume that the City has done their homework when confronted with chopped up houses to maintain proper zoning. Usually by exception, variances are discovered.

It was comforting to learn at the IN the Neighborhood Conference that the City is beginning to install new software to better track code violations. Had this been in place for the 22nd street address, would those two poor souls still be alive today? Hard to guess on that one. Suffice it to say that I believe the better tracking and follow-up will get these properties back to normal - whatever that means.

I have traversed our neighborhood for decades and even with that, I do not have inside knowledge of potential chopped up situations. I hope to God we do not have the same situation as the 22nd Street house. But I fear that similar situations may exist, right here in LNA. Do YOU know of a chopped up house with potential problems like 22nd Street? And how can all the drug dealing go on and a subsequent murder happen at 33rd and Howard without ANYONE saying anything?

Please take time to notice, see something, say something, before it's too late.



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## Leavenworth Kid's Corner

Contributed by *Kassandra Mayo agapemayo@gmail.com*

It's a brand new year and it will find most adults making and breaking new year's resolutions. How about the kiddos in your life?

Now is the perfect time to set into motion a new habit - family dinner, talk about their thoughts and dreams, or establish a plan to achieve at least one goal as a family - together. Think about ways to incorporate them in neighborhood projects or ask them what they would like to see done in the neighborhood and come up with ways to see it come to fruition.

Have a wonderful New Year and please let us know what your little ones are planning for the neighborhood!!!

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Have you ever thought of writing something to share with your neighbors in the EXCHANGE?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please see page 3.

Do you share your copy with others?

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## 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. Or add your neighbors and friends too! It's easy.



LEAVENWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
 3031 Leavenworth St.  
 Omaha, NE 68105



*"Celebrating together as  
 friends and neighbors"*

January 2015



## 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: John Costanzo 402-699-0048  
 Email: Secretary@LNAOmaha.org  
 Treasurer: Andrew Flater (515-520-1255) Email: aflater@gmail.com  
 At Large: Aaron Onufrock (402-960-0346)  
 Email: aonufrock@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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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.