

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 31 Issue 8 August 2016



ANNUAL LNA PICNIC THURSDAY, AUGUST 18 5:30 - 7:30 PM DEWEY PARK

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!! BRING A NEIGHBOR, EAT AND BE MERRY!! THE LNA WILL BE PROVIDING HOT DOGS. ATTENDEES ARE ASKED TO BRING A SIDE DISH OR SNACK OF THEIR CHOICE (PLEASE INCLUDE A SERVING UTENSIL IF APPLICABLE).

PLATES, NAPKINS, ETC. WILL BE AVAILABLE.

THIS EVENT IS IN LIEU OF THE REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING. THOSE MEETINGS WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.

SEE YOU THERE!!!!

Defining a Neighborhood

By Jim Thompson

On the pleasant nights we have experienced lately, sitting outside has been one of the pleasures of summer. Of course without the TV blaring or hand held device keeping the head pointed down, the mind wanders. So I've been thinking of how a neighbor behaves and how much of that behavior can define where we live.

Midtown - great location. It is not only a destination, it is our home. Live out west? Your neighborhood is defined by keeping your garage door closed. And for sure hide those boats or RVs. Yes, the grass is well manicured, but don't let the kids play on it!!! The rec room in the basement was built for that purpose. Our neighborhood is truly diverse with countless variety of weeds thriving. It's almost like an urban nature walk.

In our neighborhood it is a nice challenge to guess where the users of those bikes and strollers reside at night. The other day I honked at Rodrigo and kids, who live 8 blocks away, enjoying a walk. I don't think that happens much in the 'burbs.

We seem to have a good sense of activism in our neighborhood. That doesn't mean a lot gets done. But over the decades it sure adds up. Perhaps because of our density and the power in numbers, we have been successful. But the communication within the neighborhood is the key. It is important to let your Mayor or City Councilperson know your thoughts and concern. In the past, we have even had a U.S. Congressman at our meetings! But I believe that getting together, communicating these needs in the perspective of the entire neighborhood is much more effective.

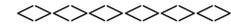
Sure, that means come to the meetings. Or use this document to talk. I am ALWAYS asking for articles. The "Dear EXCHANGE" column lies dormant but could use a reboot. And for that challenge of people walking their kids or riding by your residence, "**Hi**" is **only a two letter word. Easy to say. Nice to hear.** No telling what the follow-on words might produce. Double parking while chatting with a neighbor has become an acceptable practice in Midtown. For the car waiting behind, be patient for just a moment.

Continued on Page 3

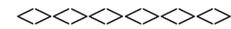
QUICK SNIPS.....

Recycling. It's **O!** so Easy!

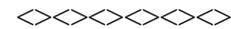
Need a bin? Visit <http://www.OmahaRecycles.com> to find a location to pick up a new or replacement recycling bin.



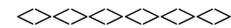
Are you having to pick this newsletter up at one of many drop off locations? It is simple to get on our emailing list. Send your contact info to Jim Thompson at atlarge@LNAOmaha.org to be added to our mailing. If you prefer a hard copy we can add you to that list which we mail with first class postage.



With the onset of meeting at a permanent location, please note that we will NOT change our mailing address. For obvious reasons, there is no mailbox at the Dewey Park Building nor is anyone around to check incoming! We thank the folks at Fashion Cleaners for their long time and continued support in letting us use their address for all official mail.

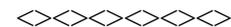


Do you have items you would love to part with and looking for a charitable cause? There has been discussion on holding an LNA "yard" sale at our new location. We have the tables and the space. We know there is expertise out there to pull it off..... For four years we had massive sales and raised about \$7000 to buy playground equipment at Leavenworth Park. The support was tremendous. For those of you who played on this equipment back in the early 90's, that was US who helped put it there! Time for a new challenge?



Who knows about Jack Ringwalt and how instrumental he was for our neighborhood? We have a good idea, but need to hear from an old-timer or two for some details.

Contact Jim T.: atlarge@LNAOmaha.org.



It takes about 7-8 minutes to read The EXCHANGE. Add three more and send us an email on your thoughts. Thank you!!

Defining...Continued from Page 2

Another observation is litter issues. If your streets are trashy, what does that reflect other than a sense of not caring. The "FREE" signs on that old couch or chair are really not effective without the craigslist action. Just what is the shelf-life of a chair that has been out in the rain and sun for weeks? Hmm. There ought to be an ordinance for that. Oh wait, there IS!!! The only thing that seems to work for "free" items is firewood and scrap metal. And no one wants that particle board stereo cabinet. Donate it. Or burn it in your fire pit.

Bulky, unwanted trash can be hauled to River City Recycling, taken away by a self-employed hauler, or held in a garage or basement for the spring clean-up! And PLEASE landlords, do not let those mattresses stack up next to the dumpster where a lazy tenant had no idea on how to get rid of it. If "disposition of furniture" is not in your lease agreement, add it.

And let's not forget those nasty red and white bagged litter called Roll of Ads. Come on Omaha World Herald, stop. PLEASE? The cars that throw those things every which way seem to have a contest going on how not to get them into the yards. "I look forward to the ads in that plastic bag", said NO ONE, ever!! Oh, we can opt out if we call someone? How about taking a more proactive approach, call if you want to opt in? Seriously.

I must admit the City has been great in responding to graffiti issues. The longer it sits around the worse it gets. The last time our alley got hit they were out the next day and cleaned up at least 6 areas. I would like all families with kids to discuss how destructive graffiti is for a neighborhood. Can I assume these taggers are the same kids who sit at the dinner table? These kids know who are the culprits are. Talk to them. See the picture on page 6 and realize how paint can be POSITIVELY applied.

In discussing our neighborhood with others in their neighborhood, we have very similar challenges and goals. The density issue is here to stay and clearly getting greater. So who are these folks living in the boxes, leaving to get into their mobile boxes, then returning? I hope they are nice. And don't litter. And don't spray paint. I hope they know there is a neighborhood association to assist in their quality of life beyond the box. Come on out and say "hi".

The Wonder Nook

By Cassandra Mayo

As former "First Lady" of LNA, I can't help but beam with pride as I drive through our old neighborhood and see all the new development, clean parks, added murals, and new businesses. Sometimes it's frightening or a bit concerning when we see something new, but that's where the adventures begin for those of us who are willing to be a part of someone's story. Which is why I would like to invite you to be a part of my first chapter in opening a business!

The Wonder Nook is an all-purpose creative studio with You&Me classes for birth-4 years old in the mornings, writer's workshops for homeschool groups and co-ops in the afternoons, and after school art and fitness classes for elementary age. We have mom's morning's out on Fridays, and in the evenings we host several different types of events for adults to learn something new, teach a skill, or just have a night out!

Please join us Saturday, August 13th, from 1-4 for our Grand Opening OR check out our Facebook page to keep up to date with all the latest events: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Wonder-Nook-Omaha-1684022595219198/?fref=ts>

I look forward to seeing LNA grow and being about of the many chapters in your storybook!



The Drunken Monk

By Jim Thompson

For a really long time we have had the pleasure to be watched over by a symbolic figure in our neighborhood. In fact, this guy predates my tenure as a neighbor, and probably originated in the 50's.

The term is widely used, presumably to reference the monk who checked out the wine in the old monastery and stayed too long. Too much sampling and his fellow monks discovered him with his head propped up against the oak barrel. Of course he had a smile on his face.

There is a beer from a microbrewery in Indiana called "Drunken Monk". Also an ale brewed in California. Not sure how it tastes, but I'm guessing a few mugs will put a smile on your face!

Our neighborhood Drunken Monk has keenly watched over many, many of us while we pass the time quenching our thirst. Or even having that endless cup of coffee in the morning while trying to get the day started. It seems the guy sits passively in a corner, just whittled the time away making sure we control ourselves. It hasn't always worked, but we have gotten accustomed to the term "designated driver". For the most part he's got our back.

Have another beer, have a shot.... the Drunken Monk will keep an eye on us. He will use his powers to get us home safe. He will be there to slide that smile on our face as the day and night progresses. Don't step on his toes as that is not very friendly. For a neighborhood like ours, we appreciate the kindness and camaraderie this guy projects.



Next time you stop in, give him a salute. Oh, you haven't seen him before? Keep looking! And if I greet you there, I'll buy you a beer. And share a smile.

From Omaha's "Wasteline".....

Summer is drawing to a close and it's back to school time. Labor day is just a few weeks away. To make your back to school buying and Labor Day as green as possible, start with the three R's of conservation: **Reduce Reuse Recycle**



Reduce the amount of waste you produce by carefully purchasing the right amount of a high quality and selecting products that aren't overly packaged. For picnicking, think fresh produce instead of canned or frozen items. Lunch boxes and reusable containers or water bottles instead of prepackaged.

Reusing items makes more sense (and ¢ents!) than disposables! Think water bottle instead of bottled water. Think hand me down and gently used not all new. Reusing for a picnic may be a little difficult but at a minimum you can take cloth carryout bags to the grocery store.

Recycle packaging, especially boxes, beverage cans, and bottles. Have the recycling bin handy when preparing the back pack for back to school. At a picnic have an extra disposal container available to collect those cans, bottles and juice boxes at the cookout.

Nearly all food packaging other than plastic bags are recyclable. Don't forget to also look for items that are made from recycled material. *You're not recycling if you aren't buying recycled!*

Review what you can recycle at <http://www.omaharecycles.com>. Recycle glass bottles at Omaha's recycling drop-off sites and the other items in your recycling bin.

To read more about making the best "green" choices for back to school, read Earth911.com's article ***8 Ways to Green Back to School.***

Hints from Carol Haas...

Easy micro waved sweet corn.

Some of you may already be preparing sweet corn by this method, but if not, it is an easy, no mess way to have great corn on the cob.

Leave the husks and silk on your ears of corn. Microwave (on high) 1 to 2 ears for 2-4 minutes. Time depends on your "doneness" preference and size of kernels. Do not stack ears. For 3-4 ears, microwave for 4-5 minutes. Remove from oven with hot pads/mitts and place on cutting board. Cut off about 1" from the stem end of ear. Hold by the silk end of ear and shake. The clean ear of corn should just sort of pop out! No mess, no silks in the sink – All you need is the butter!

For more than four ears, do separate batches. And, if the ears are too large for your microwave, just trim a bit from the ends.



Membership Update

By The Membership Team

The summer is quickly going fast and our hope to have a brochure ready to pass on to potential new members is still in the thinking stage. Usually around October we get a push for the next year's membership.

Now that the website, www.LNAOmaha.org, is looking better it is time to concentrate on a membership piece. Do any of you have an hour to whip together a draft of a brochure? We have content from past efforts but with our "new" logo, we need to create the new document. Let any Board member know of your desire to help out. Thank you.

LNA Meeting Space

We will be sprucing up our new headquarters at Dewey Park in the near future. Inside we will be painting the walls and window frames. There is some minor repair work needed on the blinds. And we need to replace a number of ceiling tiles. Does anyone out there know where we can get some 4x2' white acoustical ceiling tiles? We need replacements for some that are damaged and others that are missing.

We acquired a pallet of carpet tiles and need some expertise in getting those set in place. Any of you know a professional who can get us started in the task?

The outside of the building is maintained by Parks and Recreation and they do a good job of mowing. However, the detail of weed whacking and trimming could use some sweat equity. Especially before the picnic on August 18, anyone PLEASE run over there with your weed whacker and blower and spruce it up a bit.

Since last meeting we received 8 nice folding tables for use by the membership. Thank you Roberts Manor!!! These will especially come in handy for our picnic.

The EXCHANGE by e-mail?

Awhile ago we converted the distribution of the EXCHANGE to primarily electronic distribution. If you are receiving this copy, you are welcome! However, if you obtained a copy from one of the drop-off locations, and want the e-version, simply send an email message to: AtLarge@LNAOmaha.org and request that you'd like to start receiving the LNA newsletter. We can also send out a printed copy if you desire that instead.

Leavenworth Kid's Corner

Contributed by Kassandra Mayo agapemayo@gmail.com

Squeezing Out the Last Days of Summer

Walking up and down the aisles of any store and you are easily reminded that school is right around the corner. BUT, don't forget to have fun with the kiddos before the hustle and bustle begins! Take time to engage with your children in these last "dog days" of summer and make a few memories that will have your child telling their class all about the fun adventures you shared with them.

*Get home from work, change clothes, and participate in a good old fashioned water fight! Invite neighbor kids to play and you'll be the coolest adult on the block!

*Don't worry about bedtime and take your kiddos out for a night on the town! Check out Jazz on the Green and dance the night away! Show them your creative side and take them to Thursday Nights at the Joslyn,

*Set up a lemonade stand and talk to your children about donating the money to a good cause that the whole family supports! OR, deliver lemonade to neighbors you know who would enjoy a cool drink.

*Bust out the CD player and bust a move! Celebrate summer with an awesome dance party!

*Wait until it's dark, get your tennis shoes on, arm everyone with a flashlight, and take a walk around the neighborhood. Discuss the differences between walking during the day vs. night-time.

Whatever you decided to do, just make sure that YOU take part in the activities. Share with the neighborhood how your family is celebrating the end of summer by posting a picture on LNA's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LeavenworthOmaha/?fref=ts>

Have you seen this mural?

Last month we put out an inquiry of the number of murals within our neighborhood. Perhaps you have counted them. If you have not, we will spot them for you at the next General Membership Meeting. And there seems to be plenty of opportunities to expand this beautification effort to other walls. Got any suggestions?



Reminder! The next LNA meeting will be **Sept. 15, 2016,**
7:00 PM.

The location is our "new" meeting space in the Dewey Park Building.

Sympathies to Ashley Flater on the passing of her father, Michael Morrison, age 63. We hope that God's strength will guide Ashley, Andrew and the rest of the family during this period of mourning.



hutchfest
A Midwest Makers Fair
August 13th, 2016
10 am - 6 pm

hutchFEST emerges as a one-day community and artisan celebration in Midtown Crossing at Turner Park, with 100+ highly curated vendors from across the Midwest. This vibrant gathering cultivates and showcases the freshest talent from the very best in modern maker design, quality handmade goods and relevant found objects.

Get inspired, harness your creativity and experience this lively marketplace surrounded by local bites, local brews and live music.

[learn more at hutchfest.co](http://learnmoreathutchfest.co)

Want to Advertise in The EXCHANGE?

At the Board meeting in May we discussed the re-introduction of placing ads in the monthly newsletter to defray the cost of production and mailing.

In the past there were numerous, loyal advertisers that graced our pages. For years these businesses participated in this manner and we needed their support. The expenses of The EXCHANGE have diminished significantly since we converted mostly to an email version. We do, however, print copies for bulk distribution and mailing to those who prefer a hard copy.

The change that we are proposing would be a one price format for an ad to cover the full year vs. creating/invoicing for each month or quarter. The rates would not change: \$120/year for a business card size. If interested, let Jim T. know at atlarge@LNAOmaha.org

Family membership: \$15
Business Membership: \$25
Please support the LNA!!

Make checks payable to "LNA". Bring to the meeting, give to a Board member,
 or

Mail to:

Leavenworth Neigh. Assn.
3031 Leavenworth St.
Omaha, NE 68105

PLEASE NOTE: You can still pay directly through PayPal, sending your transaction to:
Treasurer@LNAOmaha.org



August 2016



LEAVENWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
3031 Leavenworth St.
Omaha, NE 68105

*"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: Jordan Green 402-750-2244
Email: President@LNAOmaha.org
Vice-President: Jack Henry 402-650-3761
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: Jim Thompson 402-672-0603
Email: atlarge@LNAOmaha.org

Join us for our monthly meetings -- the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.,

Website: 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.