

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 31 Issue 9 September 2016



Vice President's Letter.....

By Jack Henry

Wow! Where has the summer gone? Our 2016 LNA Summer Picnic is already behind us and we're watching Husker football, kids are back to school and we've celebrated Labor Day, the official end of summer. There are many exciting pieces to Fall to look forward to in our community but as a neighborhood we've had a strong summer.

One of the most exciting developments over the last few months is the acquisition of new meeting space and HQ at the Dewey Park building. It provides very nice meeting facilities and offices...and A LOT of potential. One wise man said, "There is no greater burden than great potential!"

As a reader of the Exchange, you know about this great step forward for LNA but one thing remains decidedly clear: there is much to do. LNA has received carpet squares for the meeting room, tables and chairs from our neighbors. We will need help laying the squares. There is also still enough nice weather ahead to tackle painting and repairing the trim, etc.

Keep an eye out for upcoming LNA work-days or contact any member of our board to volunteer.

LNA Board Election

Please come to the meeting this month to discuss the upcoming election and how you can get involved with this dynamic organization. We have an important item on the agenda and need some good dialogue.

Reminder! The next
LNA Membership
meeting will be **Sept. 15,**
2016, 7:00 PM
Dewey Park Building on
Turner Boulevard.
Please come and bring
your ideas, thoughts and
concerns.

Farnam Field

By Jim Thompson

After attending the event called "Hutch Fest" at Turner Park, Midtown Crossing, on August 13th, I noticed a group of kids playing at Farnam Field. If you do not know where this is, check out the southeast corner of Turner Boulevard and Farnam Street. And then go have a meal at **Chicago Dawg House** across the street because they are sponsoring this wonderful place.

It was a great day to play outside. And there were two full teams playing whiffle ball on this field. Cool. So of course I had to ask one of the dads about who the teams were. He responded they were having a birthday party for one of the players! What a fantastic idea!

And of course I had to ask them in what part of our neighborhood they lived. To my surprise they were all from the Millard area. I thanked them for coming into our neighborhood to enjoy one of our assets.



So, grab the neighborhood kids, a whiffle bat and some balls. Or bring a soccer ball to kick around this fenced in area. Perfect.

And then have a meal at Chicago Dawg House. I still cannot understand how they get those buns so darn fresh. Each bite easily gets you into the business of what's inside the bun without working through a mouthful of thick, bulky dough. Makes me hungry simply writing about it.

Bin or Cart?

By Jim Thompson

What do you think of the possibility of converting to a 96-gallon cart for your recyclables? If you have been catching up with the news stories, the City is going to test drive the use of these carts somewhere in Omaha. The intent is to keep litter from generating out of the green bins, keep the rain out of the recyclables, and make collection quicker.

Now, here in Midtown, and of course many other areas east of 72nd Street, we survive with narrow streets. Who would have thought, 150 years ago, that we needed something for these things called automobiles? Anyway, as I observe a normal trash/recyclable collection day, I am impressed with the skills the workers have acquired in pulling cans and bins through the densely parked vehicles on our streets. The larger carts that are in the experimental stage would likely fit through these gaps. Likely, but I believe a true test would be in these challenging neighborhoods.

Remember when the LNA was the first to test a blue bag system? I am all for the carts. With a household of two, ours would take a month to fill, but that is just fine. And the carts are wheeled too!!

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



Thank You Jack Ringwalt

By Jim Thompson

The inscription reads "For his contribution to the sport of tennis and, also, his financial contribution to improvements made at Dewey Tennis Center - 1985". I was living in the neighborhood at that time but had not become familiar with the contribution this gentleman made. Also, I do not play tennis so Dewey Tennis Center was not on my radar.

But of course as my tenure in Omaha increased, and the wonderful Turner Boulevard became the supportive backbone of the neighborhood, Dewey Park evolved into quite an asset. I still don't play tennis, but especially with the onset of the building as the LNA community center, I have come to a higher appreciation of this park.

Jack Ringwalt started **National Indemnity Insurance** with his brother in 1940. This specialty firm, with four employees, wrote liability insurance for taxis. Until this year, they have occupied the building kiddy-corner from the Dewey Tennis Center. Stock control of National Indemnity changed from found Jack Ringwalt to Berkshire Hathaway in 1967.

From a former acquaintance, John Derwin, "As for tennis, I only know he was an avid and frequent player at Dewey. He would walk down from Double Indemnity Insurance Co. (a business he founded - the building is still there) to play tennis either at lunch or after work. By the time he reached the club house, his shirt would be off ready to change into tennis clothes."

I was able to locate John Ringwalt, Jack's son, and discovered that he had won the Omaha Doubles Championship many, many times. A number of those was with a partner named Bill Foster. Coincidentally, our neighbor to the north in the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, Chris Foster, is the son of Bill. Amongst his activity in maintaining a strong neighborhood group, Chris finds time to play tennis periodically at Dewey.

I grabbed this old picture of Jack Ringwalt off of the internet. The year was 1945. Looks like he was full of energy!



And I have yet to find the details on his specific involvement of the improvements at the Dewey Tennis Center. The structure was designed to include a full time caretaker of the park who lived upstairs. The main floor consists of locker rooms, showers, and if you have come to our meetings, you'll see the large open space including a fireplace!

It is fortunate to us and to the community as a whole to discover that the passion and concern from this gentleman, in this case for the sport of tennis, has evolved into a lasting asset in our neighborhood for many to enjoy.

Finding Chase – and the Goodness in People

By Paul Hagen, Minneapolis

This story was written at the request of life-long friend Jim Thompson, who met Chase on his way from a foster home in Denver to a Forever Home in Minneapolis. It is a story that almost didn't have a happy ending.

Jack (my 10 year-old lab mix rescue dog) and I drove to Denver in early July. My friend Aaron, who put animal rescue work on my radar in 2014, was having foot surgery and would need a hand for about six weeks while he recovered. Being retired, I had the time to help him out.

Aaron has four Forever Dogs, and he had been fostering Chase since April. Chase is part pit bull and, based on his black and white markings, part Holstein cow. Adoption prospects for pit bull mixes are dim in Denver because the breed is illegal in the city and many of its suburbs.

Aaron had agreed to foster Chase after Soul Dog rescued him from a shelter on the Ute reservation in southern Colorado. Soul Dog is the rescue non-profit where Aaron has volunteered for the past ten years. He has transported hundreds of thrown-away dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens from reservations to shelters in the Denver area, and has assisted in many spay and neutering clinics on the reservations.

Chase had been living in a kennel crate for about eight months. He had only been fed and let out of his crate a few times a week due to the shelter's scant resources. As hellish as this sounds, it was better than life as a homeless stray on the reservation. Being fostered at Aaron's was a revelation! For the first time in his two to three-year life, Chase was wanted, loved, had plenty to eat, and had four dog friends to romp with in Aaron's big fenced-in back yard.

I immediately fell in love with Chase upon my arrival. He slept in bed with me nearly every night and loved to snuggle. He also quickly adopted Jack as his big brother and always followed him around.

About two weeks prior to my scheduled return to Minneapolis, Aaron's brother Ryan, who lives in Minneapolis, agreed to adopt Chase. Aaron decided to join us for the drive and help Chase adjust to his new Forever Home.

Jack and Chase traveled well together, and were model guests at Jim and Cindy Thompson's the night of August 25th. I dropped Aaron and Chase off at Ryan's house the evening of August 26th. A few hours later, things went dreadfully – and possibly fatally – wrong.

Ryan and his roommates took Chase along on a quick trip to the store, and when the car door opened, Chase slipped out of his collar, bolted across a busy street (oblivious to traffic), and disappeared. Not surprising. His adoptive dad and the roommates were still strangers to him. Aaron, Jack, and I were the only ones in town he knew and trusted, and we weren't there.



Ryan immediately notified the police and Animal Control, then posted Lost Dog notices on every possible social media site. That night, Ryan and Aaron drove all the nearby neighborhoods. So did Jack and me. This is where, in losing Chase, we found the goodness in people.

Finding Chase continued on Page 6

SONA Update

By Carol Haas

The meeting was held at the Southeast Precinct on September 1, 2016

Diana Fialla, President of MNA and founder of Urban Bird & Nature Alliance, discussed the UBNA grant request submitted to Nebraska Environmental Trust. This grant is for replacing trees removed as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer. The grant will provide education, enable community engagement, and fund replacement of ash trees. If approved, the grant will provide funding for a three-year period and enable planting 500 replacement trees in each year. SONA provided a letter of support for this grant.

Marty Barnart, Executive Director, Omaha Municipal Landbank, provided an overview of the Landbank and summarized the strategic plan. In the near future, the website OMLB.org will be available. Mr. Barnart is available to meet with neighborhood and other groups to discuss the organization's objectives and plans for transforming distress properties into community assets.

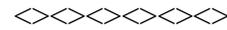
As part of the South Omaha Mural Project (a series of 10 murals to be completed within South Omaha celebrating the culture heritage of the area), the Polish mural has been completed on the South side of Dinker's Bar. Check this out next time you're at Dinker's and note other murals completed at the Lithuanian Bakery on South 33rd Street, and the "Magic City" mural at 24th and N Street, and the mural on the El Mercado Building on South 24th. Watch for more to come. Check out the website www.southomahamuralproject.com Artists involved include Midsummer Mural and Mike Giron who participated in several murals within our neighborhood.

The IN (Iowa/Nebraska) the Neighborhood Conference will be held October 1 at Metro's South Omaha Campus. Registration with a \$10 refundable deposit is required for the day-long program which will include interactive sessions, a pitch session for neighborhood projects, and luncheon keynote address by Gifford Park neighborhood leaders, Chris Foster, Brent Lubbert, and Marty Janousek. For more information go to <http://www.intheneighborhood.org/>

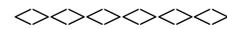
Attendees provided updates for their organizations. Participants were encouraged to recycle MORE. A recent walk-through at a Hy-Vee store determined that packaging for 92% of items could be recycled. Better to have an overflowing recycle bin than an overflowing trash can!

QUICK SNIPS.....

I headed over to **Ganeeden Metals** over in Council Bluffs with a good load of scrap metal to recycle. When I got the cash, I realized why I haven't noticed too many alley scrappers in our neighborhood lately. The price of metal is way down! But keep your eyes open anyway - it seems they will never go away.



For those of you who were hoping for a nice coffee shop or restaurant at 3219 Leavenworth, sorry. The outside, and of course the inside, has been completely remodeled to hold the offices of **Urban Village**. It looks fantastic!!!



Rumor has it that another youngster in the neighborhood wanted to share some of her artwork with the readers. Easy to do: send your image to **atlarge@LNAOmaha.org** and we'll get you published!!

Is It Art or Graffiti?

By Jim Thompson

As one drives Leavenworth from the east you can't help but notice a couple of murals on the south side of the street. The most conspicuous on the side of TGL Tattoo Shop. Looks interesting, but since I am usually driving, I cannot examine it very closely. Then I noticed the entire east side of Bud Olson's Bar was covered with.....art I think. I did stop to try and decipher the canvas. It is very colorful. And for the record, I looked BEFORE I had any libations.

According to Tom Olson, the work is not finished and he will like it when it is completed. I figured out a couple of names that were painted in an oh-so-familiar graffiti script. It is done artfully. I do not know the artist(s), so they need to come forward to be recognized. Most certainly the mural is a much improved landscape than the drab bricks, in an overgrown littered space that existed before.

Now, how about converting this space into a really cool outdoor smoking area? I think with a few cinder blocks and boards, some greenery, an ash can or two, and of course a trash can, one can enjoy a cigar and read the wall. And walk back into Bud's for some more eyesight medicine. It's all about improving our neighborhood.

Finding Chase - continued from page 4

The amount of sharing among friends online was astonishing. Word spread like wildfire and overnight, everyone in “Nordeast” Minneapolis was keeping their eyes open for Chase.

Between Friday night and Saturday afternoon, Ryan got several calls about sightings, and we scoured those areas, putting up flyers along the way. Jack and I walked the streets. No new leads on Sunday so we kept looking in the areas surrounding each of the now increasingly-distant sightings.

I think we were all approaching the “let go and let God” point. But we *couldn't* let go. The thought of Chase alone, hungry, and afraid in a strange city was more than any of us could bear. So after a late Sunday of searching, all of us were on the road by about six on Monday morning. Ryan and Aaron in one car, Jack and me in the other. And then, shortly before seven, a miracle happened.

An angel named Karen, who had seen the Lost Dog post on **Nextdoor** (a popular neighborhood watch app. on her phone), called Ryan's number and reported that she'd just seen Chase trot by her house. Aaron took Karen's call and called me. Jack and I were there in minutes and started walking the street. I was calling Chase about every 30 feet. Then, suddenly, Chase slipped up from behind and was with us. Just like that. Got a leash on him and he inhaled two hot dogs. Ryan and Aaron showed up moments later. What a reunion! We all went back to Chase's new Forever Home and the dogs feasted on a hot, whole rotisserie chicken that Ryan and Aaron picked up en route.

Throughout the nearly 58 hours it took to find Chase, we found the goodness in people every inch along the way. People who reached beyond themselves to help find a dog they didn't know. Their goodness, their caring, saved Chase's life.

When people say, “God bless America,” *THIS* is the stuff that makes us worthy of those blessings.

HOME SCHOOLED...SO FUNNY...SO TRUE!!!

Most of our generation of 65+ were HOME SCHOOLED in many ways.

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
2. My mother taught me RELIGION: "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL: "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
4. My father taught me LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC : "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
7. My father taught me IRONY: "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS: "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM: "Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA: "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
11. My mother taught me about WEATHER: "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."
12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY: "If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!"
13. My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out..."
14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"
15. My mother taught me about ENVY: "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION: "Just wait until we get home."
17. My mother taught me about RECEIVING: "You are going to get it from your father when you get home!"

School is open....watch out for the children! And make room for those buses as they navigate our narrow streets!!!

Leavenworth Kid's Corner

Contributed by Cassandra Mayo agapemayo@gmail.com

While school might be in session for most neighborhood kiddos, some of our youngest residents still find themselves hanging out at home. Don't let them miss out on the fun that learning has to offer! Reading is very important when helping develop young minds. Here are a few tips on reading to toddlers from Reading Rockets:

***Don't expect your toddler to sit still for a book**
Toddlers need to **move**, so don't worry if they act out stories or just skip, romp, or tumble as you read to them. They may be moving, but they are listening.

***Choose engaging books**
Books featuring animals or machines invite movement and making sounds. Books with flaps or different textures to touch keep hands busy. Books with detailed illustrations or recurring items hidden in the pictures are great for exploring and discussing.

***Keep reading short, simple, and often**
Toddlers frequently have shorter attention spans than babies. Look for text that is short and simple. Read a little bit, several times a day.

***Every day is an adventure when you're a toddler**
Choose books about everyday experiences and feelings. Your child will identify with the characters as they dress, eat, visit, nap, and play.

***Ask questions**
Take time to listen to your toddler's answers. Toddlers have strong opinions and interesting ideas about the world. Encourage your toddler to tell you what he or she thinks. You'll build language skills and learn what makes your toddler tick at the same time.



Who Cares About Our Alleys?

By Jim Thompson

Mary Kenny does, for sure. And I know Steve does too, but SHE has the green thumb to prove it!

For thirty years I have involved with the neighborhood clean-ups and our group routinely drives the alleys during this yearly event. Unfortunately, it is only done yearly as we clear out the bulky trash. Perhaps one of these days we will have a fall clean-up for alley trash. But when I drive down the alley off of Mason Street, at least on the north side, I am struck with a strong sense of pride.

The Kenny's not only plant, grow, trim and weed their property, but they extend this effort further south down their neighbor's fence line. Nice! And pretty too!!! I am impressed, as should their neighbors who constantly use this alley, for their care and concern.

Call it a pet peeve, but alleys are not just for storage of haphazard, dumped over, broken and odd trash collection units. Weeds and trees are overgrown. Alleys are a transportation element of any neighborhood and yes, people use them. And kids should play in them to keep them safer from the streets. When we grew up, alleys were the hub of our neighborhood existence. They can be an asset and I believe we should take more care in cleaning up that asset.

Thank you Mary and Steve for caring.

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.



Sept. 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.