

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 31 Issue 10 October 2016



Drive safe, watch for the neighborhood kids!!

Reminder! The next LNA Membership meeting will be **Oct. 20, 2016, 7:00 PM**,
at the Dewey Park Building
Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

President's Letter.....

By The Board

The membership took action at the September meeting based on our by-laws. They state: "Any member of the Board may be removed from office as a result of conduct detrimental to the best interests of the Association. Removal will be made by a 2/3 vote of the membership voting at a regular or Special General Membership meeting. Missing 3 consecutive Board Meetings may be cause for removal.

The action undertaken removed the President. This is an action we believe has not been necessary to enforce since it was written. And it was an action that we did not take lightly. We have been concerned for months that this association needs leadership guidance, especially with the development in the area, the resurrection of the newsletter, membership recruitment, and the rising of our Community Center in the Dewey Park Building, etc. Jack Henry has assumed the President's role until the election at the October meeting to replace Jordan Green on the Board.

With that, Janelle Domeyer has been nominated for this vacancy and other nominations will be taken from the floor to fill the balance of Jordan's term (through 2017).

Please come to the meeting on October 20 as we appreciate the involvement of the neighbors and business owners. Also, at the November 17 meeting we will have the annual election for two Board positions. These are currently occupied by John Costanzo and Andrew Flater.

Your input and attention to what is going on in our neighborhood will help make this area stronger, safer, and continue to increase the quality of the area.

Apathy, a Terrible Disease

By Jim Thompson

We have approximately 600 structures in our neighborhood comprised of single family homes, apartment buildings, condos, businesses, churches, and a school. To estimate the number of people that live and work in those buildings would be a monumental task. Add to that the number of people that visit these places to shop, stop, and play and you can see the number is exponentially large. So what does have to do with the good ol' Leavenworth Neighborhood Association?

This inventory of people and structures is the backbone of the group. The change in the visible landscape, always ongoing and because of the age, always for the better, has created a unique opportunity to embrace a positive feeling. Even the green space of the three major parks and the connected, unofficially named spaces along Turner Boulevard have undergone significant improvements for the enjoyment of the masses. And the work is not done.

We have estimated a population of around 5000 that live in our particular neighborhood. What a great number for targeting a development or a business. Us people, those of you who are reading this newsletter for example, have and continue to serve an important mission. For one reason or another, our jobs, our socio-economic situation, or the value of the neighborhood has planted us here. A neighborhood cannot exist without the people that do things within. And the work is not done.

When I joined the Leavenworth group in 1985, I was genuinely surprised that getting involved could affect such positive changes in the whole area. For example could we actually get Leavenworth Park improved so my kids could better enjoy that space? Of course. It happened. Not by one person, but by the collective group. And the work is not done.

We hope to see you at the meeting.

"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale." — Lauren DeStefano

Special Board Election

At the October meeting we will hold a special election to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors. This term will be for term expiring November 2017. So far, only one candidate has been nominated - Janelle Domeyer.

Janelle Domeyer has lived in the neighborhood since moving to Omaha in 2004. She first rented an apartment on 34th & Howard and then purchased a house a block away at 34th & Jackson. She has a long history of working for nonprofits in Omaha - first as a Direct Support Associate at Mosaic, then as a volunteer coordinator at Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging. She spent seven years as Executive Director of Lutheran Service Corps, and now currently serves as Director of Annual Giving at College of Saint Mary, where she obtained her master's degree in Organizational Leadership in 2008. Janelle has 10 year old twin boys, Max and Will, who attend Our Lady of Lourdes. She does some volunteering at OLL and also serves on the National Alumni Board for Loras College in Dubuque, IA. Her goal for serving LNA would be to increase membership and funding for LNA.

Other nominations will be asked for at the meeting. As a reminder, please see the by-law extract at the bottom of the last page of the newsletter.

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. Please let us know your address.

You Are Invited!

By Kassie Mayo

It's never too early to begin thinking about holiday entertaining! Come check out easy to make products that help make Holiday entertaining easy. Please join us at The Wonder Nook on Saturday, Nov. 5th, from 2-5 in Rockbrook Village, for our first ever Food Boutique! Sample new products from vendors we've come to love or introduce yourself to tasty cash and carry items that are sure to be a hit with your holiday guest.

The Wonder Nook is located in Rockbrook Village in conjunction with Baby Maestro: 10804 Prairie Hills Drive, Omaha, Ne. 68144

Can't make the food boutique? Don't worry, we are also hosting a holiday shopping boutique as well at The Wonder Nook on November 27th, from 3-6. Unique one-of-a-kind cash and carry gifts will be available for purchase. Check out our Facebook page for more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/thewondernookomaha/?fref=ts>



V.F.W. St. Mihiel Post 247

3302 Leavenworth, Omaha Nebraska

Phone: 402.344.0714

Open to the Public for Food Service

Sundays at V.F.W. 247

S.O.S. Spaghetti on Sunday
1st & 3rd Sundays, Noon – 6pm

V.F.W. Pancake Breakfast
2nd Sundays, 8am – Noon

AMVETS Pancake Breakfast
4th Sundays, 8am – Noon

Kitchen Open:

5:00 – 7:00pm Wed & Thu

5:00 – 9:00pm Fri & Sat

Good Food, Great Prices, Family Friendly

Menu available at www.vfw247.com

QUICK SNIPS.....

While observing a gentleman playing horseshoes at Dewey Park, I inquired as to the condition of the horseshoe pits. He said they are in relatively poor shape, but with a little digging he makes do. Further discussion revealed there used to be The Omaha Horseshoe Club meeting regularly at Dewey, and it was sponsored by the Crescent Moon. Hmmm. Is it time to resurrect this league?



The messy, ugly, rain-soaked rolls of newspaper ads still litter our neighborhood. Of course we do not understand why the Omaha World Herald is continuing to sponsor this littering program. But then it is also hard to understand why homeowners simply cannot seem to bend down and pick up this noticeable piece of litter. Please, pick them up from your sidewalk, take the plastic off and place the ads in your recycling bin. Thank you.



Speaking of recycling, with the Mayoral and City Council elections around the corner, there is talk of making recycling mandatory. The commodities that people throw away do a lot for the City and the environment by recycling. So, should we make it mandatory?



Furthermore, is your green bin a victim of theft from those culprits going around stealing the aluminum cans? Once on the curb, the contents belong to the City of Omaha. Taking of the cans is a violation of City ordinances. Report this crime at <http://report.wasteline.org> on the welcome page. Or call the 24-hr phone at 402-444-5238.

IT's that time of
year!

MEET & TREAT

October 29th 4-7pm

Southeast Precinct

25th & Vinton streets

**We need your help to
collect candy to give to the
kids at the MEET and
TREAT on October 29th.
You can drop off candy
during business hours
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
or make or you can call me
to make other
arrangements.**

We appreciate your help.

Ofelia Robles, Crime Prevention Specialist
Southeast Precinct
Omaha Police Department
email: ofelia.robles@cityofomaha.org,
Office: [402-444-7743](tel:402-444-7743)

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 N.A.

**3031 Leavenworth St, Omaha, NE
68105**

An Amazing 2 Letter English Word

By a friend of the Internet

A reminder that one word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition. This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now . . . My time is UP!

Oh . . . One more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?

U P !

Did that one crack you UP? Don't screw UP. Send this on to everyone you look UP in your address book . . . Or not . . . it's UP to you. Now I'll shut UP!

Teal Pumpkin Project

by FARE/Food Allergy Research & Education

Every child should be able to experience the joy and tradition of trick-or-treating on Halloween. But kids with food allergies are often left out of the fun, since most candy is off limits.

FARE's Teal Pumpkin Project helps make sure all children will come home on Halloween night with something they can enjoy. It just takes one simple act: offering non-food treats, such as glow sticks or small toys, as an alternative to candy.

Last year, households from all 50 states and 14 countries participated. This is a worldwide movement to create a safer, happier Halloween for all trick-or-treaters. Will YOU be a part of the project this year? Receive more information by checking out: http://www.foodallergy.org/teal-pumpkin-project/get-involved#.V_RA8pMrKT8



MNA Update

There is none. We have no idea what the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance is doing. Their website is down and we have not received any emails or other communication as to what they might be doing.

As you may recall we joined the Alliance in December with hopes of contributing to the overall goals of the 15 or so group of neighborhood associations. However, there has been zero contact since then.

If anyone knows the status of this alliance please share the information.

Why is Voting Important?

Submitted by Jack Henry

In this highly charged political season, the rhetoric and level of discourse is the vilest many of us have ever seen or remember. It seems even neighbors and friends have tightly held opinions on the order of the day and the candidates who are vying for office. None of it is fun and I wonder if the heated debate and tawdry level of political conversation will make good, normal people simply sit out the election rather than be involved with the mess it's become! With that in mind, I'd like to encourage every to go to the polls next month and cast your ballot. To appreciate why voting is so important, let's take a look back at the history of voting rights. Contrary to popular belief, the United States' Constitution did not originally guarantee citizens the "right to vote". The United States was created as a Republic with the understanding that only certain individuals would make the decisions when it came to government.

There are several amendments to the U.S. Constitution which address the right to vote and who actually has this "right". Through these we see the evolution of one of the most sacred rights of American citizens.

14th Amendment– All persons born within the U.S. are citizens and guaranteed rights and privileges (1868)

15th Amendment– No citizen denied the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude (1870)

This amendment was intended to give freed slaves the same privileges offered to the white majority in the United States. States were able to get around this amendment by creating Jim Crow Laws to prevent minorities from voting:

Jim Crow Laws were requirements for individuals to pass in order to become eligible to vote. These included:

Literacy tests- These tests excluded under-educated Americans from voting.

Grandfather Clauses- A requirement which said if your grandfather was eligible to vote, then you are eligible to vote. This would exclude many African Americans whose ancestors were not eligible to vote because of slavery.

Poll Taxes- A fee would be required to vote. The intention is to stop lower income citizens from having a voice in government.

19th Amendment No citizen shall be abridged of their right to vote based on sex. (1920)

24th Amendment No poll tax is allowed or failure to pay any other tax shall prevent a person from voting (1964)

This amendment eliminated some of the Jim Crow Laws which were a result of the 15th Amendment.

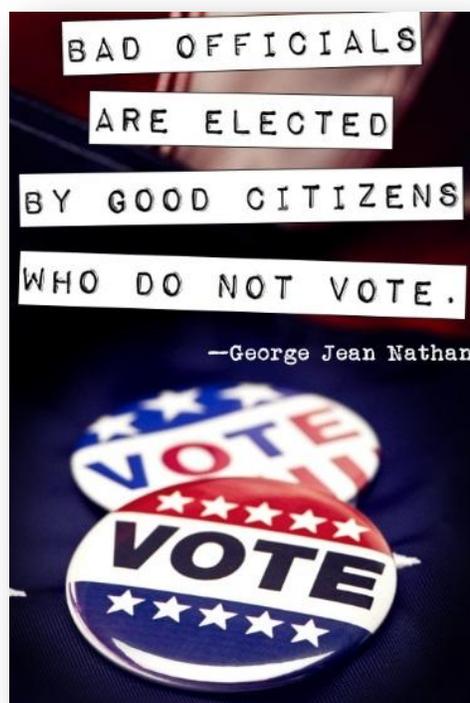
26th Amendment All persons 18 or older shall not be abridged of their right to vote (1971)

The Vietnam War brought up the topic of why can 18 year olds fight and die for our country, yet they are not eligible to vote for the members of congress who send them overseas.

This amendment is the reason why eighteen year olds and seventeen year olds who will be eighteen by the date of the next General Election are eligible to vote. Seventeen year olds are not permitted to vote in municipal or special elections however.

Voting Rights Act of 1965 Applied a nationwide prohibition against the denial or abridgment of the right to vote on the literacy tests on a nationwide basis.

Finally, the barriers imposed by Jim Crow Laws were lifted.



Reasons to Vote

It's your right. Young people, women and underrepresented groups all fought hard for the right to vote. So you can decide. Why let other people

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Vote - Continued from page 6

people decide what is best for you when you have a voice: the ability to cast a ballot.

1. Representation-Does it seem as if politicians don't "get" you? Want politicians in office who represent your needs and concerns? Then vote.
2. More money... Votes equal cash. Candidates give money to causes you care about such as: youth programs, the environment, or medical research. Find out where the candidates stand on these issues and vote for the ones that agree with you.
3. To cancel out someone else's vote. Whether it's your neighbor, your colleague, or somebody famous - you probably know someone who is going to vote the opposite of you.
4. Be in control! If you don't vote, someone else will. Our government was designed for citizen participation, so if you don't vote - other people are going to make the decisions for you.
5. It's your money. The County Commissioners, Governor, State Treasurer, Legislators, President and members of Congress for whom you vote will decide how to spend your money. Vote for those that agree with your point of view.
6. Schools matter. You elect local and state school board members who set public education policy and budgets.
7. You'll need a good job. When you're done with school, you need somewhere to work and you'll want job training, pay equity, fairness in hiring, and workplace safety.
8. Save the world. The air, the land, the water, we need them all.
9. It's your backyard. Crime prevention, laws and law enforcement, safe and affordable homes, traffic patterns, schools, parks and recreation...

I don't want other people making my choices for me. I want to have a voice in the things that affect me!

Voting is very important to our future. If we don't learn how to use our civic "voice" when it comes to making decisions, we will never be heard. See you at the polls!

Leavenworth Kid's Corner

Contributed by *Kassandra Mayo agapemayo@gmail.com*

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Fall provides so much for families to do. There are many opportunities to get outside and celebrate the changing season that is evident in the trees that call LNA home.

Between picking out costumes and visits to the pumpkin patch, make sure there's some down-time too for you and your family. Connect with your children by sitting together on the porch and reading a story, taking a walk around the block observing and talking about the changes seen, or build a fire for s'mores in the backyard.

While enjoying your time together, take a picture and upload it on our Facebook page! We would LOVE to see how your family is celebrating Fall!

<https://www.facebook.com/LeavenworthOmaha/?fref=ts>



Hands to Harvest Community Garden

By Carol Haas

There will be a meeting in the next couple of weeks to determine the work plan for this garden space. Of course, assistance is always needed to help make this a productive space.

My goal for 2016 was to lose
just 10 pounds ... only 15 to go..

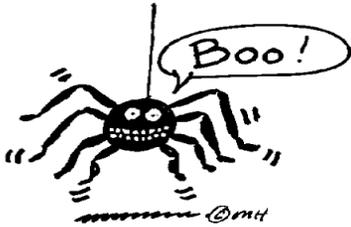


Oct. 2016



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:

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.