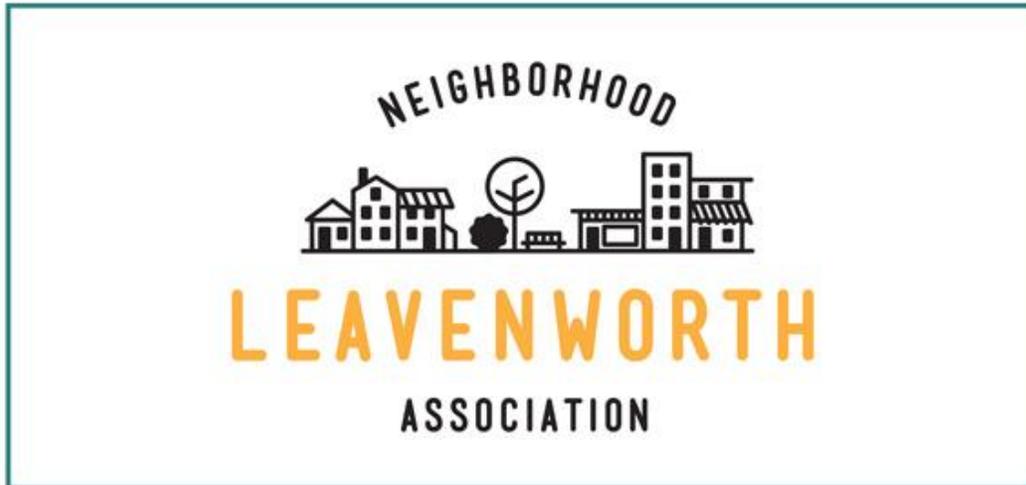


# The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

*Celebrating together as friends and neighbors*

Volume 31 Issue 12 December 2016



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Merry  
Christmas

Happy New Year

**Reminder!** The next LNA Membership meeting will be **Jan. 19, 2017, 7:00 PM,**  
at Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey.  
Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

## President's Letter.....

This is already the 2016 end-of-year issue and what a year it's been! As an Association we saw members Reggie & Lois Welles move out of the neighborhood; they were with us from the start in 1984! We are thankful for all they've done and continue to do. We achieved a long-time goal of moving to a permanent location. The 550 Turner Blvd. building in Dewey Park has been a tremendous asset to our group and we are excited to show-case LNA's story. We saw progress in the various LNA gardens and movement, albeit small, in membership. We are proud of what we have accomplished but it's time to look forward.

Our concentration over the next year is **VALUE** and **MEMBERSHIP**. As an organization, we are driven to provide value to our members as well as our important business members. We want the content to be valuable to every person attending. This is our mission in planning the next year.

LNA brings our neighborhood together for an exchange of ideas – all producing powerful results. Our goals for the coming year include continuing to grow our membership and provide great value through quality initiatives that will be beneficial to the neighborhood in which we all live, work, and play.

I want to personally extend an invitation to you to join us at one of our monthly meetings to experience first-hand everything that we have to offer both you and your organization. Please feel free to reach out to me or a member of our board with ideas, feedback or questions you may have about the LNA. Your input and support are vital to our success as well as the neighborhood.

See you soon!

*Jack Henry*

### LNA Election Results:

John Costanzo and Andrew Flater were re-elected to the Board at the November meeting. No other candidates were nominated. Congratulations to both of these guys. The appointment of officers, determined after the election, did not change.

## Christmas Cheer Update

By Carol Haas

Although the LNA got off to a bit of a slow start for this year's Christmas Cheer, the efforts of Kassie Mayo, Pamela Valencia, and Sophie Reimer are assuring that this year's program will be a success.

For those who don't know, each year the LNA provides books, gifts and, often an assembly, for the 220 students at Jackson Elementary. This year the Omaha Children's Museum will visit the school to provide entertainment for all the students. Additionally, gift bags will be prepared for each of the students to take home.

**Please consider making a donation for this year's project.** The program relies on donations from LNA members and friends to purchase gift items and pay for the entertainment. Checks payable to the LNA Christmas Cheer maybe mailed to 3031 Leavenworth Street, Omaha, NE 68105 or visit the LNA website: [www.lnaomaha.org](http://www.lnaomaha.org) and use the "donate" button at the bottom of the page to use a credit card or Pay Pal.

During December, the LNA will also provide a "grab & go" breakfast for faculty and staff at the school. This breakfast will be funded by the LNA's "Jim Krin Fund" which was established into recognize the contributions of Jim Krin to both LNA and to Jackson Elementary.

**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**

## Annual Holiday Gathering

By John Costanzo

It is hard for me to believe the year is coming to an end. I hope 2016 has been good to you and yours. In keeping with tradition, the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association does not have a regular meeting in December. Instead, we gather to share holiday cheer and prepare to usher in a new year.

This year the Board of the LNA is excited to be hosting the holiday party once again at the Down Under Lounge, located at the corner of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Leavenworth. We will kick off the celebration at 6 pm on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Heavy appetizers will be catered in, games will be played and door prizes awarded. So mark your calendars and don't miss out on an epic evening in the company of friends and neighbors.

This is an event which is open to all, so be sure to invite a neighbor who is not yet a member to join us. A good time and great memories are what bind a neighborhood together, making our slice of Omaha a wonderful place to live, play and grow. On behalf of your association, we hope to see you on the fifteenth!

## TAGG - Together A Greater Good

By Jack Henry

LNA was recently added to this an app-based tool that allows organizations to raise money in a way that is easy, fun, routine and socially influential.

When TAGG is used at participating businesses, the business will donate 5% of the TAGGED purchase to the organization of your choice (ahem, LNA of course!). Some of the funds may be matched by corporate sponsors and TAGG will make extra donations when milestones are met. All donations are sent to our account on a monthly basis.

I said it's routine because it is. Mug Life is usually part of my morning routine, and I TAGG for LNA every time. It just takes seconds! I TAGG when I get my hair cut every two weeks. And there are multiple restaurants in Midtown Crossing that partner with us via TAGG. It's easy and it helps LNA!

This is a great way for LNA to raise money incrementally without asking for a dime. We simply raise funds as our supporters go about their normal routines. TAGG also allows our organization to gain support from people who not otherwise contribute financially. Currently we have 10 active supporters - as we move into the holiday season, let's double that number. Imagine the exponential impact of 20 individual people supporting LNA all across our city!

So how does it work?

Step One: Download the TAGG app.

Step Two: Visit participating businesses and scan the QR code or snap a picture of the receipt.

Step Three: Chose which cause to support (ahem, LNA of course!). The business will donate to your Cause!

Step Four: Share your good deed with others via social media if you choose to.

Thank you for considering using this tool on behalf of LNA.

**WELCOME TO  
WEST OMAHA,  
CIRCA 1915.**

**CHRIS KILROY**  
5139 LEAVENWORTH STREET  
OMAHA, NE  
402.558.2111

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

SUPPORTING MIDTOWN SINCE 2001  
MEMBER SIPC

## QUICK SNIPS.....

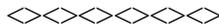
A special thank you to **Rick Lenarduzzi** for his impromptu cash donation to the LNA. Although Rick moved out of the neighborhood a number of years ago, he stated he enjoyed reading The Exchange while he was here and wanted to support what we do. Nice!!



Those **darned white bags of ads.....** I started getting them even though I am a subscriber to the Omaha World Herald. Yes, I called, 402-346-3363. Multiple times. What does it take to get rid of this unsightly litter? PLEASE World Herald, wake up, and inform your Marketing Division that these do NO GOOD!! Stop!!



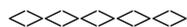
A couple of weeks ago I had to replenish my graffiti remover at **Levenson's Supply**, 3217 Leavenworth St. Stop in to let Bob show you the vast amount of items they carry in their inventory. If you own a small business, this is the place to do your shopping for janitorial supplies. And for homeowners if you need that special cleaner, floor care item, etc., and the explanation that goes along with it, Levenson's is the place. You can't get that service at the big box store.



City **Councilman Garry Gernandt** has decided he will not be returning to the ballot in the spring. THANK YOU Councilman Gernandt for your dedicated service to your district. Although he does not represent our particular area, the LNA is part of the South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance of which Garry has been very active.



**HRH Labor Services**, currently on 31st & Leavenworth, is moving west to 51st & Leavenworth. Plans for the vacated space are unknown at this time.



**CPM Realty** will be leasing space at the newly renovated building at 3219 Leavenworth. Initially they were going to occupy the old Backlund Plumbing building at 3152 Leavenworth. That building is now on the market. Great spot for a restaurant.....!!

## Where Did Alamar Go?

By Jim Thompson

Driving down Leavenworth Street recently, I noticed the signage on the Alamar Uniform building, 3105 Leavenworth, had been replaced by Galls. Huh? I wondered how THAT happened. After all, Alamar Uniforms has been around since the old Safeway Store (first in Omaha) was converted to sell clothing.

Turns out that it was one of those offers that was hard to refuse according to Steve Zalkin, Manager (former owner). Galls is a long term company has been buying 'brick and mortar' businesses across the country. Alamar is their 13th acquisition, making their strength at about 50 stores. They have become the largest safety house in the nation.

Steve still owns the building and will be around the store for another year. I did not inquire about the other employees but hope that Bob and the rest will not have any issues.

Alamar has been a LONG time supporter of the LNA and we have greatly appreciated the relationship. We hope this can continue with the Galls team. Good luck to Steve during this period of transition.

## Our Sympathy.....

To the family of **Jackie Rohrke**, from Topeka, KS. Jackie and family lived on S. 35th Ave. and were active in the LNA before moving out of state. Husband Keith preceded her in death in 2007. Children Martha, Jeff, Stephen and Joe were always seen running around the neighborhood and park. Our best to them and the rest of the family during this time.

We would like to also express our sympathy to Michael Cich-Jones on the untimely passing of his mother, **Ninfa Cich** of Spencer, OK. Michael is the husband of Rev. Scott Jones and father to Sebastian. Please accept our prayers and condolences on your loss.

## From "One Omaha".....

Julie Smith, Program Manager

Need data? Check out "The Landscape".

One of the things neighborhood groups struggle with is gathering data, a common component of most grant applications.

Thanks to our friends at the [Omaha Community Foundation](#) (OCF), a new data-driven resource is now available locally: [The Landscape](#). The project examines six areas of community life and reflects the actual experiences of residents in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro.

With the help of its community partners, The Landscape has gathered a large amount of publicly available data and made it easy to access. The first two focus areas - *Health* and *Neighborhoods* - are now online.

The neighborhood section has data on housing affordability, housing quality, home ownership and homelessness. Its "what you can do" section enables you to share your experience, connect with a nonprofit and get involved in the issues that matter most to you. It also has links to six additional neighborhood resources (ONE Omaha is proud to be one of them).

Take a moment to check it out and share it with your neighbors.

OCF said the four remaining focus areas - *Transportation*, *Safety*, *Workforce* and *Education* - will be added during the next few months.

Knowledge is power, neighbors. Please take advantage of this new resource. Together, we can change Omaha, one thing at a time.

Lights at Midtown Crossing....  
Check them out ---- FANTASTIC!!!



## Information for Contributors

To contribute to *the Exchange*, please contact **Jim Thompson, [atlarge@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:atlarge@LNAOmaha.org)**.

Deadline for the January issue is

**January 6 , 2017.**

Content submitted may be edited as needed.

The schedule for the monthly publication is to create the newsletter during the first weekend of the month. Final edits, photos, etc. are made and sent off to the printer so readers can enjoy the publication around the second weekend. Most readers will receive their electronic version at this time. We must account for the time to send the mailing via USPS to those subscribers who receive the hard copy. Also, distribution to various drop-off locations must be made during that second week so readers can catch up and plan to come to the meeting on the third Thursday.

Our thanks to all those in the creation/distribution process in achieving the goals of this first class publication.

## Netflix - "The Super"

By Jim Thompson

I had heard about this program from a neighbor and finally decided to check it out. Very interesting. No, it's not a science fiction story, but a real life docu-drama about a management company right here in Midtown Omaha.

Landmark Group is a full service real estate company specializing in property management, commercial and residential sales and leasing. It is owned and operated by Dave Paladino and have been around since 1988.

I binged watched about 6 episodes of The Super and was baffled, appalled, bewildered and amazed concerning the living conditions of folks in various parts of Omaha. Mr. Paladino produced this series in 2011 so we hope a lot has changed since then. But unfortunately, I suspect it hasn't. In one particular episode the title sounded very familiar. Sure enough, it was an apartment within the LNA neighborhood. Landmark no longer manages that property.

Check it out. Dave says the series is popular in Canada. Hmm. I think we can learn some things in our own backyard.

## Park Ave. Grocery to Close

By Jim Thompson

As long as I have lived in the neighborhood there was a small grocery store at 830 Park Avenue. In 1992 Mick and Mary Ann Caniglia bought the business and subsequently created an institution. This small business became more than a convenience store, carrying the basics needed for those in the surrounding area. Was the huge Hinky Dinky store around the corner going to dissuade these youngsters from starting up the adventure? Not even a concern according to Mary Ann.

So they started out on this new career, followed their gut instincts and put their own touch on what a convenience store can be. They were joined shortly by son Daniel Leutzinger. This being a family business, Dan has been there 24/7 to help make it happen. Prior to this business Mary Ann was a nurse, which explains her ongoing care for all of her customers.

These customers and the level of care and concern provided by "Park Av", will be difficult to replicate. When Mary Ann answers the phone with the "Park Av" moniker, she doesn't need caller I.D. to recognize who is on the other end. She knows their voice and tone. And when she gets a call that so-and-so must be sick, a follow-on call from another neighbor asks how the person is. Where do you find that in a small business? And if it happened to be an employee, someone would show up and help stock the shelves. And Mary Ann would not stop there, many times offering rides to doctors appointments, etc., for her clientele. Nice.

As you might guess a great number of the customers were low or fixed income. Paychecks were very dear to these folks and when time was short, "Park Av" would assist until that check arrived. A simple entry in a 3-ring binder and a comfort level is achieved. Can you imagine any of the 7's, Q's, and Kwiks helping out in that manner? It was nice to have that service become part of the institution and true meaning of neighborhood.

The notion of "I've got your back" seems to be the essence of this little neighborhood institution. Amongst the shelves of life's essentials, the store became a support center for neighbors. One cannot put a price on that type of inventory.

One item of nostalgia that will be missed is the black Corvette coin operated ride. With the license fees,

vending fees, etc., the 25 cent revenue never did pay for the operation. But "Momma Mary", known by the kids that came to ride, felt honored and privileged to see these kids grow up and subsequently put their youngsters on the same machine.



I asked Mary Ann if they had ever been robbed. One time a "gangbanger" grabbed some beer and ran out. Mick chased him down and got the beer back but the thief got away. Upon returning to the store he was panting heavily. Family took him in and sure enough, discovered some blockage in those arteries. The police were hoping they would find the culprit before one of the neighbors did. So, how do you spin that snatch and grab? We're glad Mick survived.

In the old "absentee landlord" days, there were Bloods to the north, Crips to the south. It is wonderful how things have changed to the positive. Even stop and go traffic across the street was watched by someone at "Park Av". This was neighborhood watch at its core. There was always a family member at the store to be on the lookout.

With numbers down and the neighborhood changing, and with the years racking up, the time seemed right to



make the big move. There have been countless stories

*Park Ave Grocery continued on Page 7*

*Park Ave Grocery, continued from Page 6*

of those who were affected by this institution, too many to write about. Mary Ann did highlight another incident where one of the gangbangers in the run down apartments had just woken up at 2:00 in the afternoon. He told Mary Ann he was hungry and needed a sandwich and a pop but didn't have any money. Mary Ann gave him a broom and he went outside and earned that meal. He wanted to pay her later, but she instilled on him the impact of doing a job. I wonder if he is around today and remembers that lesson.

Son Dan, who has been the "wind beneath Mary Ann's wings", will take Clyde, the big bull mastiff and Bonnie, the English mastiff, and perhaps pursue a different retail operation. Upon clearing out the decades of stuff, there will be some time off. Urban Village is the new owner of the property and one can expect some significant renovation after the first of the year.

On behalf of the LNA, we wish the Caniglia's the best on their new adventure, wherever and whatever that may be. Thank you for your service to the neighborhood.

## Jackson School

By Carol Haas

Recently several of us visited Mrs. Northcutt, Principal of Jackson Elementary, to discuss the Christmas Cheer Program for 2016. It was very informative to meet with Mrs. Northcutt and learn what is happening at Jackson.

The school is a dual language school where in some classrooms students learn both English and Spanish. Completely Kids also partners with Jackson to provide after school activities and academic assistance.

Mrs. Northcutt indicated that there have been some changes in the student population with the number of newly renovated and constructed housing in the area. She also indicated that volunteers are always needed at the school to help in the classroom. *Anyone* interested in volunteering at Jackson, please stop by the office to learn where you can be of help.

## Leavenworth Kid's Corner

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

As my hubby and I embark on celebrating the holidays with a toddler, I can't help but find my inner child coming out a little bit more. Do you remember what it was like to celebrate as a child? To watch a tree come to life with twinkling lights or find amazement in the snowflakes that melt in your mouth AND hand? Observe as cheerful greetings come from a man with a beard and red hat or taste peppermint for the very first time? These are just some of the seasonal activities that we are watching with excitement as our daughter discovers them for the very first time.

To make even more memories, we turn to the following links to see where the latest festivities are taking place:

\*Free Family Fun in

Omaha: <http://familyfuninomaha.com/omaha-attractions/free-family-activities-in-omaha/>

\*Momaha: <http://www.omaha.com/momaha/>

\*The Wonder Nook:

<https://www.facebook.com/thewondernookomaha/>



Do you have some Christmas lights that have gone bad? Don't throw them away!! Bring them to Scrap Central, 2728 N. 85th St. (South of Maple). They will recycle them!!!!





Dec. 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: Jack Henry 402-650-3761  
Email: President@LNAOmaha.org  
Vice-President: Janelle Domeyer  
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](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.