

# The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

*Celebrating together as friends and neighbors*

Volume 31 Issue 11 November 2016



## President's Letter.....

By Jack Henry

It's already November - time again for the kickoff to the holidays and, of course, our Board Elections. The elections will take place at our regularly scheduled monthly meeting on November 17 in the community building situated in Dewey Park at 550 Turner Blvd. Andrew Flater, Treasurer, and John Costanzo, Secretary, are both seeking another 2 year term to serve on behalf of LNA. Any nominations that come to the floor on the evening of November 17 will also be considered.

*Continued on Page 3*

***Reminder!*** The next LNA Membership meeting will be **Nov. 17, 2016, 7:00 PM,** at Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey. Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

## Board Elections at the November Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is always held in November, on the 17th this year. At that meeting we will elect two Board members. The terms of John Costanzo and Andrew Flater expire. Consequently, we will elect two people to the two-year term.

At this point we have two nominations for the vacancies: John Costanzo and Andrew Flater. Please see Page 2 for their biographical information. An absentee ballot is printed on Page 7.

Continuing in their second year of office is Jack Henry, Jim Thompson and Janelle Domeyer.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of this dynamic association please attend the meeting and receive a nomination. The work can be very rewarding and with any volunteer organization, does take a certain amount of time.

After elections are held, the current Board members and the elected members convene to determine the officers.

## Elections In The Nation

by Jack Henry

Hello neighbors! Just a friendly reminder that the secret to a productive country is much more dependent on what happens in YOUR house than what happens in the White House. Whether you are elated or disappointed in the current election results, it's fantastic that we hire people through an electoral process to run our government for us.

And every few years we appraise their performance and potential, making a decision to keep them employed or fire them. Don't let your joy or sorrow overshadow the fact that most of the world is not afforded such luxury or privilege.

We are blessed indeed to have a government of the people, by the people and for the people. And as for the quality of your own life, it's hidden in your daily choices, not in the Oval Office.

### It's Election Time for the LNA

By Carol Haas

Yeah! You are probably sick of the last 19 months of election bombardment! But for the LNA election there are no TV ads, your mail box isn't stuffed with campaign material, and no "get out and vote" phone calls!

It's just the opportunity for you to show your support and interest in the volunteer organization that is your voice in the neighborhood.



## Board Candidate Profiles

John Costanzo: This is the completion of my fifth year on the board of the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association. During these years, my middle daughter graduated High school, my youngest is a sophomore, I completed a Master's degree in Historical Studies and my darling wife has returned to school to study towards her nurse practitioner's degree. We have set our roots here in Midtown and have flourished. I am still an enthusiastic educator, sculpting of young minds for the Omaha Public Schools district. Just recently, I was named as the Gifted Program Coordinator for the Junior High where I have taught for the past nineteen years. I love this neighborhood which I have raised my family in. I cherish the friendships I have made with the people who live here and look forward in earnest to be able to serve another term on the board of our association.



Andrew Flater: Andrew and wife Ashley moved into the neighborhood about five years ago. Coming from Iowa, and big fans of Iowa State, they like this neighborhood. Work schedules have changed for Andrew and he is anxious to contribute his time and energy into making this an even better place to live.



## Presidents Letter, *Continued from Page 1*

After the elections, the Board and LNA membership will be tasked with the responsibility of continued community involvement and betterment. I want to thank John and Andrew for their careful stewardship as we've made significant progress at the 'LNA HQ' in Dewey Park. The green-spaces have been cleaned up over the fall and mulch & perennials were planted at the community building. We can point to successes as our organization has evolved over the last year but the new Board and membership will be expected to double the efforts as we move forward.

Our goals remain simple: grow membership, continue the renovation of LNA HQ, and create a welcoming neighborhood at which we all live, work and play. Midtown Omaha is the most interesting part of our City and we're lucky to be involved. As President, I assure all of you we are interested in your voice and perspective for our neighborhood and association.

Our elections will take place on November 17, 2016 at 7PM - 550 Turner Blvd.

## Historic Property Sold!

By Jim Thompson

The building that that held the law offices of Nelson and McClellan has been sold. Details will be coming in the future, but it is understood that it will likely continue as a business entity. Attorney Michael D. Nelson will be moving on to Nebraska's U.S. District court as a magistrate judge. Congratulations Mr. Nelson! Attorney Michael McClellan will possibly continue to operate out of the building at least for the foreseeable future.

The **Mary Reed House**, AKA "Mary Reed Residence" was built and designed in 1909 for the widow of philanthropist and real estate pioneer Byron Reed. It was built in this corner of our neighborhood in the early 20th century.

This red-brick building was designed by architect F.A. Henninger in the Prairie style made famous by Frank Lloyd Wright. Located at 503 S. 36th St., it was designated as an Omaha Historical Landmark in 1982.



Copyrighted photo courtesy of R.McNees, permission granted.



### 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**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, Noon – 6pm

**V.F.W. Pancake Breakfast**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, 8am – Noon

**AMVETS Pancake Breakfast**  
4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 8am – Noon

### **Kitchen Open:**

5:00 – 7:00pm Wed & Thu

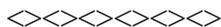
5:00 – 9:00pm Fri & Sat

*Good Food, Great Prices, Family Friendly*  
Menu available at [www.vfw247.com](http://www.vfw247.com)

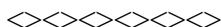


### QUICK SNIPS.....

In response to the article about the 96-gallon carts in last month's issue of The Exchange, Carol wants to know exactly where she is going to store hers if the experiment is successful. Seriously, suggestions are needed.



Artwork made by any of the youngsters in our neighborhood is still desired for publication in the newsletter. Drop off an email or photo to [atlarge@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:atlarge@LNAOmaha.org)



Perhaps you have read in the Omaha World Herald that the Park Ave. Grocery has been sold! Mary Ann and Mick Caniglia have been the proprietors for decades. Urban Village is the buyer. More details will be forthcoming. Thank you Mary Ann and family for the service you have provided in this neighborhood!!!



Also sold is the old apartment building at 1040 S. 29th St. This is known as the Georgia Apartments and is on the Omaha Landmarks listing. When there was discussion about the removal of the Clarinda-Page Apartment, this was one of the properties that we highlighted that needed attention. It has been vacant for decades. The buyer is InCommon and their plans are to convert it to low income housing.

### Getting There.....



*Photos by Jack Henry*

A special clean-up event was held at the Dewey Park Headquarters on October 22nd. The front section had been tilled and thanks to the City Parks Department, mulch was provided for future landscaping efforts. A bit difficult to see, but perennials were placed along the front entryway. These were donated by Duff's Lawn Care Company. Thank you Joe!

There are plans to add hostas along the walls. If you have some you do not need permission to plant them, just do it!!! Note that there is landscape fabric underneath the mulch that would need to be penetrated at planting time. Thank you to John Costanzo, Jack Henry, Jim Thompson, Andrew Flater, Janelle Domeyer, John Nosal, and Luc Johnson for their time and energy.



## A Walk in the Neighborhood

By Carol Haas

This time of year is a reminder of just how pretty our neighborhood can be. Beautiful foliage abounds throughout our part of town. I took these photos in the first week of November. You might not recognize the exact tree but I'm sure you recognize the colors!!



And how lucky can we be to have a wonderful park system running through our neighborhood!



## Christmas Cheer

The LNA has had this program going for about 30 years. The format has changed since the original program, but we still have provided cheer to quite a number of kids.

We need someone to grab this program and arrange the logistics. Contact any of the Board members if you are interested.

Last year we sorted books and each child at Jackson School received some. They also received mittens, hats, and other items. Donations were received to buy the materials. We hope to bring cheer to about 250 kids.

The cost for this entire project is approximately \$1,500. Please think about making a donation towards Christmas Cheer this year.

Thank you!!

**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**

## Bulky Trash...Ugly Bulky Trash

By Jim Thompson

Why is it the City cannot get a handle on the amount of large, bulky and ugly trash littering not only ours, but other neighborhoods? I have written before about the unsightly droppings of mattresses, couches, chairs, etc., next to dumpsters. Of course no one is going to lift these things into a small dumpster.

Recently I drove down Military Ave. at approximately 45th and there was a set of used bedding leaning against the street sign. Ugly. Within a *two week period*, multiple trips by this same corner and the ugly was still there!! Whose job is it to report and get it taken care of?

Sure, I could have stopped, called the Weeds & Litter phone number (402-444-5910), and reported it. But I was on a mission with other things on my mind. And it wasn't MY neighborhood, so how much should I care?

Consequently, these situations are always complaint driven. SOMEONE has to call it in. So, who is that person or entity? Is it someone's job? Councilman Gernandt was successful in getting an new City ordinance passed that dealt with old couches, appliances, etc., not allowed on porches or other open spaces. Violation of this ordinance is called a "nuisance" and there is a healthy fine if the property owner is caught. The City Code states:

### **Sec. 18-6. - General authority of enforcement officers.**

The planning director, chief of police, parks, recreation, and public property director, and/or other officer duly designated by the mayor and/or health director of the county health department shall take all measures necessary to abate nuisances of every description on public and private property, in a manner consistent with applicable law. (Code 1980, § 18-6; Ord. No. 33765, § 1, 12-19-95; Ord. No. 40237, § 1, 1-27-15)

That seems like a good lot of folks with an opportunity to address ugly trash. In the real world, it has fallen on some guy riding around in a white pick-up who works for the Parks Department. AND it takes a written notice to the offender, 10-day correction period, blah blah blah. Unfortunately these situations sometimes don't get taken care of until the Spring Clean-up done by volunteer neighborhood people.

With the amount of trash nuisance in our alleys, the amount of miles and gas used by this pick-up driver

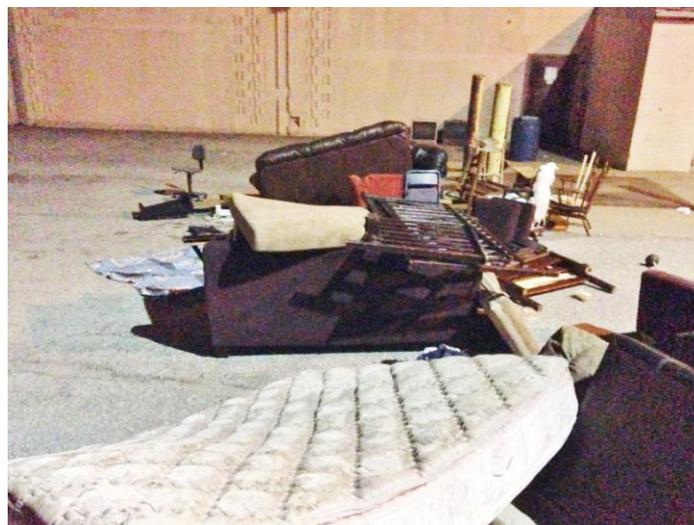
could pay for itself IF fines (up to \$500) were ever levied. I have no idea if the City has ever collected any fines. But there has to be an easier, quicker and ultimately cleaner way.

As a result of a recent lawsuit against the City those who report this type of nuisance must provide their name. Hmm. Ugly Mattress vs. Caring Clean Guy. Who is going to win this little battle? Of course the Caring Clean Guy is right but that does not mean Ugly Mattress finds its rightful home promptly in a landfill.

The ordinance states the Mayor can designate someone to report nuisances. Can this be a generic designation such as "President, Neighborhood Association"? Perhaps that could speed things up in the reporting process. You know that pick-up driver can't be in all four corners of the city at once!

And seriously, how about changing the 10-day correction time? Perhaps this was instituted when dilapidated properties were more prevalent in the city. I think one day should be plenty of time to call a hauler and get rid of Ugly Mattress. How much time does it take to transport a new mattress from your favorite store? People need to be held responsible for their stuff especially when it changes category from being used to becoming trash.

If landlords could enforce this aspect of their tenants behavior, that would also benefit the neighborhood. Any other solutions? Bring them to the meeting.



*Photo of an ongoing problem in our neighborhood.*

## Leavenworth Kid's Corner

Contributed by Cassandra Mayo  
agapemayo@gmail.com

With Thanksgiving Day right around the corner, you may be wondering how to explain being thankful to young'ns in your life. With our 16 month old Eloise, it was important to us to teach her "please" and "thank you"- and not just for the cute factor. We genuinely want her to understand the value of saying "please" and instill in her a heart of gratitude.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, we will be talking with the little ones in our life about the people, places, and things they love and reading them books, asking them to write/draw thank you cards, and explaining how "thankful" we are to have their help on Thanksgiving Day. I also would like to encourage you to have your children draw pictures or write cards of thanks to be given to the Vet's at the VFW. Veterans Day is November 11th!

Here's a great article from Parents.com about "Teaching Children to Be Grateful" and learning a sense of gratitude:

<http://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/development/behavioral/teaching-children-to-be-gra>



## 2017 LNA Board of Directors Absentee Ballot

**Two Year Term (two positions open):**  
**John Costanzo** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Andrew Flater** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Write-in:)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this ballot to the following address:**

**Leavenworth Neighborhood  
Association  
3031 Leavenworth St.  
Omaha, NE 68105**

**Member  
signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed  
Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**All absentee ballots must be received or dropped off at the LNA meeting on November 17 by 7:00 p.m. to be counted for the 2017 election. Nominations for additional candidates will be accepted from the floor at the general meeting on November 17, 2016.**

**Each adult (18 years or older) who has paid dues and lives, owns property, or owns/operates a business within the LNA Boundaries shall be eligible to vote. Maximum of two votes per household and 1 vote per business unless the business is co-owned then it shall be entitled to two votes.**

***Copy absentee ballot as needed.***



Nov. 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.