

# The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

*Celebrating together as friends and neighbors*

Volume 32 Issue 2, February 2016



## Annual Chili Cook-off Contest!!



It has become an LNA tradition to feed the members with a toasty bowl of chili at the General Membership Meeting in February. But this is not just an ordinary bowl. Each member has an opportunity to share their special concoction from recipes they inherited, garnered from the internet, or just plain made up from emptying the contents of the cupboard.

Not only is this a chance to feed your belly, but it is also a good opportunity to get to know your neighbors.

After multiple samples by all the members, judging occurs and the winner gets some bragging rights! Perhaps the winner may reveal the best recipe for the next newsletter.

Bring your crock pot on down for the annual cook-off. If you enter the contest, please bring your own ladle or serving spoon as we do not have a supply. Plates and accessories will be provided. YUM!!

**WOW!!**

**Have you seen the new meeting space? Or perhaps a photo on Facebook or Instagram?**

**Come to the new headquarters of the LNA at Dewey Park. With the help of some dedicated volunteers and the assistance from a couple of businesses, the place is looking awesome!!!**

**See you on Feb. 16.**

**Reminder!** The next LNA Membership meeting will be **Feb. 16, 2016, 7:00 PM**, at Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey. Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

## President's Letter.....

A thank you goes out to the people who helped at the workday at LNAHQ - it was the largest turnout we've had for quite some time! Many hands make light work. We are constantly striving to make the LNA a better and more efficient organization and greatly appreciate the efforts our active members have made to bring the LNA to the place that it is today.

Remember to attend this month's meeting for the February Chili Cook Off. The chili is always excellent and greatly appreciated.

I encourage you to come to this month's meeting at 550 Turner Boulevard on the 16th to share ways that we can continue to make the Leavenworth Neighborhood a better place to live, work, and play.

*Jack Henry*

### LNA Budget 2017

On Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> the LNA board met to set the budget for 2017. In reviewing monies spent in 2016, we were able to find several areas that afforded us an opportunity to scale back. A renewed focus on streamlined success, combined with a scaled back master plan has put us in a position to succeed. Here's the proposed budget for 2017:

Category	2017 Proposal
August Picnic	\$200.00
Building and grounds maintenance	\$400.00
Chili Feed	\$50.00
Christmas Cheer	\$400.00
Holiday Party	\$200.00
Marketing	\$400.00
Neighborhood Cleanup	\$50.00
Newsletter	\$400.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2000.00</b>

## At Home in the Neighborhood

By John Costanzo

"Home is where the hearth is", or so the saying goes. In the years, my family and I have been members of the Leavenworth Neighborhood: it has called several locations home. From the fellowship hall at First Lutheran Church, to the meeting hall at the VFW and most recently the Tin Box studio, all these locations have welcomed us in and have allowed us a surrogate home. For they were places where neighbors were welcomed to mingle, share their stories and discuss the topics which have mattered to us through the years. People are the only truly essential ingredient to a vibrant neighborhood.

There is however, also something ultimately reassuring about having one's own place to hang your hat and call home.

This last weekend, work was afoot at the Dewey Tennis building. Neighbors gathered midmorning to continue the transformation of this new location into our permanent home. Over a dozen individuals offered their time and expertise the results have been amazing. Many hands truly do make the load lighter. A special shout out to Zach and crew with Johnson Deconstruction for donating the time and manpower to get the carpet installed. Our brand is now on the window and I cannot help but feel a new sense of pride in our new hearth, one that I hope will be as warm and inviting as is the indomitable spirit of our little corner of the city.



The new year has never looked so bright in the LNA, I hope to see you all at this month's meeting. Come share some fellowship, a bowl of chili and find out what changes are coming next!

## Public Art Team

By Jim Thompson

Last month there was a note about needing some folks to come forward that have a special eye for public art. The LNA area has evolved with quite a number of murals for example. Do you know where all of these are displayed? How many?? And further, how many more we can stimulate into existence??

The purpose of you, if you have that eye we seek, is to assist in highlighting the dimension of public art to the neighborhood. And along with the goal of beautifying the neighborhood, assist with potential locations for *more* public art.

Since we built the Turner Boulevard Trail, added the stairway at the Snake Hill area, improved the parks along the way, and with the tremendous rise of Midtown Crossing, wouldn't it be wonderful to enhance the walk on the trail and through our neighborhood with some spectacular sculptures?

Start thinking. And we will see you at the meeting to discuss it further.

## Loving Leavenworth Neighborhood

By Janelle Domeyer

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, I thought it would be a good idea to take some time to think about what I "love" about the Leavenworth Neighborhood.

Leavenworth Neighborhood has been my only neighborhood since I moved to Omaha in 2005. Originally I was drawn to the area because its Gold Coast adjacent location was interesting, eclectic, and diverse...it was close to both Dundee and the Old Market, yet very affordable. I loved the novelty of living on a brick street, in an old apartment building with wood floors, and I had amazing landlords.

As I started to save up to buy my first home I knew I wanted to remain east of 72<sup>nd</sup> street and started looking at houses between Vinton street and Benson. The first house I looked at was one block from my apartment, but of course I wanted to see more. After about a month where I'm sure I viewed more than 30 or 40 homes, I went back to that very first house and knew it was home.

Midtown Crossing was also under construction at the time and I felt that this was a neighborhood in which to invest. I was right. Over the past twelve years since I first moved to this area I've seen buildings rise, apartments rehabbed, and old homes lovingly restored.

I've walked my kids to Dewey Park, tried Indian food for the first time at Mother India, and met friends for nights out at the Crescent Moon. I drank coffee from Speilbound, watched movies in Turner Park on hot summer nights, and stared longingly at all the beautiful old architecture that exists in our boundaries. *I love* a place with character and Leavenworth Neighborhood is blessed with it!

## Membership Team

One of our standing committees in the LNA is designed to increase our membership. We have had a good core of volunteers stepping forward to lead that effort. Your membership dues not only help to fund the things we do, but help to assure you are informed about what is happening in *your* neighborhood.

Team Captain: Janelle Domeyer  
Cindy Mitchell  
Jack Henry  
Ashley Flater  
Laura Green



Photo by Brad Nevo/Admiral District

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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

SUPPORTING MIDTOWN SINCE 2001  
MEMBER SIPC

## LNA Master Plan - 2017

By Jack Henry

As an organization, we've adopted a very tactical Master Plan for 2017: Membership, Fundraising and LNAHQ. Even the term 'Master Plan' seems audacious for the 3 measures of success we have embraced for the year because they're so unassuming. The former Master Plan, as you may remember, will return one day. Those lofty goals haven't been shelved but for now we need to focus on our core.

### Membership

We will focus on growing and retaining membership by providing value to our neighbors and organization. Our line-up of guest speakers already include Mayoral Candidate Heath Mello, and Katy Spragg (TAGG). There are others we hope to confirm as the year progresses. These visitors will provide unique perspectives into the neighborhood and the City of Omaha and hopefully pique the interest of our community. We live in the most densely populated part of the city and it offers a diverse opportunity for growth! Young professionals are the fastest growing demographic. Stats show, collectively, "millennials" give more time by way of volunteering than any other generation. These young men and women have the time, talent and technology to make our organization robust and we want to be welcoming and providing the value to make membership to LNA meaningful.

### Fund Raising

Top-line revenue is always a goal but more-so this year. To aggressively market ourselves and our new meeting space in Dewey Park not only takes time but money. Where will it come from? Membership drives, community out-reach, hosting a picnic and a holiday party all require funding and can be budgeted. The scope of our membership goals and the focus on the LNAHQ requires we take advantage of every occasion to help raise extra funds. This is very simple: perhaps a silent auction at the picnic or a wine-pull at the holiday party? Have you been diligent to TAGG your purchases for LNA? Together A Greater Good has been highlighted in past newsletters and the ease of its app is flawless. Last month we raised over \$34 – that's two memberships. Imagine if we doubled that by getting two more neighbors to TAGG for us. Our burden would be lifted exponentially!

### LNA Head Quarters

Gaining access to 550 Turner Blvd was a great success!

When we first got the keys last year there was a lot of work in front us: graffiti covered walls, years of dirt and decay were everywhere. But it was a value-oriented achievement and the building we inherited is not the same building we host our monthly meetings in today! It provides more than 2500 square feet of meeting space and offices, our records are centralized, and we now show-case our history on the walls. All of this lends credibility to the LNA and provides value to our membership and fundraising efforts.

Work here continues but it is well worth the efforts. We send a strong message to our neighbors and City leaders on the vibrant future of our organization.



Summer Training, Employment Pathway & Urban Pipeline

2017 Summer Online Application Open  
February 6<sup>th</sup> – March 6<sup>th</sup>

To apply online go to: [www.stepupomaha.com](http://www.stepupomaha.com)



### Are you between the ages of 14 and 21?

1. Earn up to \$1,800 in the summer!
2. Gain on-the-job experience and explore career opportunities.
3. Learn more about your strengths, talents and career interests.
4. Gain valuable skills including interviewing, job search and customer service.
5. Acquire life and job skills and get connected with longer term employment opportunities.

Starting February 6<sup>th</sup> STEP-UP Omaha! will be accepting online applications from youth and young adults that are ages 14–21 (at time of application) and live in the city of Omaha. (Submission of application does not guarantee acceptance into the program)

Questions? Call (402) 502-3763 or visit: [www.stepupomaha.com](http://www.stepupomaha.com)

Step-Up Omaha! is a community-based initiative of the Empowerment Network and City of Omaha in collaboration with community partners including: Banister's Leadership Academy, Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands, ENCAP, Heartland Workforce Solutions, Hope Center for Kids, Girls Inc., Latino Center of the Midlands, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha Economic Development Corporation, Omaha Housing Authority, Omaha Public Schools, ResCare, Salvation Army Kroc Center, South Omaha Business Alliance & Urban League of Nebraska.

## Winter Beauty? Winter UGLY!!

By Jim Thompson

At the time of writing this we still do not have any snow on the ground. I was sort of hoping that a good snowfall would cover up a lot of the trash and junk in the neighborhood. But alas, come those 40 degree temperatures the trash reveals it's ugly face. And the spring clean-up is too far away for the couches and mattress that seem to find their final destination.

In the meantime, there continue to be trouble spots that make an ugly journey through our streets and alleys. The idea that mattresses, tires, chairs, etc., magically make their way into small, two cubic yard dumpsters is beyond comprehension. Those who litter these things need to be educated. If it is a tenant situation, clarity in the leases is necessary. The City continues to monitor the streets and alleys and the fines are significant. But unfortunately, they cannot get to all corners of the neighborhood.

Fortunately the majority of our landlords take care of their property. The very good looking wood dumpster fences that enclose some of their receptacles are a fantastic example. And although midnight dumpers seemingly never go away, with cameras and observing eyes hopefully we can catch some of these lawbreakers. At the very least, we encourage property managers to keep on top of their situation.

Recently in Nextdoor there was a query on who in the area can haul bulky things away. There were a number of recommendations. I have been in touch with Keep Omaha Beautiful to establish a more formal list that would allow anyone to choose a qualified hauler should the need arise. I'm not sure if licensing is required in this field, but insurance and a guaranty of final disposition would be necessary. Perhaps we can achieve a viable solution to this ongoing problem.

### The EXCHANGE by e-mail?

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 to your home or business if  
 you desire that instead.

## Still Lost Dog

By Carol Haas

Many of you know Terry McMullen of the warehouse where we select books for Christmas Cheer. Right before Christmas Terry's dog, Cleo, (a 19 month old Bernese mountain dog), was lost when she was out of the car to stretch her legs. When Terry turned away for a minute, Cleo had disappeared – the only place she could go was into Papio Creek near 85<sup>th</sup> and Frederick. Terry scrambled into the creek after her and hit his head on the ice trying to grab her. His injury resulted in about 50 stitches and, he wasn't able to retrieve Cleo. Since then numerous organizations and veterinarians have been contacted. A Facebook page "Help Find Cleo" was created. Many people have volunteered to search for Cleo. Dog experts say the pup should have survived her dip in the icy creek and several sights of a similar dog were noted in the area shortly after she went missed.

I corresponded with Terry in mid-January and so far Cleo hasn't turned up. Numerous postcards have been sent out in an effort to find her. All of us who've had pets know they are members of the family – nearly like one of the kids. We wish Terry and his family the best in their efforts to find Cleo and bring closure to this sad situation.



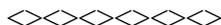
**PLEASE JOIN**  
**Conceive Nebraska**  
**AT THE 1ST ANNUAL**  
*Girlfriends Gala*  
*Friday, March 10th, 2017*  
**AT SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING**  
*Omaha, Nebraska*  
**FOR MORE DETAILS:**  
[WWW.CONCEIVENEBRASKA.ORG](http://WWW.CONCEIVENEBRASKA.ORG)  
SPONSORED BY: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SPECIALISTS AJUXT MEDIA GROUP  
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 THE WONDER NOOK SHANNON SALEM- THE BEERS TEAM (CBSHOME)  
 AGNES AND DORA- SARAH STUMME PERINATAL ASSOCIATES  
 OMAHA PSYCHOTHERAPY PICKLEMANS IDEAL PAYROLL

## QUICK SNIPS.....

**Wistar** is the new name for CPM Realty. They have moved into our neighborhood at 32nd and Leavenworth. Wistar is a property management company. Welcome!!



The LNA has still not heard from the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA). We joined last year but are unsure whether they are still active and what our dues are used for nor what other neighborhoods might be involved



Unfortunately there was an officer involved shooting recently in **Dewey Park**. Isolated situation. Nothing to be scared about. To quote one of the witnesses on the news, "We are a very, very safe neighborhood."



In last month's issue of The Reader, I noticed an ad labeled "Hiding Out?". Apparently **Bud Olson's Bar** has been voted Best Bar for Hiding Out. Cool. I've tried to hide there but have never been successful except when I park my truck at Alderman's. Bud's was also voted Best Bar for Stiffest Pours and Best Neighborhood Tavern. I didn't vote but would have acknowledged the significant change from the old "D" word. Great place to visit. If that is a category I would vote for that! Thank you Tom O. and crew for being a great neighbor and congratulations!!

**Have you had your car broken into? Something stolen from your yard or business? Suspicious characters roaming around??**

**Of course you should first call the police or 911 depending on the urgency of the matter.**

**The LNA has an active "Crime Alert" email listing to share information within the neighborhood. If you have an incident, report it to [atlarge@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:atlarge@LNAOmaha.org) and it will be shared with your neighbors. Communication is an important element in keeping our neighborhood safe.**

**Note that this email listing is not used for any commercial purposes.**



# 2017 RESTORE OMAHA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Saturday, March 4, 2017 | 8 to 5 p.m.

Metropolitan Community College, Fort Omaha Campus  
Institute for the Culinary Arts Building and the Mule Barn  
32nd and Sorensen Parkway | Omaha, Nebraska

The historic Hotel Deco in downtown Omaha will offer rooms for \$129 for Restore Omaha attendees. To reserve contact Laurie Czyz Group at 402-991-4981 or [lczyz@hoteldecomaha.com](mailto:lczyz@hoteldecomaha.com).





Attention owners of older homes, neighborhood community leaders, realtors, developers and architects – Restore Omaha has something for you:

- **FRIDAY NIGHT:** Attend *Saving Places: A Preservation Celebration*, a night honoring preservation achievements in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro. The event features drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a fast moving video awards ceremony along with desserts and coffee all inside the restored Art Deco Paxton building at 14th and Farnam Streets.
- **KEYNOTE BY THE NATIONAL TRUST'S TOM MAYES:** *Why Do Old Places Matter?* Mayes will share 14 reasons and give you the tools to advocate for saving older places in your community.
- **CHOOSE FROM 18 BREAKOUT SESSIONS:** Topics range from maintaining old windows, historic tile and the current restoration of M's Pub. CEUs offered for architects and realtors.
- **RESTORE JAM:** Share the before-and-after photos of your own restoration project.

And, plenty of opportunities to visit with vendors, local craftsmen and other attendees to **GATHER IDEAS, CONTACTS AND SOLUTIONS.**

For more information and to register visit  
[WWW.RESTOREOMAHA.ORG](http://WWW.RESTOREOMAHA.ORG)

MAJOR SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

Dicon and Lund-Ross  
AIA Omaha and Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture  
AO\*, Hotel Deco, Field Day Development, Morrissey Engineering, PEN Architect, Oldenhuis Contracting, R. Mechanical and Renaissance Roofing

Spend the day gathering ideas, solutions and inspiration to restore and preserve older properties.







## Leavenworth Kid's Corner

Contributed by *Kassandra Mayo agapemayo@gmail.com*

It's that time of year where parents of lovely little ones ages 2-4, begin looking for preschools that best fit their families needs. As a 13 year Preschool Teacher veteran, I am asked all the time what parents should look for in a Preschool. This question always boggles me as Preschool is the time to introduce your child to the school setting and hopefully instill a young love for learning. As parents, we are their primary teachers and the Preschool you pick should reflect the learning environment and values we share with them at home.

Here is a great article of ten steps to finding the right Preschool for your little learner whether you choose private or public school, a co-op, or homeschool: <https://www.parentmap.com/article/10-steps-to-finding-a-preschool>

## Old to New

By Jim Thompson

I recently had the opportunity to visit an old friend and Omaha Historian, Howard Hamilton. On the wall of his "mini-museum" was a poster of old houses and the names of the occupants in Old Omaha. I took a couple of pictures that were identified on this poster, a pictorial probably from the 20's. It was common to share such photos back then, some of the houses being stand-outs for the time. Of the four within our boundaries, only one is still standing.



I have not had time to research who A.G. Sundgren was, nor how long he had lived there. But the house was built in 1910. Today:



Looking good for over 100 years old!! I'm curious if there are any old houses in the LNA that are still in the family of the original owners. If you know, let us know!

**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**

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



FEB.  
2017



LEAVENWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
3031 Leavenworth St.  
Omaha, NE 68105

*"Celebrating together as  
friends and neighbors"*

## THE LEAVENWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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### 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](mailto:President@LNAOmaha.org)  
Vice-President: Janelle Domeyer  
Email: [Vice-President@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:Vice-President@LNAOmaha.org)  
Secretary: John Costanzo 402-699-0048  
Email: [Secretary@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:Secretary@LNAOmaha.org)  
Treasurer: Andrew Flater (515-520-1255) Email: [aflater@gmail.com](mailto:aflater@gmail.com)  
At Large: Jim Thompson 402-672-0603  
Email: [atlarge@LNAOmaha.org](mailto: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.