

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 32 Issue 4, April 2017



Spring Clean-Up April 29

By Jim Thompson

Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Where: Dewey Park Bldg., Turner Blvd. and Dewey

Who: Everyone in our neighborhood

Why: Because for 32 years we have taken pride in our neighborhood by cleaning up the bulk trash from garages, alleys, basements, etc. The City has provided the means by budgeting and providing the packer trucks and manpower to haul this bulky trash. We, and other neighborhood groups, take this day to round up the junk that cannot go on the curb.

The location has changed as we embrace the space of our new headquarters at Dewey Park. There will be a chance to recycle scrap metal again, as we have done for 31 years. And as we have also done for the last three decades, we will assist those in need and roam the alleys for junk. But we do need someone with a pick-up truck to volunteer.

Clean-Up cont. on Page 3

President's Letter....

Can you believe it's *already* April? One list I found had over 30 causes when I Googled 'April is National ___ Month' - some of them were different variations of lawn or garden awareness and already we see the neighborhood waking-up and greening-up from the doldrums of winter! It feels good to see and hear spring in the air! But I say we make April 'LNA Bring A Guest To A Meeting Month'! Help build our organization and bring a guest to this month's meeting on April 20th - you never know, you may win a prize for yourself and your neighbor!

We continue to see excitement with neighborhood and membership involvement. One of the challenges LNA faces is the dynamic growth of Midtown and our ability to keep in front such rapid change and development. We offer a unique ability to reach neighbors and citizens of Midtown Omaha - as demonstrated by various guest speakers from the City such as Councilman Jerram, City Clerk Dan Esch and Norita Map who spoke about the upcoming NUSA Conference. We also offer a meaningful avenue for

President's Letter cont. on Page 3

Reminder! The next LNA Membership meeting will be **April 20, 2017, 7:00 PM,** at Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey.

Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

Reggie Welles, 1938 - 2017

By Jim Thompson

Goodbye, dear neighbor. Happy trails as you walk through Heaven's Gate.

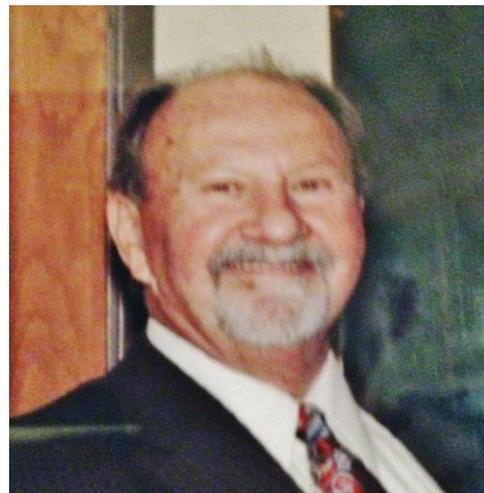
Once again I am saddened to open the paper and see another obituary of a long term Leavenworth neighbor. I always think of Reggie and Lois when I talk about our association. When attempting to describe who we are, I give a general statement about our boundaries. Since I live in "East LNA", I immediately refer to those who live on 29th Street, the western boundary, as my neighbors. Nine blocks over, three blocks up. Yup, they are considered my neighbors. That is an important factor in determining the character of a neighborhood. And it was people like Reggie and Lois who define what truly being a neighbor is all about.

Reggie would participate in a lot of things but most of our neighborhood would see him at our annual spring clean-up. He evolved into the perfect traffic engineer, which we so desperately need at these events. Us

youngsters would do the heavy lifting, but Reggie would keep it under control with his orange flag. He apologized last year for not being able to attend because he had surgery. Really? It's okay to take a year off!! But that would tell you how dedicated he was.

At his funeral it was mentioned that he liked to tell stories. I think we all knew that. He personally witnessed the impact of I-480 slicing a section in Midtown, including the house he lived in, and I never got tired of his reminder of such "progress". In reviewing the other things he had done while on Earth, it would be enough to fill a book. Most importantly was his grateful love of Boys Town and how it changed his life. As a beneficiary of his thankfulness, we in the LNA were lucky he stayed around as long as he did.

Perhaps he felt the twilight of old age nudging too strongly and last year sold his house and moved into an apartment. Big adjustment from that large house on 29th. This major decision will undoubtedly ease the burden that will face Lois as time moves on. Even though he moved, he was still a member of the LNA!! And we are using his subsequent donation for continuing to fix things up at headquarters.



Lois reports that she has a large family and good group of friends to help her in transition. For sure, she has the support of the Leavenworth Neighborhood as well. Just typing his name reminds me how he would ask people what we thought his real name was. He would chuckle when revealing "Reginald". I chuckled when I read in the funeral program that his middle initial "A" stood for Archibald. Reggie, you never told us that! Rest in peace dear neighbor, and thank you for sharing.

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

President's Letter from Page 1

neighbors to give-back to their community as demonstrated in the collaboration of new and long-time members with the community gardens and planned summer events in Dewey Park. We continue to embrace all our neighbors and remain excited about the future of Midtown! We're a fun organization to be a part of and a great way connect with your community.

Our next event is April 29 with the Neighborhood Cleanup and LNA Open House.

Jack Henry

Clean-Up, from Page 1

The City has again provided sites for dropping off tires and appliances. Tires can be dropped off at 22nd & Leavenworth. Appliances need to be dropped off at South High School on 23rd & J Street. Note that rims must be removed from the tires.

If you do not have the means to transport your junk, call me at 402-342-4371.

Here are the simple rules:

- * Neighborhood volunteers will monitor the dumpsters (NO commercial hauling!)
- * Items **ACCEPTED**: furniture, bulky items, metal
- * Items **NOT ACCEPTED**: yardwaste, rocks, concrete, paint, hazardous & toxic material
- * **Toxic materials** (paint, oil, pesticides, chemicals) can be taken to the *Under the Sink* facility near 120th & I Streets. They are making special provisions this year to be open on Saturday until 4:00 PM, no appointment necessary.
- * **Tree brush** vouchers will be available for large loads.

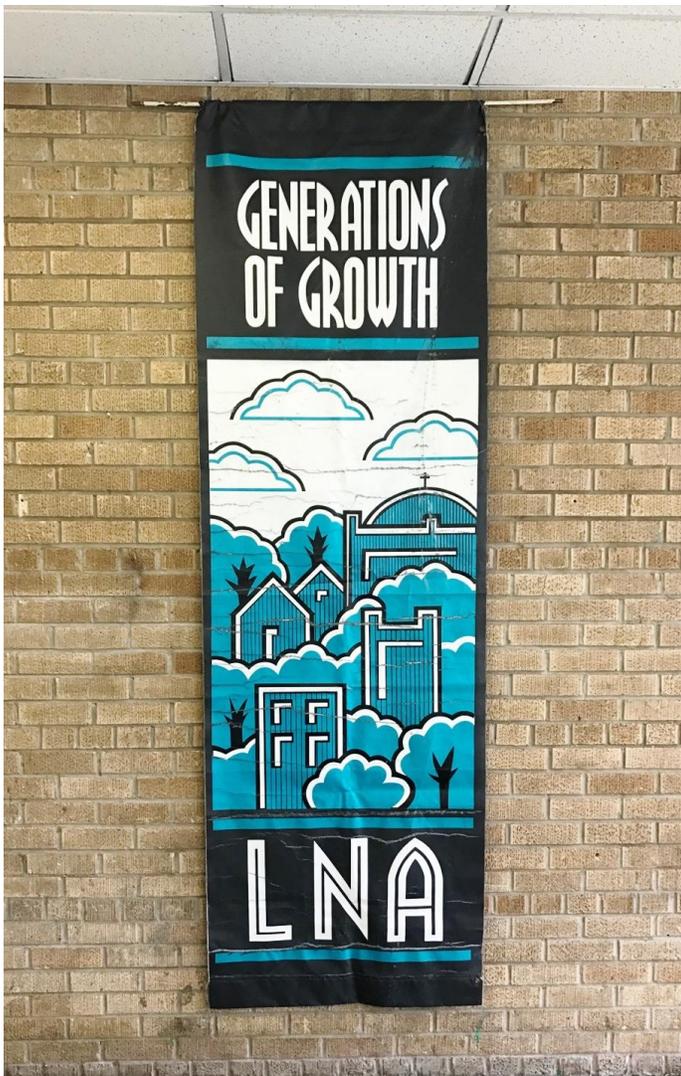
Please note that the hours of our event are only from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. And yes, **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** The Membership Team will be on hand to collect your dues and provide refreshments. Thank you to our consistent and loyal vendors in the LNA for their donations.

In addition to getting the neighborhood spruced up, this event has always been a great social time to introduce and work arm-in-arm with your neighbors. Please join us for either the morning or afternoon shift to color our neighborhood clean!

Wanted: Clean-Up Coordinator

It has been a good 32 years coordinating the annual neighborhood clean-up event. I could not have done it alone and cannot begin to enumerate the helping hands that have participated in that time. I do enjoy the event, especially the clockwork precision that seems to prevail each year. But I would like to have a youngster step forward to grab the reins.

There are surely some ideas floating around that can be generated into our cause. Although I have the time to do a lot of things, I want to share this clean-up task with others and will mentor accordingly. The rewards are special, especially the days and weeks following the event. Talk to me at the meeting - Jim Thompson.



QUICK SNIPS.....

CORRECTION: Last month we welcomed a new law firm into the neighborhood and incorrectly identified them as White and Ferguson. They are **White and Jorgensen**. Welcome the "Jorgensen" half! And we hope whoever Ferguson is moves into the neighborhood as well!



As we prepare for our annual clean-up through the neighborhood, the reminders of mattresses, couches, chairs, etc., left NEXT to dumpsters is NOT an appropriate deposit. **Landlords: PLEASE** clarify this with your tenants. We would appreciate it! There are a few locations where the landlord is conspicuously absent from their responsibilities. Please comply.



Our sympathy to Mike Schwartz, owner of **Wohlner's Grocery**, on the passing of his father Sid. Wohlner's is Omaha's oldest grocery store, founded in 1918 and currently on 33rd & Dodge in Midtown Crossing.



To the neighbor who contacted me about the cars parked in the "No Parking" zone on 33rd and Leavenworth, there is not much our neighborhood association can do to correct that unsafe situation. I was told that a call to 911 would be more appropriate to hopefully get the message to those parked illegally. Thank you for your concern.



Kudos to the **Down Under Lounge** for a recent event spearheaded by bartender Adam Flohr. Adam organized a Modest Mouse Tribute Night for the American Cancer Society. Over 25 artists volunteered their time to play and \$500 was raised for Colon Cancer Research. A check was presented to the ACS on April 11. Modest Mouse is a rock band currently on tour in the U.S.



The other day I saw a driver smoking, texting, and driving. STOP IT!!! I don't mean the smoking part as it's his body to do with whatever he wants. But the texting part is becoming an extreme safety hazard. LB 371 introduced by Sen. Kolowski needs to pass.

Infertility Awareness Month

By Cassandra Mayo

April is Infertility Awareness Month. One in 8 couples deal with infertility and it's up to us to transform how other view it. "Infertility does not discriminate based on race, religion, sexuality or economic status. You never know how badly you want something until you are told that it may not be possible." Be a part of the movement that wants to remove the barriers that stand in the way of building families.

Join Conceive Nebraska as they host the Infertility Awareness Walk!



Register at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NE/Omaha/WalkforInfertilityAwareness>

Leavenworth Neigh. Assn. Little League Team.... PLAY BALL!!

By Jim Thompson

We are officially a sponsor for a little league team out of Grover Little League, 64th & Grover St. Details are being formed as to who is on the team, the team schedule, etc.

Grover Little League has been around for decades and boasts a number of State Championships over the years. They encompass Midtown and parts of South Omaha. I would not be surprised if those kids that played in this program are now homeowners and business owners with kids of their own ready to play ball for this institution.

We hope to have an ongoing report on the success of the team, whether it be t-ball, coach pitch, or one of the higher levels of play. Stay tuned!!!

Just a Little Complaining!

By Carol Haas

Or probably preaching to the choir! But sometimes it is such a mystery to me why people don't have pride in their yards and neighborhood! As I walked to my neighbor's home recently, there was so much trash in the yards – sleeved advertising flyers, miscellaneous cardboard, plastic, etc. Yes – those weekly advertising flyers may not be something you want, but call the World Herald and opt out (402-444-1420). Or at the very least, pick them up and put them in your recycle bin or trash can. One family actually put their trash out for collection adjacent to the flyer and didn't bother to toss it in.



Additionally, people seem to have no problem taking their full trash cans to the curb on pick-up day but can't seem to carry the empty cans back from the street. One empty can sat on the curb partially obstructing an alley for a week.



There is actually a City ordinance that requires removal of trash receptacles by 10:00 a.m. the day following collection and allows the City to fine people \$100 for leaving trash containers on the curb too long (based on complaints). No – I haven't reported anyone yet, but it is oh so tempting ☺.

Our neighborhood is a nice place with parks, trails, and wonderful people. It's certainly a place to show your pride and respect for your neighbors. Next time I'm out walking about I'll take a trash bag with me – it's good exercise bending over to pick up stuff and will make the neighborhood all the better! Hopefully, you'll do the same!

Headquarters Clean-up

Thank you for the 'Last Saturday Cleanup' crew!!! John Costanzo, Jim Thompson, Janelle Domeyer, Ben White, Katie Zimmer, Geoff Erickson, Jack Henry and John McCaul gathered at the 10:00 AM designated time to assist in the ongoing effort to spruce up the Dewey Park Building.

The window sills were scraped, prepared for caulk. The banner was hung. The office and storage space was organized. And there is more to do..... like painting the window sills and doing some more general cleaning.

This month the 'Last Saturday Clean-up' will be dedicated to our annual neighborhood clean-up. But put May 27 on your calendar to come over to continue the effort. Of course if you have some time during the month we will not stop you from helping! Just ask any Board member for access.

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

Midtown on the Move

Hi neighbors! My name is Andy Wessel and I'm a Gifford Park resident. In my day job at the Douglas County Health Department, I'm working on **Midtown on the Move** and I wanted to tell you more about what's going on and how Leavenworth Neighborhood residents can be involved.

The purpose of Midtown on the Move is pretty simple – encouraging people to switch one trip a week. By #SWITCHATRIP, we mean to leave the car behind and walk, bike, bus or rideshare instead.

The reasons why to give it a try are pretty simple too – neighbors being out and about creates an active street life which supports local businesses and the type of personal connections that makes our neighborhoods safer and more vibrant. Plus leaving the car at home is a way to build in some physical activity (which helps our stress levels and the fight against chronic diseases) – while also keeping down traffic congestion and pollution.

Midtown on the Move will be **starting April 28 and running through June 30** in four neighborhoods – Leavenworth, Joslyn Castle, Gifford Park, and Blackstone. Help show the rest of Omaha what makes Midtown great (and win prizes from local businesses) by signing up at midtownonthemove.org.

And you're all invited to the Kickoff Party from 6:30-8:30 pm on April 27 at Scriptown Brewery where there will be discounted drinks and a chance to win some cool prizes from local businesses. Thanks to the businesses listed on the webpage who have offered gift cards and prizes to support this great neighborhood program.

Hope to see you out and about over the next few months. Call me at 402-444-7225 if you have any questions.

If you want some personal guidance on how to switch a trip, contact Shelby Braun through the website above. She's the Midtown on the Move Navigator.



11AM – 6PM, 22 APRIL, 2017 AT ELMWOOD PARK

Free Tree Climb Opportunity! Climb Nebraska's state champion swamp white oak with a rope and harness from 11am-4pm. *-Presented by Nebraska Statewide Arboretum*

"Dust of your Bike" & Valet Bike Parking! A kids safety course will be taught from 1-2pm and free helmets will be given to the first 50 kids to complete the safety training. *-Presented by Omaha Bikes*

Electronic Recycling! Recycle anything with a cord, motor or battery! (Small fees apply for televisions and CRT monitors.) *- Presented by Cross Electronic Recycling*

Beer Garden & Food Court!

There are things going on throughout the day. Please check the schedule at: www.EarthDayOmaha.org

Earth Planting in the LNA.....
On Saturday, April 22, some of the neighbors are getting together to plant flowers and other green things at LNA headquarters. Please watch our facebook page for details.

Leavenworth Kid's Corner

Contributed by *Kassandra Mayo agapemayo@gmail.com*

Spring is here and that means visions of gardens overflowing with flowers, vegetables, and other goodies are on our minds. Make sure to save space for the littlest gardener in your life! No matter what their age, 18 months to 18 years old, do your best to incorporate their thoughts and ideas into your gardening plot. Whether it's choosing the seed packets, digging trenches, building boxes, or planting, gardening teaches valuable lessons and allows unique bonding time.

A great way to introduce the kiddos in your life to the excitement of gardening, is to take a family trip to Omaha's Lauritzen Gardens. There they will be transported to a world of unique blooms and ideas to spark their imagination. Make sure to check out their website before planning your visit as they are also hosting several children's camps as well! Click her for more information

<https://www.lauritzengardens.org/>



Membership Team Update

The membership team met on April 4th and decided to host a Headquarters Open House during the spring clean up on April 29th. We are excited to show off all the work done inside the Dewey Park building and open it up to the neighborhood.

We will have refreshments and we will be getting people signed up to receive more info about LNA as well as collecting memberships.

Nuisance Calls

By Jim Thompson

When Reggie and Lois Welles sold their beautiful house on S. 29th Street I was appalled at the behavior of the new residents. Yes, the owners converted the property into rental and the people forgot their manners. Most appalling was the fact that Reggie's formerly beautiful lawn was converted into a parking area. Yes, muddy tracks and all.

Parking on the lawn is a violation of City ordinance.

After I attended Reggie's funeral I pulled around the block to see if this behavior was still present. No cars, but trash was piled high. Since then, I've see a couple of dumpsters so perhaps the owner is doing some renovation.

In the meantime, I asked a Police Officer about who would manage the ticketing of cars that are parked on lawns. To my surprise he said there is only ONE officer assigned to Nuisance Patrol. ONE, for the entire City. The officer informed me that the precinct continues to enforce street violations.

Years ago there was a real task force to handle these type of complaints. I believe there was even a civilian position assigned to help in this effort. I also recall there was at least one officer for each precinct assigned to handle nuisance complaints. But for whatever reason, priorities have been reassigned.

Now, I know it might not be a critical issue that someone parks on the lawn all the time. But why even have the ordinance if it is not going to be enforced? The more dense we get here in Midtown, where else can tenants park? Of course there are other types of nuisances that should probably be reported as well. Two options: Mayor's Hotline at 402-444-5555 or the Omaha Police at 402-444-3955 or 402-444-4877.

In addition there is a form one can submit on line at the Omaha Police Department website called a "TRS Request". It's an easy form but of course one has to give their name on the request.

The standards that have been set by City Ordinance do not always seem fair, but those that are on the books are intended to for public good. And if not, then they can be always be changed. In the meantime, a few manners by the neighbors can help with maintaining a quality setting.



April
2017



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: jack.austin.henry@gmail.com
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., Dewey Park Building on Turner Blvd.

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.