

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 32 Issue 6, June 2017



President's Letter.....

2017 is already half over – June is upon us! This is an exciting month for our neighborhood as Monday Movies start in Turner Park and the LNA Sponsored Little League Team continues to play in Leavenworth Park. June in Midtown is when I'm reminded how lucky I am to live here.

Pleasant weather coupled with the many activities this month brings, can lighten the mood. We face many divisive issues ranging from national politics to local street cars. Like the rest of you, I bring no easy answers to the larger issues and I'm glad focus on matters closest to LNA: our membership and our businesses.

This year has seen a spike in membership and engagement. New neighbors, family-run businesses, an active neighborhood group and students from nearby Creighton University and UNMC appreciate

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Guest Speaker for June

Come to the meeting to hear all about gardening. Cheri Barg is a Master Gardener and retired Omaha Public School teacher. She is currently the Garden Manager for Westlake Ace Hardware on 90th and Maple.

Ms. Barg will talk to us about different aspects of gardening from asparagus to zinnias.

Bring your questions and keep your thumb clean so afterwards it will turn green.

Reminder! The next LNA Membership meeting will be June 15, 2017.

7:00 PM

Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey.

Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

How Could I Forget Bill??

By Jim Thompson

Bill Kline doesn't even live within the boundaries of the LNA. Yet he continues to show up to volunteer. Our 32nd Annual Clean-up in April was no exception. and in writing up the article for May's issue of the Exchange, I forgot to include his name!! Us Scandinavians would say "Uff da" for such a big omission.

My apologies for forgetting that Bill was indeed present, for the xx year in a row to help with the neighborhood clean-up. (I believe it's been about 18 years).

Bill would have been there with his old white pick-up truck nicknamed "The Hulk". It was a hefty Ford E250 that had seen a lot of road in its life. No worries about throwing anything in the bed, it could take it. But alas, there were some issues that required a huge decision to let him go. For the first time in a couple of decades The Hulk would sit idle. But Bill wouldn't.

Thank you Bill for your unselfish help, again. Your dedication to our organization is appreciated.

And as far as The Hulk.....

Turns out that good ol' Fred's Friendly Service applied some mechanical magic and knowhow to get the machine running again. Ultimately we may see the beast back in action for the clean-ups since the Dyches on 35th Ave. ended up purchasing the thing. Who knows, Griffin may end up driving him around the neighborhood in a few years picking up more junk!



We need to hear from YOU!

By Ashley Flater

This is your neighborhood, and we want to hear your voice! What kind of neighborhood events would you like to attend? How would you rate the safety of the neighborhood? Would you like to get more involved and volunteer?

Please take the neighborhood survey, and let us know how we can better provide the events, newsletter content, and community projects you want to see.

<http://bit.ly/LNASurvey2017>

It will take a very short period of time but will be valuable information for the association. Thank you!!!



For one swallow does not make a summer, nor does one day; and so too one day, or a short time, does not make a man blessed and happy. Aristotle

New Art Team (Committee)

By Manny Cook

At the last General Membership meeting there was great interest in getting some volunteers together to talk about and present ideas about art in the neighborhood.

The art committee's goals will be to bring more art projects to the neighborhood, activate the park, and increase awareness of art activities happening throughout the area.

There are several art related projects in the works throughout the neighborhood that were discussed at the last meeting.

Some of the Projects discussed were:

- A mural Painting and Block party
- Brainstorming potential projects in Dewey Park and at the LNA Headquarters
- Neighborhood Monument signs with collaboration between Uptown Urban Dwellings & Gerard Pefung

In addition to what was discussed, the Down Under Lounge is looking for artists to paint a mural on the wall facing Leavenworth Street and will pay the selected artist(s) \$1000 to complete the project. For more information or to submit a proposal email downunderstage@gmail.com.



Photo by: Brad Iverson/Admiral District

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

CHRIS KILROY
5139 LEAVENWORTH STREET
OMAHA, NE
402.558.2111

SUPPORTING MIDTOWN SINCE 2001
MEMBER SIPC

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

QUICK SNIPS.....

If you see a different vehicle driving the neighborhood instead of John McCaul's old white Ford, it's because he got a different one! I recognized the flashing amber beacon the other day but not the car. John stopped and explained that an errant driver going through a red light sent his old Ford to the scrap yard. Thank you John for your ongoing neighborhood patrol and it looks like you have a more comfortable ride for you duties.



Speaking of our Driving Patrol..... John says that graffiti reports are down significantly but summer is here so don't let your guard down. Please call the Graffiti Hotline 402-444-5555 if you see any of that vandalism. Also, it appears that scrap metal thievery is on the rise as metal prices have gone up a bit. Look for those pick-up trucks roaming the alleys and call 911 when they step onto people's property.



Are you hungry? Thirsty? Walk up to Midtown Crossing and check out what is new:

- > Della Costa is opening where Brix used to be. They will be offering Mediterranean food.
- > Proof is a new lounge specializing in whiskey and fine cocktails.
- > Ray's Original Buffalo Wings is....guess.
- > Pickleman's is for that quick lunch or dining experience and will be located on Farnam.

Please go to <http://www.midtowncrossing.com/> to find details, pictures and stories of all of these places. YUM!

Omaha GAVE!!

Thank you to all that participated in last month's Omaha Gives campaign sponsored by the Omaha Community Foundation.

The Leavenworth Neighborhood Association received a total of \$235.00 for the 24 hour event. These funds will help continue our efforts improve the quality of this neighborhood. Thank you to all the donors.

Family Fun in Omaha

By Laura Green

As you may know, every year I put together a Summer Fun Guide based on the information from the Family Fun in Omaha website. It is full of fun things to do around Omaha . . . everything from free concerts in the park to festivals. Below is the link for this summer's guide for you. Please feel free to share!

There is a ton of information here. Make a copy and post in prominently somewhere in your home.

<https://familyfuninomaha.com/>.

Enjoy!!

Information for Contributors
To contribute to *the Exchange*, please
contact Jim Thompson,
atlarge@LNAOmaha.org.
Deadline for the July issue is
July 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.

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. We have been assigned to a coach-pitch team, made up of 6-7-8 year olds.

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.

Coach Brian Velazquez not only played at Grover, he coached his sons as well. And is continuing the challenge. The scores are not kept as work focuses on catching, throwing, running, and in general, getting to know the rules of America's pastime.

Here is balance of the schedule for the rest of the season. With the exception of the game in Carter Lake, all are played at Grover, 64th and Grover. Our LNA team is the number 1 team.

Sat. June 10	1:00 pm	1 vs 2	MN
	2:30 pm	5 vs 3	MN
Sun. June 11	1:00 pm	5 vs 1	SN
	2:30 pm	CL vs 2	SN
	4:00 pm	CL vs 4	SN
Tue. June 13	5:30 pm	3 vs 1	MJ
	6:45 pm	4 vs 5	MJ
Wed. June 14	6:00 pm	1 at Carter Lake # 3	
	7:00 pm	2 at Carter Lake # 3	
Thu. June 15	5:30 pm	2 vs 1	MN
	6:45 pm	3 vs 4	MN
Sat. June 17	1:00 pm	2 vs 3	MN
	2:30 pm	1 vs 4	MN
Sun. June 18	1:00 pm	4 vs 2	SN
	2:30 pm	CL vs 1	SN
	4:00 pm	CL vs 3	SN
Sat. June 24	10:00 am	5 vs 1	MJ
	11:30 am	4 vs 2	MJ
Sun. June 25	1:00 pm	4 vs 5	SN
	2:30 pm	3 vs 1	SN

Come on out and root, root, root for the home team!!!

Are You An Observer??

By Jim Thompson

The block I live on used to have the orange Neighborhood Watch signs attached at either end. Now there is only one on the north end. And if you recall these orange "warning" signs, the neighborhood is protected by watchers. So, who does the watching these days?

I do, for one. And I know there are others on the block as I regularly see postings on NextDoor about certain suspicious activities arising. But the old orange warning signs, and the rules about how they are established need an overhaul.

With the permeation of all sorts of social media we have become observers of our surroundings. I believe observer is a title many of us have earned whether we know it or not. Or whether we meet once a year to tell each other we should be on the lookout. We are conscious about that strange car, or those kids walking down the middle of the street checking vehicles, etc. And of course it is not limited to just MY block. So based on these observations, we may text our neighbor, post on NextDoor, facebook, etc.

And as we are finding out, especially with NextDoor, our neighbor may be a mile away. But we will inherently become aware of the situation and get into the observation mode.

A number of years ago I proposed that all the convenience stores be connected via radio so that if one got hit for a robbery, the one down the road would be on the lookout for the robbers. It seems that pattern has been dispersed however, and I am not sure if these thieves hit more than one per night. Perhaps someone close to the statistics can get that answered. But with communication devices in almost ALL of our pockets, there should be an instant message, alert or other technique to cause us to look out and perhaps we can observe that car or person going down the street.

As a member of the LNA we put your email into a database and when we are notified, you will get a "Crime Alert" email. Keep up the observation folks. And signs on the light poles are OK, but should we change the terminology?

Welcome Sweet Summertime...

By John Costanzo

You are for me so, so many things! More than mere locations of celestial bodies in the sky above or demarcation of calendar. A time undisturbed by the blare of an alarm clock, instead to be greeted each morning by the thrill of bird song.

Your tender embrace ushers in a time which affords for coffee to be consumed in quiet reflection not gulped in haste. A time to which the rigors of education, the instruction in knowledge and intellect, give way to a stewardship of nature, the nurturing of plants and physical environment.

You are a time for love, for friendships, for health... a time of remembrances of youth, the celebration of life and rejuvenation of self. Welcome back Sweet Summertime, welcome back.



President's Letter cont. from Page 1

appreciate the neighborhood for its rich stories. Which, like any old character, it has plenty to tell.

We've added an Art Committee, comprised of creative intent on beautifying the neighborhood. Currently they are getting their feet under them but an ugly garage that is in their sights for a mural at 36th & Leavenworth. The many new apartment complexes that have come on-line this year continue to boost the population in LNA's boundaries and provide new faces & talent at our monthly meetings. It's an inspiring time to be involved!

The adage 'retail follows rooftops' is holding true for the area as well. An artisan bakery is opening in the new Triangle Apartments – the owner is relocating to Leavenworth from New York City. Watch for more information on this venture in next month's newsletter..

In the words of one area journalist, Leavenworth has "thrived, survived, died and revived," creating today's scene of diversity and fortitude we see around us.

Jack Henry

Headquarters Clean-up

This month the 'Last Saturday Clean-up' will be June 30. If you have two hours free come on down at 10:00 AM and help out. Of course if you have some time during the month we will not stop you from helping! Just ask any Board member for access.

From Omaha Police Department.....

Spring Crime Prevention Tips

- Keep doors locked at all times. If you are working in the back yard, keep your front door and garage door closed and locked; and lock your back door when you are in the front yard. Always lock your doors when you leave, even if you only plan to be gone for a few minutes.
- During the spring weather, many people open windows or sliding glass doors while they are at home. Always remember to close and lock your windows and sliding doors when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Install motion-activated lights in your front and back yards, so when someone approaches your home, the lights automatically come on, illuminating that person.
- Put all ladders and other tools back into a secure storage area after you use them. Ladders and other tools can be used by criminals to access your home. Always lock any storage unit or shed you have on your property.
- Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesman who shows up at your door unannounced, do not do business with that person.
- If a utility representative comes to your house, request identification. True representatives will carry their identification and they will gladly show it to you. Call their company for verification.
- Always remember to roll up your car windows, take any valuables out of your car, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway.
- Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. Watchful, attentive neighbors can spot criminals and alert the police and the community to their presence. Get involved in your community, and help us keep your spring happy and safe.
- Please call 911 for suspicious behavior.

It's time! Plant seeds to beautify your garden but also plant seeds of Safety!

START a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH! Call your Crime Prevention Specialist in your precinct.

Triangle Garden Gets a Makeover

By Jim Thompson

Last month I noticed that our Triangle Garden on Turner Boulevard and Jones St. was being cleared away. Hmm. I knew it couldn't be the City fixing things up. The next day I came across Chris Feistner and his buddy digging and pulling weeds. Chris lives nearby and revealed that he just couldn't take it anymore and started to refresh this neglected space.

Thank you Chris! I explained that this is one of five gardens of the LNA and we welcome his efforts and surely appreciated his volunteerism. He began to state his plans to me and rattled off names of flowers that I cannot begin to spell. But the concept sounded great!!!



This is a great example of performing public service because it was a job that needed to be done. Although Chris was relatively new to the neighborhood, we are very happy he came to our last LNA meeting to introduce himself and share his vision. As with any volunteer project, additional resources in time and money would surely be appreciated. He does have a regular job so this is one of his many spare time endeavors.



The job is progressing and looking better every week. Stop by, check it out, and give Chris a hand!!



June
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: 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., 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.