

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 32 Issue 5, May 2017



Colored it Clean - Again!!

By Jim Thompson

Believe it or not, this was our **32nd year** in performing this major neighborhood clean-up campaign. **THIRTY TWO YEARS** removing unwanted trash and things from our neighborhood. I couldn't begin to estimate how much trash that represents.

The day started out with a challenge as there was a 5K run heading down and up Turner Boulevard! I am happy for the Junior League of Omaha on their successful fundraiser. The Omaha Police were very cooperative on the traffic control. It would not have made a difference had we known about the run ahead of time, the minor interruption to the traffic pattern had little effect on the debut of our new location. Dewey Park worked out extremely well!

This year included the dedication of the following volunteers: Brian Eaton, Jack Henry, John Costanzo, Andrew Flater, Greg & Griffin Dyche, David Kane, John McCaul, Janelle Domeyer, Will and Max Burbach-Domeyer, Carol Haas, Cindy Mitchell,
Clean, Page 2

President's Letter.....

For the City of Omaha, May is a typically busy month that launches a flurry of activity that continues through summer. This year is no different: The first weekend in May is always the annual Berkshire Hathaway Conference that brings in thousands of out-of-town visitors; this was quickly followed by our local elections on May 9.

LNA did not endorse any candidate for City Council or Mayor but I trust we all were informed voters and made the best decisions for ourselves and our community. A lot has happened in the past four years and a lot more will happen in the next four and I am excited about what will come with the results of the election.

On that note, I'd like to congratulate Chris Jerram on his re-election as our City Council representative! Chris has been a friend and neighbor to many of us. He has been a strong advocate for neighborhoods throughout his district, and LNA in particular. He was instrumental in our efforts in converting the Dewey
Letter, Page 2

Reminder! The next LNA Membership meeting will be **May 18, 2017, 7:00 PM**, at Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey.
Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.



Dave Kane and crew picking up trash dumped over a wall on Turner Boulevard.

Letter, from Page 1

Dewey Park Building into our 'LNAHQ' and were we now hold our monthly meetings. We look forward to partnering with Chris as he fulfills his campaign promises.

Also, in May, Omaha is hosting the 42nd Annual Neighborhoods, USA May 24-27 at the Century Link Center and LNA Board members will be representing our part of Omaha.

NUSA is a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Created in 1975 to share information and experiences used to build stronger communities, NUSA continues to encourage networking and information-sharing to facilitate the development of partnerships among neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector for the ultimate goal of strengthening every neighborhood. You can find more information at

www.nusa.org.

Jack Henry

Triangle Garden Getting a Makeover

Chris Feistner was tired of looking at the shambles at our garden on 34th & Jones. So, with his expertise and desire to improve the situation, he is coming forward to do some much needed care for this space.

Watch for details in next month's issue. From what he reported, it is going to look great! Of course with the overgrown weeds and day lilies, it has already been worked. If you see him down there, he could always use some help.

Clean, from Page 1

Christine Krin, Laura Green, Ben White, Zach Johnson, Manny Cook and his friend. If I missed anyone else, please let me know. We missed Reggie Welles for his efficient traffic control. His spirit was strong from beginning to end. And thank you to Anthony Tirendi for keeping us hopping to some tunes. The music was a welcome addition and kept us whistling.

I especially want to thank Janelle, Laura, and Cindy for gathering the food and refreshments in the morning and afternoon from our local sponsors. Thank you to Burger King, Supermercado, Runza, Kwik Shop, Dominos on St. Marys, Emily Lindsey from Starbucks, Panara Coffee, Alderman's, and Bud Olson's for contributing refreshments. We could not have survived the day without your help.

If it were not for the use of the pick-up truck by Dave Kane, we would not have been successful. We managed to scope the alleys between his truck and mine, but our two trucks were barely enough to keep up. Zach Johnson helped as well on some key loads, but we could have used a couple more.

We recycled 3340 pounds of scrap metal through Ganeeden Metals in Council Bluffs. Great people to work with. Also, we saved 6 bicycles from the scrap heap for possible reclamation by the Community Bike Shop on 33rd St.

Special thanks to Keep Omaha Beautiful and the City of Omaha for making this annual event possible.

We only filled two packer trucks this year, down a bit from previous events. We did not clean up the park as much as we wanted. There are a lot of dead leaves and some debris that needs to be raked up. Perhaps on a future "last Saturday" event.

As usual, we continue to find items dumped next to dumpsters that service apartment buildings. PLEASE landlords, take better care of the misgivings of your tenants who continue to litter. You know your trash hauler will not pick these items from the ground. Practically all of our alley loads were picking up crap next to dumpsters. Of course it is the mission to use this day to clean up the neighborhood and we gladly took care of that week's junk. But it is an ongoing problem and everyone's cooperation will be appreciated.

O Lorde, What's That Noise?

By Jim Thompson

A few years ago the female singer from Australia, Lorde, played at Harrah's Stir Concert Series across the river. On a good night, one can hear, and almost understand, the words. It was the catchy tune she is famous for, but resonated nicely over the hills and dales. Listening from my backyard in Midtown.

Ahhh, the sounds of the neighborhood.

While putting together the Exchange this month I took a couple of hours to sit outside on a beautiful night and merely listened. Better than some re-run on the old idiot box (TV). Around 9:00 PM. the church bells could be heard. St. Cecilia's? St. Peters? First Presbyterian?? I couldn't say for sure but they sounded great.

Soon after, a helicopter buzzed overhead. Noisy? Naw, a reminder of just how close we live to a trauma center and advanced medical center. Quite the asset. Occasionally a small plane would pass overhead. Further up, a jet. Noisy? Naw, a picturesque moment of wondering where these people are flying off to. Being that close to the airport reveals another plus for Midtown.

And for the race car driver wannabe zooming down Leavenworth.... Fortunately your leadfoot antics only last a couple of seconds. One-one thousand, two-one thousand, three-one thousand,.....gone. Thank God he is not texting. We hope.

Dog barking. A variety of dogs barking. It's left, over the hill, or is it down towards Turner Boulevard? We have to remember that these animals can't use cell phones and feel the need to express themselves. I wrote an article a few years ago about the plus side of dogs barking. Most are good neighborhood observers. Now, try and guess the breed.....

Sirens of the police, ambulance, fire trucks... All of them, all different times of the day and month. It's a comforting sound knowing that these civil servants are all on duty out there. It's a quite noticeable reminder that they are on the way. Thank you for your service.

A car door slams. It's the neighbor in her Honda rolling home. Truck door slams. It's the old guy with the old Chevy pick-up. You can hear the tools rattle in the

Noise, continued on Page 7

Wanted: Clean-Up Coordinator

By Jim Thompson

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. For those of you who joined us for the first time at our new location, you probably thought that things were running like clockwork. Well, we really do have it down to a solid routine. But we also know there may be new twists that call be applied. So please come forward to make it even better.

The rewards are special, especially the days and weeks following the event. Talk to me at the meeting. Or give me a call, 402-672-0603.

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.....

Street litter, i.e. the advertising papers, was being picked up by delivery guy. He actually goes through his route and picks up what he can. I didn't get his name but thank you!



Chatting with the neighbors on 35th & Mason, we see a wild turkey stroll up the hill and across 35th Ave. The bird was last seen strolling up John and Andrew's driveway. Yes, here in Midtown.



Get the best of the rest ol' buddy.
No hurry, no worry.

Said JD



We missed last year, but can we do it again in 2017? June 14 is Flag Day and we attempt to install our flags on Leavenworth Street by that date. They are then taken down on July 5. The display has always looked wonderful. The current inventory needs to be verified as to the condition of the snap hooks and grommets. Then at least two people have to put them up. Please raise your hand at the next meeting. Then raise the flag.



Say Good bye to:

Chuck, Dwain, Mikel, Zachariah, Stephen, Tuan, Isaias, Brooks, Gerry, Aurelio, Elton, Lynwood, Orval, Sam, Thomas, Clinton, Sherwood, Jonathan, Lino, Lesley, Pasquale, Christopher, Marcellus, Abe, Doyle, Ivory, Jude, Jasper, Clair, Eli, Randolph, Jonathon, Clement, Vito, Robin, Damion, Alberto, Ernie, Anthony, Kendrick, Rolf, Lester, Emmett, Ian, Andrea, Todd, Nelson, Jason, Wallace, Javier. These are just a few of the potholes we named in our neighborhood. No matter who wins the Mayor's race, we expect these guys will disappear shortly thereafter.



By Janelle Domeyer

It's that time of year! Every May the Omaha Community Foundation sponsors Omaha Gives! which is a full 24 hour day of online giving. Nonprofits from the community are eligible to raise funds through this platform. Leavenworth Neighborhood Association is a nonprofit and we operate on donations and membership dues. You could help us expand our programming and events by donating at omahagives.org/LNA between now and Wednesday, May 24th.

So far in 2017 we have renovated the meeting space in the Dewey Park Building and have seen active participation in meetings grow! Now that we have a "home base" we are able to host more events. We just had our annual spring clean up and we would like to do more socializing during the summer at our headquarters. Please consider making a small (or large!) donation through Omaha Gives!

Information for Contributors
To contribute to *the Exchange*, please contact Jim Thompson, atlarge@LNAOmaha.org.
Deadline for the June issue is June 1, 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 the schedule:

2017 Grover Little League Coach Pitch Schedule					
1. Leavenworth Neighborhood - Velasquez			4. Champion Tree - Perea		
2. Lil O's - Klavins			5. Jr. Pride		
3. J.J. Repair - Slagle					
MN=Minor Field		SN = Senior Field	MJ = Major Field		
Sun. April 30	1:00 pm 2:30 pm	1 vs 4 SN 2 vs 3 SN	Sat. June 3	10:00 am 11:30 am	3 vs 1 MN 4 vs 5 MN
Wed. May 3	5:30 pm 6:45 pm	5 vs 3 MN 1 vs 2 MN	Sun. June 4	1:00 pm 2:30 pm 4:00 pm	2 vs 5 SN CL vs 3 SN CL vs 4 SN
Fri. May 5	5:30 pm 6:45 pm	5 vs 1 SN 4 vs 2 SN	Wed. June 7	5:30 pm 6:45 pm	5 vs 4 MJ 2 vs 3 MJ
Wed. May 10	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	1 at Carter Lake #3 3 at Carter Lake #3	Sat. June 10	1:00 pm 2:30 pm	1 vs 2 MN 5 vs 3 MN
Fri. May 12	5:30 pm 6:45 pm	4 vs 2 MN 3 vs 1 MN	Sun. June 11	1:00 pm 2:30 pm 4:00 pm	5 vs 1 SN CL vs 2 SN CL vs 4 SN
Tue. May 16	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	3 at Carter Lake #3 4 at Carter Lake #3	Tue. June 13	5:30 pm 6:45 pm	3 vs 1 MJ 4 vs 5 MJ
Wed. May 17	6:00 pm	2 vs 4 SN	Wed. June 14	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	1 at Carter Lake #3 2 at Carter Lake #3
Thu. May 18	5:30 pm 6:45 pm	2 vs 5 MN 3 vs 4 MN	Thu. June 15	5:30 pm 6:45 pm	2 vs 1 MN 3 vs 4 MN
Sat. May 20	1:00 pm 2:30 pm	5 vs 3 MN 1 vs 4 MN	Sat. June 17	1:00 pm 2:30 pm	2 vs 3 MN 1 vs 4 MN
Sun. May 21	1:00 pm 2:30 pm 4:00 pm	3 vs 5 SN CL vs 1 SN CL vs 2 SN	Sun. June 18	1:00 pm 2:30 pm 4:00 pm	4 vs 2 SN CL vs 1 SN CL vs 3 SN
Mon. May 22	5:30 pm 6:45 pm	3 vs 1 MN 4 vs 2 MN	Sat. June 24	10:00 am 11:30 am	5 vs 1 MJ 4 vs 2 MJ
Tue. May 23	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	2 at Carter Lake #3 4 at Carter Lake #3	Sun. June 25	1:00 pm 2:30 pm	4 vs 5 SN 3 vs 1 SN
Wed. May 24	6:00 pm	5 vs 1 SN	Wed. June 28	5:30 pm 6:45 pm	3 vs 4 SN 2 vs 5 SN

GROVER RAINOUT # 402-551-5806

Headquarters Clean-up

This month the 'Last Saturday Clean-up' will be May 27. We realize that is Memorial Day weekend, but 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.

In Memoriam..

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of **Virginia Lefler**, who recently passed away at age 90. Virginia used to live across from Leavenworth Park until she moved into an apartment. She was involved with the LNA from its beginning, being one of the initial group of retirees creating the "Call Committee". For you youngsters, we used to notify neighbors about the meetings, etc., by calling them on a telephone. She was also always concerned about the lighting down at the park. May she rest in peace.

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

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

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.



A Centennial

By Rev. Scott Jones

In April the United States observed 100 years since our nation entered into the First World War. The remembrance recalled the virtues of honor, sacrifice, and bravery, while also reminding us of the horrors of violence, destruction, and pestilence. WWI also led to an important landmark in our neighborhood. Here's that story.

Rev. Dr. Gustave Hulbert was then serving as the pastor of St. Mary's Avenue Congregational Church, which was located at the corner of 27th & St. Mary's. He began to receive letters from young men in his congregation who were serving on the front lines. One soldier wrote:

In the midst of all of this, I have been thinking more seriously than ever before. . . The church people have never believed in Christ or they would have made all this war impossible. It is so tragic, so stupid, why did we let it happen? . . . When we come back we are going to get a new spirit into our churches and we are going to try to be more honest Christians ourselves.

Dr. Hulbert was deeply affected by letters like this and believed that "unless we of the church shook off our complacency and started something really worthwhile and big, we could not hope to hold the interest of the returning soldiers."

And so Dr. Hulbert led his congregation to merge with the First Congregational church and build a new congregation at 36th and Harney. In the midst of the dark days of war, when people did not have extra money and when their minds were preoccupied with the safety of their beloved soldiers, these congregations decided to build something new which would be a place for the neighborhood and city to gather for music, art, education, recreation, fellowship, care, and service.

Originally inspired by the spiritual needs of soldiers on the front, First Central Congregational Church looks forward to its second century at 36th and Harney.



Leavenworth Kid's Corner

Contributed by *Kassandra Mayo* agapemayo@gmail.com

BIG things are happening in Omaha this month. One such event brings in thousands of people from all over the world to Omaha-Berkshire Hathaway. While dollar bill signs hang above every millionaire hopeful, I began wondering about when a good time to talk to kids about money is. The answer? Now! While I'm no Warren Buffett, I believe it's important to instill respect for money at any age.

Our almost two year old loves to "find money" and has a knack for finding loose coins anywhere we go. While she doesn't understand the value of money, she does know that her "monies" go to a special place (her piggy on the highest shelf) and that when we go to a store, people have to "beep" her items as money is exchanged for our goods. I believe these are just small ways to instill respect for the "almighty dollar." Here are a few resources to start the conversation with the kiddos in your life:

*For Parents: <http://www.cnbc.com/2013/11/22/buffett-how-to-teach-your-kids-about-moneycommentary.html>

*For Kids: <http://www.smckids.com/>

*Books for parents AND kids:
[The Berenstain Bears' Dollars and Sense](#)
[The Berenstain Bears' Trouble with Money](#)
[The Everything Kids' Money Book: Earn It, Save It, and Watch it Grow! \[Boo](#)
[Once Upon a Dime: A Math Adventure](#)



Editor's Note: This is the final Kid's Corner contributed by Kassie Mayo. She will be expanding towards other activities. Thank YOU Kassie for your long-lasting column. You have shared many, many items of interest for this important category. Your Corner helped stitch the fabric of the neighborhood.

Noise, from Page 3

side pocket of the old beater. He too is back safe. The sliding door of the mini-van....sure, all the kids are back safe. Or maybe they are heading out on another adventure? Let's hope everyone gets back safe to their abode. And then Mr. Harley Guy who lives at the other end of the block makes a store run. He'll be back fairly soon. Not a real bad tune, keeps the squirrels from running into the street.

July we hear fireworks, **fireworks, fireworks!!**
 Yeah, it's a season. Thankfully a short one.

The noise on the radio/stereo from that passing car. Living on a stop sign street, makes it last more seconds than I want. I am not sure why these kids think that it is important to share their favorite beat with the entire neighborhood. Hint: close your windows and it will sound better for both of us! But thank you for moving quickly down the street.

Nature in Midtown...birds talking. When I opened the door to get the paper on a most pleasant Sunday morning, only the birds were moving. Cardinals, blackbirds, an occasional crow. And my favorite, the dove. They seemed to be all taking their turn chirping their way through the morning. Nice.

Living in the Leavenworth neighborhood we easily hear the train whistles, usually around 10:00 PM. Wow, right here in our neighborhood. Amtrak? BNSF? You can't buy that sound near the malls. And we used to hear the break time whistle at Drake Williams Steel. If it shouts again, we'll just pretend it's a train.

A rowdy game of sand volleyball at Leavenworth Park is almost a given on any Sunday afternoon. It's nice to hear the "ahhs" and "oohhs" instead of the profanity. Thanks.

A chainsaw buzzes the air on somewhat of a routine basis. Mature trees. Hundreds of them. Thousands of them! They die off or need a trim and their wood can be burned in many of the real fireplaces in the 'hood. Midtown treasures. Perhaps a future issue will address the smells of the neighborhood.

Spring seems to be the best for hearing the sounds. The windows will start to open. The leaves of our trees are just popping out so the sounds travel better. Of course winter sends the sounds quicker, just not as many.

Enjoy your neighborhood. It sounds quite active.



May
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.