

# The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

*Celebrating together as friends and neighbors*

Volume 32 Issue 7, July 2017



## President's Letter.....

LNA is Livable

I recently came across a neighborhood working document from 34 years ago this month; this was prior to LNA's founding and demonstrated how citizens were grappling with a neighborhood that didn't have a voice or attentive local leadership at the city level. The meeting agenda had 20 bullet points and Street maintenance, Crime and Prostitution were prevalent themes. While infrastructure and street maintenance will always be top concerns of any city-dwellers, our community has come a long way from where it was 34 years ago! I wasn't around back then, but after reading the document, I was struck that LNA is livable and I *chose* to live here because of our founding members. Many of whom are still involved.

The LNA Board recently commissioned a survey to gauge our neighbors' perceptions of the LNA area and our organization. Interestingly, street maintenance was  
*Letter, continued on Page 2*

## Guest Speaker for July

Julie Smith from One Omaha will be at our General Membership Meeting on July 20.

One Omaha, founded in 2015, is a public-private initiative dedicated to actively facilitating the development of neighborhoods in the City of Omaha through communication, education and advocacy.

Come and listen to what is happening with our neighborhoods. Julie will also be anxious to hear your comments as well.

**Reminder! The next LNA Membership meeting will be July 20, 2017.**

7:00 PM

Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey.

Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

*Letter, continued from Page 1*

once again one of the leading issues! Separately, we also heard concerns over the noise pollution from the annual Independence Day fireworks that many of us love and many of us loathe. The final results of the survey will be shared but the positive feedback contained: our parks are clean, our community is growing and our events are fun and well attended.

Keeping our neighborhood safe, clean and engaged takes participation from all of us. Working together with area schools, police, businesses and other neighborhood groups we can ensure that LNA remains a friendly, safe and great place to live. As neighbors, we can work together to create a positive and lasting change for our community. Being able to bring about lasting change, like our founders, that enhances our neighborhood for future generations are essential for all of us. The document I read was dated July 19, 1983.

LNA's next meeting is July 20, 2017 - be there! Be a part of this community. We'd love to hear your concerns and thoughts. LNA - General Membership Meeting - Dewey Park Building - 550 Turner Blvd - 7PM - 7/20/17.

*Jack Henry*

## Fireworks!!!!

By Carol Haas

Yes - there are as many opinions as there are various types of fireworks. But I just wanted to get my 2 cents in as well. Fireworks are awesome when displayed by professionals and enjoyable every time I watch them. And, of course, little poppers, snakes, sparklers – love those too.

But I'm not a fan of big booms with no show, set off at all hours of the morning and night for days before and after the 4<sup>th</sup>. Then, of course, there's the mess that goes with them. There is always debris surfacing in my yard, trees, and shrubs, for weeks afterward. One group of my neighbors shot fireworks off for hours the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> – but, they stopped by 11 PM. And then they cleaned up the street that night! Unlike the other young adult neighbors who took small American flags into the street, lit them on fire, and took pictures of themselves. Then shot off fireworks and danced through the exploding results. And they didn't clean up the mess at all. Truthfully, I was so upset about the flags but was reluctant to say anything not knowing what repercussions my comments might have. Just seethed in silence!

Again, I understand the fun that lighting off your own stuff can be. And, they are legal – so who am I to complain. But I do feel concern for children and pets who are frightened, veterans who may have frightening memories of similar sounds, and for people who are awakened late at night or early in the morning. I also feel concern for the environment as the smoke in my area was extremely dense on several evenings. And, the danger of not dealing with these explosives safely. I'm especially concerned that some young people treated the symbol of our country with such disrespect.

Well I've said my piece and thank goodness I live in our beautiful America where I'm free to do so.



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## Art Team (Committee)

By Manny Cook

The LNA Art Committee is an informal committee whose goals are to increase awareness and support of artist led projects throughout the city with a focus on the activities within the Leavenworth neighborhood area.

Down Under Mural: After making a call for artists, the Down Under Lounge has selected Stephen Kavanaugh for their mural on the wall facing Leavenworth.



*Down Under mural by Stephen Kavanaugh, work in progress.*



*Nighttime playground at Dewey Park a still from an animation projected by Gerard Pefung.*

Several Artists have been meeting on Saturday evenings in Dewey Park to experiment with different interactive projects. The projects thus far have revolved around the use of projectors and sound equipment in the park's handball courts. The meetings are usually start about 9:00 PM Saturday evenings, but are dependent on the weather conditions and special occasions. All are welcome to come and be creative

# WELCOME TO WEST OMAHA, CIRCA 1915.

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**CHRIS KILROY**  
5139 LEAVENWORTH STREET  
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**Family membership: \$15**  
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**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 follow the app "Nextdoor", there seems to be an increase in vehicle break-ins in our Midtown neighborhoods. PLEASE lock your cars, even if they are in your own driveway. It seems the thieves are out in the middle of the night, roaming. So.....what do these thieves say to their parents when they are out at 3:00 AM?? Do the parents care? Or are they working the night shift??



Leavenworth Neighborhood Citizens Patrol took steps to represent our group in the annual Field Club Parade on July 4. John McCaul marched with the group of patriots, vehicles, animals and a plethora of red, white and blue.



## Case of the Mondays

By Jack Henry

TGIM! No need to stay home or leave our neighborhood on Mondays any longer! John Nosal with Down Under Lounge & Side Door Stage is hosting Blue Monday/Blues Jam on the first Monday of the month. The event boasts Hot Summer Blues, Booze and BBQ.

Local talent takes to the stage at 8:30 so be sure to bring your appetite and dancing shoes because the fun goes all night. The next first Monday is August 7th - see you at Down Under!

**WELCOME TO OUR TWO NEW ADVERTISERS: DOWN UNDER LOUNGE AND DINO'S STORAGE!! PLEASE SUPPORT THESE BUSINESSES!**

**Information for Contributors**  
**To contribute to *the Exchange*, please contact Jim Thompson, [atlarge@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:atlarge@LNAOmaha.org). Deadline for the August issue is August 3, 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..... PLAYED BALL...

By Jim Thompson

The Grover Little League season for the coach-pitch youngsters has come to an end. Must say, the team looked sharp in their uniforms!! But for 6, 7, and 8 year olds, there is a lot of learning to do and a lot of work ahead to fine tune those baseball skills. I was able to watch a couple of games and commend all the coaches, players and the families in the stands to sticking with the program.

Patience is a key factor for the coaches. And by using the softer league ball, safety is another factor. I could tell the kids had fun and the encouragement from both coaches and the fans was felt throughout. Special thanks to Brian Velasquez who showed his best to teach and coach the little leaguers. Having been in that role when my son was at Grover, I can attest that it is a lot of work and a huge time commitment. Thank you Brian, and your family, for coaching the kids.

I could report they came in first place. But since no one keeps score, I couldn't verify that statement and earn some bragging rights. I missed the post season picnic but believe each kid received a memento of their season. Of course they get to keep the shirts and if you see any of them around town, give them a shout out!!

Here they are:



We received the 5x7 photo with a big THANK YOU, suitable for framing. Coach Brian is on the right, Coach Jaden is on the left. Now, because these kids were always running around, I did not get the names attached to the faces, but the kids are: Ben, Braiden, Jacob, Eliyah, Antonyo, Liam, Payton Irland, Oliver, Tate, and Khloe. I cannot guaranty the precise spelling of the names but I think we're close!! Congratulations to all on a nice season.

## From Keep Omaha Beautiful....

That's a wrap! A final thank you to all of the neighborhood association leaders and volunteers who made this year the most successful Omaha Spring Cleanup to date. We look forward to working with you all again next year! Additionally, thank you to everyone who provided feedback via the survey. Aric Wenzl of Applewood Heights Homeowners Association was the winner of the drawing for free passes to Lauritzen Gardens for participating in the survey. If you have additional feedback you'd like to be considered as we plan for 2018 Omaha Spring Cleanup, please email it to [HelloKOB@cityofomaha.org](mailto:HelloKOB@cityofomaha.org).

Throughout the 2017 Omaha Spring Cleanup, **1,448 tons** of bulky material was collected (that's equivalent to the weight of about 480 female elephants!). This opportunity for free, appropriate disposal helps to reduce indefinite storage of bulky items in people's basements, garages, and yards, which often turn into a haven for rodents, insects, and fire hazards. It also helps to prevent illegal dumping in wooded areas, vacant lots, and water bodies throughout the city.

The majority of neighborhood association sites offered opportunities to recycle items or divert them for beneficial reuse. Of the total material collected this year, **13% was diverted for recycling and reuse**, which is a substantial increase from last year's rate of 8%. Materials that were diverted included tires, appliances, metals, electronics, and bikes. Numerous neighborhood associations set aside other items for recycling and reclamation, but many of these efforts were not tracked and thus not included in the total recycling rate.

Congratulations to Lee Lorenz of Mockingbird Hills Neighborhood Association who won the \$100 Visa gift card for returning yard signs. We are grateful to all of the neighborhood associations that promptly returned their signs.

Chris Stratman  
Executive Director  
402-444-7774



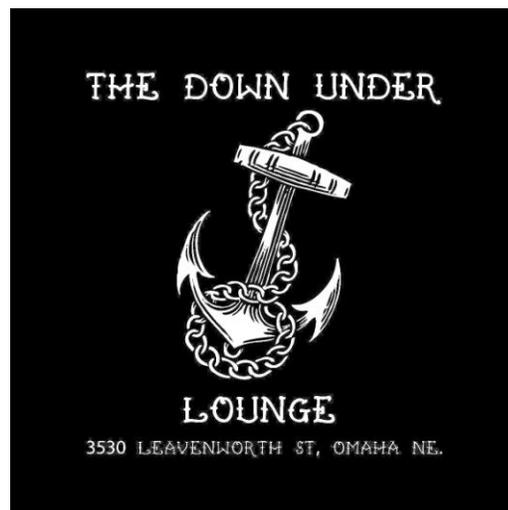
## Want to help give back to your community?

OMNI Behavioral Health needs you! OMNI's Vocational Services program is designed to help individuals with developmental disabilities and/or severe and persistent mental illnesses learn job skills. We can only exist because community members help to mentor and hire our clients.

Do you help run a business or know someone who does? Do you need additional help around your house or with odd jobs, lawn mowing, weeding, dog walking, cleaning, pet care, sorting, crafts and more? Are you interested in working with us and hiring one of our individuals? We would love to help you!

Our individuals participate in paid and volunteer work throughout the community during the week. The goal of OMNI's Vocational Program is to teach participants skills and help them eventually find long-term, paid employment. All of the participants in our vocational program come to work with a job coach, who works alongside them to help them learn and complete tasks.

Have questions or some ideas for paid employment for our individuals? Give Andrea Kszystyniak, Vocational Coordinator at OMNI, a call at [402-397-9866 ext. 169](tel:402-397-9866) or email [akszystyniak@omnibh.com](mailto:akszystyniak@omnibh.com)



## From the Internet.....

By Jim Thompson

I'm sure you have seen this famous quote: "Don't believe everything you read on the Internet" - *Abraham Lincoln*. I, like most of you, sometimes get caught up in reading those pop-up stories that have an intriguing headline. The other day while figuring out what to include in our newsletter, I came across some interesting horror stories that were shared from a writer named Taylor Gamble. I have no idea where such writers come from, but since it's on the internet, fair game.

This story was about Home Owners Associations (HOA) and the rules that some of them may actually have to comply with. After reviewing them I must believe some exist. At the same time I have VERY happy that our own little slice of a neighborhood does not come near some of these horror stories. But somewhere in Omaha, covenants exist and I question how the quality of life is maintained. To say we are "diverse" in Midtown, compared to McMansions in west Omaha, is an understatement. Again, I have no idea where these particular horror stories originated, but have a look:

### > Yard of the Month

Had an HOA which regularly complained about petty things. I did fix them, but was super annoyed. I made a sign (very cheaply, white with black text) which said "Yard of the month" or something like that because it would annoy them greatly and wasn't technically against the rules. Later, they actually made a really nice and expensive official sign "HOA OFFICIAL yard of the month." (lol, really? I was joking). Nice graphics and nice metal frame. Really official looking. I noticed it on a walk at night when most people were already inside. I grabbed the sign and moved it to someone else's yard which was obviously crap with lots of weeds etc. Ya, that sign never showed up again. lol.

### > Purple Is NOT an Approved Color

Ohhhh man. I worked in property management for a while and at one time I had a portfolio with 30 HOA's. And guess what I got to do? .....Write rule violation notices for all of them, based on what the HOA board members told me to send notices for. Sometimes I cringed while putting them in envelopes, feeling so bad for fining some sweet old lady \$50 for planting purple flowers when purple is NOT on the approved color list, and demanding she dig up all her hard work. Or fining someone \$75 for their garbage can being "too visible from the street." Or demanding that someone plant a new tree in their park strip, then fining them and making them plant a NEW new tree because it wasn't "between 60 and 72 inches." It was 58. The board president measured it.

### > Why Can't You Just TELL Him Instead Of Fining Him?

My father was fined for having a flat tire on his own truck in his own driveway. He did not even know that it was flat yet.

## Ray's Wings Comes to Mid-Town

By John Costanzo

Formally located in the Lemon Drop Bar in Bellevue, Ray's Original Buffalo Wings has made the jump to Midtown Crossing. This family owned and run business is definitely a welcome addition to the collection of restaurants, bars and shops which are part of the community we all enjoy living and playing in.

My wife and I went in to sample the wings the Saturday before their grand opening and wow were we pleased. The wait staff and bartenders were extremely polite, friendly and were happy to share the story of Ray's Wings with us. Not to worry though, if you are looking for something more than wings, they have a full menu and bar as well. My wife and I both felt that this is a fabulous addition to our neighborhood.

They open at 11:00 for lunch so stop on in to welcome them to the neighborhood and see what everyone is soon to be talking about. The wings were nothing short of incredible, possibly the best wings I have ever encountered. Each wing had just the right amount of crisp to its outside giving every bite the perfect texture. The sauces which we tried were all made in-house giving them a distinct and unique flavor. My hands down favorite was the Honey Dijon Mustard while my wife was very impressed with the Bourbon Siracha.



### > That's What Driveways Are For...

The worst one I've heard recently is not being able to park in your own driveway. You HAVE to park your vehicle in the garage. Screw that!

More to come. And if you think we should adopt these as part of our neighborhood, think twice!!!



July  
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., Dewey Park Building on Turner Blvd.

**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.