

# The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

*Celebrating together as friends and neighbors*

Volume 32 Issue 8, August 2017



## **ANNUAL LNA PICNIC THURSDAY, AUGUST 17**

**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**DEWEY PARK**

**ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!! BRING A NEIGHBOR, EAT AND BE MERRY!! THE LNA WILL BE PROVIDING MEAT, BEVERAGES, AND ICE.**

**ATTENDEES ARE ASKED TO BRING A SIDE DISH OR SNACK OF THEIR CHOICE (PLEASE INCLUDE A SERVING UTENSIL IF APPLICABLE).**

**PLATES, NAPKINS, ETC. WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

**THIS EVENT IS IN LIEU OF THE REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING. THOSE MEETINGS WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.**

**KIDS ARE WELCOME!!!**

**SEE YOU THERE!!!!**

## Presidents Letter.....

The month of August always seems to have a “new beginning” feel to it, especially if you have kids or you travel during the summer. At some point in August, you’d be sending the kids back to school or getting ready to come back home to Midtown. There have been years where the Huskers have even played football *in August*. It’s that month of the year where it’s clearly still summer but the onset of fall and football.

And every August the summer seems to have flown by with the usual activity of baseball and Jazz on the Green and we find ourselves looking at the Annual LNA Picnic! This year it will be in Dewey Park, August 17<sup>th</sup> 6PM-8PM. There will be plenty of food and games for everybody to enjoy. Hope to see you there!

*Jack Henry*

**Reminder! The next LNA Membership meeting will be Sept. 21, 2017.**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey.**  
**Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.**

### The EXCHANGE by e-mail?!?!

If you obtained a copy from one of the drop-off locations, and want the e-version, simply send an email message to: [AtLarge@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:AtLarge@LNAOmaha.org) and request that you’d like to start receiving the LNA newsletter. We can also send out a printed copy if you desire that instead. Happy reading!!

## From Senator Vargas' Office....

Dear Jack Henry,

Our office is excited to announce the details for our upcoming community forum, featuring nearly half a dozen local elected officials representing offices ranging from the state legislature to the OPS school board. The event will be held in the gym of St Frances Cabrini Catholic Church on Saturday, August 26th, from 1 to 3 PM. Senator Vargas and the other elected officials will discuss upcoming topics, ongoing issues, and their plans going forward, along with taking questions and suggestions from constituents.

WHERE: St Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, at 10th and Williams

WHEN: Saturday, August 26, 1-3pm

WHO: Senators Tony Vargas and Mike McDonnell, along with Crystal Rhoades of the Public Service Commission, Tracy Casady of the OPS School Board, and Roger Garcia of the Metro CC Board of Governors

We would love to see you there, and would greatly appreciate it if you can help spread the word by sharing this email and Facebook.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to reach out to me at [blanglois@leg.ne.gov](mailto:blanglois@leg.ne.gov) or our office at [402-471-2721](tel:402-471-2721). Thanks for your time and hope to see you at the forum!

Regards,  
 Brandon Langlois  
 Administrative Aide  
 Senator Tony Vargas, District 7  
[402-471-2721](tel:402-471-2721)  
[blanglois@leg.ne.gov](mailto:blanglois@leg.ne.gov)

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## Wandering the Mall

By Rev. Scott Jones

On June 28 I was walking up to the National Botanical Gardens and heard loud voices over by the Capitol building. “Probably some people protesting for something I care about,” I thought. But I decided that those couple of days were mine, before I headed on to General Synod in Baltimore, so I didn’t walk over to check out the protestors. On Facebook that evening I learned that it was a UCC protest for health care. Of course. My invitation to the event was waiting in my e-mail inbox when I returned from Synod. Oh well.

I decided to spend two days in DC ahead of Synod in order to see some friends who live there, but I also took advantage of the occasion to walk along the Mall and visit museums. I’ve only been in D. C. three other times—a tourist trip with the family of my best friend in 1990, with the United States Senate Youth Program in 1992, and a few hours in 2011 with my friend Rob Howard when we saw many of the new monuments and memorials on the Mall after a trip in the region visiting battlefields. So, this was my first leisurely time in the nation’s capital in a quarter century, and it is a very changed city.

Back then Pennsylvania Avenue was a busy street. You could actually walk through the parks around the White House. You got a White House tour by standing in line to get tickets. Anyone could wander into the Capitol and watch the proceedings. Public buildings didn’t look like secure fortresses. All this new security was upsetting.

In the National Museum of American History I enjoyed seeing artifacts of American life, though overhearing conversations was dispiriting. There was the woman who, looking at the chairs of Archie and Edith Bunker said, “I don’t know who they are.” Or the child with her family who said “A wedding cake topper” which happened to be of two men. A parent said, “Don’t look at that.” Ugh.

When I walked through the National Art Gallery in 1992, it was my first visit to a serious art museum. I was a Philistine. I thought of my 17 year old self and giggled. This visit I lingered in front of their cast of Saint-Gaudens’ *Robert Gould Shaw Memorial*, the greatest American sculpture. I admired a Helen Frankenthaler painting I’ve used in my Ethics class (as part of an exercise illustrating an Iris Murdoch essay on The Good) and thrilled to encounter Wassily.

Kandinsky’s *Improvisation 31 (Sea Battle)*. I’ve owned a print of that painting since 1996 and it currently hangs in

**WELCOME TO  
WEST OMAHA,  
CIRCA 1915.**

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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

SUPPORTING MIDTOWN SINCE 2001  
MEMBER SIPC

in Sebastian’s room. I’d never seen the original. It is marvelous. I noticed a community garden across the street from the Air & Space Museum and enjoyed the juxtaposition.

On the second day I decided to walk all the way around the Tidal Basin, which I’d never done. This after already having walked many miles. I ended up blistering my feet in DC, and they didn’t fully recover for a few weeks.

I had read that the Jefferson Memorial was in bad shape, but I was still surprised. Throughout my visit I was struck by the number of turned off fountains, crumbling plazas, algae filled pools, and obnoxious security fences. Someone is failing in their obligations. The African American History Museum sure makes a statement as it boldly sits next to the monuments to slave owners

Standing at the World War II Memorial and thinking of my grandfather earning his Purple Heart at the Battle of Anzio (the battle is commemorated in the stone), I realized that the day had made me sad. When I set out that morning I hoped that encountering the ideals of our republic would be ennobling and reassuring, but realizing how we have failed to live up to our ideals saddened me.

## QUICK SNIPS.....

Check out our old Community Flower Garden next to the Triangle Apartments on St. Mary' & Leavenworth. In due time, we knew it would come back!!!



This is the season of yard and garage sales. Please remove the sign when the sale time and date is over.



BIG change coming with your waste collection.... The City is about to solicit a new contract for curbside collection. After attending a recent open house on the topic, I discovered that you will be getting 96-gallon carts for your household, one for trash and another for recycling. Please stay tuned!!



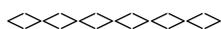
The amount of car break-ins reported around Midtown is staggering. It seems the common theme is kids riding around on their bicycles at 3:00 AM or so, checking doors on cars. Small change, charging cords, tools, etc. disappear. And usually the vehicle owner admits they forgot to lock their car. LOCK IT! And if you happen to be up at 3:00 or 4:00 AM and see kids on bikes, especially wearing a backpack, CALL 911!!!



What is the status of a street car system through our neighborhood? It's still in the planning stages and your ideas on how to make it happen needs to be discussed with the neighbors and businesses in Midtown. Come to the meeting in September!



Word on the street is that the old Community Flower Garden at St. Mary's and Leavenworth has been brought back to life!!! With the construction of The Triangle apartments and retail space nearly completed, this small chunk of green space that has adorned our neighborhood for decades is a welcome sight!



For quite some time the City has been installing handicapped access to all intersections. Lots of money being spent. Ironically, take a look down some of the densely packed residential streets and notice that once you get on the sidewalk, cars are blocking them in front of the houses and apartments. Some even parking on the sidewalk and small green boulevard, barely allowing a path to walk. Just sayin'!.....

**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**

**Information for Contributors**  
**To contribute to *the Exchange*,**  
**please contact Jim Thompson,**  
**atlarge@LNAOmaha.org.**  
**Deadline for the September issue is**  
**September 7, 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.

## Meals Needed For Homeless Youth

By Ashley Flater

On average, 60 youth visit Youth Emergency Services' (YES) Street Outreach Center to receive a hot meal each weeknight. Because this may be the only food a homeless youth receives that day, the Street Outreach Center provides a basic need to youth aged 12-21 that isn't available anywhere else. YES relies on the generosity of the community to provide these meals to youth. Individuals, community groups, and businesses are invited to prepare these meals off-site or deliver catered meals from restaurants.

**YES'** Street Outreach Center, located at 2602 Harney Street -- just outside of LNA boundaries, allows homeless and near homeless youth the opportunity to not only eat a warm meal but to take a hot shower, do laundry, meet with health care professionals, receive job training, and more. This vital program serves more than 1,000 youth at the Center every year.

In addition to the Street Outreach Center, **YES** outreach workers hit the streets of greater Omaha, looking for youth in crisis. They carry backpacks filled with basic needs and emergency supplies and patrol areas where homeless and near homeless youth tend to congregate. Outreach workers are trained to identify a young person in need and to provide immediate information and services. **YES** has been providing critically-needed programs and resources to homeless and at-risk youth in Omaha for more than 40 years.

If you would like to provide a meal, please visit [www.yesomaha.org/meals](http://www.yesomaha.org/meals) for more information and to sign up.

## Patriotism - Small Town USA

By Jim Thompson

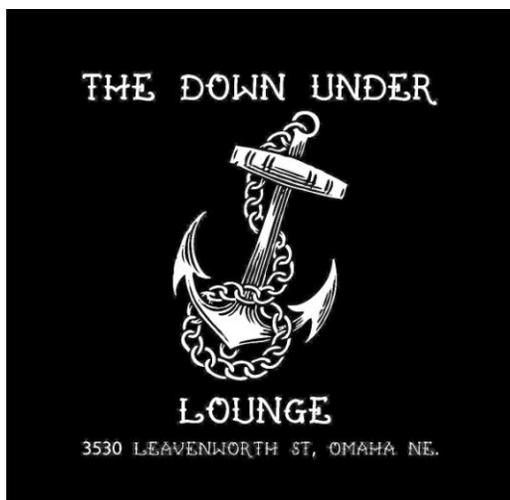
In July we took another road trip, this time through Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. I won't bore you with the details or photos of the USA Hockey Hall of Fame, Apostle Islands, Door County, etc., but suffice it to say that the countryside and weather were wonderful. One thing that really caught my eye though was the patriotism on display in Small Town, USA.

Because we traveled two lane roads through the states, we were naturally slowed down at the intersections of numerous towns. No time to stop and check the coffee or antique shops, we keep on rolling. I don't know if it was planned but many, many of these towns had wonderful displays of their tribute to those who fought in our wars on the roads traveling through the town. Usually surrounded with multiple flag poles, always with a plaque or monument dedicated to our heroes, invariably erected by the local VFW, American Legion, etc. And perhaps because it was July, the flags on the downtown streets were prevalent. Or are they displayed throughout the year? It made us want to search for the nearest Dairy Queen!

The pride these towns displayed during our two-minute ride through was quite noticeable. Nice.

Driving the hundreds of miles between these towns made my mind wander about our own town and particularly our own neighborhood. The recent walk down to the Annual Field Club Parade on July 4th always generates patriotism. And as I sit on my front steps it generates a beam of pride to see the American flag positioned on a few of the neighbor's houses. (And for the record, the red flag with blue and white crossbars in my back yard is the Norwegian flag, not to be confused with the Confederate flag!)

Can we get a hardware store or big box store to provide a discount to LNA'ers for the purchase of flags if that's what it takes to get more displayed? And for a couple of years, we mounted flags on Leavenworth Street, but this year it didn't happen. We still have those in storage (thank you Bill Kline), but need to make a concerted effort to resurrect Leavenworth Salute for next year. And expand the area of coverage.





August  
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  
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](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.