

# The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

*Celebrating together as friends and neighbors*

Volume 32 Issue 10, October 2017



## President's Letter.....

Saying goodbye to summer is always difficult, but the promise of fall helps me look forward to the new season. There is plenty to love about autumn—the sights and smells of the leaves turning, the crisp air, Husker football and the general back-to-school excitement for families and college students. To those new Creighton or UNMC student residents that are joining our community—welcome! We hope you enjoy and appreciate our neighborhood for all its diversity and we encourage you to reach out to your neighbors and introduce yourself.

For those neighbors who were unable to attend our September meeting, I'd like to summarize a few take-home messages from our guest speaker representing ONE Omaha. Julie Smith is the Program Manager for One Omaha. The organization was founded in 2015 as a public-private initiative dedicated to actively facilitating the development of neighborhoods in the City of Omaha through communication, education and

*Letter Cont. on Page 2*

## Board Elections Coming in November

The annual meeting is always held in November, on the 17th this year. At that meeting we will elect three Board members. The terms of Jack Henry, Jim Thompson and Janelle Domeyer expire. Consequently, we will elect three people to the two-year term.

At this point we have three nominations for the vacancies: Jack Henry, Janelle and Ben White. Continuing in their second year of office is John Costanzo and Andrew Flater.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of this dynamic association please attend the meeting and receive a nomination. The work can be very rewarding and with any volunteer organization, does take a certain amount of time.

After elections are held, the current Board members and the elected members convene to determine the officers.

**Reminder! The next LNA Membership meeting will be October 19, 2017.**

**7:00 PM**

**Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey.**

**Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.**

*Letter Cont. from Page 1*

and advocacy. Julie's presentation included the interest Midtown citizens have for increased public transit, what it takes to have a robust Neighborhood Association and tips for project management within the Association. Feel free to contact me or Julie herself if you have questions or would like to get more involved. [julie.smith@oneomaha.org](mailto:julie.smith@oneomaha.org).

Fall is also the season that brings us annual board elections! November is the month for election of officers. My term, and that of Janelle Domeyer, is complete. Janelle and I are looking forward to run again and represent the interests of LNA should we be re-elected. Many of you know Jim Thompson, founding member of LNA, former board President and long-time resident and neighborhood advocate. He has been involved for many years and, sadly for us, we will be losing him from the board as he is not seeking re-election. Are you that person that could jump in and be a future leader of our organization?

Perhaps you have some new ideas for us? Please reach out to me if you have interest in filling one of our board positions. Or maybe you are interested in getting involved, but aren't sure about the capacity of a board membership. Would you consider assisting in the Membership Committee or Greenspace Committee? We have many dedicated long-time volunteers, but we always welcome and encourage new members!

*Jack Henry*

## Dino's Storage

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402.916.4015

## Our Neighborhood

By Pam Brown

I have lived in the Leavenworth Neighborhood for seventeen years. My immediate neighborhood, which runs from 33rd and Leavenworth to 33rd and Mason, is peaceful and friendly. However, the first years I lived here were anything but.

With a crack house directly to the north and a rundown house with four apartments to the south, it wasn't the ideal location. But rent was affordable and I was close to work. I made sure all doors were locked and slept with a baseball bat next to my bed.

One day I came home for lunch and found DEA agents, police officers and men in suits surrounding the neighbor's house. I was told to stay inside and that they were looking for a man that supposedly lived there. I didn't ask what he was wanted for and really didn't want to know.

This experience was one in several that continued through the years..... my car was hit several times while parked in front of my house (of course no note was left), police chased and caught a man on my front lawn, beer bottles were thrown at cars going down the street, chairs flying out window, cars broken into..... and still I stayed. As a matter of fact, I ended up buying the house.

Why?? The Midtown Development was in full swing, neighbors moved, subpar apartments were being vacated and at last I saw improvements. As the years went by, new people moved into the neighborhood...young couples with children and dogs (lots of dogs). Old condos were being refurbished. Three old houses to the south were torn down. Property values were going up.

Now as I sit on my front porch I see people walking their dogs (lots of dogs), kids heading for the park and people waving to each other and me!! I'm glad I made the decision to stay.

I'm not sure what, besides the Midtown Development, got this revitalization going so strong. I'd like to think it's people like you and I that care about where we live and care about the people that share our neighborhood.

I, myself would rather worry about finding a place to park than getting a beer bottle thrown at me.

## Follow These Ghoulishly Good Best Practices for a Safe Halloween

Submitted by Ashley Flater

To help ensure adults and children have a safe holiday, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Safety Council has compiled a list of Halloween safety tips.

### Trick-or-Treating:

- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and avoid trick-or-treating alone
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home
- Teach your children to never enter a stranger's home
- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you
- Agree on a specific time when children should return home
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat
- Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.

### Safety Tips for Motorists:

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing

### Get Ready for Halloween.....



# WELCOME TO WEST OMAHA, CIRCA 1915.



Photo by: Brad News/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.....

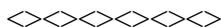
Anyone out there have the equipment or knows someone who can transfer a video from VHS to disc? We have an historic video of when the LNA won the Cox Cable **Neighborhood Salute** and would like it in a format that can be easily shared.



The former **Cool Stuff building** on 35th & Jackson was purchased by Reimer Properties. That is good news!! Jerry Reimer said he will likely rehab it and convert into offices to be used by Urban Village. Cool stuff!!!



The other day I stopped at **Fashion Cleaners** to pick up the LNA's mail and noticed some neatly wrapped shoes on the shelf. What?! I had not realized that Fashion Cleaners provides shoe care! They'll clean polish and even repair shoes!! How many pair could I have saved over the years had I known that??



We got some positive feedback at the membership meeting from the query as to whether we should place an old upright piano in **Dewey Park** (see September issue). But we would like more before we take any further steps to make it happen. It appears the biggest obstacle would be getting it from point A to B. Anyone have a contact??



Our sympathies to the family and friends of **Ed Aldmeyer** who passed away in September. Ed worked in the Parks and Rec Dept. of Omaha and did a lot to help the LNA do good things along the way. From annual clean-ups, sprucing up greenspace, etc., Ed was diligent as a public servant. We enjoyed his partnership for many years.



Hopes for a speedy recovery for **Leslie Wells** who was attacked at the Bristol Apartments by three unknown assailants. As much as we are trying to keep this neighborhood safe, it is sad to hear about this unprovoked attack. If you have any information on this attack that occurred Monday, Oct. 2 call 911.

### From the Internet.....

Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll and USC long-snapper Jake Olson go back a long way. Olson was hanging around Carroll and the USC football program back at the age of 10 and 11 when Carroll was still coaching the Trojans. This was before Olson had lost the sight in both of his eyes due to cancer.

Olson played in a competitive situation on Saturday for the Trojans for the first time ever. He perfectly executed a snap on an extra point, and his teammates were obviously very moved and happy for him.

Obviously Olson is one of the rare people in this world who can inspire others by triumphing regardless of difficult circumstances. Him playing in a game Saturday was the best thing about the opening week of college football in 2017.

**WANTED**  
**REFRIGERATOR, for LNA Headquarters.**

We maintain a small amount of water and soft drinks for our meetings and other gatherings. If you have a used, functional unit that you would like to donate that would be very much appreciated.

Contact any Board Member (page 8). By the way, the LNA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Thank you for your consideration.

**Information for Contributors**  
**To contribute to *the EXCHANGE*,**  
**please contact Jim Thompson,**  
**editor@LNAOmaha.org.**  
**Deadline for the November issue is**  
**November 2, 2017.**

Content submitted may be edited as needed.

## Save the Date

### Christmas in Greece

**St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**  
**602 Park Avenue**

**Saturday December 2, 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM**

**Free admission, Free Children's Activities,  
 Free Church tours, Free Entertainment!**

**Greek Food, Pastries, Gift shop, Greek  
 Holiday Tradition Displays**

## Check out Wohlner's Grocery

Contributed by Bill Kline

When was the last time you shopped at Wohlner's Grocery and Deli at Midtown Crossings? It has become my grocery store of choice over the past 2 years because of its selection and convenience. Located at the corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> and Dodge, the store has free garage parking that places you within 50 feet of the front door. Not the asphalt mile that a lot of the big box stores offer these days.

What does Wohlner's offer? How about a deli counter with specialty meats, cheeses and prepared foods; an awesome wine selection; an incredible meat counter; coffee; frozen pizzas and a wide selection of beer. What more do you want?

Oh sure, they have standard stuff too, for folks that want that sort of thing. Healthy fresh fruits and vegetables, bread, canned soups, crackers, condiments, eggs, milk, and butter, frozen vegetables, a salad bar, soda pop and iced tea, frozen foods, various dry goods, etc. In other words, all the stuff any grocery store has.

I have never had a problem finding parking. The store is never crowded. I have never had to wait in line at the checkout register. The staff is always friendly. The store is always clean. What are you waiting for? Support a neighborhood business and shop at Wohlner's Grocery at Midtown Crossing.

## Fall Craft Fair

First Lutheran Church is trying something new! We are having a fall craft fair Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11. The hours will be: Friday 10 AM - 5:00 PM and Saturday will be 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

Those wanting to sell their crafts will be able to set up as early as 8:30 AM. We have lots of room for vendors! Our price for tables are as follows: 1 table with no outlet is \$30.00; two tables are \$50.00. One table with an outlet will be \$50.00: Two tables \$70.00. These fees are for both days. We will make sure that our vendors are not selling the same items, so please have a list of the items that you would like to offer at the fair.

Our address is [442 South 31st Street, Omaha, NE, 68105](https://www.google.com/maps/place/442+South+31st+Street,+Omaha,+NE+68105). Please feel free to contact Michelle McKee at [402-871-7957](tel:402-871-7957) or via e-mail at [mickeymckee11511@yahoo.com](mailto:mickeymckee11511@yahoo.com).



## HUTCHFEST

### A Midwest Makers Fair

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 10AM-5PM |  
 TURNER PARK**

General admission tickets are \$5 each. Kids under 12 are free.

The 2nd annual hutchFEST is a one-day community and artisan celebration in Midtown Crossing at Turner Park, with 100+ highly curated vendors from across the Midwest. This vibrant gathering cultivates and showcases the freshest talent from the very best in modern maker design, quality handmade goods and relevant found objects.

Get inspired, harness your creativity and experience this lively marketplace surrounded by local bites, local brews and live music.

More information and a list of vendors can be found at [hutchfest.co](http://hutchfest.co)

## BAMM!!!! What's That Noise?

By Jim Thompson

Everyone has heard a loud crash, a loud boom, all at various times of the day and night. Was it a transformer blowing up? A car crash? I heard a big BAMM!! back in 2001 and the sound is still resounding where I live.

BAMM! began back in 2001 or thereabouts. It started as a mere rumble. Although I have never felt an actual earthquake, this sound began many years ago and seems to be getting louder. No, it has nothing to do with the sewer separation project. Nor does it have to do with Mother Nature. BAMM stands for Be A Midtown Maniac.



When some key players in Midtown started to think about what is not happening in our area, a meeting was called. A planning session was created. A team of Midtown folks was formed. Money became available for "The Study". The now familiar mantra of Destination Midtown was starting to echo throughout the area of 24th St., Cuming, Center, and Saddle Creek. And BAMM!!, a lot of noise and chatter is now part of our daily life.

From a neighborhood standpoint, I was proud to be a part of this effort along with Chris Foster from Gifford Park and Margie Magnuson from Joslyn Castle. We still converse about The Effort, relaying wonderment about where how prostitutes disappeared, how dilapidated buildings were replaced, and how the foundation of a neighborhood association is still vital to assure progress in many ways.

I am still proud to be associated with this effort, to one

degree or another. Many of the key players back in the early 2000's have moved on. And a lot of teenagers back then are now property owners and tenants in an area in which they have no idea how it was really formed. But it's all good. And there is still work to be done.

The photo in this article is from a t-shirt that Mutual of Omaha provided. I do not know who created it but with the fading and holes, I still proudly wear it. And although there are no more, except in Margie's and Chris' closet, we would all like of you to become a Midtown Maniac in spirit. Join the group and make some noise!!

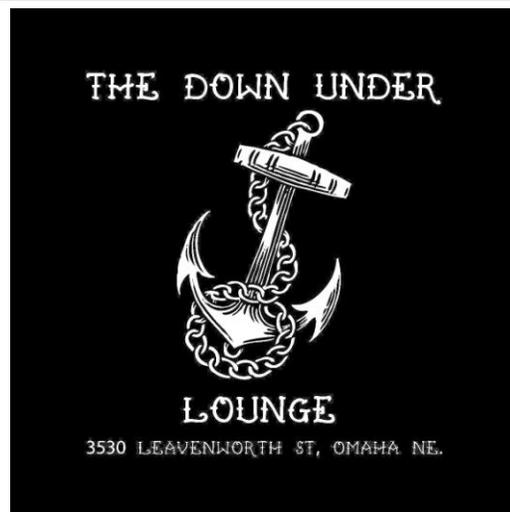
## News from DownUnder

By John Nosal

We have a newly christened Speakeasy Party Room & Bar downstairs that can accommodate any of your intimate to medium sized party needs! We have the option of a server that operates out of the Main Bar, or dedicated Private Bartender downstairs that comes with a stocked bar to your tastes. In addition, our preferred caterers are delighted to prepare your delectables, from full cheese spreads and appetizers to main courses & dessert!

Last, but certainly not least, we're bringing our love of FUN to The Speakeasy with available add-ons such as Karaoke by the hour (2 hour minimum), Booze Bingo, "WhiskeyBear Trivia", and a plethora of other fun bar games!

Feel free to contact Spencer Barak at [402-321-7303](tel:402-321-7303) for booking information, or message us on our Facebook page @downunderspeakeasy!



## Coffee with a Cop

By Jim Thompson

The other day I attended an informal setting of having coffee, and yes donuts, with a number of officers from the S.E. Precinct of OPD. This is an ongoing effort to facilitate communication between OPD and the neighborhoods. This month it was held at No Empty Cup, 1502 S. 10th St.



It was an excellent opportunity to address any concerns I had about criminal activity in the S.E. area. There was great dialogue covering a wide variety of topics. For example, a couple of the officers had body cameras and a couple did not, so I inquired about that topic. Turns out that they need charging and an interesting facet of this tool is the expense involved. The cameras themselves are not too expensive, but the data generated and STORED costs hundreds of thousand dollars!! The use of these cameras has become a significant line item in the budget. I'm not saying we shouldn't put them to use, but I never realized the expense of their use by contracting with a company's server.

I also learned there will be more beat patrols with the use of bicycles. This will happen primarily in the downtown area. And the officers reiterated that EVERYONE must be extra careful with the increased use of bicycles on the streets. Their reports of accidents are not pretty.

In regards to the problems of parking in our dense neighborhood, I was reminded of the spectrum of an officer's day. Some of our neighborhood issues may be agitating to us, but in the whole scheme of work, some calls could be assigned a lower priority than others they receive. Of course, do not hesitate to call 911 for any criminal activity you witness.

For future dates and other OPD issues, contact Ofelia Robles, Crime Prevention Specialist, 402-444-7743.

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,  
SAY SOMETHING**

## From Keep Omaha Beautiful...

### ➤ Youth Fall Cleanup

Youth organizations clean up Omaha parks, trails, neighborhoods, and school yards anytime during the weekend of October 20 through October 22. All volunteers receive a letter of commendation from Mayor Jean Stothert and fun incentives from local businesses. Official Boy and Girl Scout Troops also earn service patches! Cleanup supplies are provided. Don't have a group to sign up with, but still want to participate? Sign up to join Keep Omaha Beautiful and Baxter Subaru's team. We'll be cleaning up Levi Carter Park on Sunday, October 22 at noon. Email [HelloKOB@cityofomaha.org](mailto>HelloKOB@cityofomaha.org) or call [402-444-7774](tel:402-444-7774) to sign up.

### ➤ Tire Recycling

The next free tire collection event is scheduled for Saturday, October 21 from 8am to 3pm at Levi Carter Park (near the airport). The event will be held in the boat ramp parking lot located near the corner of East Carter Boulevard and North 12th Street East. This event is for Douglas County residents only, businesses are NOT permitted to utilize this resource. Tires must be removed from the rim. Email [HelloKOB@cityofomaha.org](mailto>HelloKOB@cityofomaha.org) or call [402-444-7774](tel:402-444-7774) for more information.



Let us help you get ready for the holidays! You are invited to The Wonder Nook in Rockbrook Village for our FREE *Count your Blessings Boutique* on Sunday, November 19th, 1:00-4:00 PM. Our vendors were hand-picked to help make your holidays easier.

Everything from food prep to clean up, children's books to winter wear, decor to fabulous holiday gifts for any age! Dance party for the kids while you shop, this is not one to miss. We hope to see you there!!!

The Wonder Nook  
10806 Prairie Hills Drive  
Omaha, Ne. 68144





October  
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.