

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 34, Issue 6, June 2019



President's Letter.....

Leavenworth Neighborhood Association boundaries are Pacific St. to Dodge St. and 36th St. to the interstate. These boundaries establish a guideline and help us determine where we should focus our efforts. But what about beyond our boundaries?

How do we create a community? How do we partner with other neighborhoods, businesses, and organizations?

That's one of the reasons LNA is participating in the Park Ave Corridor Project. As an organization and as neighbors, it's important to have a voice in how our community looks - what kind of development do you want to see? What's most important to you and your family?

If you haven't already, please take the survey - <http://www.tiny.cc/NeighborhoodSurvey>. I also want to encourage you to attend the inCOMMON Summer Block Party on Friday, June 21. Check out their Facebook page/event for more details. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and help build the community we all hope to live in!

Hope to see you there!

Ashley Flater

Reminder! The LNA
Membership meeting

will be

June 20, 2019.

7:00 PM

We will be meeting at

DEWEY

PARK!!!!

Yes, "Headquarters"

See you there!!

Spring Cleaned-Up !!

By Jack Henry

The week had been hot & muggy but the Saturday of our 2019 Spring Cleanup dawned and turned out to be an incredibly great day to clean up the neighborhood. This was LNA's 34th year of hosting an Annual Cleanup and it couldn't have been as successful as it was without our dedicated neighbors and volunteers! A special thanks to the City for budgeting this event again this year.

The pace was steady, in fact almost slow at first, and we only filled 1-1/2 packer trucks. Several other sites were diverted to LNA's site in Dewey Park. It should be noted that with the publicity by the City and Keep Omaha Beautiful, a good portion of the trash comes from all over Omaha, not just our neighborhood. Informal inquiries found that the donors were spread out, but mostly in east Omaha.

Even though there were only a couple of pick-up trucks doing the running around, we managed to comb the alleys and other hiding places for trash. The find was significantly light compared to past years. I credit that to the positive manner in which property owners and investors have controlled their junk. There continues to be a problem between Pacific and Leavenworth/29th and Park Ave. Someday we hope these property owners will discover pride and do something about this unsightly problem.

We collected scrap metal again and the load was light compared to other years. Perhaps because of the constant stream of "scrappers" that roam the alleys. Still, the amount heading to our treasury is \$110! Still worth the effort. Special thanks to Jesse Smith for using his car trailer to collect another \$67 in the last hour when the metal dumpster was pulled about 1:00 PM.

In other years we put re-usable or marketable items aside but did not do that this year. We found a lot of items should have gone to the second hand market vs. throwing into the trash. Perhaps in the future we can concentrate on this better. There are talks of having a flea market within the LNA. If there is anyone out there who would like to adopt that effort please step forward. In addition to other charities, First Lutheran Church and First Congregational Church have second hand sales so consider dropping your items off at these places.

The food menu was considerably light this year compared to prior events. We wish to thank Burger King

for breakfast and Runza for the donation along with Domino's Pizza for lunch.

We only found four tires in neighborhood and one appliance. It appears people had read the rules regarding the drop-off sites for these items.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time and energy. For a lot of you folks this was your initial Clean-Up and I believe there is a good sense of how this volunteerism contributes to the positive outlook of the neighborhood.

Ashley and Cora Flater (Honorable President and First Daughter)

Jack Henry (Chief Coordination Officer)

Jim Thompson & his truck (Chief Alley Inspector)

Bill Kline (Assistant Chief Alley Inspector)

Ben White

Keith Swisher

Christine Krin (Coffee gal, food handler)

Brian Eaton and Zoe (Litter specialists)

Janelle Domeyer

Laura Green

If I forgot anyone please let me know.

Keeping the neighborhood clean has always been a goal of the association. There is no excuse for dumping bulk items on the street, alleys, curbs, etc. Stuff comes into the living spaces and stuff has to find an appropriate exit when its life is over. Common sense must prevail for the benefit of all. If this simple material handling goal is not built into all the leases or arrangements for landlords/tenants, it should be. One of the couches we found on a So. 30th St. driveway has been smashed, rained on and torn apart. Someone at least put up a traffic cone so no idiot would drive on it. There are plenty of ways to get rid of it: private haulers, friends with pick-ups, chopping it up and putting it in garbage cans.... River City Recycling, 6030 So. 60th St. is open 6 days a week and they'll take it.

Thank you to all for helping to keep our neighborhood clean!

OMAHA GIVES!

a 24-hour charitable challenge

THANK YOU!!!! to all the donors that took the time and effort to contribute to our cause during this annual event. **We raised \$270 !!** This will help our treasury in accomplishing various goals.

Farewell.....

My name is Benjamin White and I represent White & Jorgensen at the LNA. During the last few years I have had the pleasure of getting to know you and getting to know the Neighborhood. About a year ago I ran for and was elected to the board and since that time I have served as At-Large director for the LNA. I am resigning my position effective June 8, 2019.

I am leaving White & Jorgensen and I am starting my own firm: The Law Offices of Benjamin N. White. I still plan to attend meetings as frequently as possible, but because my home and office addresses are not in our boundaries, I am unable to continue serving on the Board. I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. I will see you around the neighborhood!

-Benjamin N. White

The Law Offices of Benjamin N. White
P.O. Box 97
Omaha, NE 68101
402-401-1536
BenjaminNicholasWhite@gmail.com

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NOTE: According to the LNA By-Laws: Article 6, Section 5: Vacancies of a Board member(s) shall be filled by special election at the next regular General Membership meeting.

The filling of Ben's vacancy will run for the remainder of his term which is through December of this year. At the November meeting, elections will be held for three Board members. If you are interested you must come to the meeting and receive a nomination.

Community Compost Program

By Addie Gengenbach

At the last few LNA meetings we have discussed the potential of working with Hillside Solutions to provide a community compost program for our neighborhood, which would be the first of its kind in Omaha. Ashley and I collaborated on a mini-grant offered through the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance and Security National Bank to help offset the costs for the next year while we run a trial period for the program. And we're excited to announce that we got the grant! This is the second grant we've received this year at LNA. This will be a great program that will allow us to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as a neighborhood by diverting less trash to the landfill, especially when you factor in that the Leavenworth Neighborhood's residents alone may contribute up to 1 million pounds of food waste a year! We also get the benefit of a discount on the finished compost to add to our neighborhood green spaces!

The food scraps that will be composted will be contained in locked bins, likely near the Dewey Park building for an easy-to-access and centralized spot. The bins will be picked up and sanitized weekly by Hillside Solutions. There will be more details to come about when the program is ready to use, as well as what kinds of food scraps and materials are accepted. If you and your household is interested in taking part of LNA's upcoming composting program or if you have any questions, please email Ashley (president@lnaomaha.org) or myself (addiemakes@gmail.com). Also, if you'd like this program to be one of the benefits of the LNA membership long-term, let us know! Limited spots are available during the trial period, and an active LNA membership is required to participate, so get in your membership dues if you haven't, and add your name to the list!

Windows can be a pain!

Hail hits on windows often go unnoticed in insurance claims.



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LNA Garden Cleanup

By Addie Gengenbach

Now that we got the LNA gardens freshly landscaped last month, it's time for weeding and maintaining the gardens the rest of the season!

I'm going to dedicate an hour or two to weeding the Triangle Garden on Jackson and Turner Blvd and the Identity Garden on Harney and Turner Blvd on Saturday June 22nd at 9am. I'll be starting off at the Identity Garden. If you can pitch in for a bit, come and join me! Email me at addiemakes@gmail.com if you have any questions or if you're planning on making it. Thanks!



JOIN US NOW!!

Family membership:

\$15

Business Membership:

\$25

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

Is (Was?) Our Neighborhood THAT Dirty?

By Jim Thompson

In the 60's my oldest brother had a trash hauling business. As a youngster he needed my help, usually on a Saturday. I learned a lot about handling garbage. I can't say that I was a professional because I don't remember if he ever compensated me. Who would have known that decades later those skills would come into play in my own neighborhood!

I have been involved with the neighborhood clean-up since the beginning. Although the following chart starts with 1986, we may have started a year or two before that. I didn't keep that record. As you can see from this record, a LOT of stuff has gone away. This effort started with Omaha Parks & Recreation and started with open dumpsters, usually 20-yard capacity. As you can guess, the number of dumpsters used required packing the trash effectively to condense the load. Ultimately, the use of packer trucks was instituted and the Public Works Department took over the Clean-up Campaign. Much, much easier.

Over the years the visual appearance of our neighborhood has improved. Proper development, some education on where to dispose of items and more importantly property owners who care have contributed to this positive change. However, there remains an unfortunate number of property owners who have earned the title of Visual Slumlord. Now, this position is merited on what we see on the outside. If what we see on the outside is any indication, I can only guess what the inside looks like. From a neighborhood appearance, go ahead and continue to hide that, but PLEASE clean up your property.

There seems to be zero enforcement from the City to clearing alleys, yards, etc., from mattresses, couches and so on. The alley between Pacific/Leavenworth, 29th/Park Ave. is the worst and the lack of concern on the residents and property owners is disgusting.

Of course not all visual violations are rental units. We do have our share of houses where the owners simply don't give a damn. (Mayor's Hotline: 402-444-5555).

I have always appreciated the intense volunteer help during our annual clean-up. The charts show numbers, but EVERY year the care and sweat shown by our volunteers is something to be proud of.

1986	6	DUMPSTERS	2005	3	PACKER TRUCKS
1987	10	DUMPSTERS		10,500 LBS	SCRAP METAL
1988	8	DUMPSTERS	2006	3	PACKER TRUCKS
	10,550 LBS	SCRAP METAL		4,000 LBS	SCRAP METAL
	3240 LBS	NEWSPAPERS		60 EA	TIRES
1989	9	DUMPSTERS	2007	3	PACKER TRUCKS
	16,380 LBS	SCRAP METAL		8,000 LBS	SCRAP METAL
1990	11	DUMPSTERS	2008	2	PACKER TRUCKS
	8,900 LBS	SCRAP METAL		8,000 LBS	SCRAP METAL
1991	8	DUMPSTERS	2009	3.5	PACKER TRUCKS
	11,502 LBS	SCRAP METAL		6,100 LBS	SCRAP METAL
1992	6	DUMPSTERS	2010	?	PACKER TRUCKS
	10,474 LBS	SCRAP METAL		6,000 LBS	SCRAP METAL
	4,220 LBS	TIRES	2011	3.5	PACKER TRUCKS
1993	8	DUMPSTERS		3,500 LBS	SCRAP METAL
	8,700 LBS	SCRAP METAL	2012	2	PACKER TRUCKS
	700 LBS	TIRES		3,300 LBS	SCRAP METAL
	2 LOADS	GOODWILL	2013	2.25	PACKER TRUCKS
1994	8	DUMPSTERS		1,700 LBS	SCRAP METAL
	8,000 LBS	SCRAP METAL	2014	2.25	PACKER TRUCKS
1995	6	DUMPSTERS		6,000 LBS	SCRAP METAL
	6,200 LBS	SCRAP METAL		40 EA	TIRES
1997	6	DUMPSTERS	2015	3	PACKER TRUCKS
	8,420 LBS	SCRAP METAL		2,000 LBS	SCRAP METAL
1998	9	DUMPSTERS	2016	3	PACKER TRUCKS
	9,460 LBS	SCRAP METAL		2,100 LBS	SCRAP METAL
	173 EA	TIRES	2017	2	PACKER TRUCKS
1999	9	DUMPSTERS		334 LBS	SCRAP METAL
	6,800 LBS	SCRAP METAL	2018	1.33	PACKER TRUCKS
	239 EA	TIRES		2,460 LBS	SCRAP METAL
2000	2	PACKER TRUCKS		4 EA	TIRES
	10,000	SCRAP METAL	2019	1.5	PACKER TRUCKS
	43 EA	TIRES		3366 LBS	SCRAP METAL
	1 LOAD	CARDBOARD		4	TIRES
	1 LOAD	CARPET PAD			
2001	2	PACKER TRUCKS			
	14,000 LBS	SCRAP METAL			
	600 EA	TIRES			
2002	3.5	PACKER TRUCKS			
	40,000 LBS	SCRAP METAL			
	400 EA	TIRES			
2003	5	PACKER TRUCKS			
	13,600 LBS	SCRAP METAL			
2004	2	PACKER TRUCKS			
	7,000 LBS	SCRAP METAL			

Note that in 2000 the LNA separated some cardboard and carpet pads (worth a nickel a pound at the time!). And you may wonder why the number of tires totaled 1000 in '01 & '02. This is because we were the host tire site for the neighborhoods. We decided not to do that again. Ask me about the brown recluse sometime. The price of scrap metal has changed dramatically over the decades, but the total weight, estimated to a degree, was 257,346 pounds!!! **That is almost 129 TONS of scrap metal.**

And the effort will continue.....

Mural Update

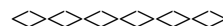
By Jack Henry

The Mural on the Taste of India continues to progress. Kurt Dworak has been impacted by the rain this spring; in fact, the LNA logo will eventually be included in the on the project but the first stencil was rained on and a new one will need to be made. Despite incidental delays, the mural has begun to wrap around to the South side of the building along Leavenworth Street.

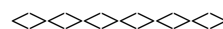


Quick Snips.....

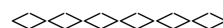
If you would like to opt out of receiving the **Food Express bundle** of ads that are delivered in front of your home by the World Herald or are frustrated by the litter piles of them create in your neighborhood, you can email Deb Sypal: deb.sypal@owh.com. Please help us by getting rid of this litter in the neighborhood.



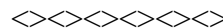
A call was made to OPPD for fixing two **malfunctioning street lights** on my block. You wouldn't believe the multitude of irrelevant questions asked by some robot. I finally hung up and filled in some simple fields on-line. Where is the human when we need one?!??



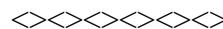
Sometimes we don't always remember which City department to call for what problem. An easy number to remember is the **Mayor's Hotline: 402-444-5555**.



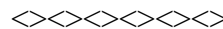
If you have never been to **Memorial Park** to visit the **rose garden**, put it on your list. Located on the north side on Underwood (plenty of parking!), the types of roses, layout, etc. are wonderful! And while you take the time to sniff the flowers, think of the fact they are maintained by volunteers.



Recently observed while driving east on Leavenworth St., a **worker with a dust pan and broom picking up litter** near the Park Ave. apartments (Urban Village). Simply awesome to see such dedication to cleaning up our neighborhood!!



Although I did not get the name recorded, I observed a group of young men picking up **litter in Leavenworth Park**. A spokesperson said they do not have a fraternity house, but were part of one and chose to pick up litter in our park. Thank you!!!



Old photos wanted: from OUR neighborhood. If you are looking through Granny's collection, it would be fun to publish an old photo or two of different parts of our neighborhood. Do a bit of photo mining if you have a chance. A lot has changed and it will continue. Send to Editor@LNAOmaha.org.

Information for Contributors
To contribute to *the EXCHANGE*,
please contact Jim Thompson,
editor@LNAOmaha.org.
Mutual items of interest,
announcements, recipes, opinions on
the state of the neighborhood,
observations in the 'hood, unresolved
issues, etc. etc. Please consider a
submission.

Deadline for the July issue is
July 4, 2019.

Content submitted may be edited as needed.



June
2019



LEAVENWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
3031 Leavenworth St.
Omaha, NE 68105

*"Celebrating together as
friends and neighbors"*

**IF YOU SEE
SOMETHING,
SAY
SOMETHING**

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: Ashley Flater
Email: President@LNAOmaha.org
- Vice-President: Jack Henry 402-650-3761
Email: Vice-President@LNAOmaha.org
- Secretary: Laura Green
Email: Secretary@LNAOmaha.org
- Treasurer: Email: Janelle Domeyer
Email: Treasurer@LNAOmaha.org
- At Large: Ben White, 402-346-5700
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
Or send via PayPal to: Treasurer@LNAOmaha.org
Each adult 18 or older, 2 max. per family or business that 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.