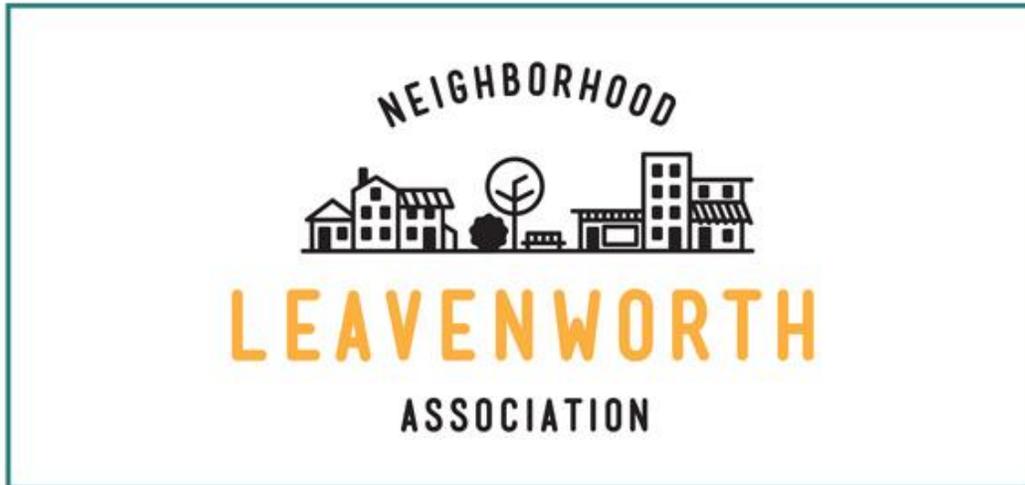


The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 34, Issue 9, September 2019



President's Letter.....

For me, fall has always felt like it starts the first day of September. Football, Oktoberfest, leaves everywhere! It's a beautiful time of year.

One issue that continues to come up is how to dispose of all of the leaves, tree trimmings, and yard waste. On August 27, the City approved a new contract for trash, recycling, and yard waste disposal. There had been a lot of good discussion and I'll be interested to see how well the new system is implemented.

This is a great example of city decisions that directly impact each and every neighbor. What are your thoughts on the new system? What are your concerns?

As always, feel free to bring your discussions to the monthly meeting. It's a great way to gain a new perspective, find others who feel the same way, and take action to see real change happen.

Happy fall!

(To see details of the new contract, check out the article inside the newsletter.)

Ashley Flater

Mark Your Calendars.....

Sept. 14 & 15 Sidewalk Art at
Midtown Crossing

Sept. 14 & 28 One Omaha
Citizens Academy

**Sept. 19 - General Membership
Meeting, 7:00 PM at
Headquarters
GUEST SPEAKER!!**

Sept. 21 - Pollinator Jamboree

Sept. 27 - Night Market at Turner
Park

Oct. 6- Tree Planting in the parks

Trees for Omaha (and LNA!) Program

By Elizabeth Chalen, Keep Omaha Beautiful

As part of KOB's Trees for Omaha program and in conjunction with the City of Omaha's Parks & Recreation Department, on **October 6th (Sunday early afternoon)** we will work with volunteers to plant **35 trees in Leavenworth Park, 15 trees in Dewey Park, and 30 trees along the Turner Boulevard Trail.**

The trees will be roughly 5 to 6 feet high when they are planted (optimal height for long-term growth/success). There should be no disruption to the park or the surrounding neighborhood as a result of this planting endeavor. A contractor (Great Plains Nursery) will also maintain and water the trees during the critical first year following the planting. After that, the City's Parks & Recreation Department will be responsible for the trees.

In addition, we would like to invite the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association & residents to help with the planting on October 6th. All holes will be pre-augered by our contractor and trees will be placed near the holes ahead of time. Using tools provided by KOB, volunteers will simply need to plant the trees using the excavated soil and add mulch around the trees.

It is estimated that we need 40 - 50 volunteers for this effort. Please put it on your calendar and sign up to help beautify our neighborhood!!

New Solid Waste Contract

By Ashley Flater

Here are the highlights of the new hauling contract that the City awarded:

Primary Contract

- 10 year collection contract. Potential for two additional five year extensions.
- Contractor, FCC Environmental
- Two cart collection system. One 96-gallon cart for recycling, another 96-gallon cart for all waste (garbage and yard waste)
- Recycling collected every other week
- Carts are provided by the contractor, but owned by the City
- Residents may lease an additional cart from FCC if they need more capacity
- Annual cost approximately \$22.7 million

Supplemental Yard waste Contract

- 5 year collection contract, with an additional five year extension available.
- Contractor, FCC Environmental
- During 4 to 6 weeks in the spring and 4 to 6 weeks in the fall additional yard waste will be collected when placed in paper yard waste bags and out for collection on the regular collection day.
- Yard waste collected will go to Oma-Gro and be composted
- Annual cost approximately \$1.5 million

September Guest Speaker

This month Shannon Gennardo will be our guest speaker at our general meeting on Thursday, September 19th. She'll be discussing a bit about bee keeping and how important pollinators, like bees, are. Shannon is the Community Engagement Manager at City Sprouts and specializes in bee keeping, chicken keeping, and herbal remedies.

She will also be sharing a bit about City Sprouts' upcoming event: a Pollinator Jamboree that will be Saturday, September 21st.



Dewey Park Update

By Jack Henry

It's been a quick summer. I think we were just planning the Spring Cleanup and now it's already September.

We're going to be meeting at the LNA HQ at 550 Turner Blvd. for our September meeting, Thursday, September 19 at 7:00 PM. The renovations continue at the Community Building. The rear bathrooms are open for service by the Omaha Clay Courts Association. The ongoing renovation of the interior continue with bids and estimators to the City.

If you've been by the park recently you'll notice much progress on the Dewey Park Dog Park. We're excited to have this completed in spring of 2020. The Dog Park is situated between the Community Building and the Handball Courts. It'll provide a mud-free environment that is self-cleansing. It'll have water features and sunshades for our neighbors and canine friends.



Dear EXCHANGE,

Recently, I heard that 807 South 35 Avenue will soon become a half-way or ¾ way house. Please know that I truly understand the need for this type of facility and am grateful that such places exist so that those in need can overcome their struggles and become fully functioning members of society. In the past, this property has been rented by a group of young people – ergo – lots of vehicles added to an already congested street (only parking on one side) and occasional boisterous parties. Yup – I get this too – when you live in an older neighborhood there are fewer garages, narrower streets, etc. And – cars are essential. And, everyone has a party from time to time.

All that said there is already a half-way house on Leavenworth about 30 feet from the proposed location at 807 S 35 Ave. In my opinion, and this is just my opinion, the close proximity of these two houses seems unnecessary and may deter people from wanting to make their homes in our neighborhood. Not only that, there are at least five similar facilities between 35th and Leavenworth and 39th and Dodge. I have contacted our City Councilman for his thoughts and comments but to date have not received a response.

Perhaps, this is not viewed as an issue by others as we can't chose our neighbors and we enjoy having diversity in our neighborhood. In fact, I've experience no issues with the residents of the home on Leavenworth while some of my other neighbors fill their trash cans on the curb throughout the week (never removing them from the curb) and others fail to mow their lawns!

Okay – I'm on a roll – so here goes – Apparently, the Family Dollar at 35th Ave and Leavenworth will soon begin selling alcohol (no details that I know of – just beer or all types of alcohol?). Alcohol is available for sale at the Kwik Shop at 36th and Leavenworth and there are several bars close by. Not so sure I understand the need for getting your booze on every block! Seems like another issue that could be a detrimental to the family-friendliness of the area.

Carol Haas

Windows can be a pain!

Hail hits on windows often go unnoticed in insurance claims.



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Goodbye Levenson's

By Jim Thompson

Levenson's Supply could boast that it was established in 1921. Yes, almost 100 years ago! It was not always located in our neighborhood, having started downtown somewhere. It may have been established on Leavenworth Street sometime in the 60's, but I am not sure.

Steve and Doris Hillmer operated the janitorial supply business for decades. It was, and still is, the only place in town for obtaining special cleaning supplies. Noted for pest control products as well, Levenson's served a wide range of customers.

When Steve passed away, Doris ran the business as best she could. However, the challenge was great and she sold the place. Bob Toelle bought the building and the business in 2013. Both have now been sold, effective September 1, as Bob wanted to move on to other business ventures. I'm sorry to report that this long established will move out of the LNA area.



Photo credit: Jennifer W.

Don Powers is the new owner and it will be called Jiffy/Levenson's. The result of this new company is to offer a broader product group to consist of chemicals, paper, pest control, pool chemicals, food service supplies, safety supplies, packaging supplies, floor care, restroom care and equipment. They have moved to 4209 S. 87th St., Omaha, NE, 68127. Store hours are: M - F, 8:00AM - 5:00 PM.

Bob will continue to help out in the transition and can be reached at 402-341-0088. Don's number is 402-697-9600, email: jpsupply1001@qwestoffice.net.

The future of 3217 is not known at this time.

Electric Scooter Pilot to End in November

By Erica Sladky

Love them or hate them, the Lime and Spin electric scooters will end their pilot program mid-November. After the pilot program is over, the City of Omaha will decide whether to ban them or keep them alive within appropriate regulations.

As neighbors in the Leavenworth area, I'm sure you've seen or ridden scooters and have your own opinion! Feel free to share with the Mayor at the Mayor's Hotline, 402-444-5555 or contact our Councilman Chris Jerram, 402-444-5525 to voice your opinion!



MAY 4 thru OCT 13

OMAHA Farmers MARKET

SATURDAY
Old Market
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

SUNDAY
Aksarben Village
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO: OLD OMAHA ASSOCIATION, PHYSICIANS MUTUAL & SP+ PARKING

From The Internet.....

By Jim Thompson

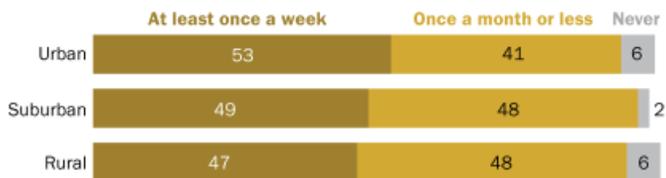
I found this survey on the internet and found it quite interesting. Our neighborhood association has been around for over three decades. Others in Omaha have been around just as long, or longer. And some have gone inactive, although still may exist in the official directory. All of us have something in common - neighbors. All of us have a challenge: communicating with our neighbors.

Rural residents are more likely to know most or all neighbors – but not to interact with them

% saying they know all or most of their neighbors



% saying they have face-to-face conversations with any of their neighbors, among those who know at least some of their neighbors



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 26-March 11, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

I have no idea how Pew Research came up with their methodology on this survey. But they address two important questions that we, as individuals living amongst a host of neighbors, need to ask. Because I have been in the same neighborhood for close to four decades AND been active in the LNA particularly with The Exchange, I probably know more of the neighbors than most. But it has been more and more difficult to keep track. We have a LOT of turnover in the neighborhood.

That doesn't excuse the need to reach out and started with a "hello". Or as we have advocated every month that we have been in existence, come to a meeting, join, and get to know people. The interaction is extremely important to sustain a quality living (and working) environment. It cannot be done with an electronic machine glued to your fingers.

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

So what percentage do you think the LNA as an urban entity rates in this type of survey? I suppose the "urban" label implies that population density is high. Does this mean that there is a greater possibility of interactions? Sure, one does not have to drive any distance to know your neighbors. We have all heard the term of "walkability" as an asset for a community. Is that because of exercise or because society desires a greater probability of interaction? Of course this implies interaction to be a positive experience.

A most noble goal is to have positive interaction. Let's be honest, our neighborhood has each end of the spectrum of people and their personalities and habits. I would like to interact, again, with the neighbor that cannot control his trash. When is the point reached of just giving up? At a minimum we have to open our eyes and minds to an optimistic approach to any of our neighbors. I believe that starting out with the knowledge of who your neighbors are is important - urban, suburban or rural. Add the face-to-face interaction and it is a bonus.

Hope to see you at the meeting.



We're excited to be hosting the next Citizens' Academy on September 14th and 28th, 2019. The academy features six sessions over two Saturday mornings, two weeks apart. We will be at UNO's Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center for both days. Each session features three expert panelists currently working or experienced working on that specific issue in the specific area, in this case Midtown or West Omaha. These sessions are designed to be educational while conversational and interactive. Participants will have time each session to ask panelists questions specific to their work and interests.

On September 14th, we'll discuss Local Government & Advocacy, Transportation, and Planning & Development. On September 28th, we'll discuss Housing, Education, and Community Health.

The Citizens' Academy is free to attend, all you have to do is register at oneomaha.org/training.

Breakfast & Lunch will be provided both days. Childcare is also available for children ages 4 and older. If you have any questions you can send us a message, email leadership@oneomaha.org, or call 402.554.3580.

Omaha Neighborhood Grants

By Erica Sladky

ONE Omaha will be at Archetype Coffee (1419 South 13th Street #101) on Thursday, September 12th and Monday, October 14th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM to talk about the upcoming Omaha Neighborhood Grants Program. They will answer any of your questions, help you develop and plan your project, or help you work out details for the application. Stop by and see them anytime! No appointment necessary.

Also, for those interested in learning more about the grant program, I saw this on FB from One Omaha. https://www.facebook.com/events/523493678192570/?notif_t=event_calendar_create¬if_id=1567576628374490

It's Not That Easy to Get Rid of Us

By Jim Thompson

Last October I had a brush with fate (reference Vol. 33, No. 11, The Exchange). The memory is still vivid for me, but for those who won't be checking the old article, I almost got hit by a vehicle while crossing 36th & Leavenworth. It was close, and fortunately I was able to keep on walking.

So last month at the same intersection, our friend and neighbor Carol Haas was walking to the Kwik Shop. She was not so lucky because she was actually hit by a vehicle!! She ended up on the ground and emergency personnel were called by helpful motorists. With some luck and divine intervention, she only suffered a bruised ankle and hand and elbow scrapes.

First me, then her. I know we have both been around the neighborhood for a combined total of about 100 years, but you crazy drivers cannot get rid of us that easily!! We still have work to do and projects to finish!

I am very happy for Carol that she wasn't injured more severely. Of course the recent death of the young girl in Papillion is super tragic. These cases need to remind each and every driver out there to SLOW DOWN!! Distractions and careless behavior cannot be tolerated, especially when operating a 3000 pound machine. In addition, with school in session again, please, PLEASE drive carefully.



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Park Avenue Neighborhood Study

By Jack Henry

Addie Gengenbach and I attended the September meeting of the Park Avenue Neighborhood Study. Much was discussed regarding the need to implement measurable success metrics that would help implement any plan that is put forth from the Study Group.

One outcome is the need to create a list that could be put forward to City Officials that would help the neighborhood. Many of our City Officials really do WANT to do well by the citizenry. Jerry Reimer of Urban Village mentioned calling the City regarding pot-holes in an alley behind one of his buildings and seeing children tripping over the craters on their way to school. These hold stale water and present tripping hazards. I encourage you all to think of whatever you'd like to compile on the list and feel free to think outside the box. Examples:

- 1) Why is Park Avenue still one-way Northbound from Leavenworth to Farnam? Same with 31st Street going southbound.
- 2) Why do West Omaha parks have nice, modern trash receptacles while our parks have 50 old gallon drums?
- 3) Leavenworth Street traffic-diet
- 4) Wider sidewalks

Any ideas, even far-fetched ones, are encouraged!

Compost Reminder

By Addie Gengenbach

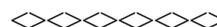
Hi neighbors! This is a reminder to use the compost program we have. It's a great resource to defer the amount of waste we produce in our neighborhood and turn it into something useful. The bins are located in the Hands to Harvest Community Garden (1113 S 31st St., off of Pacific) near the back, northeast side of the property. The bins are emptied and cleaned on Wednesdays. The food scraps go to Soil Dynamics to be turned into compost.

You can include any kitchen scraps in these bins or paper that can't be recycled due to food or oil residue. If you use a plastic bag to transport your compost, please DO NOT include the bag in the bins. Currently this program is open to all Leavenworth Neighborhood residents.



Quick Snips.....

Interested in some **milkweed seeds??** My three plants went crazy this summer and Cindy spent considerable time cleaning the pods and separating the seeds. If you want some please come to meeting in September.



Reminder: The LNA maintains a distinct and separate email listing for those in our boundaries to receive **Crime Alerts**. For those of you who use the Nextdoor app, you have noticed the varied reports from many different neighborhoods. This works well, but not everyone in the LNA has signed up for Nextdoor. Our list is exclusive to our neighbors but periodic updates to the list are necessary. If you have NOT received any LNA Crime Alerts please let me know and I will add you to our list:
Editor@LNAOmaha.org



Sept.
2019



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: 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: Addie Gengenbach
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.