

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 32 Issue 11, November 2017



Guest Speaker: Tom Everson ***KEEP KIDS ALIVE DRIVE 25***®

Join us on November 16 to hear about driving safely in the neighborhood.

From their website:

"The mission of ***KEEP KIDS ALIVE DRIVE 25***® is to make streets safer for all who walk, cycle, play, drive, and ride. Our goal is to put an end to deaths and injuries caused by all manner of unsafe driving behaviors. We do so by educating and actively engaging citizens in a common commitment to create safer streets for the benefit of all, beginning right in our own neighborhood. No one wants to be behind the wheel and hit someone, yet our behaviors can lead to just such incidents."

You have seen the signs around town, now hear the story firsthand.

Board Elections At November Meeting

The annual meeting is always held in November, on the 16th 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. Please see the candidate profiles on Page 2. Also there is an absentee ballot on Page 7 if you cannot make the meeting but would like to vote.

After the election is held, the current Board members and the elected members convene to determine the officers.

Reminder! The next LNA Membership meeting will be **November 16, 2017.**

7:00 PM

Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey.

Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

Board Candidate Profile

Janelle Domeyer..... has lived in the neighborhood since moving to Omaha in 2004. She first rented an apartment on 34th & Howard and then purchased a house a block away at 34th & Jackson. She has a long history of working for nonprofits in Omaha - first as a Direct Support Associate at Mosaic, then as a volunteer coordinator at Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging. She spent nearly eight years as Executive Director of Lutheran Service Corps, and has now spent over two years as Director of Annual Giving at College of Saint Mary, where she obtained her Masters in Organizational Leadership in 2008. Janelle has 11 year old twin boys, Max and Will, who attend Our Lady of Lourdes. She does some volunteering at OLL, serves on the National Alumni Board for Loras College in Dubuque, IA and spent the past year on the LNA board filling a vacant seat as Vice President. Her goal for serving LNA would be to sustain the increased membership and attendance while looking for new ways that LNA can bring value to its neighbors.

Ben White..... I moved to Omaha in the Summer of 2013 to study law at Creighton. My parents are both from Omaha and I have a lot of extended family in town. I was lucky to have the opportunity to live with my Grandpa Pat White during law school. It was fun to get to know him as a roommate and to see the city of Omaha through the eyes of a lifetime resident. After my Grandpa passed away in 2015 I moved downtown to be closer to work and school.

I graduated from Creighton spring of 2016 and passed the bar in September 2016. This year in February my firm purchased the building on 3114 Saint Mary's Avenue. Soon after our move I began attending meetings with the LNA. I am very excited for the opportunity to become more involved with the LNA. I am running for an opening on the executive council because I want to get to know all of you better and use my legal training to benefit the neighborhood.

My firm, White & Jorgensen focuses on civil litigation. Most of our work is representing plaintiffs in the areas of personal injury, employment law, and civil rights. I have several ideas to improve our neighborhood, some of which I mentioned at our last meeting. I hope to increase connections between the business community and our organization, hopefully creating opportunities to reduce unemployment in our

neighborhood and connect employers with good people who need work. If I am elected I look forward to getting to know all of you better and working with you to make our community an even better place to live and work.

Jack Henry..... Jack Henry has served as LNA VP and President for the past two years. Prior to this stint on the Board, he served as Treasurer some 5 years ago. Jack moved to Midtown in 2008, buying a condo in the historic Clarinda-Page Building and got involved in the LNA shortly after via Destination Midtown.

Studying Marketing Management at Bellevue University, Jack now works at Johnson Deconstruct, a locally owned and operated company. He is running again for the Board because he believes in the value the organization has brought to the neighborhood and would like to maintain a leadership position within the community.



Information for Contributors
To contribute to *the EXCHANGE*,
please contact Jim Thompson,
editor@LNAOmaha.org.
Deadline for the December issue is
December 7, 2017.

Content submitted may be edited as needed.

President's Letter.....

It's already November! For many of us that means we'll be travelling to family, or hosting family, for the Thanksgiving. It's always one of my favorites! For LNA, it's the month for our Annual Board Elections. 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?

I joined Mayor Stothert at a town hall on 10/26 at the OPD S.E. Precinct. She gave a spiel on the 'State of the City' and then took questions from the crowd for roughly an hour. Here are the key take-away's that affect LNA citizens: There is a surplus in the General Fund. By City

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

Charter you can't use a surplus the following year. So 2016's will be used in 2018.

Roads: Omaha has 5K lane miles of roads and maintenance is 10 years behind schedule. Can't catch up in 2-3 years. In 2010, \$2.8M was spent on road repairs - in 2018 Omaha will spend \$12M. This will greatly improve our midtown streets. Perhaps you've heard about the Bus Rapid Transit system? It's coming along Dodge - from 10th St to Westroads and will run every 10 minutes. This is the first span of the system. Currently Metro as 3.8m riders per year.

Safety: Police Chief Schmaderer currently has 865 officers. The standard is to have 2 officers for every 1000 citizens. Stothert and Schmaderer are on track to have 880 officers in 2018 and up to 900 in 2019. There are currently 4 precincts though-out Omaha with plans to add 5th in Elkhorn. In 2018 OPD will be fully equipped with full body cams; there are 120 cams in use now. We will be the first city in the country with cams that have automatic triggers: they will begin recording when the taser or firearm is drawn. Private funds have bought them up until now and it's likely the private partnership will continue. Storage of the tapes is what's pricey for the citizens of Omaha. The Nebraska Med Center is now partnering with Crime Lab as of Oct 1. This is exciting as we now have a full service, independent and accredited source. OFD has been infamously over budget but a partnership between the Chief and the Mayor has brought the numbers into line; this has allowed 3 new trucks and a study to determine the response times of each station.

Restaurant Tax: With all the additions to police and fire and roads, taxes have still been lowered taxes twice. This is partly because of the impact of the Restaurant Tax, which goes directly into the General Fund. When it was first implemented, the tax generated \$14M but now contributes in excess of \$33M, mostly from out of town visitors. To quote the Mayor, "To repeal the tax, would leave a \$33M hole in the budget." I don't see any City government official advocating for its removal regardless of party affiliation. It seems to be here to stay.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting! Stay safe on the roads!

Jack Henry

Quick Snips.....

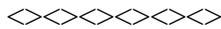
October 21st was the day for free tire recycling sponsored by **Keep Omaha Beautiful**. Thanks to Jim Thompson and Jack Henry for scouting the alleys of the LNA and bringing in a dozen old tires. In case you missed the event, you can bring your junk tires to River City Recycling for a nominal charge.



With all the roof replacement going on in our neighborhood, be aware of hidden nails. As good as the roofers may be they cannot get all the nails from your yard and driveway. A large magnet on a string is an essential tool to comb your place for nails. If you do find one in your tires, **Fred's Friendly** can take care of it before it goes go flat. Talk to Ron.



What do you think about having a house made out of shipping containers in our neighborhood? If you have been to 24th & Lake, you can see the adaption for commercial space. But is it time for this design in Midtown? Come to the meeting and let us know what you think.



Want to advertise in The Exchange? Very simply, \$99 will get you a business card size ad for a whole year. Other sizes can be accommodated. Please contact editor@LNAOmaha.org for details.

Items of Interest from November 2

SONA meeting

By Carol Haas

It was announced that Omaha Community Foundation is offering neighborhood grants in collaboration with Kiewit Foundation, One Omaha, and Omaha Community Foundation. Information regarding these awards can be found on the Omaha Community Foundation website. The applications are open from November 1, 2017 through February 1, 2018. Funding ranges from \$500 - \$5,000 is available and a match is required.

To weigh in on the City's Solid Waste Management proposal, go to the Mayor's website and complete the associated survey. Also, to check out crime reports in the neighborhood, go to crimemapping.com and follow instructions.

City Sprouts presents CommuniTEA + COFFEE

By Ashley Flater

City Sprouts has launched its annual CommuniTEA + COFFEE series and invites community members to attend and meet new friends, make scrumptious food, and sip warm beverages every Saturday morning.

CommuniTEA + COFFEE is held from 10am to noon each Saturday morning now through March at City Sprouts' Education Center, 4002 Seward Street. Throughout the series, City Sprouts' CommuniTEA + COFFEE offers free coffee, tea, and healthy snacks, alongside garden-related activities for kids and adults, garden-related books to check out, and volunteers happy to chat.

CommuniTEA + COFFEE was launched in 2016 in an effort to build community among neighbors and offer an informal space to discuss gardening, food, and other related topics.

This series is free, family-friendly, and open to the public.

Christmas Cheer - 2017

The membership has decided to modify the annual Christmas Cheer program for the kids at Jackson School. For years we have given away books, goodies, crayons, mittens, etc., for each student. Because there are multiple and ongoing problems with kids not having warm mittens or gloves and hats, the LNA will be providing these things starting now.

Donations of either product or money would be truly appreciated.

The "Warm Neighbors" effort is headed by the Membership Team. The goal is to provide enough warm items that the principal can hand them out to the needy ones during the entire winter season.

Please come to the meeting for details or send your donation to the LNA, c/o Fashion Cleaners, 3031 Leavenworth St., Omaha, NE 68105.

Thank you!!!!

Where is Sybil Myers when you need her?

By Jim Thompson

For you youngsters out there, there used to be a columnist for the Omaha World Herald named Sybil Myers. She wrote "Neighborhood Notes", a most popular weekly piece that was published in the Living Section. If you wanted to know what was happening in any neighborhood, Sybil was the "go to" person. And she was a strong asset to the City. And I miss her and what she represented.

Social media being the trend for everyone, it seems Omaha fails to have a Sybil nearby when the different neighborhood groups need to hear from one another. The LNA members are fortunate that we have a monthly newsletter. Gifford Park, Bemis Park, and others also keep the communication going with their monthly publications. But we all miss the coordination Sybil Myers provided, especially the ideas we would all acquire from what other groups were doing. Reading about each other would undoubtedly encourage us to do better within our own neighborhood and to offer praise for the good jobs these dedicated group of citywide volunteers would accomplish.

We need some Myersism. We need a clearing house to assist this and other neighborhood groups to work towards that elusive goal of increased standard of living, safety, and neighborly celebration. Although it's been over ten years since she has rested in peace, the challenges from her work continue. I'm not sure who would possess the magic Sybil carried, but we should keep our eyes open for possibilities. And once again, share the positive association within this wonderful city.

The Conrad...Open House

By Jim Thompson

It seems like quite a few neighbors have already snuck into the neighborhood on 36th & Jones. Of course we have all seen the Conrad rise from a hodgepodge of structures, but did you know there are 153 living units in the building? And now they are about 50% occupied?? Welcome neighbors!

We had the opportunity to attend the official ribbon cutting on Nov.3 and saw the inside. First impression on entering is a WOW! Nice reception desk, nice lounge area, great open space for meeting or other gathering. Including the artwork and other amenities, the place is pretty cool.

There are different sized single bedrooms and double bedrooms on the corners. A common exercise room is on the first floor. The interior courtyard has a large spa, a couple of gas grills, fire pit, and other seating for residents to grab a book and relax. Underground parking is also available.

It is hard to imagine the condition of the spaces on this block before and what we have now. We were told that a lot of the current residents are affiliated with UNMC. There are no immediate plans for the green space that connects to Leavenworth Street.

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,
SAY SOMETHING**

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**

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Salvation Army to Partner with Midtown Crossing on Rooftop Skating Rink

Contributed by Laura Green

Midtown Crossing and The Salvation Army are elevating family fun and philanthropy this winter with an exhilarating new attraction – The Rooftop Rink at Midtown Crossing, presented by The Salvation Army.

The 60' x 80' rink, bleachers, fire pits and food vendors will transform a rooftop near Wohler's Neighborhood Grocery & Deli into an avenue for activity, togetherness and outreach from December 1 through February 28. Admission (including skate rental) is a minimum donation of \$5. All proceeds benefit the important work of presenting sponsor The Salvation Army.

The elevated location is innovative – so is the rink – an all-weather “synthetic ice” surface. Hours of operation will be announced at a later date.

“This is our answer to the ‘winter blahs’ – all the way – a family-friendly experience like no other in Omaha, exercise everyone can enjoy and delicious food on-site from our Midtown Crossing restaurants. The best part? We’re touching the lives of the less fortunate in our community,” said Molly Skold, Midtown Crossing’s vice-president of marketing and communications.

“We absolutely love Turner Park for our summer events, but we saw an opportunity here to really up our game. The Rooftop Rink is going to be pure fun that matches the energy, vibrancy and excitement that we’re seeing throughout midtown. We look forward to welcoming big crowds to the rooftop!” Skold added.

“The Salvation Army is honored to partner with Midtown Crossing in one of the most dynamic neighborhoods in Omaha,” said Major Greg Thompson, Divisional Commander for The Salvation Army Western Division. “We are thrilled this opportunity will offer Metro residents a greater awareness and understanding of the poverty issues that plague our community, so that local residents, our nonprofit partners, and The Salvation Army can work together to better meet the needs of the people we serve.”

The Salvation Army’s nine locations in the Metro area serve nearly 100,000 men, women, and children each year, providing food, housing, material assistance, behavioral health services, youth development, older adult services and escape from human trafficking. Two-thirds of The Salvation Army’s Omaha metro budget is derived from private sources, and 87 cents of every dollar directly funds human needs in Omaha.

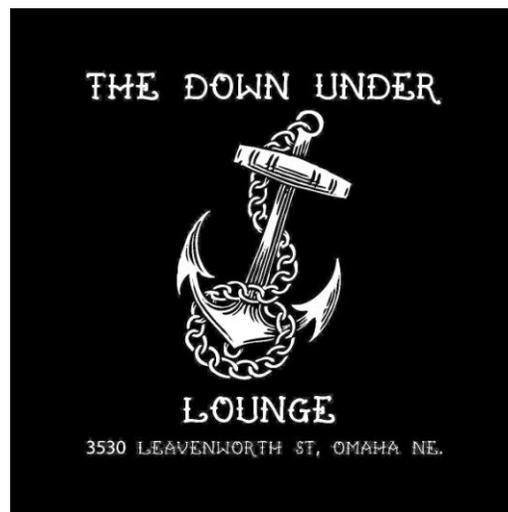
Winter is in the air at Midtown Crossing. For more information, please visit <http://www.rooftoprink.org/>



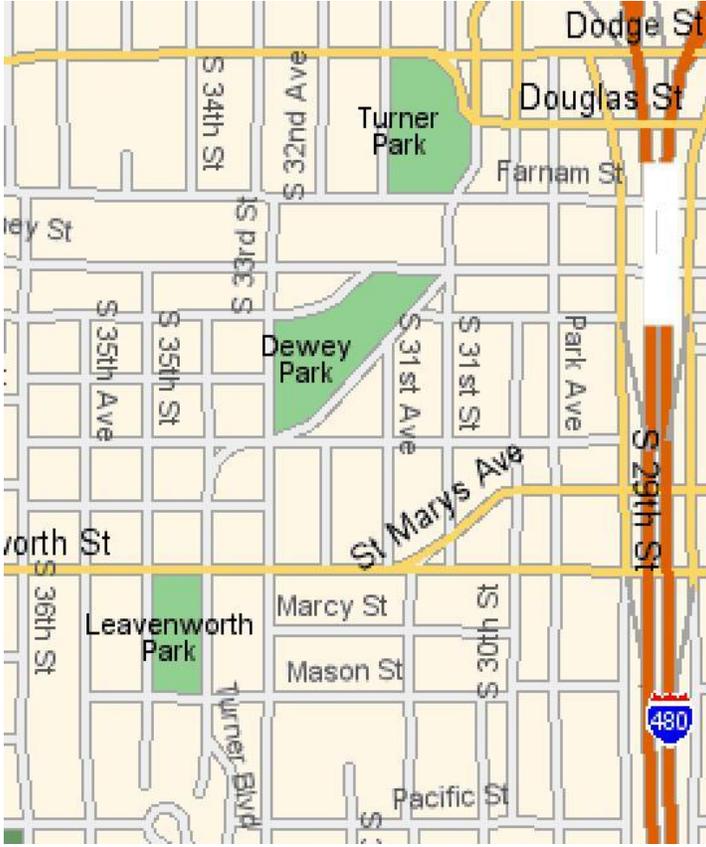
The Salvation Army, established in London in 1865, has been supporting those in need in His name without discrimination for more than 130 years in the United States.

Nearly 30 million Americans receive assistance from The Salvation Army each year through a range of social services: food for the hungry, relief for disaster victims, assistance for the disabled, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing and shelter for the homeless and opportunities for underprivileged children. In Omaha, 87 cents of every dollar raised is used to support services in the community.

For more information, go to www.salarmyomaha.org.



The boundaries of the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association:



North - Dodge St.; South - Pacific St.
East - 29th St.; West - 36th St.

**2018 LNA Board of Directors
Absentee Ballot**

Two Year Term (two positions open):
Jack Henry _____
Janelle Domeyer _____
Ben White _____
(Write-in:) _____

**Return this ballot to the following
address:**
**Leavenworth Neighborhood
Association**
3031 Leavenworth St.
Omaha, NE 68105

**Member
signature:** _____
**Printed
Name:** _____
Address: _____

**All absentee ballots must be received
or dropped off at the LNA meeting on
November 16 by 7:00 p.m. to be
counted for the election.**

**Nominations for additional candidates
will be accepted from the floor at the
general meeting on November 16,
2017.**

**Each adult (18 years or older) who
has paid dues and lives, owns
property, or owns/operates a
business within the LNA Boundaries
shall be eligible to vote. Maximum of
two votes per household and 1 vote
per business unless the business is co-
owned
then it shall be entitled to two votes.**

Copy absentee ballot as needed.

**WELCOME TO
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November
2017



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: 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

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 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.