

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 33 Issue 1, January 2018



President's Letter.....

Welcome to the New Year! I trust the holidays allowed everyone time to relax, recharge and unplug from the world with catching up with friends and family.

Each new year brings resolutions and ambition to make needed changes for finances and/or fitness. The LNA has some changes this month as the new Board is set with our newest member, Ben White. He brings ambition and we look forward to what he will bring to organization as we continue to be a vibrant and leading Neighborhood Association in Omaha.

In the new year, we'll continue to partner with Keep Omaha Beautiful with the Spring Clean-up - we'll keep you updated as the date is solidified. We'll paint our LNA logo on the west side of the Mother India building, providing a new welcome feature to the community. The Membership Committee will partner with the many new rental properties in our boundaries; we've already secured collateral for the move-in packets, where we highlight LNA as a great place to Live, Work and Play. We will be canvassing the new neighbors in the NICO Apartments in the former.

National Indemnity Building at 3054 Harney Street as well as the multi-family complexes along Park Avenue.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year! Thanks for making 2017 all it was and I hope you can make it to our next meeting: 7pm, January 18 at the Dewey Park building at 550 Turner Blvd.

Jack Henry

**Reminder! The next LNA
Membership meeting will be
January 18, 2018.**

7:00 PM

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

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

Hi Neighbor!

By Jim Thompson

It sounds a little awkward to say this out loud. I could easily raise my left hand, with a slightly bent elbow, a simple flick of the wrist, utter these two simple words.

Can you picture it?

"Hi neighbor".

It's a little bit awkward.

"Hi, how are ya?"

"How y'all doin'?"

"What snew?"

These flow somewhat easier off my tongue. There are a lot of other face-to-face utterances I hear from day-to-day. When one takes a brief moment to think about it, these add up to be a time tested definition of the word NEIGHBORHOOD.

Sometimes we take a lot for granted. We can take ourselves for granted a lot too. A neighborhood is the one place in our lives that will always be with us. Wouldn't it be nice to get to know such a lifelong partner just a little bit better? This neighborhood, my next neighborhood? They are all places that become a solid part of our very existence. I really cannot live without my neighborhood.

John Prine, musician and songwriter, has told me a number of times:

"Ya know, that old tress they just grower
stronger

And old rivers grow wilder everyday

Old people just grow lonesome

Waiting for someone to say

Hello in there

Hello"

He has told me that I have to appreciate you a little bit more. I've been slipping a little bit. If I start out with a "howarya", I may even jump quickly to the "whatsnew". I may finally discover that recognizing you will bind my neighborhood. Bind it. What a simple thing to accomplish with one simple word. Two simple words. We can get to three and easily (without blinking an eye) feel the thread of our existence grow stronger.

I think it is very important to put such a small amount of energy into such a large benefit.

It may sound awkward in a particular way. It actually is easier to read than to say. Either way it is an easy way to get such a simple message communicated.

"So if you're walking down the street
And spot some hollow ancient eyes
Please don't just pass'em by and stare
As if you didn't care
Say hello in there
Hello"

Hi neighbor. It's good to see you. It's good.

Reprinted from Vol.4, No. 3 dated March 1989.

New LNA Board Elected!

At the annual meeting on November 16 elections were held for the three open positions on the Board. Congratulations to Jack Henry, Janelle Domeyer, and Ben White for their election for a two-year term. They join current Board members John Costanzo and Andrew Flater.

Here is the line-up for 2018:

President - Jack Henry
Vice President - John Costanzo
Secretary - Andrew Flater
Treasurer - Janelle Domeyer
At-Large - Ben White

Congratulations to this new Board and we hope they continue to make this neighborhood one of the strongest.



Trash, Recyclables, and Yard Waste

By Jim Thompson

In previous issues of The Exchange it was reported that public input is needed for the upcoming contract proposal for handling trash, yard waste and recyclables. If you do not understand, you WILL be getting a 96-gallon cart or two, unless City Hall gets enough feedback to modify the specifications for a neighborhood like ours.

One of our neighbors did suggest to City Hall their concerns. Here is the dialogue:

I want trash to be collected separate from yard waste. I also do not want to lug a gigantic recycling bin up and down my driveway, 60' long, especially during winter. You also need to consider the needs of the elderly. Are they going to be able to handle a cart that size? Doubtful.

From City Hall:

Thank you for your message.

All feedback received will be reviewed by the team that is developing the Request for Bids for the next contract.

It is expected that there will be an option for smaller bins for those who want that option. The special services that are currently available by request for the elderly and disabled will also be continued in some fashion. No decisions have been made yet about the collection of yard waste; many different options are being reviewed.

We will continue to provide updated information as the process continues through the local media, on wasteline.org, the mayor's website, <https://mayors-office.cityofomaha.org>, Facebook and Twitter.

So, if you have an opinion or concerns, please let City Hall know, one way or another. It is best to send them something in writing so they can consolidate the feedback. Although a decision on yard waste has allegedly not been made, I personally find it appalling that City Hall wants to dump our yard waste in hole in the ground vs. composting it for OmaGro.

Twenty years ago I was on the Citizens Advisory Committee for Yard Waste. One of the conclusions from that committee was to put the composting portion

Omaha Community Foundation

[The Landscape – A New Project!](#)

by Kali Baker

We are proud to announce the launch of [The Landscape](#), a data-driven reflection of the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area. It's a brand new resource for our community. We invite you to explore how our community is faring.

The project examines six areas of community life and reflects the lived experiences of our friends, family, and neighbors; it reveals where we've grown, where we can do better, and where we have opportunities to improve our quality of life.

With the guidance of many community partners, The Landscape has gathered a large amount of publicly available data to make it accessible to you. We've started with [Health](#) and [Neighborhoods](#), and we hope you will take some time to learn, explore, and share the information with others.

And keep an eye out for the remaining focus areas – Transportation, Safety, Workforce, and Education – which will be added throughout the next few months!

<https://omahafoundation.org/>

of yard waste out for bid. Ultimately the City won the bid, OmaGro was generated, and we kept thousands of tons of yard waste out of the landfill.

What is different today is that the City paid thousands of dollars to a consultant to conclude that it's okay to dump this resource in a hole in the ground. Back in 1996 we had lots of numbers available to justify composting. I can only guess that today's numbers have increased due to growth in Omaha. I really wish the City would compare those numbers with the current cost of composting vs. landfill fees and reconsider the direction of hauling yard waste with trash. And keep in mind that the actual hauling cost is equal whether it's to a landfill or a (new) composting site.

Quick Snips.....

Rusty Caniglia is resting well at Hillcrest after some minor surgery. Rusty has been a member of the LNA since we began and we wish her a speedy recovery.

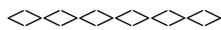


And speaking of the Caniglia family, **Cirino's Billiards and Cafe** on Park Ave. and Pacific now opens at 3:00 PM. I miss their great hamburgers at lunchtime! Check out their pool leagues.



Post script on **streetcar article**..... Sent in by an observant neighbor.... "Interesting article about the subject....."

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/03/5-things-every-trolley-craving-mayor-should-know-214915>



Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association has supposedly changed their name to Park Avenue Neighborhood Assn. Note that their northern boundary is Pacific Street, so as not to be confused with the section of Park Avenue within the LNA boundary.

Furnace Guy

By Jack Henry

We've all just endured the first cold-snap of the season and I have a resounding recommendation to give for a local furnace repair tech. A furnace is sort of like a cell phone, it's a tool that makes your life better and you hardly think about it until there is a problem. And when there is a trouble, it's more of a *crisis* than simple *trouble*. You need prompt, knowledgeable help right away!

I found Jake Nelson on Nextdoor Leavenworth and sent him a text. He immediately responded and we set up a time for him to come and check out my situation. He arrived on time, answered all my questions, kept me abreast of cost expectations and followed up to ensure my home was heated.

If you need a furnace repairman, or when it's time to check your AC, I'd absolutely recommend Jake. He's local, dependable and professional. Let's keep it in the neighborhood, call Jake Nelson at 402-306-1703.

LNA in '18

At the January meeting on the 18th we will be talking about two major items:

Budget
Master Plan

Be thinking about how you would like to see our resources spent and which projects you think requires some focus. Of course we have routine expenses such as reproducing/mailling the Exchange and membership recruiting. And we depend on advertising and membership dues for income. But we also have been fortunate to obtain grants for special projects.

Take some notes and we'll talk in January!

Membership Dues are Due

It is that time of the year that we ask each and every one of you to renew or join this active neighborhood association. Here is what you can expect for your membership:

- Chili Supper in February
- Free bulk garbage pick-up in the spring
- Ice Cream Social
- Picnic in August
- Holiday Party in December
- Security of a Driving Patrol
- "Crime Alert" emails of burglaries, etc.
- Subscription to an informative and popular newsletter (this one!)
- Enforcement of graffiti violations
- Enforcement of code violations
- Enjoyment of four flower gardens
- Continued efforts to clean litter from your neighborhood
- Opportunity to use a plot in a community vegetable garden
- Opportunity to help the kids at Jackson School Pride

The food alone is worth your investment. And it takes more than a small, dedicated group of volunteers to continue to make this a great association. Please see the back page and renew or join now.

Thank you!!!!

From Our New "At-Large"....

Happy New Year and Merry Christmas to all my neighbors. I am pleased to report that our Christmas cheer project is really picking up steam! Based on donations from White and Jorgensen, Bud Olson's, Carol Haas, Bob Hague and others, plus a contribution from the LNA Christmas Cheer budget and the Jim Krin Fund, we were able to purchase a number of pairs of mittens and 240 stocking hats for Jackson Elementary School. These mittens and hats are dearly needed by the students there and are helping to keep the children warm through one of the coldest winters Omaha has seen in years.

Our holiday party at Max & Joe's (Crescent Moon) was a great success. Despite some nasty weather including freezing rain, over a dozen of our members made an appearance for delicious appetizers and neighborly conversation. I was very pleased to attend my first holiday party with the LNA and I very much look forward to attending again next year.

I spent Christmas in San Antonio with my family. Even though the temperatures were cold for San Antonio, I have to say that I have a new appreciation for temperatures in the 40s and 50s since I moved to Omaha five years ago. I hope that everyone stayed warm during the holidays and relaxed and recharged for the new year. The holidays help remind us that spending time with family is special. I hope everyone had a good holiday with their families and that we all have a great 2018.

Ben White



Jim's Master Plan...

By Jim Thompson

At the beginning of each year we discuss what used to be our goals, but later became a "Master Plan" for the neighborhood. These agenda items gave us purpose and a chance to always improve our neighborhood. Continual items such as remove junk cars, pick-up litter, etc. were basically automatic (we hope) and did not steer all of us towards a common, group inspired effort to create a welcoming environment.

For years I have thought of many different things that the LNA could sponsor or take on as a project. Some good, some crazy, but all with the intent of making our neighborhood significant. And as I have talked with dozens of you about some of the following, I am taking the privilege of expressing MY goals for the LNA to our readership. Of course these may not officially be adopted by the membership, but for sure some cannot be done without the involvement and resources of many. And I suppose that helps define community.

In no particular order of importance:

- + **Reinstall the State of Liberty in Turner Park.** The old one was taken out of service in the early 70's. Steps have already been taken to plan for a new one, but a major sponsor is still needed.
- + **Install massive outdoor artwork along Turner Boulevard.** I'm talking about BIG sculptures along the trail. (Note to Art Committee: there are seven spots that have been identified as potential locations).
- + **Finish off the caps on the WWI memorial at Turner Blvd. and Farnam.** This monument was refurbished a number of years ago, but as noted in historical photographs, there were four oblong spheres mounted on the four columns. These can be re-made.
- + **Install doggie bags posts along Turner Boulevard.**
- + **Create a Disc Golf Course from Hanscom Park to Turner Park.** Four parks, nice green space along the way. Sure, have a 19th hole at Midtown Crossing.
- + **Renew the four gardens in our area.** Thank you Christ Feistner for giving this a great start.

Come to the meetings and let us brainstorm. Surely, there are additional ideas floating around, ready to land.

Driving Patrol

By Jim Thompson

We wish John McCaul the best in his new home in the Park East Neighborhood. We are hoping his new place can accommodate his needs better than his old apartment. One of John's concerns as he moved is whether or not he could continue to patrol the LNA. Well it didn't take too much discussion to come to the conclusion of YES!

For decades John has faithfully patrolled the area looking for graffiti, illegal signs, incidents of vandalism, etc. He has represented the LNA at the S.E. Precinct meetings and has participated in citywide events with the Omaha Coalition of Citizens Patrol. We, for sure, welcome to the best of his ability the continued support for patrolling the LNA.

Over time others, Linda Brown and Sue Trisler for example, have helped out. There is no limit on signing up for this great volunteer duty, especially at night where we need it the most. If you have any interest in knowing YOUR neighborhood more, and helping everyone, contact any Board member for details.

Visioning Workshop

By Jack Henry

Neighborhood groups are a lot like animals who hibernate - many of us take a hiatus when the temperatures drop to recharge the batteries so we're ready to spring to life in March and April.

But, LNA shrugged off the winter doldrums and hosted a ONE Omaha visioning workshop at the LNA HQ on January 9th. The workshop was designed to help identify neighbor assets just as associations, institutions, unique landmarks, etc. Sometimes we are so close to the forest we can't see the trees!



Our goal was to uncover a project worthy of the ONE Omaha Grant and/or the Omaha Mayor's Grant. Throughout the two hour event, we built on LNA's existing strengths and took into account the broad goals of the association with the feedback from neighbors and those who came to the Visioning Workshop.

The walk-ability of Leavenworth Street, safety, and continued focus on the LNA HQ at 550 Turner Blvd. emerged as the top ideas. As a group, we consolidated community safety with LNAHQ as there have been multiple neighbors who've requested parking lot lighting and lighting for the handball and basketball courts.

Other neighborhood groups have successfully applied for grants to help them with solar lighting in parks when OPPD hook-ups weren't available. We have the added advantage of a city-owned facility. Even with that said, the daunting work of leveraging our relationships is still ahead of us. If you know of anyone who can assist, please let us know!

Dino's Storage

8 Locations Around the Omaha Metro

- Storage Counselors Onsite
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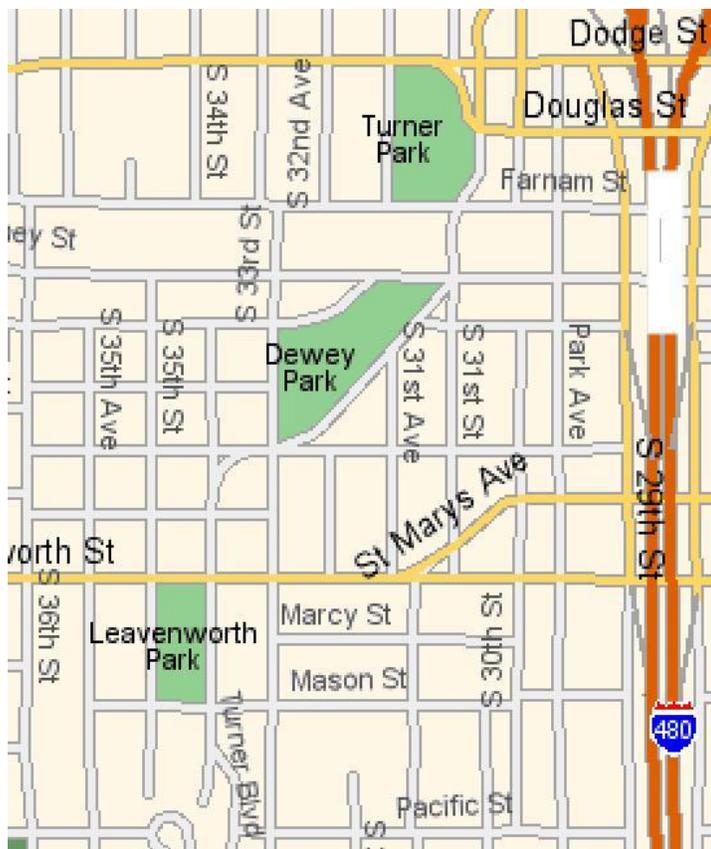
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Information for Contributors
To contribute to *the EXCHANGE*,
please contact Jim Thompson,
editor@LNAOmaha.org.
Deadline for the February issue is
February 1, 2018.

Content submitted may be edited as needed.

The boundaries of the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association:



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

Want to Advertise in The EXCHANGE?

The expenses of The EXCHANGE have diminished significantly since we converted mostly to an email version. We do, however, print copies for bulk distribution to local businesses and mailing to those who prefer a hard copy. Advertisements not only help us defray these costs, but definitely reflect your support of this organization.

The current format is one price for an ad to cover the full year vs. creating/invoicing for each month or quarter. The rates would not change: \$99/year for a business card size. Additional sizes (quarter page, half page, etc) are also available. And if you have a one-time event, we can accommodate those situations.

Let Jim T. know: editor@LNAOmaha.org

**Your ad
 could be
 here.**

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

Today, in the cutest voice, my 8-year-old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, "Why?" She replied, "So you can help me save the planet." I chuckled again and asked, "And why do you want to save the planet?"

"Because that's where I keep all my stuff," she said.



January
2018



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: Jack Henry 402-650-3761
Email: President@LNAOmaha.org
Vice-President: John Costanzo 402-699-0048
Email: Vice-President@LNAOmaha.org
Secretary: Andrew Flater 515-520-1255
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.
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.