

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 33 Issue 3, March 2018



Our neighborhood has quite the reputation for a festive celebration on this day. You will see the crowds gathering by walking, driving, and bussing down Leavenworth St.

PLEASE be careful as we desire to see all our neighbors intact after this celebration. Decide upfront who your designated driver is and don't be stupid for the safety of your occupants and those in the area. Thank you!!

Reminder! The next LNA Membership meeting will be **March 15, 2018. 7:00 PM** Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey. Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

Visioning Workshop Sees 'Green' Lighting

By Matt Wettengel

We came together on January 9 for a Neighborhood Visioning Workshop facilitated by Julie Smith, ONE Omaha. The session asked neighbors to identify the strengths, everyone's individual assets (skills that could be used on LNA's behalf) and a project for the LNA.

Among the LNA's assets: two major east-west thoroughfares in Farnam and Leavenworth Streets; three connected parks along Turner Blvd.; easy access to I-480; residents of all ages; many businesses; seven churches; Jackson Elementary School; well-loved dive bars.

After some brainstorming, each neighbor proposed a project they believed would improve the neighborhood. Ideas included making Leavenworth Street more pedestrian friendly; improving existing bike lanes; putting on a neighborhood gathering/market/festival; spurring economic development along Leavenworth in the commercial spaces between 33rd and 31st Streets; adding additional lighting to Dewey Park and making improvements to the LNA's headquarters in Dewey Park.

The group agreed that instead of taking on a larger event for a project, LNA members could work to improve the events they already host to try and draw larger crowds to the Christmas party, summer picnic and chili feed.

After some discussion the group decided that the LNA HQ improvements and the Dewey Park lighting project could essentially be combined into a single project. Adding lighting to the park would improve safety and make the park more welcoming and accessible for the community. A suggestion of pursuing solar-powered lighting was warmly welcomed. This would reduce energy costs and provide an educational opportunity for our neighbors and the Omaha community.

Matt Wettengel and Ashley Flater volunteered to take the lead on writing a grant proposal for the ONE Omaha Neighborhood Grant Program. The project was priced for both solar power and highly efficient LED lighting installations. The grant was written to pursue lighting for either both courts or a single.

We will apply for a Mayor's Grant too and hold the crowdfunding campaign. We hope to encourage our

friends, neighbors and local businesses to support this project. The success of our crowdfunding campaign will determine the length of the funding for the project.

Of course we are still looking for additional funding sources for this project. Please let us know - President@LNAOmaha.org - if you know of a source.

Other Visioning Workshop Takeaways: Julie Smith also suggested neighbors hosting a Neighborhood Walk, facilitated by ONE Omaha, to assess the accessibility of the Leavenworth corridor and identify potential future improvement projects.

And The Winner is.....



The LNA crowd!! The Annual Chili Cook-off was met with a delicious round of chili and sweet rolls. YUM!!!

Thank you Lisa Constanzo and Ashley Flater for taking the time and effort to treat the group. Both entries were awesome and nobody went hungry. Because there were only two entries, the judges decided it was a tie and both ladies left with a blue ribbon.

Thank you Chris Krin from the St. John's Orthodox Greek Church for providing some HUGE sweet rolls. They were a great addition. Also, someone provided some Girl Scout cookies too. Thank you.

ONE Omaha Updates

By Matt Wettengel

ONE Omaha has been busy since the start of 2018! Not only have they been facilitating Neighborhood Visioning Workshops, they recently introduced a new partnership with a community-led crowdfunding platform and recently released their Spring 2018 Leadership Series.

ONE Omaha introduced this partnership with ioby, a community-focused crowdfunding platform. At a recent workshop, the nonprofit's Partnership Manager Ethany Uttech provided an overview of the New York-based group and how it's designed to allow neighborhood associations, like ours, to tap into community support for projects that require money, volunteers or technical assistance.

The goal of this partnership is to provide a means for neighborhood associations to be more autonomous with any projects they want to take on. This is a wonderful resource for neighborhood associations as it frees us from the annual neighborhood grant application cycles and allows us to take more ownership of projects and really make an effort to garner community support to make the improvements we deem worthy of pursuing in our neighborhood.

The name ioby stands for "in our backyards," an allusion to the company's grassroots approach to supporting projects that "build real, lasting change from the ground up," as their website states. Their website - www.ioby.org - gives a great overview of what they do and projects that are currently being or have been funded through their crowdfunding platform.

Despite its nonprofit status, ioby does charge a 3% processing fee and a \$35 fee per campaign that raises over \$1,000. But that money seems well worth the use of the crowdfunding platform, which incurs no penalties when campaigns don't meet their goals; and the access to ioby's trained crowdfunding experts that all campaign managers receive.

A great addition to ONE Omaha's new partnership with ioby is that they have \$20,000 to use as 1-to-1 match funding for neighborhood projects in Omaha, up to \$2,000 per project. To be eligible for match funding, the group must complete a LEAD

neighborhood visioning session with One Omaha.

Since LNA hosted a Neighborhood Visioning Workshop with Julie in January, we discovered we are already eligible for the match funding. We look forward to getting this crowdfunding initiative going and hope we can count on our member's support of this fantastic neighborhood improvement project! Please look forward to more information this spring.

Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.)

By Jim Thompson

I recently became aware of a volunteer organization that exists to simply help those children who need different levels of support from an abused situation. Motorcycle riders come in varying degrees of appearance. What one doesn't see from the outside are the huge hearts and courage of these leather-clad folks.

From their Mission Statement:

Bikers Against Child Abuse, Inc. (B.A.C.A.) exists with the intent to create a safer environment for abused children. We exist as a body of Bikers to empower children to not feel afraid of the world in which they live. We stand ready to lend support to our wounded friends by involving them with an established, united organization. We work in conjunction with local and state officials who are already in place to protect children. We desire to send a clear message to all involved with the abused child that this child is part of our organization, and that we are prepared to lend our physical and emotional support to them by affiliation, and our physical presence. We stand at the ready to shield these children from further abuse. We do not condone the use of violence or physical force in any manner; however, if circumstances arise such that we are the only obstacle preventing a child from further abuse, we stand ready to be that obstacle.



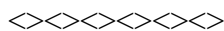
Hotline: 855-464-9088.

General Info: www.BACAWorld.org

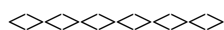
Thank you for your service to our community.

Quick Snips.....

St. John's Greek Orthodox Church is gearing up for some Lenten hospitality. Your neighbors that bring you the delicious Greek Festival will again host Greek Fish Fry Fridays from February 16th through March 23rd. Serving times are 4:30 - 8 pm.



Last month we mentioned improvements to Turner Park. We, of course, meant DEWEY Park... It's going to be hard to improve on Turner Park!!



Be alert if you store your tube of tooth paste in the same drawer as your tube of Hydrocortisone Cream. If it's dark in the room, your brushing could taste funny, but certainly heal any sores in your mouth!!



The Latino Peace Officers are celebrating their 17th annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 24th from 1-3pm at Spring Lake Park on Spring Lake Drive and I' Street. (Rain date: Saturday March 31st)

Please come out and join the fun! There will be food, activities and prizes. Children ages 1-12 years old will be able to participate in the hunt for eggs. Hope to see you there!

Are You From Oregon?

By Jim Thompson

Recently I heard a story that Oregon passed a law that people can now fill their own gas tanks on their cars. WHAT?!? Believe it or not, residents were not allowed to pump their own gas! The critics of this new law said that it's dangerous and should be left to the professionals. I first thought this was a story from The Onion (sarcastic news source). But it is a real change.

Behold to any Oregonians in Omaha - stop by **Fred's Finish Line at 29th & Leavenworth** and you will feel at home. They are the only FULL SERVICE station in Omaha. Sure enough, they'll check your oil, clean your windshield, and you don't even have to get out of your car!!

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 - COMPLETED!!

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 to those who have already sent in their dues. We really appreciate your support. If any of you need an invoice for your records, please let us know and we can accommodate you. **Remember we are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.**

Thank you!!



Another in a series of Defining Your Neighborhood

Which One is YOUR Church?

By Jim Thompson

Clockwise from the north: First Presbyterian, First Unitarian, First Baptist, First Lutheran, St. John's Orthodox Greek, St. Peters, First Central Congregational. Is there a reason we have so many "Firsts" in the LNA boundaries? Consider that Turner Boulevard used to be the western edge of Omaha at the turn of the 20th century. Perhaps these "Firsts" were really the big ones, established in the heart of the growing city as religion was such an important part of everyone's life. The "Roaring '20's" yielded a corresponding effort to build many of these churches in what we now call Midtown. Or in the case of First Lutheran Church, they outgrew the original location on Mason Street and built "out west".

Not counting those other churches within walking distance from our neighborhood, I feel very fortunate to have ALL of these structures within our boundaries. What a wondrous asset to have. Considering the major increase in high density housing in Midtown, the opportunities to pick YOUR church so close to where you live is truly significant. ALL within walking distance. Correct. Check the universal criteria for a desirable neighborhood: walkability. Got it, by God.

I'm not going to begin to delve into the different religious aspects of the churches. But I will take pride in knowing that whatever your religious beliefs may be, there is probably a place nearby in which you can open the door and feel welcome. And in today's world, I will simply say that we can all use a bit of religion.

Many times when discussing the criminal activity that goes on, my friends have routinely heard me say "They should have gone to Sunday School". Now, I do not know how many of OUR churches have a strong program, but I believe that at a minimum, children need to step into their own place of worship, with their parents of course. The LNA used to have a celebration called "Kid's Day" (which will be discussed at another time). The intent of this event was to gather the kids of the neighborhood for a celebration of not only their existence, but their positive value to the neighborhood. Looking back, almost ALL of these kids had an association with one of the neighborhood churches. Sunday School was an important function of a neighborhood church.

I think we take these buildings and what they represent for granted. Those young neighborhood kids who roamed our streets and parks have all grown up and I can only hope they have chosen a church near wherever they may live. The level of crime, especially those kids going through cars, has increased. "Thou shall not steal" is something they should have learned.

I believe the warmth of a neighborhood can be directly attributed to what a person's religious belief may be. Please don't ignore the opportunity to spend an hour or two each week to enrich your lives and help these churches survive and carry on with their respective missions. The inventory of opportunity in OUR neighborhood for practicing such beliefs is an incredible high number, those church bells ought to be ringing loud!

Your choice:

www.fpcomaha.org

www.omahafbc.org

www.flcomaha.org

www.firstuuomaha.org

www.stjohnsgreekorthodox.org

www.stpeterchurch.net

www.firstcentral.org



**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS GENERAL MACARTHUR
CHAPTER #2 LENTEN FRIDAY FISH FRY 2018**

5-7:00 PM

February 16th THROUGH March 30th

4515 F STREET

OMAHA, NE

(402) 731-4088 ext. 22

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Nebraska Historic Preservation Conference is a MUST for Old Home Owners/Lovers!

By Janelle Domeyer

This was the 13th conference hosted by Restoration Exchange Omaha (REO), but my first time attending. As the owner of an 1890's home, and a fan of the beauty of old homes in general, the sessions offered throughout the day spoke to both my love of history and my love of older homes.

The conference weekend began on Friday night with neighborhood tours. This year REO focused on up-and-coming South 13th Street, and our neighbors, the Blackstone area. Visitors were provided with transportation and guided tours through some of the preserved buildings in each neighborhood.

On Saturday, the conference took place in the brand new Center for Emerging Technology Building on the MCC Fort Omaha Campus. Exhibitors lined the floor, from trades and vendors to neighborhood associations and history groups. A morning keynote was led by Matt Hanson and Sarah Baker-Hanson of the Omaha World Herald about their adventures around rural Nebraska and the hidden gems they had come across. The lunch keynote was presented by Amy Nicole Swift, Founder and CEO of Building Hugger and an advocate for training women in the trades and restoring historic buildings and homes in her native Detroit. Small sessions highlighted *Deconstruction vs. Demolition* by our friends Johnson Deconstruction; a very interesting study about *Omaha's Historic Streetcar Stops* presented by Alley Poyner Macchietto which included an analysis of the buildings and neighborhoods along these old stops (Leavenworth from 31st to 38th being one of them). Other sessions contained helpful demonstrations on restoring old windows, how to patch and repair damaged interior plaster, Douglas County Courthouse Mural Restoration, how to fix and restore old hardware, lead abatement, and how to patch and repair damaged stucco.

The conference left me feeling empowered to make some repairs to my home and feeling like I had a network of people to reach out to for information, tips, and support should I come across something that I was unsure of tackling along the way.

It's Almost Time for Gardening!

By Carol Haas

As this article is being written, the wind is blowing, there's been some snow, and it's hard to believe that spring is nearly here. BUT – it won't be long now. So, if you're interested in growing some vegetables this spring you can rent a plot or two at Hands to Harvest Community Garden located near 31st and Pacific. Plot rental is \$20 per season. This is a great opportunity to make new friends, spend time outside, and play in the dirt!

If you are interested, please contact Sonya Gray (sonya@incommoncd.org). Also, if you'd like to be a part of the committee overseeing the garden, please contact Sonya.



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Contact: Amanda at 402-398-1422 or
vazquez@greatplainspva.org.

June 3, 2018
Tiburon Golf Club

7:30 Registration
8:00 Skills Contests
9:00 Shotgun Start

\$100 per golfer

- 18 holes of golf
- Dinner
- Flight prizes
- Pin prizes
- Hole-in-One Contests
- Live & Silent Auctions



A charity fund-raiser to benefit Paralyzed Veterans of America
Great Plains Chapter's Adapted Sports & Recreation Program.



Billiards



Archery



Bocce Ball



Personal Fitness



National Veterans
Wheelchair Games



Table Tennis



Summer Art Camp



Bowling



March
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

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.