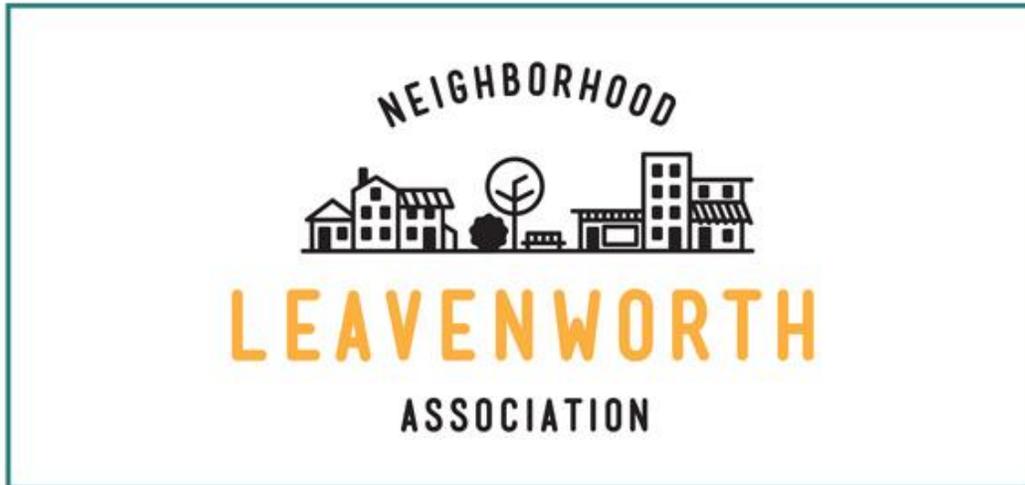


# The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

*Celebrating together as friends and neighbors*

Volume 33 Issue 4, April 2018



## President's Letter

I'm sure everyone is glad for warmer weather and sunshine - even if the typical 'April Showers' have been more snow showers than spring rain! The arrival of spring also brings construction activity.

Crews have been busy building new sidewalks at The Triangle and the local construction industry continues building new homes for new neighbors throughout the area. Enjoy whatever projects you might be undertaking this time of year.

If it's Spring Cleaning you are under-taking, keep in mind our Cleanup Day is May 12 at our Dewey Park HQ – [550 Turner Blvd.](#) Last year we saw a number of doors and couches (ahem, from my place as well!) and I want to take the opportunity to highlight a program that is free for neighbors who may have these items. Habitat for Humanity will be glad to pick up these household items free of charge for re-sale at their two Omaha Habitat ReStore locations. You simply need to call 402-

884-6976 schedule a pickup or visit [www.omahahabitatrestore.org/donate](http://www.omahahabitatrestore.org/donate).

As in other years, toxic materials (paint, oil, pesticides, and other chemicals) can be taken to Under the Sink's facility near 120<sup>th</sup> and I streets. These items are not accepted at the Neighborhood Cleanup Day in Dewey Park.

*Jack Henry*

**Reminder!** The next LNA Membership meeting will be **April 19, 2018. 7:00 PM** Dewey Park Building, Turner Blvd & Dewey. Please come and bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns.



### Don't Dump It! DONATE IT!

Looking to get rid of some appliances, home goods, furniture, or building supplies? Donate by scheduling a pick up: Call our 24/7 donation line [402.884.6976](tel:402.884.6976) OR online at [omahahabitatrestore.org/donate](http://omahahabitatrestore.org/donate).

## Some Thoughts on Volunteering

By Carol Haas

For many years, most of my volunteer focus was on the LNA – serving on many committees and on the board of directors. In the past several years, I decided it was time to step back and let others step up to the task of sustaining and growing the LNA – new ideas and new energy are always good things. So now in my dotage, rather than eating bon bons and watching TV, most of my volunteer activities revolve around my church.

In thinking about volunteering, I decided to look for information on the web.

Energize – an organization that inspires and empower volunteer leaders worldwide discusses: What is *volunteering*? Who's a *volunteer*? There are many definitions, but no universal agreement. The following is what Energize uses as a working definition for its organization:

**Volunteer, verb** - To choose to act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility and without concern for monetary profit, going beyond one's basic obligations.

This definition is from the Introduction to *By the People: A History of Americans as Volunteers* by Susan J. Ellis and Katherine H. Campbell.

But it is not enough to only consider the verb form. Add the noun form, too -- and from two perspectives:

**Volunteer, noun** – from the *perspective of the doer*: Someone who gives time, effort and talent to a need or cause without profiting monetarily.

**Volunteer, noun** – from the *perspective of the recipient of service*: Someone who contributes time, effort and talent to meet a need or further a mission, without going on the payroll.

Quoting from the Charity Navigator website, "Americans are quite generous with their time." According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, in 2015, 62.6 million Americans volunteered, representing 24.9% of U.S. residents, for a total of 7.9 billion hours of service representing an estimated value of \$184 billion!

And, volunteering can have health benefits. The Project Helping website indicates that about a quarter of people who volunteer say that their activities have helped them manage a chronic illness such as depression.

76% of people who volunteer say that volunteering has made them feel healthier  
94% say that volunteering improves their mood  
96% feel that volunteering enriches their sense of purpose  
95% of people who volunteer say they are helping make their community a better place.

When thinking about volunteering, it's important to make a commitment to an organization that you deem worthy of your time and effort. And, you have to be there for that organization. Showing up late, canceling at the last minute, and producing few results, does more harm than good and prevents an organization from fulfilling its mission. A reliable volunteer with a strong work ethic can go a long way toward helping an organization meet its goals.

When you decide to spend your time helping out, keep in mind that the organization has made an investment in you and is depending on you to produce a return. And, even though volunteers aren't paid monetarily, there are many benefits achievable from volunteering - it connects you with others; it's good for your mind and body; it can advance your career; and it brings fun and fulfillment to your life.

And, remember, the most valuable skills you bring to any volunteer effort are compassion, an open mind, a willingness to do whatever is needed, and a positive attitude.

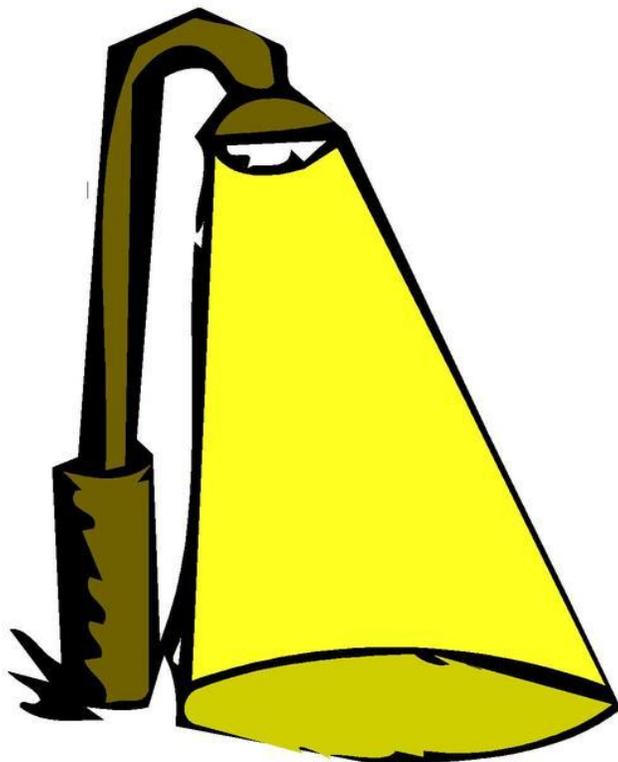


## We've Got Money!

By Matt Wettengel

Great news! LNA's application for an Omaha Neighborhood Grant was accepted for the Green Lighting for Dewey Park project which I outlined in the March newsletter. With the first \$5,000 of funding for the project secured, our next steps for making this idea a reality include applying for the Mayor's Neighborhood Grant program (already done) and for the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance's mini-grant program (happening by April 10). It is also necessary to form a committee to lead our crowdfunding efforts, create a communication plan to spread awareness about the lighting project, and searching for other grants that in which the LNA can apply.

Personally, I'm super excited that our grant was selected! It was my first go at grant writing and it is encouraging to know that community leaders (through the Omaha Community Foundation) support the project our members came up with are willing to help make it happen. If anyone is interested in helping out with any of the steps listed above, please reach out to us at [president@lnaomaha.org](mailto:president@lnaomaha.org) or be at the next LNA meeting.



## Continuing Technical Issues.....

By Jim Thompson

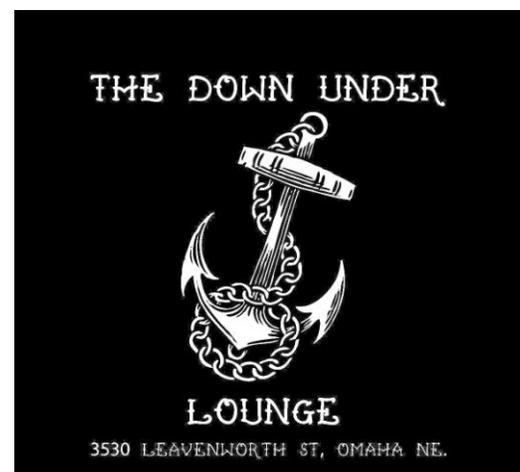
Recently I tried to send an email to our "Crime Alert" recipients. Again, using the Editor@LNAOmaha.org user, the system rejected the emails stating they were blocked. This has happened before when sending out The Exchange. I thought it was fixed.

The problem is, no one seems to know why this happens and what fixes it!! I had re-transmitted the "Crime Alert" and I hope most of you received it.

If you did not, there may be another good reason. The "Crime Alert" list is separate from "The Exchange" list. Those living or owning property within our boundaries should be getting the crime alerts. So, it is a smaller, more focused list. If you are not getting any emails for criminal activity, it might also be that not too many incidents are reported. If you want to share something, let me know.



Furthermore, the Nextdoor app is another, separate mechanism to keep in touch for these and other issues.

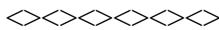


### Quick Snips.....

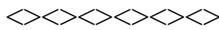
Be careful while driving the neighborhood construction sites. After a quick trip through the 31st & Mason area, I picked up a huge nail. Unfortunately it entered the side of the tire. The experts at **Fred's Friendly** fixed me up before it went flat.



Please remember to **TAGG** your purchases designating the dollars going to the Leavenworth Neighborhood Assn. Together A Greater Good is a free app that brings business and non-profits together. Each time you do business with any of the listed firms, they will send a contribution to us!!! Easy!! But you must remember to process the transaction.



**Earth Day** is coming to Elmwood Park on Saturday, **April 21**, from 11:00 AM until 6:00 PM. LOTS of things to do for the whole family!



The **Midtown Car Show** is coming to Midtown Crossing on **May 20** from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Free! And open to the public. Family friendly, dog friendly, a classic show and shine event, featuring the finest in collector and one-of-a-kind rides.



**Ban plastic bags?** Or teach everyone to dispose of properly?? If you follow the news there may be changes coming in Omaha on this topic. Or there may not be. Let's discuss the topic at the upcoming meeting.

### Bye-Bye Loose Litter!

By Jim Thompson

On a cold and windy Sunday afternoon about a dozen of us ascended on the eastern edge of LNA to pick up some litter. The event, held March 25, was created by Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB) and included people from within the LNA and others who just wanted to help out. Two hours and we made a difference!

KOB provided all the bags and equipment necessary to clean the area. Teams were sent up and down Park Ave., 29th St., Leavenworth St., and nearby. After we reconvened, 30 trash bags were filled and 3 bags were filled with recyclables. Great job volunteers!

I was impressed with the job Alyssa Cody performed gathering all the tools and organizing the effort. She even had special flags for hazardous waste in case we had run across such stuff (needles for example). A great tool they provided was a rigid plastic loop that would hold the garbage bag open to deposit items with the "grabbers" while you walked. We will probably get some for future LNA work.

Thank you to Nicole West, Jordan Pearcey, Carmen Anderson, Heather Colling, Jack Henry, Taylor Cidlik, Patrick Leahy, Matt Wettengel, Cristina and Josue Lupercio, and McKenzie Moore for devoting their time to clean up the neighborhood.

The most common litter beside cigarette butts: small "airport bottles" of booze. Ironically my team member was Patrick Leahy, a fellow Board member of the Papio-Missouri River NRD. He lives in Dundee but wanted to lend a hand. We discussed business a bit, but also tested the orange "Hefty Energy Bag" on our journey down Park Avenue. We managed to fill it with candy wrappers, styrofoam cups, and the other non-recyclable items. It got filled and along with the pop bottles, cans, etc., was dropped off at the recycling center on 26th & Douglas. Stay tuned on the orange bag effort.



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ROAD SERVICE

# Spring Clean-Up May 12

By Jim Thompson

**Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Where: Dewey Park Bldg., Turner Blvd. and Dewey**

**Who: Everyone in our neighborhood**

**Why:** Because for 33 years we have taken pride in our neighborhood by cleaning up the bulk trash from garages, alleys, basements, etc. The City has provided the means by budgeting and providing the packer trucks and manpower to haul this bulky trash. We, and other neighborhood groups, take this day to round up the junk that cannot go on the curb.

There will be a chance to recycle scrap metal again, as we have done for 32 years. And as we have also done for the last three decades, we will assist those in need and roam the alleys for junk. But we do need someone with a pick-up truck to volunteer. The City has again provided sites for dropping off tires and appliances. Tires can be dropped off at 22nd & Leavenworth. Appliances need to be dropped off at South High School on 23rd & J Street. Note that rims must be removed from the tires.

If you do not have the means to transport your junk, call me at 402-342-4371.

Here are the simple rules:

- \* Neighborhood volunteers will monitor the dumpsters (NO commercial hauling!)
- \* Items **ACCEPTED**: furniture, bulky items, metal
- \* Items **NOT ACCEPTED**: yardwaste, rocks, concrete, paint, hazardous & toxic material
- \* **Toxic materials** (paint, oil, pesticides, chemicals) can be taken to the *Under the Sink* facility near 120th & I Streets. They are making special provisions this year to be open on Saturday until 4:00 PM, no appointment necessary.
- \* **Tree brush** vouchers will be available for large loads.

Please note that the hours of our event are only from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. And yes, **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** The Membership Team will be on hand to collect your dues and provide refreshments. Thank you to our consistent and loyal vendors in the LNA for their donations.

## 5168 Tap Room

By Jim Thompson

You may have seen the announcement about the new tap room opening in Midtown Crossing at 3201 Farnam. As a beer drinker, it sure jumped out at me! And after one visit, I am very happy they moved into the neighborhood.

I knew they served food so we planned our visit around supper time. The first beer I had was the New Beginnings IPA. It was not heavy like a stout, but it was a bit heavy and I wish I had saved it for after the meal. Nice kick though. I ordered a simple cheeseburger merely to test the chef on such an old standard. Ed, our waiter and a partner in the business, almost apologized that it was only a 1/4 pound. No apology necessary! It was thick, very fresh bun, and the lettuce/tomato condiment presented well. If I had to criticize anything, the tator tots were not as burnt as I like them, but that's MY taste. The pile was huge and I did not go away hungry.

As a force of habit I asked for salt and pepper and they brought small finger bowls with the ingredients. Hmm, no shakers on the table?? Ed explained that they pre-season everything so additional shakes may not do the food justice. He was right. Tasty burger. My wife had a Cobb salad that had fresh of everything. She enjoyed it immensely.

The second beer I had was the O'Neill's Irish Red Ale. This was, as advertised, an easy drinker. Filled with great flavor. I had a taste of the Irish Wake Stout. Nice and smoky, if you are a stout person. The remaining 11 craft brews they had on tap will have to wait for future visits.



## Group Advocating for Incorporation of Art into City's Bus Stops

By Matt Wettengel

A collection of citizen advocates for both public art and public transportation recently formed a new group that is advocating for more appealing and inspiring bus stops in the city. "Creative Bus Stops for Omaha" originated from a Facebook thread about how uninviting Omaha's bus stops are and the sharing of examples of interesting and unique bus stops that exist in other cities and countries.

The group held its first meeting on March 24 at UNO's Community Engagement Center and discussed their initial ideas and thought. Jason Rose, Outreach Coordinator at Metro Transit, was present. A productive conversation took place about the city's bus system, Metro's current plans for development, and some of the logistical issues that will have to be considered for this project to move forward.

Rose explained that in the near future Metro is already working on plans to revamp several bus stops that they own. One challenge for the project is that Metro doesn't own all of the bus stops in the city. Several outside groups own stops located on their properties — UNMC, for example, owns the glass bus stops along Leavenworth between 42nd St. and 38th Ave. But Rose said that he thinks that a plan to incorporate public art into bus stops could be a powerful tool to convince more property owners to install bus stops on their properties and get more outside organizations to help fund them.

After this initial meeting, the group formed a Facebook group titled, "Creative Bus Stops for Omaha" and started circulating an online petition to "Support Creation of Creative Bus Stops in Omaha." As the group wrote in the description of their petition, they "believe incorporating public art around bus stops will make public transit more enticing, prevent graffiti and vandalism at current stops, make our neighborhoods more vibrant places, and increase feelings and perception of safety around bus lines."

If you're interested in learning more about the group or getting involved with their cause search for the "Creative Bus Stops for Omaha" group on Facebook or reach out to me at [mattwettengel@gmail.com](mailto:mattwettengel@gmail.com).



**Join us at City Sprouts South to celebrate Earth Day!**

Tour our community garden, free farm, orchard, and get a quick lesson on composting and recycling. You can also see our new mural by Mike Giron, get a screen printed t-shirt, pet a City Sprouts chicken, and take free perennials for your home garden! Plus free tacos for the family!

**CITY SPROUTS SOUTH | 1815 N STREET  
SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018 | 3PM – 5PM**

Please RSVP on facebook at [www.facebook.com/events/468906263524309/](http://www.facebook.com/events/468906263524309/)  
For more information: [fb.me/CitySproutsSouth](https://fb.me/CitySproutsSouth) • graphic by freepik.com

**There are no passengers on  
Spaceship Earth. We are all crew.**  
Marshall McLuhan

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# 16th Annual



## Tee Off and Support Wheelchair Sports

### Golf Tournament

**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

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Contact: Amanda at 402-398-1422 or [vazquez@greatplainspva.org](mailto:vazquez@greatplainspva.org).

**Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
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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



April  
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](mailto:President@LNAOmaha.org)
- Vice-President: John Costanzo 402-699-0048  
Email: [Vice-President@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:Vice-President@LNAOmaha.org)
- Secretary: Andrew Flater 515-520-1255  
Email: [Secretary@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:Secretary@LNAOmaha.org)
- Treasurer: Email: Janelle Domeyer  
Email: [Treasurer@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:Treasurer@LNAOmaha.org)
- At Large: Ben White, 402-346-5700  
Email: [atlarge@LNAOmaha.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.