

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 33 Issue 6, June 2018



President's Letter

Summer is here and it's a great time for the neighborhood! It means attending John and Lisa Costanzo's Kick-Off-To-Summer-Party, which always brings a diverse group of neighborhood friends and good food and drinks. Summer brings lazy, long evenings and morning coffee on porches but that doesn't mean Leavenworth isn't bustling.

The renovation start date on the Dewey Building was delayed by a month but is now imminent. The month delay means we'll be out of the building through October rather than the early September as we originally thought. The exciting Dog Park is still on track.

Also in the works, and only in the exploratory phase, is a partnership with Midtown2050 & several other stakeholders in Dewey Park. Turner Park is owned by the City of Omaha but privately managed. Midtown2050 is interested if a similar model for Dewey Park would be successful. It would mean the creation of another 501(c)3 but would provide the ability to program the park and care for it at another level than what is currently taking place. These plans are in the very early stages of conversation.

Jack Henry

Reminder! The next LNA
Membership meeting will be
June 21, 2018. 7:00 PM

**NOTE THE CHANGE
IN LOCATION:**

**We will be meeting at
First Central
Congregational Church,
36th & Dewey**

**Come to the south patio
doors on the west side of
the church. The parlor is
to your left.**

New Dog Park at Dewey!!

By Jim Thompson

Mayor Stothert held a press conference on June 6 to announce the building of a dog park in Dewey Park. This structure will cover about 1/3 of an acre and be placed between the handball court and the building.

Existing dog parks are at Heflinger and Hanscom, but this one is expected to be a much fancier and sophisticated layout. Private and public partnerships will make this a reality.

With the open tennis courts, the clay tennis courts (maintained by the Omaha Clay Tennis Court Association), the horseshoe pits, the handball court, the 1/2 basketball court and of course the playground, Dewey Park is truly a multi-use facility and destined to be a crown jewel in Midtown.

To add to the splendor of this dog park, it is the first one in the metropolitan area that is connected to one of our major trails. The Turner Boulevard Trail is a significant Midtown Trail that will soon be connected to the Field Club Trail. What a great asset incorporated into Midtown.



NUSA Newsletter Award

The Neighborhoods USA annual meeting held in Birmingham, AL, last month generated many awards under various categories for neighborhoods across the country. The LNA submitted our "EXCHANGE" in the newsletter, electronic format category.

We are sorry to report we did not win, but came in second place. The Oxford Observer from Richmond, VA, won first place. Congratulations to all neighborhood groups participating in the program.

Need a Green Bin??

Until we get our large carts for trash and recycling, residents need to put their recyclables into the Green Bin. These are available through the Omaha Public Library at the following locations:

- Abrahams 5111 N. 90th
- Sorensen 4808 Cass St.
- Elkhorn 2100 Reading Plaza
- South 2808 Q St.
- Saddlebrook 14850 Laurel Ave
- Washington 2868 Ames Ave

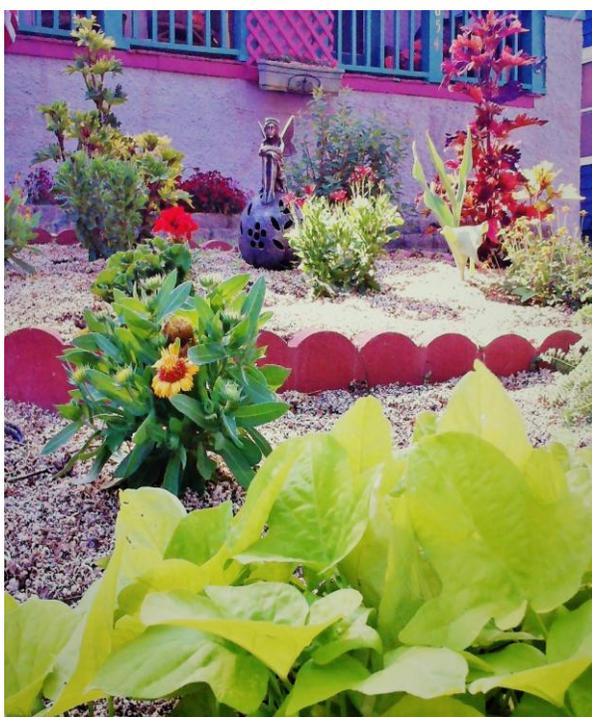
Details of the recycling do's and don'ts can be found at www.wasteline.org.



Growing Green

by John Costanzo

Although I am by no means an expert horticulturist, I do fall nicely into the category of gardening enthusiast. This year, as it seems we have but for a few mild spring days, skipped directly to the heat of summer, plants will require some additional help to stay vibrant and healthy. I have picked up some tricks along the way in order to preserve the plants I have growing and help support a healthy growing season for not only flowering plants but also vegetables. These tips are what I do in my gardens, and are of course, only intended as suggestions for what you might try if you have struggling plants.



With the arrival of hotter days and nights, I suspend any type of planting. The root structures of most plants are traumatized when replanted and with the added pressure of hot weather, it is easy to lose plants. If you must plant, it is best to look for a cooler stretch in the long-range forecast and forego planting when the days are in the 90s. If you do plant in the heat, it may help to water twice daily to help plants get established. Plants with leaves which turn brown on the edges is typical of plants, which either are getting too much sun or need more water.

Watering should be done early in the morning if possible. Between six and eight o'clock is ideal. This allows plants to have water available as the day heats up. If I miss a morning watering, I wait until later in the afternoon to water as this allows plants water to recover from the hottest part of the day. I always avoid watering

in the later evening. With hot, humid weather, it is easy to get mildew or other systemic diseases when the leaves on your plants stay wet overnight.

Tomatoes fall into this category. No matter the time of day I water my tomatoes, I avoid getting the leaves wet as much as possible. I use a watering can and direct the water to the area around the base of the stem. If the tomato plant is bushy at the base, I prune it by breaking off the small leaves or branches an inch or two up the stem from the base. This allows air to get in and helps leaves that are wet to dry. If mildew does occur, you can try a spray or powder but I have personally never had much luck bringing tomatoes back once mildew spreads. I try to space my tomatoes out so if one get sick it does not spread to the others.

I hope these tips are helpful to you and your gardening efforts. There are few things in the summertime which I garner more pleasure from than having beautiful gardens. The vegetables, which are picked off the vine and go directly to the table always seem to taste just a little bit juicier. To bring forth from the earth and produce that which one finds pleasure in or sustenance from is a noble endeavor. Go forth and grow green!

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

**To contribute to *the EXCHANGE*,
please contact Jim Thompson,
editor@LNAOmaha.org.
Deadline for the July issue is
July 5, 2018.**

THE DOWN UNDER



LOUNGE

3530 LEAVENWORTH ST, OMAHA NE.

Quick Snips.....

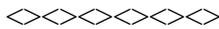
If one visits **Farine + Four Bakery**, one may beget some baguettes. An alert reader discovered that spell-check is not always fully dependable. Last month's tasteful plug for the fantastic baguettes at Farine + Four had people scratching their heads wondering about the begets they offered.... Get there early and get a BAGUETTE!!



After buying a delicious baguette on a recent, hot Sunday, we stopped at **Alderman's** to catch a ball game and have one of Candy's delicious Bloody Marys. The baguette never made it into the house as it was a wonderful compliment to the libation. Even without butter.



Bike lane protocol is that cars are NOT supposed to use them. When a vehicle needs to turn across the bike lane, for example on Leavenworth and I-480, the dotted line is the area in which the vehicle will begin their turn. This is the rule throughout the City.



Congratulations to Hanscom Park N.A. on their grant to build a **disc golf** course in Hanscom. Now, let's work on expanding our long term idea of establishing another nine holes down Turner Boulevard. The folks at **Play It Again Sports**, 8453 Center, have all the supplies and connections. Come to the meeting and let's talk.



Our **Leavenworth Salute** did not happen this year for various reasons. You may recall that we installed American flags along Leavenworth St., starting Flag Day, June 14 through July 4. And we have wanted to expand this display down Park Ave. and/or Turner Blvd. Let's make a concerted effort to bring them back in 2019!!! This would be an excellent candidate for a grant.



Have you heard of the **Blackstone Business Improvement District?** Initially set up to assess property owners on Farnam St. a fee to improve the area with lighting, benches, etc., they are contemplating the expansion into the Leavenworth area. Watch for the article next month.

OMAHA GIVES!

a 24-hour charitable challenge

By Janelle Domeyer

We just wanted to say Thank You for your Omaha Gives donation!

The Leavenworth Neighborhood Association will put it to good use by continuing to create space for neighbors to come together and get involved in the community. We had a successful year and raised **\$335** - more than the last few years!

Thank you for your support!

Thank You Wohlner's !!

In honor of their 100th anniversary, Wohlner's Grocery in Midtown Crossing donated a portion of their Sunday sales in May to the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association. Although the numbers are not in yet, we appreciate this immensely.

When you stop in on your next visit, please extend your own thank you to Mike Schwartz and the rest of the Wohlner's crew for their commitment to the neighborhood!!

FRED'S FRIENDLY SERVICE
 2901 Leavenworth Street
 Complete Auto Repairing
 "Stop in Today for the Friendly Way"

342-9519
 RON & ROB WACKERHAGEN
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ROAD SERVICE

Spring Cleaned-Up

By Jim Thompson

What a pleasant day it was in May to clean up the neighborhood. The 33rd year of doing this and it seems the junk never ends. Yes, 33 YEARS we've been doing the annual clean-up. A number of our volunteers weren't even alive when we started this effort. Special thanks to the City for budgeting this every year as the payback is tremendous.

The pace was easy and we only filled 1-1/3 packer trucks. I think that is the lightest amount of trash ever. It should be noted that with the publicity by the City and Keep Omaha Beautiful, a good portion of the trash comes from all over Omaha, not just our neighborhood. Informal inquires found that the donors were spread out, but mostly in east Omaha.

Even though there were only a couple of pick-up trucks doing the running around, we managed to comb the alleys and other hiding places for trash. The find was significantly light compared to past years. I credit that to the positive manner in which property owners and investors have controlled their junk. There continues to a problem between Pacific and Leavenworth/29th and Park Ave. Someday we hope these property owners will discover pride and do something about this unsightly problem.

We collected scrap metal again and the load was light compared to other years. Perhaps because of the constant stream of "scrappers" that roam the alleys, we only collected 2460 pounds. The amount heading to our treasury is \$98.40!! Still worth the effort.

In other years we put re-usable or marketable items aside but did not do that this year. We found a lot of items should have gone to the second hand market vs. throwing into the trash. Perhaps in the future we can concentrate on this better. There are talks of having a flea market within the LNA. If there is anyone out there who would like to adopt that effort please step forward. In addition to other charities, First Lutheran Church and First Congregational Church have second hand sales so consider dropping your items off at these places.

The food menu was considerably light this year compared to prior events. We wish to thank Runza for the donation along with Domino's Pizza. Also the Down Under Lounge provided refreshments. New this year was the donation by Zach Carlberg of fresh fruit and

snack packs of chips. I think this has set a new standard on the future, healthy menu of what to have at this event. Thank you Zach!!

We only found four tires in neighborhood and one appliance. It appears people had read the rules regarding the drop-off sites for these items.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time and energy. For a lot of you folks this was your initial Clean-Up and I believe there is a good sense of how this volunteerism contributes to the positive outlook of the neighborhood.

Jack Henry (honorable President)
 John Costanzo
 Ben White (Clean-Up Rookie)
 Keith Swisher
 David Kane (and his truck!)
 Christine Krin (Coffee gal, food handler)
 Laura Brink
 Andrea Schaaf
 Brian Eaton and Zoe (Litter specialists)
 Bill Kline (North Field Club volunteer!)
 Jacob Rump and Lisa Chinn
 Greg and Griffin Dyche
 Kate Rehmann
 Janelle Domeyer
 Jesse Earl
 Trevor Earl (Came from Utah to help out!)
 Zach Carlberg and Zoey
 Laura Green

If I forgot anyone please let me know.

Keeping the neighborhood clean has always been a goal of the association. There is no excuse for dumping bulk items on the street, alleys, curbs, etc. Stuff comes into the living spaces and stuff has to find an *appropriate* exit when its life is over. Common sense must prevail for the benefit of all. If this simple material handling goal is not built into all the leases or arrangements for landlords/tenants, it should be. One of the couches we found on a So. 30th St. driveway has been smashed, rained on and torn apart. Someone at least put up a traffic cone so no idiot would drive on it. There are plenty of ways to get rid of it: private haulers, friends with pick-ups, chopping it up and putting it in garbage cans.... River City Recycling, 6030 So. 60th St. is open 6 days a week and they'll take it.

Thank you to all for helping to keep our neighborhood clean!!

Conceive Nebraska

By Cassandra Mayo

Boy meets Girl. They fall in love. They get married. They begin their All-American careers as an Electrician and Teacher. They envision owning acreage one day with a simple farm house, but make do with a tiny two-bedroom house off Leavenworth. They get a dog and name her Maddie. They dream of having nine children. And there it is...just a dream...a dream with an ending that never changes-no matter how hard they try.

And try they did, for ten years they both endured testing, operations, trial medications, shots, therapy, resting. Sometimes their need to be a family of three shook them to their core and most often found themselves exhausted after hours of desperate praying and crying themselves to sleep. While our story winds up with a happy ending of a beautiful babe conceived from the miracle of IVF, we know we our trials are not over yet as we once again begin the process of trying.

This why we are so thankful to have found Conceive Nebraska. In a very short time, we have found ourselves embraced into a community of strangers that become fast friends through the tie of infertility. By sharing our stories with each other, we can provide a safe place for others to not feel alone. A place to encourage each other to be bold in changing the conversation and the way our culture views individuals struggling to conceive. We have the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives and make sure that if our story doesn't come out the way we want it, at least there's a chapter on how we lived and loved through it.

Please visit Conceive Nebraska's website and Facebook page for more information:

<http://conceive-nebraska.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ConceiveNebraska/>



By Laura Green

Whether you have kids that are nearly out of school and looking for something to do, or a grown up just looking for some summer fun, there is PLENTY to do in Omaha over the summer!! Attached is a Summer Fun Guide that I put together every year using the oh-so-helpful resource sites:

<http://familyfuninomaha.com> and

<https://www.everfest.com/nebraska/omaha-festivals>.

Put it on your refrigerator and use it as a handy guide whenever the kids are bored or you want to get out for some entertainment. Please feel free to print out either version and share it with friends and family!

**Family
membership: \$15
Business
Membership: \$25**

**Please support the
LNA!!**

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www.dinosstorage.com **402.916.4015**

Monday Night at the Movies: June 3 - July 29

Location: Midtown Crossing at Turner Park, 32nd & Dodge St.

Time: Mondays at Sunset

Admission: Free!

Description: Join us every Monday for a family friendly movie night in Turner Park! Grab your blanket, enjoy some popcorn, sit back and relax as we laugh, cry and have fun all summer long!

Schedule of Movies:

June 11 – BLACK PANTHER

June 18 - SPLASH, presented by Film Streams

June 25 – BILL & TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

July 2 – JAWS

July 9 - WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT? 30th Anniversary

July 16 - THE LION KING

July 23 - BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID w/ The Durham Museum

July 30 - COCO

August 6 – TWISTER

The Return of the Eatonator

By Jim Thompson

Awhile back an intruder walked up my neighbor's driveway and stole two things: a portable drill and a wooden mallet. It was disheartening to have a theft so close to home but why did he steal the Eatonator? A neighborhood crime alert was dispatched.

Quickly word was received that the thief was attempting to sell the drill for \$10 to Sam at Midtown Laundry, 38th & Leavenworth. Perhaps because of its size, the wooden mallet was abandoned. No telling where the drill ended up. Pictures of the thief were given to Omaha Police and to this day we do not know if there has been an arrest. We are very happy that Sam was alert and the mallet was returned.

One of the fringe benefits of being a volunteer at our annual neighborhood clean-up is extracting something that could be repurposed. One year someone attempted to throw away a huge wooden mallet whose handle was split. An interesting piece by itself, we still wonder what the original purpose of a 32" long, 8" diameter mallet might have been used for. Pounding stakes for a circus tent is the closest we came. I knew this thing could be put to use somehow.

How many of you have sat around a fire ring or chiminea drinking a few beers? Of course you collect the cans for recycling and because you are outside, smash them with your foot. AHA!! Neighbor Brian sees this huge mallet and gives the manly "watch this" swing and smashes the can nearly flat. Next neighbor has to get HIS can smashier and takes a whack. "I can crush it in one swing", says the third man. Thus, the Eatonator, Chiminea Can Smashing Tool, is duly christened and a tradition is born.



Hopefully we do not need an excuse to get neighbors together around the fire but having the right tool to challenge the clean-up process helps. Because Mr. Eaton was the first smasher, the device was named in his honor.



Joslyn's Kent Bellows Mentoring Program mission: Kent Bellows Mentoring Program empowers teens to explore, observe, think and create in the arts by providing mentorship with professional artists.

We are currently seeking teens entering or within their junior year of high school for our fall 2018 semester artist mentoring programs.

Our digital application can be found here:

<https://www.joslyn.org/education/kent-bellows-mentoring-program/students/>



June
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.