

The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

Celebrating together as friends and neighbors

Volume 33 Issue 8, August 2018



President's Letter

It's August! That means Husker football returns, kids go back-to-school and the Greek Festival is again right-around-the-corner! The Festival is hosted at St John's Greek Orthodox Church at 602 Park Ave., August 17-19 and boasts Greek food, music, dancing and so much more. Hope to see you there!

August 16 is also our annual picnic in Dewey Park, starting at 5:30 PM. Come by to see renderings of a new LNA mural being painted on the west side of Mother India by a neighborhood artist. Our normal meetings resume in September and Jason Rose, with Metro Transit, is going to present about the ORBT (Omaha Rapid Bus Transit) project. It is comprised of upgraded stations and buses, enhanced boarding, roadway priority, real-time data sharing, bike facilities, and free WI-FI. Come to our next meeting to learn more!

With all that said, we have a lot to look forward to in the neighborhood. But looking back, especially over the last 30-45 days, there has been a bout of violence in the area. Omaha Police recently made several drug arrests in the vicinity of 32nd Ave & Leavenworth. On the evening of July 4 there was a cutting (resulting in the victim's murder) on 30th and Jackson. OPD has increased patrols of the alley near 30th and Jackson, across from 'The Jackson' apartments.

President, continued on Page 6

Reminder! The next LNA
Membership meeting will be
the Annual Picnic!!!

5:30 - 7:30 PM
DEWEY PARK

All members are welcome!! Bring a neighbor, eat and be merry!! The LNA will be providing hot dogs. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish or snack of their choice (please include a serving utensil if applicable).

Plates, napkins, etc. will be available.

This event is in lieu of the regular membership meeting. Those meetings will resume in September.

LNA Kid's Day

By Jim Thompson

Back in 1988 my neighbor Steve and I were sitting on the front porch discussing all the kids that lived on 35th Avenue from Leavenworth to Pacific. Back then we knew most, if not all of the neighbors on both sides of the street. To our surprise, we counted about 48 kids!! We pondered about the value that kids add to our lives, him with two and I with three. Then we put that into perspective of the neighborhood.

Yes, kids can be a pain sometimes, but they do grow up to be adults. And workers. And property owners. And not so surprising they generate their own families. So, we said, let's gather these 48 kids together and have a party to do nothing else but recognize that kids have value in our lives. The question arose as to whether we could get all 48 down to Leavenworth Park for a gathering. Then the light bulb got brighter - why not invite the kids on 35th Street? Why not the *entire* Leavenworth Neighborhood??

Consequently the plans were developed and Kid's Day was created. Throwing a party for dozens and dozens of kids seem to be a monumental task. But it turned out to be similar to merely having an extra large birthday party.

Or in this case, a HUMONGOUS birthday party or picnic. Starting with activities, we outlined gunny sack races, sidewalk art contest around the perimeter of the park, hula hoop contests, obstacle course, etc. Then hot dogs, ice cream, face painting, etc. With the LNA as the sponsor, it seemed like a relatively easy task to gather the parents and participation of our business neighbors to pull this off. It worked!!

We had 225 people attending, with 143 off those being kids. Our hope was that kids were appreciative for being a positive force in our neighborhood. They were young, of course, but now they are in their 30's or even 40's!! Do they remember? Did it have an effect?

Kid's Day went on for another 17 years. If any of you remember the annual Show Wagon that was produced by the Omaha Parks and Recreation Department we had the Show Wagon at Leavenworth Park more than once. Kids signed up to display their talents from singing or dancing to creating a play. Where are these kids today? I know of at least one who went on to share her talent on a higher level.

The success of Kid's Day led to an attempt to make the third Sunday in September a national day of recognition. We picked this day because in the



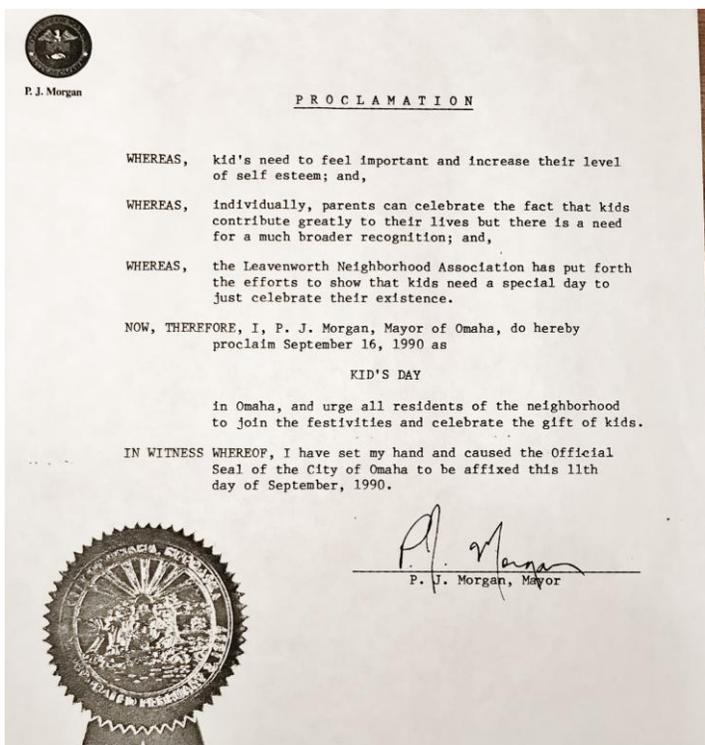
Recognize any kids? Yourself?!??? If so, let us know!

Midwest we still have decent weather in September and it seemed to work out with kids back in school, etc. If you do not know what it takes to get something nationally recognized, it really boils down to an act of Congress! Furthermore, it takes a resolution to be passed for 5 years in a row to make it official. (That requirement may have changed since this was pursued).

In June of 1990 Rep. Joe Kennedy was behind a Joint Resolution to make the second Sunday in October National Children's Day (H.J.481 & S.J. 316). I had asked that this be changed to September but it didn't happen. Actually I don't believe the national recognition ever happened either. I am not sure why but in checking the good old internet, everyone sponsors whatever day they want!

children who have taken the place of those 48 on the block, can we get them together for a neighborhood party? We will be having the annual picnic this month so I guess that will have to suffice.

But I will always think of the second Sunday in September as a special day. And if some strange kid sauntering down the street gets an LNA ice cream bar, I'll just have to tell them about a "whereas" or two.



Cirian's on Leavenworth provided the sacks



A magician performs on the Show Wagon Stage

This proclamation was back in 1990. Although our Kid's Day is not carried out as part of our annual purpose anymore, the "Whereas's" STILL hold true.

I have some files of the past events and looking at the names of those kids who signed up conjures up the typical "where has time gone?" saying. These kids could barely write their name and now, I suppose, they are functioning as real adults in our society. At least some of the names are still around the LNA. And of course some have moved to the big neighborhood in the sky.

So now that most of us old timers probably have grand-

Family membership: \$15

Business Membership: \$25

Please support the LNA!!

Quick Snips.....

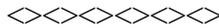
Chalk Art Festival. A weekend-long live art celebration is coming to Midtown Crossing has been postponed from July to **September 15 & 16.** Stroll Farnam Street in Midtown Crossing and enjoy the work of talented local/regional artists and Madonnaris.



And speaking of Midtown Crossing, the **Playing With Fire** event is coming on **August 25!!** The park opens at 3:30 and the music starts at 4:30. What a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Free and open to the public. Both family and dog friendly!



The **LNA Identity Garden** on Harney and Turner Boulevard is far from what we would like as our identity. The weeds have taken over. If *anyone* out there can spare an hour to whack this small space into shape it would be very much appreciated.



We are still waiting for a review of the Mr. Rogers movie, "**Won't You Be My Neighbor**". We came very close to having Mr. McFeely come to the LNA back in the '80's for our Kid's Day. Is he still alive?



Alderman's Bar hosts Sunday Funday Bingo from 1:00 - 5:00 PM. Complimentary nacho bar every Sunday. Free!! Come on down and give the wheel a spin for your Bingo prize.

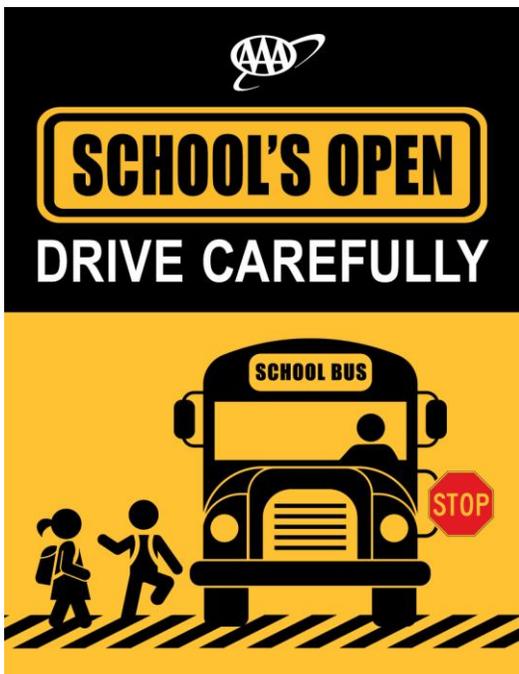
Wanted - 30 Minutes

Andrea Ortiz has done a great job helping out with the delivery of the printed copies of The Exchange. Unfortunately, her busy schedule with school, work and another non-profit has bumped this duty from her list. Thank you Andrea for your assistance!!! You have earned your hat well!!!



If you can step forward and help out with the distribution to our local business drop-off locations give me a call. We do this once a month.

Jim Thompson, Editor
402-672-0603



"Have You Noticed an Increase in Dumping?" Says the Nextdoor Poster...

By Jim Thompson

For those of you who have signed up for Nextdoor on your smart phones, you may have seen this question posed by a concerned neighbor. For the author of that question, I have to admit that I have not noticed an increase. Simply put, I have noticed the usual, normal amount of dumping throughout the neighborhood. The person who posed this question likely has not been around the LNA as long as some of us.

Notwithstanding the excellent results of our annual Spring Clean-up, there is a constant dumping of mattresses, couches, tires, etc. throughout the neighborhood.

Does it seem that it is only our neighborhood though? I am afraid not. We have fostered a very friendly relationship with our neighbors to the north, Gifford Park. The other day I drove south on 33rd and chuckled about calling my buddy Chris to report a couch that had been dumped in his territory. I get to Dewey Street and what do I see - a *hide-a-bed* dumped on the northwest corner of the park, complete with mattress!!! Time to call that in before it gets homesteaded by an urban outdoorsman.

Perhaps because of the historic socioeconomic levels in "East of 72nd St." neighborhoods along with the not-so-hidden opportunities of the layout of the land, these dumping criminals continue to get away with it. I have seen stuff dumped on the Turner Boulevard Trail, on every public park, and of course the usual alleys. When heading west, where does the dumping border end? Is it 72nd? I am sure Pepperwood Village has never experienced such behavior.

In theory, there is a \$500 fine for persons dumping trash. Note to City: has there *ever* been anyone fined for this offense? Clearly, one has to be caught in the act for this to happen. And the police are too busy to follow a truck with a mattress dangling out the back. And once the "Free" sign is blown away from that soiled, rained on couch on the curb, what do you think happens?

In my opinion absentee landlords play a significant role in how tenants handle bulk trash. As a former landlord, I had a clear understanding with my tenants on how trash (and recyclable!) material should be processed. I

have seen too many items dumped on or around dumpsters, sides of property, and of course in our public spaces to conclude that the message is not being received. Is there fine print on the leases? Is there simply a lack of training for the residents on how they should live in our society? And sadly, do these folks even care??

As a neighborhood clean-up guy (a title given only because I have done it for too long) I am interested in possible solutions to this ongoing problem. Come to the meeting, email us, call us. It is important to keep this dialogue open in order to maintain the high quality neighborhood we all desire.



Postscript to Reporting Crime.....

Of course you should first call 911 first.

The LNA has an active "Crime Alert" email listing to share information within the neighborhood. If you have an incident, report it to editor@LNAOmaha.org and it will be shared with our LNA neighbors. Communication is an important element in keeping our neighborhood safe. This listing is different from the Nextdoor app that a lot of neighbors use.



President, continued from P. 1

To understand one of LNA's hot-button issues, you must appreciate that what some people praise as "urban revitalization" others criticize as "gentrification." A lot has changed in the past 15 years. Urban living is popular again, and affluent people have rediscovered these walkable neighborhoods filled with great architecture ripe for renovation. For the most part, crime is down since the inception of LNA in 1984. Investment has returned. By almost every economic measure, these neighborhoods are improving. But there are costs.

Renters are being displaced as landlords sell to individuals and developers. Longtime homeowners, some too poor to improve their aging homes, worry about rising property taxes and feel pressured to sell. The changing character of the neighborhood has raised touchy issues of race and class, which is evident in comments from neighbors. There were complaints about "house-flippers" and "hipsters." Recently, when a neighbor needed to raise a concern with one absentee landlord, the landlord didn't even know his management company had rented his property.

People on both sides are passionate and opinionated. That's because of deeply held beliefs about social justice and free enterprise, as well as two centuries of Omaha's history steeped in race, class, and the politics of power and powerlessness. Regardless of your views, we all need to have constructive conversations and be part of the solution.

The idea is to get diverse groups of people in this very polite city to have honest dialogue about tough, controversial issues. Topics that include immigration; race relations; crime and policing; drug abuse; homelessness and affordable housing. We would be glad to see you at the picnic, and at our meeting in September, to hear your thoughts.

Jack Henry

If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When" - you get the answer to each of them.



What is ORBT??

Jason Rose, Outreach Coordinator for Metro Transit will be coming to our regular meeting in September to explain ORBT. A brief description:

"Omaha is following the lead of cities worldwide that use bus rapid transit to move thousands every day. Omaha Rapid Bus Transit (ORBT) unites smart technology with streamlined travel for fast, frequent, and reliable public transportation. It is comprised of upgraded stations and buses, enhanced boarding, roadway priority, real-time data sharing, dedicated parking, bike facilities, and free Wi-Fi. ORBT will serve major destinations along Dodge Street between Westroads and downtown, intersect with most Metro bus routes, and expand to other ORBT lines in the future. It will improve connections between people and places, and accelerate investment in the space around stations. It will bolster the value, safety, access, and attention around our public spaces and support all travel in the region."

The proposed route will have three stops in our neighborhood, along Dodge St./Douglas/Park Ave. ORBT vehicles are spacious and will have three boarding doors, level boarding, and use Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for fuel.

Check www.rideORBT.com for details.

Dino's Storage

8 Locations Around the Omaha Metro

- Storage Counselors Onsite
- Digital Security Camera Recording 24 hrs
- Specials & Discount Programs
- Boxes, Moving & Packing Supplies
- Free Moving Trailer
- Freight Elevators
- Flat moving carts at all entrances
- Online and recurring payment options
- Climate & Humidity Controlled Environments
- Community Partner with several businesses and charities



www.dinosstorage.com

402.916.4015

Jackson School Supplies - Still Needed

By Ashley Flater

The LNA can continue to support the school throughout the year. I hope to continue to grow this relationship and help provide the students and teachers with the support they need!

If you cannot drop them off at the school bring them to the August picnic and we will consolidate delivery.



JACKSON ELEMENTARY BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE!

We must be having fun because summertime is flying by and the first day of school is right around the corner! Please join us in welcoming students back to school by supporting teachers with new school supplies. Donations will be accepted at Jackson beginning August 1st. Thank you!



- Suggested Supply List**
- Kleenex
 - Dry Erase Markers
 - Disinfectant Wipes
 - Hand Sanitizer (Non-alcohol)
 - Glue Sticks
 - 70-Page Notebooks
 - Oversized Beginner Pencils (Ticonderoga)
 - #2 Pencils
 - #2 Mechanical Pencils
 - Erasers - Pink & Pencil Tops
 - Colored Pens
 - Crayons, Markers, Colored Pencils
 - Pencil Boxes
 - Stickers (to recognize great work!)

DROP-OFF DONATIONS BEGINNING AUG. 1
 Jackson Elementary
 620 S. 31st St.
 Omaha, NE 68105
 402-344-7484

5 NIGHTS ON FRIDAYS
 6 PM TO 10 PM

OMAHA Farmers MARKET
NIGHT MARKET
 TURNER PARK

IT'S AN ECLECTIC MASH-UP OF TRENDY VENDORS, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

TURNER PARK AT MIDTOWN CROSSING
 31ST AVENUE & FARNAM STREET

MAY 25 • JUNE 29 • JULY 27
 AUGUST 31 • SEPTEMBER 28

MEDIA SPONSORS:

WOW! NBC OMAHA | SWEET 98.5 | Park Omaha | OMAHA Farmers MARKET | MIDTOWN CROSSING

Facebook icon @OMAHAFARMERSMARKET OR
 VISIT OMAHAFARMERSMARKET.ORG/NIGHT-MARKET

Who do you call???

- Garbage/Litter violations 444-5910
- Handicap Parking Stickers 444-6080
- Neighborhood Watch Program 444-5772
- Rats, raw garbage, etc. 444-7481
- Street Construction (problems 444-5220 or complaints)
- Tenant/landlord discrimination issues 444-5055
- Zoning Enforcement 444-5364
- Animal Bites 444-7578
- Barking Dogs (sick, injured or stray animals) 444-7800
- Cars (abandoned or junked) 444-5782
- Cars/Trailers parked on front lawn 444-5350
- City Services (complaints or information) 444-5555
- Crime or Vandalism 444-5600
- Empty buildings, Houses (vacant or dilapidated) 444-5371
- Gang Hotline (Youth intervention) 444-6920
- Garbage not picked up 444-5238

WANTED: TIME, YOUR TIME

The Leavenworth Neighborhood has been around for a long time. We are run by volunteers, we are supported by dues and grants. But we need an hour or two of YOUR time to continue to make this neighborhood proud. Please call, come to a meeting, and discover what you can do. Don't be shy.

Apathy is a terrible disease. Let us all help to prevent its' spread.



August
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.