

# The LEAVENWORTH EXCHANGE

*Celebrating together as friends and neighbors*

Volume 34, Issue 7, July 2019



## President's Letter.....

The other day, I was talking to a coworker about my plans for the 4th of July. I mentioned that one of the things we always do is walk to the Field Club parade.

It's one of my favorite parts of this summer holiday. I love seeing friends, families, organizations, and companies come together to display their patriotism and excitement for the holiday and their community. It's easy to see why this is so well attended!

After the parade, we planned to spend most of the day sitting on our front porch with friends and family lighting off fireworks, eating a lot of good food, and enjoying each other's company. On the way to and from the parade, we saw so many houses in our neighborhood with the same plan. It made my heart so happy!

These are the things that make a neighborhood feel like home, and I'm so glad that I get to be a part of it.

At the end of the conversation with my coworker, she said - "It sounds like you live in such a cute neighborhood." My reply, "I do!"

*Ashley Flater*

## Mark Your Calendars.....

July 11 - Jazz On The Green  
Starts, 6:30 PM

July 19 - General Membership  
Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Dewey Park

July 31 - Neighborhood Meeting  
for Park Avenue Study

August 6 - National Night Out  
- LNA Annual Picnic  
5:00 - 7:00, Dewey  
Park  
- Missing Middle  
Housing (see p.3)

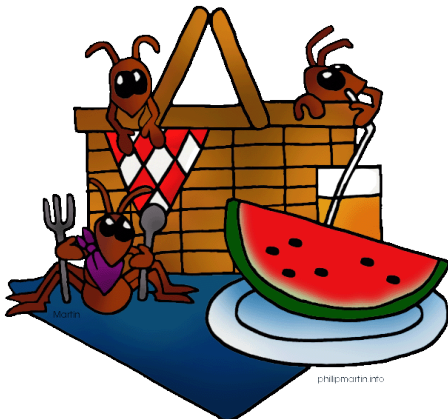
August 15 - NO LNA Meeting!

## Meet the New At-Large

Addie Gengenbach was elected as the new At Large during the last membership meeting. She will be replacing Benjamin White through his original term—the end of this year. Addie has been a resident of the Leavenworth Neighborhood over the past 6 years and enjoys the mature trees, the access to several green spaces along Turner Blvd, and the affordable housing. She's a new gardener this year at the Hands to Harvest Community Garden and helps coordinate activities there. She's passionate about minimizing litter, keeping our green spaces attractive, and composting.



Addie is happy help to serve on the LNA board and to help make our neighborhood a more beautiful and sustainable place!



## Picnic Time!!! August 6

The annual LNA picnic is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6 from 5:00 - 7:00. It will be held at the headquarters building, Dewey Park.

MUSIC - GAMES - FUN

This is a great opportunity to get together with neighbors, share food, and enjoy the great outdoors! Meat, drinks, and plates will be provided by LNA. Please bring a side dish, appetizer, or dessert to share with your neighbors and your favorite camping/folding chair!

The picnic is happening in conjunction with National Night Out - <https://natw.org>. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

### Additional Calendar Markings.....

Jazz On The Green, 2019 Performers

**July 11** - [Big Sam's Funky Nation](#)

**July 18** - [Pinettes Brass Band](#)

**July 25** - [Paa Kow and his Afro-Fusion Orchestra](#)

**August 1** - [Big Wade and Black Swan Theory](#)

**August 8** - [Marcos & Sabor](#)

**August 15** - [Darcy Malone and the Tangle](#)

Midtown Crossing at Turner Park

## Missing Middle Housing Campaign

By Erica Sladky

Are you concerned with housing stock availability and affordability in Omaha? If so, please consider joining the Omaha Missing Middle Housing Campaign!

Missing middle housing refers to a range of multi-unit or clustered housing types including townhomes, granny flats, and garden apartments that blend seamlessly into Omaha neighborhoods dominated by single family detached homes.

Omaha's zoning code has not received a significant revision since 1987 and currently presents considerable barriers for missing middle. This campaign is supporting the City in efforts to simplify zoning regulations allowing for missing middle housing within "infill" residential neighborhoods, east of I-680.

If this piques your interest, come to the next Missing Middle Housing Campaign meeting! We meet Every first Tuesday of the month at the Rail and Commerce building at 950 S 10th Street. Please also join the Facebook page at Omaha Missing Middle Housing Campaign and on Twitter @MiddleOmaha.

## Considering Mentoring Your Neighborhood Kids

By Lori Benton

Partnership 4 Kids is Omaha's only in-school, curriculum-based, career-bound mentoring program. We are in 16 Omaha Public Schools; in your neighborhood we are in Field Club Elementary and then by association likely Norris and Marrs Middle and South High.

At Field Club we work with all students. Our Book Buddies read to pre-k through third graders, working on gradually increasing steps of literacy. Our Goal Buddies work with 4-5/6<sup>th</sup> graders on goal setting and achieving with literacy, attendance, and life skills. In these grades we also introduce future-thinking and careers.

Formal Group Mentoring begins in middle school and continues through 10th grade. Here true career exploration begins in and amongst curriculum of financial vitality, community responsibility and more. Junior year turns from group mentoring to one-on-one case management. Here is where our students create the plan to obtain the career of their dreams and we help them achieve it.

We are always looking for good volunteer mentors. Book Buddies, Goal Buddies, and Group Mentors are an essential part of the success of our program. We'd love to have you volunteer with us in your neighborhood schools. The rewards are many.

For more information visit our website at [p4k.org](http://p4k.org), or contact Lori Benton at [Lbenton@p4k.org](mailto:Lbenton@p4k.org) or dial 402-557-6376. Thank you.

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30 years of mentoring 1989-2019



## Garden Tip

By Addie Gengenbach

Between the heat, vacations, and overall busyness during the summer, weeding can easily get away from you. When you do weed though, always wipe the blades of your pruning shears or pruning saw with rubbing alcohol before and after pruning shrubs or cutting down weeds to help prevent the spread of pests and diseases.

### JOIN US NOW!!

**Family membership:**

**\$15**

**Business Membership:**

**\$25**

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**

## Yard Waste, Then and Now....

By Jim Thompson

The LNA has been proud to be an active participant in Omaha's clean-up effort for decades. In the start-up years, I presented an idea to the Parks Department to mulch trees and bushes instead of trying to pack them into an open dumpster. Initially we were told it would cost overtime at various park sites to operate the city-owned chippers. I showed the savings of almost \$50,000 per year to NOT throw away this material. One of our plaques on the wall at HQ reflects a partnership award for this idea. Interestingly today certain public officials want to continue to throwing these items in the dump.

A statewide landfill ban on yard waste went into effect in 1994. The exception to this ban is that the landfill has been approved to take yard waste year round to aid in methane production for a beneficial use. Mayor Stothert has applied this exemption as the reason NOT to collect and compost this commodity.

In the very near future Omaha will decide if the trash hauling contract will allow three separate containers for recycling, yard waste and trash vs. just two, one for trash (to include yard waste) and one for recycling. Either way will be an improvement to our current green bin system.

I am an advocate for composting. With the large quantity of mature trees, bushes, etc. in a neighborhood such as ours, it only makes sense to keep resulting debris from going into a hole in the ground. Note that I have never collecting grass clippings and bagged them. These you should leave on the lawn for natural composting.

If you agree that Omaha should compost yard waste, NOW is the time to let your city councilperson and the Mayor know.

### WED | JULY 31 | 5PM IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Your ideas are needed to guide the future  
of the LEAVENWORTH & PARK AVE neighborhoods!

5PM - 7PM  
JACKSON ELEMENTARY  
620 S 31 ST

FREE Dinner + Dessert  
FREE Childcare

## Murals Here, Murals There

By Jim Thompson

How many murals do we have in the LNA? Are you counting the inside murals too?? (Must visit Bud Olson's) Over the years we have been instrumental in the creation of much of this wonderful public art. But where are they? Good topic for a future conversation. Better yet, is someone out there interested in cataloguing them all?

## Leavenworth Neighborhood Association In Case You Missed It from June 20, 2019 General Meeting

### In Attendance: 18

**Treasurer – Account Balances:** Checking Account: \$6,777.23, which includes money transferred from the PayPal account, and Jim Krin Fund: \$668.84.

### Old Business:

- Park Avenue Project: Complete the 4-question survey by 6/30. RDG will present survey results at a community meeting the end of July.
- Concerns about the inCommon property at 1029 Park Ave is in poor condition and doesn't appear to be cared for. Suggested that code violations be reported to city.
- Omaha Gives: LNA received 13 donations totaling \$250.
- MNA Grant: The grant proposal for an LNA compost bin was approved, and we are awaiting the check. A site for the bin must be determined.
- LNA's grant proposal for a paper and electronic shred event was approved. The board will determine which company to go with and secure a date.

### New Business:

- Leavenworth Park: Ashley's conversation with the city resulted in the city placing extra soccer goals and additional trash cans at the park. Suggestion to write a grant proposal to SONA to fix up the baseball field such as "dragging"/leveling the field among other things. Suggestion for more "No Littering" signs in the park.
- SONA Grant: Members approved proceeding with a grant proposal to SONA for a marketing campaign to increase LNA membership, including a mass mailing/every door direct mailer, or door hangers, and printing more marketing material. The cost is around \$700 for a 2,300-piece mailing. Suggestion to print in both English and Spanish.
- TAGG: Members encouraged to use the TAGG app to donate a portion of their purchase at participating sites to a specified non-profit (LNA). To date, LNA has received \$250.
- Please bring any new grant options and project ideas to the board.
- LNA Website: Email pictures to Ashley, and she will put them onto the website. Suggested that there be a bigger archive of LNA newsletters on the website.



MAY 4 thru OCT 13

**OMAHA Farmers MARKET**

**SATURDAY**  
Old Market  
8 a.m. ~ 12:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY**  
Aksarben Village  
9 a.m. ~ 1 p.m.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO: OLD OMAHA ASSOCIATION, PHYSICIANS MUTUAL & SP+ PARKING

[omahafarmersmarket.org](http://omahafarmersmarket.org)  

- Dewey Park: Lights are still needed for the basketball and handball courts. Hopefully lights will be added when the dog park is constructed.
- Board Election: Ben White resigned from the board as he is opening his own law firm outside of the LNA neighborhood. Addie Gengenbach nominated herself, and was voted in by acclamation.
- Weed pulling on Saturday, 6/22 starting at 9:00 am at the Harney St. garden.
- Erica shared about Omaha's Missing Middle Housing Campaign - a county-wide campaign that promotes more house-scale buildings with multiple units in walkable neighborhoods. Omaha needs more middle housing, and the campaign works to change zoning in areas so more middle housing can be built.
- LNA Picnic/National Night Out: The LNA Picnic will be combined with National Night Out, and be held on Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at Dewey Park. LNA will provide the meat, drinks, paper products, and members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

**Next LNA Meeting:** July 18, 2019 at the Dewey Park building

## Watch Those Thumbs

By Jim Thompson

Periodically I have included a message as filler to The Exchange about not texting and driving (see below!). The more I hear about accidents involving those who were texting while driving, the madder I get. Such negative behavior has been recognized by the Nebraska legislature by passing a law that someone can be pulled over if observed texting.

One can always tell when (usually) youngsters are texting. The traffic light is red, they stop too far from the vehicle in front of them, and when turning green they take a couple of seconds to press the accelerator. The traffic moves slower of course, but the fact that these kids are NOT paying attention is a problem.

What should you do when parked at a light next to one of these "accident-waiting-to-happen" individuals? I toot my horn. Yelling doesn't work because both vehicles either have their heater or a/c running and the windows are closed. IF the person acknowledges the horn, they will look up and have that "got caught" look. But there has to be a more universal signal.

How about a "thumbs down" at these drivers? Two thumbs down?? And lifting any other digits on your hand might get you a response you would not want! But it could be the forefinger, like you are scolding a child that did something wrong. Someone suggested throwing rocks or coins at their windshield to get their attention. Hmm, that wouldn't work, even if you wanted to get rid of your pennies. Would two quick toots of the horn work? Three??

So think about this challenge on how to change this behavior. Society will be better and safer if everyone complied with the simple process of monitoring the task of controlling 4000 pounds of metal under that foot.



**IF YOU SEE  
SOMETHING,  
SAY  
SOMETHING**



## The Value of Joining....

By Jim Thompson

Once in awhile we publish the perks of joining our neighborhood association. One very important factor for residents is who can one call for needed services such as auto repair, plumbing, etc. The Nextdoor app is a possibility for searching some of these businesses, but I found that simply being a part of our neighborhood association is a more reliable tool.

Jim Abraham used to live on 33rd Street and was active in the LNA for that time. Jim had, and still has, a heating/air conditioning business. Of course being involved myself, I met Jim and sure enough had a need for some furnace work. Because of our mutual desire to join and participate in the LNA, he became a reliable source. Fast forward to July 3, right before the holiday weekend. Around 11:00 AM we realized the A/C was malfunctioning. I left a voice mail for Abraham Heating and A/C hoping for the best. Well the best came through and our unit was fixed later that day. Keep in mind it was approaching 90 degrees for everyone, but Jim was able to squeeze us into his busy schedule.

Some credit for that comes with us being a long term customer, but in reality it was the association to the neighborhood that prevailed in this repair. Getting involved strengthens the network. We talk, we share, we help each other out. That is an attractive intangible.

And if you need some HVAC work done, 402-553-3353. And your investment of \$15 into our association is a really good deal!!

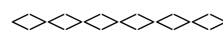
## **WANTED: TIME, YOUR TIME**

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.

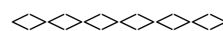
Apathy is a terrible disease. Let us all help to prevent its' spread.

## Quick Snips.....

Observed while driving down Leavenworth..... A worker was at a convenience store and walked over to deposit a wrapper in a garbage can. The squared container had been tipped over, but he reached down and put the wrapper into the plastic liner. We certainly appreciate him taking the effort to deposit his litter, but why didn't he quickly upright the can??



The fireworks show is (almost) over. It's been a week since the 4th, but there seems to be only a small inventory of fireworks still out there. Overall I felt the compliance with Omaha's ordinance worked out well! A couple of days before the 4th there were small pockets of illegal shows. But after the Field Club fireworks on the 5th it was amazingly quiet that night. Was it really Mayor Stothert up in that helicopter monitoring the situation?



The Fourth of July annual war zone extravaganza resulted in a noticeable change this year - the observance of children helping to pick up the leftover trash. I did not get around the entire neighborhood but generally speaking our corner was relatively clean. Good work in helping **Keep Omaha Beautiful.**

**Information for Contributors**  
To contribute to *the EXCHANGE*, please contact Jim Thompson, [editor@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:editor@LNAOmaha.org). Mutual items of interest, announcements, recipes, opinions on the state of the neighborhood, observations in the 'hood, unresolved issues, etc. etc. Please consider a submission.

**Deadline for the August issue is  
August 1, 2019.**

Content submitted may be edited as needed.



July  
2019



LEAVENWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
3031 Leavenworth St.  
Omaha, NE 68105

*"Celebrating together as  
friends and neighbors"*

## 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: Ashley Flater  
Email: [President@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:President@LNAOmaha.org)  
Vice-President: Jack Henry 402-650-3761  
Email: [Vice-President@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:Vice-President@LNAOmaha.org)  
Secretary: Laura Green  
Email: [Secretary@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:Secretary@LNAOmaha.org)  
Treasurer: Email: Janelle Domeyer  
Email: [Treasurer@LNAOmaha.org](mailto:Treasurer@LNAOmaha.org)  
At Large: Addie Gengenbach  
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.