



Country Club Neighborhood Association

Chronicle

May 2008



*Read about
the SouthPointe
Star Student
Sydney Sweigard!*

The Gere Mansion

*Read about the history behind this home
in the Country Club Neighborhood!*

SERENDIPITY WALK (or Bike ride)

June 2 – 6, 2008

More information inside!

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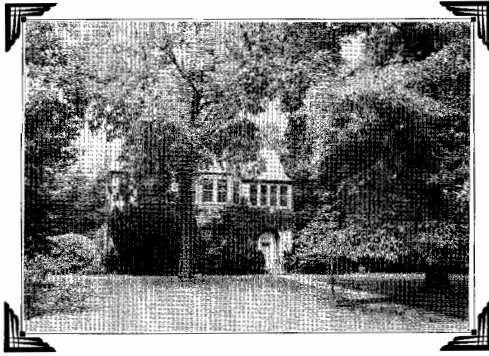
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Cover Photo: Gere Mansion, Article on page 2

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The Gere Mansion
Charles H. Gere
2811 South 24th Street

In the summer of 2007, Dr. David Manderscheid and Dr. Susan Lawrence moved to Lincoln to take new positions with the University of Nebraska – he as the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and she as a Professor of the History of Medicine. They immediately became enamored with the Country Club neighborhood and the house at 2811 South 24th Street. They knew the house had style, character and history – they were purchasing what is known as The Gere Mansion.

In 1867 Lincoln was a scraggly assortment of buildings that had been named “Lincoln”. There were a couple of stores, a shoe shop, 6 or 7 houses, and as the cynics liked to say, “fifty miles from anywhere”. It was a village fathered by politics; a town accidentally created over a rivalry among existing towns over where to situate the capital of this new state. No one thought Lancaster City – now Lincoln – would be the chosen spot as it was founded on fiat, no river, no railroad, no steam wagon, nothing. “It is destined for isolation and ultimate oblivion,” jeered one critic of the time.

There were a few, however, who embraced this new state and Lincoln as its new capital. Large among them was a young New Yorker named Charles H. Gere. Only two years in Nebraska, the 29-year old attorney turned to journalism as a vehicle for his boundless energy and enthusiasm for Lincoln and for Nebraska. He started the first capital city newspaper, The Nebraska Commonwealth, now known as The Journal. From the time Gere began the publication of his newspaper in 1867, he left a permanent imprint on Nebraska, its Capital City and its journalism. He not only was a crutch in aiding the limping village of Lincoln through its first trying (Continued on page 21)



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Country Club Neighborhood Association Chronicle

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2008 CCNA Summer Meeting Schedule

May 20th, Tuesday

CCNA Neighborhood Meeting
St. Matthew's Church, 24th & Sewell
7:00PM - Everyone's Invited

June

No Meeting

July 15th, Tuesday

CCNA Neighborhood Meeting
St. Matthew's Church, 24th & Sewell
7:00PM - Everyone's Invited

August

No Meeting

The CCNA meets the third Tuesday in the months of February, March, April, July, September, October and November at 7:00PM. Meetings are held at St. Matthew's Church located at 24th & Sewell Streets. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

FOCALPOINT PUBLISHING

A Message from FocalPoint Publishing

Thank you for reading this issue of the Country Club Neighborhood Association Newsletter! We, at FocalPoint, are pleased to help provide this publication for your neighborhood. **Our goals at FocalPoint are to provide your association with a superior publication, provide homeowners with valuable information, and save your association time, effort and association dollars.** This newsletter is **FREE** to homeowners thanks to the support of local businesses -- please show your support by visiting their establishment or utilizing their services. For more information about this or other publications, please call 420-7880 or visit www.fppub.com.

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Letter from the President



Bob Beecham
CCNA President
2008-2009

I am pleased to write my first "Message from the President" for the CCNA newsletter; however, this is not my first term as president of the association. I was the first president of the organization, then called the South Central Neighborhood Association, because folks thought it might be too presumptuous to be associated with the Country Club even though that is exactly what and where we were—the neighborhood(s) surrounding the County Club of Lincoln. When we first organized ourselves over 23 years ago our focus was derailing the momentum to widen South 27th between South Street and Highway 2. We were successful and that is still one of the major reasons we exist today, but since that time the CCNA

has become so much more. Today we are one of strongest and most respected neighborhood associations in Lincoln. During the past year the CCNA celebrated the 100th anniversary of the neighborhood. In the next several months the CCNA intends to be true to our original goals, but we also intend to take actions that will serve and improve our neighborhood.

In 1984 at a transportation hearing for the comprehensive plan update we first heard that the city intended to widen South 27th Street. After persistent questioning it was clear that the city was determined. At that point Bob Valentine, then a resident at 27th and Park, yelled out, "Whoever wants to organize, meet in the hallway!" That hallway gathering led to several meetings around kitchen tables. I was the first president, Cay Lacey was the vice president, and Pat O'Brien (a lawyer) incorporated us as a non-profit organization. We became the Country

Club Neighborhood Association and Shauna Valentine sketched the logo we still use today. There is no stopping a group of committed citizens.

In addition to fighting the widening of 27th, early activities included raising money to develop Bradfield Park, now known as Pocras Park, a tour of homes and writing successful grants to buy hundreds of trees (we provided the hole-digging labor) for the medians. From the beginning, it was clear that neighbors wanted to see the CCNA flourish. Over the years, with the help of committed leadership, our association has grown to include over 600 paying dues members. And we have a voice!

During the past two years the CCNA has sponsored several activities that have showcased our area and proven why we are Lincoln's premier neighborhood. These projects include:

(continued on page 6)

Blow! Blow!

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The Dietze

School Rental

Program

2008-2010 CCNA Board

President

Bob Beecham, 2925 O'Reilly

Vice President

Paul Vaccaro, 3500 South 27th

Secretary

Rifka Keilson, 2827 South 27th

Treasurer

Bob McManus, 3030 Sheridan

Membership

Carrie Knight, 2525 Lafayette

Ex Officio President

Linda Wibbels, 2740 Royal Court

Board Members

Doug Ayars, 3024 Bonacum
 Lori Haudrich, 3215 South 31st
 Stephen Haudrich, 3215 South 31st
 Tiffany Heier, 3100 Van Dorn
 Dick Johnson, 3025 Bonacum
 Kay Maxwell, 3045 Puritan
 Bob McManus, 3030 Sheridan
 Bill Norris, 2832 Manse Avenue
 Joyce Norris, 2832 Manse Avenue
 Mary Lynn Schaffer, 2601 Lafayette
 Cynthia Woods, 2500 Woodscrest
 Susan Vaccaro, 3500 South 27th

Web Master

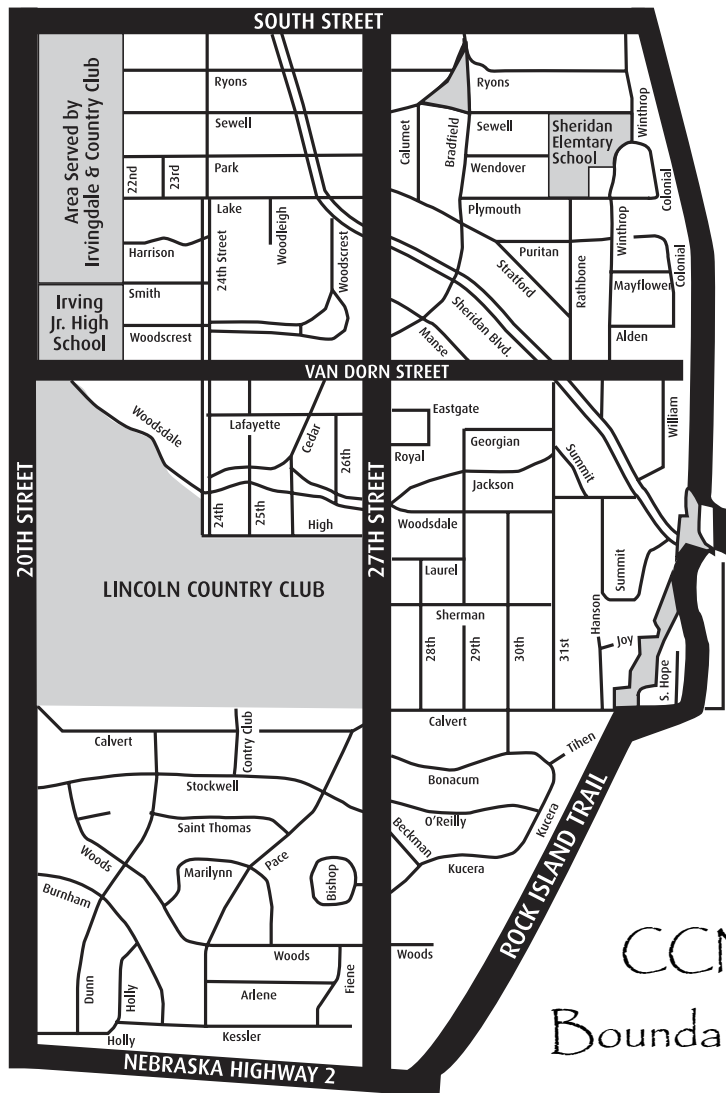
Stephen Haudrich, 3215 South 31st

Thank you for serving your neighborhood!

CCNA Chronicle Publishing Schedule

February
 May
 August
 November

The CCNA Chronicle is the official publication of the Country Club Neighborhood Association (CCNA). The CCNA Chronicle is published four times a year by the CCNA and every address in the CCNA boundaries is mailed a copy. Statements of fact and opinion made are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or members of CCNA. While this publication makes a reasonable effort to establish the integrity of its advertisers, it does not specifically endorse advertised products or services unless specifically stated as such. All correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to: Country Club Neighborhood Association, Attn: CHRONICLE Editor, PO Box 21953, Lincoln, NE 68542.



CCNA
Boundary Map

Advertise in your neighborhood newsletter,
 The CCNA Chronicle reaches over 2,400 households.

Business card ad: \$120 | Quarter page ad: \$170
 Half page ad: \$245 | Full page: \$425
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Important Phone Numbers

Animal Complaints.....	441-7900	plaints, suggestions).....	441-6300
Buried Lines.....	477-0547	Sidewalks (repair, shovel, etc.) ...	441-7541
City Council Representatives.....	441-7515	Weed Problems.....	441-7817
Crime Stoppers	475-3600	Zoning Violations.....	441-7521
Household Hazardous Waste.....	441-8022		
Housing Codes.....	441-7785		
Mayor's Office	441-7511, 441-6300		
Neighborhood Watch.....	441-7204		
Parks and Recreation	441-7847		
Quality of Life (24 hour anonymous com- CCNA Email: ccna@neb.rr.com			

Visit www.ccnalinc.org to find:

- CCNA Business Directory
- A CCNA boundary map
- Links to other community organizations
- Read past issues of the *Chronicle*
- See By-Laws

(Letter from the President cont from page 4)

- The project to revamp Pocras Park culminated with a Saturday afternoon party featuring clowns, ice cream and the unveiling of new playground equipment.
- Continued support of the CCNA to supplement city money to keep the public medians mowed and fertilized.
- Projects to establish ornamental lighting districts.
- A Back to School party for area junior high students

While these projects represent only a few activities of the CCNA, perhaps no other projects of the past year represent the hard work and ingenuity of our talented neighbors than the Tour of Homes and the 100th Gala Celebration.

The committee that planned the Tour of Homes worked hard to make sure every detail was considered: the homes were cleaned and decorated, the tickets were printed and the publicity was front page. There was only one thing the committee didn't plan for: instead of 800 anticipated visitors, over 2000 people toured homes that Sunday afternoon. The article in the Lincoln Journal-Star drew people from all over Southeast Nebraska. The October weather cooperated. The sidewalks were packed with walkers; we scurried to print more tickets. At some homes people stood in long lines, chatting with their neighbors, but everyone said it was worth the wait. Congratulations to everyone who worked on the Tour of Homes. It was a tremendous success!

The culminating event of the year was the Gala celebrating the 100th anniversary of the neighborhood. In early December, over 350 people packed the Lincoln County Club to recognize our neighborhood and each other. The guests included Mayor Beutler, firefighters from station #8 and City department heads and personnel. It was wonderful to see old friends and to hear historian Ed Zimmer describe the early development of the Country Club neighborhood. The dinner and dancing was wonderful, but

never have I been more proud of our organization than when Mayor Beutler got up and toasted "the most outstanding neighborhood organization in the city." Mayor Beutler was recognizing what the CCNA has become over the past 24 years.

The CCNA intends to continue to work hard and celebrate our success. At the CCNA Annual Meeting on March 18, 2008, the board reiterated our mission and outlined goals for the next 24 months. The mission of the CCNA is:

To encourage neighbors to come together to preserve, protect, and enhance the historic, low density, owner occupied, single family residential character of the neighborhood.

The board adopted four goals that are now part of the mission statement:

- Preserve the value of property and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood
- Protect the character and historic value of our neighborhood
- Enhance and support neighborhood beautification projects, safety, development and homeownership
- Encourage leadership, education, open communication and participation at the neighborhood and community level with our members and neighbors

All of the projects and activities that the board supports over the next two years will be rooted in mission and goals of the organization. Over the next couple of months the board will adopt an action plan and budget.

While the CCNA will not be able to tackle every project, here are some of the issues and ideas that have been discussed.

Preserve:

- South 27th Street from expansion
- Low population density
- Home ownership rate (increase)
- Appropriate land use

Protect:

- Public boulevards and medians from deterioration
- Lighting districts maintenance and expansion
- Van Dorn and 27th Street thoroughfares from expansion
- Other neighbor associations for the good of our area

Enhance

- Bishop Heights development to meet needs and wants of the neighborhood.
- Single-family home ownership
- Safety of the neighborhood
- Streets, sidewalks, and neighborhood infrastructure
- City plan to bury utility wires along 27th Street

Encourage

- Neighbors Recognizing Neighbors program.
- Political Voice/Advocacy for Neighborhood
- A celebration for the reopening of Sheridan Elementary
- 100+ Neighborhood celebrations
- Increase CCNA paid memberships
- Quarterly membership meetings with speakers on subjects of interest

A hallmark of the CCNA has been the willingness of its members and supporters to roll up their sleeves to work for the improvement of our neighborhood. There are plenty of opportunities for all of our neighbors to be involved in the improvement of the Country Club Neighborhood and the City of Lincoln.

Please don't hesitate to offer your ideas and talent as we begin our second 100 years!

Bob Beecham
CCNA President

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Annual March Meeting

The Country Club Neighborhood Association held its annual meeting at St. Matthew's Church on Tuesday, March 18th. While everyone is invited to attend all of the CCNA meetings, this meeting, according to the By-laws, presents the new CCNA Board and officers. The directory in The Chronicle lists the new officers and board members – congratulations to all! CCNA is in very good hands.

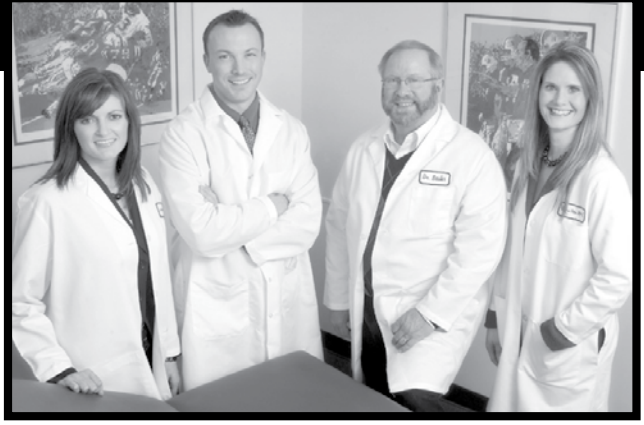
The many people in attendance gave their support to CCNA. They also listed some of their wishes and concerns. The condition of our streets and curbs was a concern, along with the condition of some properties. CCNA takes these matters seriously and will be addressing these issues.

"Property Condition" is being addressed in this issue of The Chronicle. Some neighbors are worried that certain problem properties may be affecting the value of their homes and the neighborhood. While we can assure you that there are very few such properties, one is more than enough.

Streets and Curbs were another issue mentioned as a concern. CCNA will help those blocks that want to get something done. You just need to let us know who you are. We will be meeting with the new Public Works Director in May regarding this very item.

CCNA can only do what you want your association to do. We need your help. Let us know by sending us a letter or an email or just pick up the phone and call anyone on the board.

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WELCOME NEW CCNA BOARD MEMBERS!

The March CCNA "Annual Meeting" welcomed some new faces to the CCNA Board. Our September Chronicle will highlight these new members. In the meantime, we heartily welcome Tiffany Heier, Kay Maxwell, Bob McManus and Cynthia Woods to the CCNA Board.

19th Annual Neighborhood Garage Sales Made the Neighborhood Greener

The green balloons identifying the homes participating in the 19th Annual Neighborhood Garage Sales brought in lots of green to their pocketbooks.

The weekend of May 3rd brought out a record number of garage sellers and buyers. Hopefully, lots of garages, basements and attics were emptied.

A special Thank You to Kim Kaufman who again organized this event!

Can't Throw It Out!

It won't go in the weekly trash. You can't get rid of it at a garage sale. It's taking up too much room in the basement. What do you do with it? Utilize the Lincoln and Lancaster County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Service!

Household Hazardous Waste Collections For Lincoln and Lancaster County Residents Only

2008 Collection Schedule

Date	Location	Time
Sat. Apr. 12	State Fair Park, 4-H Youth Complex	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sat. May 17	Pfizer Inc, 601 West Cornhusker Highway Includes Usable Latex Paint Exchange	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Fri. June 20	Union College, Parking Lot, 52nd & Cooper	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sat. June 21	NE Wesleyan University, Parking Lot, 56th & Huntington	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 20	Veyance Technologies (Goodyear), 4021 North 56th Street Includes Usable Latex Paint Exchange	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Fri. Oct. 17	Waverly - County Shop, 11251 North 141st Street	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 18	Lincoln Industries, 600 West E Street	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 15	State Fair Park, 4-H Youth Complex	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Things you SHOULD bring...

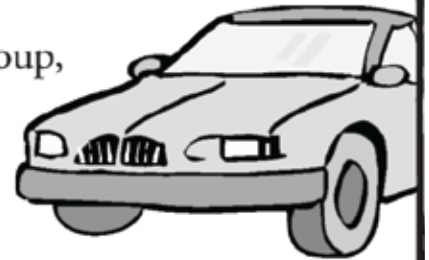
LAWN & GARDEN	AUTOMOTIVE	HOME IMPROVEMENT	HOUSEHOLD
Pool chemical	Transmission fluid	Turpentine	Fluorescent tubes
Flea/tick products	Brake fluid	Oil-based paints	Compact bulbs (CFLs)
Rodent poisons	Mixed gasoline	Paint thinner	Mercury thermometers
Insect sprays	Old gasoline	Stains, oil-based	Mercury thermostats
Lighter fluid	Power steering fluid	Wood preservatives	Polishes (solvent-based)
Pesticides	Grease removers	Furniture stripper	Drain/Oven cleaners
Weed killer	Upholstery cleaners	Adhesives	Glues
Diazinon			Bleach-based cleaners
Chlordane			Mothballs
2,4,5-T			Spot removers
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The COLOR of \$\$\$\$. . . YOUR YARD

Green is also the color of your yard and this brings added value to your property. The National Association of Realtors says that a well manicured yard increases the value of your home. Part of the whole “curb appeal” package, the condition of your yard and your landscaping is the first impression that your home makes. It is also the only part of your home that most people will ever see.

Being spring, HGTV and other programs and magazines are telling all of us what to do and how to do it. The end result is always a beautiful presentation that takes little money and time to maintain. Besides, it’s a great way to get outside, get some exercise and visit with your neighbors.

YOUR LAWN – this is the time to weed and feed. If you don’t like to use chemicals there are many organic products that work just as well. Remember, your lawn also needs to be fed to stay strong and healthy.

Trees, Shrubs and Bushes – This is the time to survey the situation. Feed if necessary. Definitely trim for the health of your tree/bush. This will also allow sunlight to filter to the lawn. Check for bugs and disease. Last year many pine trees in the neighborhood were lost to bugs and disease. Supposedly the ash tree is the next to be hit hard. At the first sign of any stress on your trees, call an arborist.

Landscape lights – “Runway” lights, or those little solar lights lined up in a row, are out; up-lighting is in. Focus on a pathway, an architectural feature, a beautiful tree.

COLOR – In the 1980’s and early ‘90’s lots of flower gardens and flowers everywhere were popular. They were beautiful when they bloomed, but what did you have left after that? A beautiful lawn is easier to maintain than lots of flowers planted everywhere. Bring in your color with pots and smaller garden areas. This will save you work and give you a greater punch with your color.

WATER – Thank goodness for spring rains, but soon the heat of summer will be upon us. Watering your yard is not only good for the grass, but also good for your concrete and your foundation. Lack of water can cause the ground to shrink, harden and pull away from the house. Autumn rains and snow can then fill these voids. When it freezes it expands and puts pressure on basement walls. Water for the health of your lawn and your foundation.

Don’t know what to do? Call a lawn service and a landscape architect. They will know what is best for your home.

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But we can't rest on our laurels. We have to not only maintain, but enhance and improve. The CCNA Board is doing what it can to improve and enhance our public areas. You, as a neighbor and individual property owner, must do what you can to maintain and improve your home. This not only helps your value, but also can add, or detract, from your neighbor's and your neighborhood's value.

CCNA will be devoting 2008 and 2009 to Home Improvement. We strive in preserving the history of our neighborhood and want you to persevere in making it so.

Join us in making the neighborhood look good by making your house look great.

Take a Good Look at Your House

Many times we don't notice things because we live with it everyday. This article will help you get started.

Your Roof

Your roof not only provides shelter over your head, but it keeps out the rain. A bad roof can cause lots of damage if it's not water tight.

- How old is your roof? Are the shingles starting to curl and becoming brittle?
- Have you had damage due to wind, hail, ice or fallen branches?
- Do your interior walls show signs of leakage? Water stains from ice back-up?

One of our last Chronicle issues talked about roofs and insurance companies. If you do have weather related damage, you

might be entitled to insurance coverage. Several people took the article to heart, called their insurance agents and received coverage on their roof claim.

- Call your insurance company and have an adjuster come out to look at your roof.
- Call a roofer to give you a report on your roof – condition, longevity – good news/bad news

If you need a new roof now or in the future, do your homework first:

- Types of shingle – the architectural shingles are more popular than the old style three-tab shingle. They are a heavier weight, last longer and give more definition to a house. There are many choices today – asphalt, wood, slate and even shingles made of rubber.
- Color of shingle – should go with the color of your house. If you are also planning on painting, this is

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the time to “match” both shingle and color. Drive around the area and other neighborhoods to see what you like.

- Gutters, gutter aprons and D styles – these are all of the metal pieces that go with your roof. They now come in a variety of colors to coordinate with your house. The oversized gutters are perfect for our neighborhood and those autumn leaves.
- Tear down or overlay? – Because of a small cost savings, some people choose to have their new shingles put on over the existing shingles. While this may save some money, it most likely won't in the long run. An overlay will add unnecessary and potentially hazardous weight to your roof and rafters. Shingle-over-shingle can also drastically reduce the life expectancy of the new roof. Besides, an overlay can make your new roof look rippled. Best to do a tear-off of the old shingles before applying the new.

Is one roofer better than another? Again, do your homework!

- Interview at least 2 roofers and remember, the cheapest bid is not always the best. Compare apples-to-apples.
- Ask for references and check them out!
- Check with the Better Business Bureau.
- Ask questions – Is the roofer bonded and insured? Does he have a written warranty? Will he provide general and specific lien waivers?
- What is the payment schedule? Be wary of anyone who wants all of their money upfront.

Linda Wibbels, GRI

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY MAY 9

Ultimate Safe Kids Day

Activities and demonstrations teaching your children and grandkids how to stay safe

Friday Nights Live Concerts

May 30 - August 29

Music, food and fun for the whole family!

When the professionals at Focal Point first contacted us at SouthPointe Pavilions to feature a Star Student in the Country Club Neighborhood Newsletter we were skeptical. After all, students are recognized in so many venues; would this be more of the same?

But then we reconsidered. This is not only about great students but their own community--the neighborhood and neighbors that nurture them; envelop them; form an extended family beyond those who live in their own home.

So look for SouthPointe Pavilions' Star Student through 2008. Consider nominating your own child or neighbor in elementary school through college for our next issue in August 2008.

Speaking of students; we have a strong request: Please use your best judgment and communicate your expectations for good behavior when it comes to dropping off a

child at SouthPointe. Even the best kids act up when they're bored or with a group of friends and we're experiencing more and more incidence of too-loud voices, foul language, larger groups that offend adults and disrupt shopping center business. Skateboards are prohibited at SouthPointe and bikes need to be locked at racks. Movies are never more than two hours long. Thank you.

We hope you'll celebrate Spring with us; stores are full of bright new clothing, sports gear, fun shoes and gorgeous accessories for wardrobe and home. Spring sales are happening everywhere. Ultimate Safe Kids Day is May 9 and Friday Nights Live concerts begin May 30. Check out www.southpointeshopping.com for details.

On behalf of the 57 stores, restaurants and theatres at SouthPointe Pavilions, we're delighted to be a part of your neighborhood.

Let us know if you need to borrow a cup of sugar.

W W W . S O U T H P O I N T E S H O P P I N G . C O M

How to Avoid Vandalism

While we live in a very safe neighborhood, we are not immune to vandalism. The warmer weather seems to bring out undesirable behavior. On two recent occasions we have had car tires slashed and car windows broken. The Lincoln Police Department has several tips to keep you and your property safe:

- Always lock your car and house doors.
- Never leave anything of value in plain sight/ unattended.
- Avoid parking on the street. Not only is this safer for other cars and pedestrians, but bad people are less likely to break into or vandalize your vehicle if it is in the garage or parked in the driveway.
- Light it is a deterrent. Leave on a porch or garage light. Don't have enough street lights? Organize your neighbors to get ornamental lighting just like the Woodsdale area west of 27th. Email or call CCNA on the "How To's" of looking into an ornamental lighting district.
- Call 911 – if you hear something strange going on or see suspicious activity, do not hesitate to call 911 immediately. It is better to error on the side of caution.
- Let your neighbor know if you are going to be out-of-town or on vacation – not the whole world. Make arrangements to stop the paper and the mail, put lights on a timer and make sure the house doesn't say "we're gone."

In Memoriam – Jan Pitsch

It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon on Sunday, April 20th. One that normally would have found Jan Pitsch out in her yard or trimming the bushes just west of the Sheridan bridge or pruning the trees on the boulevard in front of her house. This day instead saw her family and friends gathering at her yellow Sheridan house next to the synagogue to celebrate her life. Jan had passed away in February after a brief illness.

The Country Club Neighborhood Association will greatly miss Jan Pitsch. She served on the CCNA board for six years. She was an outdoor enthusiast and loved her gardens and the boulevards. The license plate on her car even said "Boulevard 15" – the number on the Parks & Recreation map of the boulevard in front of her house. Last fall one of the boulevards Red Bud trees had died. She called Mark Canney of Parks & Rec about replacing the tree. Just three days before her memorial, the tree was replaced – her last request for Boulevard 15.

To continue Jan's work on the boulevards, memorials can be sent to:

- CCNA Charitable Foundation, P.O. Box 21953, Lincoln, NE 68542
- Lincoln Parks & Recreation Foundation, 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68510

Please make note in your donation that it is for Jan Pitsch. Your donation may be tax deductible.

Sydney Sweigard



Sydney Sweigard is wrapping up her first year as a Club Kicks Galaxy All Star. This award winning 29 member cheerleading and dance squad has traveled as far as Las Vegas this past year competing with squads from across the country. The group has gathered honors for technical skills, sportsmanship and overall Grand Champions. As a first year member of the team, Sydney has built friendships with girls of all ages and from schools across the Lincoln community.

She has traveled with her team and enjoyed the family atmosphere as well as the big sleepovers with 29 friends in hotels at competition sites. Cheerleading is Sydney's current passion and she will attend both gymnastics and cheer camps this summer.

Sydney will also stay busy this summer volunteering at her Church's Vacation Bible School where she loves to work with the preschoolers. She will squeeze in a family vacation and spend time swimming and golfing.

Sydney lives in the Country Club Neighborhood with her parents Loren and Nicole Sweigard, and attends 6th grade at Irving Middle School.



Nominate the next SouthPointe Star Student of the Month!



Fill out the information below and send a photograph, or email a photo to info@fppub.com. This nomination is open for any student, ages K-College, and either lives in the Country Club or is directly related to a family that lives in the Country Club

Name of Nominated Student: _____

Parents of Nominated Student: _____

Address of Nominated Student: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Name of Person submitting the nomination: _____

Student's Outstanding Accomplishments: _____

School involvement: _____

Community involvement: _____

Favorite Charity: _____

Favorite SouthPointe Business or Experience: _____

Please fill out this form and mail it to: *FocalPoint Publishing, 6003 Old Cheney Rd, Ste 250, Lincoln, NE 68516*

School NEWS

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Southeast Knights Continue Making Extraordinary Progress

Lincoln Southeast High School renovation continues during the winter and spring months.

The north half of D and F hallways have been closed since last summer. Part of D hallway opened at the beginning of second semester and allowed some of the art classes to move into their renovated areas. The most striking aspect of this renovation from the outside are the large, energy efficient windows installed on the west side of the building. In the front hallway to the school, the nurse's office has been closed as well as the staff lounge. Both areas will be moved temporarily in the D hallway. Those areas will be demolished second semester and ready for school in August.

During the fall and through the summer work continues on a student commons area on the east side of the building. This gorgeous new addition will include kitchen, serving lines and cafeteria seating for over 300 students. The commons area is attached to the girl's gym/south gym. The cafeteria will be renovated this summer with new flooring, new windows, new paint and acoustical treatments. This present cafeteria seats about 300 students so we will have two areas to feed students during the day. This means students will no longer need to eat in the hallway. To add to the flexibility of these changes, at night both areas can be separated so athletic and activity banquets can be held on campus in modern facilities. The entrance to the commons area on the east side of the building will

provide a classy entrance into the building off of A Lot and will lead into a common green space landscaped with trees and benches.

Beginning with the end of 3rd quarter, the front entrance in the circle drive off of South 37th Street will close to allow all counselor and administrative offices to temporarily move into the D hallway area. Major gutting of this area will begin then, but will be ready for students at the end of July. This is in anticipation of the opening of the 2008-2009 school year on Wednesday, August 20th.

The spring musical, "Dames At Sea", was performed almost two months early in late March before spring break and "Nite of Knights", the all-school talent show, showcased in early April. These two productions were the last performed in the old auditorium and allowed the auditorium to be closed in early April for renovation. Completion of this fantastic project should be at the end of the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year.

This 55-year-old building will soon be completely renovated. Thanks to the Lincoln voters, Lincoln Southeast High School will continue its mission of learning, leadership and service. Our tradition of excellence that has already covered over half a century will continue in a beautiful, new facility. Go Knights!

Sheridan News at the South Site

On Thursday, April 17th, our Sheridan 5th graders presented their "Sheridan Singing Sharks" Chorus program at 7:00 p.m. for their families and friends. On Friday, April 18th, our "Sheridan Singing Sharks" Chorus took their music program "on the road" for our 10th annual community singing tour. We shared our music in the morning with the residents of two retirement centers, Clark Jeary and Gateway Senior Living and then ate lunch at the food court

at Westfield Shoppingtown/ Gateway after the performance. Parents were invited to meet us at either or both of these performances and for lunch afterwards.

This year's Art Fair was held on Thursday, April 24th from 6-8 p.m. at the Sheridan South Site. There was a silent auction with community donations and art provided by children's art classes. You may check out the Sheridan website to view examples of the art.

Sheridan families had the opportunity to participate in a worthwhile event that benefits LPS students. On April 26th at East High School, a walk was held to raise money for the LPS/Food Bank Backpack program. Participants were encouraged to get pledges from sponsors. Currently, there are 644 students in LPS who receive weekly backpacks. However, there are 6,504 who qualify for free/reduced lunch who could benefit from this program.



News from McDonald's®

RMHC. Ronald McDonald House Charities creates, finds, and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children in the U.S. and around the world. McDonald's and McDonald's owner/operators provide ongoing support for RMHC. For information about RMHC programs, grant procedures, and local contact information, visit the RMHC Web site: <http://www.rmhc.org>.

ROUSSEAU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Spring Break is behind us and we're heading for the end of another great year at Rousseau Elementary School. LEARN THINK LEAD – three words that continue to define the atmosphere and the activities at Rousseau.

During February and March most of Rousseau's students participated in another highly successful Books & Beyond program – a program designed to get all students at all levels involved in reading in a fun way. Nearly half of all Rousseau students will receive a reading medal for their outstanding participation. The event was capped off with a book fair at Barnes & Noble.

Many students are participating in the 10th anniversary of the Rousseau Jump Rope for Heart. The jump rope event is not only a great way to raise money for a worthwhile cause, but also a nice way for students to get the much needed, physical activity to help maintain a healthy body with their healthy minds.

Congratulations to the several Rousseau students participating in Destination ImagiNation – in fact, three of Rousseau teams have qualified for the state tournament in Kearney, NE. Destination ImagiNation is a place where kids take what they know and what they are good at and learn to apply it to solve challenges, working together and cooperatively with a team and pushing the limits of imagination to best not their competition, but themselves. Destination ImagiNation is a community-based, school-friendly program that builds participants' creativity, problem solving, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways.

A school year wouldn't be the same without Fun Night – on April 11th the Rousseau community will be celebrating Fiesta Fun Night, a great event for all the students and their family members. (By the time this article is published perhaps it's better to say Fiesta Fun Night was celebrated by the Rousseau community on April 11th – many thanks to all that worked so tirelessly to make this a truly enjoyable activity for all (weather permitting).

On a final note, the Rousseau PTA would like to extend an open invitation to all Rousseau parents to participate in the PTA activities for next year – please come and join us at the next PTA meeting – April 28th at 6:30 PM at the school visit: <http://rousseau.lps.org>.

Irving Being a Good Neighbor (School)

Irving Middle School is considered a neighborhood school. It is surrounded by blocks and blocks of neighborhood houses and most of our students could walk to our school from their houses. One of the concepts we continue to work on with our students is the idea that as a part of the community neighborhood, we have a responsibility to keep the neighborhood looking great. We take great pride in being a part of our neighborhood and we want to do our part to keep the outside and surrounding grounds around our school looking good. This is sometimes a challenge with middle school students who don't always see the need to put trash in trash cans or take their plastic bottles and recycle them in places other than on school grounds. Part of growing up is learning the value of being a good steward of one's surrounding environment.

Two of our school clubs, the Red Cross Club and the Junior Civic League have joined forces this year to help in this endeavor. These two clubs (now one) have taken it upon themselves to go out and collect litter and trash around our school building a few times in the spring and a few times in the fall. It's never enough but it is a good start. These groups have signed up with "Keep Nebraska Beautiful" in pledging to pick up trash and in return we have a cleaner looking environment and we can earn \$50 from "Keep Nebraska Beautiful". We strongly support the mission statement of this organization which is: "To empower Nebraskans to take greater responsibility for enhancing their community environment." It's a win-win situation for everyone involved. Students are sometimes very surprised at the amount of litter around our property. They also learn that together they can make a difference in a short amount of time.

In addition to students picking up litter, Irving has purchased a couple of very durable and nice looking green trash containers that have just been installed around the front outside areas, one on the southeast corner and the other on the northeast corner. We hope this will help students and others place their litter in these trash containers instead of just dropping trash on our school grounds. We hadn't had trash containers in these areas so we hope this will be a huge improvement. We would like to thank the LPS facilities and maintenance personnel for their work in installing these heavy duty containers. We invite everyone to "donate" paper and other trash they see on our school grounds into these containers.

We want our students to appreciate the wonderful exterior surroundings of our school and take pride in keeping them looking great all the time. All of us (students, staff, parents and neighbors) have a responsibility to be a custodian of the environment and pitch in to help make the lawn and surrounding grounds looking great.

We know that there are times when there are school papers loose and flying around the school yard. We still have to convince some students and others that we all have to help keep our school grounds looking beautiful. Sometimes those outsiders that use our basketball courts or the Irving Recreational Center on weekends leave trash on our grounds. We know it is a team effort and everyone's help is greatly appreciated.

Our hope is that everyone will join our efforts to keep Irving Middle School looking as great on the outside as it is on the inside. We want to be a good neighbor in our neighborhood.

Hugh McDermott
Principal

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(Continued from page 2) years; he was one of the real builders of the state itself. In the coming years Mr. Gere served as a member of the state constitutional convention, a member of both houses of the Nebraska Legislature, a moving force for establishing a state university, president of the Lincoln Library Board and founder of the State Historical Society.

In 1892 The Gere Mansion, as it has always been known, was built by Charles H. Gere as his personal residence. He built the home at 849 D Street, about a block east of Cooper Park. He lived there with his family until his death in 1904.

After their father's death, his three daughters – Ellen, Mariel and Frances – continued to live in the family home where they entertained such Nebraska notables as Willa Cather. In 1923 the girls decided to move to what was then south Lincoln to be near their friends. This location was close to the new site of The Country Club of Lincoln where a new clubhouse had been constructed the year

before. Anxious to move, they were reluctant to leave their beloved abode. The solution? Move the house with them!

During the early part of the 20th century it was not unusual to move a house, but the Gere home was so large that it apparently was moved from D Street to South 24th Street in two sections. Teams of horses brought the two sections of the house down Van Dorn Street where they were placed on their current foundation. After the house was moved, a coat of stucco was applied over much of the original wooden siding.

Ellen Gere lived in the house until her death in 1940. Mariel, who headed the chemistry department at Lincoln High School for forty years and wrote textbooks, lived there until her death in 1960.

Several families have occupied the home since the 1960's, each contributing to the restoration and rejuvenating process that has evolved into the Gere Mansion as we know it today. They also discovered lots of "treasures"

and "history" of the Gere family.

The LeRoy Pearce family started the remodeling effort when they purchased the home in 1962. Mr. Pearce found a dozen lithograph stones in the basement and imbedded them in the patio. These Bavarian limestones were engraved by hand with drawings and complicated designs for commercial printing by the pioneer State Journal Company.

Mrs. Richardson, another owner of the Gere Mansion, said she learned that the odd grooves worn into the floor and door frames on the second floor were caused by a wheelchair owned by one of the Gere sisters. This probably also explains why the home was built with an elevator.

The Gere Mansion, with all seventeen of its rooms, is a fine example of turn-of-the-century craftsmanship. One can see why David Manderscheid and Susan Lawrence had to call it their own. (*Historical Source: The Nebraska Newspaper & The Lincoln Journal*)

Country Club Neighborhood Association 2008 DUES STATEMENT

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Annual CCNA membership dues (*good until January 2009*) = \$ 15.00

Additional Contribution (*Thank you very much!*) = \$ _____

If dues and contributions total \$25 or more, the entire amount is tax-deductible.

Enclosed is one business card for the online directory = \$ 0.00

Number of additional cards enclosed _____ @ \$5.00 each = \$ _____

TOTAL Enclosed = \$ _____

*Please make check payable to **Country Club Neighborhood Association** and return it with this form and your business card(s) to:
CCNA Dues, P.O. Box 21953, Lincoln, NE 68542.*

Please check your areas of interest

- CCNA Board of Directors
- Newsletter Contributor
- Parks & Beautification
- History / Historic Preservation
- Social / Neighborhood Party
- Home / Garden Tour
- Membership / Welcoming
- Garage Sale
- Traffic

Other Interests / Talents _____

BASIC INFORMATION Every Woman Needs to Know

By Christine Vanderford, Esq.

More women are taking charge of their households' "business," with women controlling an increasing 51% of personal finances. However, many women don't know the details of their financial and estate plans. Because women, on average, outlive their husbands by 5.3 years, it is imperative for women to understand the family's finances, estate plan, etc.

- Do you have an estate plan and know where the documents are?
- Powers of Attorney for Assets/Health Care
- Living Wills
- Last Will and Testaments
- Revocable Trust
- Guardianship for Children
- Are your planning documents organized for settlement purposes in the event of death or incapacitation?
- Have you communicated to your family about your plan?
- Do you know where your financial ac-

counts, life insurance policies and annuities, real estate documents and business documents are?

- Do you participate in discussions with tax preparer/accountant during tax filing so that you know your financial situation each year?

If you cannot answer "yes" to these important questions, you need to get "in the know." It is the one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family.

Attorney Christine Vanderford enjoys working with couples to make sure they have an estate plan that makes both spouses feel comfortable.

For your free estate planning consultation, contact Christine's office at 421-4646.

Information presented here has been done so for purposes of providing general information only. Individuals needing legal advice shall speak with an experienced attorney.

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THANK YOU to:

Jim Pattavina

Jim Pattavina has been a valuable member of the CCNA Board. He served as a past president, a board member and most recently as CCNA Treasurer. He guided us, inspired us and diligently took care of our funds. Now, he is retiring leaving CCNA in very good financial shape.

Linda Wibbels

Linda Wibbels has been a CCNA fixture for the past twenty-three years. She has worn many hats from holding almost every office and head of committees to neighborhood spokesperson. If there was an issue important to the neighborhood, Linda was there. While not retiring entirely from CCNA, she is keeping active on the Parks, Boulevards and Green Spaces committee. CCNA can thank Linda for the hundreds of trees planted throughout the neighborhood, the maintenance program on all the boulevards and other green spaces and her energy and enthusiasm for our neighborhood.

SERENDIPITY WALK (or Bike ride)

June 2 – 6, 2008

Air conditioning, Video games and TV, Backyard Patios & Enclosed Garages . . . What do these things have in common? They are considered progress but keep us indoors!

Let's get out and walk this spring! The Serendipity Walk is an idea to take a leisurely stroll, with no special destination in mind. Take a few minutes to look at your neighborhood, to admire the flowers and yards, check out the street buzz, and to say "hi" to other folks out of doors.

If you're not a walker, bring a folding chair onto the front steps or driveway, sit back with an iced tea, and enjoy the front of your yard. Let the kids play outdoors as night falls. Take a look at the street, the traffic, folks walking dogs or kids on skateboards.

This is not a new idea – it's a recycled idea. It's European . . . or, for that matter, it's how most of the world operates! The fun part is that you don't know who you will meet, the vista constantly changes and you can re-connect with neighbors without a formal gathering. It only takes a moment to say hello.

WHEN?

**Monday to Friday evenings
June 2-6, 2008 from 6 – 9 pm.**

WHERE?

No special route – you choose the path.

FINAL EVENT: Friday evening June 6, meet at the gas station at 33rd and Sheridan at 6:30 pm. Stroll west along Sheridan Blvd to 25th & Sheridan. Finish on one of the medians for iced tea and lemonade. Our leader will be a local historian who can highlight some of the historic houses along the way.

If you can't join us for the first Serendipity Week, you can do this anytime until the next frost. We'll try to organize an early autumn walk, as well as a Serendipity Bike Ride.

CCNA Charitable Foundation

The Country Club Neighborhood Charitable Foundation was established about ten years ago. While the neighborhood association itself is not a tax deductible entity, the CCNA Foundation is. This allows people to make contributions that are tax deductible. When paying your dues, anything over \$25.00 goes into the foundation. This allows the foundation to have the "benefits" of a charitable entity. All monies go to the preservation and enhancement of your neighborhood.

When making a list of those charities or memorials that are important to you, please remember the CCNA Charitable Foundation. This will allow your neighborhood to continue to prosper.

Foodie Files

By Chad Winters

Food is our passion!

At Leon's we use the word "Foodie" to describe people who, like us, are enthusiastically interested in all things food related. It always shocks us to encounter people who are plain blasé about food- so we have started using this word in order to relate a person's level of interest in food quickly.

From one foodie to another I am here to tell tales of extra special balsamic vinegar reduction sauces, cheeses imported from the heart of Europe and a sipping chocolate section that knows no rival. Every quarter I will tell you, our loyal Country Club Neighborhood members what is happening or what is new in YOUR store.

Since Mom sometimes is the biggest foodie in the house, and it is almost Mother's Day, it is the perfect time to discuss the some of the great items we have in the store that Mom would love.

At Leon's our mission to be the city's premier specialty grocer. So our food buyers constantly search high and low for that certain product that will make our customers say WOW!

Recently, we discovered a line of baking mixes that seems to fit that bill exactly. Enter Canterbury Naturals line of baking mixes. These mixes are both upscale and unique.

How about treating Mom to a gourmet Chocolate Waffle or an Apple Cinnamon Pancake on her special day? The mixes are not limited to breakfasts food though, there are muffin mixes, bread mixes, scone mixes and seasonal cake mixes to choose from as well.

Another great food discovery made recently is a line of desserts from Clearbrook Farms. We have carried the CBF Preserves in our store for a long time (and they are awesome, a personal favorite), but these Tart Shells and the accompanying filling are a perfect fit for Mother's Day and Graduation Parties.

There are two different sizes of tart shells and six varieties of tart filling. The products are of a very high quality and even easier to use. Simply fill the tart shell with the filling of your choice and



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then garnish them with seasonal fresh produce and viola! you have a party hit that tastes as good as it looks.

In other big store news, our deli is under new management. Travis Chrisman, who was a sous chef by trade has moved on to become the Head Chef at the Nebraska Club, and Karen London is our new deli department manager. Karen has over 15 years of deli management experience. She has a wealth of experience including making party trays, watermelon boats and planning special events with customers.

Since graduation is right around the corner, why not combine her know-how with the high quality products that Leon's is known for? The end result is sure to be both great looking and delicious! In closing, please allow me to wish my own Mom a very happy Mother's Day as well as all the other great Moms and foodies out there, and as always.....Bon Appetit!



About the Author: Chad Winters is one of the owners of Leon's Food Mart and a self professed "foodie." He is the gourmet food buyer and travels across the country, the Internet and the world to find new and exciting foods for his customers. He has worked at Leon's for 21 years, starting as a sacker and holding just about every position before buying the store with his business partner, Roy Toy, who is also a meat expert and "foodie." Chad loves to cook and share his "foodie" passion with others.



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May 2008

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