

# COUNTRY CLUB NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION Chronicle

## CCNA HISTORY: Houses of Worship

The Country Club neighborhood is home to three distinct places of worship: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Tifereth Israel Synagogue and Westminster Presbyterian Church.

### St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church was built at the corner of 24th and Sewell in 1925 after diocesan officers realized the need for a new church in this rapidly growing section of Lincoln.



They hired architect Fritz Craig to design a church which would be reminiscent of an English village type and which would blend seamlessly with the architecture already found in the vicinity.

Church officials purchased two lots for \$3,100 and plans were made for a structure which would cost about \$20,000. On St. Matthew's Day, September 21, 1925, ground was broken and a cornerstone was laid. There is no official record explaining the naming of the church, although Harold Clinger reports in *A History of St. Matthew's Parish 1925-1975*, "Opinion has been offered that St. Matthew was chosen because his association with business and government had a special appeal for some of the mission's founders."

The founders may have felt that the church needed this extra help as it was operating under a very tight budget at the time of its construction. According to the written history, "Squeezing to the limit every dollar allocated to construction through the autumn of 1925 and the following winter, the builders finished the basement, the four walls and the roof. Furniture and furnishings were meager. Worshippers sat on folding chairs and knelt on cushions for fifteen years before pews were installed."

Well-meaning parishioners offered items which might have been used in the church, but the vestry was concerned about acquiring a "hodgepodge collection." Therefore, the vestry required that gifts of furniture and decor meet with its approval and the architect before being put into use.

One of the first decorations which met with such approval was the altar arch created by an Omaha artist, Leonard Thiessen. It is a dominant feature of the sanctuary and depicts, in clockwise order from the base, the symbols of saints with St. Matthew at the crest.

The small church was officially dedicated on January 17, 1926 and lived up to a prediction by the local newspaper as "a structure which will be a joy to behold." In fact, the building was later awarded the title of "The Most Beautiful Little Church in America" by a Hollywood magazine.

Over the years, St. Matthew's Church acquired much of the land around the original church building. In the 1940s, a parish house – which included the south vestibule and the priest's study in the loft – was added. According to the written history, "The original concept of the parish house was that it would be a 'neighborhood house' which would be used as a community center by residents of

the neighborhood as well as for the traditional purposes."

Today, the use of the church certainly fulfills these hopes. Expansions over the years have made it a popular meeting place for many organizations (including CCNA) and have added to the charming presence that St. Matthew's maintains in the neighborhood.

### Tifereth Israel Synagogue

Congregation Tifereth Israel, located at 32nd and Sheridan, is the only synagogue in Lincoln serving the Conservative denomination of Judaism. A Reform temple, Congregation Beth Jeshurun, is located at 20th and South Streets.



"The early Jewish settlers met for worship in private homes," writes Harry Allen in *A History of Tifereth Israel*, "but at a meeting on October 19, 1903 a congregation to be known as Tifereth Israel (meaning "Israel's Glory") was founded. Twenty-eight members subscribed at the time to a Building Fund which would eventuate in a House of Worship for the congregation."

When Congregation Tifereth Israel merged with Congregation Talmud Torah, they were able to realize their hopes for the construction of a synagogue building. A brick structure built at the corner of 18th and L Streets served

*continued on page 3...*

## Upcoming CCNA Meetings:

Mark your calendars to come join your Country Club Neighborhood Association at one of our meetings: We meet at 7 PM the 3rd Tuesday of every month except July and December.

St Matthew's Episcopal Church  
2325 South 24th Street (24th and Sewell)

**October 19, 2004**  
**November 16, 2004**  
**January 18, 2005**

Advertise in your neighborhood newsletter, *The CCNA Chronicle* and reach over 2,400 households.

### Business card ad:

CCNA members ..... \$30  
CCNA non-members ..... \$40  
non-resident, non-members ..... \$50

### Half page ad:

CCNA members ..... \$150  
CCNA non-members ..... \$175  
non-resident, non-members ..... \$225

### Full page ad:

CCNA members ..... \$300  
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non-resident, non-members ..... \$375

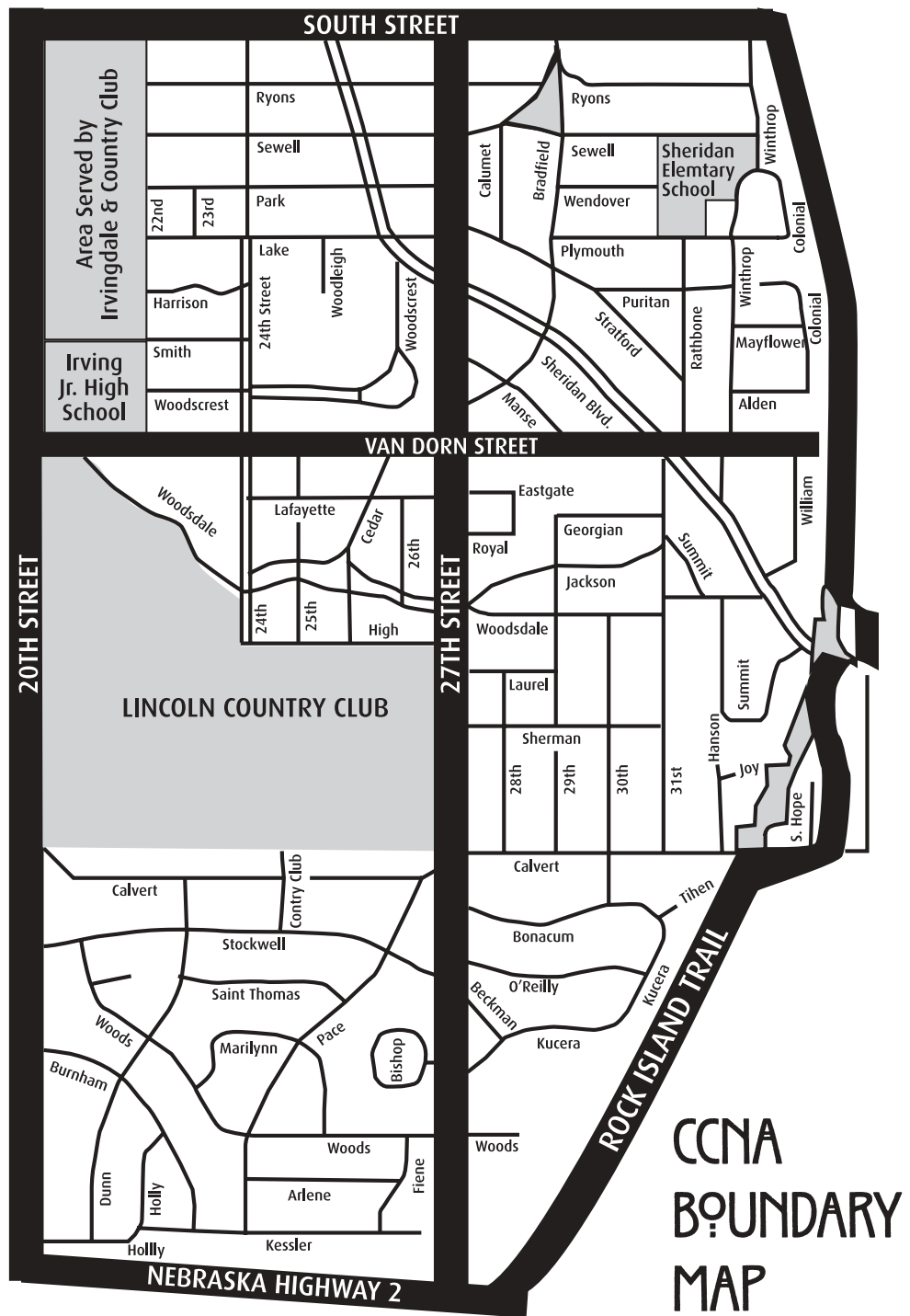
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Members and readers who have questions, comments or suggestions may call the individual(s) responsible for the area(s) of concern.

The CCNA CHRONICLE is the official publication of the Country Club Neighborhood Association (CCNA). The CCNA CHRONICLE is published quarterly 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 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.



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Animal Complaints. . . . . 441-7900  
Buried Lines. . . . . 477-0547  
City Council Representatives. . . . 441-7515  
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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-

plaints, suggestions) . . . . . 441-6300  
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### Visit [www.ccnalinc.org](http://www.ccnalinc.org) to find:

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

## Places of Worship *continued from page 1...*

the congregation well for over 40 years. At that time, it became apparent that a new, larger synagogue would be needed.

Leo Hill was president of Tifereth Israel during this period and, under his guidance, the Congregation erected its new edifice at 32nd Street and Sheridan Boulevard. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on April 19, 1953 (on the anniversary of the burning of the Warsaw Ghetto) and the cornerstone was laid on June 6, 1954.

Although the building itself is a fairly typical example of 1950s brick ranch architecture, several interior features are worthy of note. A fresco in the entry entitled "Megillat Lincoln" was commissioned by the Max Neiden family and created by local artists Dean and Jay Tschetter. The cast stone sculpture depicts an unwinding scroll showing the ancestral roots of Jews in Lincoln.

Stained glass windows in the sanctuary are of late '50s Prairie School style. They are comprised of brightly-colored abstract shapes and are in keeping with the Jewish nonrepresentational tradition which forbids depictions of human figures.

Another striking feature of the sanctuary (which traditionally points toward Jerusalem) is the Ark, the cabinet which holds the Torah Scrolls. The carved mahogany doors of the Ark have eight panels which each depict a major Jewish holiday. It took artist Albert Wood and his five sons six months to craft the carvings prior to the synagogue's dedication in 1954.

Synagogues originally began as an assembly place, a sort of community center for Jews to gather. In fact, the word is derived from Greek words meaning "gathering together." The Tifereth Israel Synagogue is certainly an example of that. The building serves as a center for Jewish activity in the community.

### Westminster Presbyterian Church

In 1905, a Lincoln congregation which worshipped in two small cottages at 24th and A formally adopted the name "Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lincoln, Nebraska." They then took a risk and built a church at the edge of Lincoln on the corner of 23rd and Garfield. This location in Lincoln's area of

newest housing proved a fertile field for a new church.

According to *A Brief History of Westminster's Years* which was compiled in 1985, Westminster had outgrown these facilities by the 1920s. In 1922, under the leadership of Paul Johnston, "The church experienced a decided awakening and new members were drawn in large numbers. A building campaign was revived and land at the corner of Sheridan Boulevard and South

Streets was purchased. For the second time in its history, Westminster dared to relocate at the edge of its present parish. The wisdom of this decision, however, soon became evident with the rapid and substantial growth of the Sheridan district."

According to the written history, a design was created for a building that would accommodate "approximately 1,000 people and an educational unit which would house a Church School of about

the same number of children and young people. Plans were prepared and submitted for a complete structure that would cost about \$300,000. However, the financial strength of the church was such that only the construction of the sanctuary unit was possible at the time."

In August 1925, ground was broken for the new church and the property at 23rd and Garfield was sold to another congregation. By September of the next year, the lower auditorium of the new structure was ready for use and the sanctuary was occupied for the first time on December 5, 1926. On May 8, 1927, the new Westminster Church building was dedicated.

There were several points of pride in the new church: It was outfitted with a beautiful organ built by Ernest M. Skinner, the pre-eminent American organ builder in the early part of the 20th century. Stained glass memorial windows were impressive features. The east window shows the symbol of the Holy Trinity flanked by symbol of lamp and



dove. The great west window is a reproduction of a window in the Shakespeare Memorial Church at Stratford-on-Avon.

Although this sanctuary remains at the core of the current church, much has changed around it. In October 1948, the church added a chapel dedicated to all the youth of Westminster who have given their lives in service to others. The cost of a major portion of the chapel was covered by the gift of an anonymous donor. This gift was pivotal in sparking general fundraising campaigns which eventually led to many more additions to the church including a gymnasium, educational unit, parlor, office space, parking lot, and library.

As the church community has changed, so has the building. Over the years, the main entrance has evolved from the west side to the east. Improvements have been made in accessibility. A child care center, Youth Cafe, and recreation center are now part of the facility. After the 2003 renovation, the building increased by an impressive 9,000 square feet.

In 2005, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lincoln, Nebraska will celebrate its Centennial. From its humble beginnings 100 years ago, it has grown to be one of the largest congregations in the midwest and a prominent fixture in our neighborhood.

*Additional shots of the interiors of all three places of worship can be found under the "Newsletters" section of the CCNA website at [www.ccnalinc.org](http://www.ccnalinc.org)*



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**We have set a new membership record!**

742 households (31%) have demonstrated their support for CCNA by becoming paid members this year. Thank you to all who joined in 2004 and to those who so generously contributed additional funds.

CCNA protects our quality of life, keeps up property values and acts as an advocate for the neighborhood interests. Your support of the organization is what keeps it thriving. If you have not yet sent in your dues for 2004, it's not too late! Simply return the form below to CCNA Dues, P.O. Box 21953, Lincoln, NE 68542. Your small dues payments helps CCNA do enormous good.

**Your CCNA membership dues bring this newsletter to your mailbox.**

**PRESIDENT'S NOTE**

*Mary Lynn W. Schaffer*

Your CCNA Board of Directors continues to work on several projects that affect the "quality of life" of our neighborhood. In a joint effort with the Irvingdale Neighborhood Association last spring, we were successful in having an area along South Street and 27th Street rezoned to prevent current large single-family dwellings being converted to multiple families housing.

The Board has been fielding a growing number of concerns from members—neighbors with too many cars on the street, yards that have not been mowed, overgrown bushes, "junk" that has accumulated from construction and yard projects that harbors rodents, abandoned seasonal lighting and decorations, garbage cans that remain at the curb or within view of the neighbors, and too many unrelated people living in a house.

Please take a "spectator's view" of your property: stand across the street and ask yourself if there are things you can improve about the appearance of your property. Many of these issues come under the authority of the City Health and Public Safety Departments. Fall is a good time to thin out and clean up. It's a satisfying feeling and your neighbors will appreciate your efforts, as well. If you have neighbors who need help with some of these chores, please offer to help. More hands make the work easier and more enjoyable.

Nearly four years ago a group of neighbors between 27th and 20th, VanDorn to High Streets began working on creating a lighting district that would improve the safety and appearance of their neighborhood. Last October the City Council approved the creation of the district and on October 1 this year, the lights were turned on! The CCNA Board supported this project and thanks all of the neighbors who supported this effort to make the neighborhood safer and more

attractive. Please do not tape any type of sign to these new light posts--the paint will peel off with the tape. We want them to look nice for a long time.

**CCNA DUES STATEMENT 2004**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Annual CCNA membership dues (*good until January 2005*) = \$ 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 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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

Hiking Biking Trails

Fundraising/CCNA Foundation

Govt. Lobby/Monitoring

Tour of Homes

Social/Neighborhood Party

Garden Tour

Membership/Welcoming

Garage Sale

Traffic (NEW!)

Other Interests/Talents \_\_\_\_\_

## You've Got Mail! Not at the curb, but at your house!

It seems that many people in the neighborhood received a notice from their mail carrier implying that they needed to move their mailbox to the curb. Some have done so, thinking that they had no choice. Others called CCNA to see what was going on.

CCNA members visited with the U.S. Post Office about this misleading letter.

While the mail carrier would like to have the boxes at the curb, IT IS NOT A REQUIREMENT! You do not need to put your mailbox at the curb. The Post Office has said that they would meet with the carriers about putting these misleading letters in your mailbox.

## Attractive Home, Unsightly Trashcans

We know that it's going to be getting cold outside. Soon it will take layers of clothing, your parka, mittens, and boots just to quickly run your trash down to the curb. The problem, however, is not just the cold; it's the trashcans still at the curb days later.

## Recommended Reading

Finding time to read is a luxury, but when you make the time, your mind will be the better for it. Here are some suggestions – for the mind, for the home, and for the neighborhood:

■ *Preservation*—The magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This will appeal to history buffs, architecture enthusiasts, trendsetters, and those

who cherish “neighborhood.” [www.nation-altrust.org/magazine](http://www.nation-altrust.org/magazine); call 1-800-289-7091.

■ *This Old House*—A must for every homeowner, this magazine deals specifically with older homes built before 1980. Great tips on remodeling, products, landscaping, and maintenance. A written companion to the well-known and loved PBS television program. [www.thisoldhouse.com](http://www.thisoldhouse.com); call 1-800-898-7237.

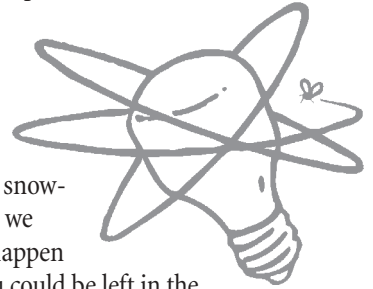
■ *Old House Journal*—An encyclopedic resource for owners of homes built before 1955. Identify the architectural style of your house, research its history, and get help with kitchen, bath, porch and other tricky, period-sensitive remodeling projects. Our neighborhood is loaded with historic Tudor Revival houses, French Gothic mini-castles, Colonials, bungalows, English picturesque cottages, and early ranches. This magazine features a house just like yours on nearly every page. [www.oldhousejournal.com](http://www.oldhousejournal.com); 1-800-234-3797.

■ *Old House Interiors*—A sister publication, this bi-monthly features American period design from 1700 to 1940, with articles on restorations, interpretive use of period decorating, period-sensitive kitchens and baths, furnishings, color, textiles, and more. Coverage extends to architectural styles and gardens. [www.oldhouseinteriors.com](http://www.oldhouseinteriors.com); 1-800-462-0211.



## Still in the Dark?

What a difference seven years can make! The weather has been beautiful and the autumn colors spectacular. The fall of 2004 can almost erase the memories of that awful October 1997 snow-storm. But, as we know, it can happen again and you could be left in the cold and in the dark.



LES still has a “no charge” offering you should know about. The majority of us lost electricity back in October 1997 because our “drops” – the electric lines from the poles to our house – were down. If these lines were underground, there would be a good chance that power would not be lost, or not lost for long.

LES (for a fee) now has the capability of boring the lines underground. But LES will not charge to bury your lines from the pole to your house. You just have to provide a clear path and make sure your meter is compatible. Call LES today at 475-4211 and ask for Roger Wohlers. It is worth your time to look into this program. This is a good time of year to have it done.

## Yard Sign Law

The Lincoln Municipal Code states that signs—such as those for political candidates, open houses and garage sales—must not be placed on public trees/property or in the parking area between the sidewalk and the street.



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## Seasonal Home Safety Tips

(from [www.statefarm.com](http://www.statefarm.com))

- Check your wood deck or concrete patio for possible deterioration.
- Make sure there are working night lights at the top and bottom of all exterior stairs.
- Tile and painted wood or concrete stairs can be slippery when wet or when a person's shoes are wet. Resurface the treads with slip-resistant strips near the stair nosing.
- All stairs of at least three risers should have a handrail.
- Do not store items on the stairs.
- Check all window and door locks for proper operation.

Windows that can be opened by breaking the glass and unlocking the lock are less effective deterrents to criminals. Check with your local hardware store for window lock alternatives. All exterior doors, including doors from your attached garage, should have deadbolt locks.

- Have your roof inspected for potential leaks once every few years.
- Inspect and clean dust from the covers of your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

- Check the water hoses on the clothes washer, refrigerator icemaker, and dishwasher for cracks and bubbles.
- Check your water heater.
  - If you have a gas-fired water heater, check to make sure it is venting properly. Light a match next to the vent and wave it out (don't blow it out). See if the smoke is pulled up into the vent. If it isn't, have a professional inspect and repair. This can cause carbon monoxide and other by products of incomplete combustion to build up in the home.
  - Check around the base of your water heater for evidence of leaks. If your water heater is over five years old, it should be checked monthly for any leakage or rusting at the bottom. If water leakage or rust is found, the water heater should be replaced.
- Clean the clothes dryer exhaust duct, damper and space under the dryer

## Trashcan Reminders

In order to make homes and neighborhoods more attractive, the following suggestions are given:

- Trashcans not visible from street except on trash day.
- Consider your neighbor's view when storing trashcans and try to keep them out of their sight lines.

- Secure trash in cans with lids so that extra litter is not blown around the neighborhood.
- Call your refuse company. For a small additional fee, they will come up your drive to pick your trash up at your house. ♪

## Want to start a Neighborhood Watch?

(from [www.lincoln.ne.gov](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov))

Neighborhood Watch is a tried, tested and proven program involving cooperation between citizens and the police. In Neighborhood Watch, you are encouraged to work with your neighbors and report suspicious activity and crime to the police.

This cooperation between citizens and the police has resulted in a decrease of crime in the Neighborhood Watch group areas.

## Cripple the Crime

Three elements are necessary for a crime to occur. These three elements are Ability, Desire and Opportunity. There is very little that a citizen can do to impact a criminal's ability or desire to commit a crime. What a citizen can do, however, is to limit criminal opportunity. The Education and Personnel Unit of the Lincoln Police Department can show you how to reduce criminal opportunity, which in turn, will reduce your chances of becoming a crime victim.

By investing a small amount of your time, you can become the eyes and ears of the police department. Together we can help reduce the crime in your neighborhood.

## It's as easy as One, Two, Three...

**One...** Contact your neighbors and determine if interest exists in starting a Neighborhood Watch group.

**Two...** Contact the Education and Personnel Unit of the Lincoln Police Department. Their telephone number is 441-7261. You will be sent a Neighborhood Watch start up kit, which contains a group roster sheet, a Neighborhood Watch book and window stickers.





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Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Saturday 5:00 p.m.

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[www.stmatthews-lincoln.org](http://www.stmatthews-lincoln.org)





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**Three...** The last step is to go back to your neighbors and gather the needed information for the group roster. Then return the roster to the Lincoln Police Department Education and Personnel Unit to activate your group. Once your group has been activated, you will be sent the needed materials to supply your group.



## From Our Schools: Dogs & Playgrounds Don't Mix

As a new school year begins, our neighborhood elementary schools have asked us to remind neighbors that serious health issues arise when dogs use the playgrounds as restrooms. An easy solution might be to avoid walking pets on school property. But if you do choose to walk your dogs by the schools, please clean up after them so that students can play in a safe environment!



## Household Inventory

*(From an article by Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County)*

The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports the average home burglary loss is \$860.

Also, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, a fire in one out of every 150 American homes each year destroys or damages personal possessions that cannot be properly identified for insurance claims.

For homeowners, the ordeal of trying to piece together a list of what was stolen or destroyed can be stressful and frustrating. Most homes have dozens of small, yet valuable, articles that are not as conspicuous as a chair, a television or a video recorder. Many people are also so overcome with emotion after a fire or theft they cannot clear their thoughts well enough to remember everything that was destroyed or stolen.

A homeowners insurance policy is the first step in protecting against loss, as well as an inventory, proof of ownership and documentation of value.

### The Inventory

First, make an itemized inventory of all your possessions and plan to keep a copy of your inventory in your safe deposit box. List the contents of each room on your inventory. Include items in closets, cabinets, and drawers, and don't forget items in the garage and outdoor storage units.

It is important to include some detailed information such as serial numbers; manufacturer; design description or name; and quantities, such as number of place settings of silverware. Describe jewelry as fully as possible, such as "14-karat-gold, 15-inch chain necklace." List purchase price and date when possible.

### Proof of Ownership

Photograph the contents of your house room by room. This helps establish ownership and provides a visual description.

Group small items to photograph. Take pictures of drawer contents and shelves. Take pictures of the outside of your house including landscaping, driveway, and any special items. Store either the photos or negatives in your safe deposit box. Some people prefer to videotape their household contents, using an audio description.

### Documentation of Value

Sales receipts offer evidence of ownership and are important in establishing value for unappraised items. Keep a file box of receipts for major items. Get appraisals for valuable items. Whether you have a current household inventory or not, now is a good time to check your insurance policies and review how much coverage you have for household items.





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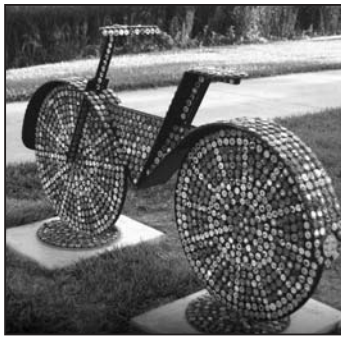
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## Private Art in Public Places

**A**t the conclusion of the Tour de Lincoln Art Project, many of the bicycle pieces were purchased at auction and some were then donated to the city for display in public parks and on city right of way. Three of those donated pieces can be found within the boundaries of CCNA. One is at the entrance to the Country Club. One is at the intersection of Van Dorn and Manse and one is on the median at 27th and Sheridan Boulevard. Questions have arisen as to what constitutes appropriate art for public display and which locations are suitable for the placement of these pieces.

According to Lynn Johnson, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, the Tour de Lincoln project sparked an increased interest in public art in the community, and created the need for the development of a process and



*Andrea Boe Photography*

criteria for the selection and placement of this art. In response, a Public Art Collections Policy was implemented by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The established criteria include:

- Public art should have a contextual relationship to its site and should enhance the location where it is to be placed.
- The theme or image of the art should be consistent with community values.
- The piece should not pose a threat to the public's health or safety.
- The art work should be constructed so as to be suitable for outdoor display and have a expected lifetime of at least 25 years with limited required maintenance.

The Advisory Board is encouraged to seek input from the Lincoln Arts Council and Neighborhood associations, in areas of the city where they exist, in formulating their recom-

mendations to the Parks Department, the mayor and the city council. Council member Jonathan Cook stated, "The city's new public art policy encourages the acceptance of donated art while recognizing that there are maintenance costs and site selection issues that must be addressed."

Bob Ripley, past president of CCNA and current Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, believes adoption of this new policy will provide guidelines for determining the artistic value and suitability of proposed public art and will provide a mechanism for the removal of pieces when necessary. The new policy also establishes a procedure for removing exiting public art where it has been damaged or has deteriorated or where a replacement piece has been proposed.

Comments or suggestions concerning the placement of public art in the community can be directed to the Parks and Recreation Department (441-7847), the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (441-7847), to members of the city council (441-7515) or to the mayor (441-7511). 