



www.ccnalinc.org

Country Club Neighborhood Association

# Chronicle

Lincoln, Nebraska • November 2009

## The Thankful Issue

**Pocras Park  
Concerts A Hit!**  
See Presidents Letter on pg. 4



*You're Invited!*  
**HOLIDAY PARTY**

WED. DEC. 9, 2009, 5-7 PM

LINC. CO CLUB, 3200 S. 24TH ST

MUSIC BY LSE HS SINGERS.

SEE PG. 2 FOR TICKETS AND STORY

**In This Issue:**

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Feature Story Sponsored by:



# Chronicle

Country Club Neighborhood Association

## Feature Story

*You're Invited!*

### CCNA Holiday Open House



**When:** Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009

**Time:** 5- 7 pm

**Where:** Lincoln Country Club

Let's celebrate the Holiday Season with an Open House at our neighborhood namesake—the Lincoln Country Club! We have reserved two party rooms for our party and can accommodate up to 150 people. You may remember the 100 year celebration two years ago with a formal dinner and dancing in the grand ballroom. It was a hit but some asked for a less expensive party.

On December 9 we'll host a holiday Open House. The food includes hors d'oeuvres and dessert selection, plus coffee and tea. A cash bar is available for other beverages. Entertainment starts at 5:45p.m. with the Southeast High School "Ars Nova," a group of 12 Jazz singers.

This is a great opportunity to see the Club in its holiday splendor and mingle with your neighbors, make some new friends or visit old ones.

The cost is \$20 per person; send your check to our treasurer, Mary Lynn Schaffer at 2601 Lafayette Ave, 68502. She can send you an email confirmation and we'll keep a list of attendees at the door. Try to send your payment soon because we need to have a count by December 1st. We can handle a few late comers at the door, the price is \$25 on day of event.

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# Chronicle

Country Club Neighborhood Association

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# 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. This newsletter is FREE to residents 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](http://www.fppub.com).

Do you have an idea for a feature story in the Country Club Neighborhood Association Chronicle Publication? Send an email to [becca.berstler@fppub.com](mailto:becca.berstler@fppub.com) or call 420-7880.

## 2009 CCNA Fall/Winter Meeting Schedule

### November 17th, Tuesday

CCNA Neighborhood Meeting  
Irving Rec Center, 2010 Van Dorn  
7:00PM - Everyone’s Invited

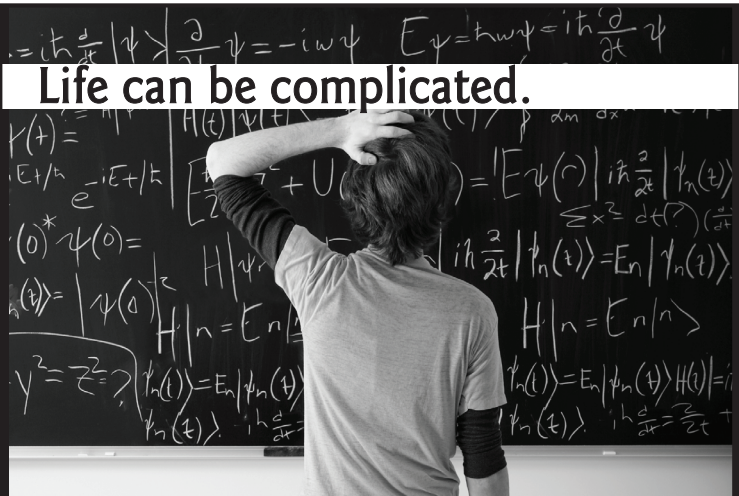
### February 16, 2010, Tuesday

CCNA Neighborhood Meeting  
Irving Rec Center, 2010 Van Dorn  
7:00PM - Everyone’s Invited

### March 16, 2010, Tuesday

CCNA Neighborhood Meeting  
Irving Rec Center, 2010 Van Dorn  
7:00PM - Everyone’s Invited

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 Irving Rec Center located at 2010 Van Dorn Street. All are invited and encouraged to attend.



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## Counting our Blessings SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR! HOLIDAY PARTY, PARK CONCERTS, AND SAFER STREETS...

So much to be thankful for! As we enter the holiday season all is good in the neighborhood. We had a busy summer with free swim nights at Irving pool and two September concerts, sponsored by CCNA.

The cover photo shows the Southeast High School Jazz band performing in the gazebo at Pocras Park. Sept 13 the bands were: Dodging Bullets (young stars from Irving Jr. High) and "Son of 76 and the Watchmen" from Omaha—winner of the #1 R&B band award. On Sept. 27 the Jazz band opened, then the Lightning Bugs featuring our neighborhood's own Steve Hansen. The weather was perfect, the playground toys were full of kids, and people sat on folding chairs and milled about. Dick Pocras, for whom the park is named, was a friend of mine and I know he would have been pleased.

Holiday Fun! You are invited to our holiday party on Wednesday Dec. 9, 2009 from 5-7 pm at the Lincoln Country Club (our neighborhood namesake, no less). The Club is gorgeous in December and the food will be fantastic—hors d'oeuvres and desserts! It's a great time to meet and mingle, casual but elegant. The Lincoln Southeast singers will perform around 545 pm. For tickets mail \$20 per person to our treasurer, Mary Lynn Schaffer at 2601 Lafayette. I'm hoping to see you there!!

- Now an update: Our neighborhood is going to be a BIG MESS in 2010! But as anyone who's undertaken a house or yard project, you know that progress doesn't come without a bit of disruption.

For many years the CCNA has wanted to see the electrical lines buried along South 27th Street. The myriad of wires and the poles that crowd the street are both dangerous and unsightly. In this issue

### CCNA 2009 Dues Statement

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual CCNA Membership dues = \$ 15.00  
(Good until January 2010)

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

**TOTAL Enclosed = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **Country Club Neighborhood Association** and return it with this form to:  
**CCNA Dues, P.O. Box 21953, Lincoln, NE 68542.**  
[www.ccnalinc.org](http://www.ccnalinc.org) | [ccna.lincoln@gmail.com](mailto:ccna.lincoln@gmail.com)



*Bob Beecham with members of the rock band, Dodging Bullets at Concert September 13*

of the Chronicle, long time CCNA member and City Councilman, Jonathan Cook writes about the LES plans to bury the power lines along South 27th in 2010.

In our last issue, we said the city would use Stimulus \$ to redevelop Sheridan Blvd. between South and Calvert Streets. Several weeks ago, the Lincoln Journal Star reported that, for several reasons, stimulus dollars could not be used for the Sheridan project. This doesn't mean the project is going to be scrapped. Instead, the city plans to use local funding for the Sheridan project.

Some of you know my daughter Brady has taken a one year leave of absence from her last year of medical school to work in an AIDS/HIV clinic in South Africa. After college she was two years in India, and now Africa. So as we appreciate our safe homes and community, as we eat turkey and light holiday luminaries, we give special thanks for those who help at home and where needed.

**New para:** On my wish list: A volunteer to send out emails. They are timely, quick and a great way to keep in touch. If you can help, call me at 420-3007

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**S**

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## 2008-2010 CCNA Board

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Paul Vaccaro, 3500 South 27<sup>th</sup>

### Secretary

Rifka Keilson, 2827 South 27<sup>th</sup>

### Treasurer

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 Stephen Haudrich, 3215 South 31<sup>st</sup>  
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 Bill Norris, 2832 Manse Avenue  
 Joyce Norris, 2832 Manse Avenue  
 Cynthia Woods, 2500 Woodscrest  
 Susan Vaccaro, 3500 South 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Jane Williams, 2230 Sewell

### Web Master

Stephen Haudrich, 3215 South 31<sup>st</sup>

**Thank you for serving your neighborhood!**

### CCNA Chronicle

#### Publishing Schedule

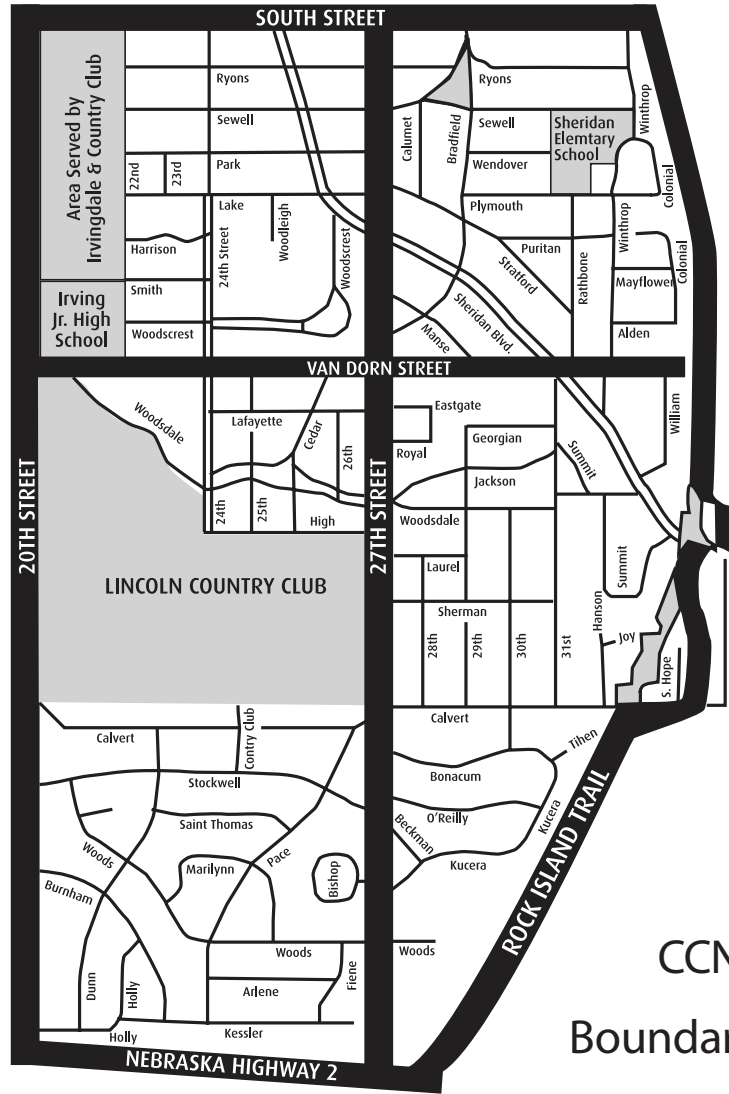
February

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

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### Important Phone Numbers

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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-			

#### 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 By-Laws

## LES to bury power Lines along 27th

At long last, the power lines along 27th St. in the County Club Neighborhood will be buried. These lines have been an eyesore for many years. The poles are too close to the road (many immediately behind the curb) and are often hit by cars (or trucks!). The trees along 27th St. have to be severely trimmed to keep them away from the lines, making them less healthy and attractive. And when bad weather strikes, electric service is less reliable.

When 27th Street was rebuilt back in 1998, CCNA tried to get LES, the telephone company and the cable company to bury their lines along with the project. There was precedent for burying the lines—two years earlier, in 1996, when Van Dorn St was rebuilt in our neighborhood, the power lines were buried, and new street lights on metal poles were installed. It dramatically improved the appearance of the street.

But alas, CCNA was unsuccessful in getting the power lines along 27th St. buried.

Since 1998, much has happened. The City's Comprehensive Plan was updated, and language was added that said "within the City of Lincoln, wherever feasible and affordable, implement a phased program to relocate overhead utility lines underground".

In 2006, LES began budgeting \$500,000 a year for a new overhead to underground conversion program. LES examines the age of overhead facilities, the kind of street they are on, the distance of the poles from the curb, and other factors, in prioritizing overhead to underground projects. If the City is doing a street project, LES will coordinate with the project. LES also coordinates with the telephone and cable companies so those lines can be buried as well.

Since 2006, nine projects have been completed in areas all over town. One of those areas was 27th St. from approximately A St. to South St. New street lights were installed. That greatly improved the look of an area that was so damaged by the widening of 27th St. back in the 1960s.

LES's new six-year plan for burying lines has 27th St. from South to High Streets in year one, 2010. The details of the plan are still being worked out, and CCNA plans to be involved in that process.

CCNA is excited about this long overdue improvement to the neighborhood.

## Twin Houses on S. 27th Street built in 1940 preserved by new owners GOOD BYE COMPUTER GAMES, HELLO SWEAT EQUITY

In 1940 Mark and George Woods, the original Woods brothers, platted a new subdivision called Capitol Hill. On Block 12 two "mirror" houses were designed by architect John Unthank and built by A. W. Miller. The houses were on the lane (now S. 27th street) facing west to the Lincoln Country Club. They have identical floor plans.

Traffic was slow and the view from the front door was of an idyllic golf course, the alley in back was later abandoned. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cook lived in their home on S. 27th between Laurel and Sherman Streets for 52 years. Mrs. Cook died recently and her house was sold this summer. The "twin" next door sold earlier in the year.

The new owners were encouraged by a federal program rebating \$8,000 in taxes for first time home buyers. By coincidence the owners are both graduates of Irving Jr. High and Lincoln Southeast, both in their mid-20s and tackling the job of renovation with help from family and friends.

Ryan Ohs and Elliot Wood work high-tech/engineering jobs by day and now spend evenings and weekends on the great American dream. With lots of sweat equity and many trips to the hardware/tool rental store they are restoring these homes.

Ryan Ohs is the 5th owner of his home, he used to walk past the house and was always attracted to this location. He has



sanded hardwood floors, installed doors and windows, paid for a new roof, and just finished re-tiling a bathroom floor. He said he now has many "paint shirts" and goes on-line to Youtube to learn renovation skills. His future plans include a laundry room.

Elliot Wood used to spend weekends playing video games. He started outdoors with removal of trees, overgrown shrubs, fence repair, and burying overhead electrical wires. Before the snow flies, he will blow in insulation to the upstairs walls and replace some leaky windows. The list is long and a kitchen renovation is the winter project. His Christmas list is entirely tools and garbage day is his favorite day of the week.

## CCNA Treasurer's REPORT

### Submitted by Mary Lynn Schaffer

#### HOW IS THE \$ SPENT?

**INCOME:** Approximately 650 families are members of our association this year. The Association has a checking account with a local bank and a savings account with the Nebraska Community Foundation. It is the intent of the Board of Directors to use the money from members for neighborhood projects that can not be easily accomplished by only a few—especially to protect the quality of life of our neighborhood.



**SOCIAL EVENTS:** Each quarter the Board of Directors tries to sponsor an event for the neighborhood. These are not fund-raising activities, but an opportunity for neighbors to come together. Approximately \$2000 is spent to cover these events including:

- In May, CCNA sponsored the annual neighborhood garage sale where free advertising was available for any household that signed up.
- Two historic walks of the neighborhood were well attended in the spring and summer, with many people from the greater community participating.
- In July many neighbors enjoyed an evening of free swimming at the Irvingdale Pool.
- In September, two Sunday afternoon concerts were held in our renovated Pocras Park to give neighbors an opportunity to enjoy music by local musicians.
- In the last few years, the Pocras Park has been re-landscaped with new trees and sod. There is now a sprinkler system, a gazebo with electricity, new playground equipment and regular garbage pickup—all paid for with Association funds
- On December 9, CCNA will be hosting a Holiday Party at the Country Club.

**GREEN SPACE:** Each year CCNA spends \$3,500.00 for pre-emergent, fertilizer, and additional mowing of the 43 boulevards in our neighborhood. As trees have died in our neighborhood parkways, CCNA has purchased new trees. This fall six trees are scheduled for replacement. As the City Park's budget continues to shrink, it would not be possible to have Pocras Park, our boulevards or curb areas looking so nice without our contribution.

**FUTURE PLANS:** The aging water pipes in the medians are leaking and breaking. CCNA continues to look at options for repairing the system rather allowing it to be abated and abandoned by the city. This will be an expensive project, but the Board thinks it is important to keep water available for the boulevards. And the repaving of Sheridan Boulevard and the implications for the boulevards and neighboring yards and driveways is the focus of much discussion.

**COMMUNICATION COSTS:** We spend approximately \$3500 each year mailing information to our members and supporting our website. We try to use email whenever possible and this newsletter is a bargain with ads covering the cost of distribution. AND WE WOULD WELCOME A VOLUNTEER TO HELP SEND OUT EMAILS!!

**YOUR INPUT WELCOME:** Our goals are to protect, preserve and promote our neighborhood. If you have ideas for a social event or a project you would like CCNA to undertake, please attend our meetings or talk to one of our board members.

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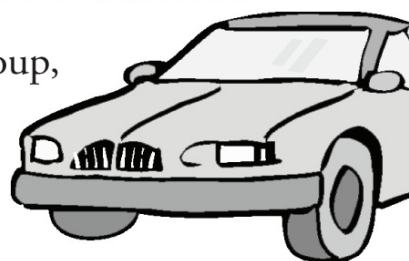
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## Preparing your home for the Fall and Winter



This summer my wife, Jenn, and I decided to invest in beautifying our backyard with a living-area deck, fire pit, water feature, flowers, etc. and it really paid off. Lincoln had one of its mildest summers ever so we enjoyed nearly every night outdoors with family and friends.

As cooler weather comes, it's time to think about preparing to move inside.

When it comes to getting our house ready for winter we often think of the aesthetics first,

but in reality it's the unseen projects where we experience the biggest pay off. Our time and money is better spent on things like window sealing, insulation, gutter cleaning, furnace tune-ups, and duct cleaning; these make our homes more economical, comfortable, and healthier.

Every season germs, dust and allergens enter our homes. When a house is closed up, these germs and contaminants have nowhere to go. They are continually re-circulating through your house by way of the air duct system every day. The house continually gets dusty and the family members get sick, often times repeatedly, until spring arrives.

You can do several things to curb this issue this winter. I've written before about the importance of duct cleaning. If you haven't had your air ducts cleaned, now is the time. The air distribution system in your home is the heart of your family's air and the starting point for improving and maintaining good

air quality. If you want to reduce dust, germs and allergens in the air in your home, clean the ducts that circulate that air. Even if you have a new home, most likely your ductwork has been filled with drywall dust and debris since the time the house was under construction. Your ductwork has accumulated dirt every day since your home was built. If it's

**"In an average home the airborne contaminant levels are 70 times worse than that of the outdoor air!"**

been more than a couple years since your air ducts were cleaned, it's time to have them checked again. Take the necessary steps to get them cleaned out before you are dealing with easily preventable sickness and mess this winter.

If you don't replace them, consider cleaning your carpets. Carpets hold dust, dust mites and other undesirable particulates that are released into the air every time someone walks on them. This settles on your furniture and in your drapes, and is what your family breathes in daily. I strongly recommend having a professional use their larger, more powerful equipment to pull out the deeper dirt and dust from the fibers of the carpet before winter. They may not be new, but they will look better and give you cleaner air.

Upgrading the filtration on your furnace is an effective way to protect your investment and keep your home and its air clean for your family. Filters can all but eliminate these contaminants in your home and are available through Air Quality Specialists, Air Duct Cleaners and Heating and Cooling Companies.



*Aaron Marshbanks is the Owner and President of DuctMedic® Air Duct Cleaning Co. and a certified Air Systems Cleaning Specialist (ASCS) and Ventilation Systems Mold Remediator (VSMR) through the National Air Duct Cleaners Association. He is a member of the National Air Duct Cleaners Association Board of Directors. Aaron can be reached at 435-3828.*

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## Shop till ya drop! Ladies Night at Bishop Heights Tre Value Nov 22

Women will be treated to a special night to do some of their holiday gift shopping during Bishop Height's True Value's Ladies Night on Sunday, November 22 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm.

We want our female customers to be very comfortable shopping our store for their gifts this holiday season," says Krista Rickman. As a result, the store will feature special deals on merchandise, as well as desserts, deluxe bow making, gift ideas and tool demonstrations.

Even though Bishop Heights True Value specializes in hardware, plumbing, lawn & garden, and electrical, we also have a super selection of other products that make great gifts for the holiday season," says Rickman, Store Owner.

Of course, completing projects around the house is something that is always on a homeowner's mind, even during the holidays so tools for the handy person can also be great gifts. And our expert staff will be on hand to help guide shoppers toward their best buys. Bishop Heights True Value is located at S. 27th and Hwy. 2, in the old Russ's building.



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# School NEWS

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## Lincoln Board of Education open to public feedback and comments

The Lincoln Board of Education is the elected governing body of Lincoln Public Schools. Board members are elected to four year terms and serve without pay.

The Board generally meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at LPS District Offices, 5901 O St. Board meetings are televised live on cable channel 21 and are rebroadcast the following Friday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m.

Those interested in commenting at Board meetings may speak at the beginning or end of the session for five minutes.

The Lincoln Board of Education is committed to providing the highest quality education for all students in Lincoln Public Schools. The Board sees the primary mission of the schools to be the development of responsible adults:

- Who are productive citizens of a pluralistic community, nation and world;
- Who are prepared to learn throughout their lives; and
- Who are appreciative of the arts, history and culture.

As the elected governing body of the School District, the Board believes in sharing its decision making processes with parents, students, other citizens and staff members. Written comments to the Board may be addressed to: Lincoln Board of Education, Lincoln Public Schools, P.O. Box 82889, Lincoln, NE 68501

## Tips on how parents can help with schoolwork

- Show an interest in your child's homework. Inquire about the subjects and the work to be done. Ask questions that require answers longer than one or two words.
- Help your child organize homework materials before beginning.
- Establish a regular time with your child to do homework- developing a schedule helps avoid procrastination.
- Find a specific place for your child to do homework that has lots of light, quiet, and plenty of work space.

## Members of the Board:

**District Seven: Don Mayhew,**  
*President*

*Home Phone:* 421-1491  
*email:* [dmayhew@lps.org](mailto:dmayhew@lps.org)

**District Six: Lillie Larsen,**  
*Vice President*

*Home Phone:* 488-7038  
*email:* [llarsen@lps.org](mailto:llarsen@lps.org)

**District One: Kathy Danek**

*Home Phone:* 464-8549  
*email:* [kdanek@lps.org](mailto:kdanek@lps.org)

**District Two: Richard Meginnis**

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**District Five: Kevin Keller**

*Home Phone:* 327-8432  
*email:* [kkeller2@lps.org](mailto:kkeller2@lps.org)



[mcnebraska.com](http://mcnebraska.com)

## How to have Happy Holidays without Losing Your Marbles

The holiday season tends to revolve around four Fs: fantasies, family, finances and food. Reduce your holiday stress by creating realistic expectations in these areas and enjoy a more memorable holiday season — for all the right reasons!

- 1. Fantasy:** We crave a vacation from our mundane and monotonous routine, which is what a holiday break is all about, but not every holiday celebration has to be a Martha Stewart-style production. Don't get so engrossed in creating a perfect holiday that you lose touch with reality. Try simplifying your celebrations, and you might just enjoy the holidays more. Focus on the traditions that mean the most to you and your family, and leave the rest to Martha.
- 2. Family:** If your kin act more like Chevy Chase's Clark Griswold than

Jimmy Stewart's Mr. Bailey, know that sometimes the best option of managing familial stress is to accept them as they are. In the process, you may discover a blend of understanding and acceptance when it comes to the more challenging relationships.

- 3. Finances:** A festive season doesn't have to mean dwindling finances. Overspending on gifts, travel, food and entertainment can cause stress as we try to please everyone beyond our paychecks. Instead, take a practical approach rather than fighting with a financial crisis later. Presents are fun, but your presence is the best gift of all.
- 4. Food:** Holiday delights tend to be energy zappers that leave us feeling lethargic. Reprogram your thinking about holiday eating. Instead of devouring half the apple pie, enjoy the delectable taste of a juicy

apple with a sprinkle of cinnamon. This is the most important time of year to balance your food intake with some physical output. Not only will it give you peace of mind, it may help you think twice about taking that second slice!

*Sharon Duffy, R.N., M.S., C.R.R.N., has been a nurse for more than 40 years practicing in a wide variety of clinical and community positions. She began studying in the wellness field in the early 1980s and received her master's degree in Wellness and the Family from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She now serves as the Wellness and Holistic Nurse at Madonna ProActive. Contact Sharon at 486-7787 or [sduffy@madonna.org](mailto:sduffy@madonna.org). Madonna ProActive is located near 55th and Pine Lake Road.*

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## Meet our Newest City Council Person: Adam Hornung

I want to thank the Lincoln Country Club Neighborhood Association for asking me to further introduce myself to the neighborhood. As some of you may know, I am from the neighborhood and now serve on the Lincoln City Council. Since my election in May, I have really enjoyed my time on the City Council, but have taken greater satisfaction from getting to meet and interact with folks from our neighborhood and from across the city.

Initially, I want to say that I am proud to be the only member of the City Council who currently lives in our neighborhood, as my wife, Nicole, and I have lived on South 31st Street for about three years. We have even been put through our neighborhood's "basic training program" by hosting the 4th of July Parade and Picnic at 31st Street and Summit Ave. Though I was elected city-wide, I do feel I have a strong duty to represent our neighborhood and would love to hear your comments and concerns.

As background, I graduated from Arnold High School in Arnold, Nebraska (think Sandhills) and then earned my undergraduate degree from Doane College. Following college, I received my law degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and served as Editor-in-Chief of the Nebraska Law Review. After working in Los Angeles and London at



*Adam, Ada, and Nicole Hornung*

an international law firm for about four years, my wife and I moved back to Lincoln to live, work, and raise a family. I am continuing my transactional law practice at Scudder Law Firm by representing local, national, and international companies, governments, universities, and non-profits.

Nicole works as a Mental Health Therapist at the Child Guidance Center in Lincoln and we are the proud parents of a very cute, 16-month old daughter, Ada. Some of you may have seen or met my wife in the mornings walking (or being pulled by) our dog Ruth, a larger than life St. Bernard (sorry for the bad pun).

*(Adam Hornung continued on pg. 13)*

## Your Lawn Sprinklers.

By Judson Byleen, owner Judson Irrigation



What a year for unusual weather patterns here in Lincoln, Nebraska. April and May turned out to be much drier than normal and we are still considerably below average rainfall for the year. In the month of June we experienced

timely rains which kept lawns and plants looking great. This reminded us that total rainfall amounts are not nearly as important as the timeliness of the rains we receive.

I'm sure we were all bracing ourselves for the dog days of summer to arrive in July and August but once again we were thrown a curve ball. Not only was July one of the coolest July's in history, but August proved to be much cooler than normal as well. Only one day over 100 degrees all summer with just a handful of days in the 90's!

It still amazes me to see many lawn sprinkler systems operating shortly after a good timely rain. All new systems installed today are required to be equipped with a rain sensor to automatically turn the system off after a rain. Many older systems have no sensors and we have installed many of these devices this year to make life simpler for the homeowner while saving them money. Virtually all systems can be updated to include this water

saving feature.

As we approach fall it is a great time to add to the landscape and take care of any lawn areas that need special attention. Along with this it would be wise to check and make certain that these areas are being watered sufficiently. We are able to renovate existing systems by adding drip zones to plant beds and redesigning coverage to provide balanced precipitation throughout the lawn.

As the season winds down the most important item of maintenance is left to be done on your lawn sprinkler system. That item is the winterization of your system which should be done prior to the first hard frost of the season. Although one never knows when the exact date will be, it is safe to say that sometime between the middle of October and the middle of November the winterization should take place.

Systems are either self draining or need to be blown out with air to complete the winterization. In addition, there are always special steps to be followed to make sure the system's backflow preventer is ready for freezing weather. We winterize hundreds of sprinkler systems each year and advise many homeowners as to the proper procedures to follow. If you have recently moved into a home that has an existing sprinkler system, just give us a call and we would be happy to help.



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(Adam Hornung continued from pg. 12)

On the political side, I ran for City Council because I was concerned about Lincoln's economic future and believe that now, more than ever, we need energetic leaders that are committed to encouraging Lincoln's economic viability. I believe that a city with a sincere focus on helping entrepreneurs and small businesses, while encouraging job growth, has a real chance of creating a sustainable local economy.

Finally, I also hope that we can continue to maintain our strong neighborhoods and sense of community. I chose to move back to Lincoln because it is a great place to raise a family. Moreover, I chose to live in our neighborhood because of the strong sense of community. To that end, I believe we have a real competitive advantage over other cities and we need to continue to provide safe neighborhoods, excellent parks, libraries, and schools, and quality public works.

My wife always tells me not to make promises I cannot keep, but I promise to work hard to strengthen our city's economic viability while devoting equal effort to preserving our strong sense of community and our beautiful neighborhood. I can be reached at my City Council email address: [ahornung@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:ahornung@lincoln.ne.gov).

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## We're thankful for our friend and inspiration

### IRVENE LINCH – 61 YEARS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND GOING STRONG

*Submitted by friend and neighbor Jan Thelen*



Mix 90 years of Texas spunk, 64 years of Husker fever, and 61 years of Country Club neighborhood life, and you've got a pretty good description of one of Lincoln's finest treasures.

Meet Frances Irvine Roberts Linch of South 26th Street, who came to Lincoln in 1945 with her Army Captain husband, Howard Linch, via Army bases in Minnesota and Arkansas.

Irvine met Lincolnite Howard on a blind date in Mineral Wells, Texas, in 1940, where he was stationed at the Army base. At 21, Irvine was a recent graduate of the University of Texas (Austin) with a Bachelors degree in International Trade. They were married Easter Sunday 1942 before Howard was deployed to Italy.

With 2-year-old daughter Marilyn in tow and another baby on the way, Irvine and Howard moved to 2626 Woodsdale in 1948. And they came to stay! 61 years later, Irvine still lives just around the corner and up the street on South 26th. This year she celebrates 50 years of family life in the tidy, 2-story red brick that Howard bought in 1959 "site unseen" for \$18,000. With three young daughters -- Marilyn, Patsy and Jean --they outgrew their house at 2626 Woodsdale. Irvine says that Howard saw the red brick for sale around the corner, walked up & purchased it without even going inside!

Over the next several years, the house was completely redone. A shuffleboard floor and ping pong table were the highlights of the basement family room makeover, much to the delight of the girls and their neighborhood friends.

During all those growing up years, many family friendships were forged. The 1950's, 60's and 70's found many Husker coaches living on South 26th Street, which was known at the time as "coaches row." Asta and Jerry Bush (Husker BB coach) and family lived right across the street; Bill Jennings and family (Husker football coach prior to Bob Devaney); Carl Selmer and Family (Husker football assistant coach with Bob Devaney); Barb and Dick Beechner (Lincoln High head football coach); Martha and Herm Rohrig (former NU quarterback and head football official for the Big 8) and Jean and Bus Whitehead (Kansas basketball recruit and NU player for Jerry Bush) lived right next door.

In fact, one of the most memorable events on South 26th occurred on Thanksgiving Day, 1965, during the Nebraska football game. Bus and Jean Whitehead were at the game, of course, while daughter Lesley and friend Jean Linch, age 10, were playing at Linch's house. A neighbor came knocking at the door to say that it looked like a fire at the Whiteheads'. Sure enough, it was a fire and the Whiteheads' were alerted at the Husker game with an announcement over the PA saying "Bus Whitehead -- please go home; your house is on fire!"

Irvine recalls the Charles Starkweather murder spree of 1957, which

included murders of members of the Ward family on South 24th Street -- just 3 blocks away. The day of the murders, Irvine had planned to return some serving trays to Mrs. Ward, but was detained by unexpected delays. Howard picked up the girls from school upon hearing of the murders and all Lincoln schools closed.

Throughout her 90 years, Irvine has given generously of her time and talent, organizing July 4th neighborhood block parties, and volunteering at Sheridan School and Westminster Presbyterian Church, where she is a 60+ year member. She organized a sewing circle that met every Monday for 18 years at her house. Known as the "Sequin Sewers," this group of women handmade dozens of tablecloths, runners and other sequined items for the annual church bazaar. She vividly remembers going to Omaha and buying sacks full of sequins at Mangelson's.

All of us on 26th Street have been the beneficiaries of Irvine's handiwork, including cut-felt and sequined birthday cards, Christmas stockings and the creme-de-la-creme: red felt and yarn Santa door hangings, cleverly made from empty Clorox bottles. Irvine's TLC extends to her famous boiled custard recipe, which has comforted and nourished many an ailing friend and neighbor.

Irvine is a fanatic Husker fan-- football, basketball and baseball --and follows the pro Kansas City teams. To follow their teams, the Linches have had two large color TVs in their living room forever, so that Irvine and Howard could watch two sporting events simultaneously, a routine that she practices religiously. In earlier years she bowled on two leagues at once, and was a member of 5 bridge clubs simultaneously.

Though she no longer drives, she regularly made road trips to Texas to visit daughters Marilyn and Patsy and reunite with high school classmates from 1936 known at "the chicks of 36." She and Howard also made annual drives to San Diego, where they enjoyed being sun birds January to April. Howard died several years ago.

Nowadays, Irvine decorates her door with a large "N" and illuminates her front yard with Husker football helmet sidewalk lights. An American flag flutters proudly at her front door in honor of Howard and all American servicemen and women. Her daughters say that Irvine will NOT leave her neighborhood and believe that "Mother is alive today because she has lived in this neighborhood and in this house all these years." Daughter Jean and her husband Eldon Schoonveld check on her daily and they often go out to eat.

Now we pay tribute to Irvine and say "thank you" for being the most beloved, irresistible, irrepressible matriarch of 26th Street and the Country Club neighborhood! And she lives right next door.

## Easy Monster Cookies

- 1 pouch (1 lb 1.5 oz) Betty Crocker® chocolate chip cookie mix
- 1 pouch (1 lb 1.5 oz) Betty Crocker® peanut butter cookie mix
- 1 1/2 cups quick-cooking oats
- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups candy-coated milk chocolate candies

### Directions

1. Heat oven to 375°F. In large bowl, stir all ingredients except candies until soft dough forms. Stir in candies.
2. On ungreased cookie sheets, place about 1/4 cupfuls dough about 3 inches apart.
3. Bake 12 to 13 minutes or until light golden brown. Cool 2 minutes; remove from cookie sheets. Cool completely. Store in covered container at room temperature.

**Prep Time:** 1 hour **Total Time:** 1 hour **Makes:** 18 cookies

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## Thanksgiving Dinner with Mary

*By Mary Turner*



*Walter, Viktor, Abram, Leo Turner enjoy some ice cream after Pumpkin pie.*

*Mary and Joe Turner live on Georgian Court with their four boys. Mary and Joe are both engineers. Mary is a fantastic cook, and all her boys are in the kitchen learning to cook. We asked her to share a couple of her favorite recipes.*

Thanksgiving dinner? It really is a no-brainer. I'm a pretty decent cook but this holiday isn't one for wild experimentation. Once I served beef tenderloin to my four boys as a substitute to turkey on Thanksgiving Day. They cried.

Fine. Why fight it? The menu is pretty well set – you don't have to ponder what sides or dessert to serve. Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, corn, bread, cranberries, and pumpkin pie: all of the fixings for a real Thanksgiving dinner. Ok, it is a lot of stuff, but Abram makes the green bean casserole – he's 11 but has been making it for as long as he can remember. Follow the recipe on the can of beans, or the can of cream of mushroom soup, or the can of French fried onions... Gourmet it is not, but we all love it. Avoid fresh green beans – you'll get a watery, crunchy mess.

If I make or buy the crust, Viktor (12 years old) can handle the pumpkin pie. We like a little zip to our pumpkin pie and always use Great Grandma Connor's recipe. You're going to want to clip this one. I add the spice combination to my pumpkin bread and pumpkin bars with cream cheese frosting recipes, too. If you don't have them on hand, it may seem like you're breaking the bank when you're at the store getting all the spices. Think of it as an investment – you'll be wow'ing them with your pie for years to come.

That leaves two boys needing jobs. They all want to take part. Leo (4 and a half –his emphasis) is quite good at setting the table if you set one place for him to copy. Walter (8) likes to make a seating arrangement with special place markers for everyone.

If you're having guests and someone asks what they can bring, assign them the stuffing--it's the most work and the boys think it's gross to stuff the turkey. So we make stuffing casserole. The

*(Thanksgiving Dinner continued on pg 17)*



## and Joe Turner and 4 boys

(Thanksgiving Dinner continued from pg 16)

recipe I use calls for a  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of butter to make 5 cups of stuffing. How can you go wrong with that much butter? I often double the recipe except for the butter and it is still delicious. The biggest challenge to the meal is figuring out how to get everything done around the same time when you have a 20 pound bird taking up all the oven space. Luckily, my mother solved that problem several years ago by passing down her old roaster to me. Stick the bird in an oven bag inside the roaster and cleanup isn't too bad. If it still all seems to be too much for you, invite my guys over and I'll have that beef tenderloin after all!

### Great Grandma Connor's Pumpkin Pie

- 1 cup sugar
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. each: cloves, allspice, nutmeg, ginger, and salt
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups pumpkin (the whole can)
- 1- $\frac{2}{3}$  cups evaporated milk (12 oz. can)

Blend sugar, salt, and spices in a bowl. Add eggs, pumpkin, and milk. Mix well and pour into an unbaked pie shell. Bake at 425 °F for 15 minutes and then 350 °F for 40 minutes. Allow to cool. Serve with whipped cream.

### Bread Stuffing

- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped celery (with leaves)
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup finely chopped onion
- 2 cups sliced mushrooms
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup butter
- 9 cups soft bread cubes
- 1 tsp. salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. ground sage
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. dried thyme leaves
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. pepper

Cook and stir celery, onion, and mushrooms in butter in Dutch oven until celery is tender. Remove from heat. Stir in remaining ingredients. Yield: 5 cups. Place in ungreased 2 quart casserole. Cover and bake in 375 °F oven until hot and bubbly – about 30 min.

For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food, for love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Burden/Stephens Garden Wedding October 2009

A neighborhood is a place for beginnings. On October 4, 2009 Sarah (Sadie) Stephens and John Burden were married in the back yard of their home at 26th and Woodsdale, attended by their families and about 30 friends. The photos tell the story: The bride and groom greeted guests in the front garden. Then as guests were seated in the backyard, she slipped into the house and changed into a white street length gown. She was escorted down the aisle to the wedding trellis. The service was followed by an elegant dinner with champagne, candlelight, and a beautiful dinner with wedding cake.



### Nature XXVII, Autumn

The morns are meeker than they were,  
The nuts are getting brown;  
The berry's cheek is plumper,  
The rose is out of town.

The maple wears a gayer scarf,  
The field a scarlet gown.  
Lest I should be old-fashioned,  
I'll put a trinket on.

~Emily Dickinson

## Book Review

### Sailing the World... From Lincoln, Nebraska

By Linda Davis



Rod and Lesley Scher are transplanted Californians, moving here in 1992 from San Diego following the purchase of Rod's software company by Cliffs Notes. They bought their home in the CC area in 2000 and love it. Rod said, "...we knew more neighbors here after a few days than we'd met elsewhere after a few years."

The Annotated Sailing Alone Around the World, Captain Joshua Slocum, Annotated by Rod Scher. It is a book that will interest sailors and adventurers, historians and anyone interested in a good story. The Annotated Sailing is an amazing account of one man's unbelievable journey of sailing around the world, alone, a hundred years ago. Rod was kind enough to offer some insights to the book.

*Give me a short review of Slocum's journey and what might be in the book.* Slocum spent 3 years sailing around the world in a 37' wooden boat called Spray. It was an incredible journey, and

his commentary (quite well-written in its own right) reveals a lot (good and bad) about the world at that time and about how he fit into that world.

*Why annotate his book?* When I was in college, I read two books annotated by Leonard Wolf: *The Annotated Dracula* and *The Annotated Frankenstein*. They were both great, and Wolf's annotations added a great deal to my enjoyment of the books. As a sailing buff, I've read Slocum many times, but once when I was in B&N having coffee and leafing through the B&N Classics edition of *Sailing Alone Around the World*, I started wondering if the book was really being read as much as it might. The book -- 100 years old, after all, and steeped in nautical and then-contemporary language, replete with historical references -- was no longer very accessible to most people. You had to be both a sailing devotee and also knowledgeable about 19th-century language and history to enjoy the book. Which is a shame, because Slocum's story is incredible! He was an amazing man who performed a feat of almost unimaginable skill and perseverance. The book truly deserves a wider audience.

*Do you and Lesley have any aspirations of sailing around the world?* Absolutely not! I'm nowhere near the sailor Slocum was and nowhere near as tough as he was. I can't even get Lesley on the back of my motorcycle.

The Annotated Sailing... can be purchased at the SouthPointe Barnes & Noble as well as Amazon.com. A book signing is scheduled on Friday, November 27th, 12pm – 2pm at the same location. Go on out, buy a great read, and meet these interesting and talented neighbors (Lesley writes as well with several online blogs covering cooking, gardening, and book discussions).



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