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Chronicle

Country Club Neighborhood Association

Lincoln, Nebraska • May 2011



Learning Outside

on page 3

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Feature Story

Country Club Chronicle

Learning outside

by Deena Winters

If you walked out the northwest door of Sheridan Elementary School one year ago, you'd have seen an undeveloped field on which legions of students had beaten a path to and from school over the years.

It wasn't much to look at.

But now that space is filled with boulders, landscaping, bird feeders, gardens, reading nooks, a compost bin and 14 learning areas where kids can explore and learn while connecting with nature.

Two Sheridan parents -- Erika Rippeteau and Melody Albert -- came up with the idea of creating the outdoor classroom while planting tulips in front of the school a couple of years ago.

Rippeteau's children had experienced a Nature Explore outdoor classroom during preschool at First-Plymouth Church, and she wanted to bring the idea to Sheridan.

"It was just so great to have my kids be in nature for an extended part of the day," Rippeteau said.

On April 28, Sheridan Elementary School's outdoor classroom was on display during the school's 28th annual art fair.

They began working on transforming the space when school got out in 2010, applying for various grants, including a \$2,000 grant from the Lower Platte Natural Resources District.

"Luckily, we have moms who are grant writers," Albert said.

They took out a sidewalk and began setting up the learning areas -- there's an art area with tile art tables for students to work on, a gathering area for teachers to give lessons to students sitting on stones, a water area with a water table and water toys and a "messy materials" area with tree cookies, pine cones, straw bales and a big boulder.

Students helped paint planters, plant gardens,

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This Feature Story is sponsored by:



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Presidents Letter



I hope this issue finds you enjoying these nice spring days in the beautiful neighborhood in which we live. As you read through the newsletter I think you will see a number of accomplishments involving our neighborhood and neighbors. The most visible project is the burying of the power lines on 27th street. Another project the neighborhood is working on is the Sheridan Boulevard resurfacing project. The long-term benefit of this project will be new

curbing which will replace curbs that, in some areas are 100 years old. With new curbs in place, the association can work on some boulevard restoration efforts that have been on hold for quite a long time.

Both of these projects enhance the beauty of the neighborhood and are easily visible. Equally important are projects that are going on elsewhere around the neighborhood. Saint Matthew's is creating an outdoor classroom. It will create usable green space for the neighborhood. Funds to create this community space are currently being raised. Also, Sheridan Elementary School is in the process of building a Nature Explorer Classroom in the open space northwest of the school building. On the east side of the neighborhood, Rousseau Elementary School is just completing its renovation. Aside from installing many energy efficiencies and updating, the green space on the west side of the school has been reseeded.

This summer the association has partnered with Campbell's Nursery and Garden Centers to sponsor a beautiful yard competition. Gift cards worth \$75 will be awarded to six winners selected by a panel of judges. Later this fall the association will be sponsoring a tour of homes.

All of these projects are great for the neighborhood and they help create a sense of community. Fostering a sense of community is a key to protecting our neighborhood. It takes time, commitment and money to make many of these projects move forward. Volunteers both within the Association and with our schools and churches are critical to a vibrant and healthy neighborhood.

One example was Jan Pitsch. Jan was a CCNA board member and worked to maintain a boulevard. She raked and mowed that area. People driving along often saw Jan out maintaining the grass and plants. The association numbered all of the boulevards and Jan's "Boulevard" was number 35, which was what she put on her license plate (BLVD 35). Prior to her death, she worked through the Lincoln Foundation to endow a gift that will continue to maintain that green space. On April 14th friends and Parks and Recreation gathered to dedicate this area, just west of 33rd & Sheridan, as "Jan Pitsch Green". Next time, as you drive by BLVD 35, make it a point to stop for a moment, (parking is available on E. Summit Dr.) and you will see the marker in her name.

Country Club

Neighborhood Association

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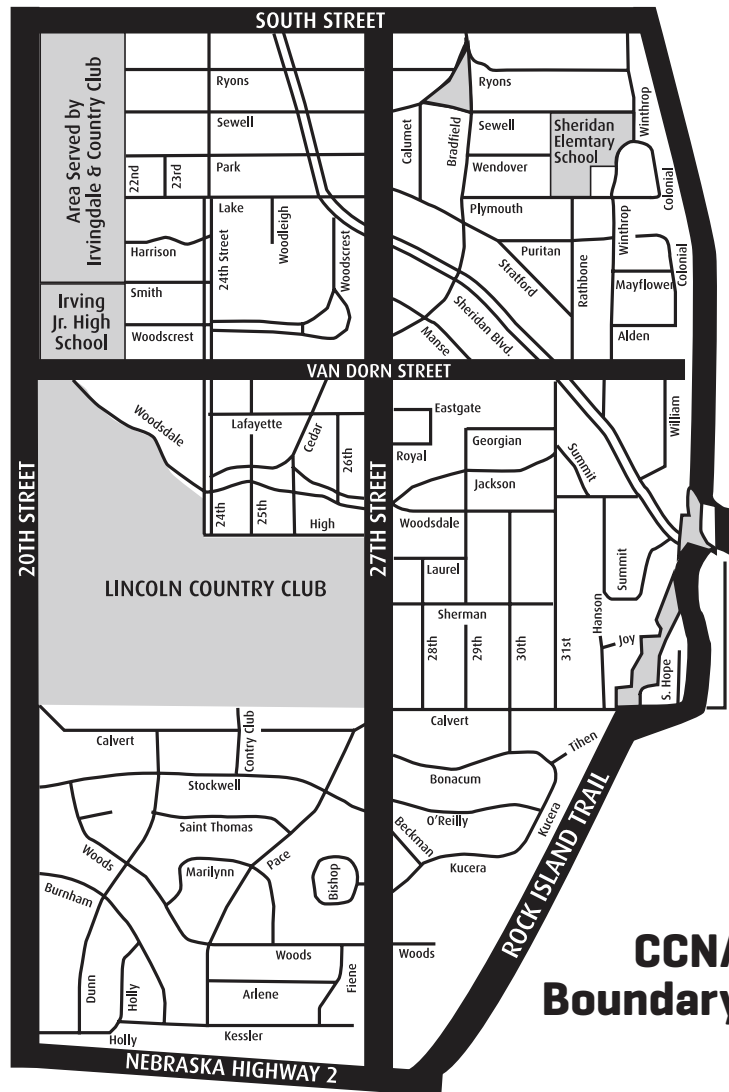
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Thank you for serving your neighborhood!

CCNA Chronicle Publishing Schedule

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		• See By-Laws	

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make signs and paint a rain barrel.

Art teacher Lara Shaw says she uses the outdoor classroom as often as she can.

"If it's nice, we're out," she says.

Her students planted a dye garden last fall and are now harvesting and making dye from the annuals and perennials. They've already dyed yarn with hibiscus and marigold flowers. She said the planting, growing and harvesting process is energizing for some students, calming for others.

"It's great to have a lot of manipulatives," she said.

Her students also did an architectural unit on green design, and used natural materials to build things – and she was amazed by what the students created.

Albert said an after-school class made pine-cone feeders out of sunflower seeds grown in the garden.

"Research shows it encourages collaboration," Rippeteau said of outdoor classrooms. "Our hope is that it just becomes a part of Sheridan's culture."

Master gardeners helped them plant native plants in hillside garden, a family donated money for a "music and movement" stage, they built a rain garden with the help of a city grant, and students decorated a "candy bin" that will be used to grow sweet potatoes.

Students planted sunflowers and pumpkins last fall and intend to plant beans, radishes and herbs in another garden. They may plant winter wheat to teach students how to build soil.

And retired teacher Becky Ritterbush is painting a giant mural which will go on the north wall of the school, facing the outdoor classroom.

They are now in the second year of their five-year plan, which calls for a sand area and climbing and crawling area built around a tree, stepping stones throughout and native plants that attract birds and insects and separate the learning areas.

And the whole thing is open to the public on weekends and in the summer.

"We want this to be a space that the community feels welcome to explore and use," Rippeteau said.



Eric Bomberg, 1st Grade

On Cover (R to L): Kendal McClure, Maddi Wright, Schyler Reise, Benny Kerns & Jaden Leibhart

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St. Matthew's Creating Outdoor Classroom

By Heather Hesse

Exciting things are happening at St. Matthew's Church! A certified Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom is being installed for church and neighborhood use. The concept plan for this outdoor classroom was designed especially for St. Matthew's by a certified Nature Explore Team.

Nature Explore is a collaboration of Dimensions Educational Research Foundation and The Arbor Day Foundation. The space is being developed for children and families of St. Matthew's as well as the entire neighborhood. Its purpose is to help us to reconnect with nature and teach good stewardship of the environment. It follows 10 guiding principles for learning through nature. There will also be areas for corporate worship, individual prayer, reflection, and of course, play and other outside activities.

**Donations can be sent to
St. Matthew's Church,
2325 S. 24th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502**

The first phase of the "SpiritScope" will be completed by Easter with the installation of a wrought iron fence enclosing the outdoor classroom area. This summer the entry area, stage, and other play areas will be further developed. The completion goal is next summer.

Although this area will be used by the church, it will be open to the public –especially the Country Club neighborhood. We welcome its use by anyone who can enjoy children connecting with nature, or adults who seek to personally reconnect with creation.

St. Matthew's will also be starting a Neighborhood Families Club. Activities would be family-based, and incorporate different areas of the outdoor classroom. The stage will be accessible through double gates, opening up to our green space. We would like to host outdoor concerts, picnics, and speakers when opportunities become available.

Please take a look at the plan and think of how you might consider helping. This is a wonderful opportunity not only for St. Matthew's Church, but also the Country Club Neighborhood.

"The Annoying Habits of the People Next Door..."

This was the headline of a story published in the local newspaper. They wanted to know what irritated readers about their neighbors. Quite a response was given and printed – all the way from unkempt yards, barking dogs, peeling paint and trashy trash cans.

Now, we are relatively safe in saying that we have very, very few annoying neighbors. And, just to make sure that you couldn't be one of them listed in the article, are you guilty of any of the following?

- Unkempt yard – No one is asking that you trim the edges with your scissors, but do you have a nice, well-groomed lawn? Are your trees and bushes trimmed or is everything out-of-control?

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- Well maintained exterior – Fresh paint, roof in good shape, everything is in working order.
- De-junked – Your back yard may be someone else's front yard. Walk around your house AND your garage. If you are storing "stuff" around the place, just remember that your neighbor has to look at it and may not like what they see. If you wouldn't want to look at your "stuff", remember that your neighbor really doesn't want to look at it either.
- Pets – Dogs who bark all the time and leave deposits in their neighbor's yard. There is a leash law and a pooper scooper law. Cats that have late night fights, use the neighbor children's sandbox as their litter box and leave quite a perfume at times. You can call Animal Control and file a complaint.
- Trash cans – Gorgeous home but ugly trash cans in front of the house or at least visible from the street (or your neighbor's patio). No one wants to look at trash cans! The different refuse companies do make smaller totes that are easier to fit into your garage. If they just won't fit, build a small fenced area where they can be hidden. And, take the trash down the night before and put away the next day.
- Recycling bins – another tote that goes to the curb. We compliment everyone who recycles, but sometimes doing something good leads to something bad – litter! Those winds blow plastic milk jugs, newspapers, etc. all over the neighborhood. Have you noticed that most of the neighborhood litter is right when trash/recycle bins are picked up? Please secure your trash and your bins.

Now, if you are not guilty of any of the above, congratulate yourself. We hope the newspaper does an article about the "pleasing habits of the people next door."

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. Recently we have had unlocked cars broken into and thefts from open garages. 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 and 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 Wooddale 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 does not say "we're gone".

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Community Relations Committee Report

by Peter Frazier-Koontz

The Community Relations Committee met Tuesday, March 1, at St. Matthew's church. Attending were Peter Frazier-Koontz, chairman, and committee members Alice Epstein, Jane Williams and Sue Van Horn. Matt Harvey, from the immediate neighborhood, was also in attendance.

Two separate projects were presented to the committee. The first was for a nature based play area to be built in the green space at St. Matthew's. This project, as presented by Heather Hesse, Christian Education administrator at St. Matthew's, is just underway. It is planned as a Nature Explorer classroom in collaboration with Dimensions Learning and the Arbor Day Foundation. They are seeking funding (optimally a match for a \$15,000 grant from the Episcopal Church Foundation), a letter of support for this grant application, and coverage in the Chronicle. They would also welcome a member of our neighborhood board as a member of their Spirit Scape board.

The second project was presented by Melody Albert, a parent volunteer at Sheridan Elementary School. This project is also the building of a Nature Explorer Classroom in the open space northwest of the school building. This is a larger area (17,000 sq. ft.) and is a project that is in year two of a five year plan. They have financed work by applying for and receiving various grants, from direct gifts and from a special PTO fund. Any gifts that our neighborhood association could give would be greatly appreciated; needs targeted for this Spring range from perennial plants at \$5 each to delivery and placement of large boulders at \$2000.

Since both of these projects add to the quality of life in our neighborhood and are accessible to the general public, the committee recommended a gift to each. In addition, articles about both projects will appear in the Chronicle.

The Color Of \$\$\$\$

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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Valentine Party- A good time was had by all

Valentine's Day was celebrated with a romantic and delicious dinner at Windsor Stables. Twinkly lights, garlands of red netting, white table cloths centered with bouquets of hearts and candles set the mood for an elegant and festive evening with neighbors.

One of the evening highlights was the celebration of the 60th wedding anniversary of Bobbi and Hal Allen. Hal told the story of how Bobbi was dating another boy when he asked her out. She said "NO", but finally relented and the rest is history.

Dan Marvin, CCNA President, gave a short welcoming greeting and Alice Epstein led the group in a fun table competition of Valentine History that proved interesting and challenging to all.

The evening ended with warm farewells to old and new friends.



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And Let There Be Light ... on 27th Street

The trucks and the barricades and the mud and the dirt all started coming last fall, but it was worth it! Just take and look up and down South 27th Street and see what you no longer see – lots of overhead lines and ugly wooden poles; and see what you do see – beautiful new streetlights and decorative brackets with Grandville globes.

As the previous newsletter mentioned, it has taken years of hard work to finally get these lines – LES, Windstream and Time Warner – underground. This not only makes for a more attractive roadway, but it also lessens the chances of power outages and other complications for these utilities.

A Great Big Thank You To ...

This was a very large project that involved all of the utilities – Lincoln Electric System, Time Warner, Windstream and Black Hills Energy and we appreciate all of their hard work – thank you!

The majority of CCNA’s communication, however, was with LES and LES was fantastic!!!! They were receptive, responsive and cared about the people and the properties in our neighborhood. This project was an excellent example of cooperation by and between all parties. CCNA gives huge kudos to all of the fine people working up and down 27th Street these last several months; more specifically some very special LES employees – Ryan Christo, Jonathan Jakub, Bill McArtor, Dave Nitz, Jim Rigg, Dave Spomer, Emil Turek and Steve Young.

CCNA gives huge kudos to all of those fine neighbors who took coffee and rolls out to those fine people working to bury our lines.

CCNA gives huge kudos to those neighbors living on 27th or affected by this project who put up with the mud and the dirt and the inconveniences. This project helps the neighborhood AND your property.

And last, but not least, a BIG THANK YOU! to the entire neighborhood who over the years paid their dues, supported fundraisers, volunteered and made extra donations. It was all of this that allowed CCNA to fund the purchase and installation of the brackets with Grandville globes that you see on some of the new 27th Street street lights.

But, we’re not done yet. CCNA would like to have the project continued on 27th Street from Calvert south to Highway 2.

Stay tuned.

Want to Contribute?

Your CCNA dues and the proceeds from various fund raisers have provided the funds for the South 27th Street/Van Dorn beautification project. We would like to continue adding more lights, but need your financial support. We would appreciate any tax-deductible contribution that you can make. Please clip the form below and mail today – thank you!

Street Light Contribution

Yes, I would like to make a tax deductible contribution to the CCNA Street Light Project.
Please make your check payable to CCNA Charitable Foundation and mail to:
CCNA, P.O. Box 21953, Lincoln, NE 68542

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

How’s Your Curb Appeal?

The Country Club Neighborhood Association (CCNA) is partnering with Campbell’s Nursery and Garden Centers to sponsor a beautiful yard competition in the Country Club Neighborhood. Gift cards worth \$75 will be awarded to six winners selected by a panel of judges.

The gift cards were generously donated by the CCNA and Campbell’s Nursery and Garden Centers. The nominations are based on “curb appeal” and enhancing the beauty of our neighborhood from the street view. Nominations are open to homes that are located within the CCNA boundaries.

You may nominate your neighbor, or you may even nominate yourself! To complete a nomination, simply send an e-mail to ccnayards@gmail.com with your name, the address of the home and a brief paragraph describing your reasons for wanting to name it one of six “CCNA Beautiful Yards.” The deadline for submitting nominations is midnight on June 15.

Winners will be announced by July Fourth.

Houses Needed: Fall Home Tour

The tentative date for the Fall Home Tour is Sunday, October 9. We do not have the 5-6 houses needed to make the tour a success. If you would like to have your home featured, or if you would like to suggest a home that may be of interest, please call Kay Maxwell at 402-475-3613 or email her at kmaxwell@pauldanielsinteriors.com.

Country Club Snapshot Page

Winter Fun



John Bryson



Judy Noteboom's Granddaughter



Jack, Charlie and Owen Mattern



Thomas Bryson

Congratulations to the Bryson Family on your winning photo!

Don't forget to submit your "Pets" photos for next month!

Neighborhood Snapshot Page

We are creating a new neighborhood snapshot page and we need your help!

In the August issue, look for photos of your friends and neighbors to be featured in this magazine. Each issue will have a theme and we're asking for you to send us your family photos that relate to the theme.

The theme for this issue is **"Pets."**

Take a picture of you, your friends or your neighbors enjoying their pets and send it to photos@fppub.com [make sure you include "Country Club" in the subject line]. It could be anything from playing fetch or catching a cat nap.

Each person who submits a photo will be entered into a drawing for a **\$25 gift card!**

The winner will be announced on the August snapshot page. The submission deadline for this issue's contest is **July 15th, 2011.**



Rousseau Elementary School... Looking Sharp!

by Principal Sue Braun

For the last 16 months, Rousseau Elementary School has been undergoing a major renovation and indoor air quality project and... we're finally done!! YAHOO!! We began this project in August 2009 and for all intents and purposes finished in early January 2011. Currently, we have over 70,000 sq. ft. of space. The original Rousseau School building completed in 1964 was 32,431 sq. ft., with additions added in 1970 and 1997.

The major improvements of this renovation project include:

- Renovated kindergarten classrooms that feature skylights and restrooms in each room
- Remodeled Media center and adjacent computer lab
- Integrated student services wing that consolidates programs and services for special education, academic support, and gifted.
- RESTROOMS - new restrooms in east, middle, south hallways, handicap accessible, staff and health office restrooms. The beautiful new restrooms are a favorite with students!
- Renovated main office featuring an open design, records room, and updated health office
- New production room & conference room
- Attractive new main entrance canopy that better defines the entrance to the building
- Secured entrance system that guides visitors through the main office to check in before gaining access to the building
- Security access control at exterior doors that can be locked electronically at a moments notice
- Cafeteria boasts skylights, a lowered ceiling, sound panels, new lighting, and paint
- Large mezzanine on the roof that houses the new mechanical equipment
- South wing has new lockers and 2 suites, east and west, with 4 classrooms each for fourth and fifth grades
- In the 1964 original building and 1970 addition, new energy efficient windows, ceiling and lighting, which are 15-20% more efficient
- New flooring throughout almost the entire building
- New mechanical system with an energy recovery unit that reclaims 35% of exhausted energy
- New energy efficient geothermal heating and cooling system. A well field with 144 geothermal wells, 270 feet deep, is located on the lower playground, with 15.5 miles of buried piping

The total cost of the project was \$4.9 million.

We are thankful to our neighbors for their patience and understanding throughout the duration of this project. We know the increased traffic congestion and construction mess didn't make things easy for you over the last 16 months. We LOVE our not-so-brand-new but greatly improved Rousseau School!



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Put On a New Face

If you decide to put on a new roof or your current roof is in good shape, it's also time to look at the "face" of your house. Nothing looks better than a fresh coat of paint! It makes a house look alive and stand out from the street. You'll also make your neighbors proud to have you on their block.

- A good paint job not only makes your home attractive, but also protects it from weather and the elements.
- White isn't the only color. There are so many choices today. Look in magazines, brochures at the paint store, the internet. There are many homes in the neighborhood that have successfully used color on their exteriors.
- Since the vast majority of our homes were built prior to 1977, there is a chance of lead paint on the exterior. This does not pose a potential problem if the paint is sealed and not peeling or flaking. Another good reason to keep the paint in good condition.

From The Web Master:

All submitted member business cards for 2011 have been posted to the BizLinc section of our website (ccnalinc.org) with a completion date of April 2nd. If you do not see your card on the site, do not hesitate to contact me at haudrich@pol.net. I posted 70 cards this year, which is up slightly from last year. I will continue to post cards as new members join or late membership renewals come in. Please visit the section when looking for services for your home or office. The 2011 cards will remain on the site until March/April of 2012.

Our website was visited 100 times in the one month period ending April 7, with 60 unique visitors. It looks like we are getting plenty of "hits" and some regular visitors as well. The website will keep you up to date on upcoming events, meeting dates, links to news articles pertinent to the neighborhood, and so on.

With each edition of the Chronicle, we add a few more members to our Facebook page. We are up to 42 members as of April 7th. To join our page, find the link on the main page of our website. I use the Facebook page to announce upcoming meetings of our organization as well as to send reminders about special events, such as February's Valentine Dinner.

It remains my pleasure to serve as the CCNA web guy.

– Stephen Haudrich

Book Lovers, Unite!

Terry Schaff has agreed to be the organizer and contact person for the CCNA Book Club. Anyone interested, please contact Terry at tschaaf@neb.rr.com or telephone him at 402-489-1100. With enough interest, an organization meeting will be scheduled to discuss details.

Scrape! Sand! Caulk! Prime! Paint!

- The Prep Work is 80% of the total success of the project. A bad prep job will cut the life of the paint in half.
- Putting new paint over old paint – nothing looks worse than the "alligator effect" of paint. Yes, you scrape off the old, but unless you can sand it down smoothly, you may need to remove the old paint with chemicals or a heat gun. Remember, there may be lead paint present. Follow painting procedures for this scenario – wear a mask and collect the paint chips that may fall to the ground.
- Primer and Paint – everyone has their favorite brand. Check with Consumers Guide, paint stores and your favorite painter.
- Can you do it yourself? We all think we can paint, but it's also a good idea to visit with a professional. They have the tools, the tall ladders and the know-how.
- As with roofers, get bids, check references.

Can't Decide What Colors to Pick?


Most of us think of hiring an Interior Designer or Decorator only for the interior of our homes. Guess what, you can hire a professional for the exterior also. For a reasonable consulting fee (much, much cheaper than if you made a drastic error in color choice), a designer will help you select the type of shingle or the colors for your house. Many people have done this and were very pleased. The designer can even help to select front door color, porch lights, address numbers ... it isn't just the inside that counts.

The Mud and the Dirt Will be Gone!

Now that weather permits, clean-up has begun! LES has contracted with Ace-of-Blades to put things back to normal – fine grading, sod, sprinkler systems, bushes, ... Once everything has been cleaned up and put back together, it will be up to the property owner to maintain and keep the neighborhood looking beautiful.

KZUM 2nd Annual Poker Run



June 11th at Hollywood Bowl • Proceeds Benefit KZUM



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Yard Sign Etiquette and the Law

Soon they will begin sprouting like dandelions – *illegal yard signs!*
Got BUGS – call this number. For sale - this. Garage sale - that.

The City of Lincoln has a sign ordinance that specifically spells out where signs are not allowed and the fines that go along with the illegal posting of a sign:

1. No sign may be placed in the public right-of-way (between sidewalk and curb or where a sidewalk might be). They have been lenient in putting up Open House signs that are up just before an open house and taken down immediately after.
2. No sign can be placed on any public property – street light or pole OR tree! Yes, people have nailed garage sale signs on trees!
3. No signs in any boulevards or parks.
4. If you put a sign in someone’s yard, you must ask for their permission. If the property owner declines, respect their wishes and do not put a sign in their yard. Please don’t puncture their sprinkler system or you will have to pay for the repair.
5. If you are having trouble with an illegal sign, call the police non-emergency number 441-6000.

Most of the violators in our neighborhood live outside the neighborhood. If you see an illegal sign, you may take it down.

P.S. Our new black street poles are painted. Taping signs, etc. to them will remove the paint. Don’t spend your garage sale proceeds having the poles repainted.

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Join us on May 13, 14, and 15 for our annual Spring Landscaping Days Sale at GE Landscape Supply!

All landscaping materials needed to kick start your spring projects are on sale. A partial list of sale items includes:

- MULCH
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- FLAGSTONE
- PAVERS

Saturday activities include “How To Build” seminars on BUILDING RAISED PLANTING BEDS and INSTALLING WATER FEATURES. Those in attendance can register to win 2-yards of potting soil plus delivery or a new Mini Aquabasin and Pump.

There will be free hot dogs, pop, and candy for the entire family!

Stop by our yard at 6701 Cornhusker Hwy to browse materials, or view materials online at gelandscapesupply.com, or visit with our landscaping experts about your project by calling (402) 467-1627.

Now is the time to turn your yard into a beautiful and relaxing retreat.

May 13, 14 and 15 at GE Landscape Supply



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Dog Waste Can Be A Problem

It's that time of year again when the cabin fever door opens and we can all go outside and enjoy activities. However, one messy detail may squash our fun. The melted snow has revealed landscapes and sidewalks that are blotted with dog poop.

During those cold winter months it was far too easy to remain indoors than to bundle up and accompany your dog outside to pick up its waste. And let us not forget about the temptation to kick snow over the dog doo to temporarily hide it or scooping it up and throwing it on top of a snow bank. These are no solution to the pollution problem that is dog waste.

In Arlington and Fairfax counties, VA they calculated their dog population at 11,400 and producing over 5,000 pounds of waste everyday. According to Lincoln's Animal Control, there are 36,358 licensed dogs in the City of Lincoln. This statistic does not account for the unlicensed dogs. We can only infer our city's daily amount of dog waste is 16,000 pounds everyday. (That's a lot of poo!)

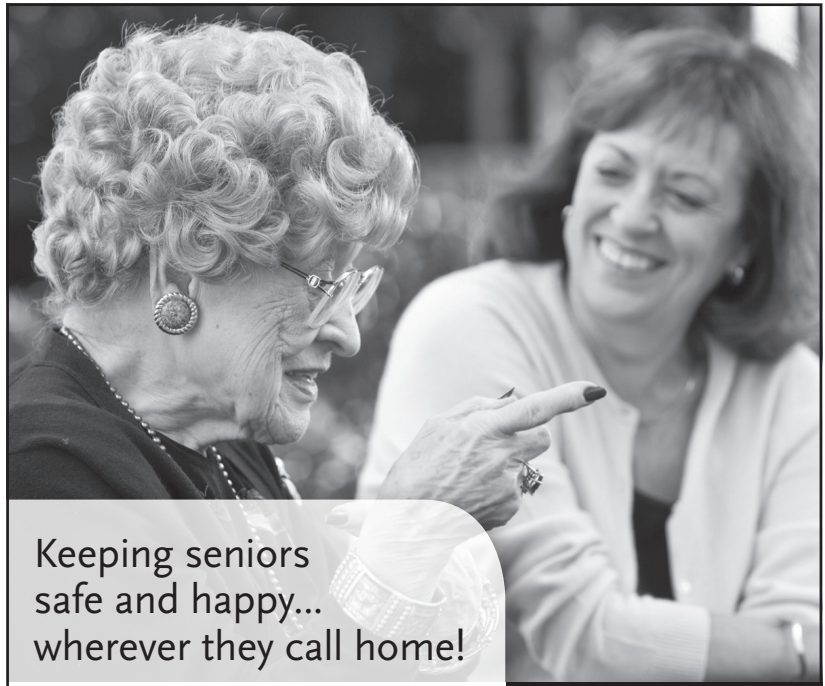
This dog waste does not go away by becoming fertilizer for the grass. Some of the pet waste full of bacteria is washed down to our local creeks, streams, lakes, or groundwater. The dog waste degrades our water quality and can be a health risk.

You don't have to be a health inspector to understand that dog waste is bad. Pet waste is different from nutrient and chemical pollutants, in that it generates disease-causing bacteria that can make people sick. Regardless if your pet is a rescue dog or a pure bred, all dogs harbor coliform bacteria, which live in the gut. This includes E. Coli and fecal coliform bacteria, which spreads through feces. According to the EPA "when these waters are used as sources of drinking water and the water is not treated or inadequately treated, E. Coli may end up in drinking water.

The best way to protect our water bodies and not let pet waste go down the storm drain is to use a plastic bag to pick up the dog waste and throw the tightly sealed bag in the garbage so it can be properly disposed of at the landfill.

There are many products and services to help you do your duty of cleaning up after your dog. These include a shovel-like device called a pooper-scooper, a pet waste bag dispenser that fits on your keychain, a dog waste container that uses bacterial enzymes to break down the pet waste and a local pet waste removal service.

With spring upon us, pay attention to where your dog leaves droppings and clean as you go. It's required by municipal code and your neighbors will thank you.



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This increase in value, which in turn will increase your equity, depends on how you treat your home and your neighborhood. CCNA works very hard to protect and enhance your home and your neighborhood – you should too.

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Chronicle

Country Club Neighborhood Association

Lincoln, Nebraska • May 2011

Until this exists... It's YOUR job to pick up his job!



photo courtesy of Brandon Hartley

Pet waste pollutes our streams and lakes.

