



# 40th & A Neighborhood Association



Fall 2004

## Mayor Colleen Seng to Speak at October Business Meeting

Mayor Colleen Seng is slated to speak at the 40th & A Neighborhood Association's October business meeting on October 26th at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Auditorium of the Christ United Methodist Church located at 4530 A Street.

The topic of the Mayor's address is how neighborhoods and city government can work together as a team to accomplish mutually beneficial outcomes for neighborhoods and the city.

In addition to the Mayor's talk, agenda items include general business topics such as amendments to the association's bylaws, introduction of the Holiday Display Award contest, infor-

mation on the upcoming November general election and reports of the events and activities in which your association has been involved.

We extend an invitation to all of our neighbors in the 40<sup>th</sup> & A Neighborhood Association area (Randolph to South Streets, 33rd to 48th Streets) to attend and participate in our bi-annual meeting. It is a great opportunity for meeting and getting reacquainted with your friends and neighbors as well as a chance to catch up on what is going on in the area.

Please plan on joining us for the 40<sup>th</sup> & A Neighborhood Association's bi-annual meeting.

## Fall and Winter Garden Care

From Better Homes and Gardens

*Editor's Note: Fall is a great time to check your property and prune any plants located by sidewalks or public right-of-ways that may have grown a little too large over the summer and are possibly creating a public safety issue. The following article provides tips on how to properly clean up your plants for winter.*

### Plants

Putting the garden to bed for the winter is mostly a matter of cleaning and covering up. As fall progresses and temperatures drop, those plants that aren't killed outright by frost prepare for dormancy. Clear out the blackened stems and foliage of flowers and vegetables to prevent the possibility of their harboring disease pathogens and insect eggs over the winter. On perennials, leave stems with attractive seed heads for winter interest.

While it appears as if all activity in the garden has stopped, there is a lot

going on under the soil until it freezes. Newly transplanted trees and shrubs, divisions of perennials and hardy bulbs are all growing roots, drawing on soil nutrients and moisture around them. Earthworms and various microbes in the soil are still processing the organic material they are finding. Most likely, the organic mulch you spread to protect the soil during the summer months has substantially decomposed. It is important to spread new mulch now—a thicker winter layer—to protect plants and soil over the winter months. The idea is not so much to keep the soil warm as it is to keep the temperature even. Once the soil is frozen, mulch keeps it frozen. So if you have shade trees, convert the fallen leaves to mulch and use it throughout your property.

### Weather

Snow both protects and endangers plants. A good snow cover insulates the soil like a mulch. However, snow piled

Inside this issue:	
<b>The Power of Neighborhoods Working Together</b>	2
<b>Christ Lutheran Church Campus Under Construction</b>	2
<b>Yard of the Month Contest Update</b>	3
<b>Randolph Elementary Moves to Abbott Sports Complex</b>	3
<b>The Benefits of Membership in a Neighborhood Association</b>	4
<b>Important City Telephone Numbers</b>	4
<b>Association Purpose and Board Members</b>	4
<b>Hazardous Waste Collection Dates</b>	4

on evergreen branches weights them down, risking breakage. Knock snow from the bottom branches first, then work upward. This way snow from above will not add weight to the already burdened lower branches. If branches are bowed by ice, don't try to free them. Instead let the ice melt and release them gradually.

## The Power of Neighborhoods Working Together

By Larry K. Zink

Over the last year, Lincoln's organized neighborhoods have had a positive impact on many of the public policies of particular concern to older established neighborhoods. Sidewalk repair, alcohol sales, neighborhood design standards and residential street repair are some of the areas in which older neighborhoods have successfully worked together to shape public policies that address neighborhood concerns and needs.

### Common Neighborhood Concerns

One year ago, neighborhood organizations participated in a process that sought to identify areas of common concern. As a result of this process, twelve areas and related proposed actions were



identified and circulated among organized neighborhoods in the form of a draft Neighborhood Plan of Action ([www.lincolnneighborhoods.org](http://www.lincolnneighborhoods.org)). Ultimately, 21 neighborhood associations endorsed this Plan of Action, including the 40<sup>th</sup> & A Neighborhood Association.

To provide a means for collaborative action on the concerns outlined in the Plan of Action, neighborhood leaders joined together to form the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance. Since a year has passed, it is timely to reflect on what has been accomplished, at least in part because of this collective effort to ensure that our neighborhood voices are heard in public policy discusses.

### City Elections

The Neighborhood Alliance and neighborhood associations worked together to ensure that neighborhood concerns were raised and discussed in

the course of the 2003 mayoral and city council elections. Candidates were sent a questionnaire on neighborhood issues and candidates were graded on their responses to neighborhood concerns and a non-partisan candidates' forum was organized. Voters responded, and in three out of four City Council races and in the mayor's race, the candidate who scored the highest on the neighborhood questionnaire was elected. Since the election, the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance and neighborhood associations have worked with our elected officials to address many of the neighborhood concerns outlined in the Plan of Action.

### More Sidewalk Funding

This past year, the annual budget for sidewalk repair has been quadrupled to \$1,000,000 per year. If this annual funding level can be maintained, it will still take 10 years to bring our sidewalks up to code. However, that is much better than the previous 40-year scenario.

### More Residential Street Funding

A new residential street rehabilitation fund has been created. This is the first time that there have been monies specifically dedicated for this purpose. This \$1 million per year will provide 50% of the revenue needed to support Mayor Seng's proposal to rehab 200 blocks of residential streets per year.

### Neighborhood Design Standards

Neighborhood groups led the effort to extend neighborhood design standards to the predominately single-

family home areas that are zoned as R1, R2 and R3. As enacted, these design standards will provide minimum criterion for new buildings in existing neighborhoods with the goal of ensuring that new structures are at least somewhat in harmony with the character of the surrounding neighborhood.

### Alcohol Sales in Residential Areas

The Neighborhood Alliance and many neighborhood associations joined in supporting Mayor Seng's initiative to remove mitigation language in the city's zoning ordinance that allowed alcohol sales to be approved in locations closer than 100 feet from residential areas, if mitigation efforts (fences, etc.) were undertaken. As a result of this provision, numerous convenience stores were applying and being approved to sell alcohol in residential areas. The removal of this clause means that no new alcohol sales will be approved closer than 100 feet from a residential area.

### Continuing Efforts

By working together with supporting elected officials, organized neighborhoods have been able to make significant progress in the public policy arena. However, budget items like sidewalk and residential street repair will require on-going vigilance. There is much yet to be done and representatives of the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance and organized neighborhoods are also working together on issues such as infrastructure finance, floodplain and neighborhood quality of life ordinances.

If neighborhoods continue to work together, we can find solutions to additional neighborhood concerns.

## Christ Lutheran Church Construction Update

By Terry Waak

If you travel on Sumner between 40<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Streets, you might have noticed some demolition and construction activity at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Sumner.

Over the course of the last year and a half, 10 of the 12 houses located between Sumner and Franklin on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street have been demolished to make way for an expanded parking lot for

Christ Lutheran Church and a playground for Christ Schools.

The north half of 43<sup>rd</sup> Street has been purchased from the city and the process has started to purchase the south half. The street will remain but it will become a large driveway into the Church property.

In addition to the expanded park-

ing, we have started a day care for infants to school age children as well as a day school located in our temporary school building for preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Christ Schools will add a grade a year through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

The church has also put in a new elevator to make our large Fellowship Hall more accessible to all who use it.

## There's a Bear in our Neighborhood!

By Tracy Lines

The 40<sup>th</sup> & Neighborhood Association designated its inaugural Yard of the Month award to Steve and Jodee Rothwell at 3910 Mohawk.

The Rothwell's yard has an intricately carved bear out of a tree trunk. The tree, planted by the original owner of the house, was damaged in the October 1997 snow and ice storm. To prevent more damage from occurring, Steve and Jodee made the tough decision to cut the tree down....but not in a typical fashion.

After noticing some wood animal carvings by his office, Steve contracted a man and his son out of St. Louis to cut the tree down and carve the bear.

Using numerous chain saws while his son hand sharpened the saw blades as they became dull, the carver created the bear. Standing approximately 10 feet tall, the bear guards Jodee's rock garden adorned with animals created from farm implements.

In August, Joseph Skutchan at 1900 S. Cotner Boulevard was awarded the 40<sup>th</sup> & A Neighborhood Yard of the Month. Joseph has worked many years on creating a park-like atmosphere in his back yard includ-



ing rock pathways, a bench and flowers.

September's Yard of the Month award went to Conrad Anthony at 1551 S. 37<sup>th</sup> Street. His large corner lot features a flower garden with a trellis as well as several well kept evergreens.

The Association thanks the Rothwell's, Joesph and Conrad for beautifying our neighborhood. To nominate a yard, please contact Tracy Lines at 310-7069 or [tlines24@hotmail.com](mailto:tlines24@hotmail.com).

## Randolph Elementary School Update

By Dennis A. Van Horn and Tracy Lines

This school year the Randolph Elementary School building is undergoing indoor air quality and code updates. During the construction, students and teachers are located at Abbott Sports Complex at 7600 N. 70th Street.

As a result, students in the neighborhood are transported to



and from Abbott Sports Complex via school buses. There are various locations throughout the neighborhood that are designated bus stops. For a listing of the bus routes and times, please contact

Mr. Craigie in Transportation at 436-1073 or Randolph Elementary at 436-1163.

Please remember to observe the 25 m.p.h. school zone speed limit this school year even though our students are learning at Abbott Sports Complex. They are still in the neighborhood walking and bike riding to their bus stops.

### A Street Auto Parts

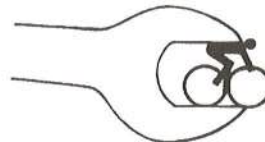
**PARTS PLUS**

4003 A St., Lincoln, NE 68510

Locally Owned

Mon. - Fri. 7:00 to 6:00  
Sat. 7:30 - 3:00

(402) 489-9378  
Fax (402) 489-9661



Rich Rodenburg  
Owner

**BIKE PEDALERS**

Service & Sales

1353 South 33rd (33rd & B)  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510  
402-474-7000

E-Mail: [rich@bikeped.com](mailto:rich@bikeped.com)  
Web Page: [www.bikeped.com](http://www.bikeped.com)

### Northrup Internal Medicine & Primary Care



Ruby Northrup, D.O.  
Lisa Peterson, M.D.  
Mary Drey, M.D.  
Ruilin Wang, M.D.

Kathryn Hajj, M.D.  
Heather Farwell, PA-C  
Stephanie Burke, PA-C

4740 A St., Suite 200  
Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone (402) 484-5656  
Fax (402) 484-5761



SIPS  
&  
SUBS

JUDY & MICHAEL PITTMAN

1326 SO.33RD  
LINCOLN, NE.68510



402-476-SIPS

## Our Purpose

The purpose of the 40th & A Neighborhood Association is to provide a means for citizens living in the neighborhood to plan and work together for a better community.

The organization offers the opportunity for residents to: meet and get acquainted with one another; become more informed and express views about the issues impacting our neighborhood community; and cooperate with other citizens and community organizations.

## Board of Directors

### Officers

Ray Gobber, President  
489-9202  
Doug Karsting, Vice President  
327-0264  
Sheila Wall, Secretary  
488-1321  
Susie Dunn, Treasurer  
484-5202

## Representatives

### District 1

Mary J. Volkmer  
489-7914

Thom Reeves  
484-7702

### District 2

Kelly Stahly  
489-1019

Rich Rolofson  
327-9812

### District 3

Chris Keetle  
488-6033

Dave McIntosh  
484-7405

### District 4

Terry Waak  
489-2607

Randy Stramel  
483-9987

### Newsletter Editor

Tracy Lines  
310-7069

### Business Liaison

Nye Bond  
483-6378

### Spring Clean-Up

Tim Johnson  
483-0425

### New Heights Board

Lyle Davis  
488-2791

## Benefits of Neighborhood Association Membership

What benefits are there to belonging to your neighborhood association? Keep reading below to find just a few of the reasons your board members choose to support the 40<sup>th</sup> & A Neighborhood Association.

Your 40<sup>th</sup> & A Neighborhood Association Board represents your interests to the City of Lincoln. Without your input, we are unclear of what messages you feel are important for city government to address. After all, there is strength in numbers.

In addition, your membership dues help to fund the important work we do to improve our neighborhood such as supporting the new neighborhood design standards. Your small dues payment not only helps your association do enormous good, but keeps us thriving.

Members of the 40<sup>th</sup> & A Neighborhood Association include residents (homeowners and tenants), businesses, schools and churches in central Lincoln located within 33rd to 48th and Randolph to South streets.

We invite you to join the growing network of the 40th & A Neighborhood Association during our annual membership drive in January 2005.

## Important City Telephone Numbers

Animal Control	441-7900
Building & Safety	441-7785
Buried Lines	477-0547
City Council Representatives	441-7515
City Information	441-2489
Crime Stoppers	475-3600
Emergencies	911
Exterior Disrepair	441-6300
Fire Hazards	441-7363
Garbage/Dumping	441-8022
Gas Leaks	800-303-0357
Hazardous Waste	441-8021
Housing Codes	441-7785
Junk Cars (Police Dept.)	441-7204
Junk Cars (recording)	441-6050
Mayor's Office	441-7511
Neighborhood Watch	441-7204
Parking Problems	441-6000
Parks and Recreation	441-7847
Police Administration	441-6000
Sidewalk Repair	441-7541
Snow Removal	441-7644
Street Repair	441-7701
Weed Problems	441-7817
Zoning Violations	441-7521

## Hazardous Waste Collection Dates

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) sponsors household hazardous waste collections throughout the year. The next two collection dates are: **Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department located in the south parking lot at 3140 N Street; and **Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** at the 4-H Youth Complex on the State Fair Park grounds. Both of the above collection sites will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the days listed.

Listed below are a few of the items the household hazardous waste collections will take:

**Heavy metals** such as liquid mercury in thermometers and fluorescent bulbs;

**Solvents** including mineral spirits, turpentine, oil-based paints, varnishes, stains, polishes and waxes;

**Pesticides** contained in weed killers, wood preservatives, roach powder, rat poisons, pet flea and tick products;

**Items Containing PCBs** such as ballasts

from old fluorescent lamps and small capacitors from old appliances including radios, motors and televisions.

The LLCHD reminds us to keep the products in the original container and keep the label intact. If the label is already destroyed or unreadable, label the products to the best of your knowledge. Open, leaking or rusted containers should be placed in a clear plastic bag during transport to a collection. **Please, do not mix chemicals!**

A small list of the items the collection sites will *not* take are: latex paint, medicines, fertilizers, batteries, antifreeze, used oil, explosives and ammunition and general household or business trash.

The LLCHD sponsors a latex paint exchange only during specially designated collections. Only good, useable latex paint is accepted.

If you have further questions on how to dispose of an item properly, please contact the LLCHD at 441-8040.