

eccco Newsletter

East Campus Community Organization

Volume 14, Issue 1, Spring 2015

Neighbors talking to neighbors

East Campus Starrs Easter Egg Hunt, April 4

It's that time again – the Easter Bunny has stocked up on carrots, and will be visiting our neighborhood to launch the neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt, organized by the East Campus Starrs, a neighborhood women's group, and supported by ECCO. The annual hunt for candy-filled eggs traditionally includes 100+ neighborhood children, and we hope to see you there.

As always, children 8 and under are welcome to participate (there will be a special area for children 3 and under), and you'll want to be right on time,

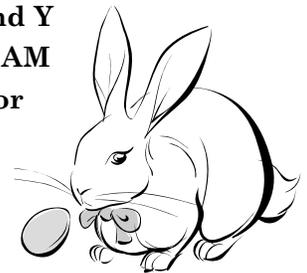
because once the Easter Egg hunters are unleashed, it's over pretty quickly. Parents, please let children hunt without your help! The Easter Bunny will be expecting you.

Where: **McAdams Park @ 44th and Y**

When: **Saturday April 4 @ 11:00 AM**

What to bring: **A basket or bag for your goodies**

Who: **Children 8 and under** ■



Mark Your Calendar

Sat. April 4, 2015
11am
Easter Egg Hunt

Sat. April 18, 2015
9am-1pm
Spring Clean-up

Sat. April 18, 2015
8am-12pm
UNL's Big Event

Fri. May 8, 2014
6-8pm
Peter Pan Party

Annual Spring Clean-up, Apr 18

Remind your neighbors! ECCO's Annual Spring Clean-up is coming up. This annual event allows you to get rid of your yard clutter, brush, old bikes, old lumber, metal scraps, tires, and other unsightly items. Volunteers will be available to pick-up these items curbside if arranged in advance. Contact Patti Pierson at 402-440-8016 as early as possible to make pick-up arrangements. You are encouraged to haul and drop off items at the church parking lot.

There will be a fee charged for large appliances and tires. *The fees will be waived up to \$50 for paid ECCO members!* You can join on site.

Do NOT bring: leaves, yard clippings, computers, paint, pesticides, solvents, motor oil and other hazardous waste.

Volunteers are needed for sorting recycling items at the roll-offs and volunteers with trucks for curbside pick-ups. If you are willing to help out, contact Patti at 402-440-8016 before April 18. Help us keep ECCO clean and green!

Where: **American Lutheran Church @ 42nd and Vine St**

When: **Saturday April 18, 9am-1pm**

Who: **Everyone!** ■

Yard of the month nominees? With spring, finally the yards and gardens in our neighborhood will start to come alive and some are truly exceptional. Please help us bring attention to and honor those home owners who have gone the extra mile to make our neighborhood beautiful. If you see a yard that deserves a special notice, please let us know (402-466-4775 or board@eastcampus.org) where it is so ECCO can honor it with a *Yard of the Month* sign. ■

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East Campus Community Organization (ECCO) is a organization of neighbors within the boundaries of 33rd and 48th St from Vine to Holdrege.

For further information, visit our website or contact a board member.

board@eastcampus.org
<http://www.eastcampus.org>

Plans for Hartley School Enhancements: An Opportunity to Give!

The East Campus Starrs have been raising money to build an information marquee in front of Hartley School. Hartley is one of the few Lincoln schools without a marquee. Principal Jeff Rust is excited to be able to put announcements to parents and the public on the marquee, once it is placed. The estimated cost is \$15,000.

In addition, local artist and ECCO resident Gale Warren is one of the artists chosen to create/decorate a lightbulb sculpture in honor of the 25th anniversary of Lighthouse in Lincoln. Lighthouse is a community-based after school program that provides a safe, nurturing, supervised environment for middle and high school students. They provide academic support, recreational activities, evening meals, workshops, and mentoring to students in need throughout Lincoln. Gale's creation was chosen among many, and has a Hartley-based theme - *The Lowly Pencil, Elevated in the Hands of a Child* - covered in #2 pencils, and topped with a twirling beanie - fashioned after the Hartley School beanie of old. Gale, who grew up in ECCO, is a Hartley alum.



The lightbulbs will be displayed throughout Lincoln through the summer, at which point they will be auctioned. Gale's lightbulb will be displayed at Campbell School. Principal Jeff Rust would be thrilled to have Gale's lightbulb placed permanently in front of Hartley School, along with the new marquee. The Starrs are working to raise funds to purchase both the marquee and the lightbulb at auction. Over \$3,300 has already been raised for the marquee; \$3,500 has been pledged for the purchase of the lightbulb; and an anonymous donor has offered a substantial gift to include both. We do need a bit more help, to make both these dreams come true for Hartley School!

To contribute to this fund, please contact Mary Eisenhart for details at 503-866-5704 or mmeisen@eisenhartconsulting.com. Both causes are tax-deductible. ■

Message from ECCO President Mary Eisenhart

Spring has arrived, the Easter Bunny is planning a visit, and neighbors are out walking, biking, and sprucing up their yards. Your Board is staying busy, working on your behalf, as evidenced by the many activities highlighted in the newsletter. Be sure to check out our calendar of events, and join us when you can. In other news, the City of Lincoln will continue its work on Idylwild Valentino's Park, and the Idylwild boulevard improvements, and we hope a dedication will take place by this fall. The "rectangular rapid flashing beacon" at 33rd and the MoPac Trail has helped – but we've suggested additional signage to make it even safer – we appreciate ECCO residents' input to make this crossing more safe. My thanks to all of our Board members for their continued enthusiasm and hard work! See you around the neighborhood!

2nd Annual Peter Pan Party, May 8

It's official – the Peter Pan Party has become a new tradition! The ECCO neighborhood is joining the Community Learning Centers (CLC) of Lincoln, NeighborWorks, Clinton neighborhood, and Clinton and Hartley Schools' Principals and PTAs, in the 2nd annual family event. Plan on joining in the fun, including games, prizes, snacks, informational booths, and more. All ECCO residents are encouraged to celebrate spring with friends old and new – see you there!

Where: **Peter Pan Park @ 33rd and W St**

When: **Friday May 8 @ 6-8pm**

Who: **Everyone!** ■

LPD on Community Policing and Preventing Burglaries

Earlier this year the ECCO Board met with LPD Captain Jon Sundermeier and invited him to contribute to our newsletter. He will be a regular contributor.

The Northeast Team of the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) had a recent change of leadership. Captain Doug Srb retired after 42 years with LPD and I took over in mid-January, leading a team of 33 officers, six sergeants, and one public service officer. **My name is Captain Jon Sundermeier. I can be reached at 402-441-3002 or lpd717@cjis.lincoln.ne.gov.** LPD subscribes to community policing and this starts with good communication. I am currently engaged in establishing strong connections with the community in northeast Lincoln.

I would like to take a moment to draw your attention to the upcoming election in April and the bond issue which proposes a quarter cent sales tax increase to pay for new fire stations and a new radio system. Now I'm not an expert on fire safety and I do not wish to influence anyone's vote on this issue. I would, however, like to inform you of the necessity of having reliable radio communications for our public safety officials, including police and fire. In my 28 years at LPD, I've taken it for granted that I would always have this tool available to call for help when I needed it, to coordinate a police response to a major incident, to call for medical units when I encountered someone who needed medical help, and to direct the

work of all the public safety personnel in the city.

Our current radio system is about a quarter of a century old and has served us well. It is, however, coming to the end of its useful life and soon will not be supported—meaning the manufacturer will no longer have parts or service available. Breakdowns in the system inevitably occur and at some point it will not be possible to fix them. This would have a significant impact on our ability to deliver police and fire service to the city.

I would also like to address some crime prevention issues. Lincoln has a low crime rate but we are the second largest city in the state and have experienced steady growth. Crime is inevitable and there are things all of us can do to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime. Most of the crime in Lincoln involves the theft of property. I'd like to address one type of property crime—burglary. Burglary is the unlawful breaking and entering of structure for the purpose of stealing property. Many people use the term robbery interchangeably, but robbery is in fact the taking of something using force or threat of violence. A stick-up man at a liquor store is committing a robbery, the same guy who breaks out the front door of the same liquor store at four in the morning when nobody is

around and steals the cash register is committing a burglary.

A common misperception is that burglary occurs in the dead of night. This is true of commercial burglary (of a business) but **many**

residential burglaries occur in the day time.

This makes sense when you think about the times that people are most likely to be home. Many people work or attend school during the day and are home at night. A burglar wants to know if somebody is home before breaking in, so it is not uncommon to simply knock on the door and see if someone answers. If someone does, a ruse is

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used to conceal their true purpose. They may ask for someone who does not live there or say, "Wrong address." **If you are home, and don't answer the door because you don't know the person, it may be a good idea to make it clear someone is home** because the next step in the burglar's plan is to break into the home. Turn a TV on loud, move about, or do something to deter them from entering.

This is a critical time—you have the opportunity to possibly help us to catch a criminal. It may be a bit nerve-wracking, but **try to get the best look possible at the person. Write down what they look like, including their**

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clothing. If they have a car, write down the description of it and if you can see the plate, well, that's gold to a cop. Many crimes have been solved because someone jotted down a plate number.

Remember, it's the behavior that is suspicious, not the person. There is no profile of a burglar—they may be young, old, male, female, white, black, well-dressed or look like a bum.

Call us when you suspect something is wrong. It's not a bother and if there is an innocent explanation, well it's good to know that too.

Yours may not be the home where a burglar comes knocking on a sunny morning—it may be your neighbor's. **If you look out and see someone at your neighbor's door, take a moment and see what happens. If no one answers and they go around**

to the back of the house, call the police. Keep watching and stay on the line. Better to get us started and find out there is an innocent explanation than to ignore it and hope for the best.

One final message—your police department would much rather respond to ten calls that turn out to be nothing than have a citizen feel reluctant or uncertain about calling in on an actual burglary in progress.

I will be contributing to future editions with more crime prevention and police information. Until then, **stay safe and watch out for each other.** By the way, that's what we say to our officers every day, but it's good advice for everyone. ■

Your police department would rather respond to ten calls that turn out to be nothing than have a citizen feel reluctant or uncertain about calling in on a burglary in progress.

Captain Jon Sundermeier can be reached at
402-441-3002 or
lpd717@cjs.lincoln.ne.gov

Tip for ECCO Homeowners!

It's not something we want to think about - but trouble could be lurking in those 100-year-old sewer pipes under your basement floor, and in your connections to the sewer main. As the City of Los Angeles and some of your neighbors have discovered, cast iron pipes have a life of about 100 years then the corrosion breaks through and can create a septic area under your concrete floor, as well as liquefaction, which can make the area around the posts holding up your home unstable. The symptoms include repeated back-up of the basement floor drain, but no real plug or problem appearing that might be causing it. The old tile connections to the sewer main are made of tile, and after time, can collapse, creating a septic area, sometimes for years, until back-up begins into your basement - creating a big mess! These pipes are often buried as deeply as 20 feet in our neighborhood.



It's a good idea to be proactive, and have a reputable plumber run a camera through these pipes, to determine whether or not there are any problems, before the (rather awful) symptoms occur. They can even use GPS technology now, to determine the exact point of any break or potential problem. The investment in a proactive approach can really pay off by avoiding the worst — a more expensive clean-up. ■

ECCO Membership Form

It costs so little and helps so much!

To join, please provide the following information and send a check for \$20 (payable to ECCO) to Roy Maurer, ECCO Treasurer, P.O. Box 4193, Lincoln, NE 68504

Name	
Address	
Phone	
E-Mail	