

eccco Newsletter

East Campus Community Organization

Volume 15, Issue 1, Spring 2016

Neighbors talking to neighbors

East Campus Starrs Easter Egg Hunt, March 26

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 or more 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 March 26 @ 11:00 AM**

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

Who: **Children 8 and under** ■



Mark Your Calendar

Sat. March 26, 2016

11am
Easter Egg Hunt

Sat. April 9, 2015

9am-1pm
UNL's Big Event

Sat. April 23, 2016

9am-1pm
Spring Clean-up

Sat. June 4, 2016

tentative
ECCO Garden Tour

Annual Spring Clean-up, April 23

The East Campus Neighborhood Spring Clean-Up will be held on Sat. April 23 at American Lutheran Church on 42nd & Vine St, from 9am to 1 pm, rain or shine.

Drop off at the church parking lot your yard clutter, brush, old bikes, old lumber, metal scraps, tires, and other unsightly items. **Do NOT bring:** leaves, yard clippings, paint, pesticides, solvents, motor oil and other hazardous waste. 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 ECCO on site. If arranged in advance, volunteers will be available to pick-up items curbside.

New for this year's Spring Clean-Up is participation in Goodwill's *Neighborhood Challenge*. Drop off clothing, housewares, small appliances, and electronics at the Spring Clean-Up site for recycling by Goodwill.

The three neighborhood associations/organizations who collect the most donations from April 1 through the summer will win cash prizes up to \$500 for their neighborhood. So dig out that old computer and TV that has been aging in your basement, clean out your closets and help ECCO and your community.

Volunteers are needed for sorting recycling items at the roll-offs. Volunteers with trucks are needed for curbside pick-ups. If you are willing to help out, contact Patti at 402-440-8016 before April 20.

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

When: **Saturday April 23, 9am-1pm**

Who: **Everyone!** ■

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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.

info@eastcampus.org
http://www.eastcampus.org

Garden Tour | An **ECCO Garden Tour** is being planned for June 4th. We are looking for neighbors to showcase their yards and for volunteers to help organize this important fundraising event. Proceeds will support projects such as the replanting of street trees throughout the neighborhood. To volunteer or nominate a neighbor, please send an email to info@eastcampus.org. ■

<http://www.eastcampus.org>

From ECCO President Paul Johnson | Spring brings many new things (besides grass) to the East Campus neighborhood. New members have been welcomed to the ECCO Board and I am introducing myself as the new ECCO President. My wife, Sherri, and I are in our not-so-new 22nd year as proud East Campus residents.

Some upcoming Spring neighborhood events include the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** presented by the *East Campus Starrs'* at McAdams Park. April brings the East Campus **Neighborhood Clean-Up** with a new twist. Plans are in the works for a June **Garden Tour** and we are now looking for neighbors willing to showcase their homes and volunteers to help.

Your ECCO Board appreciates all of the work & support of each of our neighbors. You make East Campus a great Lincoln neighborhood. Get out, meet your neighbors and have a great Spring!

Construction coming soon to Apple Street and Idylwild Boulevard

The following notice appeared in the Lincoln Journal-Star a few weeks ago.

To prepare for an improvement project on Apple St from 36th to 40th streets, some trees will be removed in the next few weeks, weather permitting. The resurfacing and curb replacement project will begin in mid-March, but the trees must be removed now to comply with the Federal Migratory Bird Act. Seven trees that are hanging over the curb or very close to the curb been marked for removal. Some stumps will be ground down while others may remain for removal by the roads contractor.

As a result, The ECCO Board requested that the work be placed on hold until a meeting to discuss the project could be held. That meeting was added to the agenda of the regular ECCO Board Meeting on Thursday March 10. A general invitation was sent to the ECCO email list, approximately 40 residents joined board members.

Discussion included two projects: (1) tree removal and resurfacing of Apple Street and (2) landscaping and resurfacing of Idylwild Boulevard.

Apple Street | Tree Removal and Resurfacing

The removal of trees was the primary concern during this portion of the discussion. Also discussed were the curb replacement and resurfacing of Apple Street.

The City Engineer and his staff described the engineering reasons for the tree removal, one of which is an elm, the rest are locusts. The City Forester provided a handout with pictures and discussed the health of the trees that are recommended for removal. In short, the trees have some base decay and are at risk of failure. Parks and Recreation provided information

about tree replacement options, which will be explored more fully in the coming months.

In order for the street resurfacing to move forward, the trees must be removed. If the trees are not removed, the City would find a different street to resurface, likely in a different part of town.

At the end of the discussion, Paul Johnson asked for a show of hands to identify the level of support for moving forward. Though attendees regret the loss of the trees, the vast majority indicated their support for moving forward with the tree removal and street resurfacing.

Idylwild Blvd | Landscaping and Resurfacing

As part of the improvements of Valentino's Idylwild Park, the city will begin resurfacing and landscaping Idylwild Boulevard during the week of March 14. The initial work will include removal of all trees and shrubs, most of which are unhealthy or damaged from mowing, from the medians.

The improvements to the medians will include new light fixtures, fresh soil, water, landscaping, and other improvements. The light fixtures will be similar to those on 37th and 38th Streets.

Summary

The contractor and project manager answered several questions about the construction process and phasing in general. Tree removals and work on Idylwild Boulevard will begin on Monday, March 14. More information on City construction projects can be found at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: projects). ■

★ 3860 Dudley Street is about to undergo a complete, year-long rehab! Bob and Vicki Rokeby invite you to an Open House on **Sunday, March 20 from 1-3pm** if you would like to tour the house *before major work begins*.

A New Paradigm in Policing | Lincoln Police Department

Prepared by Capt. Jon Sundermeier, Northeast Team, Lincoln Police Department, 402-441-3002

You would have to be living a pretty sheltered life not to realize that the nature of policing in America is undergoing a lot of change these days. I'm happy to report that your police department is in some ways far ahead of the curve when it comes to many of the issues facing police departments today, but it is also true that we are working to change with the times. That is the mark of true excellence—not that you always get it right but that you can look critically at what you do and how you do it and make changes to improve your organization.

Lincoln has largely escaped the turmoil that other communities have faced as they confront the future of policing. LPD would like to think that this is, at least in part, due to our efforts to connect with our community and the fact that we have embraced a community policing philosophy for decades. Community policing is now a part of the culture at LPD, something that other departments are trying to emulate. When the New York City Police Department was looking for a good example of the type of com-

munity policing they would like to do, they recently cited the Lincoln Police Department.

But enough of patting LPD on the back, we still have a lot of work to do to keep up with the changing times and to recognize where we can be better. Though we have not seen significant racial unrest

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in Lincoln, we recognize that we are not immune to the implicit biases that have affected police behavior for decades. We have embraced training curricula like *Fair and Impartial Policing* and *Blue Courage*, both of which are intended to inspire officers to examine the experiences that have shaped their lives and perceptions, as well as remind them of the importance of the role they play as guardians of the civil rights of all citizens and the basic human dignity of all people. We have worked hard to improve our response to important social issues like domestic violence and sexual assault and we are integrating threat management into our work in order to prevent violence when it is possible to do so (think school or workplace shootings.) We are beefing up and expanding our approach to addressing street gangs in Lincoln.

We are working to connect with our community in more meaningful ways, where community input is not just an empty exercise. For example, the Northeast Team has

assembled an Advisory Group that meets a few times a year. We discuss things like use of force, the use of military surplus equipment, and the department's policy about enforcement of suspended drivers. This discussion informs the department's policy development and also serves to engage and inform our citizens.

Though the last year has been turbulent in policing in America, and at times it feels like law enforcement is constantly on the defense, I have to say that I have also seen more examples of community support than I can count. When a Northeast officer was shot last year, the outpouring of concern and sympathy from the community in the form of food, cards, and public commentary was amazing. We were deeply moved by the many kind gestures and words. The trust that a community places in its law enforcement agency is sacred, it must be earned and constantly reaffirmed, and we will work hard to keep this trust intact in the months and years to come. ■

Opportunities to engage with the Lincoln Police Department:

Youth Camp (ages 14-18)

To be held May 23-24. Apply by March 31. Applications available from School Resource Officers.

Citizens Academy

For information and to indicate interest, contact Capt. Jon Sundermeier at lpd717@cjs.lincoln.ne.gov or 402-441-3002

High Hazards in your Home?

Prepared by Adam Rhodes, Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful

Now is a great time of year to clean out unwanted and potentially hazardous chemicals from your home. Everyday household products, from bathroom cleaners to oil-based paint, can be dangerous to your health and the environment. But did you know that some products pose a greater risk than others?

Pesticides are chemicals that discourage or kill pests such as insects and rodents. While effective, they can be toxic to humans. Consider alternatives:

- *Verify:* one pest doesn't mean you have a problem.
- *Keep it clean:* don't give pests food, water or shelter.
- *Prevent access:* seal cracks, holes and other entry points.
- *Get physical:* use barriers, traps, vacuums and other non-chemical means to remove pests.
- *Last resort:* use chemicals only if the above strategies fail. Always read and follow label instructions. Consider using a professional to apply pesticides.

Mercury is a neurotoxin that can harm your health and the environment. It's found in the home in lighting products, old thermostats and thermometers and elemental mercury. To reduce the risks associated with mercury:

- *Look for alternatives* like LED lights and alcohol-based thermometers.
- *Recycle or properly dispose* of mercury.
- *Clean mercury spills safely.* DO NOT vacuum! For guidance: lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: household).

If you have these products in your home and no longer need them, be sure to dispose of them properly. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department offers several opportunities throughout the year for residents to dispose of household hazardous waste. **Upcoming waste collection events** are scheduled for Sat April 2nd at Walmart (87th & Hwy 2) and Sat. May 7th at Zoetis (601 West Cornhusker Hwy).

For the complete household hazardous waste collection schedule, or if you need assistance managing toxic products in your home, contact the Health Department at 402-441-8021 or visit lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: household). ▀

Yard of the month nominees?

402-466-4775 or info@eastcampus.org

Real Estate Robo-calls

Prepared by Mary Eisenhart Belka

Many homeowners in our neighborhood are receiving robo-calls with a York, NE phone number. These are out-of-town investors looking to buy homes in our neighborhood for college student rentals. Many investors like this will rent a house to multiple students; do nothing to maintain or improve the property; and pocket the profits - all at the expense of resident homeowners. This pattern has a direct effect on our quality of life. One of the biggest threats to any neighborhood is when the "tipping point" is reached with too many rentals and too few owner-occupied homes. We don't want this pattern to repeat here.

ECCO will always be a diverse neighborhood that includes a share of rentals – that is part of our history and charm. We welcome the many families renting homes and apartments in ECCO. However, we must remain vigilant to avoid an unnecessary influx of so-called "dorm houses", where parents and grandparents buy homes to house their college-age children or grandchildren; and non-resident landlords interested only in rental income. ECCO is working hard to attract young families, professionals, and empty-nesters to our neighborhood. We will keep you apprised of those efforts in the coming months. In the meantime – when college real estate buyers come calling, don't pick up! ▀

ECCO Membership Form

It costs so little and helps so much!

To join, please provide the following information and send a check for \$25 (payable to ECCO) to Roy Maurer, ECCO Treasurer, P.O. Box 4193, Lincoln, NE 68504

Name	
Address	
Phone	
E-Mail	