

ecco Newsletter

East Campus Community Organization

Volume 11, Issue 3, Fall 2012

Neighbors talking to neighbors

Mark your calendar

October 30, 2012
ECCO Annual Meeting
Warren Methodist Church
45th & Orchard

Upcoming event: ECCO Annual Meeting

Make sure you attend ECCO's Annual Meeting on Tuesday October 30th. Dinner will be served from 5:30 – 6:30pm and the meeting will follow immediately afterwards.

Pizza and the fixings donated by *Valentino's* and beverages donated by *Madsen's Bowling*.

The major focus of the Business Meeting will be to set priorities for ECCO for next year. We will be asking you to help us create a vision for our neighborhood and help us decide what we should work on in 2013. We will also be setting up sub-committees to assist the board as we work on these issues.

Please come to share your ideas, make your voice heard, and of course share a good meal with your neighbors.

A more detailed agenda for the meeting can be found on our web-site at <http://www.eastcampus.org>.

Where: Warren Methodist Church, 1205 N. 45th St

President's Letter

Prepared by Ann Bleed, ECCO President

It has been a busy year for ECCO! We accomplished a lot. There were several **zoning actions** that presented **both threats and opportunities** for ECCO, including the following:

Parking—A proposed change in the zoning code that would reduce the requirements for off-street parking for sororities and fraternities was opposed by ECCO, and only ECCO. Working closely with the Lincoln-Lancaster Planning Department, we were able develop new wording that made more sense and actually increased the parking requirements. As a result we were able to testify in support of the change in the zoning code before the Planning Commission and City Council. We also initiated an on-going discussion with the University about the continuing parking problems in the neighborhood.

Holdrege/Idylwild/Valentino's Block—ECCO contacted WRK, the developers of the Holdrege-Valentino's Block long before the project went

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Thanks to meeting sponsors

Valentino's

Madsen's
Bowling & Billiards

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public. WRK and Valentino's responded promptly and came to our Board meeting with the general outlines of their proposal long before the final plans were completed. Working with WRK while the plans were still in development allowed ECCO to make suggestions to make the project acceptable to the neighborhood as a whole and to the immediate neighbors. Most of our suggestions were adopted by the developer. We also held two public meetings, each attended by more than sixty people, to discuss the project and get further input from the neighbors. At the end of the last meeting the strong consensus of the group was that ECCO should support the project. ECCO proceeded to testify in support of the project at all public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council.

City Impact Project—ECCO supported the City Impact project that is being built just across 33rd Street next to Peter Pan Park.

ECCO sponsored several neighborhood events

Neighborhood Clean-up – This year the neighborhood clean-up was held in connection with UNL's student volunteer day, the "Big Event." Students from AGR fraternity helped out a great deal. In spite of the cold weather, we collected a lot of trash and, as always, people expressed a lot of appreciation for the service.

Discover ECCO - ECCO sponsored a neighborhood "art/hobby" fair with 18 exhibitors, a "house detective", story corps, ECCO history conversations, a "bustaraunt" and a polka band. An estimated 250 people attended the event. A large article with great pictures in the Lincoln Journal Star provided a lot of good PR for ECCO. During the event I heard people saying, wow, it's been a long time since I have talked with you and I am glad we met. Many urged ECCO to have another *Discover ECCO* event next year.

The Journal-Star article can be found at <http://journalstar.com/news/local/chameleons-polka->

[and-jamaican-barbecue-all-in-one-neighborhood/article_d1c7f07e-3fcd-5f48-9c80-4541f2cb4483.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/chameleons-polka-and-jamaican-barbecue-all-in-one-neighborhood/article_d1c7f07e-3fcd-5f48-9c80-4541f2cb4483.html). (Sorry it's so long.)

Northeast Lincoln Partnership — ECCO has begun to establish relationships with other Northeast Lincoln neighborhood associations, including Havelock, University Place and Clinton.

July 4th Parade —A good time was had at the annual July 4th Parade. A highlight of the event was naming Marceil Dreier as the Parade Marshall, in honor of all her service to the neighborhood over the years. I think Marceil was pretty surprised.

Other Activities

ECCO has improved its website— a lot. Check it out at <http://www.eastcampus.org>.

- ECCO sponsored an **Opinion Survey** of Neighborhood Homeowners conducted by students of Nebraska Wesleyan University.
- Five board members attended a series of **neighborhood leadership workshops, Building Leaders/Building Communities** sponsored by NeighborWorks. As a result we got a lot of good ideas and will receive a grant for \$2500 - \$3000 to be used for a neighborhood project.
- I did a half-hour interview about ECCO on community radio station KZUM.
- We submitted a grant application to *Trees for Nebraska* to plant trees in the neighborhood.
- ECCO helped support the neighborhood East Campus Starr's **Easter Egg Hunt**.
- We honored four homes with our *Yard of the Month* sign. (If it hadn't been stolen, there would've been more.)

We are looking forward to the ECCO Annual Meeting on Tuesday October 30th. The primary focus of the Annual Meeting is to set the agenda for ECCO for next year.

Two issues that we have already started to work on are:

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- how to reduce the number of people **parking** in the neighborhood
- how to deal with the increase in **rental properties**, especially properties that have become rundown.

With the grant from NeighborWorks, we are also initiating a new project to host **Garden Walks, Gardening Workshops**, all with the end goal of raising money to establish a **Neighborhood Community Garden**.

For more information about ECCO's work last year. Check out our web-page <http://www.eastcampus.org>.

Calling All Hartley Alumni!

The East Campus Starrs are coordinating collection of \$5,000 to donate a digitized marquee for newly-remodeled Hartley School. New Principal Jeff Rust says this will help the school to announce important events, and he will be grateful for the donation. Any amount is appreciated, and tax-deductible checks should be made out to "Hartley School Marquee Fund" and sent directly to: Principal Jeff Rust, Hartley School, 730 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503.

Questions: Call Mary Eisenhart 503-866-5704.

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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>*

Board of Directors:

Ann Bleed, *President*
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Mary Eisenhart, *President Elect and Membership Chair*
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Roy Maurer, *Treasurer*
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Cindy Stuefer-Powell, *Secretary*
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Rebecca Carr

Gary Gerkin

Tom Madsen

Matt Perlinger

Patti Pierson

Danielle Shea

Brian Striman, *Webmaster and Communications Chair*

Dick Voeltz

ECCO Membership Form

It costs so little and helps so much!

To join, please provide the following information and send a check (payable to ECCO) to the Treasurer.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>
E-Mail	<input type="text"/>

Annual dues

\$20 Membership

\$25 Business membership

Send payment to:

Roy Maurer
ECCO Treasurer
1444 N 37th St
Lincoln NE 68503

Feel free to call me to help with the following volunteer activities:

_____ Newsletter Delivery
_____ Grant Writing
_____ Article writing

_____ Spring Clean-up
_____ Independence Day Parade
_____ Anything!