

# ecco Newsletter

East Campus Community Organization

Volume 11, Issue 1, Spring 2012

Neighbors talking to neighbors

## Mark your calendar

**March 29, 2012, 7pm**  
*Neighborhood Meeting*  
Valentino's  
35th & Holdrege

**April 7, 2012, 11am**  
*Easter Egg Hunt*  
McAdams Park, 44th & Y

**April 21, 2012, 8am-Noon**  
*Spring Clean-up*  
American Lutheran  
Church, 42nd & Vine

**June 3, 2012, 1-4pm**  
*Discover ECCO*  
McAdams Park, 44th & Y

## Thought of the Day

I'm treating you as a friend asking you to share my present minuses in the hope that I can ask you to share my future pluses.  
- Katherine Mansfield

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## Upcoming events

### March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm — Neighborhood Meeting on Future Plans for the Valentino's Block

WRK is planning to redevelop an approximately two block area on Holdrege that currently includes Valentino's restaurant and their parking lot. The plan is to build a new restaurant for Valentino's east of 35<sup>th</sup> Street and then construct a new three-story building with shops on the ground floor and either apartments or offices on the second and third floors on the site where Valentino's now stands. WRK also plans to allocate money for the general beautification of the boulevard and park on Idylwild Street.

Please plan to attend this meeting hosted by ECCO, WRK, and Valentino's to learn about the project and provide your ideas input on what you think about the plans.

**Where:** *Valentino's Restaurant, 35th and Holdrege*

### April 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am — Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The East Campus Starrs are sponsoring their annual neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt. There will be two hunting areas: one for children 3 and under and another for children 4-8. Children up to age 8 are welcome to participate. Bring a basket for each child and please come a few minutes early. The Easter Bunny will be there too!

**Where:** *McAdams Park, 44th & Y*



### April 21<sup>st</sup> at 8am-Noon – ECCO-sponsored Neighborhood Clean-Up Day

The annual event allows you to get rid of your yard clutter, brush, old bikes, old lumber, metal scraps, tires, and other unsightly items. Volunteer will be available to pick-up these items curbside if arranged in advance. Contact Cindy Stuefer-Powell at 402-467-3088 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 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. On the day of the event, contact Rich Leiter 402-730-4567 with questions. The clean-up is being held in conjunction with UNL's Big Event and it will include a fundraiser (details on p. 4).

**Where:** *American Lutheran Church, 42nd & Vine*

## Discover ECCO on June 3, 2012

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Come to the fair and share your talents and hobbies and find out what interests your neighbors have to share with you including: Collections, Arts, Crafts, Gardening, History of the Neighborhood and more. See inside for more details. Do you have a talent, a hobby, an collection, some of which you would be willing to show your neighbors? If so, please consider signing up for a table at the Discover ECCO fair June 3. You can sign up by contacting Ann Bleed at [ableed@neb.rr.com](mailto:ableed@neb.rr.com) or 402-466-6805. Please describe what you are interested in showing. We will provide 8 foot tables. Please let us know if you will need the whole table or only half a table. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, please urge them to sign up as well. **If interested, sign up by May 1.** If you have questions, call or e-mail Ann Bleed.

**When:** *June 3, 2012 from 1:00-4:00pm*

**Where:** *McAdams Park (44<sup>th</sup> and Y)*

## Tell your ECCO story!

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**ECCO Stories: Do You Have a Story to Tell?** Ever wondered why your neighbor returned to the neighborhood they grew up in? Or would you like to capture your parents' story about how they came to plant the elm tree in the backyard? Or would you like to hear what it was like to live in this neighborhood when the trolley rolled right through its center?

At this year's Discover ECCO we are planning to host a booth at which any one may interview any one about any topic that relates to life in ECCO. You read that correctly: We will have a booth at which you may grab your son, daughter, mother, father, friend, neighbor, acquaintance or anyone else willing, to interview them for any length of time less than five minutes. With your permission, we'll record the interview and post it on our website for posterity and to memorialize our neighborhood's history. If you are interesting in helping with this project, contact Rich Leiter at [rich.leiter@gmail.com](mailto:rich.leiter@gmail.com) or 402-730-4567.

## City Hazardous Waste Collections

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Since you can't bring hazardous waste to the Neighborhood Clean up, here are other options. The **City Hazardous Waste Collections** areas and times closest to our neighborhood are listed below. Details of these collections and a hazardous free home handbook are available on their website: <http://www.lincoln.ne.gov> (keyword: household).



**Sat. Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm** -- at Veyance Technologies, 4021 N 56<sup>th</sup>

**Sat. Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm** – at Woods Park parking lot, 31<sup>st</sup> & J

In addition, there is a detailed listing of what you can and cannot bring. This information is available at <http://www.lincoln.ne.gov> (keyword: recycle).

## Update on Alpha Gamma Rho

The Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity on Idylwild and Holdrege Streets will be taking down their existing fraternity house early this summer so they can rebuild a new more up-to-date residence. ECCO worked closely with the designers of the new fraternity house to develop a plan that would be acceptable to the neighborhood. Because of the willingness of the fraternity to work with the neighborhood and the many good ideas provided by members of ECCO, particularly Richard Sutton, ECCO was able to support of the change in zone and plans for the new fraternity house before the Planning Commission and City Council.

## Zoning changes for fraternity and sorority parking

The city is changing the Zoning Code regarding parking requirements at fraternities and sororities. ECCO raised questions about the proposed change that would have allowed fraternities and sororities near a university campus to reduce their parking lot requirements from .75 parking places per resident to .5 per resident. A change in the code is needed to address gender discrimination on parking requirements for sororities and fraternities.

ECCO supports the change but questioned the assumption that just because a Greek house was close to a university, less parking would be required for the house residents. As a result of our questions and a meeting between members of the ECCO board and the planning department, the proposal to allow a reduced requirement for parking for Greek houses near campus was dropped.

The new proposed language, which ECCO supported in testimony before the City Council, would require .75 parking places per resident, with a potential to get the requirement reduced if the reduction is approved by the city. However, Greek houses around the downtown cam-

pus are objecting to this language so the approval of the code change was delayed by the City Council. It is likely that there will be further changes to provide for a different parking requirement for Greek houses in the downtown area. The Planning Department has assured ECCO that they will contact us before any further language is presented to the City Council.

**Back Yard Gardeners!** If you grow vegetables in the neighborhood and are interested in sharing tips and/or coordinating what we grow in order to share our crops, contact Rich

Leiter at [rich.leiter@gmail.com](mailto:rich.leiter@gmail.com) or 402-730-4567.



## City Impact at Peter Pan Park

**City Impact will develop Flat Iron Crossing north of Peter Pan Park west of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street.** ECCO supported the application for this project before the Planning Commission. The project will include a community center, gym, meeting rooms and City Impact offices as well as the construction of town homes to provide affordable housing on a "rent-to-own basis." They hope to break ground this April or May. More at <http://www.cityimpact.org>.

## ECCO Fundraiser at the Clean-up

**ECCO will earn \$5 for each test completed in a simple research study.** National Child Resistant Testing Inc. (NCRT) is a locally owned small business that conducts package testing for pharmaceutical and household chemical companies. NCRT will be conducting a quick package testing project at the Neighborhood Clean-up Event on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Participation involves opening a series of packaging containers and is open to everyone aged 50-70.

If you are interested in participating in the study (and contributing to the fundraiser), come by the Neighborhood Clean-up on April 21. Funds will be put towards neighborhood events. (See details about the Clean-up on Page 1.)



*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>*

### Board of Directors:

Ann Bleed, *President*  
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Richard Leiter, *President Elect*  
rich.leiter@gmail.com

Roy Maurer, *Treasurer*  
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Cindy Stuefer-Powell, *Secretary*  
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Rebecca Carr

Mary Eisenhart, *Membership Chair*

Gary Gerkin

Matt Perlinger

Patti Pierson

Marcus Plouzek

Danielle Shea

Brian Striman, *Webmaster and Communications Chair*

Dick Voltz

## 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 Membership Chair.

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:

Mary Eisenhart  
ECCO Membership Chair  
1420 N 37th St  
Lincoln NE 68503

Contact Mary at 503-866-5704 or  
[mmeisen@eisenhartconsulting.com](mailto:mmeisen@eisenhartconsulting.com)

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!