

ecco Newsletter

East Campus Community Organization

Volume 12, Issue 3, Fall 2013

Neighbors talking to neighbors

ECCO Annual Meeting

Thursday October 24 at 5:30pm at Valentino's

Mark Your Calendar

Thu. October 24, 2013
5:30pm

ECCO Annual Meeting

Valentino's Restaurant
(35th & Holdrege)

As time passes, neighborhoods change, and with those changes come both sadness and joy. Some of the biggest changes we are seeing in our neighborhood are on Idylwild Drive. At one time there was a horse stable on Idylwild Drive, then came Val and Zena Weiler's Campus Fruit Market. In 1957, the Weilers changed the market into a pizza parlor and named it Valentino's. Tony and Ron Messineo purchased the restaurant in 1972, but did not change its name. Mike Alesio joined the Messineos in operating Val's in 1973.

Soon the current Valentino's building will be torn down. For many, the neighborhood will never be quite the same without that yellow building with roses out front and the smell of baking pizza crust in the air. But there will be a new Valentino's Trattoria restaurant and, thanks to the a donation of \$135,000 from Valentino's, a revitalized park and boulevard on Idylwild Drive.

This year ECCO's annual meeting will focus on celebrating both the old and the new neighborhood life on Idylwild Drive. Thanks to the generosity of Valentino's, this year's ECCO annual meeting and dinner will be held at and hosted by Valentino's Restaurant on 35th and Holdrege.

Following dinner, we will hold a brief business meeting. Then the fun will begin with a look back at the **history of Valentino's**, starting with a talk by Lincoln's historian *Ed Zimmer*. *Tony Messineo* and *Mike Alesio* will tell us more about Valentino's history in the neighborhood.

Then *we want to hear from you*. Please come with your stories about memorable visits to Valentino's or the role Val's has played in your life. (One minute only please.)

Following our reminiscing, we will look to the future with a peek at the **plans for the new Valentino's Trattoria**. Finally Lynn Johnson and Wynn Hjermstad, from the City of Lincoln, will unveil the **city's plans for Idylwild Park**. Thanks to their willingness to include the neighborhood in this planning process, we had a big say in what the park will look like. Make sure you don't miss out on the festivities and plan to be at the ECCO Annual Meeting. ■

Thanks to our meeting sponsor



New mailing address

P.O. Box 4193

Lincoln NE, 68504

ECCO Annual Meeting

Thursday October 24th at 5:30pm
Valentino's Restaurant
(35th and Holdrege)

5:30 Dinner

6:30 Business Meeting

By-laws change and Election of
New Board Members

6:45 Celebration of the old
Valentino's and welcoming the
new Valentino's Trattoria, and
revitalized Idylwild Drive and
Park.

Review of 2013

Thanks to the work of the ECCO board and many volunteers ECCO had a great year in 2013.

Garden Workshops and Tour

Danielle Shea organized our second Discover ECCO event - a garden tour of seven of the many wonderful gardens in our neighborhood. Over 200 people attended the event, which kept the 22 volunteers helping with the tour very busy. Danielle and her committee also arranged for four very helpful gardening workshops attended by more than 50 people. Many of the rain barrels that now dot the neighborhood were the result of one of the workshops.

Saving the Catalpa Tree

Talking about gardens, Richard Sutton, always on the alert to preserve trees in the neighborhood, noticed a large catalpa tree and several other trees on the Valentino's redevelopment block were targeted for removal. A series of phone calls to the city from Richard, ECCO, and Tony Messineo saved the trees.

Planting More Trees

Talking about trees, thanks to Roy Maurer and his hard-working committee, 38 new trees will be planted in our neighborhood. See details in the adjacent article.

Neighborhood Cleanup and July 4th Parade

Patti Pearson organized the annual ECCO cleanup and Tom Madsen with the help of Bob Peterson and others put together a really fun Fourth of July Parade. This year we had some old fashioned games instead of a talent show. The games seemed to be a hit.

Stop light at 33rd and the MoPac

After a child was hit crossing 33rd Street near Peter Pan Park and the MoPac Trail, ECCO along with the Great Plains Trails Network successfully lobbied the city to commit to putting a stop light that will flash when someone approaches the street where the MoPac trail crosses 33rd Street.

Idylwild Park

It was Brian Striman, our hard working webmaster, who developed a questionnaire to solicit opinions about how to redevelop Idylwild Park. With his help and the willingness of the city Parks and Recreation staff to work with us, ECCO was able to develop a park plan will provide a beautiful and unique park that will meet the needs of the neighborhood residents. The plans for the park will be unveiled at ECCO's annual meeting. ■

Re-treing: The Trees are Here!

On Sunday October 6, ECCO volunteers planted 38 trees throughout the neighborhood, in an effort to replace the canopy of "street trees" in areas that would benefit most. The project began nearly a year ago, with a submission spearheaded by Roy Maurer to *Re-Tree Nebraska* for a matching fund grant for \$2,700. The grant was approved, and the real work began! Board member Danielle Shea kicked off the project by coordinating four gardening classes during the spring. On June 1, seven ECCO neighbors opened their beautiful gardens for more than 200 people to tour. The tour raised the needed \$2,700 to match the grant, totaling \$5,400.

ECCO volunteers Richard and Lisa Sutton developed a street-by-street review for placement of the trees, dividing the neighborhood into quadrants, so that all areas would receive an equal number of trees. Homeowners were contacted, with help from Mary Eisenhart, T. J. Fontaine, and Richard and Lisa followed up by staking out the sites where trees were to be placed. Roy Maurer worked countless hours coordinating with the City and contacting "Digger Hotline"! The planting crews arrived with spades in hand, dug holes and placed the trees. Volunteers included members of Farmhouse fraternity. The trees will be watered and cared for by property owners and tenants.

This was a project that truly shows that "many hands make light work". It could not have been completed without great support from ECCO Board members, neighbors, and volunteers. Thanks to all involved in making our ECCO neighborhood more beautiful for years to come – truly a benefit for us all!

More trees are available – this is just the first phase. Please contact Roy Maurer (402-432-0726, rmaurer@radiks.net) or Mary Eisenhart (503-866-5704, mmeisen@eisenhartconsulting.com) for more information. ■



Nominations for the ECCO Board

Every year the terms of about one third of ECCO board end and new board members are elected at the annual meeting. ECCO has no term limits so we are glad to see that two board members, Richard Voeltz and Ann Bleed, are interested in serving another term. In addition, three additional people are being nominated to serve. Below are brief statements from each.

Additional names may be put on the ballot by contacting Ann Bleed at ableed@neb.rr.com or by a nomination at the annual meeting. If you or someone you know is interested in being on the ECCO board, please let us know.

Cara Bentrup

I moved to the ECCO neighborhood when my husband, Gary, and I got married in June 2011. As a life-long resident of Lincoln, I currently spend a portion of my time volunteering at Tabitha Health Care; while I pursue my passions in delivering the message of health, through the practice of studying and teaching yoga. The value of community is extraordinary, and I am grateful in expanding my palate to include well-being on a broad spectrum. How exciting it is to be part of the ECCO community, with a wonderful opportunity to become part of the board! As a newer member in this outstanding area of town, I hope to unite my talents with others' in order to fulfill the goals and livelihood of our historical neighborhood.

Ann Bleed

My husband Peter and I have lived in the neighborhood since 1973 and would not live anywhere else in Lincoln. Although the East Campus neighborhood has many beautiful trees, houses, and gardens, and easy access to Lincoln's phenomenal trail system, what keeps us here is our neighbors, a wonderful group of people who care about each other and this neighborhood. I have really enjoyed serving on the ECCO board and working with lots of my neighbors on projects that help make our neighborhood great. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve again.

Paul Johnson

I have been a lifelong resident of Lincoln and have always admired the East Campus area. My wife, Sherri, & I spent a few years in the foreign territory of south Lincoln, but 20 years ago found our current East Campus neighborhood home. I am the "computer guy" for a CPA firm, Watts & Hershberger, PC, and Sherri has her own business, SJ Bookkeeping Services, Inc. I have served on numerous community boards and committees and Sherri and I have hosted many international visitors. I am on the short list to go on the next NASA Space Shuttle.

A few years ago we purchased a nearby house in the East Campus neighborhood and spent two years renovating it. That project is now the Johnson Guest House and earlier this year we received the historical renovation award from the Preservation Association of Lincoln. Maintaining the character and quality of our East Campus neighborhood is very important.

Richard Voeltz

Barbara and I moved to the ECCO neighborhood in 1972. I retired from the UNL faculty in 2011, after 43 years of service with the University Libraries. I have served on the ECCO board several times during our residence in the neighborhood. The traditions and vitality of the East Campus area continue as new people and organizations enter our lives. I believe the ECCO board can play an important part in serving our neighborhood's needs.

Vicki Wood

I have lived in Lincoln for over 30 years with short stints on the east coast and the Netherlands. I have worked for Lincoln City Libraries most of that time in youth services. I moved to the East Campus neighborhood in March and love the close access to the MOPAC and the Arboretum because I love to walk. My neighbors have been lovely and helpful since I came. I look forward to meeting more of them through the neighborhood association and doing what I can to make the area a better place to live. ■

Become an ECCO Member – Your Support is Needed!

It's that time of year – time to renew your ECCO membership, or join for the first time – by sending in your dues! Your support makes a real difference, funding the Neighborhood Spring Clean-up, Fourth of July Parade, and Discover ECCO; and serving as a sponsor for the East Campus Starrs' Annual Easter Egg Hunt, as well as printing ECCO newsletters. We work to obtain grants and donations as well, to keep memberships affordable for all. Dues run from October 1 – September 30. Join today – it's easy! Just complete the form below, write a check, and mail it to the ECCO Treasurer at P.O. Box 4193, Lincoln NE 68504.

See you around the neighborhood...



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*

Mary Eisenhart, *President Elect and Membership Chair*

Roy Maurer, *Treasurer*

Brian Striman, *Secretary*

Scott DeWitt, *Webmaster and Communications Chair*

Rebecca Carr

Gary Gerkin

Tom Madsen

Patti Pierson

Sally Ruggia-Haden

Lee Sabata

Danielle Shea

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.

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

Annual dues

\$20 Individual or Family

\$25 Business (or Rental Property Owner)

Send payment or donations to:

ECCO

P.O. Box 4193

Lincoln, NE 68504

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!