

ecco Newsletter

East Campus Community Organization

Volume 14, Issue 2, Summer 2015

Neighbors talking to neighbors

Mark Your Calendar

Sat. July 4, 2015
10am (line-up 9:45am)
Fourth of July Parade
Idylwild Park

Sun. Sept 20, 2015
1pm - 5pm
Streets Alive!
Route to include ECCO



Get Ready for ECCO's Fourth of July Parade!

Join your neighbors and meet your friends at the annual **ECCO 4th of July Parade** event on **Saturday, July 4**. Come walk in the parade or support the marchers along the route by watching them go by. Following the Parade, stay for more fun at the park. There will be games, treats for the kids and the Lincoln Fire Department will bring a truck.

This year's Parade starts at the renovated **Valentino's-Idylwild Park**. Line up at the Park at 9:45 am; the parade will start at 10 am. The route will start headed east on Apple St. to 38th St., north to Dudley, east to 40th St., south to Orchard St. and back to Idylwild Park. Kids and adults are welcome to bring their bikes, wagons, shoes or any other means of transportation. Get out your patriotic colors and dress up your "vehicle" or yourself. Bring musical instruments or join our "Rock Band" – decorate empty milk jugs with rocks in them to shake while marching. Prizes contributed by area businesses will be awarded for these Parade categories: Best Entry of the Parade, Best Bicycle, Best Tricycle, Best Costume, and Best Pet.

If you do not want to walk in the Parade, join us as a Parade Watcher. No parade is complete without people along the route cheering the participants along. You too are invited to dress for the occasion.

Volunteers wishing to assist with the parade or with post-parade fun may contact Paul Johnson at paul@gowh.com or 402 429-3710 or meet at the Valentino's-Idylwild Park at 9 am. ■

2015 Fourth of July Parade Honoree

Long time ECCO resident **Vera Mae Lutz** has been chosen as this year's Fourth of July Parade Honoree. Born in Broken Bow, Vera Mae and her husband Dan bought their home on Apple Street in 1954, where they raised three children and she launched a career as a community activist. She is a charter member of ECCO, which was originally formed when Warren Methodist Church asked whether this neighborhood needed a formal organization like those being formed elsewhere. The following shows some of the highlights of Vera Mae's service to the ECCO and the community. We have a lot to thank her for!

- Fund-raising to purchase land for McAdams Park
- Working to prevent the widening of Holdrege Street, and save trees on the north side
- Campaigning to reserve the abandoned railroad

track through ECCO as the future MoPac Trail and getting it into the City's Comprehensive Plan

- Keeping mailboxes from being placed curbside to maintain the historic character of the neighborhood
- Served as Election Deputy Election Commissioner
- Lifelong member of PTA
- Community service award from YWCA

Vera Mae said, "People knew that I wasn't working, so they would call on me to help." It is debatable whether or not she was "working" – but clearly, she answered the call! She has always believed "you help your neighbor". Please join us in honoring Vera Mae for her years of invaluable service. Wave as she is chauffeured in a sporty convertible during our Fourth of July Parade! ■

LPD Update: Awards, new officers, and dealing with gangs

Prepared by Captain Jon Sundermeier, Lincoln Police Department

Citizens of Northeast Lincoln are served by an exceptionally fine group of officers but on June 17th, dayshift officer **Shane Alesch** stood out when he **received three awards** for his work in the last year. Officer Alesch was named Field Training Officer of the Year for his outstanding work of over a decade of teaching and



Congratulations Officer Shane Alesch!

mentoring new recruits in the finer points of being a police officer. He takes great pride in creating a low stress learning environment that greatly enhances the success of recruit officers that are trying to succeed in a high stress occupation. In addition, Officer Alesch received two lifesaving awards for separate incidents. In one, he grabbed and held onto two teen-aged boys who were threatening to jump off a bridge.

Ten new officers graduated from the academy—most of them replacing positions that were lost to retirements or promotions. Two officers, however, will be assigned to focus on our gang problem in Lincoln. These officers were funded in part by a federal grant and these new gang positions will be filled in about five months.

Speaking of gangs, **LPD has been working hard** to impact this problem. There are several hundred documented gang members in Lincoln. From time to time, gang violence has flared up in the form of shootings, assaults, and even a few homicides. LPD spearheaded a

project called Operation Tipping Point, so named because we believe the gang problem in Lincoln is at a tipping point, which is aimed at preventing youth from joining gangs by targeting those most at risk with services and programs. A new outreach specialist has been hired who will manage the cases of these high risk kids.

One of the most visible signs of gang members in a neighborhood is gang graffiti. It's very important to remove graffiti as quickly as possible, so residents should not hesitate to call in on it. The city will remove it from publicly-owned property and property owners are responsible under municipal ordinance for quick removal.

Remember, citizens are the eyes and ears of their police and we can't do our jobs well without you! ■

This year's *Streets Alive* festivities will include the ECCO neighborhood on Sept 20 at 1-5pm. See <http://www.healthylincoln.org/initiatives/streetsalive>

Safe, clean & healthy 4th of July!

You and your neighbors enjoy the colorful display of fireworks through the holiday weekend. Allow everyone to enjoy it even more by cleaning up your debris. Leftover debris makes your neighborhood look bad. Runoff chemicals and debris are pollutants that flow directly to area streams.

Clean up is easy – have a broom & bucket of water handy. Let your spent fireworks cool a few minutes, toss them in the water bucket and, at the end of the night, sweep up the debris and put it in the trash. ■

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	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>
Address	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>
Phone	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>
E-Mail	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>

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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