

ecco Newsletter

East Campus Community Organization

Volume 24, Issue 1, Spring 2025

Neighbors talking to neighbors

Mark Your Calendar

Tue. April 8, 2025
Primary Election Day

Sat. April 12, 2025
Spring Clean-up
Peter Pan Park
31st and X Street

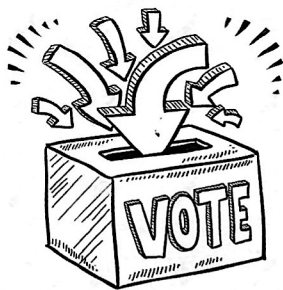
Sat. April 19, 2025
Easter Egg Hunt
McAdams Park
44th and Y Street

Sat. April 26, 2025
Arbor Day Tree Planting
Valentino's-Idylwild Park
Idylwild and Apple St

Tue. May 6, 2025
General Election Day

Sat. June 14, 2025
Sat. July 12, 2025
Sat. August 9, 2025
*Discovery Days and
Farmers Market*
East Campus Mall
North of 36th and Holdrege
<http://discoverydays.unl.edu>

Fri. July 4, 2025
Fourth of July Parade
Valentino's-Idylwild Park



Greetings from your Neighborhood Association!

The East Campus Community Organization, ECCO, is an active neighborhood association. For years, we have joined together through the East Campus Community Organization (ECCO), Vine to Holdrege and 33rd Street to 48th Street. With your support, we'll keep our neighborhood the best place in Lincoln to call home.

Together, we sponsor the July 4th parade and games for kids, an annual neighborhood spring cleanup, financially support the East Campus Starrs Easter Egg Hunt, garden tours/workshops and valuable communication through newsletters and email notices, as well as work with Lincoln Police Department on crime and safety issues. We work with homeowners and contribute funding for tree planting to sustain the natural canopy that makes this neighborhood one of the most attractive in Lincoln. Collectively, we make your voice heard on neighborhood issues before the City Council. ■

City of Lincoln Elections | Primary April 8; General May 6

The City of Lincoln elections are coming up (primary 4/8/2025 and general 5/6/2025). ECCO neighbors are encouraged to vote. Remember- Voter ID is now required.

Additional information may be found at the Election Commissioner's website at <https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/1337/2025-Lincoln-City-Elections>.

Important items on the ballot:

- Continuation of the **Lincoln On the Move (LOTM) Street Improvement** Ballot Question
- At-large **City Council** election
- Lincoln Public Schools **Board of Education** election
- Lincoln Airport Authority Board of Directors election

Approval of the LOTM Street Improvement Ballot Question would

not raise the current sales tax rate, only continue the current rate through September 2033. The current program will expire on September 30, 2025.

Since approved by voters in 2019, LOTM added one penny to the cost of a \$4 cup of coffee and has generated an additional \$102 million for 55 projects that have been completed and 10 more that are planned. Without LOTM, those projects would have taken up to 22 years to fund.

Projects completed near our neighborhood include Huntington Ave - 33 to 48th (2021), Clinton Neighborhood (2022), Leighton St- 48th -70th (2024), Culler Neighborhood (2021). Find all projects and learn more at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/Streets>. ■

<http://www.eastcampus.org>

East Campus Starrs' Easter Egg Hunt, April 19

Neighborhood children will watch for the Easter Bunny at the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th at McAdams Park. The annual search for candy-filled eggs is organized by the **East Campus Starrs**, a neighborhood women's group, and supported by ECCO.

Children 8 and under are invited to take part. A special area will be reserved for children 3 and under. Parents are welcome to watch from the sidelines.

Don't be late! Over 100 children typically attend this annual event, so when the Easter Egg hunters take off, the event is over pretty quickly.

The Easter Bunny will be waiting!

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

When: **Sat. April 19 @ 11am**

Who: **Children 8 and under**

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



ECCO Neighborhood Watch!

The Neighborhood Watch Program establishes a formal network for concerned citizens to communicate with their neighbors and the police regarding crime related problems. You can form a Neighborhood Watch group around any geographical unit, a block, apartment, park, business area, or public housing complex.

The program asks you to be involved with your neighbors, and their property, by becoming more aware and alert to the activity on your street. Any community resident can join - renter or homeowner. Members learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activities that raise their suspicions. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors.

It is important to realize that criminals find it difficult to operate in areas where citizens take an active role in reducing criminal opportunity and reporting suspicious activity. As you go about your daily routine casually observe the neighborhood. Such observations are useful in alerting neighbors and police to suspicious persons and activity in the area.

If you are interested in joining the ECCO Neighborhood Watch, please send an email to ECCOPres@EastCampus.org.

You can go to the Lincoln Police Department public website at <http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police> to receive up to date crime data and information pertinent to the neighborhood.

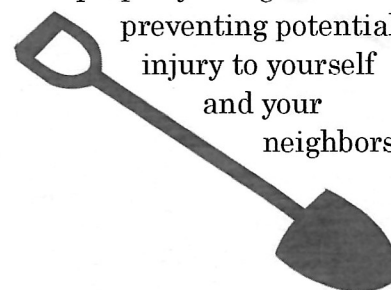
If you see something out of place or unusual in the neighborhood, say something, contact the police. ▪

Call before you dig!

Spring is just around the corner! Are you planning outdoor projects such as planting a garden or tree, replacing a mailbox, installing a fence or deck, etc.? Be sure to contact Nebraska 811 (by dialing 811), as required by state law, at least two full business days prior to beginning your excavation project.

By using Nebraska's free 811 service, and having underground utility lines marked on your property, you can prevent damage to the utility lines and your property along with

preventing potential injury to yourself and your neighbors. ▪



Arbor Day and Tree Planting

On Saturday April 26th, ECCO's Tree Committee will host a tree planting in Valentino's-Idylwild Park. Honoring the day, we'll plant a blue spruce at 12 Noon with refreshments of cookies and apple cider.

Two small oaks will be given out as door prizes. We will also share news of proposed tree-plantings in the neighborhood. ▪

Neighborhood Clean-up will be held April 12, 2025 at NEW location!

The East Campus Neighborhood Spring Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at **Peter Pan Park (31st and X St)** from 9am to 1pm, rain or shine. A *Goodwill Challenge* is included and a free shredding service will be available from 11am to 1pm.

The following items are accepted: yard clutter, brush, branches and stumps, old bikes, lumber, metal scraps, tires (\$50 fee for non-ECCO members), and other unsightly items. The following items are NOT accepted: 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 for only \$25!

Goodwill Industries Serving Southeast Nebraska (Lincoln Goodwill) will be collecting gently used household goods, clothing, and electronics. They will also accept any condition of textiles or electronics for recycling. Sales from your Goodwill donations help fund a variety of life-changing employment services and programs throughout the community.

If arranged in advance, volunteers will be available to pick up items curbside. Call the coordinator Mary Belka at 503-866-5704 by April 5th to arrange for curbside pick-up the day of the clean-up.

Volunteers with trucks are needed for curbside pick-ups. If you are willing to help, contact Mary Belka before April 5th.

So, clean out your yard, garage, and closets and bring that old computer, sofa, and items to shred from the basement to help ECCO and your community.

Finally, ECCO will offer a shredding service for old paper documents from 11am to 1pm.

When: Sat. April 12, 9am-1pm
with Goodwill challenge and shredding service 11am-1pm

Where: Peter Pan Park @ 31st and 'X' Street

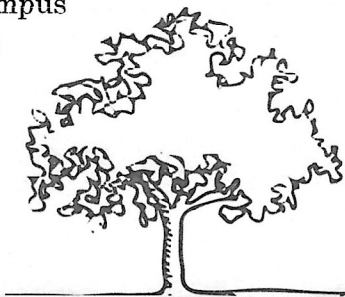
Who: Everyone! •

Discovery Days and Farmers Market on East Campus

Plan on joining the East Campus Discovery Days and Farmers Market, a fun, family-friendly event on UNL's East Campus this summer. It is more than a farmer's market. It's more than a science day.

Come for the hands-on, science-focused fun. Stay to enjoy live music and food trucks. Shop at our farmers market and vendor fair. Enjoy a scoop of ice cream at the newly renovated UNL Dairy Store. Take in the beauty of the Backyard Farmer Garden.

The event will be held 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on the East Campus Mall (north of 35th and Holdrege Street) on the second Saturdays (June 14, July 12, August 9). •



Summer is coming: Safety and Security

It is that time of year again! We encourage people to get out and enjoy the city. But this is the season for severe weather! Please keep an eye to the sky, and an ear to the weather radio, local television, and radio.

Summer is when many of us get away for a vacation! Keep your home safe while you are enjoying your time away. Here are six safety tips.

1. Have someone check on your home!
2. Use a doorbell camera system. If you are gone, it will let you know if someone shows up.
3. Make sure your windows and doors are locked! Have people confirm when they check your house.
4. Don't put travel plans on social media! Too many people can often see your pages and may have ulterior motives.
5. Cancel mail and package deliveries or have someone pick up those items.
6. Have the house look "lived in" while you are gone. Random lights left on by the people who check your house or your home security system, helps lead others to believe people are home.

Don't hesitate to reach out to neighbors so they can watch your house too! •

ECCO Yard of the Month returns for the season

The ECCO Yard of the Month (YOTM) Program recognizes neighbors that demonstrate notable efforts in maintaining their property on a consistent basis, thus contributing to the overall appearance of our neighborhood. The YOTM season is usually from May through September. The owner of a selected yard(s) will be asked if a sign may be placed in

the yard for the month. If the owner agrees, then the sign will be placed and picked up at the end of the month.

Not every yard can be chosen to be ECCO Yard of the Month, but you can help us find the yards that you think should be honored and brought to the attention of the neighborhood.

Please send your suggestions via the *Contact Us* page on the ECCO website at <http://eastcampus.org>. Be sure to include the address of the yard and your contact information in case we have questions. Thank you for supporting your East Campus neighborhood. ■



Please Pick Up After Pets

Our neighborhood loves dogs, but not their waste. Prevent parasites, bacteria, and viruses from infecting people or other pets by picking up your dog's poop immediately. Many parasites require days to weeks to reach the infective stage, so feces become more hazardous to your health the longer it sits. ■



Thinking of selling your home?

Thinking of selling your East Campus neighborhood home?

ECCO often has inquiries from prospective homebuyers who wish to live in the neighborhood. Owner-occupied homes help maintain the character of a neighborhood. We are concerned about the rise of corporate homeownership and are happy to share our contacts. Email eccopres@eastcampus.org and **Tell ECCO First!**



Yard of the month nominees?

Send suggestions from the About Us page of <http://eastcampus.org>

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 ECCO Membership, P.O. Box 4193, Lincoln, NE 68504

Name

Address

Phone

E-Mail

Interest in Volunteering? *Please circle your interests.*

Spring	July 4th	Deliver	Garden	Board
clean-up	Parade	Newsletters	Tour	Member

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East Campus Community Organization (ECCO) is an organization of neighbors within the boundaries of 33rd and 48th from Vine to Holdrege in Lincoln NE.

eccoboard@eastcampus.org
<http://www.eastcampus.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECCO1>

<http://www.eastcampus.org>