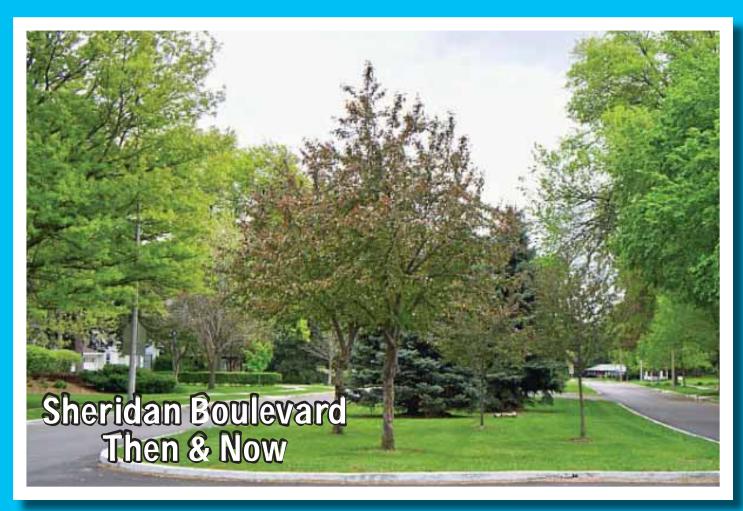
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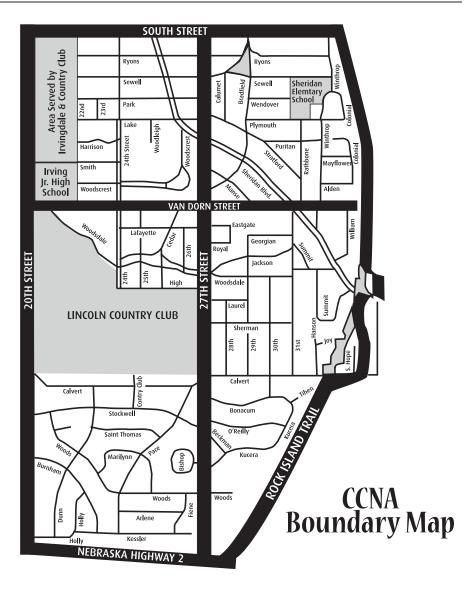
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Thank you for serving your neighborhood! CCNA Chronicle Publishing Schedule

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The CCNA Chronicle is the official publication of the Country Club Neighborhood Association (CCNA). The CCNA Chronicle is published four times a year by the CCNA and every address in the CCNA boundaries is mailed a copy. Statements of fact and opinion made are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or members of CCNA. While this publication makes a reasonable effort to establish the integrity of its advertisers, it does not specifically endorse advertised products or services unless specifically stated as such. All correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to: Country Club Neighborhood Association, Attn: CHRONICLE Editor, PO Box 21953. Lincoln. NE 68542.



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Magazine content is provided by your neighborhood Homeowners Association Board. We welcome your thoughts and input, and appreciate new ideas for stories, recipes, holiday traditions, arts and crafts and other topics you would like to see featured. We aim to provide information that is useful and relevant to you, so your feedback is important. Please email ccnamagazine@gmail.com to submit your idea for the next publication!

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President's Message

By Justin Carlson, CCNA President



Spring has sprung! Even though this winter was an easy one by Nebraska standards I am still so relieved to see spring. The flowers are blooming, the trees and filling out and I just finished cutting my grass for the first of many mows for the season. Last night, while fishing, I even caught my first bass of the year. Spring has arrived.

For me, spring has always been a great time to clean out, purge and get organized for the busy summer months. While such a dreary chore, the outcome usually makes the work worthwhile. Hopefully many of you were able to begin your own spring clean up and take part in our annual Country Club Neighborhood Association garage sale on May 5th. Thank you Linda Wibbels for again coordinating what is another one of our great CCNA traditions. Spring also gets me fired up for home remodeling projects. With the early spring I've already started several projects around the house that normally would be put off until late May. It seems like older homes always need a little TLC and updating but that's the tradeoff for having the charm of a historic home. What kinds of projects do you plan to do this year? Send us some pictures of before and after renovation or landscaping projects. We'd love to see them. The joys of old houses!

Over the past several months the CCNA Board and Committees have been busy. We have held several meetings and been involved in all kinds of issues impacting your neighborhood. From road construction projects, bridge repairs, crime waves and neighbor disputes the CCNA has actively represented your interests to help us maintain the safe, vibrant neighborhood we all enjoy.

In January you received a letter from me with your Country Club Neighborhood Association dues request. Most of you have already mailed back your dues and many of you have even included an extra donation. Thank you for your continued support of our organization and for standing up for your neighborhood! If you haven't yet sent in your 2012 dues, there is still time.

If you have any interest in getting involved with the CCNA we hope you will consider joining us for our meetings. Our next meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday July 17th, Tuesday September 18th and Tuesday October 16th. All are welcome and we hope you can join us. On behalf of all the members of the Country Club Neighborhood Association's Board of Directors we hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter.

See you around the neighborhood!

Justin





New Board Member: Jena Nicole Lambert



My husband, Dr. Seth Lambert, our daughter Olivia and I moved to the Lincoln area in October of 2010 so that my husband could accept a position at Eyeglass World after he graduated from the Indiana University School of Optometry. I am currently a stay at home mother to our two and a half year old daughter.

I am originally from the Bloomington, Indiana

area and attended college at Indiana University, and I studied Fine Arts. I spent several years working in office management and bookkeeping, prior to meeting my husband Seth.

Seth and I spend a lot of time researching almost every choice we make, and not the least of which was deciding where to plant roots after he finished graduate school. Lincoln, Nebraska with its abundant green space, excellent cost of living and its fantastic sense of small town charm in an active urban atmosphere made the area obviously appealing to our young family. Furthermore, in our effort to find the perfect place to settle, we learned that Sheridan Elementary School was an exemplary institution and upon visiting the surrounding neighborhood for further investigation, we were forever in love with the nostalgic beauty of the area.

So, after nearly a year of renting in Lincoln while we searched for the perfect home to purchase in this neighborhood, we stumbled upon our little stone Cape Cod on Rathbone, which we closed on in July of 2011.

Everyone keeps telling me how 'lucky' we are to have ended up in this fantastic neighborhood. I insist it is something more than runof-the-mill luck. I prefer to think of it as 'Lambert Timing.'





Fall Home Tour: September 23, 2012

This year's Fall Home Tour is coming together. We currently have four of the six home commitments that we need for a successful event. If anyone is willing to have their home on the tour or wishes to suggest someone who may be willing to have their home on the tour, please call Kay Maxwell at 402-475-3613 or 402-474-5015 to discuss the details.

To make this year's Home Tour even bigger and more exciting, there will also be a classic car show on the tour.

Tickets will be available in advance for \$10 at local businesses and on tour day at the homes for \$12.

The money that is raised by the Home Tour is used for neighborhood projects and improvements. The last tour provided most of the money for the new lighting on 27th Street, Van Dorn Street and Sheridan Boulevard.

We are asking for volunteers for the day of the tour. Please contact Joyce Norris at 402-435-0267 for more information.



Country Club Neighborhood Association 2012 DUES STATEMENT Please check one: ☐ The contact information on the other side is complete and accurate. If you're interested in participating in any of the following committees, ☐ The contact information needs to be updated as follows: please email the appropriate chair. Name Communications and Membership Committee Address Will Stahn - wstahn1999@yahoo.com E-mail Alice Epstein - aepstein@neb.rr.com Annual CCNA membership dues (good until January 2013) Parks and Beautification Committee \$25.00 / \$15 Senior Linda Wibbels - linda.wibbels@woodsbros.com Good Neighbor Linda Brown - runnerlinda@gmail.com Great Neighbor 50.00 Outstanding Neighbor 100.00 Social and Activites Committee Distinguished Neighbor 125.00+ Lisa Sypal - lisasypal@yahoo.com Enclosed is one business card for the online directory = \$ 0.00 Kay Maxwell - bmaxwell@neb.rr.com TOTAL Enclosed = \$ Community Relations Committee Sue Van Horn - d-svanhorn@neb.rr.com If dues and contributions total \$35 or more, the entire amount is tax-deductible. Please make check payable to Country Club Neighborhood Association ☐ I don't have email. I am interested in the Committee. and return it with this form and your business card(s) to: CCNA Dues, P.O. Box 21953, Lincoln, NE 68542.



Proposed Historic Rehab Tax Credit Before Legislative Committee By Cathy Beecham

The Revenue Committee of the State Legislature is currently considering a bill that would provide a state income tax credit to historic properties that are rehabilitated. Sponsored by Committee Chair Senator Abbie Cornett, the Historic Property Restoration and Reuse Act (LB888 and its amendment) would provide a significant tool for historic preservation.

What would the bill do?-The bill would provide a 20% credit against state income tax for owners who rehabilitate historically significant properties. The nonrefundable tax credit could be carried forward if not used in a given tax year. The tax credit would be calculated on 20% of qualified rehabilitation expenditures. As a tax credit, it would be taken off the amount owed of a taxpayer's state income tax.

Who would qualify? - LB888 would apply to certain properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places or designated under a local historic preservation ordinance. Properties located in National Register or local landmark historic districts could qualify if they are historically significant to the district. The Country Club Neighborhood has several homes that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A portion of the neighborhood is also included on the register as a district. The Boulevards Historic District runs approximately from 24th and the Rock Island Trail to Calvert. Rehab work on most homes in this district would qualify for the tax

credit. For a detailed map of the district, go to: http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/hist/tour/boulevard.htm

Homes in the Boulevards District features many of Lincoln's distinct architectural styles and many of these houses were designed by Lincoln's leading architects including Davis & Wilson, Fiske & Meginnis, and Miller & Craig. 97% of the buildings in the district are regarded as contributing to the character of the district.

Does CCNA Support This Bill? - The CCNA Board recently voted to send a letter in support of this bill to the members of the Revenue Committee. Letters of support were also sent by the Preservation Association of Lincoln, Heritage Nebraska, and the City of Lincoln Directors of Planning and of Urban Development. The sponsors of LB888 anticipate that the bill would offer incentives to invest in older buildings, potentially spurring revitalization in both urban and rural communities. Rehabilitation of historic properties has been documented to create local jobs as well as add to the property tax rolls in communities. Many communities have used historic rehabilitation to stabilize older and substandard neighborhoods and renew commercial "main street" districts.

What is the Bill's Status? - In general, competition in the Legislature for new spending is fierce. At this time, the legislation does not appear to have enough votes to move it out of Committee to be heard by the full House.

What can you do? - Although the legislation is unlikely to be considered by the full Legislature this year, you can still send a letter to your state senator. Ask them to continue to support preservation efforts across the state and tell them you hope they can consider preservation legislation next session. CCNA will keep you posted if this or other legislation comes up that we consider may be useful to our neighborhood.

Senators for the Country Club area

Bill Avery - bavery@leg.ne.gov 402-471-2633 Represents CCNA Residents: East of 27th, North of Van Dorn

Colby Coash - ccoash@leg.ne.gov 402-471-2632 Represents CCNA Residents: East of 27th, South of Van Dorn

Tony Fulton - tfulton@leg.ne.gov 402-471-2734 Represents CCNA Residents: West of 27th



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CC How To Avoid Vandalism

While we live in a very safe neighborhood, we are not immune to vandalism. The warmer weather seems to bring out undesirable behavior. Recently we have had unlocked cars broken into and thefts from open garages. The Lincoln Police Department has several tips to keep you and your property safe:

Always lock your car and house doors.

Never leave anything of value in plain sight and unattended.

Avoid parking on the street. Not only is this safer for other cars and pedestrians, but bad people are less likely to break into or vandalize your vehicle if it is in the garage or parked in the driveway.

Light – it is a deterrent. Leave on a porch or garage light. Don't have enough street lights? Organize your neighbors to get ornamental lighting just like the Woodsdale area west of 27th. Email or call CCNA on the "How To's" of looking into an ornamental lighting district.

Call 911 – if you hear something strange going on or see suspicious activity, do not hesitate to call 911 immediately. It is better to err on the side of caution.

Let your neighbor know if you are going to be out-of-town or on vacation – not the whole world. Make arrangements to stop the paper and the mail, put lights on a timer and make sure the house does not say "we're gone".





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News from St. Matthew's Church

By: Heather Hesse

St. Matthew's Church (2325 South 24th St.) has been busy this spring with events welcoming the neighborhood, and there are more to come!

In April, the church's EGG (Episcopalians Go Green) committee hosted two evenings open to the community: Jane Poulson, the executive director of Keep Nebraska Beautiful, spoke on April 11, and a screening of the film, "Bag It" was presented on April 18. Saturday, April 21, was the neighborhood SpiritScape cleanup day, followed with burgers, hot dogs, and a neighborhood/parish potluck.

The St. Matthew's SpiritScape Playground is well on its way to completion and as more areas are developed, it invites more neighborhood family time with nature. On a regular basis, there are kids and families coming in to play the marimba, dig in the sandbox, play on the climbing/crawling structure, or enjoy the solace of this beautiful neighborhood fixture. We are happy to see the neighborhood using the Outdoor Classroom and invite more of you to come by.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 20th from 12:00 to 2:00PM. St. Matthew's is hosting a youth music festival and wants your participation! Bring a blanket or chair and come enjoy music from the kids in our parish and neighborhood as you sit on the lawn and watch them perform on the SpiritScape stage. St. Matthew's will provide burgers, fruit, drinks and sundaes. We invite all musicians



Children playing on the SpiritScape Playground.

through high school to bring their instrument and perform. (A keyboard will be provided.) We welcome your participation! If you would like to participate or would like more information, please email kipperhesse@aol.com.

St. Matthew's expects to have their space certified with Nature Explore this summer. It will be the first Certified Nature Explore Classroom at a church not associated with a preschool.







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2012 Household Hazardous Waste Collections

	Date	Location	Time	
For items accepted at HHW Collections:	Fri. March 2	Appointment Only – Call 402-441-8021	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Do <u>NOT</u> Bring:
www. lincoln.ne.gov	Sat. April 28	Wal-Mart South – 87 th and Hwy 2	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Latex Paint
keyword: household	Sat. May 19	Pfizer Inc. – 601 West Cornhusker Hwy	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Ammunition Antifreeze
Need more HHW	Fri. June 8	Union College Parking Lot–52 nd & Cooper	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Batteries
information?	Sat. Aug. 25	Veyance Technologies – 4021 North 56th	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Electronics/TVs
402-441-8021	Sat. Sept. 22	Lincoln Industries – 600 West E	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Fertilizers Medicines
	Sat. Oct. 13	Woods Park – Parking Lot – 31 st & J	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Propane Cylinders
	Fri. Nov 16	Appointment Only – Call 402-441-8021	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Tires or Used Oil

2012 Usable Latex Paint Exchanges

Sat. May 19 & Sat. Sep. 22 at EcoStores Nebraska, 530 West P - 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. See http://www.ecostoresne.org



Yard Sign Etiquette and the Law

Soon they will begin sprouting like dandelions - illegal yard signs!

Got BUGS – call this number. For sale - this. Garage sale - that.

The City of Lincoln has a sign ordinance that specifically spells out where signs are not allowed and the fines that go along with the illegal posting of a sign:

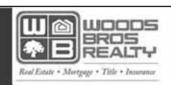
- 1. No sign may be placed in the public right-of-way (between sidewalk and curb or where a sidewalk might be). They have been lenient in putting up Open House signs that are up just before an open house and taken down immediately after.
- 2. No sign can be placed on any public property street light or pole OR tree! Yes, people have nailed garage sale signs on trees!
- 3. No signs in any boulevards or parks.

- 4. If you put a sign in someone's yard, you must ask for their permission. If the property owner declines, respect their wishes and do not put a sign in their yard. Please don't puncture their sprinkler system or you will have to pay for the repair.
- 5. If you are having trouble with an illegal sign, call the police non-emergency number 441-6000.

Most of the violators in our neighborhood live outside the neighborhood. If you see an illegal sign, you may take it down.

P.S. Our new black street poles are painted. Taping signs, etc. to them will remove the paint. Don't spend your garage sale proceeds having the poles repainted.





LINDA WIBBELS, CRS, PPS

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Linda.Wibbels@WoodsBros.com www.LindaWibbels.WoodsBros.com



3737 South 27th St Lincoln, NE 68502







Feature Story: Sheridan Blvd: Then and Now



Washington, D.C. has Pennsylvania Avenue. Chicago has Lake Shore Drive. Hollywood has Sunset Boulevard.

Lincoln has Sheridan Boulevard.

Did you know ...?

For approximately the last 15 years CCNA has made annual contributions to Parks and Recreation for the additional maintenance to our 43 boulevards, 3 parks and the neighborhood entrance corners at 27th & Hwy 2. Just as your yard tells a lot about you, our boulevards say a lot about CCNA – we are proud of where we live!

Thursdays are the usual day for all of the mowing on our boulevards. If you see Nate Conroy and his crew from Green Touch, give them thumbs up and also to Dave Bomberger and Bob Weyhrich of Parks and Recreation. They are doing an excellent job in making the neighborhood look beautiful.

It was a hot summer at the turn of the 20th Century. Young F. Pace Woods, Sr. was with his father and others getting ready to layout their new residential development southeast of the state capitol. They met together at where Westminster church now stands. With a team of horses pulling a flatbed wagon, they began laying out what is now Sheridan Boulevard from South Street to South 33rd Street.

The driver of the horse drawn flatbed was told to let the horses naturally follow the high line of the ground and to continue to about where the little creek was. Along the way the young boys and girls on the flatbed placed American flags in the ground. They now had their new street of which all others were to be planned around.

This new street was also to be the main attraction for the development known as the Woods Bros Subdivision. It would connect "main Lincoln" to College View via the trolley system that ran in the middle of a series of grassy areas in the middle of this new road. But it had to be attractive and the name had to be strong.

The beauty of the new road was placed in the hands of Jens Jensen, a famous landscape architect from Chicago. The plantings were placed around the perimeter of these grassy areas that they now called boulevards. landscaping would "soften" the look and the noise of the trolleys that made their way from downtown Lincoln to this new subdivision and on to College View.

But how do you name this new road? It would be beautiful and magnificent. The name had to be strong in order to overcome any objections from people saying this new development was too far out. Being American history enthusiasts, the Woods Bros developers decided on Sheridan Boulevard after General Philip Henry Sheridan, 1831-1888. ruthless warrior, General Sheridan played a decisive role in the army's long battles in the Civil and Indian wars. In 1884 he became the commanding general of the United States Army and held that post until his death in 1888.

Sheridan Boulevard flourished from the very beginning. Lincoln notables built their homes on Sheridan Boulevard. The surrounding streets created a pleasing and popular neighborhood.

Time, however, takes its toll on almost everything. The trolleys were discontinued with the popularity of the automobile. The brick roadway was overlaid with asphalt. Decades of snow plows chewed away the curbs. Time, storms and disease have taken a lot of the trees and

Sheridan Boulevard before CCNA, neighbors, and Parks & Recreation joined forces to beautify the neighborhood.







Sheridan Boulevard after CCNA, neighbors, and Parks & Recreation joined forces to beautify the neighborhood.







landscaping. The neighborhood could accept the steady erosion of the boulevards or they could do something about it.

And the neighbors did! In 2011 Sheridan Boulevard was rehabilitated - new curbs and a new overlay. Not only does it drive comfortably, it looks so nice.

CCNA has been working on the improvement of the landscaping and turf on the boulevards since the October, 1997 storm. Unfortunately, we lost a lot of trees last year due to tip blight and other diseases. We have several more trees that are scheduled to be removed. There is a master plan for the boulevards, but it will take the assistance of all neighbors to make it a reality. Look for more information in the future.



Dear Country Club Neighborhood Association:

The South Branch Library invites families with young children to attend our new Family Storytimes every Monday evening, beginning January 9, 2012. Crafts will be available from 6:30-7:00 PM, followed by storytime from 7:00-7:30 PM!

No registration is required. For more information, contact the South Branch Library at 402-441-8570.

We hope to see you there!



Dead and Dying Trees

In driving around Lincoln the last several years, you could not help but to notice all of the Scotch pine and other pine trees that have been turning brown and dying. This also includes our neighborhood and we have not been limited to just the pine trees. Almost all of our conifers have also been having problems.

Some of our dead and dying trees are the result of the pine needle tip blight, some leaf hoppers, some trunk girdle (never heard of that before), red spider mites, etc. In the past the City of Lincoln Forestry Department had a spraying program for these trees. It was thought better, and cheaper in the long run, to spray the trees for these problems than to replace hundreds of trees. Unfortunately, the spraying program was cut from the City budget and our trees and trees throughout Lincoln are now suffering the consequences. The tree trimming department has also had budget cuts allowing growth and branches to encroach into the line-of-sight for cars and pedestrians. It is so sad to see our city suffering because of these cuts.

CCNA spent several hours several weeks ago with our City Forester reviewing all of the trees in our neighborhood and the line-ofsight problems. At one point a tree limb was hanging over the sidewalk so much that we could barely see the young girl on her bicycle getting ready to cross the street. We are very fortunate that CCNA has an excellent working relationship with Parks and Recreation and are able to accomplish some much needed work that is being done. CCNA also makes a financial contribution every year to Parks and Recreation.

This is what has been happening and what will happen as a result of the driving tour with the City Forester:

- 1. Trees and bushes have been identified on various boulevards and in the public right-of-way that need to be removed. You will be able to see an orange flag tied to the tree. Once removed, the stumps will also be removed.
- 2. Trees at the end of the boulevards and intersections, if needed, will be trimmed up for better vision/safety of pedestrians and motorists.
- 3. If you have a pine tree or other disease infested tree on your private property, please consider having your tree sprayed or removed, but only after consulting with a licensed arborists. If not, your pests will be moving to your neighbors' trees. If your neighbor has an infested tree, please talk to them about it as it may soon come over into your trees.

CCNA has invested a lot of time and money into the planting of trees in our entire neighborhood. We strive to keep our neighborhood looking beautiful and in mint condition. We appreciate your support, cooperation and the beautiful care you give to your property. After all, your home and yard – and out neighborhood – is what keeps our neighborhood beautiful and desirable.

NOTE: You are responsible for the maintenance and trimming of any trees on your property - branches hanging over the sidewalk and posing a problem for pedestrians or motorists; debris on sidewalks from trees, etc. that might interfere with pedestrians, especially walk-to-school routes. Be a good neighbor and make it safe for yourselves and your neighbors.





LES Will Still Bury Your Power Lines

Now is the best time to make arrangements to get your lines (electric, telephone and cable) buried from the pole to the house. Your gardens have not yet begun to flower and the lawns are still dormant. Come spring, having those lines out of sight will make everything look more attractive. So, how do you get your lines buried and how much will it cost?

Call Roger Wohlers at Lincoln Electric System. Call him at 475-4211 or 467-7570 or 430-9513. Roger will come to your home and visit with you about the project without any obligation.

Cost Option #1 - FREE! LES does not charge for the trenching from the pole to the house. They will bury the electric, telephone and cable all at once. All you have to do is pay to have your electrician get your electric meter ready to receive the lines from overhead to underground.

Cost Option #2 - Ask Roger. If you don't want your yard trenched and would rather have it bored, LES will have a charge for the boring.

You will receive many benefits from having your lines buried. The most obvious is that you greatly reduce your chances of losing power by having limbs fall on the lines, squirrels filing their teeth on your lines or just a good old storm wreaking its havoc. The most "not obvious" is that the lines aren't obvious. It's so nice looking outside your house and not seeing all those wires. Give Roger a call today. The many homeowners who have already done this are thrilled.

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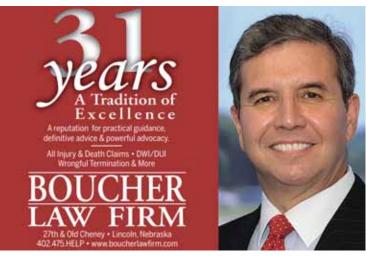
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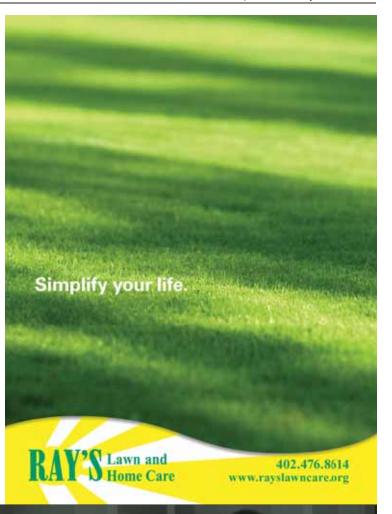






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Academic News

A message from Irving Principal Hugh McDermott

One of the system approaches we as a staff use at Irving Middle School in working with students and their behavior (both social and academic) is called PBiS—Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports. This is a school-wide proactive approach for addressing student behavior. There is an abundance of research supporting the use of PBiS as a means for reducing and preventing problem behaviors in school. What we have liked about this system approach is the fact that it focuses on positive behavior and looks for ways to teach students positive social behaviors.

There are six key elements of PBiS that we have been working on for the last five years as a staff at Irving.

- 1) Clear Expectations---these are defined with behavioral examples in order for students to learn appropriate behaviors. This enables clear and consistent communications with staff and students across all settings. We worked with our students and staff in identifying seven school-wide expectations so that students know what is expected of them in all parts of our school building.
- 2) Teach Expectations---Behavioral expectations are directly taught, modeled, practiced and reinforced in the locations and situation in which they're expected. Just as students need to be taught to read and write, they must also be directly and explicitly taught the life skills of how to interact appropriately within their environments. These expectations must be taught at the beginning of the year,

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before and after breaks and towards the end of the year and reviewed 10-20 times a year. Right now, we teach a social behavior lesson across all grade levels, once a month on PLC days.

- School-Wide Reinforcement System---Research indicates that students' ability to function successfully within the school is increased when adults "catch students being good." All staff members look for and use positive reinforcement when students display rule following behaviors in order to see the expected behaviors increase and be sustained over time.
- 4) Corrective Consequence System---We believe we have a system in place to provide students with consistent corrective consequences for behavioral infractions. What we also feel strongly about is that the consequences should include a teaching component (such as a reminder of the behavioral expectation, re-teaching and practice.) Our focus is not on punishment.
- 5) Data Based Decision Making---We have multiple means to gather data about student behavior which allows us to examine daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly results. Misbehaviors are documented and include who, what, where, and when. Data is compiled and organized in order for us to provide feedback to staff on a regular interval. Reviewing data allows us to set the course or direction for future strategies to further change inappropriate behavior when it happens.

And finally, (6)---Family Support---We look for ways to develop family support by making positive contacts, sending home clearly defined school and classroom expectations, and contacting parents when students are having difficulty at school. It is important to recognize that parents, caregivers, and teachers have a common goal, to help students be as successful as possible. The research clearly supports the efficacy of the partnership between home and school in supporting student academic and behavioral success. This is also an area where we as a staff want to increase our efforts to be even better partners with our parents.

We want Irving parents to know more about our school-wide efforts to help our students be more successful in their daily school work here at Irving. If you would like more information about PBiS, please contact me and I can provide you with multiple websites and resources for further information.

Being Positive....it makes a difference in the lives of our students and our approach in working with our students. Hugh McDermott, Irving Principal

(Some concepts and information were taken from the Issue 1, January 2011 article called, "Best Practices in Behavior", Contributors: Allison Champion, Bruce Pray, Mike Coutts, Marnie Zabel).

A message from Sheridan Elementary School by Nichole Palmer

The Sheridan Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) held its first annual Shark-a-thon walk on Thursday, April 26, 2012. This new event was a great way for our school to promote the importance of health and wellness as well as raise funds for programs not financially supported by Lincoln Public Schools.

Our PTO set a goal for Shark-a-thon to raise more than \$12,000 for programs that directly benefit Sheridan students. Sheridan's PTO supported programs include but are not limited to: field trips, student scholarships for after-school clubs, classroom books, curriculum materials, a summer library program and books for the media center, as well as helping to meet school technology needs.

There are 490 students that were given the opportunity to participate in Shark-a-thon. You may have seen our students walking the blocks nearest school grounds and we certainly welcomed our Country Club neighbors to cheer us on throughout the day. It is not too late to support our fundraising efforts. Donations can be sent to:

Sheridan Elementary, Shark-a-thon 3100 Plymouth Avenue Lincoln, NE 68502.

If you have questions regarding the 2013 Shark-a-thon or are interested in supporting our event, please contact Nichole Palmer at nichole@knotsandtots.com or 402-423-1881. We have wonderful sponsorship opportunities for local businesses. Thank you for supporting our Sheridan fundraising efforts. Go Sharks!

A message from Lincoln Southeast Principal Patrick Hunter-Pirtle

On Wednesday, April 4, and Thursday, April 5, 2012, Lincoln Southeast High School inducted another class into its Distinguished Alumni Program. Those alumni who were honored were:

- Dr. Jill Cole, Class of 1960, internationally recognized social worker and therapist
- Lieutenant Colonel Charles Hagemeister, Class of 1964, Medal of Honor Winner, Vietnam War
- Jim Carrier, Class of 1967, Chairman and CEO of Lester Electrical
- Jim Abel, Class of 1969, Chairman and CEO of NEBCO, Owner of Lincoln Salt Dogs
- Deb Strobel Fischer, Class of 1969, Nebraska State Legislator representing the 43rd legislative district and candidate for U.S. Senate
- Jane Hirt, Class of 1985, Managing Editor/Vice President, Chicago Tribune
- Ed Pallesen, Class of 1987, Harvard undergraduate and law graduate, Rhodes Scholar studied at Oxford, Goldman Sachs, New York
- Lieutenant Colonel, Jack Aalborg, Class of 1990, Political Affairs Specialist, U.S. Air Force
- Anjhula Singh Bais, Class of 1999, international model famous in India and Europe, pursuing a doctorate in psychology in Chicago

A buffet dinner was held at the Nebraska Club, atop the U.S. Bank Building, on Wednesday April 4, at 5:30 p.m. Professional pictures were taken of each graduate as they arrived. Their pictures will be hung this summer on the Distinguished Alumni Wall across from the Jennifer L. Dorsey-Howley Performing Arts Center in the main hallway at LSE. Ars Nova, the varsity jazz choir entertained the graduates before dinner. After dinner, each graduate was honored and given a plague recognizing the influence they have had on the

local, state, national, and international level.

The alumni came to Lincoln Southeast High School on Thursday, April 5, for a reception at 8:00 a.m. After the reception, the Distinguished Alumni took seats in the Performing Arts Center, and they were entertained by members of Jazz 1, Countesses and Noblemen, the varsity swing choir, the Shirette Dance Team, Bel Canto, madrigal choir, Step Chain, and Court Choir, large performance choir. Alumni attended classes and spoke to larger gatherings of students back in the Performing Arts Center. The day finished with a luncheon in the Media Center, and the graduates were given LSE glasses filled with Baker's Chocolates and LSE blankets.

The Distinguished Alumni Program is held every two years and will occur again in the spring of 2014. If there is a graduate of Lincoln Southeast High School that you would like to nominate, please go to the LSE website at Ise.lps.org and submit a nomination form. GO KNIGHTS!

Dr. Patrick Hunter-Pirtle, Principal Lincoln Southeast High School 2930 S. 37th Street Lincoln, NE 68506 (402) 436-1304



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Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation

By: Nancy Foster, Writer for FocalPoint Publishing

With the hot Summer days around the corner neighborhood kids will be out of school and having fun at Irvingdale Pool, Star City Shores, and in thier own back yard pools. Whether public or private, many kids get so excited about swimming they forget about the dangers of water. Meet one family who has made it their mission to educate other parents and children about the dangers of water and the importance of drowning prevention.

On June 4, 2008, the lives of Blake and Kathy Collingsworth were forever changed.

They were having a family get-together when their youngest son, Joshua, 2.5 years old, escaped their sight and wandered outside by their pool. When they

found him, he was unresponsive in the pool. He was rushed to Bryan LGH Medical Center West and then flown to Children's Hospital in Omaha, but he didn't survive.

Despite precautions they had taken in their own household, with a gate and fence around the pool, security cameras and pool cover, tragedy still struck. It prompted them to research water-safety education, and they learned there was a lack of materials focused on early education.

They formed the Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation and Float 4 Life organizations to help change that. Blake even authored a book, called "Josh the Baby Otter," specifically created for early education.

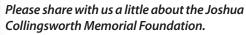
On May 19, they are having a benefit in Joshua's memory to help fund their water-safety initiatives. The event begins a 5:30 p.m. at the Sesostris Shrine Center. There's also a golf tournament on June 10.

Here, Kathy shares more about their experience, their prevention programs and their upcoming benefits to help fund it all.

Please share with us a little about yourself and your family.

Blake and I met through a mutual friend, who has inadvertently introduced two other family members to their husband and wife. Blake and I grew up in Lincoln but went to separate schools. Both our families ran businesses and moved us into our entrepreneur businesses. Blake is a homebuilder and developer, and I am a nail technician of 30 years and an interior decorator. We were married in 1997, surrounded by our large families and friends. We both wanted children and learned that I was not able to carry children after several

> surgeries and three in vitro fertilizations. Soon after our last in vitro, a good friend that knew a young girl that was pregnant and wanted to place her child up for adoption approached us. We were very blessed to get our first son that way. Through the help of Nebraska Children's Home Society, we applied for our second child and were chosen by a family. We received the call two weeks before Christmas in 2001. The best present ever came, and his name was Joshua. Joshua's short life was filled with a lot of trips to the hospital in Omaha at Children's. He was exposed to the meconium during birth and became very sick. He bouted constantly with pneumonia and had an IV stent in him at his passing.



The foundation was started shortly after Joshua's death. We were so touched and humbled by all the support, love and compassion for our tragedy that we wanted

to give back in Joshua's name. After much soul searching and research, we discovered the cold hard fact of childhood drowning and the staggering statistic behind this epidemic. Childhood drowning is the No. 1 and 2 leading cause of unintentional deaths to children ages 14 and under. My husband felt compelled to help reduce this horrific statistic. He started to write a children's book, "Josh the Baby Otter," a fun and educational book that teaches



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children to never go around water unless with an adult and to always swim with a buddy.

How did Joshua's passing affect your family, and where did you find the strenath to create this memorial foundation? How did the idea come about?

Our family has been very supportive to our foundation, and they are pivotal in our success with three members of my family on the board. My brother and sister in-law were there at the pool when the accident happened and did CPR on Josh until the medic came. We are very lucky to have such love and support. When many families in similar situations have broken apart, we have come together to heal.

How has this foundation helped spread awareness about water safety?

We were introduced to the Rotary Club in Merritt Island, Fla., from our board member Jim Underwood, a retired rear admiral of the U.S. Coast Guard. They first got the book in their school's district and were such a hit that the school then made it a curriculum in the school district. It then went district wide in that area, with the first year ordering 500 books to the second year's order of 7,000. We are now in 16 states and over 50 Rotary Clubs and growing every day. The books have been distributed to all 50 states, and several other organizations have purchased and distributed the program. It is currently in the curriculum in Lincoln Public Schools, and the teachers dedicate a day in May to reading the book and teaching water safety. Every child in Lincoln receives a coloring book and sticker after the book is read. Our goal would be to get a book in every child's hand. Currently, Swimtastic of Lincoln sponsors the coloring books for every child in Lincoln.

I understand you're having a benefit for the Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation on May 19. Would you share with us a little more about the event?

The fourth-annual dinner and auction will be held at the Sesostris Shrine Center in southwest Lincoln on May 19, starting with a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by a silent and live auction. June 10 is the golf tournament, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Wilderness Ridge Golf Course.

The ticket to the event is \$85 per person and \$1,000 for a corporate table. The tickets can be purchased on the website, www. joshtheotter.org/get-involved/2012benefit.html, where they can print off the sign-up sheet and mail or fax it in. They can also be purchased at the door. Golf is \$125 per person.

We have over 300 donated items to the event, with an array of silent auction items and a fun basket section filled with creative ideas from our donors. The live auction has fun vacation destinations, such as Hawaii, Vegas, Mexico and several more. There are football packages, a basketball system, Lexus driving experience, adorable puppy, golf packages and a great variety of fun and exciting items.

Miss America 2011 Teresa Scanlan, who also was Miss Nebraska in 2011, will deliver the keynot address. Her message will be to encourage our mission to save children's lives through early education and to motivate our community to become partners in prevention.

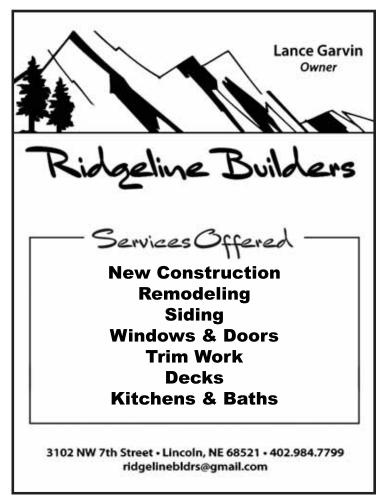
Last year, we raised over \$70,000, and we hope to increase our funds this year. The proceeds go toward the materials utilized in our mission to eliminate childhood drowning, such as printing and distribution at no charge to children.

Please share with us a little about the "Josh the Baby Otter" book. How did the idea for this book come about, and how are you using it to help educate children about water safety?

When researching the materials in water safety, we felt there was something missing. There was not a lot of emphasis on early education. We felt this was a pivotal piece that was missing in childhood drowning. See, we had the all the tools in place for a safe pool area, from the cover, gates, fence and security camera, but that did not stop our child from drowning. We felt secure that all these in place would all work, but it was a false sense of security. We never had a discussion with Joshua to never go around the water unless with an adult. So this is where the idea for the book came from. At a young age, we teach our children to never cross the street without looking both ways, to not touch the stove — it's hot, to never talk to strangers, and so on and so on. These are generational messages passed down from our parents, and we feel our message will be the same. Layers of protection are important and should always be in place around water.

What has been the response to this book from the public and its young readers?

The response has been overwhelming. In just over two years, we have distributed over 40,000 copies of the book, and educators and parents are singing the praises of how the book has changed their perception of water, and it is resonating with the children. We have principals and educators emailing us and calling us wanting the program in their school, daycare, Head Start program and aquatic



facilities. The children are learning new words and learning the song, which helps retain the message of the book.

I understand your family also created Float 4 Life. Would you please share with us a little more about that organization and its purpose?

The Float 4 Life was created when we looked into infant and toddler water-training courses for children and realized that this was a great tool for children 6 months to 3 years to learn a life-saving skill — to when they fall into the water to hold their breathe, roll over on their backs and reach for the side of the pool. At the time, Lincoln had no program for that, so we partnered up with the YMCA and developed the program. It is now in over 11 Y's and also in the Kroc center in Omaha, and Lincoln Racquet Club is starting the program in May. Since the program started, we have taught over 2,000 infant and toddlers this life-saving skill. You can learn more about Float 4 Life at www.float4life.org.

How will money raised from the benefit help this arm of your organization?

Our goal for the future is to open a training facility for instructors, because the demand has been so high — too many parents wanting it and not enough facilities and instructors to teach. The foundation sponsors aquatic facilities to provide Float 4 Life.

Recently, the Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard and National Water Safety Congress to help promote water safety on a national level. This is quite a success. Can you tell us a little more about this?

This year, the foundation entered into a partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Water Safety Congress to help further the education of water safety to children and adults about the dangers of water and the importance of always wearing a PFD (personal flotation device) when on a boat. On March 5, the foundation received two national awards for our work in water safety — one from the National Water Safety Congress and the other one from the National Drowning Prevention Alliance.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about your family, the foundation or the upcoming benefit?

What motivates us is the number of drowning a year that we constantly hear about — an average of 10 drown daily, and worldwide, one child drowns every minute. The positive feedback from teachers, parents and our community on how it has made a difference in how they perceive bodies of water, whether it's a pool, pond, bathtub, bucket, toilet or open water. We have seen a reduction in drowning in the areas most utilizing the program. That speaks volumes.

We as a foundation will continue to forge forward to develop sustainable materials in water safety. With the support of our benefits, we can continue to save lives in this matter and to not make tragedy be necessary to alert people of water safety. We have several events throughout the year — May 19 being our largest venue one, then June 10 at Wilderness Ridge for our annual golf tournament, with guest golfers from the Cornhusker football team. In October, we have an annual poker tournament, and in November, we have our Wine, Art and Dessert Auction. More information on these events will be posted on our website at www.joshtheotter.org.









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Home Sale Purchase Agreements: Price Is Only One Factor

By: Mark R. Richardson

Spring marks the beginning of the busy season for the residential real estate market. While many popular television programs focus on the staging of a home or the search for the perfect two-story bungalow, if you are thinking about placing your home on the market or if you are contemplating a purchase, don't underestimate the importance of the purchase agreement (i.e., the sales contract). After your "For Sale" sign draws in a prospective buyer, the next critical step is the negotiation process.

A purchase agreement will detail the obligations of both parties and can save you from last-minute problems as the deal progresses towards final closing. A carefully drafted purchase agreement will allow you to proceed with confidence in the sale of your home.

If the prospective buyer is represented by a real estate agent, the first offer will often be presented in the form of a proposed purchase agreement. While this document may look like a boiler-plate document with standard contract language, remember that every term in the document is potentially negotiable.

An example of an important provision in the purchase agreement is the earnest money deposit. An earnest money deposit is a conditional down-payment made by the buyer at the time the sales contract is signed. The earnest money deposit can be structured so that if the buyer backs out of the sale, the seller is able to retain the earnest money deposit as compensation for the time and trouble of the failed transaction. The earnest money deposit is a tangible method of ensuring that the buyer is committed to closing the sale.

There are three primary instances when the earnest money deposit should be made refundable. The first is if house inspections reveal significant problems with the condition of the house. You will want to carefully define the term "significant" so that the buyer cannot back out of the agreement and have his or her earnest money deposit refunded simply because one faucet needs replacing. The second reason an earnest deposit may be refundable is if the buyer is unable to obtain suitable financing. Again, what constitutes "suitable" financing should be defined in the purchase agreement. Sellers can protect themselves in this regard by requiring written confirmation from a finance company that the buyer has been pre-approved for financing. Finally, the earnest money deposit should be refundable if the seller is the cause of the failed closing.

In the end, it is important to review the purchase agreement closely before you sign it. If you are uncomfortable with any of the terms, be sure to ask questions. Depending on the size and complexity of the sale, having an attorney review the document may be advisable. For assistance with the drafting or review of a purchase agreement, call the attorneys at Rembolt Ludtke LLP.



Featured Advertiser: Tabitha & GracePointe

GracePointe Assisted Living Welcomes Administrator and Opens New Neighborhood Community

Age with grace. That's the commitment of Tabitha Elder Care Services newest assisted living community, GracePointe. Recently, GracePointe welcomed Brian Cutis to the Tabitha family as administrator to the facility.

In his role, Curtis oversees strategic leadership, daily operations, and budget development and implementation of the 63-bed facility that opened in May.

Prior to joining Tabitha, Curtis built an extensive resume in Elder Care leadership, including executive director positions at several Lincoln- and Omaha-area living communities. With expertise in strategic planning, staff development, quality improvement, facilities management and fundraising, he brings an outstanding skill set and an extensive collection of fresh, creative ideas to one of Tabitha's most vibrant Elder communities.

"I feel blessed to be part of an organization dedicated to helping Elders live life to the fullest and am looking forward to welcoming new residents to GracePointe," said Curtis. "Our Elders do not live in a place we go to work; rather, we are privileged to work in the place our Elders call home."

Brian brings a tremendous amount of expertise as an assisted living administrator and in the provision of memory support services," said Jeremy Hohlen, Executive Director of Operations, Living Communities. "His Christian compassion, high level of talent, experience and dedication is a wonderful asset to GracePointe and the Elders we serve."

In December, Curtis headed the opening of GracePointe's third floor neighborhood community. "The opening of our third floor neighborhood provides an additional 24 traditional assisted living one-bedroom and studio apartments," said Curtis.

Curtis said naming the living communities "neighborhoods" was intentional. He said looking at the living spaces like neighborhoods invites residents to get to know one another like family. The bond, he said, is one of the positive benefits of assisted living.

GracePointe Assisted Living is tailored for individuals in need of assistance with activities of daily living such as medication management, dressing, bathing and social interaction. The apartments within each community are maintenance-free, private and include around-the-clock personal care as well as activities focused on health, wellness and a variety of leisure pursuits.

In addition to traditional assisted living, GracePointe offers programming tailored to those with memory care needs, a growing concern for many seniors. GracePointe's memory suites are designed especially for adults who are experiencing memory loss. Every detail, from the nostalgic design of the building to secure monitoring and creative recall activities, has been developed to provide a comfortable, safe and enriching lifestyle.

As a Tabitha community, GracePointe residents are offered full access to the Tabitha Elder Care Continuum and services ranging from supportive companionship, personalized at-home assistance and exceptional rehabilitation, to innovative living communities, advanced health care services and compassionate hospice support.

The commitment GracePointe has for its residents extend far beyond assisted living, but truly for elders to live life fully and age gracefully.



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Theme: "KIDS"



Thomas Bryson (5) is teaching his little brother, John (2) how to hold a bunny at his second birthday party on April 7th! The children loved cuddling with the bunnies at the party!



Featured Advertiser: Home Care Assistance

When An Aged Loved One is Hospitalized, Be Part of The Care Team By: Lee Nyberg, Director of Marketing for Home Care Assistance of Nebraska

When a loved senior is hospitalized, family members and caregivers are stressed and worried, too. The senior's care can be greatly improved when the family and caregivers become part of the care team. The list below contains some useful tips for those who act and speak on behalf of the hospitalized senior.

- 1. Make sure all legal documents are in place. This includes Advanced Medical Directives and a durable power of attorney (DPOA) designation for health care. The first informs all family members and physicians of the type of medical treatment and care the senior wishes to receive if they are unable to make their own decisions at that time. An example of this is a "Do Not Resuscitate" order or a living will. The DPOA, also known as a health care proxy, is the individual appointed by the senior to make medical decisions on their behalf if they are unable to do so. Each of these documents must be signed. Both family members and physicians should have copies.
- 2. Make sure you are able to provide all medical information when asked. Medical history is an important part of treatment plans, so you want to make sure you know all there is to know, including 5 to 10 years of the senior's medical events, current and recent medications, allergies, current physicians and a description of the senior's current mental and physical capacities.
- 3. Be as active as possible. This requires the family member to be

part of the health care team. Learn how to get in touch with the physician providing care, know the nurses who are caring for the senior, determine how to speak with social service workers and case managers and be a strong advocate for the medical care of the senior. Request copies of physician's orders and write new information down as soon as you are informed. Communicate changes in orders and medication to nurses on a regular basis, since the nurses change with shifts. Double-check your copies of orders before any technician performs a test or procedure, since mistakes are sometimes made. To the extent possible, have a family representative with the senior at all times.

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Local Dealership Listens to Customer Feedback, **Eliminates Negotiation from Buying Process**

Car dealerships are historically known for stressful, high-pressured, negotiation-filled buying processes. While some people don't mind negotiating, the majority of people dread that aspect of buying a car.

Anderson Auto Group recently made the decision to go away from the stereotypical car dealership model, one that it had admittedly been employing for 25 years. Why? Mike Anderson, the Owner and President of the group, cites two reasons.

"When we looked at our mission statement -Because People Matter...we will serve your needs by always doing what is right - we asked ourselves if a negotiation process was fair to our customers," Anderson says. "We decided the right thing to do would be to give the same great price on a given vehicle to all our customers, regardless of their talent in negotiation."

The second reason? Customers asked for it.

"What we found after surveying our customers is that they loved our vehicles, people, and service but hated the hassle, pressure, and wasted time of the traditional car buying experience. So, we changed."

"It's all about giving customers a fast, fair, and simple way to buy vehicles."

Anderson says that they've changed several aspects of the sales process to align with this new customer experience, including changing employee pay plans, clearly displaying prices and discounts on all vehicles, and eliminating the back-and-forth negotiation.

At most dealerships, car sales people are paid on a commission structure that rewards them for selling vehicles with high markup. That means the sales person is overly motivated to sell expensive vehicles or more profitable models.

"We decided that didn't really line up with what customers want, either," he says, explaining that sales advisors at Anderson are now paid solely on sales volume and customer satisfaction. "They're motivated to sell you a car," he admits, "but they want to sell the car that satisfies your wants and needs, not ours."

The dealership has dedicated staff that scour the Internet daily, making sure each vehicle is fairly priced based on current market availability and age in inventory. And they're not afraid to share that data either.



"We not only clearly display our prices, we help you understand why we priced a vehicle the way we did so you can decide for yourself if the value is there," Anderson explains. "Of course, we think you'll agree you're getting a good deal," he adds with a

Anderson points to recent customer reviews on DealerRater.com - an independent auto dealership review site - to show how kindly customers are taking to the new process. The influx of positive reviews have helped make Anderson Auto Group the top-ranked Ford dealership in Nebraska, according to the site.

"If you do what the customers want, everything else will fall into place."

Anderson Auto Group has two locations in Lincoln: 27th & I-80 as well as at 33rd & Yankee Hill. They can be found online at www.andersonoflincoln.com. Customer reviews can be read at www.dealerrater.com.



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- We are the exclusive provider of the Balanced Care Method™ training program that focuses on senior wellness to ensure longer, healthier lifespans.
- Choose Your Caregiver. You have your choice of one of our licensed, thoroughly trained, conscientious caregivers.



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