

## IRVING MIDDLE SCHOOL CELEBRATES 75 YEARS



Irving Junior High, September 1927. Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society.

In the early 1920s, Lincoln's population was booming and the existing schools were packed beyond capacity. It was imperative that a new junior high be built in south Lincoln.

The location of the new school on the four blocks between Smith and Van Dorn and 20th and 22nd streets sparked heated debates. As the Lincoln Journal reported in 1925, "It is argued that the Country Club land will not be built on for a generation or two and that the school should be placed where it will be more central to the current population. The reply is that this expensive school ought to go where it will serve the future as well as the present. After debating the matter up one side and down the other, and after waiting for several years to see if anything better can be done, the board is now going ahead with plans and construction will soon begin."

McGinnis and Schraumberg of Lincoln were employed as the architects to design the structure which would be collegiate gothic in style with red brick walls, stone trimmings and a stone tower. The general outline of the building was an "H" shape which allowed for plenty of light in all of the class rooms. The Lincoln Journal stated "It presents a handsome appearance, but without any architectural extravagances." However, the paper also noted, "A complaint one hears now and then is that the high school and junior highs are being made so attractive that parents feel that their children can no longer be kept at home."

**Last September,  
As you will remember,  
The Irving ship set sail;  
And the route in mind  
Was "itself to find,"  
A voyage that did not fail.**

**by Selma Goldstein,  
Grade 9, May 1928**

**CCNA History Snapshot**  
By Julie Enersen  
The construction contract was awarded to Olson Construction Company of Lincoln and work began in the spring of 1926. The building was completed a year and a half later at a total cost of \$682,000 and was named in honor of Washington Irving, author of *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

On September 12, 1927, Irving Junior High opened its doors for classes. Students who entered found a state-of-the-art facility which included three sewing rooms, a print shop, two food laboratories and two gymnasiums. The girls' gym was of special interest because its floor also served as the stage of the auditorium. The Lincoln Journal proclaimed, "This is believed to be the greatest advance made for years in the accommodation of crowds at basket ball games and other athletic events."

Many years later, Genesis Shafer would recall, "Entering the 9th grade at Irving in 1928 was quite a change from the small town school I had attended all my life. I was thrilled and a little scared. Everything was so shiny and new!" In particular, she remembered leaving the school to eat lunch across the street where the homeowners served "hamburgers, hot dogs and so on. Also malts!" (This practice would later result in a zoning battle between school officials and neighborhood residents.)

*(Continued on page 7)*

For an extended version of the history article and to view photos of school under construction, please visit the Irving website at <http://irving.lps.org/>

## Upcoming CCNA Meetings:

Mark your calendars to come join your Country Club Neighborhood Association at one of our meetings:

**We meet at 7 PM  
the 3rd Tuesday  
of every month  
except December  
Annual Meeting  
March 18th, 2003**

St Matthew's Church,  
2325 South 24th Street  
(24th and Sewell)

Advertise in your Neighborhood newsletter, *The CCNA CHRONICLE* and reach over 2,400 households.

#### Business card ad.

CCNA members	\$30.00
CCNA non-members	\$40.00
non-resident, non-members	\$50.00

#### Half page ad.

CCNA members	\$150.00
CCNA non-members	\$175.00
non-resident, non-members	\$225.00

#### Full page ad.

CCNA members	\$300.00
CCNA non-members	\$325.00
non-resident, non-members	\$375.00

Contact Kay Hesse 489-6346

### CCNA CHRONICLE Staff

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Features.....	All Staff & Interested CCNA Members
History.....	Julie Enersen, 475-9988
Advertising.....	Kay Hesse, 489-6346

Members and readers who have questions, comments or suggestions may call the individual(s) responsible for the area(s) of concern.

The CCNA CHRONICLE is the official publication of the Country Club Neighborhood Association (CCNA). The CCNA CHRONICLE is published quarterly 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 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.



## CCNA Boundary Map

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Animal Complaints.....	441-7900
Buried Lines.....	477-0547
City Council Representatives..	441-7515
Crime Stoppers.....	475-3600
Household Hazardous Waste...	441-8022
Housing Codes.....	441-7785
Mayors Office.....	441-7511
Neighborhood Hotline.....	441-6300
Neighborhood Watch.....	441-7204
Parks and Recreation.....	441-7847
Quality of Life (24 hour anonymous complaints, suggestions).....	441-6300
Sidewalks (repair, shovel, etc.)	441-7541
Weed Problems.....	441-7817
Zoning Violations.....	441-7521



# CCNA Committee Updates

The Country Club Neighborhood Association relies on a lot of motivated people in order to get things accomplished...we hope you'll agree to be one of them! Contact committee chairs in order to become involved with an existing group or contact Julie Enersen (475-9988, [JulieEnersen@yahoo.com](mailto:JulieEnersen@yahoo.com)) to organize a committee.

## CCNA Board of Directors

The Board meets on the third Tuesday of most months at Saint Matthew's church, 2325 S. 24th Street. Please contact VP of Operations, Terry Schaaf at [tschaaf@neb.rr.com](mailto:tschaaf@neb.rr.com) or 489-1100, if you'd like to nominate yourself or someone else for a position on the CCNA Board.

## Telephone/Calling Tree

A telephone tree would be helpful for relaying information to members without email. Now we need someone to organize it.

## Newsletter Contributor

We are always looking for contributors and advertisers the Chronicle (the CCNA newsletter). Please contact Ian Doremus at 435-8625 or [idoremus@neb.rr.com](mailto:idoremus@neb.rr.com) with ideas and offers.

## Parks and Beautification

Linda Wibbels (423-8923 or [lwibbels@woodsbro.com](mailto:lwibbels@woodsbro.com)) chairs this committee which meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at Saint Matthew's Church (24th and Park.)

## History/Historic Preservation

Lots of households have indicated an interest in history but at this time we looking for a leader to organize this committee.

## Hiking and Biking Trails

This is a popular CCNA interest area which is not represented by a leader at this point.

## Fund-raising/CCNA Foundation

If you have ideas, time or money to contribute, please contact the finance chair, Dan Marvin, at 421-2024 or [dmarvin@neb.rr.com](mailto:dmarvin@neb.rr.com)

## Gov't Monitoring/Lobbying

If you have questions or suggestions concerning CCNA's role with regards to the local government, please contact Terry Schaaf, CCNA's VP of Operations, at 489-1100 or [tschaaf@neb.rr.com](mailto:tschaaf@neb.rr.com)

## Tour of Homes

Rifka Keilson, 323-7800 or [rifka.keilson@iuniverse.com](mailto:rifka.keilson@iuniverse.com), is organizing an upcoming Tour of Homes. Please contact her if you are interested in helping.

## Neighborhood Party

This popular event is in need of a leader! Could that person be you?

## Garden Tour

A committee had formed previously to investigate the possibility of a garden tour and had generated a number of interesting ideas. We now need someone to continue the discussion and organize the event.

## Membership/Welcoming Committee

Do you want to start a play group, bridge club or (fill in the blank) with other neighbors? Would your business be willing to have a coupon or gift certificate in the welcome basket which is given to new neighbors? Please contact Julie Enersen at 475-9988 or [JulieEnersen@yahoo.com](mailto:JulieEnersen@yahoo.com).

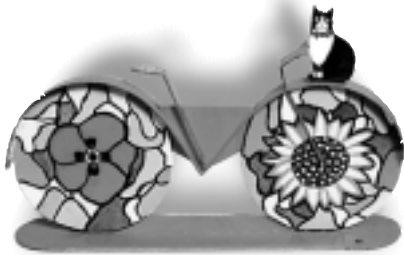
## Garage Sale

The CCNA Garage Sale will be held on MAY 3, 2003. If you want your garage sale to be part of this popular annual event, call Mary Jo Hill at 474-0893 so that your address can be added to the map.

End

# Tour de Lincoln Comes to the Neighborhood

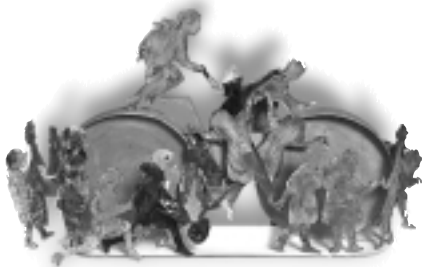
by Liz Shea-McCoy



"Petal Me to NE" sponsored by Debbie and Rod Basler, Carole and Roger Sack, Barbara and Tom Cypher, Linda and Kevin Wibbels, Jean and Ray Steinacher, Lorraine and Chuck Pallesen, Nancy and Jim McClelland, Becky Greenwald and Kay Monson, artist, Clarisse Hastie, location - Mansie and VanDorn Streets.



"Marble-ous" sponsored by Security Federal/artists, Deb and Micaela Kubik, location - near round-about, 33rd and Sheridan Blvd.



"Ride of Passage" sponsored by Dr. Michael McCoy/artist, Liz Shea - McCoy, location - median at 27th and Sheridan Blvd.



The cows paraded in Chicago and New York, Teddy Bears in Kansas City, Prairie Dogs in Sioux City and J. Does wandered in Omaha. By May 1, 71 steel bike sculptures will be installed throughout Lincoln in conjunction with our community's premier public art project, Tour de Lincoln, and displayed throughout the spring and summer months. The Lincoln Arts Council is the proud sponsor of the Tour de Lincoln project, designed to support artists and create awareness of the importance of public art in the Lincoln community. In addition, the bicycle is especially significant to our city because Lincoln has 80 miles of trails and is finishing four more. Lincoln will then be in the top 10 U.S. cities with trail systems!

The Country Club Neighborhood Association will proudly display four of the bike designs which will bring many bike riders, walkers, art enthusiasts and sightseers to our area of town. The auction of the bike sculptures will be held subsequently at Haymarket Park on October 3, 2003, and proceeds from the auction will benefit the artists, qualifying Lincoln arts organizations selected by the buyers, and the Lincoln Arts Council. Individuals who purchase bicycles at auction may place their bike at the location of their choice. "We are delighted about the response from individuals, groups of friends and businesses who have invested in Tour de Lincoln. It is the hope of the Lincoln Arts Council that the community falls in love with the bike sculptures and many are purchased at the auction and returned to the original installation sites," said Laurel Shoemaker, a member of the Lincoln Arts Council board of directors and designer of the bike. For more information about Tour de Lincoln call (402-435-3140) or e-mail [tourdelinecoln@artscene.org](mailto:tourdelinecoln@artscene.org)

End

Left:  
"Tour d'Aire" sponsored by Midlands Plastic, Inc., artist Susan Brasch, location between Junction of Rock Island and Hwy 2 bike trails just south of ShopKo.

## Don't yell at your TV

By Terry Schaaf

If you are like me you may find yelling at your TV momentarily satisfying but it doesn't do much to improve the quality of the programming. I recently sat down with Ann Shrewsbury, Manager of Public Affairs and Community Programming for Time Warner Cable and learned there really are some alternatives. Comments, observations or suggestions concerning programming or available cable choices may be made to any of the following: Time Warner Cable here in Lincoln, directly to the cable channels being provided, to the local network affiliates or to the Mayor's Cable TV Advisory Board.

According to Ms. Shrewsbury Time Warner Cable is very interested in learning what subscribers like and don't like and what they find most valuable. This applies to both program content and to the mix of choices being provided. She can be reached by e-mail at [ann.shrewsbury@twcable.com](mailto:ann.shrewsbury@twcable.com) or by phone at 421-0378. She indicated e-mail may be preferable since it can be received any time day or night and results in a written record of the subscriber's concerns.

The various cable channels and local television stations can be contacted directly. Numbers for the national networks can be obtained from the local affiliates. All of the channels provided by Time Warner have web sites and these sites can be conveniently found by logging on to [www.twcnebraska.com](http://www.twcnebraska.com), clicking Cable TV Services/Channel Line Ups/City (Lincoln) and finally clicking on the channel desired. That channel's web site will appear and will normally include a section offering telephone and other direct contact information.

For other programming matters or concerns over the cable operation generally subscribers can contact the Mayors Cable TV Advisor Board by calling 441-7281.

KMTV (CBS)	593-2700
WOWT (NBC)	346-6666
KETV (ABC)	476-7777
KLKN (ABC)	434-8000
KPTM (Fox)	558-4200
KOLN (CBS)	467-4321
NETV (ETV)	472-3611
Fox Sports	310-369-7761
CNN News	404-827-1700
MSNBC	201-583-5266
CNBC	877-251-5685
Fox News	310-369-3066

End

# NOTES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

## Fouling The Footpath...No More

By Bob Ripley

When I was traveling in Europe nearly thirty years ago, of the ten countries I had the pleasure of touring, the British Isles had many distinguishing features which I enjoyed. For a dog lover like me, primary among my attraction to this culture was their almost national affection for dogs and their care. Consistent with their love of man (and woman's) best friend was perhaps their equally great dislike of pet owners who would commit the great public offense of what they called "Fouling the Footpath". In other words, dog and pet owners who would not clean up their dog droppings, particularly on public property. It simply wasn't done...a social taboo as felonious as perhaps spray-painting your neighbor's automobile.

Well...as we all know by now some Americans (and Lincolnites) are, shall we say, a bit less concerned about this social taboo as witnessed within our public parks and green spaces and particularly in our neighborhood along boulevards and their landscaped medians. As a result the City of Lincoln has made "Fouling the Footpath" or not cleaning up after your dog or pet, against the law. This new ordinance LMC 6.08155 passed by the City Council last December and which took effect the first of this year, requires that all those walking their dogs are required to pick up

their pet's 'deposits'. In making all of you aware of this new law, believe me I am in no position to claim total innocence with regard to committing a 'Foul' or two myself on my walks with my beloved Border Collie 'Boo', whom I lost to old age December 11, 2001. We all know that boulevards and parks are public places, 'everyone's front yard' where our kids play games, practice sports and everyone can come for some rest or just to enjoy nature. We also know these public places should not be plagued with the problem of unsightly, unhealthy pet waste under foot.

With the Lincoln Journal Star and our local grocery store's produce department providing most households a ready supply of plastic bags, we really have no legitimate excuse not to assume this civic responsibility. Therefore my fellow neighborhood pet caretakers, let's all avoid the long arm of the law by doing our 'duty' after our pets do theirs...and 'Foul the Footpath' no more!



## Irving Middle School Announces Open House

**Thursday, March 13, 2003  
6:00-9:00 P.M.**

Irving Middle School Parent-Teacher-Student Organization invites you to attend a 75th Anniversary Open House honoring our school, students, alumni and community.

The school will be open for tours, musical entertainment, art displays, the landscape architect's rendering of our "vision" for Irving and a history display and refreshments. Please

extend this invitation to your friends, classmates and neighbors. Everyone in the Irving community is invited.

It is the PTSO's plan to implement a beautification project within the next three years. We are beginning our fundraising that will allow us to beautify the grounds. Donations are tax deductible and may be sent directly to Irving or to the Lincoln Public Schools Foundation made out to "LPS Irving Beautification Project."

## Trees and Turf

CCNA has received a 50% matching grant from the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District for the planting of 40 street trees (trees in front of your house). Each tree costs about \$300.00 with the NRD paying for 50%. The remaining portion must come from either the property owner where the tree was planted (tax deductible) or another source. The Lincoln City Arborist has given us a list of suitable trees. This is how the program works:

If you want a street tree, please call Linda Wibbels at 423-8923 or email at [lwibbels@woodsbro.com](mailto:lwibbels@woodsbro.com)

This is on a first come/first serve basis.

If you have some difficulty paying for the other 50% of the tree cost, please call anyway. We will try very hard to make it work for you.

Want to donate to the tree fund? Send a tax-deductible donation to CCNA.

Please call as soon as possible, we would like to plant the trees the middle of May.

All Care will again be doing the mowing and turf maintenance for the 43 boulevards, 3 parks and other green spaces in the neighborhood. The consistency of their work is starting to have great results.

Watch out for the wooden poles on South 27th Street! Last summer Boston Ivy was planted on 50 of the poles. We hope to have "poles of ivy" within the next two years. For those of you who have the poles in your yard, thank you for watering them last summer. We hope you will continue to take care of the ivy again this year.

End

## A Gift

Pocras Park and Bradfield Drive neighbors - we may have a "gift" that we can put towards Pocras Park. We would love to have your ideas, etc. Come to the March 18th Parks and Beautification committee meeting 6:00 p.m. at Saint Matthew's Church (24th and Park.) Questions? Contact Linda at 423-8923 or [lwibbels@woodsbro.com](mailto:lwibbels@woodsbro.com).

# Roundabout: An All Around Success

## President's Message

By Bob Ripley



A sincere thank you and congratulations are in order to our Neighborhood Association's Roundabout Sub-Committee and to the City Public Works Department for the completion and successful operation of

our City's first roundabout at an arterial intersection. This is truly a success borne out of a necessity.

When representatives of the City Public Works Department first met with the Country Club Neighborhood in the spring of 2000, the neighborhood was made aware of one fact with respect to the intersection of Sheridan Boulevard and 33rd Street...the intersection would change, the status quo was not an option. The reason 'driving' this needed change was, this intersection had the second highest rate of vehicular collisions per traffic volume in Lincoln, second only to 48th & 'O' Street (per traffic volume).

The options for the future of 33rd & Sheridan were, creating an intersection design configured much like 27th & 'O' Streets by cutting left turn lanes into the landscaped center medians of the boulevard, widening 33rd Street at the intersection to allow for similar left turn lanes combined with a full array of overhead traffic signalization



with sequential stop and good traffic flow via the traffic lights. Or consider the new alternative of a roundabout which would have no traffic lights overhead and create a landscaped median in the center of the intersection around which traffic would flow by way of a four-way yield sign system. It should also be noted that the cost of the roundabout option was 80% that of

the conventional 27th & 'O' Street design and much cheaper to maintain year to year since no overhead traffic lights would need to be maintained. Further, a Federal Highway Commission grant paid for 80% of the construction cost of the roundabout with the remaining 20% covered by local tax dollars, a grant option not available to the conventional 27th & 'O' Street design. This CCNA roundabout committee, open to any neighbor who wanted to join, made the decision to try something new...we now all enjoy the very successful result of that decision.

Further, with the success of this initial project, Public Works Department engineering staff this past fall, confirmed a second FHC grant has been approved to construct a similar roundabout at 40th Street on Sheridan Boulevard. Although the 40th & Sheridan intersection is outside the boundaries of the Country Club Neighborhood, Public Works has asked several members of our original roundabout sub-committee to assist the Department and our neighbors to the east, in the process of planning this second roundabout. Please stay tuned for further updates on this new roundabout option in future editions of your neighborhood Chronicle.

End

## CCNA Board up for re-election

By Terry Schaaf

The nominations committee has released its preliminary slate of officers and board members for the CCNA election to be held at the annual meeting on March 18, 2003. Additional nominations are welcome and can be submitted in advance of the annual meeting or made from the floor on the night of the election. The meeting will be held at St. Matthew's church 2325 So. 24th Street beginning at 7:00 p.m. The nominations include: President, Bob Ripley Operations VP, Terry Schaaf Communications VP, Ian Doremus Membership VP, Julie Enersen Treasurer, Jim Pattavina

Board Members: Stuart Goldberg, Stacy James, Dan Marvin, Jan Pitsch, Bob Sandberg, Mary Lynn Schaffer, Linda Wibbels, Dick Johnson and Peg Maly.

# Note from the Editor

By Ian Doremus



I write this as I am putting the finishing touches on the newsletter before "putting it to bed". This is actually appropriate since I layout the Chronicle late at night after putting the rest of my family to bed. In the last issue I put out an appeal for more stories. As you can see this issue is packed with stories, and two pages larger than normal. You will see some new names of contributors and volunteers. I applaud their efforts and time spent putting stories together for the Chronicle. If I didn't have the contributors, I wouldn't have much of a newsletter to layout.

I would also like to introduce another volunteer; Kay Hesse has offered to manage our advertising. If you run a business inside or near our neighborhood, expect to get a call or a visit from her. Kay's mission is to drum up new sponsors for the newsletter. If you would like to beat the rush, give her a call at 489-6346.

As I mentioned earlier this issue is packed with content. Julie did an excellent job researching Irving Middle School. This is of special interest to me since it is such a landmark on our western edge. After reading her piece I could just about imagine what it was like to go to school there over seventy years ago. We also have a story on the captivating sculptures that will be coming to our neighborhood this spring, by Liz Shea-McCoy. Finally, I would recommend browsing "Our City Our Neighborhoods". We have reprinted this document that was designed to stimulate discussion on what is really important to our neighborhoods.

Lastly I would like to point out some structural changes. We are going to make "Important Phone Numbers" and the "CCNA Boundary Map" permanent fixtures on page 2. If you feel there needs to be additions to the phone numbers please let me know. We are also planning to have an anchored "CCNA Committee" page that will let you know what is going on and how you can get involved. End

email: [idoremus@neb.rr.com](mailto:idoremus@neb.rr.com), though I can also be reached through the CCNA mail address: P.O. Box 21953, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68542.

The Irving classes focused on skills deemed necessary to the youth of 1928. Traditional instruction in reading, writing and math was augmented with training in specialized areas. Boys took industrial arts classes such as bricklaying, woodworking, auto mechanics and printmaking while the girls enrolled in the household arts classes which included sewing and cooking.

In an article in a 1987 Journal Star, Don Shurtleff remembered “disorganized sports” like impromptu football games on the school lawn. He also recalled, “The standard dress for junior high boys in 1928 was white dress

shirts, slacks and a sweater. High school boys wore suits if they had them and could afford to wear them.” Egon Fagerberg, who was interviewed for this article after the author found his name on the 1930 Irving honor roll, remembered wearing t-shirts and shorts during gym class...and being very cold. “We were only allowed to stay in the gym if the outside temperature was less than 32 degrees,” he explained. “If it was even one degree warmer, we had to put on our t-shirts and shorts and go outside.”

Fagerberg also noted that the yo-yo was the exciting new toy of the time (one of the boys in his class brought one back from California) and that he often spent his lunch hour playing

chess in the gym. Fagerberg didn’t remember discipline problems being an issue. “We never really had any behavior problems because people knew the consequences would be serious.”

Total enrollment that first year was 1,056 students. The school employed 36 teachers, two office assistants and two administrators. In 2003, the school serves 677 students and employs 64 teachers, three counselors, five office staff and three administrators.

The numbers and the needs at Irving have changed over the years and the building has been adapted accordingly. In the ‘50s and ‘60s, Irving housed a Child Center for kindergarten and primary grades in order to provide education to families who lived nearer to Irving than to Sheridan, Prescott or Saratoga.

In 1975, the Irving Recreation Center was added in order to give the students and the public access to a larger gymnasium. The old boys’ gym was subsequently subdivided and now houses the instrumental music program. In the ‘90s, Irving Junior High became Irving Middle School as part of the Lincoln Public Schools newest configuration. At the same time, a major addition was constructed on the north end which included a larger media center and expanded science and computer spaces.

Copies of Irving’s original floor plans will be on display at Irving Middle School’s 75th anniversary celebration on March 13. They serve as a reminder that the architects accomplished their goal—to create a building that would serve the future as well as the present.

**“We in our modern schools do not realize that we are having everything possible to make our lives successful and happy. Music, art, literature and all of the finer arts are taught us. If we do not make life worth while it will not be the fault of our mothers and fathers or those supporting the school, but ourselves.”**

by Leah Carlsen, Grade 9, May 1928.

## Excerpts from Irving annuals, 1928-1930

Dorothy Meligan wrote about Irving in 1930: “One of the exciting events of the year is the sale of the Annuals that takes place just before they are published. There are two teams, each of course trying to outsell the opposing team. With the totals posted on the bulletin board in front of the office there is much excitement in that hall.”

The annuals contained a pithy quote or poem from each teacher, class prophecies and will, attendance awards, chess tournament results, a list of the Junior Civic League delegates, a copy of the Irving school song and a review of the past year’s calendar of events:

**September 12:** School opens. It has a habit of doing that.

**September 21;** Boys chorus organized. We thank the board of education for the sound-proof doors on the music room.

**October 16:** Grass planted. We hope our efforts to “Keep Off” will not be in vain.

**October 17:** Grass planting postponed ‘til spring. Back to the marble games.

**November 12:** First time in history of Irving—every one quiet for one minute at 11 A.M.

**December 7:** Two well-known teachers seen toe-dancing in the halls. How very shocking!

**January 25** Semester ending. Students congregate to receive the fatal reports.

**February 9:** Teachers party in the tower. Thought they’d slip one over on us.

**March 20:** Girls assembly. We wonder how the women of long ago endured clothes like those—much less look at them.

**April 10:** Boys’ assembly. Ballet dance by gym boys marks the beginning of spring.

**May 15:** Irving’s first operetta, “The Tea House at Sing Lo” was given at a matinee.

**June 6:** School closed for the summer. Now we can breathe more freely.



## Our City, Our Neighborhoods A Plan for Action Agenda of the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance

*In an effort to try to stimulate discussion and debate that is focused on neighborhood issues, the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance (LNA) launched "Our city—a plan for action". LNA is a group of neighborhood association that includes board members of the Country Club Neighborhood Association.*

*With the spring election upon us, 19 active neighborhood associations have endorsed the plan for action. LNA is sponsoring a candidate forum at the Auld recreation center on March 30 from 2 to 4 pm in order for candidates to address these issues. LNA has prepared a candidate questionnaire that focuses on these specific neighborhood issues. Results of how candidates scored in the questionnaire will be released to the newspaper and all the neighborhood associations.*

*Below are the twelve points of discussion. Items are not in any particular order:*

**Neighborhood Services.** Whereas neighborhood services are vital to maintaining our high quality of life. Resolved: Lincoln's neighborhoods should have access to the full range of community facilities, health services, open space, and playgrounds. Neighborhood parks, pools, libraries, senior centers, public transit, and trails must be a high budget priority.

**Sidewalks.** Whereas Lincoln is forty years behind in its sidewalk maintenance, and whereas the community has twice voted that the city and not private owners should pay for the repair and maintenance of sidewalks. Resolved: Lincoln should establish, fund, and implement a plan to rehabilitate sidewalks on a more aggressive schedule. This plan should bring Lincoln's sidewalks up to code in ten years or less.

**Impact Fees.** Whereas impact fees reduce the burden of supporting the costs of new development on existing neighborhoods and create a more equitable and predictable means to pay for infrastructure growth. Resolved: Impact fees should continue to be an important piece of the city's overall infrastructure financing package.

**Stormwater.** Whereas development in watershed areas upstream from neighborhoods frequently causes increased runoff during heavy rains and increased insurance costs for businesses and neighborhoods.

Resolved: The City should work aggressively with neighborhoods, businesses, developers, natural resources districts, and state and federal agencies to mitigate the adverse impact of development on floodplains and flooding problems.

**Neighborhood Preservation.** Whereas zoning designations that conflict with current or historical use patterns create increased density that is detrimental to character of existing neighborhoods, undermines home ownership, and is beyond the neighborhood infrastructure capacity (parking, water, sewer, etc).

Resolved: The city should support downzoning in neighborhoods where strong support exists.

**Crime and Public Safety.** Whereas crime is a growing issue of concern in our community.

Resolved: The city should support and expand community-policing practices including neighborhood police substations and neighborhood watch areas as a deterrent to neighborhood business and residential crime.

**Quality of Life.** Whereas Lincoln has codes to promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

Resolved: Lincoln should strengthen and enforce the penalties regarding dilapidated buildings and exteriors, junk cars, trash, disorderly households, and criminal activity. Lincoln should also maintain the "no more than three unrelated persons per household" ordinance and maintain or strengthen spacing requirements for alcohol sales.

**Trees.** Whereas Lincoln has been nationally recognized as a Tree City USA community.

Resolved: Lincoln should replace a tree for every tree that is lost or removed and enforce tree-planting standards in new developments. Lincoln should also be diligent about replacing the trees lost over the last

twenty years and in planting trees in the area between sidewalks and curbs on arterial and residential streets.

**Schools.** Whereas quality neighborhood schools are essential to creating and maintaining a high quality city.

Resolved: Existing neighborhood schools should be maintained and improved to a high standard. New schools should be sited and built to facilitate safe and easy walking and biking for students, safe traffic flow, and joint use of facilities.

**Neighborhood Business Districts.** Whereas our neighbors and neighborhoods are an integral part of and dependent upon our local economy, and whereas businesses must be sensitive to the character and needs of the surrounding neighborhood.

Resolved: The city should actively support Lincoln neighborhood businesses in neighborhood business districts.

**Street Widening.** Whereas widening arterial streets in older neighborhoods with narrow rights-of-way result in lower property values, loss of neighborhood character, and blight.

Resolved: Widening beyond two lanes plus a center turn lane (2+1) in older neighborhoods should not be done. 2+1 arterial streets in older neighborhoods provide smooth and safe traffic flow with less impact

**Overhead Power Lines.** Whereas overhead power lines are a visual blight, a safety hazard, and are more susceptible to power outages due to wind, snow, or ice storms.

Resolved: LES and city officials should develop and implement a fiscally-sound, phased program to bury Lincoln's neighborhood power lines.

*End*





# From the Membership Committee

Thank you to the over 400 households who have already returned their 2003 dues cards. CCNA protects our quality of life, keeps up property values and acts as an advocate for the neighborhood interests. Your support of the organization is what keeps it thriving. If you have not yet joined CCNA for 2003, simply return the dues card that was mailed out you or send in the form below to CCNA Dues, P.O. Box 21953, Lincoln, NE 68542. Your small dues payment helps CCNA do enormous good.

## CCNA 2003 DUES STATEMENT

You are invited to join the Country Club Neighborhood Association. Voting memberships are open to any person, family or organization owning real estate, renting, residing or operating a business within the neighborhood area. Annual household or business membership dues are just \$15. Additional contributions are also welcome and can simply be included on your dues check. If you contribute \$25 or more, the entire amount is tax-deductible. Dues paid now are good until January 2004. If the information we have for you on the back of this card is correct, you need only fill in your areas of interest.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

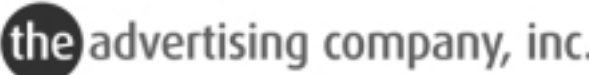
Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Country Club Neighborhood Association and return with this card to: CCNA Dues, P.O. Box 21953, Lincoln, NE 68542

### Please update your areas of interest:

- \_\_\_\_\_ CCNA Board of Directors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone/Calling Tree
- \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter Contributor
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parks and Beautification
- \_\_\_\_\_ History/Historic Preservation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hiking and Biking Trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fund Raising/CCNA Foundation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gov't Lobbying/Monitoring
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tour of Homes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood Party
- \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Tour
- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership/Welcoming
- \_\_\_\_\_ Garage Sale
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other Interests/Talents \_\_\_\_\_


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
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