



## President's Message

by Jim Pattavina

By the time you read this I will no longer be president of the association. As I write, it is late February and, as you surely understand, I have a deadline to meet to get this in the Chronicle for the spring publication. There is only one meeting left before my term is up. I thought I should reflect on my feelings and my thoughts about our association.

One of the hardest things I had to do as president was to facilitate an association with many divergent points of view. My personal goal was to be sure everyone had a forum at our association. I may not have done that to everyone's satisfaction, but I'm satisfied it was done. Another goal was to get as close to consensus on important issues as could be done. I'm sure that if I went around to the 2000 or so households in our neighborhood and tried to give each person a five dollar bill, not everyone would agree to take it. I'm a realist regarding consensus; you never actually get there, you just move that direction. Again, I'm satisfied.

When I started as president there seemed to be some confusion regarding the bylaws of the association and the bylaws of the committee assigned the task of managing the money held by the Nebraska Community Foundation. Last year we organized those two documents. This last dues billing we fixed a problem regarding tax deductibility of the dues. And speaking of dues, I had hoped to increase the number of households who participated in the \$15 dues payment. We have had a dramatic increase in the number of people who have increased the amount of their gift and we increased the number of paid

*(Continued on page 3)*

## The Ideal Firesafe Home



### Beautiful Journal Ideal Firesafe home is listed for Sale with the

The Ideal Home at 2431 Sheridan as pictured in a 1925 ad in the Nebraska State Journal.

By Julie Enersen

**M**any of us probably think that corporate sponsorship is a relatively new concept. Yet in 1925, over seventy Lincoln businesses teamed up with the local newspaper, The Nebraska State Journal, to sponsor the "Journal Ideal Firesafe Home."

The State Journal apparently had a mission to build and outfit a home that was to be the "ideal" of its time. Property at 2431 Sheridan was acquired by the State Journal Co. for \$3,000 and in March 1925, John M. Alexander, the owner of a self-named building and real estate company, took out a building permit which estimated

the cost of construction at \$12,000.

In August of 1925, the house was ready to be seen and an entire special section of the paper was dedicated to this home in order to promote its upcoming open house. The paper detailed not only the construction of the building, but even included an artist's rendering of the outside landscaping and photos of the "Ideal" interior decorating...which was, of course, all underwritten by local sponsors.

### Firesafe Walls

One of the most important selling points of the Ideal Home was that it was resistant to fire. The State Journal

(Fire Safe continued from page 1)

article stated that "concrete masonry was selected for the structural frame work and walls of the Ideal Home with an exterior of Portland cement sheen." Cinder block technology, which combined coal cinders and concrete, had been invented ten years prior to the building of the Ideal Home. The cinder blocks weighed about 75% less than ordinary concrete blocks and were used extensively in the walls above grade. They provided the desired flame resistance as well as excellent insulation and water resistance.



This 1925 ad extolled the virtues of having a 'sweet toned song bird' in the Ideal Home.

The paper claimed that "The walls of the Ideal Home being constructed of cinder blocks guarantees a permanent home for generations to come." Apparently the paper decided to illustrate that claim. An article which appeared in the paper later that month described a fire demonstration in the backyard of the Ideal Home. The

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

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builders constructed a small building of identical materials and ignited it. Although the contents were completely incinerated, the structure itself remained standing.

### Other Firesafe Features

Firesafe construction also affected decisions made about other areas of the house. The electrical system (sponsored by The Lincoln Electrical League) utilized a completely polarized installation. "It will be remembered by those who watched the home being built that a black and white wire were run to each outlet. In the polarized system, great care is taken to run one wire to the same side of all outlets."

The roofing company, Searle & Chapin Lumber, acknowledged that many fires begin on the roof and chose newly developed (and now commonplace) incombustible materials. The shingles were "of asphalt and rag felt covered with small chips of various-colored slate stuck tightly to the asphalt surface."

The Ideal Home intentionally contained far less interior and exterior woodwork than other houses of the era due to the flammable nature of wood. Inside, trim was noticeably absent from around doorways and windows. When wood was included (such as on the stairs crafted by Curtis Towle & Paine Co.) it was figured red gum wood that was later "walnutized." The exterior of the home was treated to several coats of stucco (compliments of Western Brick & Supply Co.) that were "thrown against the wall from a stiff bristled broom." The final coat had a faint greenish cast which would become deeper with age. "This is the first home in Lincoln on which this new and beautiful color has been used."

### Extensive Sponsorships

The corporate sponsorship of the Ideal Home extended far beyond the actual construction of the building. The special section of the 1925 paper was filled with ads from various local businesses who contributed to the outfitting of the home. An ad for Crancers music store began with the headline "In 1925 A Really Model Artistic Home Requires All These Pianos" and went on to describe the three different pianos it had sponsored. Pillers' Pharmacy encouraged visitors to

"Notice the medicine cabinet" which they had stocked with the latest health supplies and "toilet articles." And the Laundrymen's Association made it clear that in the Ideal Home one would "send their family washing to a modern laundry."

The ad by Griswold Seed stated that the canary in the kitchen "changes it from a house to a home. A sweet toned song bird will always be a real joy to the owner." The legendary Fuller Brush Co. made sure the house was "completely equipped with Fuller Brushes from cellar to attic." Other interesting sponsorships included: A Ford Coupe ("The Ideal Car for Business or Pleasure"), a Frigidaire (stocked with independently sponsored butter, hams and bacon, Jersey milk and soda waters), a burglary insurance policy and "shoes for the whole family."

### Ideal Home Sold

In February 1927, Ira and Nida Crook purchased the property from the State Journal for \$18,000. The deed conveyed the "premises with all the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances," but it is unknown whether the corporate-sponsored contents were part of that agreement. Dick and Carol Eckles are the fourth, and current, owners.



The Fuller Brush Co. was one of over 70 sponsors of the Ideal Home.

When the Eckles were shown the special section of the State Journal, they were excited but not entirely surprised to learn about their home's unique origins. "We had heard that the house was supposedly built to be fire-resistant. The foundation in the basement gave us a clue about the unusual construction of the house; the

(Continued on page3)

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blocks used there are substantially larger than standard concrete blocks. We definitely knew there was something different about the house when we tried to drill into the walls." Block walls covered with metal lath made the simple task of hanging pictures an arduous endeavor.

The Eckles are now in the enviable position of being able to read all about the construction and original decoration of their home: a building which was once a showpiece of the State Journal and which was enthusiastically endorsed by so many Lincoln businesses.

*Editor's Note: Much of the information in this article comes from a 1925 Nebraska State Journal newspaper provided by CCNA member, Kent Griffith. The newspaper is part of a bound collection that Kent found lying in the middle of a highway while he was driving one day. Many thanks to Kent for bringing the special section to our attention.*

End



### An addendum

#### Luminaries on Stratford Ave:

Apparently luminaries made an appearance on Stratford Avenue even earlier than was reported in the Winter Issue of The Chronicle. Laura Franz and her family lived 3001 Stratford for many years. She recalls that her mother, Laura Burton, displayed luminaries on the street for holidays and special occasions as early as the late 1960's.

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memberships each year.

Linda Wibbels gave me a huge sack of sugar and a large bottle of vinegar when I took over as president. She admonished me that the sugar would work better when working with our partners at public works and other public officials. I was told I could use the vinegar if necessary, it might work, but it would not last. I used the vinegar on my window glass and most of the sugar to keep me sweet. I think it worked. Many people from "city hall" have told me, how nice it is to work with the committee members from our association. We are held in high regard for both our hard work and great attitude about our city government.

The present officers and committee chairs and the board members thank you for any assistance, labor or money you provided for the 2000 to 2002 terms. The new officers and committee chairs for the 2002-2003 association year will surely do a great job, and I'm looking forward to helping them in whatever way I can. Will you help too?  
Jim Pattavina.

End

### Garage Sale Time is Coming!

Mark Your Calendars on Saturday May 4, 2002 for the Annual Country Club Neighborhood Garage Sales. It's time to scour your attics, basements and garages for all those treasures you've been meaning to part with for the past decade or so. Mary Jo Hill has volunteered to be our coordinator this year, so call her at 474-0893 to let her know you would like to have your sale added to the garage sales map.

### Remember proper disposal of yard waste

State regulations prohibit grass and leaves from being buried in the sanitary landfill, April 1st through November 30th.

#### Options:

- 1) Use haulers to separate grass and leaves service. More information call 441-8215
- 2) Create a compost pile. For more information and a free workshop call 441-7180

Website: [www.ci.lincoln.ne.us](http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us)

## Note from the Editor

by Ian Doremus

As I try to compose this note for our Spring edition the weather outside is blowing hard and turning from rain to sleet and finally to snow. Now as I finally put words to paper I am looking outside at a typical sunny March day.

Spring weather usually brings to mind a fresh start and a new beginning. With this in mind I would like to introduce to you some changes with your Country Club Neighborhood Association. The most obvious change is the election of our new board of directors, see page 5 for a brief introduction to the entire CCNA Board, for 2002. I am truly excited about what opportunities lie ahead for this board. Please feel free to contact any one of us with concerns or questions, or better yet please come join us at our monthly meetings, held the third Tuesday of each month (Apr., Jul., Sep., Oct., Nov., Feb., and Mar.), at 7 PM, at the St. Matthew's Church.

Our second exciting change is the revamping of our website. Our new website will contain current information, garage sales, meeting minutes, and our copies of this newsletter. Unfortunately it isn't available yet, we will provide the address when it is ready.

Lastly I would like to introduce myself as the new editor to this newsletter. This isn't so much a change as a chance to continue with the tradition of publishing an insightful and successful newsletter. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for possible submissions. The best way to reach me is through 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.

End

*Thank You!  
Your CCNA dues  
make this  
newsletter  
possible*

*(If you haven't yet, you still  
can mail in your dues card)*

# Working Together for Neighborhood Aesthetics and Preservation

By Chronicle Staff

Isn't the CCNA an interesting assortment of individuals? We are people of all races, occupations, and religions. We are businessmen and businesswomen who work in banks and universities. We are politicians and bureaucrats and homemakers and students. We are gardeners and artists, curmudgeons and optimists. But, within our diversity, we embrace some mutual, similar goals, not the least of which are neighborhood enhancement and preservation. And toward this goal, we as a group, can make a difference. A recent example of this played itself out in late 2001 and early 2002.

Here's the scoop: A small, but organized crew of CCNA members and neighborhood residents held their ground (pardon the pun) to preclude US Bank from altering the visual landscape and environs of the neighborhood at the intersection of 27th and Woods Blvd. US Bank had sent their legal counsel to present their case before the Planning Commission and City Council for a change of zone, a text change in city code and a special permit for a big, lighted ground sign next to 27th Street. Moreover, because of the way the bank had positioned its request, the zoning and code text changes could have led to this kind of commercial encroachment within every neighborhood in Lincoln, as well as elsewhere in ours.

Of course, the bank had every right to plead its case through a process before the Planning Commission and City Council that accommodates individuals and corporations and the inevitable change that occurs within any city. So the bank pleaded and the neighbors responded with a letter-writing campaign and testimony before the Planning Commission and City Council. Thanks to the efforts of all who wrote and spoke eloquently before these government bodies, we prevailed. The City Council voted 5-2 to deny the new US Bank sign. Much of our success was due to the

tireless efforts of City Councilman Jonathan Cook, who serves as our neighborhood representative, and to Bishop Square resident and Councilman, Glenn Friendt, who was very much in support of the neighborhood position. Also voting in our favor were Council members Terry Werner, Annette McRoy, and Coleen Seng. Voting against us were Jon Camp and Ken Svoboda.

The important point here is that, collectively, we made a difference in preserving the aesthetics of our neighborhood, through the cooperation of city officials and the testimony from the neighborhood. Issues like the bank sign will no doubt crop up from time to time, so the more organized we are in making sure neighborhood developments are good for our neighborhood, the better. Our experience with US Bank demonstrated that as individuals we can and will come together to enhance the concept of "neighborhood" and reinforce the value of associations like the CCNA.

End

## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is currently generating ideas about ways to help neighbors feel connected to the neighborhood. The first to be implemented is welcoming new neighbors with a Welcome Packet and cookies. If you know someone who is new and needs to be welcomed to the neighborhood, please contact Kim Kaufman at 477-2680. If you have an interest in being part of the activities of the Membership/Welcoming Committee or in organizing the Neighborhood Party, please check the appropriate box on your dues form or call Julie Enersen at 475-9988.

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 Ian Doremus 435-8625

## Helpful Tips for Maintaining Your Home

By Ray Omel

Last issue I had asked for anyone reading this article to email or call me with any important issues they are facing or ideas for an article. I was so glad to see that one very kind person responded. She had three questions or ideas for the next article.

1.) People should pick up after their own dogs. I must say, I do see many people carrying plastic bags with them while they are walking their dogs. Everyone please keep up the good work.

2.) Updating and modernizing old houses but trying to maintain the historic look or be consistent with other homes in the area. I have seen many additions to homes within the Country Club area. Remodeling these homes,

in my humble opinion, is great for the CCNA area. I would always recommend consulting with a professional if maintaining the look of your old home is important. I do believe this is important, however, change is inevitable and a few houses in the CCNA area do need updating.

Finally, the person who responded asked for a maintenance sheet or my checklist. I will be working on an updated list and hope to have one available for the next issue. Best of luck on your projects this spring. As always test your smoke detector.



# MEET YOUR NEW CCNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chris Carranza** is a stay-at-home mom with an M.P.H. (Master of Public Health). She and her husband, Miguel, have two teenagers and have lived on Wendover Avenue for 16 years.



**Jane McGinnis**, Has lived in the neighborhood, and been active with the Neighborhood association, for 6 years. She has organized the CCNA Annual Garage sale for the past 5 years. She works at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as an epidemiologist.

**Mary Lynn Schaffer**, Has lived in the Neighborhood for 23 years. She lives with her husband at 2601 Lafayette Ave. and is a Lincoln Public School teacher. Her civic work has included various boards at First Plymouth Congregational Church, the Southeast Booster's Club, the PTO, Lincoln Education Association and serving as the citywide president of the PEO. All three kids have attended school at Sheridan, Irving and Southeast.

**Ian Doremus** is new to the neighborhood with his wife Julie (Spring, 2000), and their three kids in tow. He is the Technology Manager at the Lincoln Journal Star. When time permits, he enjoys remodeling older houses.



**Ryan and Jennifer Omel**, Own and operate their own business, The House Medic. They have both served as CCNA Board of Directors for over one year.

**J. Robert Sandberg** Currently lives at 3303 S. 28th St. He first grew up in the CCNA Neighborhood on Dakota St. A World War II Veteran, Sandberg used his MBA to start a successful business career in Chicago and New York. Later he served as the Director of Development at the University of New Hampshire and the Vice President of the University of Nebraska Foundation. Sandberg is currently retired, but is looking forward to investing his talents in the CCNA.



**Julie Enersen** is a wife of one (Steve), mom of two (Alex, 6 yr. & Meredith, 3 yr.) and a singer in two small ensembles: "Broad Appeal" and "The OK Chorale."



**Jim Pattavina** has recently served two terms as the president of our association. He is somewhat new to the neighborhood, moving to 2828 Sheridan Blvd. on April 15 of 1997. Jim works for Brokers Insurance Agency and sells all types of insurance. He is also a newlywed! He and Terri were married on May 18th of 2001. Jim spent 11 years as a member of the board and two additional years as president of the Tierra Homeowners Association and serves on many other service and professional associations.



**A. Stuart Goldberg** is a Realtor who has been involved in real estate more years than he cares to say. He is the father of one grown child and is a newlywed!



**David Schnase** has lived his entire life in the house at 4131 Dunn Ave which his parents first purchased when they married. When David was 26, he and a friend purchased a badly run down house at 3110 S. 11th St. to save it from demolition. David has worked at Bryan Memorial Hospital for over 12 years now in sterile processing (surgical instruments). David is interested in the history and preservation of the homes to show the pride people take in living in the area, and also enjoys redoing cars in his spare time.

**Stacy James** is a Lincoln native, having lived in the CCN most of her life and now at 3022 William Street with husband Bob Ripley and "girls" Tootsy and Lovey. Since 1988, Stacy has been on the faculty at the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications teaching advertising and public relations.

**Jan Pitsch** is an office manager for an orthodontist. When she's not working in her yard or the boulevards, she can be found on the tennis court or going for a walk.



**Dan Marvin** was an active board member from 1994 to 1999. He served as the treasurer for five years. Dan's interests in the neighborhood include street and beautification issues and he looks forward to working with other board members on the newsletter, Parks and Boulevards, and entry point to the neighborhood. Dan is an investment consultant who is married and has three children.



**Bob Ripley** is an architect who works for the State. He is involved with preserving and promoting our State Capitol and has been so for about 20 years.



**Terry Schaaf** is a neighbor, an attorney, a university instructor, an administrative law judge and an aspiring yet marginally successful author and playwright.



**Linda Wibbels**, Linda is a Realtor for Woods Bros. and has lived on Royal Court for 25 years. She has been a CCNA board member or officer for ten years. Her passion for maintaining the aesthetic integrity of the neighborhood as is evidenced by the numerous grants she has written for trees, etc.. "There are many wonderful neighborhoods in Lincoln," says Linda, "but everyday when I come back to the Country Club Neighborhood, I know that this is where I want to be.."



End

# NOTES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

By Chronicle Staff



**YOU'VE GOT MAIL!... NOT at the curb, but at your house!**

It seems that some people in the neighborhood (especially those just moving in) have received a notice from their mail carrier implying that they need to move their mailboxes to the curb. NOT SO! CCNA has visited with the U.S. Postal Department about this and you are not required to put your mailbox at the curb. Another plus for living in our neighborhood - mail delivered to your front door!

## BURYING YOUR LINES

Do your lights flicker when there is a storm? Do you still remember October 1997? Many people lose electrical power to their homes because of their "drops" - the lines from the utility pole to the house. LES is still offering their "no charge" program for putting these lines (electrical, telephone and cable) underground. You just have to give them a clear path and have your outside meter adapted to receive these lines from underground. By doing this, you have a better chance of not losing power during the next storm. And the view from your backyard is much nicer.

Interested in a free consultation? Call Roger Wohlers at LES, 475-4211. Now is a great time for this project and we do not know how much longer LES will make it available at "no charge" to the homeowner.

## ATTRACTIVE HOME... UNSIGHTLY TRASH CANS AND LITTER

Yes, it has been cold and windy. Sometimes it takes layers of clothing and a deep breath just to quickly run your trash down to the curb. The problem, however, is not just the cold and the wind - it's everything else that shouldn't go along with it!

**TRASHCAN ETIQUETTE**  
No pun intended, but exposed trash-

cans and dumpsters can look downright trashy! HTV recently presented some suggestions to homeowners on how to make their home and the neighborhood look more attractive: 1. Except for rash day, trashcans should never be visible from the street. As one passes by your house, they should admire your home, not your trashcans.

2. Do not store your trashcans where they may be a visible annoyance to your neighbor. No one wants to walk out of their house, look out their front window or spend an evening on their patio and see their neighbor's trashcans. Store trashcans, dumpsters and other misc. items out of sight.



3. For as little as a few dollars a month, some refuse companies will come up to your house and get the trash so you do not need to take it to the curb. Check with your refuse company about this.

4. Secure your trash! A lot of litter you see comes from trash blowing out of your trashcans or your recycling containers.

## THANKS FOR KEEPING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD LOOKING GOOD!

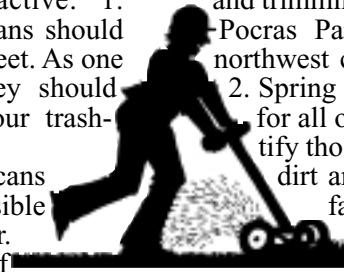
## THE GREEN, GREEN GRASS OF HOME...

The lyrics of this song paint a nostalgic picture of the comforts and warm memories of your home and your neighborhood. The backdrop for this picture IS the neighborhood itself - our 43 boulevards, 3 parks, 1 mini park, the south entrance into the neighborhood at 27th & Hwy 2 and every yard on every block. Your neighborhood association is continuing its efforts to make our neighborhood the most beautiful place to live in Lincoln.

## THIS IS WHAT IS PLANNED FOR 2002

**Mowing** - All Care Grounds Management (438-5115) will again be servicing our neighborhood under the management of the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department. Last year was

their first year and we were very pleased. This is what they will be doing this year: 26 mows between April and October (includes edging and trimming) - all 43 boulevards, Pocras Park, Van Manse Park, northwest corner of 27th & Hwy 2. Spring and fall weed and feed for all of the above. Will identify those areas that need extra dirt and over seeding in the fall.



**The boulevards** have been going through a restoration process over the last several years. Neighbors were invited to give their input into the design process and plans were developed. Grants were written with your neighborhood association and neighbors funding the difference. Dead or diseased trees were removed and new trees planted. Now we are ready to begin the next phase: Add dirt to level out the ground and over seed in the fall. Address the issue of the water system on all of the boulevards. "Plant for seasonal color" that will take us through all four seasons. Bryan Poppe of Campbell's Nursery has finished the landscape plans for all boulevards and other green spaces from South Street to Hwy 2.

**Development of Van Manse Park** this is a parcel of ground at Van Dorn and Manse Avenue. The land was originally given to the City for the Lincoln Rose Garden. When the Rose Garden was moved to Woods Park, this area then became what it is today - turf. No special designs or plans have yet been developed. Neighbors will be invited to attend meetings for their input into their neighborhood mini-park. Be looking for a notice this spring.

**27th & Hwy 2**, this is a very important entrance into our neighborhood and should say "Welcome". We have had trees planted and All Care will be taking over the mowing and maintenance. This should be a vast improvement from the past, we would still like to do more - any suggestions?

**Matching Mini-Grants** your neighborhood association is taking a look at

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matching mini-grants to be given to neighbors who donate to improve the public green space around them. Watch for details as they become finalized.

**Camouflaging the 93 wooden utility poles** on South 27th Street Edina, Minnesota has planted ivy on some of their poles. Instead of seeing an ugly, wooden utility pole, you see a beautiful column of ivy. We are looking into doing this in the spring.

A special thanks to everyone who signed up to be on the Parks, Boulevard and Green Space Committee. You will be receiving a postcard soon about an upcoming meeting. Your ideas, energy and enthusiasm are needed! We need people from all parts of the neighborhood in order to be truly successful.

People who live on the boulevards - look for a mailing soon about a meeting just for the boulevards. There are some exciting plans for 2002!

**PATIENCE + PERSISTENCE = PROGRESS**

Ruth Morin and her neighbors on Kucera and O'Reilly did not know that they were setting an excellent example

for the rest of the neighborhood when they worked together to get their street reconstructed last year. Their efforts were noted by the people living in the Woodsdale area and they, too, learned that hard work and good organization can lead to progress.

Last fall, a group of proactive neighbors organized the Woodsdale Neighborhood Group Initiative. Their boundaries run from Van Dorn to High Street and 20th Street to 27th Street. Their goals are to improve the overall quality of life in their neighborhood by street reconstruction, boulevard improvements and other areas that will enhance the aesthetics, safety and well being of their area.


Meeting almost weekly since last fall,



they have made huge strides. The first major success will be obvious this summer, the complete reconstruction of Woodsdale from 24th Street to 27th Street, new base, new curbs and other improvements to help with traffic, etc. All of the neighbors in this area need to be applauded.

A "special thank you!" to Mayor Wesley, Councilman Jonathan Cook and Councilman Glenn Friendt for their assistance with this project. A pat-on-the-back to all of the committee members: Rick Windle, Steve Thelen, Robert and Virginia Knoll, Bob Routh, Bob Ammon, Nancy Stuckey, Denny Hershberger, Suzanne Wise and Mary Lynn Schaffer.


End




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