



NEW DEVELOPMENTS

President's Message

By Bob Ripley



This past summer and fall have seen many projects and improvements completed in our neighborhood area, specifically completion of repaving of a portion of Woodsdale Boulevard and also

33rd Street from South Street south to Pioneers Boulevard, including our city's first arterial roundabout at 33rd and Sheridan Boulevard. Also the landscape and lighting improvements to the south entry approach to Sheridan School on Plymouth Avenue at Rathbone Road helped welcome students returning this fall. However, this is only the start of what we hope to accomplish within the coming months and beyond.

Our neighbors in the Woodsdale Boulevard area west of 27th Street, who call themselves the Woodsdale Group are continuing their efforts to complete the petition process required by the City to establish new Ornamental Lighting District in the area bounded essentially by Van Dorn and the Country Club, 20th to 27th Streets. The lighting design chosen for this project is very reminiscent of the 'ice cream' fixture and fluted metal pole originally installed when this area was first developed in the 1920 and 30's. The new lighting design will provide approximately 50 new street light fixtures in place of the existing wood poles with standard 'cobra head' lights projecting from a metal arm. The amount of light will not only increase but will also be more evenly distributed along the street right-of-way, helping with public safety at night. The new fixtures will provide a considerable visual improvement from the existing wooden pole lights and also unify the streetscape in this entire area.

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CCNA History Snapshot

By Julie Enersen

THE MARK WOODS HOUSE



The Mark Woods house shortly after its completion in 1911. Photo courtesy of the Lincoln Planning Dept.

How does the residence of a prominent Lincoln businessman at 2101 Sheridan Boulevard evolve into a residential drug and alcohol treatment center at 2501 South Street? That is the story behind the past and present incarnations of the Mark Woods home at the corner of Sheridan and South streets.

Mark Woods was a prominent local figure during the first half of the last century. He was a close associate of Gen. John J. Pershing, Vice President Charles Dawes and President Herbert Hoover and served as a delegate to several Republican National Conventions. He and his brothers, George and Frank, along with their father, Frederick, founded Woods Brothers Investments (now Woods Brothers Realty) and developed approximately 46 additions to Lincoln.

One of those early developments was in the area of the present-day Country Club. For up to \$600 per acre, The Woods Brothers purchased a beautiful tract of cornfield which was bordered by 13th and 27th and South to Calvert streets. They then employed Jens

Jensen of Chicago, world famous city planner, to lay out the street and landscaping plans. As Mark Woods recalled in a 1950 Lincoln Journal article, "Around 1910, George and I felt the development of modern residential lots with shrubbery planned and set back and building cost restrictions would pay us for the effort as well as beautify Lincoln and be a credit to the city for years to come."

The Woods Brothers were known for their foresight and for their ingenuity when dealing with the numerous problems, which arose, in the early developments. A 1988 Journal Star article outlined some of the early problems and their creative solutions: When the prairie sod proved difficult to turn, the Woods companies imported Percheron horses from France to provide the pulling power. When the Woods brothers had trouble securing phone service, they founded Lincoln Automatic Telephone which later became Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Co. When transportation problems developed, they founded White Line Traction Co. which ran a streetcar down Sheridan Blvd. to College *(Continued on page 2)*

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.

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non-resident, non-members	\$50.00

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Full page ad.

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non-resident, non-members	\$375.00

Contact Ian Doremus 435-8625

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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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View. They even went into the nursery business to provide trees for the streets they were laying out.

At the time the Country Club area was being developed, Woods' own residence was constructed at 2101 Sheridan. Woods' grandson, Pace Woods, Jr. believes that his grandfather aspired to create a building in the same school as Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style. "However, with all of the levels he put in, he probably wasn't quite on the mark architecturally."

One of the distinguishing features of the house was the room on the top level which had windows on all sides that could be opened up. "It was basically a sitting room where people could go on a hot summer day in order to cool off," Pace recalls. The house did have a sleeping porch, but it was located on the second floor near the rest of the sleeping quarters. The third floor of the home housed the billiard room.

Mark Woods and his wife, Clarkie, lived in the house for the rest of their lives. After Woods' death in 1956, Clarkie became increasingly uncomfortable with living in such a large house by herself. At this point, the home was divided into two sections and the South Street entrance acquired its own address. Later the home was sold to a local investor who continued to use it as a rental property, further dividing it into a triplex.

In 1977, a member of the newly formed Christ's Place Church purchased the property for use by the church until its own building could be built. The house was used for church services, gatherings and meetings of the Christ's Place congregation. During this time, the property also became zoned for a group home and was used as a Christian home called Celebration House.

In the early 1980's, the Lancaster Council on Alcoholism and Drugs was looking for a place in which to start an adolescent group home and was attracted to size of the Woods property and its zoning. The then empty home was purchased by Ralph and Barbara Fox for \$115,000 and rented to Houses of Hope for the establishment of an adolescent group home, TOAD HALL

(Teens Off Alcohol & Drugs, Happy And Less Lonely), which was run by Paige and Ron Namuth.

"It was the perfect solution for us," says Paige, "Even though the house had been subdivided, the potential was so evident. I have such respect for the workmanship and the planning that went into the home. The light that fills the rooms is a big surprise for a house of this size and age. There was great attention to detail and symmetry. Every doorway on the main floor frames something beautiful on the other side."

After ten years as an adolescent home, funding ceased and the home changed to its present configuration as an adult treatment facility named ANTLERS (Addiction Needs Treatment, Let Everyone Recover Successfully). Barbara Fox continues to own the home and generously donates its use to the ANTLERS program.

People selected to live in the home are carefully screened. "We will not accept any violent offenders," says Paige, "because we feel such a responsibility to the neighborhood. The people who come here are dealing with alcohol and drug addiction only. If they have a mental health issue, that must be totally stabilized before they are admitted. These people could

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Correction: Street Names



On the front page of the Summer 2002 Chronicle, there was a misprint in the article "The Origins of our Street names." The street Hope Court was printed twice. Under "The Woods Brothers", the street should have been:

Pace Blvd. was named for Col. Lewis Clark Pace, grandfather of Pace Woods Sr. who was the son of Mark Woods.

The editor

A HOLIDAY INVITATION

by Phil Whitmarsh

Westminster Presbyterian Church

The sights, sounds, and scents have harked and heralded the arrival of the holiday season. It's time to enjoy the glow of lights throughout the neighborhood. It's time to hunt, procure, and wrap those perfect gifts to be shared with friends and loved ones.

Another holiday event steeped in tradition is the Christmas Eve church service. Westminster Presbyterian at 27th and Sheridan has scheduled four services to accommodate the growing number of member, neighbors, and visitors who come with their families to enjoy the music and celebration of the season.

Christmas week begins at Westminster, Sunday, December 22, with a children's Christmas pageant entitled "Candles of Christmas" during the 10:30 AM service. Families and children of all ages will enjoy hearing the Christmas story as told and sung by children aged 3

through 5th grade. This is sure to be a heart-tugger.

On Christmas Eve, Wednesday the 24th, Westminster will have services at 3, 5, 9, and 11 PM. The earlier services are favorites of families with younger children eager to get home to put out the milk and cookies. The later "candle-light" services will feature specially arranged music selections and the dramatic lighting of handheld candles. The Westminster Brass will be featured at one or more of the evenings' services.

Whatever holiday traditions your family hold dear, consider attending a traditional Christmas Eve service with your neighbors at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Read more about a specific service or learn more about Westminster Church at

www.WestminsterLincoln.org

End

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This lighting project combined with proposed repaving planned for Lafayette Avenue, 24th to 27th Streets; 25th Street, Van Dorn to the Country Club and 26th Street, Lafayette to Woodsdale will truly give meaning to the phrase... My congratulations and thanks to our neighbors who have worked so long and hard to help bring these improvements toward completion.

This past summer members of our neighborhood association board along with City Councilman Jonathan Cook met with the Public Works Department to discuss other plans for street improvements in the Country Club Neighborhood area. Board members proposed consideration of the construction of a Rock Island Trail underpass at South Street about a block and a half west of 33rd Street. This underpass, which would link Antelope Park under South Street, would provide a much needed safe passage for the large volume of children and families currently crossing through traffic at street level. Such an improvement was initially proposed when the Rock Island Trail was first developed on the historic railroad right-of-way from 'O' Street south to Wilderness Park. Although omitted

from the initial trail construction in 1991, the need for this trail underpass at South Street has only increased with trail use as noted by the 2002 GPTN Annual Trails Use Census which indicates this section of the Rock Island Trail is again the most heavily traveled of the entire 80 mile network of trails in Lancaster County. It is our hope to see this park and trail improvement realized during a planned, multi-phase curb and paving improvement project slated by the City for South Street, 9th to 33rd Street within the next five to six years.

These are but a few of the projects on which our neighborhood is working. As president of our association board, it is heartening to be involved with neighbors who take such an active role in preserving the quality of life we enjoy. If you would like to become involved with such issues and projects or simply voice your opinion about concerns for our neighborhood, we invite any and all our neighbors to attend our regular monthly board meetings held the third Tuesday of each month (except December), 7:00PM at Saint Matthews Episcopal Church, 24th & Sewell Streets. Hope to see you there. My best wishes to all for a happy holiday season.

End

Note from the Editor

By Ian Doremus

Welcome to another edition of the Country Club Neighborhood Association's Newsletter. If you are keeping track you might have noticed that this issue came out a couple months later than last year's Fall newsletter. This newsletter will probably be a couple pages smaller than our normal eight pages. To get to the point, I would like to get more input from the community. We need news from You!



I feel this newsletter is a great resource for the Neighborhood. We publish four issues a year and mail them to every residence in our association, whether the owners are members of the association or not. That is over 2,400 households that we reach. I would like to appeal to our readership to become more involved in what is in your newsletter. Send me your stories and your concerns. What do your neighbors need to be concerned about? Who is having a block party? Who needs to be recognized for doing good deeds?

Please email me with your suggestions and stories. If you don't have email access, I can also receive information from the PO Box listed below. Take advantage of this great resource; help make a good newsletter about our association a great newsletter about the neighborhood that you live in.

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



NOTES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

From a Dog Lover

Denise M. Grasmick

I am a newer resident of the Country Club neighborhood and I have always been a dog lover. I myself have one dog, and up until last year had two. Unfortunately due to hip dysplasia, I had to part with my partner, Gizmo, an Akita. In my 9 years of dog ownership I have never left behind a "mess" while out with my dogs. I get frustrated when I see other residents of the area, or any area, who do not think they are obligated to pick up after their animals. I have carried that baggie of poop for a few miles before to the nearest trashcan. Not exactly fun, but it is my responsibility.

Living right across the street from Pocras Park, I have the opportunity to see this occur several times a day. It is very frustrating when my husband and I take the baby over to swing and have to dodge piles everywhere. When we moved in two years ago, a couple of neighbors informed us that the park is nicknamed "dog---- park." We now know why. I have had words with one man who told me that as a "newcomer" I should not complain. He also told me that "Dog crap is good for the environment" and that "Kids enjoy stepping in sticky things, and that they should be taught to scrape their shoes when they come home!!"

Generally people in our area are pretty good about picking up! I was very glad to see this dog-curbing ordinance up for vote of the city council! When it becomes a law people will have no excuse for their piles left behind! It's just unfortunate that it takes a law for people to change their behavior!



New Ambassador Program

CCNA is interested in implementing an ambassador program. A CCNA ambassador would be a neighborhood resident who would be willing to use whatever influence they might have by writing to or contacting public officials or others on specific issues of concern to the neighborhood as they arise. The ambassador would be free to decline participation on any issue as they saw fit but the program would provide a ready source of potential influence when needed. It is felt there may be a number of neighborhood residents who do not have the time or the inclination to serve on the CCNA board or to become officers but who might be interested in serving in this more limited capacity. Anyone desiring to become an ambassador or wishing to nominate someone should contact CCNA or one of the current board members. There are no qualifications or prerequisites for service as an ambassador and anyone feeling they could make a contribution would be welcome.



Tanner Hladik gets ready to eat his dinner during this years Woodcrest block party held September 22nd. According to longtime Woodcrest residents, the blockparty has taken place every year for more then twenty years.

PLANT A TREE

This year was exceptionally hard on trees throughout Lincoln. CCNA did not escape the drought unscathed. A number of street trees were lost during the hot summer months. These losses come at a time of tight public funds. Your neighborhood association has done a number of grant writing projects over the last several years, and continues to seek grant dollars. During economic stress though these dollars are harder to come by.

CCNA has set up a special tax-deductible account to help. This account is dedicated to the purchase of trees in the open spaces of CCNA. This fall as you are considering your charitable bequests, please consider the CCNA Foundation Tree Fund as a source of your charitable giving.

A tree adds beauty to our neighborhood and improves the environment. It is a gift that keeps on giving for years and years.

CCNA Foundation Tree Fund
PO Box 21953
Lincoln, NE 68542



From the Membership Committee

We continue to set new membership records! We now have 736 households which have joined CCNA during 2002. CCNA protects our quality of life, keeps up property values and acts as an advocate for neighborhood interests. Your support of the organization is what keeps it thriving. Thank you so much for demonstrating your commitment to CCNA.

Thank you also to those of you who indicated areas of interest on your dues card. You will soon be sent an email or letter updating you on the activities of the interest areas AND requesting leadership in some of them. If you are looking for a way to get involved in the neighborhood, this will be your opportunity. We look forward to hearing from you!

End

(History continued from page 2)

be living next door to you...in fact, some of them probably do live next door to you. The only difference is that they have addiction issues they need to work on."

Residents stay for 21 days of meetings and therapy with licensed practitioners. Wayne, a recent guest from Denver, found the surroundings very inviting. "So many of the the other treatment centers seemed regimented and institutional. This place feels like a home. Although it's large and old, it's not formal or intimidating. It's a very relaxed and comfortable environment."

The house at Sheridan and South was built for a man who was known for finding creative solutions to problems. It seems somehow fitting that today it is a place where positive solutions are sought on a daily basis. The people

who stay there can probably relate to what Mark Woods wrote in his 1950 article about his early experiences in Lincoln: "The heartaches and fights were many. There were exciting days and great anticipations. Disappointments, too. But hope for the future is always present..."

End







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