

eccco *Newsletter*

East Campus Community Organization

Volume 13, Issue 2, Summer 2014

Neighbors talking to neighbors

Mark Your Calendar

Fri. July 4, 2014
Fourth of July Parade
Idylwild Park

Get Ready for ECCO's Fourth of July Parade!

The annual Fourth of July Parade will be held on Friday July 4th at Idylwild Park. Line up at 9:45 am and the parade, which will include a fire truck from the Lincoln Fire Department will start at 10am. The route will begin along Apple St to 38th St, north to Dudley St, east to 40th St, south to Orchard St, west to 38th St, south to Apple St, and back to Idylwild Park. This new route allows us to avoid Holdrege St.

Kids and adults are welcome to bring their bikes, wagons, shoes or any other means of transportation. Get out your patriotic colors and dress up your "vehicle" or yourself. Bring musical instruments or join our "Rock Band" – decorate empty milk jugs with rocks in them to shake while marching. Judges will award prizes for these Parade categories: Best Entry, Best Bicycle, Best Tricycle, Best Costume, and Best Pet.

The parade is more fun when a lot of folks cheer on along the route. If you are not in the parade, please join in the celebration by watching or attending the party afterwards. Music or other noise-making is welcome.

After the parade, there will be games and watermelon at Idylwild Park. We will have old-time games and prizes for the winners. Please be warned contestants could get wet. ☺ ▪

President's Report: Neighborhoods working together

On May 9, 2014, an estimated 500 participants had a fun evening at the Peter Pan Party. The event was a collaboration by many, including Community Learning Center (CLC), NeighborWorks, the Principals from Hartley and Clinton Elementary Schools, and the Clinton, Hartley, and ECCO neighborhood associations. An amazing volunteer group came together to create a memorable evening of great food, music, games, informational booths, and all-around family fun for all. Special thanks to Valentino's, Lolo's, and others who donated food and other items for the event. The generosity exhibited when neighbors come together for a common cause was great to see. In the words of one little girl as she received her shaved ice "This is the best day ever!" Many thanks to all who participated and helped make this a special evening! ▪

Neighbors in the News

UNL Law Student Wins National Competition

In April, ECCO neighborhood resident, **Katie Joseph**, won the American Bar Association's National Client Counseling Competition, along with law student partner Rick Tast. Joseph and Tast are second-year students at the University of Nebraska College of Law. The competition places students in a mock interview with a client, where they demonstrate their ability to gather facts regarding a case, apply applicable laws, and provide the client with options to resolve their legal issues. Congratulations, Katie!

Dave Thomssen Honored by Nebraska Auto Racing Hall of Fame

Late last year, long-time ECCO neighbor **Dave Thomssen**, was inducted into the Nebraska Auto Racing Hall of Fame. Dave (pictured below) is an expert on the Ford flathead engine and set numerous world records for speed on the Bonneville Salt Flats and in drag racing with Ford's little V8.

Thomssen built the engine for "Big Daddy" Don Garlits' Swamp Rat 33 salt flats racer, running 220 mph in the measured mile. Many neighbors remember his signature yellow roadster – still in the family. (He keeps it under 220 mph in the neighborhood.) We congratulate Dave on achieving this honor! ■



Update: 33rd Street Construction

The North 33rd Street: "P" Street to Holdrege Street Resurfacing Project was started in early June. It includes replacing concrete base, pedestrian ramps, traffic signals at 33rd and Vine and at 33rd and MoPac Trail, and new asphalt is included.

Official traffic detours are to use 48th Street and 27th Street. Undoubtedly neighborhood "shortcuts" will see heavier traffic during construction. Neighbors who see speeding or unsafe driving should contact the Lincoln Police Department non-emergency crime desk at 402-441-6000 or the Northeast Team Captain at 402-441-6007.

The MoPac Trail Crossing improvement will be significant. This signal will be the first *Rapid Flashing Beacons* crossing signal in Lincoln. When trail users approach the crossing they can push a button to activate the flashing lights on the pedestrian crossing sign to signal vehicles to stop. The signal has been successful in other cities and is significantly less expensive than traditional crossing signals.

The project is scheduled to be re-opened to traffic by the end of August and completed by mid-September. ■

Wrap-up: ECCO Garden Tour 2014

The rain stopped just in time for the ECCO Garden Tour on June 7, 2014. The tour was a huge success. For the second year in a row, more than 200 people came through our neighborhood to see some incredible gardens.

A lot of people came together to make the tour happen. Seven homeowners opened their yards to us. UNL's nursery supervisor, Laurence Ballard, was on site at the Varner Trial Garden to answer questions about the perennial beds behind Varner Hall. (Go visit them!) Ellen Wright, of the Lincoln Watershed Management office, spent the day providing information on rain gardens and rain barrels at the garden of the Johnson Guest House. (Visitors also got a bonus tour of the renovated 1918 house.) Many hands deliv-

ered our newsletter information ahead of the tour, and sixteen neighbors volunteered their time at greeting tables during the day.

In addition to the tour, we offered an outdoor classroom with Master Gardeners Denny Macomber and Linda Krutz. Visitors learned about composting, perennial selection, container gardens, and tree care. The classes were well attended. Enthusiastic participants kept Denny and Linda talking past their 30 minute sessions.

Visit the ECCO website at <http://www.eastcampus.org/gardentour> for more details on the events of the day and to see more photos captured by our neighbor Hope Anderson. A small selection of her beautiful photos is shown below. ■



Photos by Hope Anderson.
<http://hopeandersonphotography.com>

Have a Block Party!

A neighborhood Block Party is a great opportunity for neighbors to get together, meet each other and have FUN! Knowing who lives nearby makes you and your neighbors safer. Neighbors working together on a common activity share skills, resources and build a community.

The City of Lincoln has a great guide with tips for planning your Block Party. Recruiting, permits, organization and activities are covered in the guide. Look for the two-page guide online in the Urban Development Department's "Neighborhoods" section at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/urban/Neighborhoods/pdf/NeighAssoc/BlockParty.pdf>. ■

Thanks for the Trees!

Several years ago, some "old timers" reminisced about the canopy of trees that used to cover our neighborhood. Much of that canopy has been lost to tree disease. Over the next several decades, many more trees will mature and die or be lost to disease. Replanting is important for the appearance of the neighborhood and to maintain property values.

In 2012, the ECCO board, in conjunction with some passionate neighbors, began raising funds for replanting. With the help of a matching grant from Trees for Nebraska Towns and support from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, NeighborWorks Lincoln and the ECCO Garden Tour, we raised \$5400 to begin replanting street trees.

Planting began in the fall of 2013 when we planted 38 trees with the help of 19 volunteers. The replanting efforts will continue. Additional donations may be sent to *ECCO Re-Tree Fund* at the address below. ■



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

*For further information, visit our website or contact a board member.
board@eastcampus.org
<http://www.eastcampus.org>*

Board of Directors:

Cara Bentrup
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ECCO Membership Form

It costs so little and helps so much!

To join, please provide the following information and send a check payable to ECCO.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>
E-Mail	<input type="text"/>

Annual dues

\$20 Membership

Send payment or donations to:

ECCO
P.O. Box 4193
Lincoln, NE 68504

Feel free to call me to help with the following volunteer activities:

☐ Newsletter Delivery
☐ Grant Writing
☐ Article writing

☐ Spring Clean-up
☐ Independence Day Parade
☐ Anything!