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# METCALFE-HARRISON

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Printing provided by The Neighborhood Center

November 2009

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### From the President

By Ann Hosford

Dear neighbors and friends,  
If your home is your castle, then your neighborhood must be your estate. What are you doing to take care of your estate? Many of you did wonderful things with landscaping, yard clean up, and colorful flowers this summer. Believe me, everyone enjoys your efforts.



Also thanks to those that worked on the Peanut, park and other gardens. These are yours to enjoy, so it is rewarding to see neighbors work in them without being asked and without recognition.

Now it is time to think indoors. Our next meeting, Nov. 10, will emphasize the home: safety, codes, ecology, and hopefully some money saving ideas. Greg Wayman, our speaker, is a professional home inspector. He will be available to answer many of your questions about energy needs and preparing a home for sale. But why wait to fix your home until you are about to move? Enjoy the investment now. October was National Fire Safety month. A little late but we will learn from a fire professional, Wyvie Jones, about fire concerns of older homes.

We now have an active board, block captain committee, communication committee, and need a few more helpers for luminary and family bowling committees. Please let me know what you can do to help.

-Ann

### A "New" Newsletter

We would like to give a big thank you to **The Neighborhood Center** for providing copies of this newsletter. The Communications Committee would also like to welcome Meredith Gardner, Melanie Lotspeich and Jason Holling. Meredith and Melanie both earned journalism degrees and will be contributing writers to the newsletters, and Jason is our web specialist in charge of maintaining our website and its functionalities. For any questions or comments you can contact them at [meredith.l.gardner@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.l.gardner@gmail.com), [mperry\\_80@hotmail.com](mailto:mperry_80@hotmail.com) and [jason@metcalfe-harrison.org](mailto:jason@metcalfe-harrison.org).

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### Upcoming General Meeting

Our next Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association meeting will be held at **7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10**, in the Harrison Elementary library. Please use the school's south entrance.

The theme of the meeting will be "Home Health." Greg Wayman from Foundation-2-Rooftop, Inc., will be speaking on home inspections and how to make sure your house is up to code. Wyvie Jones from the Public Education Dept. of the Omaha Fire Department will speak on fire prevention and radon detection. Luminaries will be for sale at the meeting, and we will be giving out free sticker numbers (sized to code) to put on your property.

Also, our Omaha City Council Representative, Pete Festerson, will be on hand to give us a City Council update and answer questions. We hope to see you there!

### Wanted: Block Captains and Volunteers

If you are reading this newsletter, you probably received it from one of 20 volunteer Block Captains. Each Captain is responsible for delivering newsletters to a two-block area four times per year. We are looking for more Block Captains. This volunteer service is a great way to meet more MHNA members, provides opportunities to stroll through the neighborhood, and saves the organization about \$2,000 per year in postage. Other volunteer opportunities are also available. Please indicate your interest in volunteering when you join or renew your association membership, or feel free to contact any MHNA board member.

## Your 2009 Board Members

**Ann Hosford** – President

1776 N. 52<sup>nd</sup> St. 551-4862

president@metcalfe-harrison.org

**Deborah Morris** – Secretary

5433 Franklin St. 551-8776

secretary@metcalfe-harrison.org

**Jon Iverson** – Treasurer

1612 Happy Hollow Blvd. 558-8807

treasurer@metcalfe-harrison.org

**Pat Bianchini** – Events

5220 Hamilton St. 556-0159

events@metcalfe-harrison.org

**Beth Meiches** – Community Relations

4949 Charles St. 551-2633

RPMeiches@aol.com

**Harry Morris** – By-laws

1530 N. 52<sup>nd</sup> St. 554-1314

harry@metcalfe-harrison.org

**Connie Simons** – Peanut Project

5406 Seward St. 553-8408

consimons@yahoo.com

**Marilyn King** – Programs

1414 N Happy Hollow Blvd. 551-6438

programs@metcalfe-harrison.org

Visit us on the Web at [www.metcalfe-harrison.org](http://www.metcalfe-harrison.org) and sign up for free e-mail alerts about neighborhood news, meetings and events. We will not share your e-mail address or use it for any other purpose.

## Important Phone Numbers

Code Enforcement	444-5371
Street Repair	444-4919
Tall Weeds/Litter	444-5910
Animal Control	444-7800
Cox Cable Complaint	444-4567
Mayor's Hotline	444-5555
Snow Removal	444-5220
Park Division	444-5955
OPPD Street Lights	554-6773

## MHNA Business Members

Thank you to all our business members for supporting our neighborhood and helping to keep it safe!

Paparazzi by Appointment	553-FOTO
Sgt. Peppers Italian Restaurant	558-7717
Janousek Florist	556-5652
Kelley's Hilltop Lanes	553-6411
Unionist Printing	558-9500
Indian Creek Nursery	558-5900
NE Skilled Nursing	651-0425
GBT Children's Academy	556-4282
Omaha Auto Detail	932-7161

## Your City Council Update

By **Pete Festersen, District 1**

Dear Metcalfe-Harrison Neighbors,

It has been a very busy first few months representing you on the City Council. A large portion of time has been spent dealing with the financial challenges facing the city.



I wanted to take this opportunity, however, to update you on some important neighborhood issues we discussed at a recent Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association Meeting.

- My work continues in our neighborhood business districts. Plans are proceeding in Benson (2010), Florence (2011-2012), and Dundee (2012-13) to implement infrastructure improvements and development and renovation incentives. I believe the Saddle Creek Road business area should also be an area of focus.
- On a recent visit to Metcalfe Park I noticed ink markings on the playground equipment. Corrective action has been requested.
- We reviewed zoning classifications throughout the neighborhood and continue to monitor code enforcement closely.
- A Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project is scheduled to take place in the area generally bound by 50<sup>th</sup> to 54<sup>th</sup> streets and Franklin to NW Radial streets. The first public meeting to discuss and review design is anticipated later this year with construction beginning in 2011.

It's an honor to be representing you on the City Council. Please don't hesitate to contact me for further information on these issues or other items of interest.

-Pete Festersen  
pete.festersen@ci.omaha.ne.us  
444-5527

## Did You Know?

### Interesting Facts About Our Neighborhood

**Harrison Elementary School**, founded in 1930, enrolled 164 students from grades K-4. Not many houses were located north of Hamilton St., so it was not uncommon to see cows grazing from classroom windows. Mules, horses and chickens were sometimes reported as well.

The **Homey Inn**, estimated to be about 50 years old, was named one of the best bars in America by *Esquire* magazine.

## 2009 HOLIDAY LUMINARIES & OLLIE THE TROLLEY TOUR

Join your neighbors this holiday season by beautifying your street with luminaries on Dec. 13. This event will be coordinated with our surrounding neighborhood associations to expand this wonderful tradition. See the back page of this newsletter for more information.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MHNA GENERAL MEETING

HARRISON SCHOOL LIBRARY (USE SOUTH ENTRANCE)

NOVEMBER 10, 2009 7:00 P.M.

“Home Health” is the meeting topic.

### HOLIDAY LUMINARIES

METCALFE-HARRISON NEIGHBORHOOD

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13, 2009

Line your driveway and sidewalk with holiday luminaries. Ollie the Trolley will give rides through the neighborhood, with pick-up locations near Benson and at Simpson’s Auto Repair from 7 to 9 p.m.

### BOWLING FOR FUN & FUNDS

KELLY’S HILLTOP LANES

1313 NORTH 48TH AVE.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010 AFTERNOON TIME TBA

Join members of the MHNA in some fun while raising money for the neighborhood association.

### MHNA GENERAL MEETING

HARRISON SCHOOL LIBRARY (USE SOUTH ENTRANCE)

MARCH 9, 2010 7:00 P.M.

Topics and speakers TBA.

## A Special Thanks

The MHNA would like to give a special thank you to The Neighborhood Center for kindly printing our newsletters at no cost. This is an exceptional gift and is greatly appreciated by everyone involved in the MHNA.

## When to Call 9-1-1

Sometimes it is difficult to decide whether suspicious activity in the neighborhood merits a call to 9-1-1. According to the Omaha Police Department, you should call 9-1-1 in any of the following situations:

1. Call if you need to see a law enforcement officer immediately.
2. Call if you have been involved in any type of car accident, if you have a crime to report to police, or if you may be in immediate danger.
3. Call if you have a medical emergency.
4. Call if you see any of the following: smoke; someone lurking in the shadows or prowling near cars or homes; juveniles drinking; anyone driving recklessly; vandalism or fights in progress; graffiti; suspected drug activity; lost or disorientated elderly/mentally unbalanced persons.
5. Call if you are unsure whether it is an emergency. Be able to describe any suspicious activity, such as gunshots, open doors or broken windows.

Always remember that it is better for officers to learn there is nothing wrong than to let a crime occur.

## Midtown Crossing Update

Midtown Crossing, located at 33<sup>rd</sup> & Dodge is on schedule and slated to open this month, featuring several new businesses new to the Omaha area. Announced so far is the Marcus Midtown Cinema, Prairie Life Fitness, Parliament Pub, Loft 610, Tru Salon & Spa, Fashion Cleaners & a Westin Element Hotel. For more information and updates, visit their website at [www.midtowncrossing.com/](http://www.midtowncrossing.com/).

## Peanut Donors Additions/Corrections

By now you may have noticed that the Peanut roundabout adjacent to the southeast corner of Metcalf Park has been beautifully landscaped, thanks to the acquisition of many generous grants and donations. The following is a list of donors who recently contributed to the project or were unintentionally left off of the list included in our last newsletter. We apologize for the oversight and once again would like to give a big **thank you** to all who helped with the project.

Dave Brown  
Sione & Karen Heimuli for Cole & Nathan Heimuli  
Judy Saniuk for Georgiana  
Julie Lasto  
Pilot Club of Omaha  
Cole Creek Project grant  
Sarah Knoepfler for Simon and Jackson

## Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association

### Membership Form

Be a part of the Metcalfe-Harrison Neighborhood Association. The Association works for you and your neighborhood. Did you know that it is MHNA that sponsors Dumpster Days, the doggie bags in the park, Movie Night in the Park and bowling outings? MHNA is also raising money to replace the playground equipment in Metcalfe Park.

Send form and check to:

Julie Lasto  
1720 N. 52<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Omaha, NE 68104

Annual Dues	
Family	\$10
Senior/Single	\$8
Church/School	\$8
Business	\$25

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:    Family                      Senior/Single                      Church/School                      Business

For Business Listings:

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

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteer opportunities

Do not list my name in the newsletter

### Light Our Neighborhood – Holiday Luminary Display Order Form

Join your neighbors in the Metcalfe Harrison Neighborhood Association (MHNA) second annual Holiday Luminary Display on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at dusk (approximately 5 p.m.).

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Luminary = 1 white bag & 1 tea candle.** Space bags 4-6 feet apart on your driveway and all walkways. Do one side or both. Consider how beautiful it will be if everyone participates! Consider helping a neighbor! **Anchor bags with sand, birdseed, dirt or kitty litter that you provide.**

Number of luminaries \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$0.30/ea. = total amount due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*You will be billed if you order and do not pick them up.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to have the neighborhood common areas illuminated.

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will: prepare bags for park \_\_\_\_\_ Dec. 10, distribute Dec.12 \_\_\_\_\_, (these are mostly indoor events), light luminaries in the park \_\_\_\_\_ Dec. 13, or clean up \_\_\_\_\_ Dec. 14.**

**Orders due by Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Via phone or email to Pat – 556-0159 – or e-mail Deb at debmorris@cox.net

Pick up supplies at Pat Bianchini's (5220 Hamilton St.) on Saturday, December 12, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.