



Community & Home Living

EXTENSION HIGHLIGHTS

Gladys Jeurink Recognized for 25 Years of Master Gardener Service

On Feb. 26, Gladys Jeurink was recognized for her 25 years of volunteer service to the Lancaster County Master Gardener Program. Gladys has educated hundreds of people about gardening and volunteers over 60 hours each year. She has given many educational talks, garden tours and answered thousands of horticulture questions. We appreciate her dedication and support to the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County Master Gardener Volunteer Program.



Gladys Jeurink has been a volunteer Master Gardener in Lancaster County for 25 years.

The purpose of the Master Gardener program is to support Lancaster County Cooperative Extension's educational programs in the areas of horticulture, composting, integrated pest management, yard waste reduction and 4-H horticulture projects for Lancaster County residents. They assist with dissemination of unbiased, research-based information to the general public of Lancaster County.

If you would like more information about the Master Gardener Volunteer Program, please call 441-7180 to receive an informational brochure. (MJF)

Nebraska Pioneer Farm Awards

The Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers welcome nominations for the 48th Annual Nebraska Pioneer Farm Awards. The program honors farm families in Nebraska whose land has been owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more.

To date, nearly 6,000 families in 93 Nebraska counties have been honored at various county fairs. Honorees receive an engraved plaque and gatepost

marker as permanent recognition of this milestone.

The awards will be presented at the 2003 Lancaster County Fair.

Nomination forms are available at the extension office, 444 Cherrycreek Road or the Lancaster Event Center office, 84th & Havelock. Forms must be returned to either office by May 1.

For more information, contact Deanna Karmazin at 441-7180. (DK)

Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute July 13-17, 2003

The Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) is a four-day event that brings together high school juniors and seniors from across the state to help build leadership skills, explore new aspects of agriculture and encourage young people to become more involved with and remain in agriculture.

The Institute takes place at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Kauffmann Hall in conjunction with the Nebraska Union. All meals, lodging and activities are sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA).

Deadline for applications is April 15. Applications are available at the Lancaster County Extension office or by calling Austin Benes at the NDA at 471-4876.



Protect Your Credit and Identity

Identity theft has become a problem anyone may have to deal with. Identity theft occurs when thieves steal personal identification, such as Social Security, bank account and credit card numbers and use them as their own.

Thieves obtain the information easily by sorting through a person's trash, accessing public records, overhearing numbers given in a phone conversation or stealing from mailboxes. They use the information to open credit card accounts, make withdrawals from ATM's, make charges on credit cards and make down payments or deposits on a car or house.

To reduce the risk of identity theft and the problems that can result, take the following precautions.

- Don't carry Social Security card, birth certificate or passport in a purse or wallet, except when needed.
- Don't print Social Security or

driver's license numbers on checks.

- Photocopy both the front and back of all credit cards and keep in a safe location.
- Sign all credit cards as soon as they arrive.
- Don't leave credit card bills, credit card and ATM transaction receipts, store receipts, bank account statements out in the open. Dispose of papers with account numbers on them, mailings indicating pre-approval or offering credit by tearing them in small pieces or shredding them before putting in the trash or recycling.
- Don't give out credit card or Social Security numbers over the phone or Internet, unless you make the call or know it is definitely a reputable company.
- Keep credit/debit receipts and check them against the monthly statement.
- If a credit card is stolen immediately notify the credit card company. If the missing

card is reported to the issuer before it is used by someone else, the cardholder owes nothing. If charges are run up before the card is reported, the cardholder may be liable for \$50.

- If a person suspects someone else is using his or her Social Security number it is important to contact the Social Security Administration office at (800) 269-0271.
- When a Social Security number is requested, ask the following questions before giving the number: Why is the number needed? How will the number be used? What law requires I give you this number? What are the consequences for refusing to give the number?

Taking precautions can reduce the risk of identity theft, but should it happen, promptly reporting the crime can minimize the consequences. (LB)

Spotlight on a Neighborhood: North Bottoms

The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County has been working together with the Agriculture Leadership Education and Communication Department in the Neighbors Working Together (NWT) project. Neighbors Working Together creates a supportive network facilitating leadership and collaboration across 13 neighborhoods adjacent to both campuses of the University of Nebraska. The project works to strengthen relationships between the university and those neighborhoods through improved communications and cooperation.

This month the NEBLINE begins a series of articles spotlighting the various NWT neighborhoods. These articles will provide our readers an opportunity to better know each one of the 13 neighborhoods and to be inspired by their projects and efforts to create a better community.

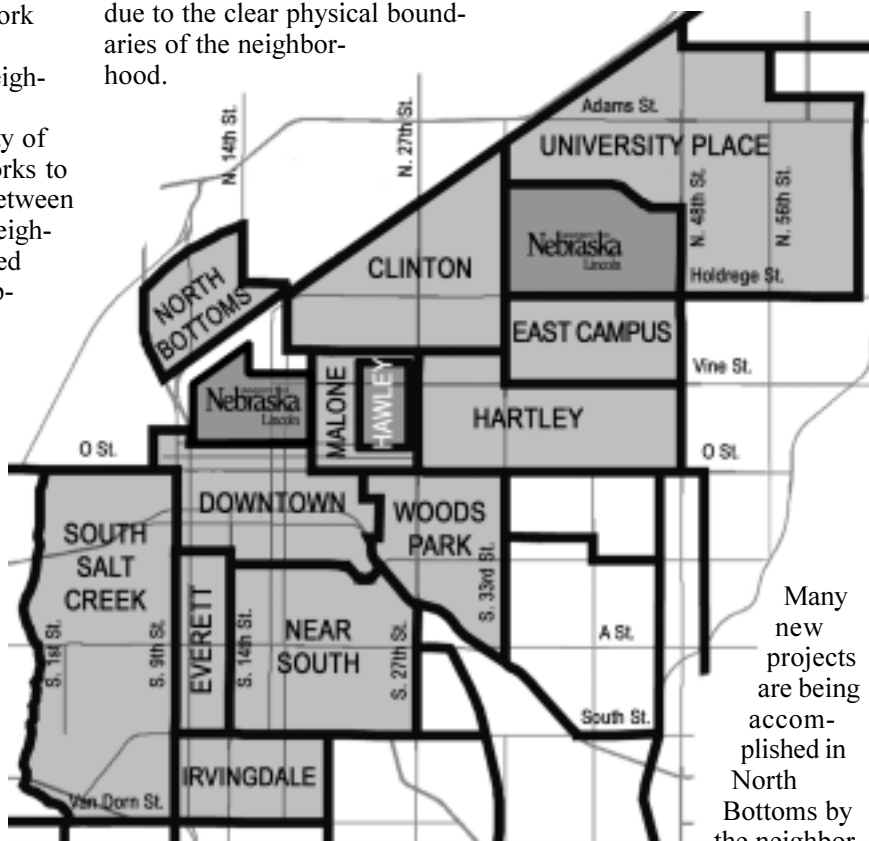
North Bottoms Neighborhood

North Bottoms was originally settled by Germans from Russia who came to the area attracted by the Burlington Railroad. The neighborhood itself was shaped by these people, who built small houses on long, narrow lots in an imitation of Old World models. One feature the emigrants brought with them from Russia was the 'summer kitchen,' which is a separate, smaller building situated close to the kitchen door of the main residence. In Russia, the summer kitchen was built to prevent fires, since the homes in Russia

often had thatch roofs.

Today North Bottoms is home to a number of students from the University, as well as families from a wide variety of backgrounds. While the neighborhood is no longer an isolated ethnic enclave, its "village" character is still very apparent due to the clear physical boundaries of the neighborhood.

The history of the North Bottoms can be visited in the historic summer kitchen and museum in a restored building at 1136 New Hampshire. The museum displays Germans from Russia household items and artifacts from Hayward Elementary School.



Many new projects are being accomplished in North Bottoms by the neighborhood association

under the direction of Ed Caudill. A new basketball court was constructed during the past summer and plans are in the works to install street lights in the parking lot. A soccer field is being built at Hayward Park and a future bike trail from the Saltdogs ball park under Interstate-180 and into Hayward Park is being planned.

For more detailed information on North Bottoms visit online at www.neighborhoodsinc.org/heart/neighborhoods/northbottoms.htm. (WF)