

Spotlight on a Neighborhood: Hartley

Barbara Cornelius
President, Hartley
Neighborhood Association

Note: This article is part of a series spotlighting the various Neighbors Working Together (NWT) neighborhoods. NWT creates a supportive network facilitating leadership and collaboration across 13 neighborhoods adjacent to both campuses of the University of Nebraska.

In many ways, Hartley is one of Lincoln's best kept secrets. Figuring prominently in the early history of the city the neighborhood was named for Ellis T. Hartley, the Superintendent of Schools at the turn of the last century. The "Sunnyside Addition," located between 27 and 30 Street, from "O" to "R," began the development of the area in 1885. By 1890, all of Hartley had been platted to 42 Street. Today, Hartley is defined by the area north of O Street, east of 27 Street, south of the railroad tracks between 27 and 33, and south of Vine Street between 33 and 48 Street.

Like other older parts of the city, Hartley has always supported a variety of uses. Primarily a residential district, businesses, churches and city services have been close by to fill area needs. By the early 1900s, a unique shopping district

north from 27 and O Street boasted businesses and stores on both sides of the wide street. A grocery store at 33 and R Street, now home to a local computer business and a soft drink service, made deliveries all over the city. The residents were a vibrant mix of professionals and tradespeople — the 1892 City Directory lists lawyers, dentists, physicians, firemen, carpenters, contractors, a druggist, teachers, plasterers, grocers and dressmakers, among others.

A building boom in 1909 coincided with the establishment of the College of Agriculture nearby. Many new houses were built. Hartley Elementary was the first school to be built under the Board of Education's new building program, opening its doors in 1921. Although the school was extensively renovated in 2001, most of its original features remain.

While residents are strongly aware of the historic roots of Hartley, they are committed to planning its future. Recently, a process has begun which invites residents and businesses to shape this plan along with the city's Urban Development department. The effort includes continuing revitalization, streetscape improvements and the sensitive development of businesses and services.

Truly, Hartley's strengths today are similar to its past strengths; a dynamic resident

population supported by local businesses, area recreational and educational opportunities and a convenient proximity to downtown. Additionally, the area is increasingly diverse, both ethnically and economically, trends reflected in its businesses and services.

Businesses

Area businesses and stores are just as varied today as they were at the turn of the last century. Drugstores, restaurants, hardware stores, groceries, consignment shops, doctors, dentists, insurance agencies, among others offer needed goods and services to local residents. The North 27 Street Business and Civic Association promotes commercial and improvement activities. Increasingly, the shopping district along North 27 Street reflects the ethnic diversity of the area — local Asian, Eastern European, African and Arabic-owned businesses thrive alongside longtime icons such as historic Wagey Drug at 27 and Vine Street. Next door, Cycle Works serves cyclists from all over Lincoln.

Education

Several schools serve area residents, including Sacred Heart Catholic School, Hartley Elementary, Culler Middle and Northeast High Schools. The Lincoln City Libraries bookmobile visits Hartley Elementary regularly for



Gazebo at Hartley Park at 31st and R Street.

all residents. UNL East and City campuses are within easy walking and biking distance.

Services, Churches and Recreation

Hartley residents have easy access to community services and recreational opportunities. StarTran buses offer routes downtown and elsewhere. Hartley Elementary serves as a community education center. Churches include Sacred Heart, Vine Street Missionary Baptist and Faith United Methodist and Christian & Missionary Alliance. Neighborhood and nearby parks include Peter Pan Park at 33 and X Street, Hartley Park at 31 and R Street (its tiny gazebo is not to be missed) and Woods Park just south at 33 and O Street.

Housing

Hartley retains much of its historic character with examples particularly from the first quarter of the 20th century. Queen Anne

houses and Arts and Crafts bungalows coexist alongside Victorian cottages and Prairie style Foursquares. Newer construction adheres to style guidelines, ensuring that area character is preserved.

Homeowners comprise about 65 percent of residents, renters roughly 35 percent.

Neighborhood Association

The Hartley Neighborhood Association was first formed in 1976 and has continued to take an active role in the evolution of the neighborhood. The board meets monthly to address concerns and plan projects. Activities include an annual clean-up, Yard of the Month awards, newsletter publishing, community planning and social events. Goals include a historic district and other initiatives. For more information, contact Barbara or Michael Cornelius at info@hartleyneighborhood.org.

Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute Applications Due April 15

High school juniors and seniors are invited to take part in the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) which will be held July 11–15. The NAYI is 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. All meals, lodging and activities are sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The only expense for students is transportation to and from the Institute. Applications are due April 15. Contact extension for an application, if interested. (LB)

2004 Master Conservationist Award Nominations due April 1

Sponsored by the Omaha World-Herald and the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources; the Master Conservationist program was established in 1983 to recognize those who have excelled in soil and water conservation. Award categories include production agriculture, residential, community and youth. Last year, the Norris FFA Chapter was selected the winner in the 2003 Community Youth Group category for their "Safe Water Tomorrow Through Pollution Prevention Today Project."

Guidelines for nominations can be obtained from the extension office. For questions about nominations, please contact Dick Fleming, Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources: 472-8742 or e-mail rfleming1@unl.edu

Award recipients will be recognized during a special presentation at the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts annual banquet Sept. 27, at the Kearney Holiday Inn, and will be featured in the Omaha World-Herald on Sept. 26. Deadline for nominations is April 1.



Environmental Awards Nominations Due March 19

Nominations are being sought for the 2004 Lincoln/Lancaster County Environmental Awards. Do you know of an individual, business, community group, school or youth group who deserves to be recognized for their environmental stewardship efforts? If so, the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department and Lincoln Public Works and Utilities Department, co-sponsors of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Environmental Awards, are seeking nominations. Nomination forms are available online at www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/health/enviro/kllcb/awards.htm or by calling Harry Heafer at 441-8035 or Gene Hanlon at 441-7043.

Awards are given in the following categories:

- **Pollution Prevention:** Preventing pollution and waste from being created focusing on toxic reduction.
- **Waste Reduction and Recycling:** Reduction in the amount of waste sent to the landfill.
- **Water Conservation:** Reduction in water use, using water conservation techniques.
- **Cleanup/Beautification:** Improvement in an area's visual quality.
- **Residential/Commercial Development:** Reducing waste during construction, utilizing drought tolerant landscaping, energy efficient or green building techniques.

- **Environmental Education/Awareness:** New or unique efforts for providing or supporting environmental education programs; increasing awareness about local environmental issues.

Nominations may be made in more than one category if appropriate.

Deadline for nominations is March 19.

The Awards dinner will be held on Friday, April 23, at the Bryan Hospital Conference Center, 48 & Cotner Street, at 7 p.m. The awards ceremony will begin around 7:45 p.m. Reservations are \$15 per person and may be made by calling one of the numbers listed.

Grantsmanship Training Scheduled for May 3–7

The Grantsmanship Training Program will again be offered to the Lincoln community May 3–7. The intensive, "hands-on" workshop covers all aspects of researching grants, writing proposals and negotiating with funding sources.

Designed for both novice and advanced grant seekers, the program participants are given follow-up services, including expert grant proposal reviews for a full year following training. To maximize personal attention, the group size for the workshop is limited.

Since 1997, Lancaster County Extension has hosted the Grantsmanship Training Program. Approximately 120



individuals representing various Lincoln and area agencies have participated to date.

For more information and to register as early as possible,

contact The Grantsmanship Center at (800) 421-9512 or go to www.tgci.com. (GB)