



Winter 2017

Opening Doors Newsletter

From your friends at NeighborWorks Lincoln

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Homebuyer Assistance Updates

Homebuyer Education classes are in full swing for 2017! The 4-class series is held monthly on the second and third Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8:30 pm at our training facility. [Click here](#) to visit our class calendar.

Down payment assistance limits have been enhanced for 2017. For clients buying a home in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA), the maximum assistance is \$20,000, fully forgiven over 10 years. The Low to Moderate Income Area (LMI) home buyer receives up to \$20,000, which is half forgiven over 10 years. The buyer purchasing a home in the "City-Wide" Area (not in one of the Focus Areas) will be eligible for assistance up to \$15,000 which is due upon sale of the property.

For further details about our Home Ownership Program, please [visit this link](#). An online application is also available on our website.

Community Build Update

Construction is making progress at 2336 Q Street, the site of our 2016 Community Build Project! The project's expected completion date is Summer, 2017. NeighborWorks Lincoln extends a heartfelt thank you to of the Community Build Sponsors who have committed to this project:

Kidwell, Inc.
Biggerstaff Plumbing & Heating, Inc
Bison Inc.
Christensen Lumber

**Ebbeka Design
Ernie's in Ceresco
Evol Empire Creative
GE Appliances
Hampton Commercial Construction, Inc.
J Tech Construction
Lennox Industries
Paul Sayer Drafting Design
Wells Fargo**

If you would like to donate to the project, please contact NeighborWorks Lincoln at 402-477-7181. There is still time to make a difference!



North 27th Street Corridor

Keep up to date on North 27th Street by visiting the website and following their Instagram! It's a great way to see what's happening along the corridor, find a wealth of international restaurants and markets as well as small businesses. If you have a business along North 27th Street from O Street to Holdrege and want to be included, contact Marti Lee at 402-477-7181 ext. 107.

Visit <http://n27street.com/>

Follow N. 27th Street on Instagram: [Click HERE](#)

January 2017 Neighborhood Forum

The neighborhood forum had a great turnout on the 28th! It was amazing to see passionate people from all over the community coming together to talk about improving their neighborhoods. A

huge thank you to all of the city council members who showed up and got involved, including councilwoman Leirion Gaylor Baird. Whether you have been active in your neighborhood association for decades or you're brand new to Lincoln, we'd love to see you at events like this throughout the year! Be sure to follow us on Facebook to stay updated. It is a great way to learn how to get involved, how to involve others, and how to make a positive impact in your community.







NeighborWorks Lincoln CEO Michael Renken with councilwoman Leirion Gaylord Baird

Get Involved: Lincoln Paint-a-Thon

Want an opportunity to love on your community? The next Lincoln Paint-a-Thon will happen this August and will benefit those whose homes need a little extra love. Whether you're interested in volunteering or if you are in need yourself, there's a way to get involved. For more information or to request help through Lincoln Paint-a-Thon, visit: <http://www.paintathon.org/>



Smoke-Free Housing Message on StarTran Bus

By Christina Hitz, Public Health Educator

"Tenants expect their living units to be smoke-free, even the

people who smoke themselves," said Chateau Development property manager Nicole Richards. In the past three years the number of identified smoke-free housing units in Lincoln has increased from 2,705 to 6,724. Clearly more and more property owners and managers as well as tenants are understanding the benefits of a smoke-free housing policy.

<http://tobaccofreelancastercounty.org/smoke-free-rental-housing/>

In order to continue this trend, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department in conjunction with Tobacco Free Lancaster County Coalition, has launched a public awareness campaign highlighting the benefits of smoke-free housing policies. StarTran is rotating the image below on its bus routes through the end of July, 2017.



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Even though only 15.4% of Lancaster County adults currently smoke, national statistics indicate 24% of the people who live in multi-unit housing use tobacco. Increasing the number of smoke-free properties not only expands healthy options for tenants, but also helps protect valuable property from fires started by cigarettes. In 2016 to date, Lincoln Fire and Rescue responded to 64 fires resulting from smoking materials.

If you would like more information or technical assistance with developing a smoke-free housing policy, please contact Christina Hitz, 402-441-6224 or chitz@lincoln.ne.gov. Funding provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/Tobacco Free Nebraska Program as a result of the Tobacco master Settlement Agreement.

Lincoln Stars Fundraising Game

NEIGHBORWORKS NIGHT WITH THE LINCOLN STARS



**SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH AT
7:05 PM**



VS



**SPECIAL TICKET PRICE OF \$15 WITH \$5 GOING
BACK TO LINCOLN NEIGHBORWORKS!**

ZOMBIE NIGHT AT THE ICE BOX!

**FOR TICKETS CONTACT JOHN AT 402.474.7827
EXT. 15 OR JNOTTER@LINCOLNSTARS.COM OR
GO TO bit.ly/2frlxA0**

Come hang out with us at a Lincoln Stars game!! Special priced tickets for our friends are on sale NOW! When purchased through [this link](#), \$5 from each ticket comes back as proceeds to NeighborWorks Lincoln.

NOTE: Our NeighborWorks section is reserved in M-MEZZANINE. Seats may still be available in this section!

Shawn Ryba: Resignation

We are sad to announce that Shawn Ryba, Chief Operating Officer, has accepted the Executive Director position for the newly formed South of Downtown Community Development Organization.

Shawn has been a tremendous asset to NeighborWorks Lincoln. In the nine and a half years that he passionately served the organization, he greatly expanded our community building and engagement work in many Lincoln neighborhoods. Although we are not excited to lose him from the NeighborWorks Lincoln team, we know that he will continue to do great things for our community in his new role. Congratulations and good luck, Shawn!



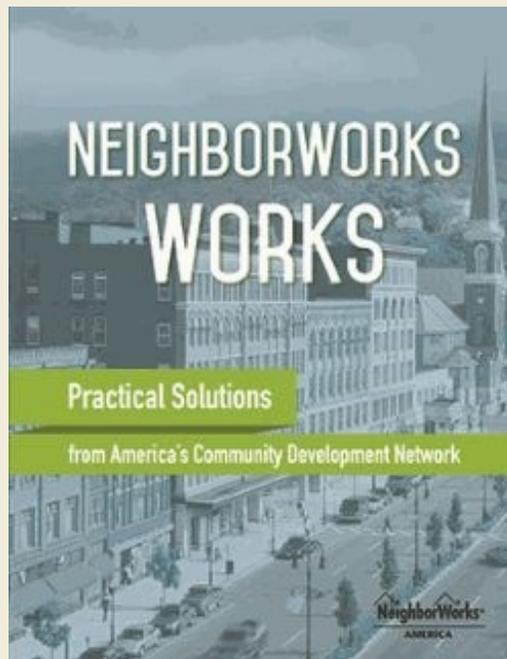
New Face on the NWL Team

NeighborWorks Lincoln is pleased to introduce the new Executive Assistant, Morgan Simones.



Morgan graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) with a Bachelor in Social Work. She worked as a volunteer specialist at the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging before starting graduate school. She is currently studying to earn her Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in public policy from UNO. Her interests are in public policy, community organizing, and nonprofit management. She is excited to join the NeighborWorks Lincoln team, and we are happy to have her aboard!

Hey! We are featured in a book! *NeighborWorks Works: Practical Solutions from America's Community Development Network*



"NeighborWorks Works" is a collaboration book that will showcase the NeighborWorks America network's innovative solutions in affordable housing and community development. This book will help policymakers, funders, media, potential partners and industry professionals examine trends, challenges and potential solutions in creating economic opportunity in all American communities.

The book will feature new ideas in cross-sector collaboration, energy-efficient and manufactured homes, senior housing, community engagement, community revitalization, outcome measurement and more. The case studies will also illustrate how housing and resident engagement can be a platform for advances in health, education, workforce development, youth leadership and other pressing issues.

Expanding on our theme this year, "Creating Economic Opportunity," we hope the book will give practitioners and those interested in the future of our communities a real and varied sense of the work being done around the country. Together we can provide increased economic opportunity to improve lives and strengthen communities to overcome even the toughest of challenges.

This book is for you if:

- You want examples to inspire creative thinking in affordable housing and community development.
- You are looking to discover new, more effective ways to involve residents in shaping the future of their communities.
- You value new ideas in transforming distressed communities into vibrant places of opportunity.

If you are interested in placing an order for "NeighborWorks Works", call us at 402-477-7181.