



The Witherbee Buzz

Newsletter

Spring 2006

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association includes the area bounded by 33rd to 56th and Randolph to "O" Streets

WNA Cleanup/Plant Sale May 6th Collection will be from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Featured Topics Set for May, June & July Meetings

By Mike Fitzgerald

Topics of feature presentations and discussion planned for the next three WNA meetings are intended to appeal to a wide range of interests.

May 4th will provide a double feature line up. First, the Geography Club at Hawthorne's Community Learning Center will present the results of their project in which GPS (global positioning system) was used to inventory which blocks in our neighborhood do not have sidewalks. The second featured presentation will be made by a City representative with valuable information for anyone considering renovation or expansion of their home. Whether you plan to hire the work done, or do it yourself, you'll want attend the May meeting to hear about the (must) do's and don'ts of building permits.

June 1st will feature University of Nebraska Extension horticulturist Donald Janssen who will offer advice on your project ideas or gardening problems. Residents are encourage to bring pictures of the garden or landscaping area they want help with.

July 6th will feature WNA resident and city historian Ed Zimmer. He'll share his knowledge of surprising facts about the growth and development of the neighborhood, beginning in the early 1900s. He will be delighted if you will also share your knowledge and your questions about our neighborhood.

Remember, WNA meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Tabitha Life Quest Center (48th & J). In addition to the featured presentations, the meetings provide updates on WNA projects and events, as well as being a great place to meet friends, new and old.

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The third annual Witherbee Neighborhood Cleanup will be Saturday, May 6th, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

New this year will be separation of usable items for donation to EcoStores Nebraska, a plant sale/exchange, targeted grounds cleanup at Hawthorne elementary, and snack by Runza.

This neighborhood-wide event will take place rain or shine. All neighborhood residents are invited to participate. We will start with a welcoming pot-luck breakfast, then see if we can beat last year's collection of 9 tons of junk and trash.



Household trash and business waste will not be accepted. Large roll-off waste containers will be located at the collection site on the north side of Hawthorne Elementary along M Street between 48th and 50th. Residents are invited to bring their unsightly debris to the collection site and recycle when possible. Check with your refuse hauler about disposing of questionable items with the regular trash. Information is also available in the Alltel Phone Book blue pages 42-43 and on the web site www.witherbeena.org

Waste items accepted for FREE: Furniture, lumber, junk, broken fences, windows, screens, picnic tables, grills, swing sets, clothesline poles, carpet, railroad ties, rubble, items too large and bulky for regular refuse service, car

Continued on page 6



Rolloff being filled at last year's cleanup

About the Witherbee Neighborhood Association

Boundaries:

33rd to 56th & 'O'
to Randolph Streets

Web Site:

www.WitherbeeNA.org
Meetings: 7:00 p.m. first Thursday
of each month at Tabitha Lifesquest
Center, 48th and J.

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President's Message by Fred Freytag

Welcome to the spring edition of the Witherbee Buzz. We hope you will enjoy reading it and choose to take part in some of the upcoming activities. It is a great way to meet people living in the neighborhood and make new friends. Spring and summer bring on a lot of outdoor activities and more chances to invite new neighbors and make them feel welcome.

Have you ever thought of organizing a block party or just have a pot luck get together with people up and down the street? Some one needs to take the first step, why not you. I am sure there are people on every block that would love to help organize a small event on their street. The benefits will be great. You get to know your neighbors better, find things you have in common, and by knowing each other better, it will make the neighborhood safer. Give it a try.

I am sure that the O STREET construction in one way or another affects anyone living in the Witherbee Neighborhood. More traffic on neighborhood streets or a little more hassle to get somewhere. Just think it will be over before you know it and we will have better traffic flow and new businesses where once an eyesore was. I hope to hear soon that there is a great plan for the north side of O Street as well and that construction will begin soon. All of this is bringing new energy to our area so don't forget to keep patronizing the businesses that are a little harder to get to during the construction. They need us now more than before.

I want to thank all the families that have joined or renewed their membership in the WNA. If you have e-mail we will do our best to keep you informed of the happenings between newsletters. Staying informed is the first step to caring about your surroundings, your neighborhood. Much more can be done when we are proactive and not so reactive. Take the step and join the WNA. It's the right thing to do.

Thank you to all the advertisers in this newsletter, we can't do it without you. Thank you to all the volunteers that help distribute the newsletter and thank you everyone that has chosen to be a member and be involved. We need more people like you. Have a great spring.



Mayor Seng surprised Fred at the April WNA meeting, which happened to be Fred's birthday. She awarded him the "Key to the City". Cake followed.

You get to know your neighbors better, find things you have in common, and by knowing each other better, it will make the neighborhood safer. Give it a try.

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Expect a Letter from WNA Soon

By Mike Fitzgerald

Here's an update on WNA's goal to seek down zoning. The last newsletter introduced the topic of WNA's intent to seek a change of zone from the city to help protect residents in Districts 1 and 2 (33rd to 40 and 40th to 48th) against construction of out-of-character (ugly) houses or apartments. Then speakers at the February meeting displayed current zoning maps and explained how down zoning will benefit the neighborhood. Residents who completed the Needs, Resources and Assets Survey included in the last newsletter listed zoning as a top concern. Next, WNA residents interested in learning more or in helping with the project are asked to call WNA President Fred Freytag 435-2465 or email at fred@witherbeena.org. A project planning meeting will be held soon – and anyone interested in attending will want to get the date, time and location from Fred.

Among the first of the project tasks, WNA will send all residents in Districts 1 and 2 a letter to invite them to a public meeting. Other project tasks include WNA submitting an application to the city, collecting signatures of residents who support the proposal and attending Planning Commission and City Council meetings.

Support and help is needed from residents on each block – we hope we can count on you for a little help. Please let us hear from you.

WNA is encouraged by Lincoln City Council members Jonathan Cook and Patte Newman announcing on April 5th their plans for ensuring Stronger, Safer Neighborhoods. Cook discussed efforts to preserve neighborhood character by limiting future density in existing neighborhoods which were not built for high density development. "I will strongly support the efforts of neighborhoods to protect their historic character and promote homeownership through downzoning," he said.

Downzoning grandfathers in all existing investments,

so no one is at risk of losing what they own, but it gives assurance to single family homeowners that if they buy a house in an older neighborhood, they won't be faced with a slip-in apartment next door, as has happened in many older neighborhoods in the past. "This is critical to promoting homeowner reinvestment in older areas," said Cook.

Downzoning has been unanimously approved by the council in many neighborhoods all over town, including Near South, University Place, Irvingdale, Witherbee, and Everett. There are more areas that need help, however.

Another tool to preserve neighborhood character is design standards for new construction. Neighborhood design standards are in place, but they are not strong enough, he said. "There are loopholes that unscrupulous developers are taking advantage of to victimize neighborhoods, and I will work to close those loopholes," said Cook.

WNA wishes to thank Tabitha for being a great neighbor and providing meeting space for us each month. We appreciate it.

A Special Treat for Crossing the Street

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Witherbee Garage Sales Coming In June

Tired of dealing with clutter in your basement and closets? Set up a garage sale! Enjoy a summer day as that stuff turns into the prized possessions of other folk while your cash box fills with dimes, quarters and dollar bills.

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association will hold its third annual garage sale on Thursday, June 8th through Saturday, June 10th. We will place advertisements in the Journal Star, Thrifty Nickel, on our website and provide lists for each participant that will include locations, dates, times and types of items for sale. These lists will also be downloadable from our website. The event brings people from all over Lincoln into our neighborhood who will see our quality of life and get the chance to purchase your sale items.

Sign up by sending a \$3.00 registration fee to Karen Vogeley, 3535 Frost Court, Lincoln, NE 68510. Her phone number is 402-435-6022 and e-mail address is karennane@yahoo.com. Indicate the days and hours of your sale with a short description of what you will be selling. Registration deadline is May 26th.

Tips for your sale:

You need to display your items well and price them inexpensively. Garage sale customers look for bargains. Collect what you want to get rid of over a few weeks, tagging them as you store them in boxes. You might want to research the prices by going to other garage sales. You can put prices on individual items or make small signs for stacks of books or small toys in bins. People like to know what things cost and will be less likely to walk away if you are busy once they know the price. You can price bigger items at slightly higher prices because people like to bargain.

Be sure to clean your items and arrange the best ones on tables. Lesser goods can be put on rugs or blankets spread out on your lawn.

Make a couple of well sized and clear signs posted with the dates and times of your sale and your address. Arrows pointing to your house are very useful, especially for people unfamiliar with our neighborhood.



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If you only have a few items to sell, try to combine your sale with neighbors or family members. People are drawn to sales with lots of choices neatly displayed.

Help keep the neighborhood beautiful by removing your signs when your sale is over.

If you have any questions contact Karen Vogeley at 402 435-6022.

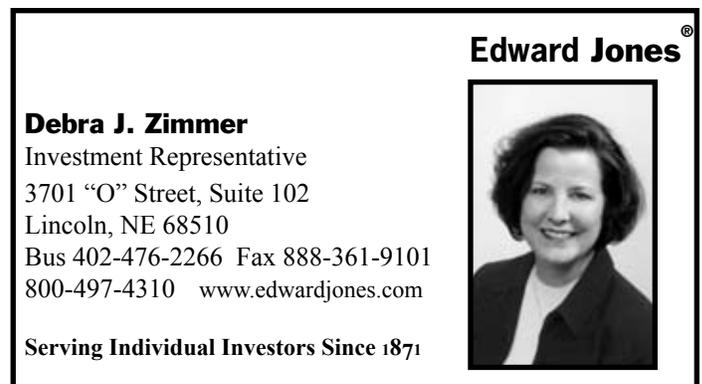
Needed: Newsletter Delivery Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help deliver the quarterly WNA newsletter. The little task of delivering newsletters to a couple or even a few blocks in your area takes less than an hour. Volunteers are needed in each of the three WNA Districts: 1 (33rd to 40th), 2 (40th to 48th), 3 (48th to 56th) – between O and Randolph Streets.

Top 10 reasons to help distribute your neighborhood's newsletter:

10. Helps increase the number of active members
9. Saves postage for other WNA activities
8. It's better than handing out bills
7. It's better than being home when the mail carrier delivers your bills
6. You'll find out for sure what dogs are leashed
5. You'll get to discover another beautiful part of America
4. It'll count toward the Eagle or Girl Scout award you never finished
3. You can mark exercising off your "to do" list
2. It's a good excuse to procrastinate some other project on your list
1. And the number 1 reason to help with distribution is: the big pay check!

Seriously, when we each do a little, we do a lot. And those who have been doing the delivery sure could use some more help. To sign up or for more information, contact Fred Freytag at 435-2465 or Mike Fitzgerald at 486-4073 or emailing us newletters@witherbeena.org.



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WNA Districts in Tight Surveys Race

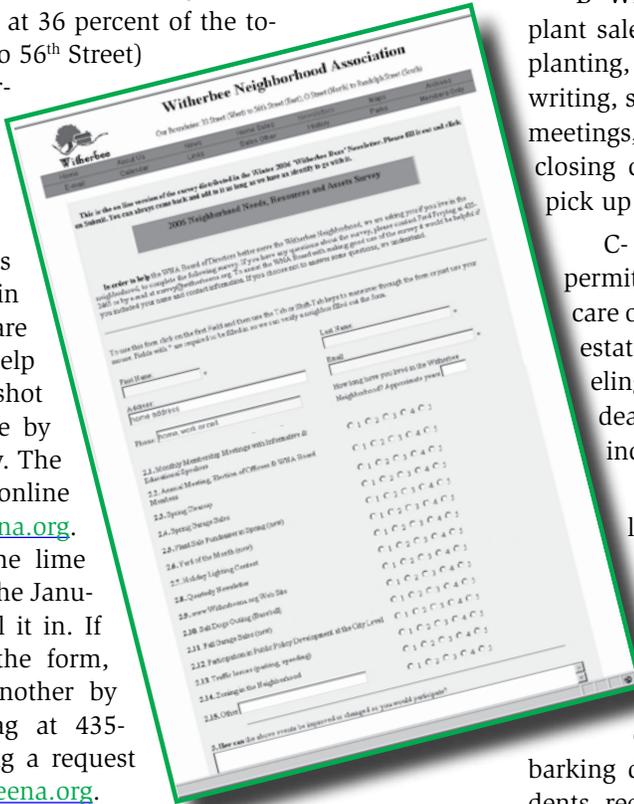
By Mike Fitzgerald

Preliminary results from the WNA Survey distributed in the January newsletter show a close race. That is, residents in District 2 (40th to 48th Street) have returned the most surveys so far at 36 percent of the total. District 3 (48th to 56th Street) is next with 33 percent. And District 1 (33rd to 40th) is close behind with 30 percent.

Bragging rights for the most tuned in and vocal district are at stake. You can help give your district a shot at claiming the title by completing a survey. The form is available online at www.witherbeena.org. If you still have the lime green survey from the January newsletter, mail it in. If you've misplaced the form, you can request another by calling Fred Freytag at 435-2465 or by emailing a request to survey@witherbeena.org.

Below is a sample of what residents have said so far in five categories. In D and E, the most frequent responses are listed first:

A- Careers (insight or expertise residents said they could share with WNA) – firefighter, secretary, instructional technology, administrative assistant at UNL, life insurance, lab technologist, forester, beauty salon owner, business owner, student, retired, registered nurse, train engineer, CEO 1st Choice Credit Union, elementary tutor, building contractor, accounting, machinist, college administrator, retired meat cutter, school secretary, research & education @ Madonna, cosmetic, tools buyer, management, mechanical engineer, physical therapist, high school, at home mom, retired en-



gineer, water color artist, supervisor, HR management, architect, support staff for state agency, retired civil engineer, journalist, retired registered nurse, teamster, banking.

B- Willing to volunteer for WNA – newsletter delivery, plant sale, garage sale, yard of month, down zoning, tree planting, Woods Park party, time, web service, just call, writing, secretarial, gardening, woodworking, attend WNA meetings, support WNA efforts, plant sale, offer discount closing costs, speak Spanish, give my opinions, have a pick up for clean up day.

C- Topics for speakers at WNA meetings – Building permits for do-it-yourselfers, planning for retirement, care of yard, garden & trees, school bond projects, wills, estate planning, prepay funeral pros and cons, remodeling older homes, neighborhood watch, fire safety, dealing with trashy properties, landscaping, how to increase house curb appeal, Hawthorne closing.

D - Neighborhood concerns – Down zoning, landlords and renters who don't care, litter, run downs, party houses, keeping neighborhood safe and clean, increase number of owner occupied with good families, O St. traffic using us as turnarounds, alcohol availability, adult video, traffic on J St., homes & yard up keep, raking of rentals, long time parked cars, speeding cars, barking dogs, blaring car stereos, thru-way for non-residents, redevelopment at 48th & O, widening of O, property values/crime, building community, Hawthorne closing.

E- What the association should do - Encourage block parties, down zoning, tree planting, Woods Park party, connect neighbors who can help others with tasks such as carry a ladder or heavy items, create a business category for appropriate WNA events, participate in national night out, request round-about construction.

Remember, make your opinions count and help your neighborhood district. Submit your survey!

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WNA Cleanup Set for May 6th

Continued from Page 1

batteries, non-Freon appliances (stoves, washers, dryers, hot water heaters)

Items accepted for a nominal fee Appliances with Freon (freezer, dehumidifier, refrigerator, air conditioner), \$10 each. Car/pickup tires \$3 each; large truck tires \$6.00 each; farm tractor tires \$11.00 each. Tires with rims, add \$1 each. Computers: monitor \$10, CPU \$5, mouse or keyboard, free.

Items that CANNOT be accepted (Disposal information will be available) Regular household trash, hazardous waste or liquids of any type including paint and chemicals, fluorescent bulbs, ballast, used oil, lawn waste, grass and leaves.

Items that should be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Upholstery cleaner, degreasers, paint thinner, turpentine, lighter fluid, car wax, pesticides, wood preservatives, swimming pool chemicals, PCBs, fluorescent bulbs, carburetor cleaner, bug sprays, moth balls, oil-based paint, furniture and metal polish. See www.witherbeena.org for locations and dates.

FREE landfill brush disposal coupons will be available for brush and branches from residential lots. The coupons may be used to take a load for free (normally \$10 and up) until the end of the August. The coupons will not be accepted for commercial use, trash, leaves or yard waste.

Tis the season for Fleas, Ticks and Heartworms!

Prevention is the best defense for these tiny, yet harmful parasites. Since Lincoln experienced a mild winter, these parasites are already out in force. Dr Jeff Jacobson, from the Jacobson Veterinary Clinic, recommends an annual heartworm test as well as a fecal test to make sure your pet is free from heartworms and intestinal parasites.

To keep your pet healthy and happy, Dr Jacobson highly recommends monthly preventatives for your pet. Preventatives are not only easy to use, but are safer and cheaper than treating infected pets.

Call the Jacobson Veterinary Clinic at 327-0705 to set up an appointment to have your pet examined. The staff would be glad to help answer any questions you have to keep your four legged friends feeling great!



Jeff Jacobson, DVM

4145 "O" Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
402.327.0705

Hours
8 a.m.-6 p.m. M-F
8 a.m.-12 noon Sat.

Any mixed loads will be charged the regular landfill gate fee. To request a coupon, e-mail info@witherbee.org or call Rick Bagby, 488-8567 home.

Volunteers with pickup trucks and/or trailers are needed to help haul items for those who are unable to, such as elderly, disabled, handicapped or those who don't have a way to get items to the collection site. Assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis - IF you call before the event! If you receive assistance, please contribute in some way or volunteer.

Other volunteers are needed to help direct traffic, unload, sort, organize, clean litter around the neighborhood from public areas, removing illegally posted signs from utility and light poles, document what we are doing, take pictures, write a story for the newsletter. **Bring gloves, the whole family - young and old, friends and neighbors.**

We will kick-off with a pot-luck breakfast. Donations needed.

NEW THIS YEAR!

Hawthorne School has scheduled spring cleaning of the school grounds for the same morning - we look forward to joining them in keeping Hawthorne a beautiful part of the neighborhood! Mid-morning snack at 10 am provided by Runza®

If you can help with donations or as a volunteer, join us on Saturday May 6th.

If any questions, call Rick Bagby 488-8567,

Plant Sale Fundraiser

The WNA is holding their first annual 'Plant Sale Fundraiser' in the parking lot at Hawthorne School, 300 S 48th. It will be the same day as the neighborhood cleanup, Sat. May 6th from 7:00 AM. to 1:00 PM.

We are looking for neighbors to donate plants for this sale or use them for bartering. If you need to thin out some plants or just have too many plants crowding each other here is a chance for all of us to benefit. The funds raised with this even will help us give back to the community.

If you need containers to put your plants in call us. We have pots available. Contact Fred Freytag at 435-2165 if you are planning to contribute plants for the sale or need more info.

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Families gather regularly to enjoy fellowship in the park

Pot Lucks Organized at Stuhr Park

By Ann Richards

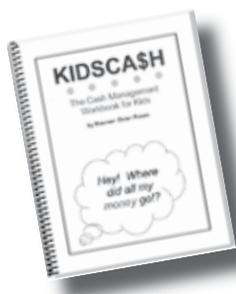
Throughout the summer good neighbor Cheryl Hejl organized neighborhood pot lucks each month in the Park. Cheryl realized that there were many new families living on the park and surrounding area and she is such a wonderful welcome wagon woman that she wanted to have everyone meet.

The first pot luck get together was a blistery cold May 1, 2005. Eighteen brave soles endured the chilly weather but we all had a wonderful time drinking hot chocolate, coffee, eating brownies, and meeting one another. We've had as many as 40 friends at a pot luck

"The sharing and offerings that are brought to the gathering are true blessings" said Cheryl. "I'm usually one of the first to arrive at the picnic area and it is truly wonderful to see people from all directions start gathering in the park. We have a starting time but no ending time."

The following months lead us to celebrate different themes, such as: "flag day" where everyone wore the good ole red white and blue, the following month wore red for the red hot days of summer, then in August yellow for sunshine, and blue in September, we all wanted to gather another month so in October hotdogs/bratwurst were roasted. Even in December I saw Cheryl and Curtis out there singing Christmas Carols.

The Stuhr Park area neighbors, whether they are homeowner's, renters, previous homeowner's, are all welcome. Let's plan on continuing this fine gathering of friends and families. I'm still learning everyone's names. And between Cheryl and me, we might remember your dog's name before your name!



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WNA Supports Beltway Bond Issue

On the May 9th primary election ballot is a \$2.7 million bond to purchase 131 acres of park land along the South Beltway. For \$1.60 per year on a \$100,000 home, the Parks & Rec Department will be able to purchase the parkland cooperatively with the Department of Roads land acquisition for the beltway. That acquisition will take place this summer.

To vote FOR the bond is to support needed park space along the south beltway. Similar to Highway 2 and Roper Park, this park land is envisioned to have baseball fields, a network of hiker-biker-walker trails, open space for recreation and picnics, and serve as a buffer between residential and commercial properties and the beltway.

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association board voted to support the bond. Citizens for Quality Parks and Trails is managing the campaign, and raising a \$25,000 campaign budget. The Witherbee Neighborhood Association board also approved a \$100 donation to CQPT's campaign budget.

Hawthorne to host Multicultural Fair

On Tuesday, May 9th, the Hawthorne CLC will be holding a Multicultural Fair at the school from 6:00-8:00PM. The format for the event will include booths representing different cultures, along with performances by groups such as the Taiko Drummers from the Asian Community Culture Center. Everyone is welcome!

Help your kids manage their money

Do you have kids in your life who spend money? Before it's too late, help them get started on good financial habits. The Cash Management Connection has workbooks for just about every age that teach basic budgeting and goal-setting, then guide the user through 12 months of tracking what they get, spend and save. It's a great way to get kids, teens and college students paying attention to their finances.

At the Cash Management Connection, we believe that learning the basics of cash management provides a foundation for becoming, and remaining, financially responsible. Visit our website www.cashworkbooks.com today and see for yourself.

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Witherbee to Apply For Lower Platte South NRD Grant to Plant Street Trees

This coming fall WNA would like to submit an application to receive cost-share assistance to plant street trees at various locations where needed within our neighborhood area.

The Lower Platte South NRD will cost-share 50% of the cost of a 1.5 inch tree, provided the property owner who would like a street tree pays 25% and the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department pays the other 25%. Labor to plant the trees would be donated by volunteers from WNA, with assistance from the Forestry Section of the Parks Department.

The typical out-of-pocket expense for a cost-shared tree is between \$30 to \$50 for each tree, depending on type and size. This is a substantial savings, since it usually costs \$150 or more per tree if a property owner purchases and plants a tree on their own.

This is a great way to further beautify and enhance the value of properties in the WNA. If you are interested in getting a street tree, please email your request to trees@witherbeena.org or call the Forestry Section of the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department at 441-7035. **This needs be done by no later than 9/15/2006.**



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Yard of the Month

By: Josh Sovereign

Are you planning a landscaping project? Are you ready for Spring so you can spend more time in the yard? Here is your chance to reap the rewards of your hard work. The neighborhood association is going to be awarding the Yard of the Month award to worthy candidates during the Spring and Summer months.

We encourage you to nominate your neighbor or friend in the neighborhood. Each month one yard will be chosen as the Yard of the Month for the Witherbee Neighborhood. The award winner will be honored with a sign they can keep up all month.

Please call me, Josh, at 327-9360 if you know a worthy resident for the award. Watch future Newsletters and the website to see who the winners are and what incentives we have developed!

Business Directory

These businesses have a benevolent relationship with Witherbee Neighborhood. Your patronage is appreciated.

Nebraska Printing Center

2145 N Cotner, 466-8521

Nebraska Relators Association

145 S 56th St Ste 100, 323-6500



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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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E-MAIL: ED@CADALAW.COM
OFC: 402-477-2233 FAX: 402-477-2286
WWW.CADALAW.COM

You are invited to be a member of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St.: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

WNA is a Non Profit Association. Contributions of \$35.00 or more will receive a **tax deductible receipt**.

Mail to:
Ann Richards, 5030 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68510

Membership Categories:

___ Single	\$10.00
___ Family	\$15.00
___ Senior Family.....	\$10.00
___ Additional Household Member.....	\$ 5.00
___ Sponsor	\$35.00
___ Benefactor	\$50.00 & up
___ Business	\$40.00

Benefits of membership: (besides being in the loop of things)
Single – one vote; Family – two votes, one per person; Senior Family – same as Family; Additional Household Member -one vote; Sponsor – up to three votes, one per person; Benefactor – same as sponsor and listed in newsletter once
Business – one vote as per bylaws, reduced ad costs, one free listing in newsletter, and an ad on our web site.