



The Witherbee Buzz

Newsletter

Spring 2007

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

WNA Cleanup & Litter Pickup MAY 5TH

Collection will be from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The 4th annual Witherbee Neighborhood Association cleanup will be held Saturday, May 5th, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. In conjunction with the neighborhood-wide cleanup, collection of litter and removal of illegal signs from designated city right-of-ways will be done by volunteers. These activities will take place rain or shine, with the litter pickup

2007 Spring Garage Sales

It's not the more the merrier; it's the more the wealthier! If you're planning a garage sale this year, doing it with neighbors will bring you more customers.

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association will hold its third annual garage sale on Thursday, June 7th through Saturday, June 9th. The event brings people from all over Lincoln into our neighborhood to see our quality of life while purchasing items from your sale. We will place advertisements in the Journal Star, Thrifty Nickel and on our website. Maps and lists that include locations, dates, times and types of items for sale will be downloadable from our website at www.witherbeena.org.

Sign up by sending a \$3.00 registration fee to Karen Vogeley, 3535 Frost Court, Lincoln, NE 68510. (402-435-6022 or e-mail karena_ne@yahoo.com). Provide contact information, the days, hours and address of your sale with a short description of what you'll be selling. Registration deadline is Sunday, June 3rd.

Captain Srb to Speak about Crimestoppers and Graffiti at May 3rd Meeting



Captain Doug Srb

The May 3rd WNA meeting at Tabitha will feature Captain Doug Srb. He is the Commanding Officer of the Northeast Police Team. Captain Srb, an alumnus of Northeast High School, started his career with the police department in 1973. Captain Srb holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



Several dumpsters were filled at 2006 WNA cleanup.

continuing into the afternoon.

Braeda® Express Café at 4901 "O" Street will be our corporate sponsor and will provide gourmet coffee, refreshments and pastry to all those who volunteer and help during this year's event.

Household trash and business waste will not be accepted. Like last year, emphasis will be placed on recycling items such as appliances; tires, batteries and building materials that are re-usable.

Large roll-off waste containers will be located on the

Continued on page 7

Free Witherbee Pool Party And Ice Cream Social

Grab your calendar, your Daytimer®, your Palm Pilot®, or your preferred method to record future events. Add a pen, a stylus, a keyboard, an alert sound. Now RECORD THIS DATE:

Date: Sunday, July 15, 2007

Pool times: 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Times: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Woods Pool and plaza area between pool and tennis courts in Woods Park

Cost: FREE (and FUN!)

This may be the only notice you get. You can swim, or not. You can have ice cream, or not. You can visit with friends, neighbors, and people you don't yet know, and we hope YOU DO! Show up and stay the entire time, or stay a short time. Bring the kids, invite a neighbor, come by yourself, just be sure to attend. Please join us for our first (hopefully annual) Witherbee Pool Party and Ice Cream Social.

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.

Executive Board:

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440-7630
ohair42@aol.com

Mike Fitzgerald, Vice President
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Larry Frisch, Secretary
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Fred Freytag, Past President
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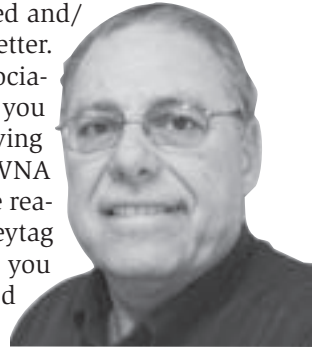
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Fred Freytag 466-4655

President's Message

First, I would like to thank those who have renewed and/or joined WNA recently since our winter 2007 newsletter. Deciding to be a member of your neighborhood association, I believe, is not based solely upon how much you pay in annual dues. More importantly, I think preserving and enhancing your neighborhood, which is what WNA proactively and continually strives to do, is perhaps the reason you have joined. As WNA Past President Fred Freytag says, "you don't buy membership in an association, you buy the cooperation of the people in the neighborhood with whom you can collectively join together to do the things you cannot do alone."



Steve Schwab

I hope you have recently visited WNA's updated and improved web site (www.witherbeena.org). If you have not I encourage you to do so. Keeping our web site updated is an important priority and we want it to be useful, so please let us know if you have suggestions or ideas on how we can make it better serve you.

Further redevelopment of the midtown area near 50th & "O" Streets is happening. Hy-Vee and Abrams LLC closed a deal to build a \$15 million supermarket that will be nearly double the size of the Hy-Vee store at 70th & "O" Streets. It will include a drive through pharmacy, photo service, a bank and an attached wine and spirits store. Construction is to start spring 2007 and be completed summer 2008.

The Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department and WNA have submitted a collaborative application for a \$15,000 General Mills Helping Hand grant to develop the greenspace at S. 46th & "O" Streets into a park. The grant, if awarded, will be used to match a \$25,000 Community Development Block Grant to build a playground, sitting benches, rubber matting and chain link fence for traffic safety at the .4 acre site. Show your support by visiting www.myhometownhelper.com. Go to find a project and search for the one in Lincoln that is titled "Make A Park Possible" and submit your comments in favor of this project.

Please check the WNA Calendar of Events and specific articles in this newsletter for upcoming neighborhood activities in April, May and June. Volunteers and those who would like to participate are encouraged to do so. Remember it takes teamwork to make things happen. Please consider being a "team player" for your neighborhood.



All Witherbee
residents welcome
at this free event.



Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association Presents

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First Annual

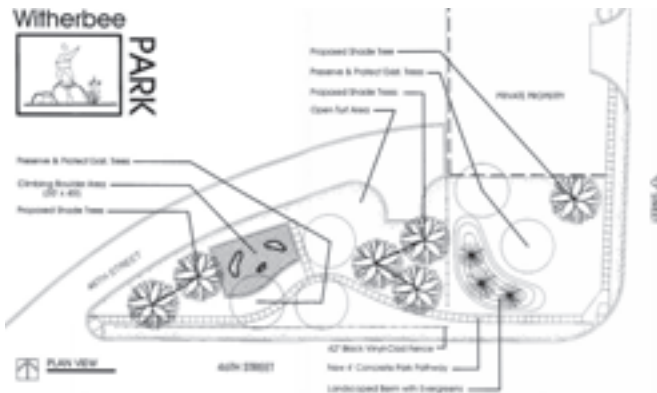
Witherbee Pool Party and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 15

Woods Pool
and Plaza Area

Pool Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Ice Cream: 6 to 8 p.m.





Yard Of The Month

By Josh Sovereign

As Spring unfolds we begin to be more attentive to those things we have neglected during the colder months. One of those things is our yard. The beginning of Spring has been kind to Ed and Janice Stauffer, our April Yard of the Month Award winners at 705 S. 40th Street. They were nominated by neighbors. After visiting their home I can see why. Ed has expanded his pond in recent years with the appreciation of neighbors. The four sectioned pond is the home of many fish. All enjoy their peaceful surroundings partially as a result of the family dog who keeps unfriendly visitors looking for easier prey. The pond is not a project that developed overnight. It has been expanded each of the last three years as a way to further enhance the initial project. The Stauffers have had visiting ducks spend occasional afternoons. The pond is the main attraction but the rest of the yard complements this well-cared-for yard.

As the warmer weather comes, I am happy to award the Stauffers on behalf of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association the Yard of the month for April. I look forward to more visits like this one over the Summer. If you know of a deserving neighbor please give me a call at 327-9360.

Volunteers needed ...

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help deliver the "Witherbee Buzz" newsletter on a regular basis, once every three months. If you can help deliver one or two blocks in your area please send an e-mail or call Fred at 466-4655 or Jim at 483-4919.

Your Five Minutes Can Help Make A Park Possible

In March, the Witherbee Board received information from the Nebraska Community Foundation regarding money available from General Mills to help improve public areas. With the small green space at 46th and O in need of funding to install playground equipment for young children and benches for everyone, the WNA Board decided to apply for a grant of \$15,000. That amount will be added to money set aside by the city and allow the park to be completed this year, not in pieces over several years.

They may approve a smaller amount, but we'll probably receive nothing without your help. General Mills requires support to be written on the website. A large number of entries to support our project will give us a better chance to receive the grant. Please take 5 minutes to log onto www.myhometownhelper.com, go to **Find A Project**, click on **Nebraska** and enter **Lincoln**, then click on **Make A Park Possible**, and add your positive comments to our project.

Last year many of us supported the successful zoning change with donations, petitions and volunteer work. This year support for the park grant requires only verbiage on the web. Why not do it?

If you have any questions, contact a Board Member.

Free over-the-phone market analysis

Would you like to know the approximate value of your home in today's market?

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Witherbee History

By Ed Zimmer

The patient readers (and editor) of the Witherbee newsletter may notice that most of my historic offerings will be works-in-progress. I seldom know the last word on any of these topics, but hopefully I can offer some insights and encourage further research (even if only by myself).

Early maps of Lincoln and its environs often label a large tract at the southwest corner of 33 and O Streets as “Rogers.” The name Rogers Tract and the largely undeveloped character of the 50- acre parcel persisted into the mid-20th century, when the city’s eastward growth stretched miles beyond this land.

The original “Rogers” was James Rogers of Illinois, who bought 20 acres of the tract in 1870 for \$100 per acre—a total of \$2,000. James and his wife Sara Hippee Rogers eventually brought their family to Lincoln. Their son George Hippee Rogers graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1888 and also attended Columbia University. George pursued a successful career in Lincoln as an attorney, financier, and especially, as a real estate investor. Upon George’s death in 1941, his real estate holdings consisted of 70 large and small properties in nine Nebraska counties, Kansas, and South Dakota, including the 50 acre Rogers Tract in the heart of Lincoln. Other than trees and grass, it was occupied only by a couple of small, leased buildings on the O Street frontage—a small grocery store and a root beer stand shaped like a mug.

Neale Cople’s history of Lincoln Tower on the Plains credits the newly established Woods Foundation with financing the public acquisition of the Rogers Tract in 1947 for \$67,000—a bargain reflecting a partial gift from widow Margaret Rogers. As is often the case, the documents differ a bit from the published accounts—the deed from Mrs. Rogers to the City was executed in 1948 and the price was identified as \$65,000. An interesting condition in the deed was the City’s agreement to establish “a suitable memorial” to George Hippee Rogers on the tract.

The deed was quite flexible as to what that memorial might be, suggesting “a small park or playground” or “a boulevard or road through the tract to be known as ‘George Hippee Rogers Boulevard’ or ‘Rogers Road’,” with the decision left up to the City “after a study of the plans for the use of the tract has been completed.”



“The Mug”

It took a decade before Woods Park was finally established, but the studies began soon after the purchase. Lincoln’s first Comprehensive Plan of 1951 reflected that the tract should be developed “primarily as a neighborhood park to serve [the] adjacent residential area.” However, the Plan also acknowledged that “Due to the unusually strategic location of this area in the very heart of the city” it should also contain city-wide facilities “including a stadium for local athletic events and possibly a swimming pool.” The “General Development Plan for Rogers Park” sketched a 10,000 seat stadium on the location of the present baseball field, a baseball field in the location of the pool, and small pool near the present playground. The Plan noted “The school system is studying the possibility of building the stadium.”

Landscape architect Larry Enersen was hired in the early 1950s to refine plans for the park and his work is still reflected in the general arrangement of the major features of ball field, pool, tennis courts, and open areas. A novel aspect of his plan was a pond “for model sailboats and ice skating” located on 33 Street opposite M Street. It may be hard to imagine ponding water near the highest point of the park, but an aerial photo of 1956 shows just such a pond, though very little additional park development was yet apparent. That feature was short-lived.

The Woods Park name was bestowed in 1957 to recognize the support of the Woods Foundation for the park’s purchase. The lease of “The Mug” expired in 1958, but just a few years ago I found shards of broken root beer mugs near the north edge of the park, when the present meandering sidewalk was developed. The City’s obligation to Mrs. Rogers is met by Rogers Drive on the west edge of the park, linking L Street to N Street near the Health Department.

A complete history of Woods Park should include the many, more recent developments at the pool, courts, and ball field, but I will reserve that for a future edition (if your editor requests it).

Editors Note: Ed Zimmer is Historic Preservation Planner for the Lincoln Planning Department. He can be reached at ezimmer@lincoln.ne.gov



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WNA Calendar 2007

Check our web site for more details and updates.

www.witherbeena.org

All WNA membership meetings first Thursday of each month 7:00 P.M. at Tabitha's LifeQuest Center.

(Please note that membership is Not required to attend WNA meetings.)

April: Start of 'Yard of the Month Award'

Sat., April 21st, 7:45 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Stuhr Park Tree Planting at 51st & 'M'

April 27th at 10 a.m.: Arbor Day Tree Planting with Midtown West Gate Bank at 50th & 'N'

Thu. May 3rd: WNA membership meeting. LPD Capt Doug Srb - Crimestoppers Program & City Ombudsman Lin Quenzer - Graffiti Reporting Program

Sat. May 5th: Annual Neighborhood Cleanup & Litter Pickup. Same location as last year. 8 a.m. to Noon.

Thu. June 7th: WNA membership meeting. Topic: Lincoln's Sunken Gardens & Antelope Rose Garden renovation projects; Speaker: Steve Nosal, City Horticulturist, City of Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department

June 7-9: WNA Annual Garage Sale

Sun., July 15th: 'Celebration at Woods Park' - Ice Cream Social & Swim at Woods Pool. Free for Witherbee Neighborhood residents.

November: WNA Annual Meeting.

December: Holiday Lighting Contest

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

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Lights! Camera! Action!

By Bridget Fitzgerald

Do you ever daydream about working on a TV broadcast when you attempt to start on that 15 page U.S. History report about the Civil War that's due tomorrow? Daydream no more WNA teens because Time-Warner Cable is going to teach us how to use its state-of-the-art broadcast cameras, lighting, editing equipment and more! Then we're going to make our own show all about WNA's Pool and Ice Cream Party (July 15th at Woods Pool). And our show will actually air on TV!

Are you in? Email me for more info. or to sign-up at teens@witherbeena.org.



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Meet your new WNA Board Members

Mary Kay Kreikemeier

Mary Kay Kreikemeier has been skydiving and bungee jumping and is fluent in the Tunisian dialect of Arabic. After all, she was a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia. She has climbed a glacier on the South Island of New Zealand with husband, Mike, and eaten caviar at the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Just as she gained a master's degree in computers in education, she rendered it obsolete by electing to stay home with babies.



She can be found now in the hallowed halls of education as a parent volunteer and as a substitute teacher for Lincoln Public Schools. Now that her children are getting older and finding her to be hopelessly out of touch regarding fashion and music, she is rediscovering hobbies such as quilting and creating photos books. She is a 4-H leader and spends one day a month behind the dishwasher at Matt Talbot. The Woods Avenue Book Bunch counts her among their members.

Graffiti reporting to be Explained May 3rd

Lin Quenzer, Ombudsman, Mayor's Office, started her career with the City in 1999 as Executive Aide to the Mayor's Office, quickly being promoted to City Ombudsman after one year. She has helped develop and define the City Ombudsman position by addressing constituent concerns, helping departments and divisions to work together to achieve solutions to problems, and identifying emerging trends and needs. In 2002, she closely worked with City Information Services to develop an electronic tracking system for citizen requests and concerns. That work ultimately lead to the creation of the existing City Service Requests system on the City's Interline web site.

Ms. Quenzer's responsibilities as Ombudsman also include graffiti reporting, which she will be presenting at the May 3rd WNA meeting.

Curtis D. Wood

Curtis Wood and his wife Dee recently immigrated to Lincoln from Austin, Texas. Dee wanted to return to her roots in Southeastern Nebraska. Dee and Curtis have been married since 1999 and have six grown children between them with none at home. Curtis is a life long Texan and has only lived outside of Texas for 6 months before moving to Lincoln in February 2005. Dee and Curtis met through the Tall Club of Austin and have toyed with the idea of starting a Tall Club in Lincoln.




Curtis is currently employed as a Production Coordinator for National Research Corporation in downtown Lincoln. Dee is building a real estate career with Woods Bros. Realtors. They live at 342 South 50th Street in Neal Copple's home that backs up to Stuhr Park. They have been reclaiming the property from years of unchecked tree and ground cover growth. They are members of Eastridge Presbyterian Church where they have participated in the Fellowship Committee. Curtis is a woodworker and handyman in his spare time while Dee is an artist mainly working in china painting. They enjoy going fishing together and some camping when the weather allows.

Lisa McNeel

Hi, my name is Lisa McNeel and I am one of the newest WNA board members. I live at 611 So. 34th St. with my husband Bill and daughter Mollie. Bill is an engineer with BNSF and Mollie is a 7th grader at St. Teresa Catholic School (36th & J). I work at Bryan-LG hospital as an RN and have been there for 19 years. I also spend 3 weeks every July in cornfields helping my parents and siblings run our 32 year family detasseling company. I love gardening, spending time out doors and cooking.



My husband and I moved to this area 15 years ago because of the affordability and charm of the homes and we still love the "small town" feel of it's neighborhoods today. I am excited to serve on the WNA board and welcome any suggestions.



EDWARD F. HOFFMAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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WNA Cleanup & Litter Cleanup continued from page 1

north side of Hawthorne Elementary School on "M" Street, between 48th and 50th. Neighborhood residents are encouraged to bring their unsightly debris to the collection site. Items to be recycled should be kept separated from debris.

Waste items accepted for FREE: Furniture, lumber, screens, windows, doors, grills, junk, landscape timbers, picnic tables, swing sets, clothesline poles, broken fences, rubble, carpet, items too large or bulky for regular refuse service, car batteries, **non-Freon** appliances (stoves, washers, dryers, hot water heaters).

Items accepted for a nominal fee: Appliance with Freon (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, and air conditioners), \$10 each. Car/pickup truck tires \$3 each; large pickup truck tires \$6 each; farm tractor tires \$11 each. Tires with rims add \$1 each. Computer monitors \$10 each; CPU \$5 each; mouse/keyboard free.

Items that CANNOT be accepted: (Disposal information will be available) Regular household trash/garbage, 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, PCB's, fluorescent bulbs, carburetor cleaner, bug sprays, moth balls, oil-based paints, 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. A coupon may be used to take a load for free (normally \$10 and up) to the landfill until the end of August. The coupons are not for commercial use, trash, leaves or yard waste. Any mixed loads will be charged the regular landfill gate fee. To request a coupon, e-mail info@witherbeena.org or call Curtis Wood at 817-3809.

Volunteers with pickup trucks and/or trailers 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!

Other volunteers needed to help direct traffic, unload, sort, organize items at collection site; help pickup litter around neighborhood from public areas, remove illegally posted signs from utility and street light poles, campaign signs, etc. **Bring gloves, the whole family - young and old, friends and neighbors.**

We will kickoff the event with coffee, refreshments and breakfast pastries from Braeda® Express Café at 7:45 a.m. at the collection site.

If you can help with donations for the cleanup or volunteer a little of your time, please join us on Saturday May 5th.

If any questions, please call Curtis Wood at 817-3809.

City Horticulturist Guest Speaker for June

Steve Nosal, City Horticulturist with the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department, will be the guest speaker for the June 7th WNA meeting.

His presentation will be about the history and renovation of Sunken Gardens and the upcoming renovation of Antelope Rose Garden.

Come hear, see and learn about one of Lincoln's existing "crown jewels" and how the Antelope Rose Garden will look in 2008.

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New Trees for Stuhr Park

Part of TNT Grant



The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum has pre-approved \$650 of the \$10,000 "Trees for Nebraska Towns" (TNT) cost-share grant awarded to the City of Lincoln specifically for Stuhr Park. A \$650 match, \$450 from the City of Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department and \$ 200 from the Witherbee

Neighborhood Association will be combined with the TNT funds to purchase seven trees. The size of the containerized shade trees from Finke Gardens & Nursery will be 1¼" trunk diameter and the variety (quantity) will be Autumn Spire Red Maple (2); Sienna Glen Red Maple (1); Accolade Elm (2); and Frontier Elm (2).

A stipulation of this grant is that volunteer labor be used to plant the trees. Saturday, April 21st is the scheduled planting date, from 8 to 10 a.m. The planting holes will be pre-dug by the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department. Coffee, refreshments and donuts will be provided starting at 7:45 a.m. on the "M" Street side of the park, between 50th and 52nd.

Those wanting to help plant trees should contact Steve Schwab at 440-7630 or at ohair42@aol.com.



Jeff Jacobson, DVM

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Karen Vogeley, 3535 Frost Ct., Lincoln, NE 68510

Membership Categories:

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- ___ 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.