



# The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 6 No. 2

Newsletter

Spring 2009

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

## 6th Annual WNA Cleanup May 9th

Collection will be from 8 a.m. to Noon

The 6th annual neighborhood-wide area cleanup will take place, rain or shine on Saturday, May 9, 2009, from 8 a.m. until Noon at the north side of Hawthorne School, 48th & "M". Coffee and refreshments provided.

Check the attic, the back of the garage, behind the shed, along the back fence, and the basement. Clutter in

the way? Has it been there too long? Don't want it? Bring it to us. Let's clean up the neighborhood!



Roll-off waste containers will be located on the north side of Hawthorne Elementary School

on "M" Street, between 48th and 50th streets. Neighborhood residents are encouraged to bring their items to this location. THE FINE PRINT—please be responsible. We cannot accept Hazardous Materials or general household trash.

We need you, friends, neighbors, bring the whole family. Volunteers are needed for a number of jobs to include assisting refuse haulers with the block-by-block curbside pickup; at the collection site 48th & M to help direct traffic, unload, sort, and organize items, collect recycling fees, issue brush coupons, and much more. We also need volunteers with pickup trucks and/or trailers to help collect recyclable items at curbside or take a load to Ecostores. All cleanup volunteers should report to the north parking lot of Hawthorne School by 7:30 a.m. Please bring your own work gloves. If you can help us with this year's clean-

**Continued on page 13**

## LES Wants To Give You Money! Details at WNA May 7th Meeting

Why would the local electric utility give you money when you will reduce the amount you buy from them? Come find out! The Lincoln Electric System's Whole House Energy Program has cash for you.



Jay Stoa

From Energy Star rated appliances to weatherizing your home, you can make an impact on the energy you consume each year. Join fellow neighbors in learning about specific and easy initiatives you can undertake to become a more efficient energy consumer. Jay Stoa, an residential energy services specialist with Lincoln Electric System, will share 10 ways home owners and renters can reduce energy use and increase comfort and savings. Jay will also provide information about the LES Whole House Tune Up Program, an incentive program providing cash incentives to customers who take several steps to become more energy efficient.

## Got An Upside Down Property Tax Statement?

**Learn How To Protest Real Estate Valuations At Witherbee Neighborhood June 4th Meeting**

Do you have a declining property value but an increased property tax valuation? This is referred to as an upside down property tax statement. One consolation to your situation, is that you are not alone. And to explore options for correcting this predicament, WNA has secured Lancaster County Assessor Norman Agena to address the issue at its June 4 meeting.



Norman Agena, County Assessor

Proposed 2009 Real Estate Assessed Values are available for all property. And final 2009 Real Estate valuation notices will be mailed on June 1. Protests of the final valuations may be filed with the County Clerk between June 1 and June 30.

Agena will explain how property valuations have been

**Continued on page 11**

**Money-Saving Coupons**  
In this issue are located on  
**Pages 3, 5, 11, and 15.**

## About the Witherbee Neighborhood Association

### Boundaries:

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

### Meetings:

7:00 p.m. first Thursday of each  
month at Tabitha Lifequest Center,  
48th and J.

### Web Site:

[www.WitherbeeNA.org](http://www.WitherbeeNA.org)

### Executive Board:

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817-3809  
[cwood57@neb.rr.com](mailto:cwood57@neb.rr.com)

Rick Bagby, Vice President  
488-8567  
[rkbagby@mac.com](mailto:rkbagby@mac.com)

Kathy Holland, Secretary  
483-6397  
[Rh30222@windstream.net](mailto:Rh30222@windstream.net)

Shawn Gordin, Treasurer  
327-9646  
[sgordin2@yahoo.com](mailto:sgordin2@yahoo.com)

Steve Schwab, Past President  
440-7630  
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# President's Message

Spring is bringing on the yearly renewal of spirits and the onslaught of fresh new calendar of activities. Witherbee Neighborhood Association (WNA) is joining in on this yearly renewal of the spirit with our annual activities. Our calendar is filled with opportunities to get involved in the neighborhood. By the time you read this we will have joined with University of Nebraska (UNL) "Big Event" student volunteers along with Woods Park Neighborhood Association to mulch the trees in Woods Park. We mulched the trees in Stuhr Park with volunteers the last two years with wonderful results for the trees and the neighbor's view. Woods Park is a much bigger project so we thought that the "Big Event" UNL student volunteers would get more gratification from giving back to the city in this way.



Curtis Wood

Our annual neighborhood Cleanup event is scheduled for May 9th, 2009 at the corner of 48th and M on the North side of Hawthorne Elementary School (8:00 AM until Noon). Three local waste disposal companies will be helping out by making free pickups during the event. (See full story on front page) This event brings out many new members to help each year and we will have many new things available during it. Please consider participating with your neighbors to spruce up our wonderful part of Midtown Lincoln. If everybody does a little, nobody has to do too much.

Witherbee Park at the corner of 46th & "O" has been awarded a grant from the Lincoln Cares program for improvements. Lincoln Parks and Recreation wants to team up with WNA to decide on how to best use the park space and grant money to make a playscape and unique park setting. WNA has already prepared a proposed plan that was used to apply for the grant, so the committee forming does not have to start from scratch. Lynn Johnson from Lincoln Parks and Recreation presented options at the WNA Board meeting on 4/2/09. Fred Freytag (phone 430-6658) and Steve Schwab (phone 440-7630) have volunteered to coordinate this planning committee. Input for local neighbors was received during the April 2nd meeting, but they can use more help, as the funds will not be actually spent until 2010. The WNA board started this process in 2006 during Fred's presidency and it will come to full fruition next year. Takes a while for some seeds to sprout.

I would like to urge WNA neighbors to donate to this Lincoln Cares fund each month. Just add an extra buck to the electric bill when you write the check. Local businesses currently donate an extra 75 cents to each dollar given in this manner, almost doubling your gift for parks. Every cent goes directly to parks development and improvement in the city without being diluted by overhead. Mayor Buetler noted during the presentation of this award that due to budget constraints this fund has been solely responsible for park improvements the last few years. (witherbeena.org for more details)

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# Neighborhood Assns. Join to Address Property Concerns

By Christi Eichorn, City of Lincoln Planner:

On Tuesday, February 24, 2009, members of the 40<sup>th</sup> and A and Witherbee neighborhood associations met with City Planning Department representative Christy Eichorn and Woods Brothers realtor John Nanos. Nanos represented the First Apostolic Church, which is west of Runza at the southwest corner of S. 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Randolph. The church property is for sale, but it is having a hard time finding buyers because the property doesn't have any off street parking. To resolve this issue, Nanos contacted a Runza representative to see if the company would be willing to sell the vacant lot it currently owns (the old LES lot south of the existing Runza building) or if Runza would be willing to share parking on that property. Currently, parking on that lot is not legal. Parking must be obtained in the vacant lot. One of the following property zones changes must be done:

1. Change of zone from R-2 to B-1
2. Change of zone from R-2 to R-T
3. Remain R-2 zoning with a special permit for a parking lot in a residential zoning district

With any of the zone options changes mentioned above, a zoning agreement between the City of Lincoln and the property owner could be used to provide additional restrictions on some uses and would provide for additional site controls such as limited hours or screening. No matter what zoning district the parking lot is located in, landscaping, lighting and design criteria must be set prior to issuance of a building permit.

Of the options listed above, the group felt that R-T zoning on both the vacant lot and the church lot would be most appropriate for this area. In addition to the change of zone and potentially a zoning agreement, the R-T districts require a use permit that would show a site plan of how both lots will be utilized. The R-T district also has additional landscaping/ screening standards as well as some building design requirements.

At the time of the meeting, it was unknown whether Runza would be willing to sell the vacant lot. The neighbors prefer that the lot be sold instead of leased and also have concerns about litter, lighting, loitering, landscaping and noise. Both Tracy Corr, president of the 40<sup>th</sup> and A Neighborhood Association, and John Nanos agreed to approach Runza about selling the parking lot. A few days after the meeting, Corr informed the Planning Department that Runza was not interested in selling the lot. As of March 5, 2009, Nanos has not been able to get in contact with a representative from Runza. If Runza chooses not to sell the vacant lot or to lease it to the church, the church has the option of applying for a change of zone for a landmark overlay district which would be associated with a landmark special permit. This special permit would allow the church to be utilized for other uses besides what is permitted in the R-2 zoning district. This special permit would have to be approved by both the Historic Preservation Commission and the Planning Commission and the change of zone would have to be approved by the Lincoln City Council. Although this special permit will make the church more marketable, it will not solve its parking problem. The landmark special permit would be most effective

if associated with a parking lot in a residential zoning district on Runza's vacant lot in which the church is permitted to use.

We really appreciate all of you taking an hour-and-a-half of your time to come out on a Tuesday night to express your concerns and participate in a discussion on how to best solve the church's parking dilemma. Unfortunately, the problem has not been resolved but you will be kept informed of any zoning changes that will be proposed for this property.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 441-7603 or at [ceichorn@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:ceichorn@lincoln.ne.gov).

Witherbee



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# Witherbee Village Attracting All Ages

By Nancy Intermil, Witherbee Village Director

No doubt you have heard about Witherbee Village – a virtual community in the center of Lincoln that is designed to secure valuable services for people so they can thrive in their own homes. We've had some great press, and people all over Lincoln are watching our development with thoughts of creating Villages in their neighborhoods, too!

The founding Board members are a great group of people who were taken with the idea and wanted to help make it happen. They have been active in helping to mold the organization. A great example is Jackie Varicak, Secretary and Chair of the Marketing and Membership Committee. Jackie is one of the younger members who lobbied for "all ages" in our Village. She and her husband are the parents of four kids, aged 14 and under.



Jackie Varicak

Jackie is convinced that the Village is a great idea for everybody, and after a recent Board meeting she realized that the Village concept is truly a plus in a struggling economy. She started thinking of the ways that members will save money by joining the Village. Here are some of her ideas:

- Ask the Village to do your weekly shopping for you. You'll save at least 1.5 hours in time each week, plus you won't be tempted to make impulse buys – she estimates that this could likely be \$10 a week. That's a savings of 6 hours and \$40 a week!

- Do you need a ride to the doctor? Call the Village! It will save you \$.55 a mile, and you probably shouldn't be driving if you're not feeling well, anyway! Village volunteers can even serve as your medical advocate if you're worried that you don't always catch the details when your doctor gives you a new diagnosis or prescribes a new medication.

- Learn ways to help you handle your money. Free classes will be offered on budgeting and money management. You'll also have the opportunity to join an investment group to learn how to make your savings grow.

We are available to present the Witherbee Village concept at meetings and informal gatherings. Please call us at 304.8757 if you'd like to hear more about the Village and how you can get involved. We are in the process of recruiting volunteers who are interested in doing the following:

- Driving to local appointments
- Light Handyman Chores
- Yard work – raking leaves, mowing grass
- Grocery shopping

Call us at 304.8757 –tell us how you want to help and what your availability might be. We will work with your schedule!

Jackie realized that by being part of the Village she would be able to have more access to her neighbors, and that by being able to give and to receive from them she would gain a sense of belonging. Jackie says, "I like the idea that the Witherbee Village can help a person or family live their lives with confidence as they wish in their home, and that the community is able to provide this grassroots organization that will always be there as a safety net to provide that confidence."

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## Never Have Your Dog Stuffed: and Other Things I've Learned

A Book Review by Bridget Fitzgerald

When asked what my favourite opening line from a book, I always remember: "My mother didn't try to stab my father until I was six..." This opening line from the memoir of the brilliant Alan Alda puts down the words in a perfect mix of wit, genuine humility, and "...sometimes painful honesty and insight."

I am a big reader of memoirs. And what I look for in a memoir is: open honesty, deeper meaning to apply to my own life, a fair amount of humor and sharp wit, and some sense of emotion obstacles through the author's life which they grow with and through. Alda's amusing memoir is a perfect example of what I look for in a book like this. Though the ups and downs of show business, you can sense that Alda thinks that there still is so much yet to be learned from life.

A few things I myself have learned from *Never Have Your Dog Stuffed*:

1. Theatrical crepe hair is dangerous.
2. "...You can get around in any language if you concentrated on about thirty well-chosen verbs, a couple of dozen nouns, a few pleasantries, and some basic sense of word order."
3. Be spontaneous.

This collection of stories offer something of substance and just written really well. It's a great read for aspiring actors and those who love M\*A\*S\*H. These stories celebrate life in its whole, through discovery of watching from the wings and getting pushed into the lights yourself.

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## July WNA Meeting to feature Sleep Talk by Rick Bagby

Rick Bagby, RPSGT Sleep Technologist with Bryan-LGH Department of Sleep Medicine will present "Everything You Always wanted to Know About Sleep But Didn't Know Who to Ask" at the July 2nd meeting.



Rick Bagby

A technologist at BryanLGH Medical Center, Rick has been working in Sleep Medicine since 1985. A Nebraska native, graduate of UNL, and former adjunct instructor in Psychology teaching "Sleep and Dreams" at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Rick with cover how and why we sleep, how it affects you, and how to do it better.

Sleep. Important to mood, memory, weight, health, happiness. We will cover sleep in all age ranges, insomnia, sleep apnea, daytime fatigue, and things that go bump in the night.

Learn more about it at the July meeting.

Door prizes will be given. You won't be in the drawing if you don't attend this meeting.



### FEBRUARY WNA MEETING

An almost full house attended this meeting to listen to and ask questions of George Edgar, an avid master gardener. George talked about plant basics and gave many details about soil, light, water, humidity and nutrients, as well as timing of lawn and garden care.

Edgar dispensed an article named, "Plant Disease Triangle" to attendees and also answered many questions. If you can't remember certain details of his talk, or need further information, contact George at Earl May Garden Center.

### Montessori School for Young Children

4727 A St. 489-4366 [www.msync.net](http://www.msync.net)

### *Fun With Water!*

Summer Enrichment Program June 8th - July 17th

Visit our website for registration details!  
Enrolling now for Fall 2009!

## Randolph School Fun Night Not Just for Kids

Relieve some stress, enjoy some laughs, eat some mouth-watering food and maybe even win some prizes. Well - what's not to like about the annual Randolph School Fun Night?!

It is an event that includes a wide range of entertaining activities that appeal to people of all ages. New this year to the Fun Night line up are a Dunk Tank - an age old favorite that allows you to test your aim, get rid of some aggression while having a few laughs; Academy of Rock Music, a local youth band, perform from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Face Painting, and balloon animals to be created by the Clowning Around Clowns from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.. Popular Fun Night favorites returning include: Hoop Shoot, Bingo, awesome Inflatables, Silent Auction and Bake Sale, Tattoo Parlor, Pop & Candy Walk, Bean Bag Toss and may more.

Mark May 8th on you calendar so you won't miss the fun and the opportunity to support your neighborhood elementary school. The event runs from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.. If you haven't seen the school since the recent renovation was completed, by attending the Randolph School Fun Night on May 8th (1024 S. 37th Street) you will be able to check out the school, have some fun and meet friends - old and new.

Anyone with questions is encouraged to contact Julie Trembley, Randolph PTA President-Elect at 484-0529.

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# Merry Manor Expands, Appreciates WNA

Merry Manor School of Childhood at 320 N. 48th has served families in the neighborhood for decades and has just recently expanded with another facility. Merry Manor has a long and rich history in Lincoln that extends back to the 1940's. Their location on N 48th is the longest continually occupied building on the street as it was built on the edge of town, in a cornfield. R Street had not been built when Merry Manor opened. Parents wondered why they were so far out of town, it was the only place they could do all the facilities they needed.

Tina Wright, its current President and Administrator, is new to the neighborhood but is glad the Witherbee Neighborhood Association is here helping to maintain and enhance the neighborhood.

"I was very excited to find out that the area that we moved into has a neighborhood association and I have already attended my first WNA meeting," Wright said. "I look forward to building a relationship with the Witherbee Neighborhood Association in which we are all able to work towards the growth of the neighborhood and our center."

The company has opened a second center at 301 S 48th, the building previously occupied by Kindercare, and prior to that by Lollipop Farm. The new center is named Merry Manor South - God's Awesome Children and about 35 children are enrolled. It is licensed for a capacity of 50.

As its name suggests, the facility is a Christian-based center. "We have no specific denomination, rather, we simply supply a basic Christian background mixed in with our daily pre-school lesson plans," Wright said. Being a smaller center, it is not licensed for school age children. It is currently licensed for children ages 6 weeks to Pre-K (5- 6 years old).

"Our hope is that as the center fills, we will be able to add on a second level allowing room for school age children. Currently, the north center does accept school age children and accommodates families needing school age care as well as pre-school children," Wright said.

## MARCH WNA MEETING

Dave Landis, Director of the City of Lincoln Urban Development Department, spoke to us regarding revitalization plans at 48<sup>th</sup> and O Streets. The 50<sup>th</sup> and O Street water drain is in process, needing a federal permit, but it could possibly be done by June. For O Street, a state highway, the city development made it safer, creating changes in access since many accidents have occurred before turning



Dave Landis, Dir. Urban Dev.

points. Due to changes in access along O Street, there are now fewer accidents and less property damage. However, now it might be a bit harder to sell the property

to retailers. A retailer might want access from O Street, not a joint access with another retailer.

Along North 48<sup>th</sup> from O to R, there was an interest to purchase and develop the entire area. However, it didn't come to fruition due to holdouts by two property owners. Landis also told us that the City won't implement eminent domain to acquire private owners' lots in order to have them purchased for development by other owners.

Curtis Wood, President, summarized the action of a board meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The board approved to establish a non-profit corporation for WNA and authorized the Treasurer to establish a checking account at West Gate Bank.



Kathy Danek, School Board

Near the end of the meeting, Kathy Danek, LPS Board member, provided us with an update of the renovations at Hawthorne. Current plans are to update the building to provide classroom space.

Several programs could be moved to Hawthorne, but no final decision has been made. She encouraged WNA to continue to be visible to the LPS Board and communicate with all members.

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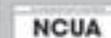
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## APRIL WNA MEETING

Lynn Johnson, Director of the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation, spoke about the 46<sup>th</sup> and O Street park, officially renamed recently to *Witherbee Park*, that will be developed into a children's playground alongside trees and benches for all. Lincoln Cares has donated \$25,000 to help with park development. The money they get comes from donations via customers donating a dollar-a-month through Lincoln Electric System, which is matched with corporate sponsors Time Warner Cable and the Lincoln Parks Foundation.



Lynn Johnson

Lynn showed three detailed versions of the children's playground, which are a play web, boulders to climb or a climbing wall. These would attract older preschool and elementary children. The work will probably start in Spring, 2010, but if volunteers are available, along with new grants or donations, the park progress will move faster and better. The design will also make sure that there is a buffer along O Street.

Fred Freytag and Steve Schwab will organize a committee to help develop this park with funding, volunteers, and ideas for various areas. The attendants at this meeting indicated that the boulders to climb was the most popular version of the park. They also suggested fencing. Lynn will work with our committee.

After enjoying this presentation, we had business matters to discuss. Shawn Gordin, Treasurer, showed the chart of accounts she will be working with, and they were unanimously approved. These are required for a 501(c)3 non-profit system.

Information was presented for the Neighborhood Cleanup, Mini-Grant Cleanup, Summer Garage Sales and our Woods Park Free Swim and Ice Cream Social. For more details, read the articles in this newsletter regarding them.

## Street Litter Pick-Up Will Coincide with Cleanup

May 9<sup>th</sup> with good weather and plenty of volunteers at the Neighborhood Cleanup.

Rain date: Oct.24<sup>th</sup> on 'National Make a Difference Day.'

Contact Rick Bagby 488-8567 or Fred Freytag 430-6658 to Volunteer.

Again this year we will do a sweep of the neighborhood from end to end picking up trash and litter along the streets, in the parks and other public spaces. Trash bags and safety vests are provided by a grant from the Great American Cleanup, and the group Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful. Please help us keep up the neighborhood. Last year we collected mostly cans and bottles, signs on utility poles, cigarette butts and fast-food debris. We all are aware that trash in the streets and parks encourages more trash. If others we see that someone cares for and keeps an area neat, they are less likely to litter there.

Within Witherbee Neighborhood we have 11 miles of streets, the greenspace at 50<sup>th</sup> & N, Stuhr Park, and Witherbee Park to cover. Which area would you like to claim?

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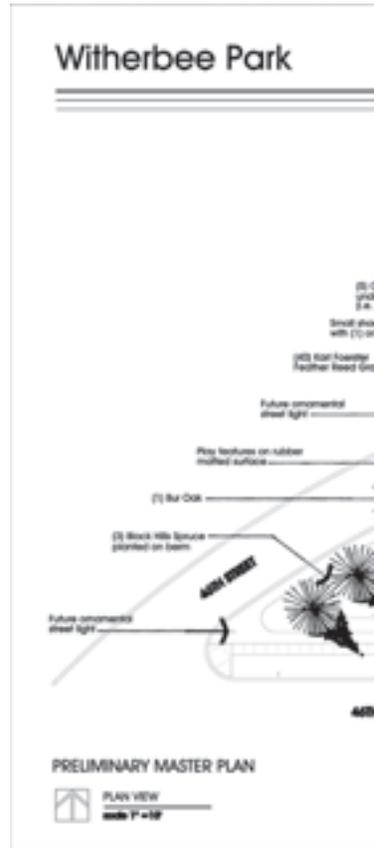
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Current view of Witherbee Park area from O St.



Planting Plan of Park is current a and other amenities may be

## New Park Being Planned For Witherbee At 46th

Mayor Chris Beutler announced that the Lincoln Cares program will help fund six projects across the community in 2009, including one that will help build a playground in Witherbee Park, at 46th and O Street. Lincoln Cares is a community donation program, which allows Lincoln Electric System (LES) customers to voluntarily add one dollar to their bill payment each month for projects not included in the City budget.

The Lincoln Cares program has allocated \$25,000 to help build a playground for Witherbee Park and Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department has developed a preliminary design. The design includes a playground area, shade trees and landscaping, sitting benches and partial fencing along the S.46th Street side of the park.

On April 2nd at the Witherbee Neighborhood Association monthly meeting, Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department Director Lynn Johnson presented an overview of a proposed designed. Discussion concerning type, size and configuration of playground equipment, landscaping, sitting benches and fencing were discussed. People attending were shown various play structures- an octagon rope cube, non-rock climbing boulders and a climbing wall. These play structures are being used more frequently because of their popularity with children and because they encourage interactive participation.

Preliminary cost estimates for playground equipment

and area surfacing could be \$25,000, depending on the play structures selected. Cost estimates for landscaping are \$6,500. About \$1,000 of that cost will be reduced because WNA will be able to get free wood chip mulch, free Lingro compost and free topsoil from Lincoln Parks & Recreation and Lincoln Public Works Departments.

A grant to cost-share 80 percent of the trees, shrubs and ornamental grasses will be applied for this summer by WNA and Lincoln Parks & Recreation. An irrigation system. i.e., a quick coupler for hoses and back flow preventer, is recommended and would cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000 to install.

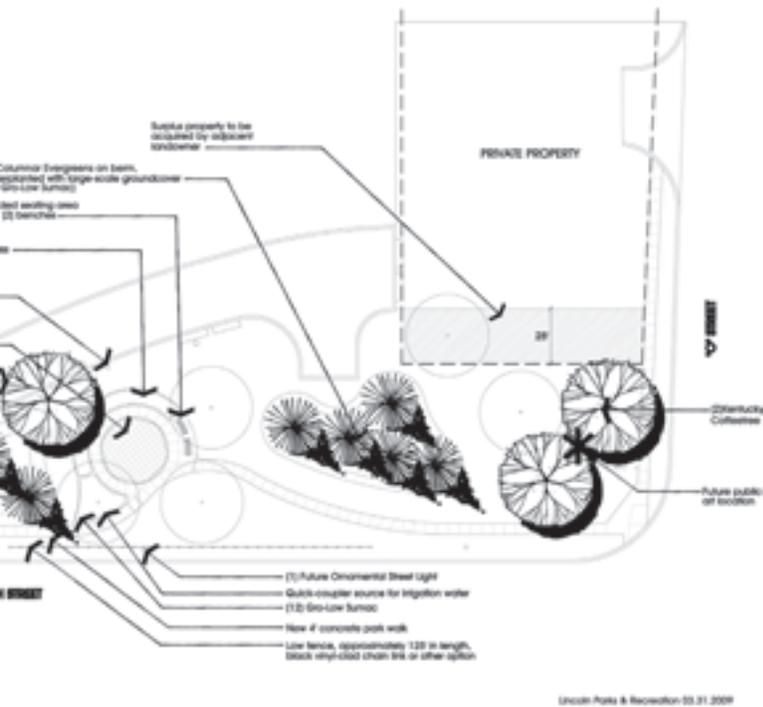
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## PLANTING PLAN



as of the printing of this newsletter. Playground equipment, benches, added as resident's desires are balanced against funds available.

## th And O St.

A 42-inch high black vinyl-clad fence on the S. 46th Street side of the park is also being considered. Cost estimate for fence materials and labor to install it are undetermined at this time.

Having Witherbee neighborhood residents provide input on how Witherbee Park should be designed and constructed and at what cost, will be important in developing plans for it. Exact cost figures for alternatives need to be established so that people can make informed decisions about what they want Witherbee Park to be.

In the next edition of the Buzz, WNA intends to provide exact cost figures and a proposed construction plan for the playground and park, provided a funding strategy has been discussed and developed. This will be essential in determining what existing WNA funds will be used to fund the building of the park in addition to the \$25,000 from the Lincoln Cares program.

It also will help determine if WNA will have to initiate a fund-raising campaign before construction plans can be finalized.

WNA is again working to make the neighborhood a better place to live in Midtown Lincoln. Please let us hear your thoughts and ideas on what will become your new park in the future by attending the monthly meetings and by email us at [witherbeepark@witherbeena.org](mailto:witherbeepark@witherbeena.org).

## Yard of the Month

By Amy Greving

As spring makes its welcome return, Witherbee neighborhood residents are busy sharpening mower blades and planting vegetables and flowers. It's time for the Yard of the Month award!

The Yard of the Month award is given May-October. The recipient is given a yard sign to proudly show off in their yard for the entire month. It is indeed an honor to be chosen for this award for the friendly competition has become quite fierce.

As Yard of the Month judge, I'll be looking for landscapes that are:

- well planned and maintained
- using appropriate plants (roses in the sun, hostas in the shade and plants with same water requirements planted together)
- mulching for water conservation
- appropriate irrigation (no watering the sidewalk and street if possible please)

Nominations are welcome. Please nominate your neighbor or yourself by the 25th to be considered for the following month. Contact Amy Greving at 484-7681 (leave message). Please include: Name, phone number and address. Nominations may be e-mailed to: [yardofthemoth@witherbeena.org](mailto:yardofthemoth@witherbeena.org)

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\*Offer excludes student loans, overdraft protection or share/certificate secured loans. Minimum loan amount \$3,500. New money loans only. Subject to credit approval.

# Turn Your Clutter Into Cash!

Residents of the Witherbee neighborhood are invited to participate in the 2009 garage sale extravaganza Thursday, Jun 11, through Saturday, June 13, 2009.

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association will do the advertising for YOU! An ad will run in the Journal Star, on the KOLN-KGIN, KKLN, KFOR calendar of events web pages plus signage and fliers will be available at local businesses. You can also help "spread the word" by telling friends and coworkers of the neighborhood sales.

You may also, at your own expense, place your individual ad in the Journal Star Garage Sale section. If you choose to do this, begin your ad with the word "Witherbee" and all of the ads will be grouped together in the garage sale section of the Journal Star Classifieds.

This event brings people from all over Lincoln into our neighborhood to see our quality of life and get the chance to find some great bargains and choice goodies.

Four dollars is all it takes to have your garage sale listed on the WNA map, fliers, and website. In addition, prior to sale dates, a full-colored WNA GARAGE SALE yard sign will be delivered to each sale along with maps indicating all of the sales in the WNA area.

Please complete the coupon at the bottom of this page. Deadline for registering your sale is May 29, 2009

## Tips for a successful garage sale:

- Over the next few weeks, collect what you want to sell.
- Clean out your closets and anything that is useless to you or you don't want, put it on the sale. Don't throw anything away. Remember one person's trash is another's treasure.
- Show a price on all merchandise. The price should be on the top of an item so it can be easily seen by the customers. The bigger the item, the bigger the price tag should be. Make it obvious. If you're selling a sofa-you cannot expect the buyer to be looking all over for a tiny

dot sticker. Use a full sheet of paper and list any good selling points or flaws.

- Be sure to research prices by checking out other garage sales or what the price is going for on [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com).
- You can also list items on Craig's List at <http://lincoln.craigslist.org>. When potential buyers come to look at your Craig's List item, they will find your other great garage sale finds as well.
- Display some of your more interesting items at the end of the driveway to act as a magnet to lure folks in.
- Prior to sale day, get rolls of quarters, dimes, and nickels, along with small bills (plenty of one's). You will have many customers with twenty dollar bills so you want to have plenty of change on hand to accommodate their purchases. Always keep an eye on your cash box and never leave it unattended. Fanny packs or carpenter aprons are handy too, as you will always have your money with you.

• Display your items well by arranging your best items for sale on tables. Lesser goods can be put on rugs or blankets spread on the lawn. When selling books and CD's, arrange in a box so the titles can be easily read by the customer. Put some effort into your sale, and try to sell stuff by making it the most attractive it can be. If the first thing that a customer picks up is dirty, it may turn them off to looking at other things you have to sell.

• Make a couple of large, clearly written signs, with the date, time, and address of your sale. Post these on the corner of your block, and also put one in your yard. Arrows on your signs are helpful for those not familiar with the neighborhood.

• When your sale is over, please keep the neighborhood beautiful by removing your signs, and delivering your unsold/unwanted items to the thrift store or charity of your choice.

• Remember, you can access garage sale information and maps at [www.witherbeena.org](http://www.witherbeena.org)



## Witherbee Garage Sale Sign Up

Please clip and send with \$4.00 to Nancy Holman, 601 So. 46th, Lincoln, NE 68510 prior to May 28. Make checks payable to Witherbee Neighborhood Assn.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Time of sale \_\_\_\_\_

Sale items 25 words or less: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Upside Down Property Tax Statement

Continued from page 1

determined and how you can protest the final statement during the month of June.

Agena's duties are prescribed by Nebraska Statutes. The following is a partial list of those duties: Administer the assessment statutes of Nebraska law; Establish and maintain fair and equitable value on all real and personal property within the county; Attend all meetings of the County Board of Equalization; Prepare annual tax roll for the County Treasurer.

The Assessors office is located in the City/County Building at 555 S. 10th, room102. They can also be contacted via email at [assessor@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:assessor@lancaster.ne.gov) or by phone at 441-7463.

In addition to learning from Agena at the June 4 meeting (7:00 p.m. at the Tabitha Life Quest Center, 48th & J St.), WNA residents will be able to visit with others who have protested their property tax statements.

## Eastridge Neighborhood Association meeting

By Curtis Wood

Eastridge Neighborhood Association (ENA) invited Witherbee Neighborhood Association (WNA) president Curtis Wood (342 S 50<sup>th</sup> Street) to speak at their neighborhood association meeting in March. Mary Luebbert (ENA president) wanted to know how Witherbee does so well in getting involvement from its members and attendance at all our meetings. Since I am rather new to the WNA, I asked some of its founders to attend with me to offer suggestions and guidance to ENA board. Mike Fitzgerald (3794 H Street) and Fred Freytag (530 South 38 Street) were there in the beginning when WNA got off to a great start again.

The common theme that Mike, Fred, and I presented to the Eastridge meeting was that the association needs to be proactive rather than reactive. This means providing input to city council, zoning board decisions, and business development in and near our neighborhood. WNA members watch local events for matters that impact other areas of town.. We have and continue to contribute our ideas and needs and desires to the mayor roundtable, city council members, other neighborhood association concerns, and county boards. Our elected officials often have to "guess" what the citizens want rather than have positive information upfront from its citizens.

We also stressed to ENA that the organization needs to remain active by scheduling programming of varied interests at its monthly meetings to gain more involvement in different areas. In that way we get to meet new people, get different views, and have the information we need to provide the input to the agencies mentioned above. We left the board of ENA with an offer to help in any way to help them revitalize their association. We also invited them to attend our monthly meetings if they wished to pick up on the "flavor" our meetings provide.

## Witherbee Village Update

By Diane Rothsmeyer, President, Witherbee Village

There are times that I feel that I am just trying to hang onto the rocket!

Witherbee Village has been moving at an incredible pace on levels that I'm not sure anyone could have seen in its beginning. Our Executive Director, Nancy Intermill, and I continue to work on relationships with elected officials that were initiated in December. The Unicameral has passed, under the leadership of Senator Avery, a resolution in support of Witherbee Village on March 26, 2009. We are working toward a partnership with the University of Nebraska at Omaha to create an evaluation piece that can be utilized across the country. All of these partnering efforts assist in positioning us for enhanced funding opportunities through grants.

That is not where the funding stops, however. We are finalizing arrangements for Tabitha to serve in a pass-through capacity to receive tax deductible donations on behalf of Witherbee Village. We are now accepting much needed donations to help set up the operations of the organization. If you would like to support this great project in our community please call either Nancy at 304-8757 or me at 476-7476.

Your tax deductible donations will help build a model organization helping persons of all ages to thrive in their homes. It is our hope that this model can benefit other areas in Lincoln and other communities in Nebraska. Call Nancy or me now and support this community changing project!

# SUPER SAVER

## 48th & O St.

Love Coupons? visit [www.Super-Saver.com](http://www.Super-Saver.com)  
for Great Savings with Web Coupons

### Snip & Super Save!



Always Save  
**Ice Cream** 1/2 gal.  
**FREE**  
with additional \$10 purchase

PLU 699 **Good at 48th & O location Only**

limit one per coupon per person - expires July 31st, 2009

Store Phone 464-8552  
Pharmacy Direct Line 464-8822

### We Sell For LESS!

Good at 48th & O location Only



(Before) Storing items viewable from the street and not maintaining the yard reduces curb appeal.



(After) Storing items out of view and maintaining the yard and driveway creates clean lines and increases curb appeal.

## Curb Appeal of Clean Lines Enhances Property

What Is It About Good Looking Homes? Good looking homes in the neighborhood have a key attribute. Clean lines.

Stand at the curb of good looking homes and you will notice that property and building lines are visible because they are not hidden by stuff, weeds or volunteer trees. Good looking homes don't have stuff stacked beside or leaning against the house or porch. They don't have faded or leaning lawn ornaments, no sagging outdoor furniture or worn out grills, no piles of plant pots or rocks or bricks, no antique gardening or farming equipment.

And look at the fences of good looking homes. The fences, wooden or chain-link, are not sagging, leaning or clogged with dead grasses, vines or weeds. The fence lines are also clean because leaves from last fall were removed. And when winter or spring winds deposit more leaves they also get removed quickly.

Other benefits of not having stuff lying around is that you don't have to mow around it and fewer leaves accumulate there only to be raked and bagged.

Bushes and trees at good looking homes are regularly trimmed. Volunteer trees are removed and not allowed to grow up through hedges, in or next to fences or next to the house, garage or storage shed.

If a good looking home has a detached garage or an outdoor storage shed, there isn't stuff stacked or leaning against the outside walls. The garage and storage shed are painted, not leaning, worn or a collection point for more unused stuff such as car tires and broken bicycles stashed along the side.

Good looking homes don't have stuff stacked or leaning against the walls because their owners have decided they can live with whatever fits in the garage or shed.

When it comes to making a good looking home, less stuff allows clean lines to shine.

### Witherbee's "Good-Looking Homes" Offer

If the lines of your property aren't as clean as you (and probably your neighbors) would like them to be, here's an offer that's too good to pass up.

Witherbee Neighborhood Association will provide the following services free to a limited number of home owners or renters on a first-request basis. Witherbee Board members (a lawn care provider, a realtor and tree specialist) will look at your property and provide suggestions about how to make your place a "Good-Looking Home."

But wait, there's more. Also for free, Witherbee volunteers will help you remove the things that are keeping your clean property lines from shining through. Perhaps you have overlooked the stuff or haven't been sure how to get it removed. WNA will help – but the number of home owners or renters it can help is limited.

This offer is on a first-request, first-helped basis. Call Curtis Wood at 817-3809 for more information or to request the Witherbee "Good-Looking Homes" offer.

For your best performance, call Tabitha.

486-8559 (800) 418-9335 Tabitha.org

# 6th Annual WNA Cleanup May 9th

Continued from Page 1

up please contact Rick Bagby at 402-488-8567 or witherbeerick@gmail.com

We have made an effort this year to stretch the grant money we get from the Health Department and Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful. We have increased our outreach to local companies to donate time and services to minimize the public funds needed to make the cleanup happen.

Curbside pickup will be available again as long as you have items to the curb Friday night. If you wait until Saturday morning they may be missed. Jay Carter Refuse and Niederhaus Brothers Refuse Inc. will again be donating their services and Paragon Refuse will be joining them this year as a new sponsor. Each will canvass assigned areas of the neighborhood, block-by-block, and pick up acceptable waste items at the curb free (NO household trash/garbage, yard waste or business waste will be picked up). If you would like to help with the curbside pickup contact Rick Bagby in advance.

Welcome new participants. Scrapy's (Scrap Metals) is donating the use of a roll-off for metals of all sorts to include appliances. We will collect leftover latex paint (less than a year old only) and used compact florescent light bulbs for free.

Scott Hofeling a longtime Lincoln Arborist. Hofeling Enterprises has joined the effort. Their coupon allows you to take your brush to their location for FREE. While you are there, check out the great wood mulches they have for sale at a low cost. Please say thank you while dropping off your brush since they are saving us grant money. A limited number of coupons are available and will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. Coupons are available before and after cleanup. Maps to their location provided with brush coupon. Please contact Rick for coupons or come to the cleanup.

Waste items accepted for FREE: Furniture, lumber, screens, windows, doors, grills, junk, landscape timbers, picnic tables, swing sets, clothesline poles, broken fences, construction rubble, bricks, carpet, and non-freon appliance (stoves, washers, dryers, and hot water heaters), computers without harddrive, keyboards, mouse (NOT Monitors), car batteries, and florescent light bulbs. These items can either be picked up or brought to 48th & "M".

Items accepted for a nominal fee: Appliances 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. TV's and Computer monitors up to 32" \$10 each, laptop \$10, CPU with harddrive \$5

Items that CANNOT be accepted: Ammunition/explosives; automotive waste; chemicals, large televisions,

microwave ovens, grass or leaves, heavy metals (thermostats, thermometers); liquid waste; oil paint or solvents; pesticides; propane tanks & gas cylinders; household hazardous waste; unidentified containers of waste.

PLEASE TAKE THESE ITEMS TO A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION. See schedule elsewhere in this issue or look at [www.witherbeena.org](http://www.witherbeena.org) for additional location and dates.

Recyclable items accepted for donation to Ecostores Nebraska:

General home remodeling and construction supplies. Latex paint that is less than a year old. No interior hollow-core doors- they have enough of those.

If you have questions or comments please contact Rick Bagby at or witherbeerick@gmail.com or 402-488-8567.

Thank you in advance to all volunteers, participants and sponsors!

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



Introducing New Recycle Service for all  
**Witherbee Residents**



- Weekly Curbside Recycling Service
- Recycle More No Sorting Required
- Earn up to \$40 a month in Valuable Discounts at Stores like-
  - Hy-Vee
  - daVinci's
  - Runza
  - Gordman's
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**Limited Time Offer: Only \$8 a month**  
*Includes cart*

**For Service call 466.0412 or**  
**Visit [www.recyclelink.net](http://www.recyclelink.net)**

RecycleBank is a subsidiary of RecycleRewards, Inc.  
RecycleBank is not a financial institution.

# WNA Calendar

*(Please note that membership is*

*Not required to attend WNA or Village meetings.)*

**Additional meeting information may be found at [Witherbeena.org](http://Witherbeena.org) and [witherbeevillage.org](http://witherbeevillage.org)**

Wednesday, <b>May 6th.</b> , 6:30 p.m.	Witherbee Village Board	Tabitha Lifequest Conference Room
Thursday, <b>May 7th.</b> , 7 p.m.	WNA Monthly Meeting	Tabitha Lifequest Conference Center Jay Stoa from LES will talk about how to reduce utility bills
Saturday, <b>May 9th.</b> , 8 a.m. to noon	Neighborhood Cleanup	48th & M Curbside Pickup by local refuse haulers will be done prior to 8 a.m., so all trash should be placed at curb Friday evening. Large items will be picked up by WNA volunteers utilizing pickups and trailers from 8 a.m. to noon. (See article in this newsletter.)
Saturday, <b>May 9th.</b> , 8 a.m. to noon	Street Litter Pickup	Meet at 48th & M. See article in this newsletter for details
Thursday, <b>May 21st.</b> , 5:30 p.m.	Councilman Doug Emery	Anderson Library, 3645 Touzalin Ave.
Wednesday, <b>June 3rd.</b> , 6:30 p.m.	Witherbee Village Board	Tabitha Lifequest Conference Room
Thursday, <b>June 4th.</b> , 7 p.m.	WNA Monthly Meeting	Tabitha Lifequest Conference Center Norm Agena, County Assessor will talk about how to protest property tax valuation
Wednesday, <b>June 17th.</b> , 6:30 p.m.	Witherbee Village Board	Tabitha Lifequest Conference Room
Thursday, <b>June 18th.</b> , 5:30 p.m.	Councilman Doug Emery	Anderson Library, 3645 Touzalin Ave.
Wednesday, <b>July 1st.</b> , 6:30 p.m.	Witherbee Village Board	Tabitha Lifequest Conference Room
Thursday, <b>July 2nd.</b> , 7 p.m.	WNA Monthly Meeting	Tabitha Lifequest Conference Room Rick Bagby will talk about sleep <b>Door Prizes will be given at this meeting!</b>
Wednesday, <b>July 15th.</b> , 6:30 p.m.	Witherbee Village Board	Tabitha Lifequest Conference Room
Thursday, <b>April 17th.</b> , 5:30 p.m.	Councilman Doug Emery	Anderson Library, 3645 Touzalin Ave.



**EDWARD F. HOFFMAN**  
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Sat. 8-12

Jeff Jacobson, DVM

4145 "O" Street

# New Projects Announced For Lincoln Cares



Pictured from left are: Todd Hall, Lincoln Electric System; Fred Freytag, Witherbee Neighborhood Association; Lynn Johnson, Lincoln Parks and Recreation Director; Christie Dionisopoulos, Lincoln Parks Foundation; Mayor Chris Beutler, Curtis Wood, Witherbee Neighborhood Association; and Ann Shrewsbury of Time Warner Cable

Mayor Chris Beutler recently announced that the Lincoln Cares program will help fund six projects and programs across the community in 2009. Lincoln Cares is a community donation program, which allows Lincoln Electric System (LES) customers to voluntarily add one dollar to their bill payments each month for projects not included in the City budget. The Mayor made the announcement at the Air Park West Recreation Center.

Mayor Beutler also announced that Lincoln Cares has a new lineup of matching sponsors. Lincoln Parks Foundation and Time Warner Cable (TWC), which is in its second year of sponsorship. TWC will provide \$30,000 in matching dollars and another \$30,000 for on-air promotion of Lincoln Cares.

"We're very grateful to the Lincoln community and are proud to be able to support this project and make Lincoln an even better place to live and do business," said Ann Shrewsbury, Director of Public Affairs for TWC. "We have nearly 300 employees who are proud to call Lincoln home, and this was another great way for us to go give back to them as well as show our appreciation to customers.

"In the past six years, that small monthly donation from many people has added up to some big improvements for our City parks system," said Mayor Beutler. "I want to thank LES customers for continuing to support our parks through Lincoln Cares. And I commend Lincoln Parks Foundation and Time Warner Cable for helping us stretch those dollars even farther.

Christie Dionisopoulos, President of the Lincoln Parks Foundation. "As Lincoln grows, so do the demands on our parks system. We believe strongly that Lincoln parks and recreation programs and facilities are fundamental to our community and we are excited to be a new partner with Lincoln Cares."

"We are very thankful for everyone who supports this program," said Lynn Johnson, Director of the Lincoln

Parks and Recreation Department. "With our tight budget, this program allows us to go the extra mile to keep the parks system one of the jewels of Lincoln."

To donate to Lincoln Cares, LES customers can add one dollar to their bill payments each month. Those who pay LES through automatic bank billing can add Lincoln Cares to their payments each month by calling LES at 475-4211.

For more information on Lincoln Cares, contact the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department at 441-8264 or see the City's Web site at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) (keyword: cares).

Witherbee

**Breakfast  
Lunch  
Dinner**




---

**\$1.00 off a  
HALF & HALF  
combo**

**Salads - Soups - Pastas  
Baked & Deli Sandwiches  
Breakfast - Coffee Drinks**

Good at the  
48<sup>th</sup> & O location only.  
Expires 6/30/09.



## "Reaching Children through the Power of God's Love."

**An Accredited and Christ-centered  
Preschool for Children ages 3-5 years**

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### 2009-2010 Tuition Rates

2 days \$80/month	3 days \$100/month
5 days \$140/month	All Day \$32/day

For More Information Contact

**Lindsay Hute**  
Director/Teacher  
**466-1710**



# WNA Victories Have Benefited You

## Please Support the Cause with Your Membership

WNA association consists of residents like you who volunteer in lots of ways - large and small - to help preserve and enhance the character and quality of life in the WNA area. We had a productive 2008 and 2009 promises the same. WNA is a winning team, well known and respected by public officials and envied by other neighborhood associations. To continue the record we need your help. Just as having homeowner or renter's insurance is a wise investment we ask you to think of a WNA membership as your neighborhood insurance - only it's a lot cheaper

Some items your neighborhood association did in 2008:

- Launched Witherbee Village Concept with grant funds
- Received grant from Lincoln Cares to develop Witherbee Park at 46th & O
- Monitored City efforts to get 48th & O properties redeveloped (northeast corner)
- Conducted a neighborhood cleanup, coordinated neighborhood garage sales, conducted Holiday Lights contest
- Hosted a free Pool Party and Ice Cream Social at Wood Park for neighborhood residents
- Applied for Safe Routes Nebraska grant
- Increased WNA membership to highest level in recent years
- Hosted speakers monthly who addressed neighborhood concerns
- Produced a quarterly newsletter to keep WNA residents updated

We have ideas to continue to improve the neighborhood. One 2009 priority is to continue supporting Witherbee Village until it provides the services for which it was started. Another is to develop Witherbee Park at 46th & O. If these projects or another interests you, we invite you to attend our monthly meetings held on the first Thursday each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Tabitha Lifequest Center, 48th and J St.

To support our efforts to enhance your neighborhood, please renew your WNA membership or join us for the first time. For about the price of just one pizza you can support your neighborhood for an entire year! Please make your check to Witherbee Neighborhood Association. Contributions of \$35 or more will receive a tax-deductible receipt. New! You can join or renew on line with a credit card or debit card at <http://www.witherbeena.org/membership/credit-card-pay.htm>

We invite you to join us by volunteering a little time on a specific project and/or serving as a board member. Being involved is arguably more fun than work. Please indicate your interest on the membership form below. And if you want more information, the WNA website is [www.witherbeena.org](http://www.witherbeena.org).

Please include your email address - we keep WNA member email addresses confidential and will send emails sparingly - as it will allow us to send updates and event reminders between issues of the quarterly Witherbee Buzz newsletter.

Sincerely,

WNA Board (neighborhood residents like you)

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St.: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(Contributions of \$35.00 or more will receive a **tax deductible receipt**.)

Mail to:

Shawn Gordin, 539 S 52nd St., 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, and reduced ad costs.