



President Rick Bagby opens for Elvis at overflow crowd for WNA annual meeting. Pictures and story on pages 8 and 9.

## Lincoln's Vision for 2040 Topic of Feb. 3 Meeting

Should Lincoln continue to spread into the suburbs or should growth be kept more compact in the core of the city? Can Lincoln support a light rail system and what might it look like? What natural resources need to be preserved? How can Lincoln become a greener, more sustainable city? What should Lincoln look and feel like in the year 2040?

The City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization are updating the Comprehensive Plan and the Long Range Transportation Plan – a process that happens every five years. The update currently underway will be adopted by the end of 2011 and

will extend the planning horizon to the year 2040. This plan is referred to as the LPlan2040.

Thursday, February 3rd Sara Hartzell of the Lincoln, Lancaster County Planning department will present an overview of the LPlan2040 process, decisions that have been made and those coming in the near future.



Sara Hartzell

The most recent developments in the LPlan2040 include a draft land use plan and recommended growth scenario. The topic of transportation is next on the planning process agenda.

Come learn about the LPlan2040, how citizens and businesses can engage in the process, and how the future of Lincoln is shaping up.

## Learn About Green Living, Saving Green March 3

Sure, living greener is good for the planet, but it could be good for your pocketbook too. The simple act of turning your window locks to the locked position can help keep cold air out and your heating bills a little lower.

Tips like this are just part of the Major's new Energy Challenge, announced earlier this January. The eight-month educational campaign offers free home energy checkups, rebates and information about easy and inexpensive measures we all can take to increase the energy efficiency of our homes.

On March 3rd Kelly Heavey of the Lincoln Energy Challenge will present information about these topics and details of a new local stimulus program targeting the Witherbee neighborhood this spring. And learn how you can take the energy challenge pledge to be eligible for prizes such as movie passes and restaurant gift cards.



Kelly Heavey

### Lincoln Energy Challenge

**Information:** Attend the March 3rd WNA meeting, or learn more at [green.lincoln.ne.gov](http://green.lincoln.ne.gov).

**Pledge:** Pledge online or get pledge post cards at city libraries or the Challenge office, 2143 O St.

**Energy Checkup:** Participants can request a basic, surface-level home energy analysis by trained volunteers.

**Owners of homes** built before 1980 may qualify for a free professional checkup by a certified energy auditor, plus a \$250 rebate for energy efficient equipment.

## About Your 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.

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

### Executive Board:

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[witherbeerick@gmail.com](mailto:witherbeerick@gmail.com)

Laura Wiese, Vice President

617-6024, [dorbaroy@hotmail.com](mailto:dorbaroy@hotmail.com)

Cheryl Hejl, Secretary

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## President's Message

January. Another couple of pounds around the waist, another round of bone chilling cold, windows rattling with wind from the North. And yet, the chance for another do-over.

### Predictions for 2011:

The Hawthorne-Bryan Community School will exceed all the hopes and dreams of the students, staff and neighborhood in the retooled and freshened Hawthorne school building.

Woods Park will flourish as a destination for walks, runs and family outings as the Community Crops program gets a community garden started over on the west edge.

A developer will approach WNA to consult on a nearby business or residential project.

WNA neighbors help neighbors they have not yet met, and become wiser and richer for it.

WNA volunteers will take on a completely new and unexpected project, igniting the interest of others in our section of town.

Homes will be purchased on the strength of neighborhood. Sales of existing homes and rentals will increase as the reputation of Witherbee rises as a desirable neighborhood.

Membership will continue to grow, passing 500 by year's end.

Non-profit status will be granted by the IRS, opening new doors for projects and grants.

Witherbee Neighborhood Association will assist in resolving neighborly complaints.

The neighborhood cleanup will take more than 15 tons of rubbish out of neighborhoods yards and homes.

Personally, this year I exercise more, this year I write more letters, this year I finish that home remodeling project, this year I connect more to the people around me. Through the Witherbee Neighborhood Association, I will meet fascinating neighbors and wonder, "Why didn't I do this years ago?" These things I will do with my year. What will you do with yours?

### Quotes for the New Year:

"Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." – Abraham Lincoln

"The goal of community outreach is not to get good PR for the team, but to expand and enrich our players' lives by expanding and enriching the lives of others." – Jim Tressel, Ohio State University football coach

"There can be no progress if people have no faith in tomorrow." – John Fitzgerald Kennedy



Rick Bagby

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WNA representatives enjoyed the Bryan Community School holiday lunch with students and staff.

## Hawthorne–Bryan School Update April 7 WNA Meeting

Bryan Community School principal Mindy Roberts will be on hand during the April 7 meeting to give an update on the renovation progress at the Hawthorne building, as well as their moving plans.

If you've driven by the former elementary school lately you've seen lots of progress. New windows are going in and the new water system has been installed.

According to contractor Marty French, interior painting will begin in January.

The building is scheduled for completion this summer and Bryan School staff will begin the process of moving in June.

Staff and students are looking forward to more space, according to Bryan teacher Roger Burris. Having kitchen facilities in the new building will be an especially welcome change. Currently lunch is brought to the Bryan building from Southeast High School almost an hour before the scheduled lunch time. It's a challenge to store the food and keep food at the appropriate temperatures.



Over 50 UNL, Witherbee and Woods Park volunteers mulched trees at Woods Park and Stuhr Park last April. Join us again this year on Saturday April 9th. Watch website and facebook page for time and place

## Understand Your Rights When Someone Comes Calling

We've all experienced that unexpected knock or ring of the doorbell. Usually it's a familiar neighbor's child selling popcorn for Boy Scouts or Girl Scout cookies. Once in a while it's someone with another sales offer or in rare occasions a government official.

It's important to know what to look for when someone comes calling at your door, and how to know whether they are who they say they are.

All door-to-door salespersons are required to register with the city and should be able to show you their solicitor's license. In the state of Nebraska persons less than 16 years old are not permitted to work as door-to-door solicitors. A few exceptions to this are for the delivery of newspapers or shopping news, or if they are working on behalf of their own individual entrepreneurial endeavor – this includes Boy and Girl Scouts.

Any city or other government agent will have an official identification from their agency. According to Officer Russ Lloyd of the Lincoln Police Department, "the homeowner will usually get a letter in regard to the visit in advance of someone coming out to the home."

If you have any questions or concerns whether a caller to your door is who they say they are or representing official business, you can ask them to wait outside while you call the agency they are with to confirm the visit. "No one can enter your home without your permission or a search warrant," reminds Officer Lloyd. And do not give personal information if you are unsure of to whom you are giving it.

Should you ever feel threatened by someone at your door or are not sure how to handle a situation contact police. Call 911 or the non-emergency dispatch number 441-6000. "You have the right to ask them to leave and wait for police," Officer Lloyd said.



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# Witherbee Gardener's Corner

By Roberta Sandhorst

## Go Miniature

Hypertufa pots make beautiful garden containers that will last for years and fit well into any garden setting. These stone-like containers are made out of a mixture of concrete, peat moss and perlite or sand. Hypertufa containers will not be damaged by freezing after it's completely cured and can be planted with perennials and left out all winter.



A Google search will bring up literally thousands of hypertufa sites, which is a pretty good indication of their popularity. You'll find they are relatively inexpensive to make and a lot of fun! The shape of the hypertufa pot can be as varied as the mold you use to make it. You can use almost anything for a mold that has an interesting shape, such as a Rubbermaid tub, an old bin, nursery pot or a bowl. Keep in mind what you plan to plant in your container before choosing a mold (see miniature gardens below).

Fine Gardening magazine (<http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/make-hypertufa-trough.aspx>) has a good recipe and how-to, but there are many more recipes and YouTube videos available online.

## Miniature Fairy Gardens

Once you've completed your hypertufa container, consider creating a miniature fairy garden. It's just like life-sized gardening, but on a tinier scale! Even if you're not into fairies, there is something appealing about miniature versions of pretty much anything. It's an ideal project to do with a young child.

You can plant almost anything in a hypertufa container, but sedum, small creeping plants, herbs and dwarf plants are ideal for miniature garden scenes. You can accessorize with miniature garden furniture and accessories (<http://miniaturegardenshoppe.com/index.html>). Have fun!



Here are a few tips from miniature garden enthusiast Janit Calvo:

- Use only materials you would use in your full-size gardens.
- Design like a full-sized garden designer
- Less is more
- Use the same methods as building full-size gardens, if you can
- Keep in mind how the viewer will see your garden
- Use slow-growing dwarf or miniature conifers
- Don't make it symmetrical at all – or make it completely symmetrical
- Keep everything in proportion to one another.

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# UNUS MULTORUM

## A common person's perspective

By Laura Wiese

Who out there has Core 'Hood Pride? Raise your hand.

In college I took a course on community planning (got a D but thoroughly enjoyed the material) and was introduced to the concept of New Urbanism.

When my husband and I embarked upon our first home-buying experience nearly 7 years ago we consciously focused our search within the core neighborhoods of Lincoln. These areas embody many of the concepts of New Urbanism and the kinds of values we hold and type of lifestyle we hoped to live. I believe we've found those in the Witherbee neighborhood:

**WALKABILITY** - Core neighborhoods are wonderful for their easy access to nearby retail and commercial areas. Where else do you have a beautiful park, pool, tennis center, grocery store, ice cream stop, coffee shop, post office... etc., etc., etc., all within walking distance?

**CONNECTIVITY** - We love the mature trees arching over the streets and the sense of community the porches, driveways and sidewalks create. The suburbs can keep their garage-dominated fronts, thank you very much. A perfect evening for us is a walk through the neighborhood with frequent stops along the way to say hello to neighbors we know by name, or at least by the names of their pets.

**MIXED-USE AND DIVERSITY** - This includes not only the residential and commercial areas in close proximity but the mix of apartments, single-family homes and other living configurations. This promotes diversity of people in terms of age, income level, cultures and races. How boring would it be to have every home on your block contain the same family situation as yours? Just down our street we have young families, empty-nesters, retirees, single people, college students - all a mix of homeowners and renters. What a rich palate of community this creates.

**QUALITY ARCHITECTURE & URBAN DESIGN** - We love the charm and uniqueness of older homes. One of the first things we did the day we moved in was rip up carpet to reveal beautiful oak floors you just don't see in newer construction, at least not in our price range. And visitors are intrigued by our built-in rotary telephone (it still works if we had a land line), and the odd double entry to our bathroom which has access off the hall as well as the stairs. The cookie-cutter tract home just isn't for us.

Over the years we have gutted our kitchen and first floor bathroom, taking care to stay true to the spirit of our 1929 home, yet still bringing modern conveniences and style to these highly used rooms. I believe we've painted every single room in the house, some more than once. New lighting fixtures and fans have gone in as well as some simple landscaping on the exterior.

All this elbow grease meant we were able to get a very good quality home within our budget. We've been able to make it our own over the years and the old girl has stood up well to all the use and changes she's seen. Granted, there are still many projects yet to do (like those drafty old windows). But that is part of the appeal of an older home. It is a work in progress and often a labor of love.

It's been a while since my community planning class so I'm sure there are newer and more modern concepts in planning out there. But I think they will all have something in common; the fact that we can learn from the way communities used to be built and lived in, and how some of us are still living today.

Many of the hot issues of the day relate to how we choose to live in our surroundings - sustainability, green living, obesity epidemic, mental health and behavior issues, energy efficiency, and even economic issues. Our older neighborhoods do a lot of things right. Have pride in where you live and help support the ideals that make our communities even stronger.

I encourage you to attend the February meeting when our speaker will be Sara Hartzell of LPlan2040. Come learn about what Lincoln's vision for 2040 looks like thus far, and if you are interested at all in helping shape our future, come learn how you can get involved.

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# Cristo Rey Church

By Father John Keefe, Pastor

Cristo Rey Church is located near the center of Witherbee neighborhood at 42nd and J Streets. The Catholic Diocese of Lincoln bought the building from the Hope Reformed Church, which built it in 1950 but sold it when they had outgrown it. That congregation is now called Hope Community Church and is located at 4700 S. Folsom.

Cristo Rey Church takes its name from work that was done in the early 1960s by Catholic Social Services in Lincoln with boys who were refugees from Cuba. Later, Catholic Social Services had offices on south 14th St. with the name Cristo Rey. Cristo Rey is Spanish for Christ the King.

Years ago, there was a Guadalupe Chapel located on what is now the UNL campus, where a priest preached and heard confessions in Spanish. Also, Mass was celebrated for Mexicans who worked on an asparagus farm west of Lincoln. In the 1970s Spanish Masses were celebrated at St. Mary's Church (14th & K) and in the 1980s at Sacred Heart Church (31st & S).

Officially, Cristo Rey Parish began on March 20, 2002. We didn't take possession of the church until September 3rd but started having Baptisms there in October. While we did some minor renovations in the church, we continued to have Mass at Sacred Heart. In February 2003, the first Mass at Cristo Rey was a wedding Mass. On April 26 our Bishop came to dedicate the Church and we began to have weekday Masses.

Cristo Rey is not a territorial parish like most Catholic



Cristo Ray is located at 42nd and J.

parishes. Instead, any Hispanic person and their spouse who lives in or near Lincoln has the option of joining Cristo Rey parish or the parish whose territory they live. So, our people come from all over Lincoln. In 4 years, from 2003 to 2007, Cristo Rey Church grew from 300 to over 700 families. A large majority of our members are from Mexico and we have members from a number of other countries.

As in all Catholic Churches, we have Baptisms, weddings, funerals, and Confessions. A custom in Hispanic countries is to celebrate a girl's coming of age when she turns 15 years old. We have many of these quinceañeras (literally, 15-year-old girl) celebrations. The girls must take 5 classes on being a Christian young lady.

Another custom is to have a presentation of a 40-day-old child (like Jesus' presentation in the Temple), or a 3-year-old child. The parents bring the child forward in church and offer a prayer for their child, and the priest blesses the child. In Hispanic weddings, after the wedding vows and exchange of rings, the groom places coins in the bride's hands as a sign of his pledge to care for the family. The coins are called arras. Then a lasso in the shape of a large rosary is placed over the heads of the newlyweds.

We have religious education classes for children, a youth group, the Christian Family Movement for couples, groups of people who sell food after Masses to raise funds for the Church, and Bible studies.

We have two priests and two religious sisters, three choirs, and lay persons who read the Scriptures at Mass. We have a Saturday evening bilingual Mass and three Spanish Masses on Sundays.



This is just part of the 20' x 8' elaborate model of Bethlehem and nativity the church displays each year.



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GracePointe as it appeared January 5

## Tabitha To Open New Facilities, Services

Last fall, Tabitha provided an update on the construction occurring on the southwest corner of our campus.

Scheduled to open May 2011, GracePointe Assisted Living & Memory Care Suites will offer gracious living in a 63-unit community with 15 one- and two-bedroom assisted living residences on the first floor and 48 specially-designed units for memory care with studio and double occupancy options on second and third floors.

Also opening, will be Tabitha's two new Green House® projects on 47th Street and the Journey House for Hospice Care on J Street. Tabitha Green Houses look and feel like private homes. They are equipped, staffed and licensed to provide the same high levels of personal assistance and medical support of a skilled nursing facility. With the opening of these new Green Houses, Tabitha will be serving 45 individuals in four homes with this innovative model of care.

The Journey House—Lincoln's first Medicare certified skilled facility for end-of-life care—is a homelike environment with 12 private living spaces, a Chapel/meditation room and outside spaces designed for tranquility and comfort. Please watch for Grand Opening announcements in the near future. We would love you to tour these new facilities providing innovative care to our Elders. For more information about services or a tour, please call 486-8520.



Artist Rendering of the Journey House for Hospice Care

## Wyuka Preservation Projects Update

Lori Raphael of the Wyuka Historic Foundation reports that the renovation of the lake area is progressing in spite of winter weather. "We hoped to have the paving and bridges complete in mid-December", she said recently, "but the design of the new bridge had to be revised." The lake bottom was softer than anticipated and additional measures were needed to provide adequate support. "The city is also doing some water quality improvements to handle storm water where it drains into the lake. The schedule for those improvements is not yet complete, but the work will be coordinated with the larger project as weather permits," explained Raphael.

Work is expected to be complete in the spring. And a grand opening is planned for Sunday, May 15. "We are planning a day of fun activities to celebrate the opening of the new park," commented Raphael. The community will be invited to try out the new trail around the lake and see the improved park, which will be open to the public during cemetery hours.

Renovation of the historic Stables building is also moving forward. A team coordinated by Alley Poyner Macchietto Architects is working on the initial design and engineering. A public meeting will be scheduled in the near future to seek community comments on the Stables project. Notice of the meeting will be published in the Journal Star. If you are interested in receiving an invitation to the public meeting, or if you have any questions about either project, e-mail Lori Raphael at [lraphael@wyuka.com](mailto:lraphael@wyuka.com) or call 416-5056.

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# Witherbee Annual Meeting Combines Food, Fun



Each year the WNA board works to organize an annual meeting that will bring current members together and hopefully draw in a few new faces. The offer of free food and entertainment is usually a winning combination and this year's Annual Meeting was no exception.

Attendees enjoyed a tasty meal prepared by the Super Saver deli of fried and baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw and dinner rolls. A huge thank you goes out to the staff at Super Saver who worked tirelessly



to prepare enough food for 125, plus have it hot and ready for us right on time. There were many comments on how juicy the chicken was.

Dinner was served by the food committee comprised of Laura Wiese, Roberta Sandhorst, Janet Lippincott, Cathy Charko, and Karen Vogley. These ladies did a great job and even accommodated special requests for specific chicken pieces (drumsticks were especially popular with the kids).

Various desserts were provided by neighbors. We know the names of a few but many gracious folks dropped their contribution at the dessert table without drawing attention to themselves. At the risk of omitting the name of anyone who helped provide a dessert, we will simply say



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# n and Board Elections



a big thank you to all. You know who you are; we really appreciated your participation in this way.

We also want to thank the Tabitha staff who accommodated a last minute room change when the number of those RSVPing exceeded our expectations. Tabitha staff also provided drinks as well as the set up and take down of tables. We are very appreciative of such a good neighbor.

Following dinner the crowd was entertained by Tyler Hunter, local Elvis tribute artist. It was quite a show. Elvis serenaded, on one knee, several lucky 'girls' in the audience. Scarves and teddy bears were also thrown to the crowd – the latter during the King's performance of his song Teddy Bear. We hope we didn't disturb any Tabitha residents with our whooping and hollering! Elvis signed autographs following his energetic performance.

In between the eating and the singing, attendees cast their vote for a new group of board members and officers. Those who have officially been appointed include: president Rick Bagby returning for his second year at that post; vice president Laura Wiese serving in her second year on the board; Cheryl Hejl serving as secretary for a second year and on the board for her fourth year; treasurer Shawn



Gordin for her third year in that position; returning board members are Tony Marquez and Jason Brummels in their second and third years respectively; new board members are Jackie Varicak and Kathy Stastny.

There are three vacant board positions which the board will address soon after the first of the year. If you are interested in serving on the board in a future term, or would like to nominate someone for consideration to the board, please contact any current board member. Board contact information can be found on the inside cover of this newsletter.

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# 2010 Holiday Lighting Contest Results



430 South 54th St

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association holiday lighting winners have been named. Homes were judged on their beauty and originality including homeowners who were creative, even if there were just a small amount of lights. Judges witnessed intriguing signs featuring letters, various objects and blinking lights on trees and homes. There are photographs from the winners and some of the interesting lighting displays that you can see here. Photos are also available to view in color on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/witherbeena](http://www.facebook.com/witherbeena).

First prize went to Robert and Janice Yates, 430 South 54th St., with the First Place yard sign setup on their garden. Secondary prizes have been presented to homes located at 225 Piazza Terrace and 601 South 34th Street. All winners received gift cards contributed by Best Buy.

Thank you to all who participated with lights and other decorations adorning your home this holiday season!



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# Hy-Vee Pharmacy



# New Year's Resolutions — Does yours include sleep?

By Rick Bagby


I published a few of my New Year's resolutions in this newsletter, hoping to inspire a better than usual success on following through with them. If healthy living is in any way a part of your resolutions, I have some comments I'd like to pass along. As you may know, I work in the Sleep Medicine department at a local hospital. I thought I'd pass along a few observations from the past year. I have seen all of these in action in more than one individual this last year.

- If you are tired during the daytime and sleep less than seven hours a night on average, you do NOT need stimulants. You need more sleep.
- You don't get to decide if you snore or not. If someone says you do, you do.
- Perception of time is altered as we sleep. Many insomniacs do not accurately report the time spent asleep. Many of the tests we run show individuals sleeping soundly for long periods of time, then waking up suddenly and saying, "I haven't been asleep yet at all." They then get all worked up about their perceived lack of sleep. I've seen several hours of sleep followed by "Can you give me a sleeping pill? I just can't get any sleep tonight."
- Adults and teens have as much trouble falling back to sleep as babies do. Many of us are aware that babies can fall into a pattern where in order to fall asleep they need to be rocked, held or nursed. This poses quite a disruption to family life during middle-of-the-night awakenings. Most middle-of-the-night awakenings are perfectly normal. However normal also includes being able to fall back asleep without the presence of anyone else, and without any external stimulation. This situation also develops in teens and adults. We see many insomniacs who think they sleep much worse than they actually do. Often, because they don't know how to fall asleep without stimulation. Turn off the TV. Turn off the phone. Turn off the computer. Turn off the radio. Yes, you can. It will take a week or three to learn new habits, but you will.
- For insomnia that lasts more than a couple of weeks, just a few sessions of talking through your insomnia patterns with a trained professional works better than any of the sleeping pills.
- Yes, late day caffeine does affect your sleep. Same for alcohol.
- The proper test of "enough" day-to-day sleep is this: Are you well rested in the daytime? Can you stay fully alert in the daytime when you are sitting alone in a comfortable chair, not interested in what goes on around you? How many hours you need to be well rested is remarkably steady for each adult over time. There are very, very few adults who need less than 6.5 hours a day. There are very, very few adults who need more than 9.5 hours of sleep. You are not one of them.
- Best sleeping environment: Dark. Quiet. Comfortable surface. Cool. Safe.

As I write this, I am once again up all night, not because I have insomnia, but because I have allowed my body to adopt this schedule. As a sleep technologist working nights and evenings, it fits my lifestyle for now. If I wanted to make a shift in sleep hours


to be awake all day, I would need at least three or four days. I would first get exposure to very bright light in the morning hours. This can be done by getting outdoors or at least in front of a sunny window early in the desired daytime period. Then, late in the day, lights off as much as possible. No late night computer or TV. Keep room lights dim.


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## Bryan Community... Here today gone tomorrow?

By Patience Johnson

With Bryan Community School's transition phase closing in, Bryan students began to anticipate the possibility of Bryan getting a name change. Although the name change idea has not become a for sure thing, the possibility has a lot of students worried. Jeremy Sanchez, a previous student at Bryan Community voiced his opinion when I asked him the question, "How do you feel about Bryan possibly getting its name switched to Hawthorne?" Jeremy responded by saying, "Whoa, what is happening to my favorite school? Changing the name will destroy the barrier of why I wanted to go. At that location Hawthorne was a different school! Bryan is Bryan. Nothing can be compared to Bryan!"

Autumn Wingate who is a current student at Bryan responded to the same question with this answer, "I feel like it is wrong and it should stay the name it is. Bryan. All the past students that Bryan has helped so much remember it as "Bryan" so I think they should carry on that tradition!"

Strong feelings of passion toward Bryan Community not only as a school that represents peace and hope but a name that carries promise are very common.

Kayla Barkley, a previous student who graduated from Bryan in 2010, is an example of that strong passion. She answered the question by saying, "I don't think it should. It's already changed so much that it's not going to have anything left." Although Bryan students strongly disagree with the name being changed there are other aspects needing to be looked at in this scenario.

Bryan Community stands for something that all those who have attended or continue to attend hold so dearly. Although the decision has not yet been made on whether or not the school will undergo a name change, the possibility still has some people feeling uneasy. However, for the people of the Witherbee neighborhood, Hawthorne is like our Bryan. We don't want to see it go, we don't want to see it have a different name, and we all have tradition and memories and our own meaning of what both names and buildings mean to us.

## Watching After Our Lexicon

By Bridget Fitzgerald

Google. Podcast. Blog. Bromance. Staycation. Chillax. We hear words like these popping up in everyday conversation. But, pray tell, when was the last time you heard someone use the word noscible, meaning knowable; well-known? Ever seen pudify (to cause to be embarrassed) in a text message?

Every word established to serve a new need – like tweet, fashionista, defriend, frenemy, refudiate – takes up, as a National Public Radio reporter recently stated so well, the "lexicological shelf space used to accommodate" once popular words like essomenic (showing things as they will be in the future), squiriferous (to have the characteristics of a gentleman), pamphagous (eating or consuming everything), or jobler (one who does small jobs).

As these obscure, arcane words are tossed out from modern dictionaries, there are some people who have risen to bring them back. Savethewords.org. gives websurfers a chance to "adopt" a dying word, and thus pledging to use the word frequently in conversation and correspondence to the best of one's ability.

In our age full of globalization and assimilation though new communication tech, I still think it's important to hold on to those antique, romantic notions about language. Don't get me wrong, I'm no luddite. I am 17, have an iPod and use Facebook, broadband internet and Skype. But for me, Amazon.com could never take the place and feel of a local bookstore, like Lincoln's own Bluestem Books, Novel Idea Bookstore or Indigo Bridge. You can't smell the pages of an eBook. You can't find a stranger's bits of wisdom scrawled in the margins of a Kindle or Nook. I guess I'm a hopeless romantic. That's why, I suppose, I attach myself to this idea of diversifying one's vernacular with bits of color of days gone past.

And if words like volunteer, neighborliness and community show up on Savethewords.org, I'll sound the alarm in the Buzz. But my bet is that they are safe, at least in this neck of the woods (Eighteenth-century American, from an Algonquian Indian word 'naiack', meaning a point or corner).

I can't help myself when I get started on words, but I better stop or Larry won't ask me to write another article.

*Editor's note: Bridget, you'd be in good company with Rachel Morrison of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, who describes and journals about her experience smelling every book in the museum's collection. And we're always happy to receive your articles.*

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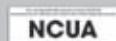
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# The While Ago Days

By Mike Fitzgerald

The cold north wind stung my face as I walked past Hawthorne School to join others for neighborhood coffee at Braeda. That little adventure last month prompted a discussion over coffee about the fortitude of the Indians and pioneers who lived here without any of our conveniences, such as stepping into a restaurant for warmth and on-demand food.

This led me to think of my grandparents who were born in the 1880s, within the late pioneer era. Some of my favorite stories from their time involve my father and his siblings getting to their one-room school from their farm. My Grampa John Fitzgerald bid the job of operating the horse-drawn school bus from the school district. He provided the team of horses, their feed and the drivers and was paid about \$70/month. The six to eight mile route took about one and half hours and the horses were stabled in a barn adjacent the school, where they would be given feed and water at lunch time.

One thing my father and his brothers enjoyed about driving the school bus and caring for the horses was that they would take turns being excused from school 15 minutes early each day to hitch the horses to the school bus, also known as “the hack”. Their sister Margaret remembers taking hot stones and bricks in gunny sacks onto the bus in the winter to help keep warm on the ride to school.

My father amazed us whenever he retold the day that the double tree of the hitch broke and started the horses running. The broken pieces hit the horses’ back legs, which caused them to run even faster. He had 15 kids on board; most were “pretty little.” He had to keep the horses in the middle of the road and avoid swerving so the bus full of kids wouldn’t roll and crash. The horses winded themselves and stopped at the bottom the hill. Dad credited avoiding the disaster mostly to luck and a little to experience from having worked some at home with the horses, although he didn’t have as much experience as his older brothers Elmer, John and Harold.

Within their lifetimes, my parents’ and grandparents’ generations saw amazing life changes in their daily routines. The changes range from having no electricity or running water to e-mailing to keep in touch with their children and grandchildren. I wish I could have been there the spring day in 1946 when my parents took delivery of their first tractor and were able to retire their work horses. Just imagine no longer needing to feed the horses before breakfast and then harness them for a day’s work in the fields.

Times were simpler then, as was entertainment. Before they were married, my parents and a few of their friends were known to ride their horses to town and play hide and seek among the houses. My mom especially liked it when her horse would not give her away by whinnying



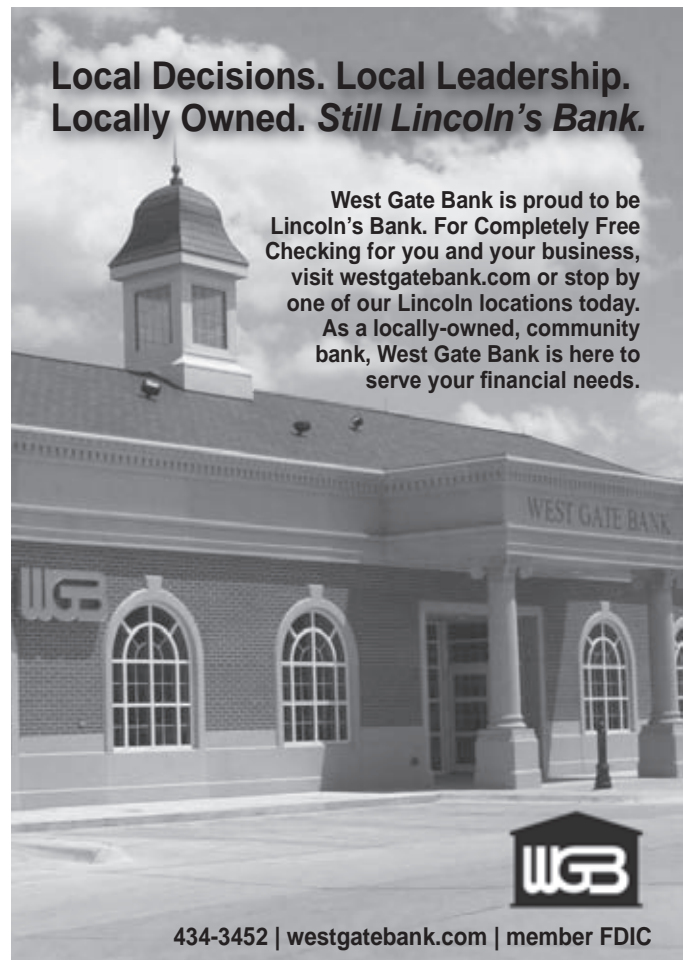
This horse-drawn school bus or “hack” was photographed in about 1920 and is similar to the one my father drove his junior year in high school, 1932.

to the other horses.

I am sure we will not see such a game played in this neighborhood, but these memories from what our family calls the While Ago Days make me want to hear others from WNA residents. If you have any favorite stories from the While Ago Days, call me at 416-1475 or write to Mike Fitzgerald 3794 H St., Lincoln, NE 68510, or tell me about them via e-mail at [sevenfranch@windstream.net](mailto:sevenfranch@windstream.net).

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# WNA Calendar

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

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

**Saturday, January 29th** — 1 p.m., Meadowlark Coffee 17th & South Streets, Community CROPS seed swap. Are you a seedsaver or interested in learning about how to save seeds from one season to the next? Kickstart your garden this year with a seed swap! Open Harvest and Community CROPS will host a community seed exchange for National Seed Swap Day to share gardening tips and of course, seeds! Bring seeds for vegetables, herbs, flowers and native plants. Please label your seeds and bring extra envelopes, if you have them. Evrett Lundquist, biodynamic farmer of Common Good Farm will be on hand to discuss seed saving and how to start seeds. <http://www.communitycrops.org/Newsletter01-11>

**Tuesday, February 1st** — Lincoln Electric System Sustainable Energy Program for 2011 begins. Cash rebates for energy saving projects in homes and businesses [www.les.com](http://www.les.com).

**Thursday, February 3rd** — 7 p.m., WNA monthly meeting. Speaker: Sara Hartzell, LPlan 2040, Lincoln's vision for 2040.

**February 10-13** — Nebraska Builders Home & Garden Show, Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock Avenue.

**Monday, February 14th** — 5:30 p.m., Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable, County/City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Mayor's Conference Room.

**Thursday, February 17th** — 5:30 p.m. City Councilman Doug Emery's Citizen Information meeting, Anderson Library, 3635 Touzalin Ave.

**Thursday, March 3rd** — 7 p.m. WNA monthly meeting. Speaker: Kelly Keeve, Mayor's Energy Challenge.

**Monday, March 14th** — 5:30 p.m., Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable, County/City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Mayor's Conference Room.

**Thursday, March 17th** — 5:30 p.m. City Councilman Doug Emery's Citizen Information meeting, Anderson Library, 3635 Touzalin Ave.

**March 21-25** — Lincoln Public Schools, UNL spring break.

**Friday, April 1st** — Begin mandatory separation of grass and leaves from household trash.

**Tuesday, April 5th** — Lancaster County Primary election: Lincoln Mayor, School Board, City Council.

**Thursday, April 7th** — 7 p.m. WNA monthly meeting. Speaker: Mindy Roberts, principal Bryan Community School.

**Saturday, April 9th** — 9 a.m., WNA and UNL "Big Event" volunteer activities, mulching at Woods Park.

**Monday, April 11th** — 5:30 p.m., Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable, County/City Building, 555 South 10th Street, Mayor's Conference Room.

**Monday, April 18th** — Tax day, 2010 State and Federal individual tax returns due.

**Friday, April 22nd** — Earth Day



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# Wetherbee Neighborhood Assn. revises By-Laws

An agenda item for the WNA Membership meeting on February 3rd will be a revision to the WNA By-Laws. The following revisions were approved by the WNA Board in order to facilitate the pending 501(c)(3) application that WNA has submitted to the IRS. WNA members will be asked to ratify the revisions.

## By-Law revision approved by board vote 12/14/2010

### Article III – Purpose.

It shall be the purpose of this non-profit organization to promote involvement of all residents, students, schools, businesses and churches in the Wetherbee neighborhood, visitors to the neighborhood and the public of Lincoln in a concerted effort for a better community. This purpose may be accomplished by but not limited to:

- a. Facilitating and providing charitable activities that support a strong neighborhood and contribute to Lincoln being a vibrant community.
- b. Facilitating and providing educational activities that help neighborhood and Lincoln residents maintain safe homes that lessen the burdens of government.

## Previous Version

### Article III – Purpose.

It shall be the purpose of this non-profit organization to promote involvement of all parties in the WNA, in a concerted effort for a better community.

This purpose may be accomplished by but not limited to:

- a. Promote and maintain an organization for the advancement of the concepts of low density residential land use.
- b. Preserve and enhance aesthetic character and quality of life in the WNA area.
- c. Monitor the plans and activities of city government, commercial organizations, or other entities that affect residents in the WNA area. Inform neighborhood residents and take appropriate action.
- d. Encourage pride in the WNA area.
- e. Promote communications among all parties including but not limited to businesses, institutions and residents concerned with the quality of life and development of the WNA area.
- f. Protect and enhance the investment of property owners in the WNA area.
- g. Inform the public on subjects beneficial to individuals and the WNA area.
- h. Promote cohesiveness of WNA with other neighborhoods and neighborhood associations in Lincoln.
- i. Promote home ownership and maintain a high percentage of owner occupied residential properties in the WNA area.
- j. Work with local organizations to maintain and improve the WNA area.
- k. Promote greater responsibility and involvement by residents in the WNA area including, but not limited to leadership and resource development.

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for being a great neighbor and providing  
meeting space for us each month.

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# WNA Victories – One for All and All for One

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. 2010 was a productive year, and we will be working to make 2011 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 renters 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 has done in 2010:

- Completing application with the Nebraska Secretary of State and the U.S. IRS to become an official non-profit, this will provide postage savings, and allow WNA to accept tax-deductible donations or grants.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual WNA Cleanup on May 8<sup>th</sup> involved Bryan Community School students, 4-H Club members, Boy Scouts and WNA volunteers who helped pickup litter, recyclables and assisted at cleanup drop-off.
- WNA and UNL Big Event student volunteers helped mulch trees at Stuhr and Woods Park on April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Over \$10,000 was raised to landscape and equip Witherbee Play Area located at 46<sup>th</sup> and 'O' Streets. Project completed October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Participated at monthly Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable meetings to represent the neighborhood in a wide range of issues and programs.
- Participated in Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance meetings to represent the neighborhood's interests.
- Hosted largest ever WNA free Pool Party/Ice Cream Social for neighborhood residents on July 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with City's Urban Development Department about efforts to get 48th & O properties redeveloped (northeast corner/ CVS Pharmacy).
- Conducted a neighborhood cleanup, coordinated neighborhood garage sales.
- Hosted speakers monthly who addressed neighborhood concerns.
- Produced a quarterly newsletter to keep WNA residents updated, and added WitherbeeNA to Facebook.
- Yard of the Month Award.
- Holiday Lighting Contest Awards.
- Increased WNA membership.
- Meeting with Bryan Community School staff about its 2011 relocation to renovated Hawthorne School at 48<sup>th</sup> & 'L' Streets.

If these projects, or any others, 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 resident volunteer 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.

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.witherbee.org](http://www.witherbee.org).

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: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Categories:

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\_\_\_ Additional Household Member..... \$ 5.00  
\_\_\_ Sponsor .....\$35.00  
\_\_\_ Benefactor .....\$50.00 & up  
\_\_\_ Business .....\$40.00

**Contributions:** Donations to WNA of \$35.00 or more will receive a **tax deductible receipt.**

### Please indicate your areas of interest and mail to Shawn Gordin, 539 S 52nd St., Lincoln, NE 68510

\_\_\_ Distributing newsletters

\_\_\_ Help with clean-up

\_\_\_ Organizing garage sales

\_\_\_ Holiday Lights contest

\_\_\_ Pool Party & Socials

\_\_\_ Serving on the board

\_\_\_ Newsletter writing/photography

\_\_\_ Newsletter production

\_\_\_ Web pages

\_\_\_ Acquire meeting speakers

\_\_\_ Annual meeting food preparation

\_\_\_ Boosting home ownership project

\_\_\_ Other (describe below)