



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 10 No. 4

Newsletter

Fall 2013

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



Witherbee
Neighborhood
Association.
Is 10 Years Old.



Entertainment

Free Food

Join Us For A Birthday Celebration.

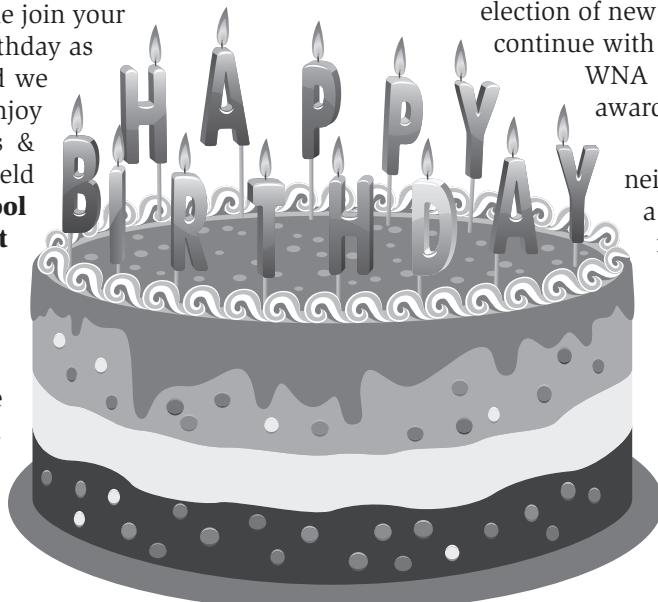
A ten year birthday party is the theme of the annual Witherbee Neighborhood Association meeting!

Everyone is invited to the WNA Meeting on **November 7th at 6:00 p.m.** Come join your neighbors as we celebrate our birthday as well as our accomplishments and we will recognize volunteers and enjoy an evening of food, fun, games & prizes. The meeting will be held at **Bryan Community School at Hawthorne gym located at 300 S. 48th St.** Membership is not required to attend this free family-friendly neighborhood event but as always, membership is encouraged. You can join at the annual meeting for the 2014 year. Your dues help continue events like this.

Pizza, provided by HyVee, tossed salad provided by the

WNA, and Birthday Cake provided by Super Saver will be served beginning at 6:15 p.m. Dinner will be followed by formal recognition of our hard working volunteers and election of new board members. The evening will continue with everyone invited to play a special WNA version of BINGO. Prizes will be awarded!

We strongly appeal to our neighbors to consider serving as a board member. Please take a few moments and contemplate the idea of volunteering in this capacity. We have a critical need for folks willing to help keep our neighborhood safe, clean and welcoming. If you feel called please contact any current board member (see page 2). You can be an important part of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association.



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About Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association

Boundaries:

33rd to 56th & 'O' to Randolph

Meetings:

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

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www.WitherbeeNA.org

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President's Message

Wow, summer is over already! Where did it go? I still had lots of swimming, boating, biking and just hanging out in the sun to do. I guess I will have to schedule those activities for next year.

I hope everyone is enjoying the change of seasons. The cooler weather is welcome. Soon everyone will be busy raking leaves and putting up holiday lights!

This will be my final President's Message and I would like to take the opportunity to thank many of the people that have helped WNA this year. First off, thanks to all of the WNA board members. Your help really lightens the load and makes my job easier.

Together we accomplished some wonderful things this year. We spruced up the neighborhood parks with the help of volunteers from UN-L, We cleaned up the place with an awesome Neighborhood Cleanup event, we helped complete the walking path at Randolph School and we had a great time at the annual Pool Party/Ice Cream Social. That is quite a list. Everyone that helped out should be proud of the work they did.

Thanks to Jackie Varicak & Larry Frisch for another year of producing this fine newsletter.

I would also like to thank some of our event sponsors. The area businesses really came through to support WNA. Braeda, Bread & Cup and Hy-Vee donated breakfast pastries and drinks for the Spring Cleanup. Their donations helped fuel volunteers picking up trash and collecting recyclable materials though out the neighborhood. Super Saver helped sponsor the Pool Party/Ice Cream social by donating the ice cream and supplies. Walgreens donated games and prizes. The Woods Park Tennis Center donated court time and tennis pros to help young & young at heart kids learn how to play tennis. I would also like to thank Tabitha Healthcare Systems for providing a place to hold our meetings.

It was a great year in the neighborhood, I am proud that I was able to serve as WNA president.

And of course, no President's message is complete without letting you know that WNA is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to serve on the board or help create/deliver the "Buzz" newsletters or any of the other jobs that need to be done to keep our neighborhood a great place to live. Come to the meetings, get involved, you will meet wonderful people and really be able to make a difference.

Need help and don't know where to turn?

Our goal is to provide a safety net for the Witherbee Neighborhood, as well as provide possibilities to use all available resources.



402-488-3314

Witherbee Connect



Mike Kreikemeier

The December Meeting Topic Will Include a Discussion

Will We Be Able to Continue Our Popular Events?

Why Is the WNA Important?

All are encouraged to attend the December 5th meeting where new board of director orientation and planning will take place. This meeting will give you a chance to share your ideas, needs and desires for your neighborhood. Also, new board members will learn the ins and outs of serving the WNA! We are still looking for new board members (contact any current board member if interested, see page 2). The meeting is open to all because it is the hope that all interested neighbors, whether a board member or not, can come and give good constructive input for future activities. Also, consider throwing your hat in to volunteer for one or two of the many events that occur throughout the year. Your service, big or small, is very much appreciated and needed to sustain the WNA!

At this meeting we hope to discuss and schedule the major events that will occur in 2014 and begin to form committees for them. We hope to be able to continue the most popular and well attended events held in the past but if we don't have enough help we may have to cut some of them out. These include: the UNL Big Event, the Annual Neighborhood Cleanup, Spring or Fall Garage Sales, the Wood's Swim Party and Ice Cream Social, the annual meeting in November, the Spring/Summer/Fall Yards of the Month program, the Winter Holiday Lighting contest, the quarterly Home Improvement recognition program, the quarterly Buzz Newsletter, and the Witherbee Connect program.

We look for volunteers to spend a couple of hours a month or per event to help out. Again, your contribution, big or small, can help continue these activities.

Why is it important to continue these events and programs? They showcase our neighborhood, they foster pride in the neighborhood, they provide a chance for community involvement, they provide help to others, they provide a sense of accomplishment to volunteers and appreciation from those who are served, they help neighbors get to know each other by working together on a common goal and they are plain fun to be involved with. At a deeper level, groups that work together can be drawn upon when the need arises to avert or handle controversial issues or a crisis. We need neighbors who are willing to represent our area when services or changes are proposed or to provide a voice to local government entities with the backing of a strong cohesive group.

Please attend the meeting on December 5th at the Tabitha LifeQuest Center at 7:00 p.m., your community needs you!

Witherbee Holiday Lighting Contest

The holiday season is just around the corner. Don't forget to check your strings of lights for missing bulbs, and your holiday yard ornaments for the Witherbee Holiday Lighting Contest.

By the third week of December, our Judges will be driving around considering the nominees of the contest.



Each year our Witherbee neighbors are pleasantly surprised to be nominated in the contest. Will it be your house this year? Please consider participation in the lighting event this year. Nominate any neighbor's home or even your own home by calling or e-mailing: Jeff Worrall (402)601-5269 jworrall05@gmail.com or Jackie Varicak at 402-438-3616

Due to the timing of the newsletter distribution, please check the Witherbee web site or Facebook page to see nominees and awards.



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Randolph School parents and students gather.



Principal Bonaiuto recognizes WNA representatives.

WNA Recognized for Contribution to Randolph Walking Path

Randolph Students and Staff held a ribbon cutting and celebratory walk around their new all weather walking track on Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:00 p.m. The event included recognition of donors. Mayor Chris Beutler was on hand to help cut the ribbon and representatives from the Lincoln Track Club, Witherbee Neighborhood Association, the LPS Foundation and a Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln were in attendance. Also in attendance were many students and families from the school and neighborhood.

Randolph school principal Dr. Wendy Bonaiuto gave her appreciation to community members that took part in raising funds for the path. Recognized from the Witherbee Neighborhood Association were Fred Freytag and Rick Bagby who were instrumental in organizing and raising \$4,900.00 to go toward the path. Mayor Beutler remarked that this was a celebration of getting out, being active and making the walking path happen.

Everyone was invited to take a lap around the track and all along the path there were small signs posted recognizing donors, with the first sign being in recognition of Witherbee! Other signs along the track gave other information pointing out areas where work was not quite finished. A couple of sections of pavement still had to be realigned and widened, etc.

Thanks to many WNA neighbors who chipped in by contributing \$5, \$10, \$20 and more, and with a single donation from local business Wayne's Body Shop, in the form of a \$2500.00 grant given to WNA, the paving of a new walking path became a reality!

The path, located at 1024 S 37th St. is open to neighbors to go take a walk in a safe place, let's get moving!!



Many take a lap around the new track.

Did you know that winter is the perfect time to prune/remove most trees?

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- Convenience! It is easy for a homeowner to be inundated with projects in the spring and summer, so, why not reserve tree work for winter.



Mayor Beutler and Randolph students cut the Ribbon.

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A view of Laura Avenue facing East.

Laura Avenue Islands Enhancement Project

By Laurie Stepanek

Some of the neighbors on Laura Avenue have commented over the years that it would be nice to spruce up the islands. This summer we decided to do something about it.

Laura Avenue is located just north of Randolph Street, spanning two short blocks from 34th to 36th Streets. Three islands grace the length. Young maples shade the east island, huge redcedars dominate the west island, and a lone American elm rules the center island. Grass and weeds cover the ground in varying degrees.

A few neighbors met one warm evening in July and got the ball rolling. We prepared and distributed a flyer inviting all of the neighbors bordering the islands to help with the planning and establishment of the islands. Some general goals for the islands were developed:

- Reseed turf areas
- Plant low-maintenance shrubs, ground covers and flower beds
- Mulch trees
- Install pavers
- Repair problems with street lamps and repaint lamp poles

Contacts were made with Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department, Lincoln Electric System, and the Witherbee Neighborhood Association for guidance. We were given the go-ahead to reseed, and last month we prepped and seeded the east and west islands (while there was much enthusiasm among our small group, wiser heads prevailed and convinced the rest of us to not tackle all three islands this year).

Seeing the new grass emerge and blanket the islands with green has been encouraging and rewarding, but perhaps the greatest reward has been in getting to know the neighbors better. We are looking forward to the planning and work still to be done as well as spending time with the new friends this project has cultivated.



A child learns to take care of his neighborhood.



Neighbors pitch in to refurbish islands.

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Piles of wood attest to the huge undertaking of tree removal.

Cemetery Grounds Being Enhanced

By Jeff Worrall

Calvary Cemetery has been going through some landscape renovations. It may have started off quietly, but quickly became a hot topic to discuss within the neighborhood. Many trees were being cut down. Were the trees diseased or what was the reason for their removal?

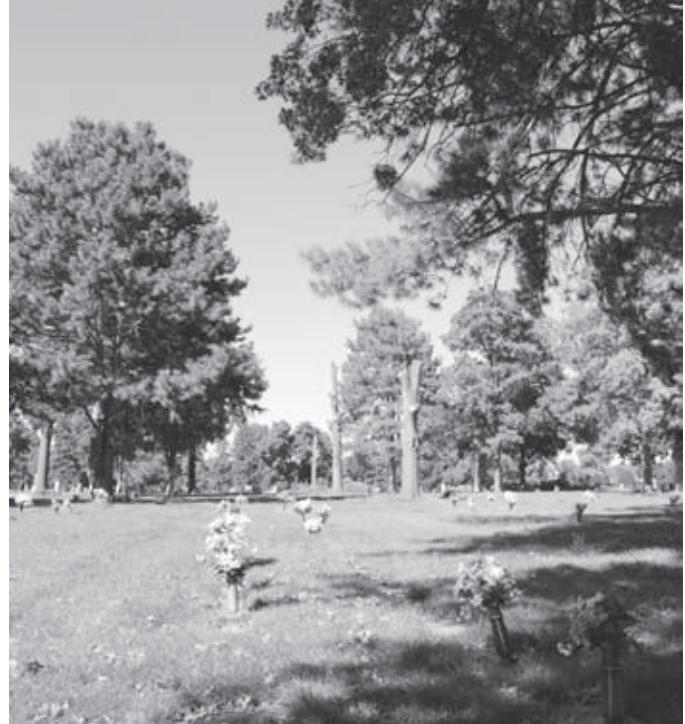
It was a hard sight to see for those who live in the neighborhood and see this area as park-like. On most days you can find children playing in the open, undeveloped green space, or riding their bikes on the many paths. Many people exercise, or even walk their dogs in the cemetery. It is seen as a safe, serene place. It is a respected place in the neighborhood.

On a recent walk, I was able to speak with a volunteer who happened to be working in the cemetery. I found out that there is a large improvement plan under way. Many trees are diseased, some are dead or dying, and others were not placed well, or have caused overcrowding. Those are the trees being removed.

Over the last few weeks, I can see the vision of what will be a beautiful place. You can look across the cemetery and see the beauty that was beginning to be lost in the overcrowding. The grass is getting greener, and light comes through the trees. The monuments are now visible, and other additions are being made to enhance the beauty.

Please help to keep this a beautiful, peaceful, safe part of the neighborhood. Exercising should be on the pathways. If you are walking your dog, please keep them on a leash, stay on the paths, and clean-up after them. Children at play should be supervised.

We must always be respectful to those who are buried here, and their families. Please do not bother those coming to pay respect to loved ones who have passed. It is a private, precious time to reflect on memories.



Beauty will be restored as light can now shine through.



One new addition at Calvary Cemetery is a statue and benches from St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln, given in memory of infants lost through miscarriage. New plantings will be put in around the new monument and benches as one of many improvements currently underway at the cemetery. (SNR photo by Cathy Blankenau Bender)

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Improvements underway at Calvary Catholic Cemetery

By S.L.. Hansen

LINCOLN (SNR) - Calvary Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum at 40th and O streets in Lincoln is the only blessed Catholic cemetery and mausoleum in Nebraska's capitol city. Currently, plans are underway to make it a more beautiful, peaceful and functional place than ever.

"The cemetery is like a diamond in the rough," said Father Thomas MacLean, who was appointed director last June.

Ever since Catholics settled in the Lincoln area, there was an effort to provide a proper place of burial for the faithfully departed. The first recorded burial at the present location was in 1869 - Michael Shea.

In 1930, the cemetery was deeded to the statewide Calvary Cemetery Association. Eleven years later, Bishop Louis B. Kucera founded the Diocesan Department of Catholic Cemeteries, which was the first such department in the country.

For the first time, a priest was appointed as director of Calvary Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum, working with local parishes and mortuaries to provide a sacred place in which to bury and to pray for loved ones.

Father MacLean's background in environmental architecture has fueled a particular enthusiasm for furthering the work accomplished by his predecessors, as well as many patrons.

He noted especially the contributions of Msgr. David Hintz, the most recent director.

"Monsignor's most dramatic improvement to the cemetery is easily appreciated if one drives by the entrance at 145 South 40th Street and sees the beautiful red brick and black rod iron gate and fence," Father MacLean said.

Msgr. Hintz also expanded the present mausoleum and developed a large addition to the southern edge of the cemetery with proper grading, paved roads, curbs, and trees.

With all this in place, Father MacLean is able to focus on fulfilling the cemetery's potential to become "a beautiful garden for the dignity, honor, and respect due our loved ones who are buried here, and for our own spiritual edification."

Among the most pressing work is tree service.

Under the guidance of the cemetery sexton, who is an arborist, and a volunteer landscape architect, diseased, dead

and dying trees are being taken down. Others were slated for removal due to overcrowding or poor placement, which prevented healthy growth and detracts from the overall beauty of the grounds.

Once the tree removal is complete, the arborist will trim and shape the remaining trees to ensure both health and visual appeal. Plans are also in place to improve the quality of the lawn itself.

Another immediate need is to repair and realign various monuments and gravestones.

"Anyone can see the effects of gravity that naturally press upon the majestic monuments that once stood upright," lamented Father MacLean.

In addition to the statuary restoration that is underway, stone markers that have settled at awkward angles will be realigned to prevent damage to the stones themselves, as well as to lawn-care equipment.

He welcomes anyone to contact the cemetery at 402-476-8787 with offers of expertise, hopes, concerns, suggestions or recommendations.

"Together with you, this holy place of rest may become a beautiful garden shared by all who wish to visit and pray," Father MacLean said.

Editors Note--Reprinted with permission from *Southern Nebraska Register*, edited to fit space available.

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Seventh Annual Swim Party and Ice Cream So

Sunday evening, August 5th was a great night for the seventh annual Witherbee Neighborhood Association Swim Party and Ice Cream Social which took place at the Woods Park Swimming Pool and Tennis Complex located at 33rd & J Streets.

The evening was kicked off over in the shady spot just outside the Tennis Center where many enjoyed a couple scoops of ice cream while visiting with friends and neighbors. Super Saver provided plenty of ice cream and bottled water to last the entire eveing.

This year music was provided by local piano students who got to showcase their best tunes at the first ever WNA "Piano in the Park."

Chalk drawing, a bean bag game, a ring toss game, golfing and bubble blowing all provided by Walgreens, gave the kids a variety of activities to engage in.

The tennis courts were open for those wishing to hit around some balls which kept many attendees delightfully entertained. Tennis center pros were on hand to feed balls and offer advice.

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Social Draws Large Crowd

The city of Lincoln was happy to send over a fire truck and police car for neighbors to explore. It was exciting to see the aerial demonstration and get to visit with, and thank, our public servants who help keep us safe and who rescue us when we are in need.

The pool opened up for free beginning at 6:00 p.m. and was filled up by neighbors who came to enjoy a swim.

A big thank you goes out to all members of the WNA along with event sponsors, Super Saver, Walgreens and Woods Tennis who made the event possible. Thank you to the Police and Fire Personnel who took the time to come out and visit with our neighbors. Also to all the volunteers that worked to put this event together THANK YOU, on behalf of all neighbors, families and friends!

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HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Just a few design tips

By Sharon Cochrane

When the holidays roll around, just what we DON'T need is to be knee-deep in getting the house all gussied up in design that takes hours and hours. We're usually too busy trussing, bussing and fussing with other stuff. I truly believe in the KISS theory – Keep It Simple, Stupid. And that translates into not decorating every available surface with some cutesy bauble, rather putting 4 or 5 lovely designs together in areas that will catch the eye and make super statements. If you spread stuff all over the place, it loses its effect, anyway. I've also heard some husbands make negative remarks about not having a place to put their Budweiser down!

Obviously, the first design will probably be your tree. Be sure to light it from the inside out. Don't drape the lights around the outside as the tree will have no depth. Put a 3-hole extension cord about one third up the tree



Chandeliers provide excellent setting to decorate rooms for holidays.

on the trunk and drop down to the bottom with your first string. Continue from there. Make the top of the tree say something too: a large ribbon bow, antlers, fake cabbages mixed with ribbon, tree branches sprayed white or silver, you get the idea. I also put a secondary focal point in the "belly" of the tree, repeating the tree topper in a smaller and less full manner.

Next would be the mantel, of course. If you use candles, be careful. Today there are battery powered candles that are quite realistic. Try to set your design off center to avoid stiffness. Greenery should be lush and perhaps flowing over onto the floor. Be careful how you build your vignette if you will be having a fire in your fireplace. If you don't have a mantel, you can use a console table instead and place it in a central place in the room. Be sure to build upward if you want it to resemble a fireplace mantel.

Another idea might be your dining table. If you will be eating there, keep height in mind as it might be fun to see who you are eating with! This is a good place to utilize crystal, glassware, silver, and offset it with your favorite color, like turquoise, red, or gold and fill in with airy greenery. Repeat some of your décor on the sideboard. One place that is often overlooked is the overhanging lighting. This can be very lushly done by hanging greenery, ribbons, crystal beading, ornaments and other decorations. My chandelier is on a dimmer so I can play with the effect of whatever I put up there.

Other rooms or areas for your efforts could be the front door/porch, your den, the bathroom especially if it is a good size, and your family room. Greenery garlands are always a good way to get things covered in a hurry and stretch your design dollar. I hope you will have a very happy and healthy Holiday Season. Live long and prosper.... Sharon Cochrane

Editors Note: Sharon has become a regular contributor to the Witherbee Buzz for her expertise in Design. Sharon lives in the neighborhood and would welcome questions you may have about your design challenges. She can be reached at 402-328-0318.



Sharon Cochrane



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First Witherbee "Little Free Library" near 35th and Woods.

Little Free Library Idea to be Topic of January Meeting

Have you ever heard of or seen a "Little Free Library?" There is one already placed on the North side of Wood's Avenue just a few homes West of 35th Street. The concept is that a homeowner elects to host the Little Free Library in their yard and neighbors can take and leave books. The Little Free Library is self-sustaining and there is no checking in or out of the books. Users of the library simply leave their own books they are done reading and would like to share and take any book out of the library they are interested in reading. Currently the Little Library on Wood's Avenue caters to children and it is stocked with books for them.

In recent Witherbee Neighborhood Association meetings President Mike Kreikemeier has explained that a neighbor, Mark Holt, has come forward and is willing to construct a Little Free Library in the Witherbee area to be placed at a host property. Mike Kreikemeier has received formal support from WNA members to promote this endeavor to find a host family.

Both Mike Kreikemeier and Mark Holt will be on hand at the January 2nd meeting which will be held at the Tabitha LifeQuest Center at 48th and J Street at 7:00 p.m.. Please come with questions and concerns and to hear all about it. Please let us know if you would be willing to host the Little Free Library or have suggestions for the design of the library. Perhaps this library can cater to adult literature.



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Bryan Students Dance At Prom

Article submitted by students

Bryan has been a community for 33 years. This year, on the other hand was a little bit more special due to our very first student lead prom! We received approximately \$1,500.00 in donations from numerous foundations, businesses, and past alumni throughout the city, including the Witherbee Association. With the help of the community and the teamwork of our school, we made Bryan's first prom possible. We split up into committees and worked together daily for preparations. Our prom started at six O'clock on April 19th. We had dinner, our grand march, and the dance. A student from another school who attended our prom said "This is the best prom I've been to this year!" We enforced the "no grinding rule" and students reacted well. Sydney Tetrault, An English Teacher at Bryan stated, "It's like dancing in front of eight of your mothers." Bryan is a community and we hope to do another prom next year. We made this successful. Thank you Witherbee!

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Witherbee Resident



Brian O'Grady at Memorial.

Our very own neighbor, Brian O'Grady, has received media Buzz recently for his work recording Nebraska Veteran's war stories. He has already been featured through the University of Nebraska where he is employed as a Library Specialist and on the front page of the Sunday Lincoln Journal Star on July 13th, with the headline "UNL researcher digs into veteran's stories." We decided to dig in to Brian's story with a few questions of our own.

We asked:

What is your project? Please name and describe it in detail...

My project is an oral history project. I guess you could call it a Nebraska Veterans Oral History Project. The intent and scope is to interview Nebraska veterans who have served in foreign wars. That's not to say I won't interview veterans who have not served in foreign wars, but that is my primary focus for now. I believe it is important to capture these stories as told by the men and women who live them before these stories are otherwise lost forever. While I mostly have interviewed World War II veterans, I have interviewed veterans from almost every war since World War II, including the Iraq war.

How did you become interested in interviewing veterans?

All my life I have been fascinated in history. One particular aspect of history that I enjoyed reading about is World War II. In 2006 I became particularly interested in a specific battle of World War II, namely the battle of Tarawa. This was a tiny island battle in the Pacific that took place in November, 1943. I was so interested that I decided I might want to publish something about it. As such, one of the things I felt I needed to do was interview veterans who participated in the battle. This was no easy task, but through some investigation I was able to learn that a veteran living in Halsey Nebraska was at Tarawa. I was eventually able to arrange an interview with this individual, a Marine of the 2nd Marine division, and it was a wonderful experience.

Later, it became apparent that the battle of Tarawa had already been extensively covered, and also I found it too difficult to locate other veterans who had participated in the battle. But the experience of interviewing that veteran

was so positive I decided I wanted to interview more veterans. I wouldn't focus on just one battle in World War II but all wars, and at the same time I narrowed my scope to just Nebraska veterans. This would then make it easier for me to travel and conduct the interviews.

How do you find out about them?

As I said before, this was no easy task. Initially, I would simply have to ask around. I relied mostly on word of mouth. I would ask people if they knew somebody who was a veteran. Once I even ran into a person at Target and because he was wearing a World War II hat, I asked him if he was a veteran and if he wouldn't mind being interviewed. He graciously allowed me to interview him and he had an incredible story. Lately I've been fortunate that my project has received some publicity and people have been contacting me for interviews. In most cases these have been family members of World War II veterans who realize they are running out of time and want to have their loved one sit down and get their story recorded.

How many veterans have you interviewed?

So far I've interviewed about thirty veterans.

Have you found that some veterans are willing to open up to you more than others?

Yes, some will speak in broader terms, and use more generalizations when they are describing events that happened to them. Others will be more specific and sometimes be quite frank and open. Some, understandably, struggle with some of the details as they describe them. I can only assume that, as hard as it may be for them to recall some of these memories, they share them with me because they have an awareness of the importance of preserving them for future generations. Perhaps they are only thinking that it is important for their grandchildren to someday learn about what they did, but perhaps too some may realize the importance of their stories for all generations.

What are you most memorable interviews?

I've interview so many interesting people. Everyone has something unique and interesting that happened to them. I've interview a number of sailors, soldiers,

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Records Veteran's Stories

airmen and marines, but just to highlight a few; I've had the privilege of interviewing Col. Paul Adams, who was a Tuskegee Airman. I've interviewed a veteran from the infamous Easy Company, 506 PIR, 10st Airborne Division. This is the company that the book and HBO mini-series Band of Brothers was based on. I've interviewed a navigator on a B-17 who was shot down and spent over 2 years in a German P.O.W. camp, Stalag Luft 1. I've interviewed a sailor who was on an escort carrier (the U.S.S. Kalinin Bay). His carrier was with a group of escort destroyers and carriers called Taffy-3, which made valiant stand against the huge battleship Yamato in one of the most memorable naval battles in U.S. history, the Battle off Samar. I've interviewed a soldier who was right in the middle of the Battle of the Bulge. I've interviewed a Vietnam veteran, who later became a priest, and I've interviewed a Marine who participated in Operation Steel Curtain in the Iraq war.

What are some of the common themes you find when you interview? What have you learned?

I find that everyone I have interviewed is proud of their service. They would never trade their experience, but they would never want to go through it again. I also find that to a man, each veteran I've interviewed does not consider themselves to be heroes. They never feel like they did anything special. They were just a solder, or sailor, or marine doing his duty. They happened to be at a certain age in a certain period of time, and like so many men of their age they either volunteered or were drafted for the service. The true heroes, they feel, are the ones who never came back.

Every interview I learn something new. In World War II for example, there were over 100 armored and infantry divisions, and almost 7000 naval vessels. Each person I've interviewed has been from a different unit, and participated in different battles. So not only do I learn the story of one man's role in World War II, I learn about his unit, and where they were and what battles they participated in.

What has this project meant to you personally?

I think what strikes me the most from all the interviews I have conducted is how genuinely sincere and friendly these people have been. I've sat in many living rooms and kitchens across the state, and they are so kind to welcome me into their homes. And though I've never met them before, as I talk with them I sense that they are happy I am there and asking them questions, and interested in speaking with them to learn about their wartime experiences. Some have expressed gratitude as they've talked about things they haven't even thought about in over 60 years. To me, it has been an honor and privilege to meet these veterans who have served their country and spend a couple hours

with them. It is truly humbling to me to speak to a person who was, for example, actually there on the island of Tarawa or in Bastogne during the Bulge or at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked. They are walking history, and I am always in awe of this.

What is your end goal for this project?

The most important thing I'm doing I feel is that I am capturing and preserving these stories. If I do nothing else with this, at least these stories are recorded and will be preserved. Eventually I'll donate these interviews to an archive. Also, after I finish an interview I'll send the family a copy on DVD. One of the things I would like to do at some point when I think I have enough interviews is sit down and write a book about these stories. Of course even if I do that, I don't think I'll ever stop interviewing veterans. It really is something I could do my entire life.

If someone wants to contact you about an interview, how can they go about doing this?

If someone knows of someone that I can interview (a friend, a loved one, etc.), or if a veteran him/herself would be interested in doing an interview, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. My email address is bogrady1@unl.edu, and my phone number is 402-472-7696, M-F.

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Tabitha HELPS Grandparents, Grandchildren Celebrate those who Make Life Grand

The Tabitha team stepped out across southeast Nebraska earlier this month in celebration of those who have come before us. On Sept. 8, the nation celebrated Grandparents' Day and that weekend, Tabitha staff, volunteers and their families brought the celebration to a local level in the cities of Lincoln, Crete, Nebraska City and York, Neb.

Volunteers in rural areas delivered not only smiles but also greeting cards encouraging their communities to send words of thanks to the grandparents and grandchildren in their lives. In the capital city, volunteers took time to recognize each client residing in a Tabitha main campus living community. In all, nearly 450 residents of Tabitha Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Village Independent Living Apartments, GracePointe Assisted Living & Memory Care Suites, Tabitha's Green House® neighborhood and Tabitha's Journey House SNF for Hospice Care were celebrated with smiles, gracious handshakes and sweet treats.

"Grandparents' Day is such a special time at Tabitha," said Christie Hinrichs, Tabitha president and CEO. "It encourages the greater public to celebrate and recognize those in their lives who not only have come before them, but shown guidance and established community. These are the things we do every day at Tabitha."



Celebrated the first Sunday after Labor Day, Grandparents Day was declared a national holiday in 1978 in hopes that grandchildren would recognize the wisdom their grandparents could provide. Grandparents Day is one of a few reciprocal holidays, meaning grandchildren not only honor their grandparents, but grandparents in turn celebrate their grandchildren.

TABITHA HOSPICE OFFERS GRIEF SUPPORT THROUGHOUT HOLIDAY SEASON

Tabitha, your answer for Elder Care, is pleased to invite the community to several grief support opportunities during the holidays, all facilitated by Tabitha Hospice.

Growing through Grief, a six-week support group focused on exploring bereavement through the arts, will begin its weekly sessions on Monday, Oct. 28 at 9:30 a.m. on Tabitha's main campus (4720 Randolph St.).

GriefShare, a 13-week, Christian-centered support group, will be offered at two locations beginning in November. Monday evening sessions from 5:30-7 p.m. will be offered weekly beginning Nov. 11 at First Christian Church (430 S. 16th St.), and Wednesday morning sessions from 10-11:30 a.m. will be offered weekly beginning Nov. 13 at Sheridan Lutheran Church (6955 Old Cheney Road).

To RSVP for any of Tabitha Hospice's grief support groups or for more details, contact bereavement coordinator Caitlin Mason at 402.486.8506.

Tabitha Hospice also will host three memorial services in Lincoln during the holiday season. All those mourning a loss are invited to come and experience healing, celebrate the life of a loved one and share in the support of the community. Bereavement through the Holidays will be held Thursday, Nov. 7 at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Winter Solace will take place Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. All services will be hosted by Tabitha Hospice at Tabitha's main campus chapel (4720 Randolph St.). A reception will follow each service, and no RSVP is necessary.

As a nonprofit organization serving 28 Nebraska counties, Tabitha's love embraces a society where everyone is valued and empowered to live life to the fullest, with compassionate at-home support, innovative living communities, exceptional rehabilitation, health care and hospice services. For answers to all your aging questions, tune in to Tabitha's Answers on Aging, airing each Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m. on KFOR 1240 AM, or subscribe to Tabitha's quarterly magazine, The Answer, at www.Tabitha.org.

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617 South 44th St.

August Yard of the Month

By Jeff Worrall

While delivering the Witherbee Buzz, walking with my mom, we came across this house on 44th street.

Mom loved this house, and said if no one has been nominated for the next Yard of the Month, this one should be it. I thought it was great to hear someone other than a neighborhood resident point out a beautiful yard.

July Yard of the Month proudly goes to Alison Nickolaus, 617 So. 44th Street. The yard is freshly mowed, and the bushes trimmed. The blue/ red accents bring out the charm of the home, and offer a welcoming statement to everyone.



3724 H St.

September Yard of the Month

By Jeff Worrall

The home at 3724 H Street was nominated for Yard of the Month for the whimsical design carved out in their front bushes. They are almost "Seusical", and add wonderful touch of whimsy to the yard.

Andrew & Susan Ritta are new to the neighborhood in the past few years. They enjoy the backyard, especially the large tree that provides shade to the deck and yard in these hot summer months. Also mentioned is the large amount of ivy that grows around the fence line, and along the garage. At first they were not very fond of it, but have grown to enjoy the beauty it brings to their yard.

Fall 2013

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WNA Calendar

*Membership not required for
any meeting or event.*

Thursday, November 7th — 6pm-7:30pm., WNA Annual Meeting. Bryan at Hawthorne School Gym, 48th & N St. See Page 1.

Thursday, November 28th — Happy Thanksgiving!

Thursday, December 5th — 7 p.m., WNA General Meeting, Tabitha LifeQuest Center 48th & J St. Planning and New Board member orientation. See Page 3.

Sunday, December 19th — Holiday Lighting Judges will begin looking for best and most unique lights. See Page 3

Wednesday December 25th — Merry Christmas

Thursday January 2nd — 7pm., WNA General Meeting, featuring Little Free Library topic. See page 11.

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It's Surprisingly Easy To Help Keep Your Neighborhood Strong

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association (WNA) celebrates 10 years in 2013. Like the saying goes – time flies when you're working hard and having fun! Since it was organized, your neighborhood association has accomplished many important things to help maintain and enhance the neighborhood you call home. To help keep it strong we are conducting our annual membership appeal. As your neighbors and WNA volunteers we hope that you will read the following points and send in your membership (or sign up or renew on line at www.witherbeena.org/membership). Thank you to those of you who already have. In addition, we hope you will come to a meeting or participate in an activity.

In 2012, in addition to annual events (Pool Party and Ice Cream Social, Mulching trees at Woods and Stuhr Park, Neighborhood Cleanup, Yard of the Month and Holiday Lights award contests) your neighborhood association:



Neighbors gather to celebrate at Witherbee Park.

- Dedicated Witherbee Park at 46th & O Streets
- Coordinated assistance to residents through Witherbee Connects program
- Began Recognizing Home Improvement projects
- Addressed concerns with problem properties.
- Sent representatives to Mayor's Round Table, Lincoln Policy Network and Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance meetings.
- Hosted monthly speakers and open meetings to address neighborhood concerns.
- Published and distributed the quarterly Buzz newsletter keeping you informed of all of these neighborhood issues and activities.

When we each do a little, we all do a lot. Please become a member and participate at whatever level of involvement that fits you and your schedule. Everyone has a talent, skill, idea or area of interest that would be an important contribution to your neighborhood association. There are many jobs, large and small, that we could use your help with. And if there isn't anything currently that strikes your interest, WNA can be the platform for you to start a new project or tradition. Please attend a meeting or contact a board member today to get more involved.

Last, but certainly not least – participating in WNA is a very good way to meet nice and interesting people – from across the street, down the block and throughout your neighborhood.

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, St.: _____
Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Check here if you want to receive one free WNA Logo window decal for your car, home, or business with your paid membership. Additional decals are \$5. Please enter total number of decals needed here _____.

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

Please indicate your areas of interest and mail to **Witherbee Neighborhood Assn, P.O. Box 5431, Lincoln, NE 68505**

Serving on the board Newsletter writing/photography
 Witherbee Connect Newsletter production
 Distributing newsletters Web pages
 Neighborhood Cleanup Acquire meeting speakers
 Organizing garage sales Annual Meeting
 Holiday Lights contest Boosting home ownership project
 Pool Party & Socials Witherbee Park

Neighborhood Watch
 Bryan/Hawthorne School
 Other (describe below)
