



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 12 No. 1

Newsletter

Spring 2015

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

Annual WNA Cleanup is Saturday, May 9th

By Mike Kreikemeier

Let's clean up the neighborhood and get ready to enjoy the summer! The annual WNA Spring cleanup event will be on Saturday, May 9th from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. The collection site will be the North parking lot of Bryan Community School at Hawthorne and along 50th & M Street.

This is a great opportunity to clean up your home, garage and yard, and safely dispose of your unwanted items.

Items accepted for FREE include: furniture, lumber, screens, windows, doors, grills, landscape timbers, picnic tables, swing sets, broken fence panels, construction material, carpet, light fixtures, pipes, wiring, and non-freon appliances (stoves, washers, dryers, and hot water heaters). With generous support from Firestone Complete Auto Care at 300 N 66th Street we are also able to accept used tires. Goodwill will be collecting household electronics, computers, monitors, clothing and other good condition household items.

Appliances containing Freon (refrigerators, deep freezers, dehumidifiers) will be accepted for a nominal fee.

Free brush disposal is offered to WNA residents from Hofeling Enterprises. Take your brush to 2200 South Folsom Court on the morning of May 9th and mention that you are from Witherbee Neighborhood. A limited number of brush disposal coupons will be available. These coupons are good all summer and can be used to haul a load of brush to the Lincoln Transfer Station for free.

Items that CANNOT be accepted include trash, leaves, grass clippings, liquids of any kind (including paint, thinners, stains) ammunition/explosives, LP gas cylinders and CRT televisions.

Several volunteer crews will be picking up litter along the major streets rights of way, around the schools and in the neighborhood parks.

If you need help hauling items to the collection site call Mike Kreikemeier at 402-477-9194 to make an appointment. The items must be easily accessible and placed near the curb if possible for our volunteers to pickup.

With help from Goodwill Industries, EcoStores Nebraska, and Firestone Complete Auto Care this cleanup event has grown from just disposing of unwanted items in the landfill to recycling and reusing as many items as possible. EcoStores Nebraska, located at 530 West P Street, has generously provided a trailer to accept construction material and items such as windows and doors from building/remodeling projects as well as leftover lawn and landscaping materials. Goodwill Industries will recycle and reuse most of the electronics and household items collected. As mentioned above, Firestone accepts the used tires collected for no fee.

Many volunteers are required to make this cleanup event a success. Please consider joining us for a few hours to help clean up the neighborhood. We also need volunteers with pickup trucks and/or trailers. Vouchers are provided to volunteer haulers to help defray the cost of gas. Volunteers help make a great place to live even better! Contact event organizers: Mike Kreikemeier, 402-477-9194 mbk@windstream.net; Bryan Hurst, 402-202-9309 bbacon.hurst@gmail.com or Dan Wesolowski, 402-488-8249 dwesolowski@windstream.net to volunteer or for more information. Delicious breakfast treats, coffee & juice are provided to all volunteers.

This cleanup event is funded by a grant from "Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful". Food and beverages are donated by Braeda & Midtown Hy-Vee. Refuse hauling is provided by Niederhaus Refuse Services at a discounted rate.



Volunteers load scrap tires at the WNA Cleanup in 2013.

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.

www.facebook.com/witherbeeNA
www.WitherbeeNA.org

Mailing Address:

PO Box 5431
Lincoln, NE 68505
402-413-0156

Executive Board:

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Witherbeerick@gmail.com

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mbk@windstream.net

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President's Message



Rick Bagby

Long-time member and board member, volunteer and friend Tony Marquez passed on recently. Tony's smile, wit, eagerness to help, and support are sorely missed. Whether walking his dog around the neighborhood, mulching the trees at Woods Park, working on committees in the neighborhood, delivering newsletters, supporting projects, or just saying hello, Tony was a fixture of Witherbee for 50 years. Never one to seek publicity or recognition for his efforts, we will never know the full extent of his work and help around the city, in our neighborhood, his care for the community. In November at our annual meeting, we were please to be able to honor him with the first-ever Witherbee Service Award. Tony received the award with his warm quiet smile as he attended a Witherbee meeting one more time. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a tribute written by neighbor Kathy Stastny. Please take a moment to review and appreciate the profile. Thank You Tony.

This issue of the Buzz marks a transitional time in our efforts to make and keep Witherbee a great neighborhood. We've been on hiatus since the fall issue due to a change in the volunteer newsletter production team. Long time do-everything production manager Larry Frisch has turned over all duties, as has our Editor of the last several years, Jackie Varicak. When you see Larry and Jackie, stop and let them know how much you have appreciated their work. As we re-tool and resume production you will note a few changes. Same values and goals, new volunteers to make it happen. We are still looking for assistance with all phases of production from photos to editing, ad sales to copy writing, and distribution. If you have enjoyed the content of this newsletter, please consider joining our team.

Witherbee Park Update

By Fred Freytag

Volunteers gathered Saturday morning, March 14th, 2015 to clean up and beautify Witherbee Park. Coffee was donated by Perkins Restaurant and donuts by FM Lawn Care. A total of nine volunteers and FM Lawn Care employees worked for 3 hours to spread mulch, pick up sticks and trash, rake leaves and mow the park. Pictures can be seen on our facebook page.

Thank you to all the volunteers for the continued involvement and commitment to maintain this park. FM Lawn Care donates season long mowing of the park. By the time you read this story the daffodils and tulips should be starting to bloom bringing a smile to everyone passing by the park.

Since the park was created we are seeing more and more neighbors using it. Children playing and climbing on the rock or in the lawn area, adults sitting on benches enjoying the park watching children, having lunch or just going for a walk.



Back Row: (L to R) Michael Freytag,
Rick Bagby, George Brown,
Danny Faulkner, Jim Ihrie, Peter Hopwood,
John Hawk Front Row:
Christine Nesmith, Fred Freytag

A Big Witherbee Buzz Thank You Goes to Larry Frisch!

By Jackie Varicak

The Witherbee Buzz is in transition mode after the retirement of its longtime contributor Larry Frisch. Larry has volunteered hundreds of hours every year to put the newsletter together and he will be greatly missed!

On behalf of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association Board of Directors, current and past, and on behalf of everyone who has enjoyed the Buzz for the past several years, I'd like to say thank you Larry for the fabulous job you have done year after year in bringing us a newsletter that has been second to none in quality, content and readership!

Over the past 10 years Larry Frisch has been the main advertising representative and technical guru. For the past 4 years I have had the privilege of working alongside Larry by determining story topics, writing, collecting stories and editing them with the help of other volunteers. But believe me it has been Larry who has

engineered each Buzz from its conception to delivery, issue after issue, year after year! Larry was always very patient by keeping me on schedule and allowing me a lot of creative leeway! His pioneering of the newsletter that you have become used to each quarter has left a great mark in our neighborhood and for our association. If you have a chance to thank Larry personally for his years of service please do so. If you would like to share your thanks please contact myself or one of our board of directors and any one of us will be happy to give you his contact information or pass along your thanks to him.

We will continue putting our newsletter together to bring you upcoming event information and to share happenings in our neighborhood but please be patient with us as you will see some changes. If you would be interested in contributing to the Buzz in any way let us know.

Again, thank you Larry for all you have done for the Witherbee Buzz newsletter. . . at no charge!!

WNA Calendar

Thursday, May 7 – WNA monthly meeting. 7:00pm. Tabitha LifeQuest conference room, 48th & J Street. Rev. Don Coleman with Mad Dads is the featured speaker.

Saturday, May 9 – WNA Clean Up, 8:00am-Noon. Collection site at 48th & M.

Sunday, May 17 – Stuhr Park Neighborhood Potluck, 6:00pm.

Saturday, May 30 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9:00am-1:00pm. Zoetis: 601 West Cornhusker Hwy

Thursday, June 4 – WNA monthly meeting. 7:00pm. Tabitha LifeQuest conference room, 48th & J Street. Discussion of Stuhr Park survey results & Creating a Park Master Plan.

Sunday, June 14 – Stuhr Park Neighborhood Potluck, 6:00pm

Friday, June 19 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9:00am-1:00pm. Union College: South 52nd & Cooper Ave

Thursday, June 25 – Sunday, June 28; WNA Garage Sales

Saturday, June 27 – Shred Day, 9:00am-11:00am. Liberty First Credit Union; 501 N 46th Street. Each household can shred up to 75 lbs. of paper for free.

Thursday, July 2 – WNA monthly meeting. 7:00pm. Tabitha LifeQuest conference room, 48th & J Street. Planning Summer & Fall Events. Board Meeting.

Witherbee

Buy one, get one FREE 1/2 & 1/2 Combo Meal

**Baked & Deli Sandwiches
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A Tribute to a Witherbee Neighborhood Association Champion

By Kathy Stastny

A wonderful neighbor and former Witherbee Neighborhood Association champion and board member, Tony Marquez, passed away in February. Trust, respect and gratitude are common descriptions for Tony, a quiet man with a big heart who contributed so much to the Witherbee Neighborhood Association. What Tony Marquez said was well thought out and with no extra words, he simply was genuine. He came through for so many people.

Tony touched so many lives in his quiet unassuming way. I happen to know a couple quiet things he did like mowing an elder's lawn and providing clippers to a neighbor when he needed help with projects he could not do. I know his heart was always in the right place and we could all count on him. He was a very thoughtful giver. It is because of Tony that we have the beautiful statue and poem in Witherbee Park. Tony also helped the Bryan Community School at Hawthorne students have their first prom and he provided the bench at Randolph school that

turned into a buddy bench. What an impressive life he lived and how lucky I was to have him living across the street from me.

Tony was also instrumental while serving on the Witherbee Connect committee. He did anything he could to make the Witherbee Connect program work. It is because of Tony that we have the use of the Tabitha gym at a great discount to Witherbee Neighborhood Association members. The gym membership for members who are 55+ was Tony's idea. Tony and I met with Joyce Ebmeier of Tabitha to present the idea and she liked it and because of the relationship it became a reality. The Club 4 gym is a great membership benefit now. Tony had other ideas and hopes for Witherbee Connect as he believed we could build a bond in the neighborhood as well as helping folks out. I treasured his support.

Tony received a well earned award at the 2014 Neighborhood Annual Meeting in November. It represented his many years of devotion to the Witherbee Neighborhood Association and his support. We now have his son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Melissa Marquez, living in our neighborhood because they have moved into Tony's house. Steve and Melissa were able to see Tony receive the award! They now plan to join in our effort to keep Witherbee safe, beautiful and a happy place to live. Steve grew up in our neighborhood and cares about it as much as his father. We are looking forward to spending time with them.

I hope Tony's example of a life well lived will inspire you to join us at our monthly meetings. The Witherbee Neighborhood provides for ways to give of yourself just like Tony did. The more we work together the less work it is. Tony will be missed and never forgotten! Please join us.



Tony Marquez & sculpture designer Emily Broderson at the Witherbee Park dedication, August 26th, 2012

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2014 Winter Holiday Lights Winners

By Sandi Mahoney

Many members of the Witherbee Neighborhood showed their festive spirit during the winter holidays by participating in the annual Holiday Lighting Contest. Neighbors were asked to nominate any yard display, including their own, for consideration of one of the prizes.

After the votes were tabulated, Todd Mitchell at 5041 L Street was the winner of a \$100.00 gift card. Todd has lived in his house since 1995 and has decorated every year since he moved in. The decorating started as a competition with his dad and his brother, but now his motivation has evolved into the joy of seeing the smiles it brings to others. Todd adds to and changes the display every year. He tries to coordinate different sections and colors. His favorite section is the nativity scene where he has a host of angels around and above the nativity itself. He takes pride in people enjoying his lights, but really loves the season and celebrating Christmas!

Second place winner and recipient of a \$50.00 gift card was Mr. Osborn at 4300 Witherbee. It was a delightful display!

Third place and a \$25.00 gift card went to Don & Karen Ammons. The Ammons live at 3924 J Street. Karen tells us, "as a musician and accompanist for the Lincoln Boy's Choir, the vintage choir boys are the centerpiece of our outdoor lights. We take special care to make sure, although small, our display is precise and tasteful."

All three winners were delighted to be recognized and expressed appreciation to the Witherbee Neighborhood Association for sponsoring the annual contest. We want to thank all the neighbors who participated and took the time to vote for their favorites. Our neighborhood is a great place to celebrate the joys of the season and a great place to call home!



Yard of the Month Looking for the Great Landscapes of Witherbee!

By Mike Kreikemeier

A home surrounded by a well kept yard really looks inviting. Witherbee Neighborhood Association will again feature a "Yard of the Month" this summer. If you know a friend or neighbor that does an exceptional job with their lawn and landscaping please nominate them by sending an email with their name and address to yardofthemonth@witherbeena.org or call and leave a voice mail on the Witherbee line at 402-413-0156.



WNA President Rick Bagby presents the Holiday Lights 1st place award to Todd Mitchell.

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Meet New WNA Board Member Christine Nesmith



I have lived in Lincoln my entire life. I have an older sister, a younger brother and a younger sister. I also have a step-brother who lives out of the country with his family. My parents live in Lincoln. In a month or so, I will have 14 nieces & nephews.

I moved into the neighborhood in 1994, and I'm still in the same house, 21 years later. I have made some improvements: a new roof & siding, and I redid my kitchen. There is a lot left to do, but money is always an issue.

I got my Social Work degree at Union College in 1990. I just attended my 25 year college reunion this past weekend and lost my voice from talking too much. I worked at Lincoln Benefit Life/Allstate in the Accounting Department for over 17 years.

I love being an active part of the neighborhood. I try to attend every monthly meeting and participate in most of the neighborhood events. I love knowing and meeting new neighbors. I have previously served on the WNA board and I am glad to be back.

I am considering adopting a small dog in the future. I will be dog-sitting next week to see if I'm ready for a pet. I would appreciate any advice you could give me about dogs.

2015 Stuhr Park Neighborhood Potluck Schedule

By Cheryl Hejl

Come and join your neighbors in Stuhr Park on Sunday evenings. Bring a dish to share (preferably with food in it!). The potluck dinner will start about 6 pm. Iced tea and lemonade will be provided, bring your own table service. Your guests are welcome to join us. If there is rain, we will see you at the next Potluck! Sure hope to see you "in the park".



- May 17th
- June 14th
- * July 4th
- July 26th
- August 16th
- September 13th

*no potluck, meet in the park after dark to share fireworks

Questions or Comments call Cheryl Hejl, 402-489-2557

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Neighborhood Garage Sales Set for June 25th – June 28th

By Sandi Mahoney



Warmer weather is finally here and that means it's time to turn your clutter into cash! The Witherbee Neighborhood Association garage sales event will be from Thursday, June 25th through Sunday,

June 28th. You choose the dates and times you want to participate.

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association will advertise for YOU! Ads will be placed in the Journal-Star newspaper and American Classified. Sales will also be advertised on Craigslist, Facebook groups, the WNA web site and listed on several local event calendars. Signage will be placed in area businesses and churches. You can help by "spreading the word" to co-workers and friends.

FIVE dollars is all it takes to have your garage sale listed! Prior to sale dates, a WNA GARAGE SALE yard sign will be delivered to each participant along with maps indicating all the sales in the WNA area.

The 40th and A Neighborhood Association is sponsoring neighborhood garage sales on the same days. This should draw more people to sales in both neighborhoods.

Please complete the registration form at the bottom of the page. Make your \$5.00 check payable to Witherbee

Neighborhood Association and mail to:

Witherbee Neighborhood Association
PO BOX 5431
Lincoln, NE 68505.

Your registration MUST be received by June 15th.

Please remember that it is illegal to post garage sale signs on light poles or place signs in the right of way.

If you have questions please email Cheryl at chejl380@yahoo.com or contact Sandi at sandimahoney@gmail.com; (402) 570-7029.



Your Neighborhood Store
Located at 33rd & A Street

A STREET MARKET

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Our Sale Ad starts on Wednesdays, and can be found in Local Values section of Journal Star.

We are open 7 days a week, our hours are:
Sunday
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Monday - Saturday
7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

We accept Visa, MC, Discover, and EBT.
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2015 Garage Sale Registration Form

Name _____ Ph. No. _____

Address _____ Email _____

Date of Sale

Thursday, June 25 _____

Friday, June 26 _____

Saturday, June 27 _____

Sunday, June 28 _____

Time of Sale

_____ a.m./p.m. to _____ a.m./p.m.

Please note: EACH INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT DETERMINES THEIR OWN DATES AND TIMES FOR THEIR SALE

Sale items 25 words or less: _____

Membership Update—What If?

By Mike Fitzgerald

Perhaps the more than 100 Witherbee members who responded to the neighborhood membership appeal letter in February by writing a check and sending it in were motivated by pondering this question: “What if?”

If there was an association that constantly worked to protect and improve my neighborhood, would I want it to continue and would I support it? They said, Yes. It’s your neighborhood, will you join your fellow neighbors and also support the neighborhood association?

The flipside of this proposition is equally interesting to consider. How negatively different might your neighborhood look if there wasn’t an association of residents like you who volunteered to attend city meetings, monitor and speak up about development proposals, attend regular neighborhood monthly and board meetings, and work with police to keep your neighborhood safe? What unsightly apartments or rehabs might have been built on your block and throughout the neighborhood? How trashy might properties on your block look if there wasn’t an annual neighborhood-wide cleanup effort to get all the junk collected and hauled away?

Would you want the condition of your neighborhood to deteriorate because you and others chose not to write a small membership check?

You can be a part of the ongoing efforts to keep your neighborhood one of the best in Lincoln by completing the membership form in this newsletter and sending it in with your check. Membership dues for 2015 are good through December. Dues paid at or after the annual membership meeting in November will be good for 2016.

In addition to dues support, more neighbor volunteers are needed. For example, there are five unfilled board seats. In addition, Larry Frisch, long-time key volunteer in producing the quarterly Witherbee Buzz newsletter, has stepped back – so we need help with the newsletter. And there are other needs for help. If you are interested in knowing more or want to help, please contact President Rick Bagby at (402) 488-8567 or email witherbeerick@gmail.com.

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. There are many jobs, large and small, that we could use your help with. Please attend a meeting or participate in an activity. 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

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
- Extra WNA window sticker logo.....\$5.00

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 \$50.00 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

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving on the board | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter writing/photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Witherbee Connect | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter production | <input type="checkbox"/> Bryan/Hawthorne School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distributing newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> Web pages | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Cleanup | <input type="checkbox"/> Acquire meeting speakers | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing garage sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Lights contest | <input type="checkbox"/> Boosting home ownership project | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pool Party & Socials | <input type="checkbox"/> Witherbee Park | _____ |