

CELEBRATE SUMMER IN WITHERBEE NEIGHBORHOOD

Article By Rick Bagby

Swim Dive and Splash at Woods Pool. Have a couple scoops of ice cream while enjoying the company of your neighbors. Ice cream will be served from the plaza just outside the Woods Tennis Center. Kids activities will include sidewalk chalk and small sidewalk games. Lincoln Police Department will be there to meet the neighborhood. Have ice cream with a Cop!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Bowl of ice cream, toppings condiments, and water. Meet your local police officers from LPD. Woods Tennis Center Plaza, 33rd & L. Kids Games. Ice Cream is served 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

FREE SWIM

The pool will be open from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. and is reserved just for our celebration. Dive Pool. Swim. Sprayground. Kidde Pool. Woods Park Pool has plenty of room for all your guests. The spray ground is a great place for toddlers to splash or children of all ages. Swim before or after ice cream.

Come one, come all. Enjoy a wonderful night of activities! Join us and make the 13th annual event the biggest and best ever. It's a great way to meet new neighbors or reconnect and the price can't be beat. A fun free family evening. All neighbors and their guests are welcome regardless of whether they are members of WNA.

Be sure to express your appreciation to these local businesses for their support : Super Saver, Target, Yogurtini, A Street Market, Woods Tennis Center.

No rain date. In the event of bad weather the event will be cancelled.

Friends, Family, Neighbors will meet at Woods Park Tennis Center and Pool for the 13th Annual Witherbee Neighborhood Association FREE SWIM AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL Sunday, August 4th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Woods Pool and Woods Tennis Center, 33rd & J



*Splash with
Witherbee and meet
the members of your
Neighborhood!*

*Woods Pool,
August 4th*



*Reconnect with
neighbors at the
Ice Cream Social,
Woods Tennis Center,
August 4th*



Lincoln High School Class of '74
45th Reunion | Save the Dates
Friday, September 6, 2019 at 7 PM - The Local
Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 6 PM - Rosie's Bar and Grill

SEE INSIDE STORIES:

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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.

www.facebook.com/witherbeena
www.WitherbeeNA.org

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In Memoriam of Past WNA Member

Karen Vogeley Tribute

By Mike Fitzgerald

Karen Margaret Vogeley died on February 22nd; Lincoln lost a wonderful resident, and the Witherbee Neighborhood lost a tireless advocate and protector.

Like many Witherbee residents, Karen came here from elsewhere. She was born on Long Island, NY, in April 1947. She overcame struggles of being a single mother to earn a Psychology degree at Cornell, then an MBA at Syracuse University. She then made a career at Syracuse working up to a position as a database administrator. While there, she got to chatting on an internet (there wasn't THE Internet, yet) with a simple computer operator in exotic Nebraska, in about 1987. After about a year, as her son had graduated with a business degree from Syracuse and was moving to NYC to be a stockbroker, she became so intrigued that she took a train to Nebraska.

Surprised by how charming she found the state, she packed up and moved, leaving behind regular trips to 'The City' where she regularly enjoyed Opera at the Met. Starting as a contract programmer with a company in Omaha, but regularly working in Lincoln, she then worked at Banker's Life/Ameritas, until being hired by University of Nebraska Central Administration, where she worked for 17 years. A year before eligibility for retirement, she became disabled, and for the next six years, enjoyed the services of Tabitha, transitioning from Adult Day Care to assisted living, and for the last two years, in hospice under skilled care. She still regularly enjoyed Opera, particularly Pavarotti, on DVD.

Karen was engaged with WNA nearly from its beginning in March 2003. She stepped forward at the committee level and helped write WNA's bylaws. She became more engaged by becoming a board director in 2005, and in 2007 she accepted treasurer responsibilities. To help the association be as organized, transparent, and efficient as possible, she archived documents on WNA's first computer. In the summer of 2011, after a four-year break from board service, Karen rejoined the board in a mid-term appointment as treasurer, to fill the spot vacated by Shawn Gordon.

WNA past President Rick Bagby fondly recalls Karen's big welcoming smile.

"And Karen was a stalwart of participation in everything Witherbee. In addition to treasurer duties, she helped with our Salt Dogs outing, annual Cleanup, Woods Park mulching,



Continued on page 3



The Witherbee neighborhood association would like to thank the following organizations and households for sponsoring the Buzz newsletter with their membership donation.

Organization Sponsors:

Jacobson Veterinary Clinic, PC
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Stubbs Chiropractic
Tabitha, Inc.

Individual Sponsors:

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Richard Bagby
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Stephen Johnson
Russel & Sherry Miller
Mary Schwab

Karen Vogeley Tribute Continued from page 2

newsletter ad recruitment and distribution, membership recruitment, Holiday Lights Contest judging, Swim Party and Ice Cream Social, flyer distribution, Witherbee Village committee, our downzoning campaign, and keeping Hawthorne Elementary open.”

Current President Kathy Holland credits her involvement to Karen. “Karen called me in the fall of 2007 and asked if I would consider serving on the Board. I had gotten involved with the Hawthorne School issue and began attending meetings sometime in 2007. I was elected to the Board beginning in 2008 and served through 2009. I probably wouldn’t have gotten involved if Karen had not called.”

Karen’s longtime partner Doug Evans said Karen really liked how people from throughout the neighborhood got involved and worked together to try to protect and enhance the neighborhood.

Also, the association discussed the idea of a memorial in Karen’s honor and decided instead to encourage memorials from individuals. On this topic, Doug said, “Karen’s best memorial would be the success of WNA. She enjoyed WNA so much and really was hurt by her illness taking away her ability and desire to be involved.”

In addition to WNA, other causes Karen supported include Médecins Sans Frontières, Plan International USA, Nature Conservancy, and Sierra Club. Doug adds, “I always thought a local action would be more appropriate, if only a membership drive, or some health outreach, or fighting for green space, which she did magnificently when the Woods Park tennis courts wanted to double their footprint.”

WNA past President Fred Freytag said, “Neighborhood residents, long-term or more recent, enjoy a neighborhood that has been protected by the continual work Karen did. This neighborhood would definitely look different -- not in good ways -- if Karen and others she worked with had not stepped forward and committed to helping. I truly think one of the best ways people can acknowledge her service is also to say, “Yes, this is my neighborhood, and I can help protect it too.” She led by example. Other residents doing some of the same -- that would make Karen smile.’



Meet the Newest Exec Board Member

Sherry Miller

Sherry and Russ Miller moved to the corner of 52nd and Lenox Circle on Election Day, November, 1977, with their children, Rebecca and Andrew. Over the years, they’ve come to love the close knit neighborhood, sending the kids to Hawthorne Elementary, Lefler Middle School, and Lincoln High. Sherry has turned their corner lot into a serendipity garden (it grows and it’s green, leave it alone), enjoying the many varieties of plants that have come from garden centers and birds and the wind.



She and Russell have been longtime members of WNA (he has served on the board) and have delivered the Buzz between 56th and 52nd and J and M Streets for several years and they have loved watching how the area has evolved with new families, home improvements and new construction. The Buzz helps keep all these residents connected and aware of the importance of neighbors looking out for one another.

Sherry has recently filled the WNA secretary position previously held by Mascha Miedaner and Sherry is happy to serve in that capacity on the board.

WNA Board would like to thank Mascha Miedaner for stepping up to take the vacant Treasurer position. Together, these 2 ladies make a huge impact on the WNA and our neighborhood community!!

Hooray for Neighborhood Cleanup

by Mike Kreikemeier

Hooray for all of the volunteers that helped make the Witherbee Neighborhood Cleanup a success. Saturday, May 4 was a bright sunny day. Perfect for getting the neighborhood spruced up. Neiderhaus Refuse delivered the roll offs and Goodwill dropped off large containers then the cleanup began. Volunteers helped unload and sort electronics, old mattresses, used tires, old appliances as well as burned out grills and many other items.

Several more volunteers picked up litter in the neighborhood parks, around the schools and in right of ways along major streets. Thanks to these dedicated volunteers the neighborhood streets and parks began the busy season with a lot less litter.

A third group of volunteers made house calls and picked up items from neighbors that were not able to haul their items to the collection site.

As with all Neighborhood projects the cleanup event takes many volunteers. I would like to thank Dan Weslowski, Bryan Hurst & Jay Ridnour for volunteering to co-chair the WNA Cleanup with me as well as all of the neighborhood volunteers that helped with the Cleanup. I would also like to thank our business partners that donated services & supplies: U-Haul Moving and Storage at 48th & Vine; Firestone Complete Auto Care at 66th & Q; Goodwill Industries, F-M Lawn Care and Mid Town Hy-Vee. I would also like to thank Neiderhaus Refuse for supplying the roll-offs and hauling services.

Funding for the neighborhood cleanup is provided by a grant from the Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful.

EAB Treatment at Witherbee Park



As most of you already know an insect called Emerald Ash Borer has invaded Lancaster County to include Lincoln. It attacks all types of Ash trees and will kill them in a few years if not treated. Trees will need to be injected every year or with the proper chemical every two years if you want the tree to continue to live. Trees will start showing decline near the top first and it will work its way down. You will notice excessive sucker growth on infected trees. You can have your trees treated but it must be done by a State Licensed applicator. (See picture of license) The person doing the application must have the license, not just someone in the company you hire.



Just the same as hiring a lawn service. The City of Lincoln also requires the person treating trees to have an Arborist License.

Witherbee Park at 46th and O Street has five large Ash trees. Losing all of them at once, losing all the shade, would change the landscape dramatically. Neighborhood residents have had conversations with the Lincoln Parks Department on how to gradually change that over the next 10 to 15 years. Treatment options and replacing trees have been talked about. Witherbee is looking to help fund treatments and work with the City and FM Lawn Care who has adopted the park and has provided care and maintenance of Witherbee Park for several years now.

The City of Lincoln will start treating selected Ash trees next year as long as funding will allow it. On May 23rd the Forestry staff had a training session and onsite demonstration at Witherbee Park and treated the three Ash trees around the playground area. These three trees will need a treatment again in two years. The other two large Ash trees on the north side will need to be treated also at some point if we want to save them for a while. We will monitor the health of the trees in the years to come.

The City of Lincoln has an inventory of all public Ash trees and now developed a “ADOPT-AN –ASH PROGRAM.” You can adopt an Ash tree and hire a licensed applicator to treat a tree in the city right of way that is in front of your own property. You must first submit a no fee application and be approved by the city to do so. If you choose to spend the money on treating a tree in the right of way and it is not registered with the city they may schedule it for removal anyway. For more details and the application go to: trees.lincoln.ne.gov

If you are interested in knowing more or like to help with Witherbee Park please contact Fred Freytag at 402-430-6658 or email Fred@witherbeena.org

Meet Your Council Members at the September Monthly Meeting

NE District 1 City of Lincoln Council Member, James Michael Bowers and two other Council members will be at the Witherbee Neighborhood General Meeting on September 5th. They will update us about what has been happening on the City Council; plans that might affect the Witherbee Neighborhood; and discuss your concerns.

Witherbee Neighborhood Association Monthly meetings are held in the Tabitha LifeQuest Center at 4720 Randolph St. at 7 pm. Please enter through the main entrance off of Randolph. The public is welcome and refreshments will be served.

Walk the “Middle Third” with Ed Zimmer

Ed Zimmer, Historic Preservation Planner, will share his knowledge about the Witherbee Neighborhood on a walk on Sunday, September 8th (rain date Sept 15th). Meet at Witherbee Park (South 46th St. south of O St.) On-street parking is available. Please observe the “No Parking” signs. The walk will begin at 2 pm and last about 90 minutes. We will explore the “Middle Third” of the Witherbee Neighborhood which is bounded by 40th, 48th, O and Randolph Streets. Ed will discuss the land development patterns and current buildings in this portion of Witherbee, including Witherbee Blvd. itself, and touch on some of the earlier uses of the area. Additionally, learn about the original site of Hawthorne School, Tabitha’s origins and growth, and both typical and atypical houses of this area.

Remember to bring some water; wear a hat; and don’t forget the sunscreen. All are welcome.



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MAY & JUNE PROGRAMS

POLLINATORS and PARKS

The WNA May and June Programs shared information about our city's Parks and Rec's department and how to grow and the importance of, pollinator gardens. Both evenings proved to be entertaining, educational and enjoyable!!

MAY: How to Start a Pollinator Garden

The WNA crowd at the May 2 meeting gathered around Gary Bell, Master Gardener, as he demonstrated starting plants from seed, planting seedlings, and an amazing library of information on pollinator gardens. He helped us understand the crisis in our world with the decreasing numbers of pollinators, which includes bees and butterflies. We understood the process to become a Master Gardener and were amazed at the amount of information available to us. Thanks to Gary, WNA residents will be considering maintaining less turf and planting pollinator gardens in our neighborhood.

JUNE: A Huge Variety of Summer Programs Offered by Lincoln Parks and Recreation

Melissa Lindeman from Lincoln Parks and Rec shared the incredible variety of summer programs available to Lincoln residents at the Witherbee Neighborhood Association meeting on June 6.

FREE Water Fitness classes in city swimming pools has enjoyed a major increase in attendance.

There are opportunities to play in the parks, participate in a wellness series and to enjoy parties in the parks. Did you know a large inventory of sports equipment is available that can be checked out for a minimal price, even Bingo? You will enjoy free movies at Antelope Park, Art in the Garden at the Sunken Gardens and the highlight of the summer, Uncle Sam Jam on July 3 at Oak Lake Park. Please give back to all the community has to offer by volunteering with any of the wonderful programs at Lincoln Parks and Recreation.

You can enjoy all that your city Parks and Recreation Department offers for free or a minimal charge. Their main office is close to the Witherbee area at 3131 O Street. Go to www.Lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks for more information or call 402-441-7847.



AUGUST PROGRAM SPEAKER

EMERALD ASH TREE is focus of the August 1st WNA Program

Many homeowners have heard warnings about the tiny green insect that kills ash trees. Emerald ash borer, or EAB, has killed millions of ash trees in 35 states, mostly in the eastern U.S. The EAB was first found in Lincoln last fall in a trap on the western side of town. The first infested tree was found in mid-April just blocks away from the Witherbee neighborhood, at 3700 F St. We know that once EAB is discovered in a community most of the ash trees die within 10 years. Ash trees can be found scattered throughout the Witherbee neighborhood. Many are street trees, but many others are growing on private property. Also, several mature ash trees provide shade and beauty to Witherbee and Stuhr Parks.

Trees that have died from EAB are extremely brittle and pose a hazard, dropping limbs on people, buildings and cars. They are also quite dangerous to remove so pre-emptive removal of living ash trees is strongly encouraged. There will likely be a high demand for tree removals when large numbers of ash trees begin dying, increasing the cost of tree removal and increasing the likelihood of homeowners being approached by "fly-by-night" tree companies that may not have proper insurance, licensing, or training. Some homeowners with high-value trees in good condition may want to explore treatment options. It will be important for homeowners to know whether their tree is a good candidate for treatment, as well as the pros and cons of treating for EAB.

David Olson, Forest Health Specialist with the Nebraska Forest Service, will be our speaker at our August 1st meeting. Come hear the latest information about EAB from a local expert!



Another Successful Year for Witherbee Garage Sales



For the past several years, the Witherbee Neighborhood Association has organized a neighborhood-wide garage sales weekend in early June. This year's sales were held June 13-16 and thankfully the weather cooperated! Many cars and shoppers were observed at the sales that spanned the entire neighborhood! This year 29 homes in the Witherbee neighborhood registered their sales with the WNA. John Dzerk, a Witherbee resident on H street who had a garage sale this year remarked, "We just had tremendous success with our sale!"

Part of the success of the sales is the advertising that goes into them. Each household chooses their own sale days/times in order to best work with their personal schedule. Then, for only \$5, registered sales benefit from a multitude of advertising efforts. An ad about

the neighborhood sales is placed in the Lincoln Journal Star and on many online event calendars.

In addition, all sales information is compiled into a master list with a map that gives shoppers the addresses, days/times of each sale, and description of sale items. This list and map is posted on our WNA website, Facebook page, Craigslist, and is emailed out to our membership mailing list to drive traffic to the WNA sales.

Households also receive a yellow yard sign to display in their yard during their sales. These signs are also placed on the perimeter of the neighborhood to entice people down our Witherbee streets to the sales. The yard signs were purchased several years ago and we are fortunate that neighbors who have hosted sales have taken care of them. We have only "lost" a couple of signs over the past several years! Volunteers from the garage sale committee hand-deliver these signs to registered sales, and pick them up at the end of the weekend to be used again next year.

Speaking of volunteers, the women who served on the garage sale committee this year deserve a note of thanks. Kari Gentzler served as chair and had a lot of assistance from Sandi Mahoney, Cheryl Neafus, Christine Nesmith, and Cheryl Wesolowski. We very much appreciate the time and effort they dedicated. These WNA-sponsored events are a benefit to our community but they only run smoothly when people are willing to get involved and help out. If you or -someone you know- would be interested in helping plan the 2019 WNA garage sales weekend, please email witherbeena@gmail.com or write to us at PO Box 5431, Lincoln, NE 68505. If you'd like to have a sale during the 2020 Witherbee neighborhood sales, watch for the registration form in the Spring 2020 issue of the Buzz newsletter, which comes out next April.



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Calvary Cemetery - A Historical Landmark for Witherbee

By The Timmerman Girls

Where can you find a place of history, reflection and personal connection, wrapped up in one Witherbee Neighborhood site? On 40th Street between O and L Streets, Calvary Cemetery has it all!

Imagine mid-nineteenth century Nebraska and you will find an undercurrent of change: an ocean of prairie grass being tamed by homesteaders amid nations of Native Americans navigating this evolving landscape of population. The Midwest territories were making states of themselves and Nebraska would be among them. On March 1st of 1867 Nebraska joined the Union. Two years later, President Ulysses S. Grant signed a land patent of ten acres, granting ownership to Albert Estebrooke. That same year, on December 19th, Michael Shea was the first to be buried on that land which would eventually become our own Calvary Cemetery. This year will mark the 150th anniversary of that first burial.

While Calvary is no longer a prairie land, the landscape has been untouched by the usual development of city bustle. It remains a unique place of reflection. A quiet walk on any section of the grounds will produce much fodder for thought. From "The Infant of Prague Area" (bordered by a white picket fence) cradling the very youngest we have lost to the beautiful sculpture of the Crucifixion, Calvary calls the mind to think, the heart to connect. One may be moved by the stained glass Finigan Windows in the St. Charbel Chapel or the gorgeous statue of Rachel Weeping for Her Children, but the most poignant image is the cemetery itself. It is a landscape of graves, a consecrated expanse of stories: some cherished; some unknown; many forgotten. Each grave holds its own history and lessons of life. While we cannot know the individual details of each,, reading a headstone can be a wonderful point of wonder and reflection.

Beyond reflection, there are several ways to become personally involved in this Witherbee treasure. Calvary kicks off spring with an invitation to volunteers to help plant flowers the last Saturday of April. In May they welcome the public to their annual outdoor Memorial Day Mass. Twice a year (April and October) they host a pregnancy and infant loss remembrance day. In November they have their annual All Souls Day Mass. The year is crowned in December with their Advent Remembrance Tree Blessing and Lighting Ceremony. In addition to the onsite events, the cemetery is hosting the Gravedigger's Golf Tournament on August 19th this year at Firethorn Golf Club as a fundraiser to help beautify the grounds and establish a fund for families with burial assistance needs.

The Catholic Diocese of Lincoln owns and maintains the grounds and all are welcome to visit the cemetery and enjoy a little peace and reflection. Gates are open to the public between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m



Support our Troops Care Packages

Spirit of America is taking donations to deliver a care package for Nebraska's men and women deployed overseas. **Please drop off donations at 325 N 52nd St.** Thank you for supporting our Military!

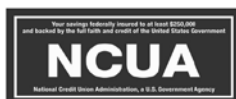
"Heroes Into Homes" is a non-profit Veteran assistance organization, helping homeless Veterans into homes. Spirit of America is collecting canned items for their pantry. Please drop off your donations in the Credit Union lobby. Thank you for supporting our Vets!



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Yard of the Month in Witherbee

The May Yard of the Month sign went to the Miller home at 52nd and Lenox Streets. Russ and Sherry Miller have occupied the large corner lot since 1977, and many changes have taken place on that corner over the years. A mature honey locust shades the front yard and huge Scotch pine trees balance the north side. A variety of perennials have been planted over the years and gardens are always a work in progress, including recently a pollinator patch. A



Little Free Library along the sidewalk invites pedestrians to stop, sit on a nearby bench and browse and admire the bronze statue of a little girl lifting up a bird. The Millers say she represents Hope. Sherry likes to provide little surprises around every corner of the lot, just for fun.

The June Yard of the Month was awarded to Bert and Karolene Smith who have lived at 3415 M Street for almost 54 years, moving in on their wedding night!! They raised their two children here, who now visit often with four grandchildren. Their neighbors the Thorntons nominated them for Yard of the Month. Pedestrians passing by note the large river birch and huge evergreen in their front yard. The spruce is decorated with large colored balls for

the holidays.

The Smiths love the friendly neighborhood and the diversity of families with newborns, young professionals and retirees. Here they live in the middle of everything from shopping to recreation. Old street trees provide a cooling haven when cars turn off "O" Street. The Smiths' favored living base is their backyard. A huge volunteer pin oak provides shade on the brick patio they built themselves. Tables, chairs, and benches made by Bert provide lounging and dining furniture.



The back yard has lots of little nooks and crannies with old discarded items used for planters and fencing. Many perennials blend with annuals for continuous seasonal color. Standouts are the tri-colored beech tree with pink and green leaves most of the summer. Several Albansia Blazing Star bushes are mounds of feather like stems with blue flowers in the spring and a blaze of gold in the fall.

Plentiful milkweed plants attract butterflies, along with a water feature for birds. There have even been a turkey or two visiting. The Smiths continue working on their back yard haven, striving to maintain beauty and charm but with less maintenance.



Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association presents

12th Annual

**Witherbee Pool Party
and Ice Cream Social**

FREE!

FREE!

Sunday, August 4th

Woods Pool and Plaza Area

Pool Time 6:00 to 7:30 • Ice Cream 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Woods Tennis will provide court time, rackets and balls.

All Witherbee residents and their guests welcome at this free event.

WNA Membership is not required.

