



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 16 No. 1 Newsletter

Winter 2019

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

WITHERBEE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 7TH

LINCOLN BIKE PLAN is the topic of the February Meeting.

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association will hold their February General Meeting on Thursday, February 7th, 2019 at 7pm. The speaker for the meeting will be Kellee Van Bruggen, Transportation Planner for the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department. She will speak about the proposed Lincoln Bike Plan and its' significance to the residents of the Witherbee Neighborhood. Come with your questions and comments.

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

WNA March Meeting Emergency Management

Witherbee Neighbors, IS YOUR HOME AND FAMILY READY FOR AN EMERGENCY???

Family Disaster Preparedness Kit: Available at the Witherbee Neighborhood Meeting, March 7, 2019

On Thursday, March 7, Jim Davidsaver, Emergency Management Director for Lincoln/Lancaster County will present the many ways you can protect yourself, your family, and your home from any emergency. When disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act, so NOW is the time to prepare. Have a family plan, practice your plan to make sure all family members know what to do. Be aware of the resources in Lincoln-Lancaster County.

BE INFORMED. MAKE A PLAN. GET A KIT.

2018 Annual Meeting Celebration

November 8th was a day of celebration and reflection for the members and volunteers of Witherbee Neighborhood Association. The event was held in the Johnson Center at the Tabitha Rehabilitation Facility, where neighbors, board members and friends gathered to enjoy food, conversation and fun. Witherbee's own Doris Weins entertained everyone with stories that made us laugh, songs that had us tapping our feet and reflections that had us appreciate the neighborhood we live in.



It was an evening of remembering the many contributions of those who came together this past year to make WNA possible and celebrating the amazing neighborhood we call home!!



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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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President's Message

Hello - Welcome to 2019!

We are Kathy Holland and Nancy Shelley, the new Co-Presidents of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association. Kathy is a retired dietitian from CHI Health St. Elizabeth and has lived in Witherbee since 1983. She loves the trees and the green spaces of our established neighborhoods and appreciates her helpful and longtime neighbors. Nancy Shelley is the retired Office Administrator

for Brooks, Pansing Brooks Law Firm and has lived in Witherbee since 1977. She really loves exploring her neighborhoods in the spring and summer and enjoys the neighborly feel of her walks in Witherbee.

Along with other WNA board members, we have been busy planning for an interesting and educational lineup of speakers for 2019. We are looking forward to programs for the coming year that include the Lincoln Bike Plan, Emergency Preparedness, the Sunken Gardens, Lincoln Children's Zoo and its recent renovations, and Backyard Farmer to name a few. We welcome your input regarding these programs and other ideas you may have. Feel free to e-mail either one of us at our e-mail addresses listed on the inside page of the Buzz or call and leave a message at 402-413-0156.

We are excited to let all of you know we have five new Board members this year!! You may recall in our last Buzz we wrote to ask for new Board members and these five neighbors have answered the call! Check out 2 of their bio's in this issue, with the other 3 to follow in the Spring Buzz.

There is a membership form on the back page of this newsletter. We encourage you to complete this, whether a new member or a renewing member. Be sure to fill out your areas of interest and we will be in touch with you. The WNA is a totally volunteer organization. We need your ideas and your input to keep WNA a strong organization!

*Sincerely, Kathy and Nancy
Co-Presidents*



WNA Board Member Bios

Mike Kreikemeier:

Hello, I am Mike Kreikemeier and I am happy to be back on the Witherbee Neighborhood board. I have lived in the neighborhood for over 25 years. It is a great place to live and raise a family. I have been involved with WNA for several years serving as vice-president in 2012 and president the following year. I have helped organize the Neighborhood Cleanup starting in Spring of 2012.

I believe serving on the WNA is a great way to stay involved and work to make our neighborhood a better place. I am excited that there are 12 neighborhood enthusiasts elected to the WNA board this year. I look forward to the year ahead and hope you are able to lend a hand, get involved and meet your neighbors!



Tim Duey:

Last Sunday, my two-year-old daughter Hope went sledding for the first time at the Hill near 40th and D street on Randolph school grounds. The fresh snow and mild temperature made the setting perfect for the endeavor, and we were joined by many like-minded children and families as we built memories that will last a lifetime just a few blocks from home.



The Witherbee Neighborhood is chock full of little gems like the sledding hill by Randolph school, which is why I chose to move here and why I chose to raise my child here. Now, granted, Randolph school is just outside of the boundaries of our neighborhood, as is Woods Park, but with so many great places to go to school, worship and play located in or very near to Witherbee, our neighborhood is really a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

Of course a great community like ours doesn't happen on accident. It needs people who pay attention, who help each other, and who work together to keep the neighborhood vibrant and beautiful. That's why I chose to serve on the board of the neighborhood association, and it's why if you have any time or talent to give, you should get involved too.

As for me, along with Hope and my beautiful wife Suteeve, I plan on doing what I can to pitch in. Between working at the legislature as a senatorial staffer, the endless rounds of repairs and around the house projects that come with being a first time home owner and the various other community oriented activities I try to participate in, I can get a little stretched for time. But, getting involved in the community is worth it. We have such a great neighborhood and I really want to work to keep it that way and help it become even better. I hope you'll come out and join me some time at one of Witherbee's many community events, which you can find here: <http://www.witherbeena.org/calendar/calendar.htm>. Thanks so much for taking the time to get to know me and my family a little better.



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Pothole? Click, click, pothole gone!

By Rick Bagby

Dodging potholes is a Midwest winter staple. Repairing them while they are small is quicker and ultimately cheaper for us all.

Several years ago while driving I hit a large pothole at about 41st and O, which resulted in over \$200 in damage!! The city was able to dodge responsibility because there was no ‘fix-it’ report on file. After paying that bill, I resolved to report potholes when I saw them so my neighbors wouldn’t have to share my pain.

The pothole hotline phone number was burned into my memory! Even though the number is still available (402) 441-7646, there is an even easier and faster way to report local area potholes! Lincoln now has an app for your phone and it can be used to report non-emergency, quality-of-life issues, within the city limits. These can include streetlight problems, downed tree limbs, graffiti, POTHOLEs, city park issues and MANY more! There is also an option to upload a photo of the problem with each service request.

The city’s UpLNK app is FREE and easy to use! Simply search for UpLNK under your ‘App Store’ tab on your smartphone and install!! You will be able to drop a pin at your current location if that is the problem site or specify an address. Repairs are reliably done quickly after an issue is submitted. I’ve reported numerous potholes and each time they are pretty much always filled within two or three days of the arrival of dry weather.

UpLNK is also available on the city’s website at <https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/uplnk/>

By using these amazing resources, we can all help WNA be a safer and happier neighborhood to drive, walk and live in!



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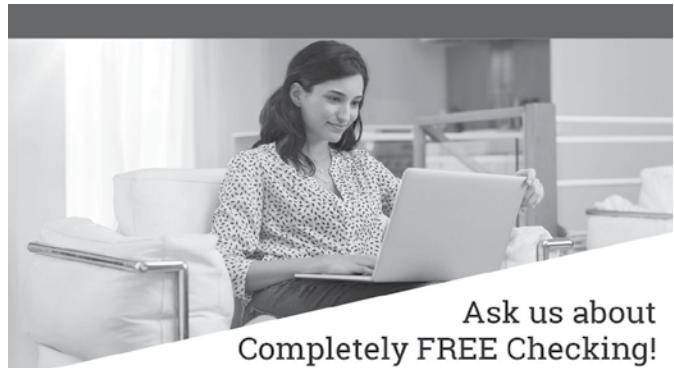
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New WNA Board Members

Board members in the photo (left to right):

Front row left to right - Sherry Miller, Kathy Statsny, Mascha Miedaner, Nacy Shelley, Lisa McNeil

Back row left to right - Kathy Holland, Tim Duey, Jay Ridenour, Mike Kreikemeier

The BIG EVENT is Coming! Mark April 6th on your calendar and get signed up!

The Big Event team is excited to announce that over 3,000 UNL students, faculty and staff volunteered last year and it looks to be an even bigger turn out this year. The mission of the Big Event is to simply say ‘Thank You!’ to the residents of Lincoln by upholding the University’s core value of service. This event gives students the opportunity to show their appreciation to the community they call home while they are at college. Everyone is eligible for assistance regardless of their income or abilities.

This year it will be held during the morning of Saturday, April 6th. The event is entirely student run and funded by donations from the community. It was started at Texas A&M in 1982, adopted by UNL in 2006 and continues to be an excellent opportunity for students and community members alike. Questions may be sent to bigevent.unl@gmail.com. To fill out an individual household application or application for a specific community organization, go to the bigevent.unl.edu website and click “request volunteers” tab.

The volunteers can assist with many small jobs around your home and/or community organization. These include small paint jobs, yard work, hauling trash, window cleaning and other miscellaneous tasks. For safety concerns, the volunteers cannot use ladders or power tools! Please do not ask them to break the rules!

We hope many of our Witherbee neighbors will take the opportunity to spruce up their homes and yards with help from the volunteers. It's a Win, Win for all!! If you have a neighbor who might benefit from this service, please consider offering to help them with the sign up. A huge ‘thank you’ to The Big Event planning committee, volunteers and sponsors.

If you have any questions, please call your WNA boardmember, Lisa McNeil at (402) 499-8279.

**The coordinators of the event ask that we share the following statement: “While we do our best to allocate our resources to serve the community, The Big Event cannot guarantee all requests will be met.”*



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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2018 Yard of the Month

The beautiful yards described in the article below won the 2018 WNA August and September yards of the month. Unfortunately, we ran out of space in our fall newsletter but are happy to share in their beauty during this cold and snowy season! Perhaps they will inspire you to pull out your seed magazines or start planning that new flower bed you've always wanted. It's never too early to get spring fever!!

AUGUST YARD OF THE MONTH - Anikta Ducey

The August yard of the month belongs to Anita Ducey at 3815 J Street, where she has lived for the past 17 years. Her son Liam enjoys an easy ride to Lincoln High and she enjoys living in a central location with easy access to shopping, entertainment, and work. Family live close by and the neighbors are friendly. It's a neighborhood of walkers, many of whom appreciate Anita's front yard landscape. One of those neighbors nominated Anita for the honor of Yard of the Month.

Perennial potentilla hugs the base of her bungalow's front porch, accented with colorful pots of lantana, black-eyed susans, and nasturtiums. Little garden ornaments are tucked in, on and around the porch for extra enjoyment. Her long drive is lined with hostas, just beginning to achieve their peak when the picture was taken.

A highlight of the landscape is a rock path cutting through the parking between the sidewalk and curb. The path is adorned with multi-colored succulents and shaded by a tiger eye sumac, now turning a glorious red in autumn. A red bud tree flanks the other side of the path.

Anita plans to live on J Street for many more years, enjoying all the advantages of its location and the friendliness of the neighborhood.



SEPTEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH - Robert & Jean Klone

Robert and Jean Klone moved into the red house at 401 South 53rd Street on October 1, 2015, and set about making significant improvements to both house and lot immediately. Built in 1926, the house had been a rental property for 26 years and needed a lot of TLC. They have refurbished the interior from ceiling to floor, added a deck and pergola, and this summer indulged a long held desire to landscape the big double lot.

They chose to break up the big lot with smaller planting areas, incorporating perennials, such as roses and mums, small trees/shrubs, and huge rocks. A butterfly garden is in progress on the south side of the lot, getting lots of sunshine. Cannas line the west boundary of the lot and provide some privacy from the street on the north. A metal gazebo occupies the southwest corner, and realistic looking (and moving) geese prowl the center of the yard. Gazing balls, glass ornaments and small statues round out the fun.

They love the central location and the friendly neighborhood, feeling welcome right away upon move in. I met Jean and Robert while on a walk and was drawn to their old cream separator decorating their driveway, which sparked a conversation and then friendship. Their residence was selected for Yard of the Month to show my own appreciation for making our part of WNA more beautiful.



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WNA HOLIDAY LIGHTS were Spectacular!!

The displays were amazing, the themes were diverse and the weather cooperated for the three teams of judges who traveled every street and enjoyed our Witherbee neighbors' holiday lights. Thank you to all who lit up the sky and shared the joy of the season with your neighbors. Gift Certificates for the winners in the four categories were delivered on Christmas Day. Please consider nominating your own efforts or any one else in the neighborhood during the 2019 holiday season. We look forward to having YOU join in the fun next year!!



Winners in the four categories for 2018 were:

- 1) Traditional/Simple Elegance: 3425 N Street**
- 2) Lincoln Electric System Superior Customer Award (most lights): 640 S 52nd Street**
- 3) Visions of Sugar Plums Award (kid favorite): 650 S 55th Street**
- 4) Reason for the Season Award: 375 S 56th Street**



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KAP Photography*



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Join Us in Making a Difference in 2019!

Since the Witherbee Neighborhood Association (WNA) was organized in 2003, 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 send in your membership (or sign up or renew online at www.witherbeena.org/membership).

Your membership dues help support the production of our newsletter, help with the cost of hosting our annual neighborhood pool party/ice cream social and other activities. But more importantly, we need your input and your ideas. If you are interested in



knowing more or want to help, please contact Nancy Shelley at 402-802-8401, email: nshelley67@gmail.com or Kathy Holland at 402-483-6397, email: rh30222@windstream.net .

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, within the organization. Please attend a meeting or participate in an activity! You do not need to be a member to participate. Come check us out!

And finally, one of the best reasons to participate in WNA – it is a great way to meet nice and interesting people – from across the street, down the block and throughout your neighborhood.



Become a new member or renew your membership today!

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St.: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: email phone text _____

Membership Categories:

- Household\$20.00
- Senior Household (55+)\$15.00
- Sponsor (listed in Buzz newsletter).....\$50.00
- Business (listed in Buzz newsletter).....\$50.00

Contributions: Donations to WNA of \$50.00 or more will receive a tax deductible receipt.

Please complete this form, indicate your area of interest below and mail along with your payment to: WNA Treasurer, P.O. Box 5431, Lincoln, NE 68505.

You may also now pay your dues online at www.witherbeena.org.

- Newsletter Production (writing or photo or layout)
- Distribute Newsletters
- Membership Committee
- Neighborhood Clean-up
- Witherbee Proud
- Garage Sales
- Pool Party/Ice Cream Social (or other social event)
- Yard of the Month

- Holiday Lights Contest
- Witherbee Connect
- Government Liaison Committee

If you don't see something you are interested in here, please tell us your ideas and suggestions.
