



# The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 18 No. 4 Newsletter

Fall 2021

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

## WNA Annual Meeting Celebrates Achievements

Please plan to attend the WNA annual meeting on Thursday, November 4th at 6:30 pm. The informal meeting will be held at Lefler Middle School, 1100 S. 48th Street. Last year the meeting was held virtually due to the pandemic. This year the meeting will be in person. All DHMs in effect for November will be followed.

The meeting will include a review of WNA projects over the last year with recognition of key players that keep things moving for WNA. Come visit with your neighbors and enjoy a slice of pizza as you discuss issues that are important for the Witherbee neighborhood. There is no cost for this event and you do not need to be a member of WNA to attend.

The short business portion of the meeting will include election of WNA board members and officers. All dues paying WNA members may vote. The evening will wrap up with the return of the WNA Bingo Game-Pandemic Edition! The annual meeting is a great chance to learn more about WNA and how you can turn a small investment of your time and talent into a big difference for your neighborhood.

## It's Time for a Reset! Join us December 2nd at 7:00pm

WNA Neighbors, Please understand that your participation in the organization that advocates for the great folks who live near you is the basic form of government. We need input from you at our December meeting! Help us RESET!

WNA committees have been involved for 18 years with organizing our annual Clean-up, Garage Sales, Pool Party and Holiday Lights contest. Most important but least visible is our monthly attendance at the Mayor's Round Table, where Lincoln's neighborhood leaders gather at the Mayor's office to discuss all sorts of issues.

WNA is similar to most neighborhood organizations in that a core group of people serve as leaders to carry out the work of the organization. We need your voice and ideas for what you would like to see continue and your ideas for how we move into the future. And, we need volunteers! There are opportunities that require small and larger time commitments. Please say YES to giving yourself and your neighbors some of your time and LOVE. Plan to attend our December meeting to join the conversation. Location to be announced. Please check our Facebook page for updates.



**SEE INSIDE STORIES:**  
Woods Tennis Center Expansion - page 3  
Crime Watch - page 5  
Tabitha Building Project - page 7

### WNA Calendar of Events

Nov. 4th:	WNA Monthly Meeting; Lefler Middle School, 1100 S. 48th St.; 6:30pm
Dec. 2nd:	WNA Monthly Meeting; Location TBA; 7:00pm
Dec. 10-12:	Holiday Lighting Contest Judging
Jan. 6th:	WNA Monthly Meeting; Location TBA; 7:00pm

## About Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association

### Boundaries:

33rd to 56th & 'O' to Randolph

### Meetings:

7:00 p.m. first Thursday of each  
month. Check our Facebook page or  
website for meeting location.

[www.facebook.com/witherbeena](http://www.facebook.com/witherbeena)  
[www.WitherbeeNA.org](http://www.WitherbeeNA.org)

### Mailing Address:

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

### Executive Board:

**Kathy Holland, President**  
402-310-9153  
[rh30222@windstream.net](mailto:rh30222@windstream.net)

**Mike Kreikemeier, Vice President**  
402-802-7865  
[mbk@windstream.net](mailto:mbk@windstream.net)

**Sherry Miller, Secretary**  
[kitty66hawk@aol.com](mailto:kitty66hawk@aol.com)

**Mary Schwab, Interim Treasurer**  
402-440-4131  
[maryschwab3510@gmail.com](mailto:maryschwab3510@gmail.com)

### Additional Board Members:

**Jay Ridenour**  
402-613-3232  
[jridemc@hotmail.com](mailto:jridemc@hotmail.com)

**Rick Bagby**  
402-488-8567  
[witherbeerick@gmail.com](mailto:witherbeerick@gmail.com)

**Christine Nesmith**  
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[jeepn68@gmail.com](mailto:jeepn68@gmail.com)

**Mary Rowan**  
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**Tim Duey**  
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**Ryan Patrick**  
609-571-2942  
[ryan.s.pat@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.s.pat@gmail.com)

**Julie Flodman**  
402-805-9902  
[jsiffring@yahoo.com](mailto:jsiffring@yahoo.com)

**Dawn Bevans**  
[paisleydragon@gmail.com](mailto:paisleydragon@gmail.com)

## President's Message



As I look back over the past year and a half, it is with a sense of pride that with help from many members of WNA we have continued to meet regularly (monthly) and have continued nearly all our events in some fashion. Please join us as we celebrate at our Annual Meeting November 4th!

Nearly all organizations are challenged to find and retain volunteers. WNA is no different. However we are fortunate to have a variety of volunteers who routinely help with a specific activity, like helping at the annual clean-up or our garage sale event, or delivering the newsletter. What I am getting at here is that volunteering for WNA can be a small time commitment. Or if you really want to get involved, there are plenty of ways to do that too. We need individuals who are interested in City government, who are writers, organizers, bookkeepers, who are skilled in technology. The list goes on.... Are you irritated by traffic noise—buzzing motorcycles, the screeching of tires, cars with mufflers that do anything but muffle? The City needs to hear from us. Do you think putting on a July 4th parade in our neighborhood sounds fun? Collectively we can do a lot, at least more than one individual can do alone. Your community needs your voice and your talents. As we continue on a path to a return to normalcy (COVID-wise) consider volunteering in some way for your community, your neighborhood. And, if you have raised your hand by checking a box on your membership form and you haven't heard from us, please reach out to a current board member, leave us a message through Facebook, email or call us.

You will notice this edition of the newsletter provides an update on Tabitha's proposed apartment building at 48th & L. A group of about ten who attended our August meeting formed a work group to explore the proposal in more detail. A majority of that group were individuals or couples who lived within a block or two of the proposed building. The others were individuals who had worked with the City on projects like this before. Whether you support the official position approved by the WNA Board or not, consider attending the City Council meeting in November to voice your opinion. Or, provide your comments in writing. If you have any questions about this, please send me an email or give me a call.

With gratitude,  
*Kathy Holland,*  
2021 President

*Thank you to the following individuals & businesses who support the activities of the  
Witherbee Neighborhood Association with their sponsorship donations.*

### Organization Sponsors:

- Calvary Cemetary
- Jacobson Veterinary Clinic, PC
- Redeemer Lutheran Church
- FM Lawn Care

### Individual Sponsors:

- Rick Bagby
- Carolyn Barber
- Jim Ihrie
- Mary Schwab
- Mary Jo & Rick Shibata
- John Dzerk
- Fred Freytag
- James & Mary Solomos

# Woods Tennis Center Expansion in the Early Phase of Planning

Kevin Heim, Executive Director of the Woods Park Tennis Center, was our speaker at the September meeting and shared very preliminary information about proposed expansion of the facility. Kevin emphasized that this is just the beginning of the conversation as planning is in the very early phase.

Why is further renovation needed? Kevin shared that programs within the facility have continued to grow in numbers. While there were 26 children & youth involved in programming in 2008, that number has grown to 300 kids enrolled on-site and 1200 citywide. "Taking the game to the community" was the theme of the fundraising that led to the first phase of renovation and could not be more true. Kevin and his team offer tennis lessons at all of the City Rec Centers, all of the Community Learning Centers and nearly anywhere there is gym space, a parking lot or a playground where the game can be played. Prior to the pandemic they offered lessons at a variety of locations and to a variety of groups including the Malone Center, Boys & Girls Club, Lighthouse, El Centro, the Asian Center and the Salvation Army.

Programs for adults have also grown. There is always a wait list for individual lessons, adult and junior group lessons. The outdoor courts are used by all six public and two private high schools and the Center hosts tournaments for high schools and colleges from the entire state. State tennis meets are held at Woods. With the addition of two more Lincoln high schools the need for courts will continue to increase.

Over the past five years Lincoln has lost several tennis courts while participation and demand continues to grow. The number of indoor courts available to the public has dropped from 16 to 10 courts and the community has lost 22 outdoor courts. Tennis courts have been reduced or eliminated at UNL-City

Campus and East Campus as well as at Nebraska Tennis Center that was located at Abbott Sports Complex.

Phase 2 includes the previously approved increase of indoor courts at Woods Tennis Center from 6 to 10 and includes a new proposal for outdoor courts from 12 to 15. The need for increased parking is also in discussion. Currently the parking area is shared by Woods Pool, the Tennis Center and the park.

Of note, the Woods Tennis Center is a non-profit operation that does not receive operating funding from the city. The non-profit has been self-sustaining since 2010. Each year the Friends of Woods Tennis hosts their annual Turkey Pro-Am Fundraiser. The funding raised from this event has provided over 3,500 free racquets to youth who could not afford their own and first time players and over \$250,000 in need-based scholarships for adults and juniors since 2008.

Kevin fielded many questions and provided a diagram of the proposed expansion. WNA expects to have on-going conversations with Kevin about this project. Stay-tuned for more information as the proposal is formalized.



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# Yard of the Month

## August

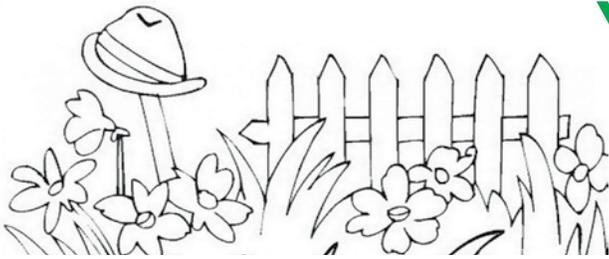
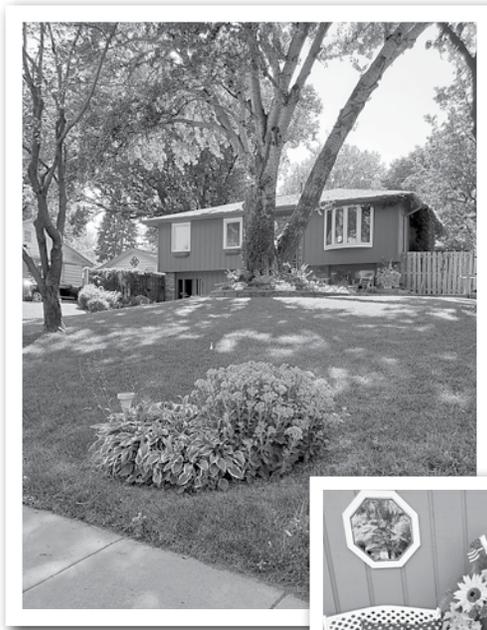
August Yard of the Month sign has been planted in **Renee Miller's** yard. Her home at **453 South 53rd** is a delight to the passerby with its multiple flower beds and bright seasonal arrangement at the foot of the steps that lead up to her split level front door.

Renee has lived at the address for 39 years and operated her cleaning business Let's Talk Dirt for more than 40 years. Her house was built by Karl Witt who went on to develop a large portion of the Belmont neighborhood with his signature split level house design. The huge white river ash tree has graced its location for more than 100 years and provides lovely shade.

Renee appreciates her neighbors, saying it's a good dog neighborhood. Her cat Franklin loves to welcome visitors.

Renee's yard and flower beds host at least 45 varieties of hostas, along with clematis, orange blossoms, and coreopsis. Autumn Joy sedum, miniature white roses and lamium snuggle up to huge sparkly boulders along the driveway. Renee is equally proud of her back yard with its huge asparagus ferns on the deck.

Recommendations for a Yard of the Month home can be emailed to [yardofthemonth@witherbeena.org](mailto:yardofthemonth@witherbeena.org). Please plan to honor a deserving neighbor when Yard of the Month resumes in the spring!



## July

**Linda and Acie Bettinger** have lived at **4410 Randolph** for 15 years, their third home in the Witherbee Neighborhood Area. They like living in the center of town in their 100 year old plus home that sits atop the lot. The sloping lawn has been converted to the "Slope garden" over the years, after the whole family, including three daughters, found it too difficult to mow. The girls attended Lefler Middle School and Lincoln High School. Linda retired from Southeast Community College where she taught for 36 years. Acie retired from UN-L.

The eye-catching Slope Garden features perennials suitable for a sunny area, including blue Speedwell, lamb's ears, roses, Autumn Joy sedum, perennial geranium, salvia,

lillies, penstemon, stella d'oro, tickseed, gallardia, and coreopsis. Ornaments made of old china add fun accents.



Working with Neighbors



**BENNIE SHOBE**  
LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL

Building Community

# Witherbee Crime Watch Team

By Julie Flodman

Would you like to see improvements in both personal and residential safety in the Witherbee neighborhood?

With the help of the LPD Crime Prevention Officer, Jason Hellmuth, and caring neighbors, I want us to come together and make our neighborhood safer by rejuvenating the Crime Watch Team.

I contacted the Lincoln Police Department Crime Prevention Unit to re-ignite this cause and agreed to serve our neighborhood as the Crime Watch Team Coordinator. Which means: I will be the "connecting point liaison" to the LPD, our Witherbee Crime Watch Team and our neighborhood. I will provide the LPD with a current list of team members and their addresses. I will also coordinate efforts to help the team and our neighbors learn about safety and crime prevention. The Witherbee Crime Watch Team will help neighbors by being the eyes and ears for the LPD and neighbors, while watching and/or reporting on suspicious activities or concerns for neighbors. The LPD offers neighborhoods classes and/or information about crime prevention and safety. It's that simple = If we can learn how & why, if we can learn new methods of crime prevention while working alongside the LPD, we will improve our ability to watch-out for one another. Then we can eliminate one of the biggest elements needed for crime events... "Opportunity."

Would you like to volunteer? Would you like to attend a meeting to learn more about the Crime Watch Team or about specific safety interests? I would like to set up a meeting for the group (Covid Safe) to learn more about Personal Safety, Internet Fraud, Internet Safety, Senior Safety.... Please message me about your interests, let me know if you are willing to volunteer to serve Witherbee neighbors on the Crime Watch Team and I will contact LPD Officer Hellmuth to set a date for additional information.



You can get to know a little about Officer Hellmuth, the LPD Officer who will support our neighborhood effort, on KLN TV, weekly on channel 8 mid-afternoon.

If you have been a Neighborhood Watch Block Coordinator, please reach out to me. I realize that there may some of you who have been doing this for years. The Witherbee neighborhood has not had a Team Coordinator in the past so this will be a new way to keep us organized.

Currently we have 11 team members serving the Witherbee Crime Watch Team. But we need more people. It would be awesome if we could get a Crime Watch Team Member on every block of the Witherbee neighborhood! If you are interested, I hope you will take a few minutes and complete the form or contact me. Consider this thought; the more neighbors we have involved in neighborhood crime prevention & safety, the stronger, more knowledgeable, Witherbee neighbors will be, to safely protect and look out for each-other

If you are interested in helping, please complete the form and return it to me at the address listed. You can also contact me at: [jsiffing@yahoo.com](mailto:jsiffing@yahoo.com).

Thank you for your time.

THANK YOU for caring!

Dear Neighbor,  
We are starting a new Neighborhood Watch Group in Witherbee. If you are interested in participating or volunteering to support this team, please return this sheet to me with your name, address, email address and phone number on the lines provided below.

Let's improve our neighborhood by strengthening communication & Looking-Out for One Another.

Sincerely Your Coordinator,

Julie Flodman  
Address: 3401 L St.  
Email: [jsiffing@yahoo.com](mailto:jsiffing@yahoo.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Method of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests or concerns you would like to share: \_\_\_\_\_



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# Lincoln Goodwill Announces 9th Annual Neighborhood Challenge Winners

## Witherbee Neighborhood Association takes 3rd Place

Contributed by Alana Sesow, Lincoln Goodwill

Lincoln Goodwill celebrated the 2021 garage sale season by hosting their biggest Neighborhood Challenge yet. With 17 participating associations, Goodwill collected a total of 32,656 pounds of donations!

Every year, Goodwill's Neighborhood Challenge gives Lincoln associations the opportunity to donate their gently used items after garage sales or clean up events. The top three associations win a cash prize to help fund a neighborhood project of their choice.

The Highlands Neighborhood Association took first place this year, donating 4,569 pounds of gently used items after their annual garage sales. Southwood and Witherbee placed second and third, respectively. Southwood Neighborhood donated a total of 3,387 pounds while Witherbee was not far behind at 3,135 pounds. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner, WNA received a check from Goodwill for \$150.00.

Bryan Hurst coordinated the Goodwill dropoff site at our annual clean up in May. Julie Flodman coordinated the donations to Goodwill after our annual garage sale event in June.

Other participating neighborhoods included Briarhurst West, Bicentennial Estates, Wellington Greens, Forest Lake Estates, Stone Bridge Creek, Eastridge, North Hills,

College View, Williamsburg, Wilderness Hills, Vintage Heights, Tierra, Near South and ECCO.

Thanks to the generosity of all of the Neighborhood Challenge donors, Goodwill can continue to connect local job seekers of all abilities and backgrounds to employment opportunities. The sales from Goodwill's retail stores help fund free employment services in the community, like Goodwill's Job Connection Center and other local nonprofits that support their mission.

Goodwill's 10th Annual Neighborhood Challenge registration will open in February 2022. eighbors donated a total of 3,387 pounds.



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### Helping Our Community - Those Who Serve

## Troops Thanksgiving Care Package



Spirit of America FCU is asking for donations to deliver a care package for Nebraska's men and women deployed overseas.

**Please drop off donations by  
November 19, at the Credit Union.  
Thank you for supporting our Troops!**



Visit our website:  
[Spiritofamericafcu.org](http://Spiritofamericafcu.org)  
for a list of requested items.

Please bring donations to:  
325 N 52 St, Lincoln NE

## "Heroes Into Homes"



**Now Collecting Pantry Items**

"Heroes Into Homes" is a non-profit Veteran assistance organization, helping homeless Veterans into housing.

**Please drop off donations by November 30  
in the Credit Union lobby.**

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# Update on Tabitha's Proposed Apartment Building Project at 48th & L Street

WNA members have had several meetings regarding Tabitha's proposed development of the InterGenerational (InterGen) Living Community with Tabitha leaders as well as individuals from the City Planning Department and Traffic Engineering. The 130 unit commercial-scale apartment community is planned for the corner of 48<sup>th</sup> and L Streets.

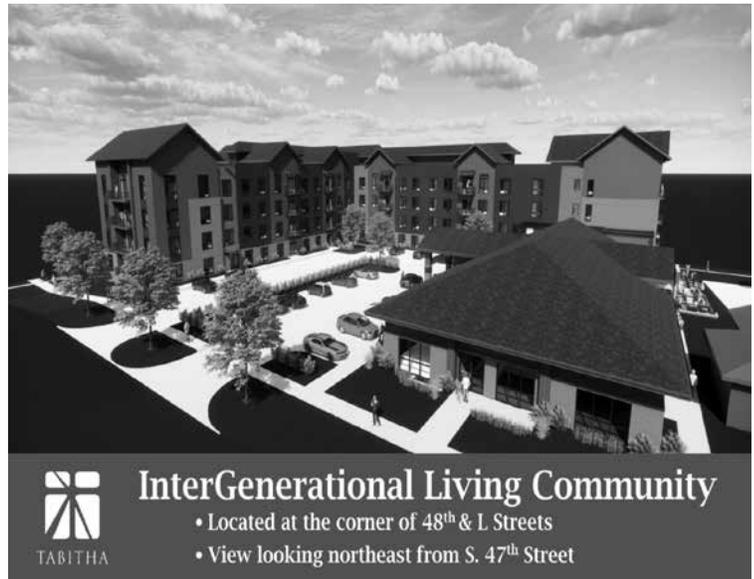
This living community will be moderately-priced housing with some underground parking that would bring together independent seniors (65 +) and Bryan College of Health Sciences students. As part of the funding for this project, an area between 46<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> streets, L St to A St has been declared a blighted area.

At a regularly scheduled WNA meeting October 7<sup>th</sup>, those present approved the position statement submitted by the committee which recommended that we oppose this project. Excerpts from the position statement are below.

*The proposed project is the first commercial scale high density residential development within the Witherbee Neighborhood. We take interest in the scale, design, and fit with Witherbee Neighborhood and the impact on public infrastructure. We are concerned about the possible precedent that could be set. Witherbee is a residential neighborhood of 1800 residences, single family and duplex homes with only 12 multiplex buildings the largest of which is 12 apartments.*

*The proposed project is a 130-unit commercial scale apartment complex set in R-2 zoning. Even with the recent generous expansion of limits for building within R-2, the project as proposed exceeds the expanded standard for height and density while asking for further erosion of the standards for setback and required parking.*

*The proposed project presents a 'campus friendly' design expanding the existing Tabitha campus. The project fits into the campus by placing parking and a two story community room building on the campus facing sides (south, west). The project's neighborhood facing sides (north, east) are 5-story vertical walls with no transition to the single family homes across the street. The 65-ft height waiver requested covers these walls that*



*form the neighborhood facing sides of the project along L Street and 48<sup>th</sup> Street. The project design places the building beyond the buildable boundaries on 48<sup>th</sup> and on L with setback reduction requests. The only 'transition zone' to the surrounding residential neighborhood consists of public streets.*

*While we appreciate Tabitha's design elements to construct a building with an outward appearance more friendly to the neighborhood, we object to the overall size and placement of the building. Tabitha has been a good neighbor and we believe the intentions of this project are worthy, specifically offering affordable housing for the moderate income senior market.*

*However the size of the project and the increase in population density must certainly be considered when evaluating whether the infrastructure in the redevelopment area can support the project. WNA is not anti-growth. WNA is for appropriate scaled development. WNA supported the Tabitha Green Houses on 47<sup>th</sup> St because they were of an appropriate scale and character for the neighborhood. The position of the WNA is that the proposed building is too large to be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. Also, until we are assured that supportive infrastructure, such as the water, sewage systems, traffic, and transportation will be evaluated and addressed, we cannot support this project.*

The proposed development is on the Planning Commission agenda October 13<sup>th</sup> and we anticipate it will then move on to the City Council for review in November.

If questions or concerns about WNA's position, please share them by sending an email to [witherbeena@gmail.com](mailto:witherbeena@gmail.com) or by calling 402-413-0156.

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# Holiday Lighting Contest 2021



At the time this article is being written, the Witherbee neighborhood is enjoying many days filled with sunshine and cool nights. The leaves are just starting to show off their fall colors. It's difficult to imagine scooping snow instead of mowing grass but we all know the white stuff is coming! Instead of dreading winter, let's focus on all the wonderful holiday fun that goes along with the season!! So get ready to break out those icicle lights, wreaths, inflatables, manger scenes, Santa's angels, snowmen and whatever else puts you in the Holiday spirit!

Witherbee Neighborhood Association is once again sponsoring a holiday lighting contest with recognition and prizes for the following categories!!

- Traditional/Simple Elegance Award
- Lincoln Electric System Superior Customer Award (most lights)
- Visions of Sugar Plums Award (kid favorite)
- Reason for the Season Award

Judging will occur during the second weekend in December (10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>) and winners will be notified the following week. We will be posting the winners on our Facebook page so that everyone can enjoy them before they get taken down.

We NEED Nominations so call our Witherbee line at 402-413-0156 or email us at [witherbeena@gmail.com](mailto:witherbeena@gmail.com). You may nominate a favorite home in the Witherbee neighborhood or your own home. (Don't be shy!)

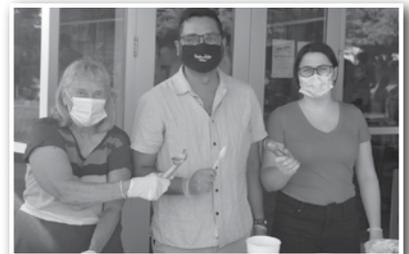
## Back in the Swim Party and Ice Cream Social

During the week of August 8-14, 237 Witherbee residents were once again Back in the Swim with a free swim coupon that they found in the summer edition of the BUZZ newsletter. These coupons were paid for by Witherbee Neighborhood Association and this year's cost was \$533.25.

The Ice Cream Social on Friday, August 13, at the Woods Tennis Center Plaza was well attended and neighbors truly appreciated that City Council members Jane Raybould, Sandra Washington and Tom Beckius were present to discuss everything from our city's issues to the weather. Ice cream and all the supplies for this neighborhood event were donated by Hy-Vee, Super Saver and A St Market. Please help us thank the managers of these stores for their support of our neighborhood. There is an opportunity for YOU to become involved in your neighborhood by volunteering to join the fun in organizing the event next year. Hope to see you at the party in 2022!



*Maddie is ready to return her dad's serve!*



*Ice cream scoopers extraordinaire!!*



*Lincoln Police Officer Dittman visits with the Arteaga family.*



*Neighborhood children enjoy the ice cream!!*



*Ice Cream Social Lead Organizer Mary Schwab, Christine Nesmith and Julie Floodman at the check-in table.*