



# The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 18 No. 3 Newsletter

Summer 2021

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

## WNA Calendar of Events

- Aug. 5th: Monthly Meeting, Presentation by Tabitha regarding Intergenerational Living Community proposed to be built at 47<sup>th</sup> & L; Tabitha LifeQuest Conference Room, 7 pm
- April 8-14: Free swim, with coupon in this newsletter, at Woods Pool
- Aug. 13th: Ice Cream Social, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Woods Tennis Center Plaza (33<sup>rd</sup> & J St)
- Sept. 2nd: Monthly Meeting, Presentation by Kevin Heim, Woods Tennis Center Executive Director regarding proposed Phase 2 renovation/improvements; Woods Tennis Center Plaza (33<sup>rd</sup> & J St)
- Sept. 26th: Streets Alive! event, South Salt Creek/Cooper Park neighborhood, 1:00 – 4:30
- Oct. 7th: Monthly Meeting, Meet your City Council Representatives; details & location to be announced
- Nov. 4th: WNA Annual Meeting; details to be announced

## Tabitha's Proposed Apartment Building at 47th & L St. --Topic of August Meeting--

Please join us August 5<sup>th</sup> for our monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about Tabitha's Intergenerational living community. Joyce Ebmeier, Sr. Vice President, Strategic Planning, will provide an update on this project and be available to answer our questions. This living community, an apartment building with 127 units, will be a home for Seniors (65+) and health science students affiliated with Bryan College of Health Sciences. Current plans call for a four story building with primarily underground parking for 120 vehicles. The building will be erected between 47<sup>th</sup> & 48<sup>th</sup> Streets along L St. The main entrance will be off of 47<sup>th</sup> St. As a part of the funding for this project, Tabitha will be seeking a blighted designation for a corridor beginning at L St and continuing south to A St, primarily covering an area between 46<sup>th</sup> – 48<sup>th</sup> Streets.

We have heard from you and know many of you have questions about this project, including the meaning and implications of the blighted designation.

The meeting will be held at Tabitha, 4720 Randolph St, LifeQuest Conference Room. Please enter through the South Main Entrance – off of Randolph St. As a Senior Health Care provider, Tabitha continues COVID-19 precautions. As you enter the building, you will be asked to complete a brief screening, to include answering a few questions and the recording of body temperature. Tabitha staff will greet you and assist with this process. Masks will be available and are required as you walk to and from the LifeQuest Conference Room. Currently, those vaccinated may remove their mask once seated in the conference room. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about meeting logistics or about the project. You may contact any Board member for more information or reach out to one of the officers by emailing: [witherbeena@gmail.com](mailto:witherbeena@gmail.com).



SEE INSIDE STORIES:  
June Meeting - page 3  
Yard of the Month - page 4  
Ice Cream Social & Pool Party - page 8

## 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:

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## NeighborLNK

[Lincoln.ne.gov](http://Lincoln.ne.gov) (keyword: NeighborLNK)

**NeighborLNK** connects qualified, authorized volunteers with homebound seniors (age 60 and over) and persons with disabilities who seek additional support as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

### Volunteers will provide services:

- without entering your home
- free of charge to participants (and volunteers)

### Services include:

- Grocery pickup and delivery (must be prepaid)
- Pickup and delivery of library books (must be prearranged)
- Errands, such as food and medication delivery
- Video/phone calls for companionship and check-ins

**To volunteer or to request assistance, contact Aging Partners  
NeighborLNK at 402-441-7575 or [NeighborLNK@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:NeighborLNK@lincoln.ne.gov).**



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

### Organization Sponsors:

- Calvary Cemetery
- 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



## Neighborhood Watch Topic of June Meeting

For our June meeting, Officer Jason Hellmuth spoke to our group. Officer Hellmuth has been with the Lincoln Police Department for 21 years and is currently the Neighborhood Watch team leader. During his presentation, he emphasized good relations with neighbors as the best way to have safer neighborhoods. By building trust between neighbors, this allows for neighbors watching out for neighbors' homes during absences to help cut down on crime. A stronger community is the result. There are currently 424 neighborhood watch groups in Lincoln. There is a need for coordinators whose primary job is to distribute emails from LPD to neighbors keeping them abreast of current happenings. Statistics show a 16% decrease in crime when the neighborhood has an active neighborhood watch presence.

Other ways of helping lower crime were discussed, including making sure that doors to houses remain locked, including the screen door, when leaving the house open; keeping your garage door closed and locked when you are away from it; and keeping vehicle doors locked and keys removed from the ignition when away from the vehicle. These are all easy ways to stop items from being stolen from your property.

Officer Hellmuth shared crimemapping.com with us, which shows the recent crimes committed in your neighborhood. You can sign up to have an email sent to you when new crimes occur.

Officer Hellmuth also shared that LPD is currently

looking for recruits. There is no age cutoff, so you can apply to join the force at any age! Recruitment for the July class has ended with three hiring sessions completed. The hiring cycle lasts six to nine months. New recruits receive 22 weeks of in classroom training and five and a half months of field training.

Want to get to know your local law enforcement better? National Night Out is August 3rd. Everyone is encouraged to turn on their porch lights and spend the evening outdoors getting to know their neighbors and law enforcement personnel. Additionally, programs like "Pop with a Cop" and "Coffee with a Cop" should be returning soon. Officers are also able and willing to show up at block parties, if requested.

For more information, Officer Hellmuth can be reached at 402-441-6514.



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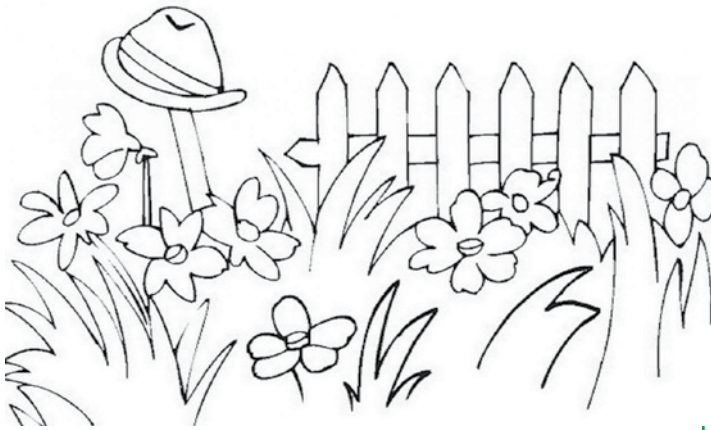
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# Yard of the Month

## June



## May

**Phillip and Kristin Skorupa moved to 3303 Woods Avenue** when they decided to downsize. They had always liked the Woods Park East area and fell in love with the attractive one and half story residence built in 1940.

Since moving in late last year, they have made many improvements to the corner lot, especially a welcoming patio on the east side of the house. From there they enjoy the view of Woods Park across 33rd Street as the seasons change. Like many residents of Witherbee Neighborhood Association, they appreciate living in a central location, with quick access to schools, shopping, and recreation. As we visited, children from next door delivered May Day goodies!



## Historic Woods Park Perimeter Tour

Ed Zimmer, Lincoln Historian will share his knowledge about Woods Park and the perimeter surrounding the park, Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> with residents of Witherbee and Woods Park neighborhoods. The tour, jointly sponsored by Witherbee and Woods Park Neighborhood Associations will begin at 2:00 pm and last about 90 minutes. We will meet at the parking lot just south of the City/County Health Department building at 3131 O St. Preliminary plans suggest we will head west on N St to 30<sup>th</sup> St, then south to J St where we will head east. As we walk to 33<sup>rd</sup> St, Ed will talk about historical homes on 30<sup>th</sup>, Marshall, 31<sup>st</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup> and Elmwood streets. Buildings and homes along 33<sup>rd</sup> St will be pointed out to include Redeemer Lutheran Church and Parkview. The tour will conclude as we head west on the sidewalk through the north end of Woods Park to mention the sculptures, The Mug, and Lincoln Clinic. So, put on your walking shoes and join us October 10<sup>th</sup>!

## Streets Alive! Festival

Streets Alive! is a FREE community festival that promotes active living and healthy nutrition in a fun and interactive way. Weather and community health circumstances permitting, Streets Alive! 2021 is scheduled to be outdoors on Sunday, September 26 in the South Salt Creek/Cooper Park neighborhood from 1pm to 4:30pm. Streets Alive! provides an opportunity for Lincolniters of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to access free and useful information including 100's of diverse exhibitors that provide a wide variety health, wellness, fitness, support, and care resources in a fun and engaging way. Streets Alive! is a child, dog, and wheelchair friendly event. We hope to see you there!



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## Woods Tennis Center Expansion Topic of September Meeting

Kevin Heim, Executive Director of the Woods Tennis Center will present plans for further renovations as a part of Phase 2 of the Woods Tennis Center improvements at our September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Kevin began working at Woods in 2008 as the Head Pro. In 2009 he added the position of General Manager and in 2010 was named Executive Director. Under his direction, Woods Tennis Center has expanded its wheelchair, club and USTA leagues, partnered with Lincoln Parks & Rec to bring tennis lessons to City Rec Centers and Community Learning Centers, and significantly increased its junior tournament participation. Heim helped lead the "Taking the Game to the Community" capital campaign raising \$6.6 million that allowed for the replacement of the aging bubbles with a new permanent 6 court indoor structure and upgrade of the outdoor plaza and courts. Since the completion of Phase 1 of the project, Kevin has continued to attend WNA meetings to keep us up to date on the happenings at Woods Tennis Center. Visions for Phase 2 of the project are now beginning to be presented to the public. The Phase 2 plan, as approved previously by WNA, is under review for revisions and updates to be responsive to current conditions and community needs. Kevin will review the Phase 2 plan as it was previously approved and present the proposed revisions and expansions of Phase 2 which includes additional indoor and outdoor courts.

Plan to attend our September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting at 7:00 p.m. We will meet outside on the Woods Tennis Center plaza. Should weather conditions dictate, we will move our meeting inside the Tennis Center.



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# Neighborhood Cleanup Returns to Springtime

By Mike Kreikemeier

The Neighborhood Cleanup returned to its Springtime schedule after a shuffle to the fall last year due to the pandemic. Saturday, May 1 was wonderful weather for sprucing up the neighborhood. Volunteers helped unload and sort electronics, old mattresses, used tires, old appliances as well as burned out grills and many other items. Over 70 used tires were collected this year! Three tons of garbage were safely disposed of. A large roll-off of metal and appliances were recycled and many items were collected for Goodwill and Habitat For Humanity's Restore.

Thanks to dedicated litter pickup volunteers the neighborhood streets and parks look great after a long winter. When it comes to litter everyone can do their part. It's easy, don't litter! Your cups & trash belong in the garbage can, not on the sidewalk or street.

While several picked up litter another group of volunteers made house calls and picked up items from neighbors that were not able to haul their items to the collection site.

The Witherbee Neighborhood cleanup has been going strong for 18 years. It is a great neighborhood project that not only cleans up the neighborhood it also brings neighbors together for a common goal; To make Witherbee an even better place to live!

The Cleanup is a big project and big projects require many volunteers. I would like to thank Dan Weslowski, Bryan Hurst, & Jay Ridnour for volunteering to co-chair

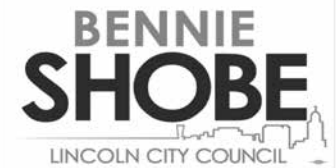
the WNA Cleanup with me and stepping up when I was not able to be there on cleanup day. I would also like to thank our business partners that donated services & supplies: U-Haul Moving and Storage at 48th & Vine; Firestone Complete Auto Care at 66th & Q; Goodwill Industries, F-M Lawn Care, Restore, and Mid Town Hy-Vee for providing coffee and donuts to deserving volunteers.

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

## Working with Neighbors



## Building Community



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# 2021 Annual Witherbee Garage Sales Event a Success!

By Julie Flodman

Confined to our own living spaces due to the pandemic for what seemed like forever, 33 of our neighbors turned no longer needed items into someone else's treasure at the Annual Witherbee Neighborhood Garage Sale event. Thank YOU to everyone involved for supporting the WNA and participating in our event by registering your residence!

Those participating set their own hours and listed items they wanted advertised. Those who registered were given a copy of all WNA garage sales to pass on to their attendees. Garage sale attendees were appreciative of the listing for not just the information that was shared but also found the listing to be a useful tool for searching and saving time. This listing also allowed attendees to view either on Facebook, Nextdoor or the Witherbee website a neighborhood map correlated by number to each registered location on that listing.

Registered homes were also supported by several advertising mechanisms provided to them through the efforts of the WNA and the team of volunteers: A Lincoln Journal ad was placed, Thank you Rachel the ad, the logo, the color, perfect! Advertisements for the event were staged through Craig's List, Facebook, Lincoln Consign-Sale, Nextdoor, Lincoln Garage Sales + 6 other links, KFOR, KLKN, plus additional City portals and our Website (witherbeena.org). Flyers were posted in surrounding neighborhood businesses as allowed and the new, larger, Witherbee Neighborhood Garage Sale Signs marked the perimeter of our neighborhood. All Witherbee neighborhood registered residents received a WNA Garage Sale sign hand delivered and retrieved by volunteers. This was a HUGE effort to get as many attendees to our event as we could in three days.

While day 1 was very hot & humid, attendance was continuous at most residences open that day. Then Friday the rains came. For some registrants, continuing in the rain just wouldn't happen, so their sales were on hold until Saturday or until the rain stopped. About mid-afternoon Friday the rain did stop and garage sale attendees marched back into our neighborhood. By Saturday afternoon most of our garage sales had concluded. Those participating in the Goodwill Challenge had their items picked by Goodwill. A BIG Thank you

to Alana Sesow, our Goodwill Challenge liaison, for coordinating those pick-ups. Your help was amazing and your announcement about the WNA Garage Sales event on your Facebook page was appreciated!

As the Witherbee Garage Sale Chair, I would like to especially THANK our amazing Team/Volunteers for all their hard work and dedication to our neighborhood. Not only to the garage sale event, but also for their willingness to be a part of what makes Witherbee a great neighborhood to live in. THANK YOU:

Cheryl Wesolowski	Mary Schwab
Christine Nesmith	Cheryl Neafus
Jay Ridenour	Rick Bagby
Fred Freytag	

Their contribution and support to the event is greatly appreciated!

Thank YOU to all those friends (YOU know who YOU are) who helped me, in so many ways, as I tried to coordinate this event and trek through uncharted territory. Your support and help was so valuable to me.

I would also like to thank Goldenrod Printing Co. for their effort to cost effectively produce the additional signs needed to mark the perimeters of our neighborhood!

If you have suggestions to improve this event or are interested in helping plan/volunteer for next year's event or any of the upcoming WNA events, please contact a WNA Board Member or email us at witherbeena@gmail.com. You may also message us on the Witherbee Facebook page, Nextdoor or through witherbeena.org. We would appreciate your input and/or help.





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# Ice Cream Social & Pool Party 2021

Enjoy a dish of ice cream with extra toppings and visit with your neighbors at the WNA Ice Cream Social on Friday, August 13th. The party begins at 6:30pm at the Woods Park Tennis Plaza. A welcome addition this year is the involvement of Community Learning Centers. CLC staff will be hosting games for the younger set on the lawn south of the tennis center. The outdoor tennis courts will also be open for a fun game of tennis. Rackets & balls will be available in the Tennis Center.

We hope the weather cooperates and provides a pleasant evening for socializing outdoors with your neighbors because there is no rain date! Check the WNA Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/WitherbeeNA](http://www.facebook.com/WitherbeeNA)) for the latest updates.



The pool party runs all week with the return of a FREE swim coupon! You & your family can cool off in the Woods Park pool using the coupons found in this issue of The Buzz. The coupons provide free admission for any swimmers during the week of August 8th - 14th; Admission for any additional swimmers over the age of 2 is \$4.00 for 3-17 yrs, \$5.25 for 18-61 yrs & \$4.75 for 62+ yrs. Please present the original coupon (no duplicates) to the Woods Pool staff for admission. Woods Pool is open daily for public swimming from 1:00 - 6:00 pm. The special Family Swim night is on Friday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm.

Thank you to local businesses for donating the ice cream and supplies for the event. Thank you to the Woods Tennis Center for providing equipment and courts. Thank you to Woods Pool staff and Lincoln Parks & Rec for the swim coupon program. And of course, thanks to all of the WNA volunteers that make this event possible.

The COVID-19 risk in Lincoln is low but the virus is still in the community. As with all WNA events since the start of the pandemic, the WNA board will monitor the health threat and post updates to the web site and Facebook pages if plans are changed due to the pandemic.



## Woods Pool FREE Swim

Offer Valid Aug. 8 - Aug. 14, 2021. Valid at Woods Pool only. Please present this coupon upon admission. Limit one free swim per coupon. Altering, duplicating, selling or transferring this coupon will void the offer.

Compliments of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association!



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