



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 19 No. 3 Newsletter

Summer 2022

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

Annual Neighborhood Party Returns!

FREE Pool Party & Ice Cream Social Sunday Aug. 7th at Woods Park

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association, along with Redeemer Lutheran Church, co-host, invite you, your family and friends to a free swim and free ice cream at Woods Park Pool and Woods Tennis Center Plaza Sunday, August 7th. To make it a true neighborhood event, we have invited our neighbors from the Woods Park Neighborhood Association to join us. The pool has been reserved for just us from 6 – 7:30 pm.

If you don't plan to swim, join us on the Tennis Center plaza where we will serve ice cream from 6 – 8:00 pm. There will be music, door prizes and games for young and old, including a Nebraska favorite, Corn Hole. Stay for 20 minutes or all two hours! This will be a great time to visit with your neighbors, new and old. We have invited our City Council representatives and other city officials for a meet and greet.

Please consider bringing a food or personal care item for the Little Free Pantries in Witherbee and Woods Park neighborhoods. There will be a table set up where you can leave your donations and learn more about the Little Free Pantries in Lincoln. **See a list of most needed items on page 5 of this newsletter.**

We would like to thank those making this event possible: Redeemer Lutheran Church and Pastor Rod for reserving the pool and helping plan this event, to the Woods Tennis Center for letting us use their plaza area (and freezers to store ice cream!) and to these local businesses for providing ice cream and toppings, bottled water as well as paper goods: HyVee, Super Saver, A St. Market and Yogurtini.

Bring your friends & family. You do not need to be a member of WNA to attend this FREE event. See you Sunday August 7th!!



Last year's Ice Cream Social

WNA Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| August 4 | 7:00 pm, WNA Monthly Meeting, Woods Park Picnic Shelter off of Rogers Memorial Drive |
| August 7 | 6 – 8:00 pm, Annual Ice Cream Social & Pool Party – Woods Tennis Center Plaza & Woods Park Pool; Co-hosted by Redeemer Lutheran Church; Woods Park Neighborhood Association invited as our guests.
Swim 6 – 7:30,
Ice Cream Social 6 – 8:00 pm.
This is a FREE Event. |
| August 18 | 5:30 – 6:30 pm, James Michael Bowers, City Council Representative for District 1, Monthly Citizens' Meeting; Anderson Public Library, 3635 Touzalin Avenue |
| September 1 | 7:00 pm, WNA Monthly Meeting, Location to be announced |
| October 6 | 7:00 pm, WNA Monthly Meeting, Location to be announced |

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
www.WitherbeeNA.org

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402-413-0156

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President's Message

Greetings!

As I write this it is July 4th weekend. No reminder necessary that we are at the peak of summer as we experience the return of hot temperatures and high humidity. Got to love Nebraska!

Briefly, I would like to report on a couple of upcoming activities and WNA Board issues.

First, our Annual Pool Party/Ice Cream Social is set for Sunday, August 7th. This is the first time since 2019 that we have been able to reserve Woods Pool for our neighborhood pool party and we are excited! We are grateful to Redeemer Lutheran Church, just across from Woods Pool, for co-hosting this event this year! We are so excited that we decided to open up the party to our western neighbors, the Woods Park Neighborhood Association. There is plenty of room in the pool and we will have plenty of ice cream on hand. Please circle this date on your calendar as we are planning some extra activities this year! Watch for additional announcements regarding this event on our Facebook page. Also, please go to our website and sign-up to be on our mailing list.

And, second, we will form a nominating committee in August to nominate candidates for our board and officers. Our election will occur at our annual meeting in November. If you've been thinking about getting involved in the WNA, this is the perfect time to step up. Contact any board member or myself if you have questions and to volunteer. Serving on the board is a great way to meet others within the Witherbee neighborhood and to learn more about neighborhood and city issues.

We had 22 homes participate in the Witherbee Garage Sales event this year. Although still a good number, this was not as many compared to the number who have participated the past five years (30-35). If you have suggestions about when we schedule and how this event is run, please let Julie Flodman or a Board member know.

The traffic problem on O Street came into the spotlight after the horrific accident that occurred at the intersection at 52nd & O on May 29th. There were a half dozen WNA members (that we were aware of) who attended the Northeast Citizen's Meeting hosted by City Councilman James Michael Bowers June 16th. As a neighborhood that lies on the O Street corridor, Witherbee neighbors were among the individuals who voiced their concerns about dangerous driving behaviors and vehicle noise. City officials have indicated to WNA that they plan to continue the conversation about this issue and come up with solutions to improve the quality of life for those of us who live here. Stay tuned for more opportunities to take part in finding solutions.

Have a great summer!

Kathy Holland
WNA President

**Join us at WitherbeeNA.org
or on Facebook
for more information**



Dr. Jeff Jacobson's Veterinary Clinic – "thoughtful patient service"

by Mary Schwab

Dr. Jacobson's full-service clinic is one with a small town feel, with a friendly low-pressure veterinarian. The manager, Tricia, has been assisting for 20 years. The surgery, X-ray and resident areas are immaculately clean, and customers can expect an atmosphere where they are not over-scheduled. He will give your pet the time it deserves.

When asked for advice for new pet owners, Dr. Jacobson suggested that you research the breed so you know what to expect. Be ready for unexpected costs, and provide early training.

Dr. Jacobson grew up in Norfolk, NE and is a 1988 graduate of Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He has practiced small animal medicine and surgery in Lincoln since 1988. In September 2001, he and his wife, Pam, opened their own small animal clinic, the Jacobson Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Jacobson and Pam have a daughter, Jessica and a son, Sims as well as a few terriers and a cat!

You can contact Dr. Jacobson through his web site at <http://www.jacobsonvet.com>, email at jacobsonveterinary@windstream.net or call at 402-327-0705. To see some cute animal photos check out their Facebook page. The clinic is open M-F, 8 am - 6 pm and Saturday 8 am - noon. It is conveniently located in the Witherbee neighborhood at 4145 O Street.

Editor's Note: Dr. Jacobson has been an advertiser for our newsletter for 17 years. We are grateful for his long time support of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association!



327-0705

Hours:
M.-F. 8-6
Sat. 8-12

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4145 "O" Street

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How to Report Traffic Issues to the Lincoln Police Department

On June 16th Police Chief Teresa Ewins met with community members at City Councilman's James Michael Bowlers' Northeast Citizens' Meeting, the topic "O Street Drag Racing". Following a lively Q/A session, Chief Ewins emphasized LPD needs to hear from us, to be their eyes and ears and report problem driving behaviors and excessive vehicle noise. Incidents can be phoned in (402-441-6000) but even better, there is an online form that can be completed that will consistently provide LPD with helpful information.

The online form can be accessed: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Police/Online-Reporting> then click on Quick Link "Request Traffic Enforcement". Questions to be answered on this form include: 1) location of the problem and day of the week it is occurring, 2) time of day, 3) select one or more of the type of problem (options provided), 4) comments – including description of vehicle, type of problem (excessive vehicle noise, dangerous driving behavior), etc.



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On June 12, the Woods Park: Keep It Green group sponsored a Chalk the Walks event at the park. With plenty of chalk and lemonade, the group gave visitors the chance to offer input on additions and improvements to a proposed park plan, share the ways in which they currently use the park and write and sign postcards supporting the park.

Formed in late winter after neighbors were told about the possible northward expansion of the Woods Tennis Center and parking areas, the group seeks to preserve the park's current trees-trails-and-grasses footprint.

Serving some of Lincoln's densest and most diverse neighborhoods, Woods Park is a jewel in the city's crown, and is enjoyed by a range of individuals and groups. Come up on a summer evening and you'll see soccer, walkers, bikers, one-on-one basketball games, kite fliers, frisbee throwers, kids on swings and people chatting about things. This is a well-loved park.

"We consider the park almost an extension of our home," said one neighbor, who walks it daily. He and his wife said

they enjoy meeting and chatting with neighbors and greeting the neighborhood dogs on their morning walks. They also pick up litter a few mornings a week, as a way of taking care of their park.

Another neighbor, an immigrant, begins each weekday biking the trail circuit around the park. He said he loves to bring his sons to the playground a few times a week, as well.

For these neighbors and many other park users, preserving the park's trees, trails and green space is an important priority. And it is a priority that is backed by research.

Studies have shown the importance of neighborhood access to adequate green space and the improved health and well being of those who live in neighborhoods adjacent to green space. Nebraska's own Arbor Day Foundation has stated that "green spaces are good for human health and are crucial for community health, as well." Lincoln's own Climate Action Plan was created, in part, based on this need.

For reasons big and small, when it comes to Woods Park, we say "keep it green!"



Fitlot Classes Update

Have you used the Fitlot equipment at Woods Park? If not, what a better way to begin than to start with a class! The instructor comes highly recommended!

The Tuesday/Thursday classes will resume in September at 10:30am to 11:30am at Woods Park (33rd & O Street, north of the baseball field and sand volleyball court, and north west of the pool). The last Friday 9am class is August 12th. More information: <https://fitlot.org/parks/lincoln/>



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At-Risk Tree Removal & Replanting Grant Program

The City of Lincoln, Urban Development Department announced the availability of the At-Risk Tree Removal and Replanting Grant Program. The purpose of this program is to remove and replace at-risk tree(s), those that are dead, structurally weak or otherwise at-risk, free of charge for homeowners who income qualify. This program requires the applicant to submit an application along with income documents. To learn more, please go to: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Urban-Development/Housing>. You may also contact Loren Roberts with the Urban Development Department at 402-441-8209 or email her at LRoberts@lincoln.ne.gov.

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Food-Raiser June 11th a Success!

by Chris Booe

On June 11th the Little Free Pantries of Lincoln held a "Food-Raiser" event at Cristo Rey Catholic Church. The event was held to solicit donations of non-perishable foods for the citywide little free pantries and offer free clothing to those who donated. This event was held during the Witherbee neighborhood garage sales and was a great success! Many people came and donated, got some nice clothing, and found out more about the valuable resource that Little Free Pantries offer in our city. We were able to completely fill six of the 30+ pantries in Lincoln. That may not seem like much, but they went to key neighborhoods where there is a great need for food.

Many thanks to Amanda Carman Gershon, Sue Smith, Lindsay Marie, Kathy Kuykendall, Chris Martinez, Kyleen Booe, and Chris Booe for making this event the success it was. Also thank you to Julie Flodman, the Witherbee Neighborhood Association, Father Raphael and Cristo Rey Catholic Church, and Whole Foods Market. Without their help, this event likely wouldn't have happened.

We had plenty of clothes left over and a large portion of them were donated to Brock's Boutique for a future free clothing giveaway. There will also be a "part two" to our Food-Raiser to be held in the fall of 2022. Check out www.facebook.com/billslockeronlenoxavenue for updates on that event. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported us during our Food-Raiser event!

Little Free Pantry Needs

Peanut Butter

Canned meals (meatballs & spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)

Canned chicken and/or tuna

Canned fruit (pears, peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail)

Canned vegetables (peas, mixed vegetables, corn, green beans)

Pork & Beans

Condensed Soups

Boxed breakfast cereals

Breakfast bars (granola bars, oatmeal/fruit bars)

Instant oatmeal packets

Personal care items (shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products)

Basic school supplies



Redeemer Lutheran Church

510 South 33rd Street,
www.redeemerlincoln.org





RUMMAGE SALE
August 4-6

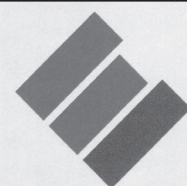


FAMILY MOVE NIGHT
Friday, Sept. 2, 7-10pm
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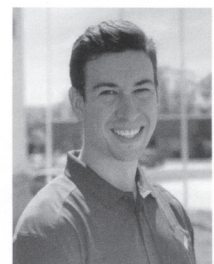
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Yards of the Month

JUNE – 421 S. 44th Street

Mariann Kozisek has lived at 421 South 44th Street since 1985 and has created the beautiful front yard that prompted a neighbor to nominate her for Yard of the Month. Her shady front porch is adorned with hanging planters of fuchsia and vinca. A statue of St. Francis stands in a bed of lilies. A locust tree is hung with bird houses and feeders and a rose bush handed down from her grandfather takes pride of place in front of the porch. Around the corner of the house the back yard reveals a shaded path winding through a perennial bed of shade loving plants such as spiderwort and hostas.

Miss Kozisek taught Special Education for LPS at Randolph, Lakeview and Prescott Elementary Schools. Since retiring she volunteers at Villa Marie and assists with English as a Second Language testing at Southeast Community College. When asked what she likes about Witherbee Neighborhood, she replies that it's quiet with very good neighbors, which is a common theme heard from WNA residents.



JULY – 4142 M Street

Mildred Holland's yard at 4142 M Street was nominated by an appreciative neighbor.

Mildred, who prefers to go by Murd, and Dan Thompson have lived in the cottage built in 1926 since July of 1993. Mickey the Cat is their beloved pet. In 2018 a Chinese Elm which had occupied most of the raised front yard fell and had to be removed. Now a deck with 2 chairs overlooks an oval of green grass surrounded by white rocks and bordered with a variety of perennials. The rose bushes came first and grow lavishly in one corner, along with Stella d'oro lilies, coreopsis, purple salvia, and sedum around the oval and in front of the rock wall. Little patches of hen and chicks can be spied among the taller plants. A white clematis climbs a trellis on the east side with spiderwort at its base.

When asked what she likes about living in Witherbee Neighborhood, Murd, who is retired from UN-L East Campus, replied that it's the friendly people she meets, a common theme among WNA residents.





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Annual Neighborhood Garage Sales Held June 9-11th

By Julie Flodman

Wetherbee neighbors (22!) registered their addresses, listed and offered their unwanted items for garage sale treasure hunters to buy.

I believe this event is an opportunity to meet surrounding neighbors and welcome people into the Wetherbee neighborhood to build our community in a positive direction. As the Wetherbee Garage Sale Chair, I would like to especially thank the following individuals for their help in preparing for the event:

Rachel Jones from *Lincoln Journal Star*

Mark Schwaninger, Editor, *Neighborhood Extra*

WNA Volunteers: Rick Bagby, Fred Freytag, Mary Schwab, Christine Nesmith & Cheryl Wesolowski.

Chris Booe, Little Free Pantry Event Coordinator.

Patti Nielsen, who volunteered to pick up neighbor's left over items to be donated to the Salvation Army.

And, a special thank-you to all the neighborhood surrounding businesses who agreed to post our event flyers.

Very Importantly: Thank you, Wetherbee neighbors for registering and participating in our Annual Wetherbee Garage Sale event. It's great to live in a neighborhood that supports each other and community events.

An additional "Thank YOU" to ALL the Registered Participants for returning the WNA Garage Sale Signs!



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Lincoln on the Move* – Planned Improvements to Existing Streets 2022

Witherbee Neighborhood

36th from Randolph to “J”
37th from Woods Ave to “O”
38th from “J” to “L”
42nd from Randolph to “N”
45th from Randolph to “O”
47th from “J” to “M”
46th from “M” to “O”

Project Timeline: Construction projected to begin sometime between July & November 2022

MTZ Construction has been awarded this project. They are set to begin working in this area when work is completed on another project.

Total Project Estimate: \$1,030,000

Funding Sources: Lincoln on the Move & Street Improvement Vehicle Tax – Residential

Randolph from 40th to 56th

Total Project Estimate: \$800,000

MTZ Construction was also awarded this contract. The expectation is that they will begin work on this project at or around the time they work on the projects in the Witherbee neighborhood.

Funding Sources: Lincoln on the Move & Highway Allocation Funds

Piedmont Neighborhood

52nd from Randolph to “O”

Project Timeline: This project has been delayed until the 2023 construction season.

Part of a larger project in the Piedmont Neighborhood, Total Project Estimate: \$1,180,000

Funding Sources: Lincoln on the Move & Street Improvement Vehicle Tax – Residential

*Lincoln on the Move – ¼ % sales tax approved by the voters, April 2019

Reference/Resources:

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/LTU/LTU-Projects/LOTM>

and Russell Miller, Witherbee Resident and Member of Advisory Committee on Transportation (ACT)

Neighborhood Clean-up May 7th

by Mike Kreikemeier

The cool weather and sunny sky was perfect for the neighborhood cleanup on May 7th.

Volunteers helped unload and sort electronics, old mattresses, used tires, retired appliances and many other items. Over 40 used tires were collected for recycling this year! A couple tons of garbage were safely disposed of. A large roll-off of metal and appliances were recycled and many household items were collected for Goodwill.

Thanks to many volunteers a large amount of litter was picked up along the major streets, parks & schools in the neighborhood. A special thanks to the “Men’s Group” from Redeemer Lutheran Church. Hope to see you again next year.

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.

I would also like to thank our business partners that donated services & supplies: Firestone Complete Auto Care at 66th & Q; Goodwill Industries and F-M Lawn Care. The Mid Town Hy-Vee donated coffee and donuts for hard working volunteers. The roll offs and hauling service was provided by Niederhaus Refuse. Funding for the neighborhood cleanup is provided by grants from Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful.



Volunteers picked up litter around the neighborhood churches, schools and parks.



Dan Weslowski closing the roll-off after another successful neighborhood cleanup.



Tire collection is always popular at the neighborhood cleanup.