



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 19 No. 1 Newsletter

Winter 2022

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

Woods Park is Focus of March 3rd Meeting

Just in time for Spring! Woods Park Development is the topic of our March WNA meeting.

It's an exciting time for Woods Park. A new basketball court, additional play equipment and the Woods Tennis Center expansion are some of the projects to be discussed. Lynn Johnson, Director of Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department and J J Yost, Planning & Facilities Manager will give a presentation about past, present and future development of Woods Park. This will be a great opportunity to learn about Woods Park, ask questions, voice your concerns and share your ideas on keeping Woods Park one of the best parks in the city. The meeting will be held at Lefler Middle School, 1100 South 48th St. in the Media Center at 7 pm. All Directed Health Measures in effect for March will be followed. For any updates please check the WitherbeeNA Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing you March 3rd! Please enter through Door #5 on the north side of the building. The parking lot is off of Valley Road. The main doors off of 48th St. will not be open so please look for Door #5.

WNA Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| March 3rd | 7:00pm; Monthly WNA meeting; topic Woods Park Development; Lefler Middle School (enter Door #5) |
| April 7th | 7:00pm - Monthly WNA meeting; program details TBA |
| April 23rd | The UNL Big Event; please see article pg. 5 |
| May 7th | Annual Neighborhood Clean-up |
| May 10th | Statewide Primary Election |

Woods Park & WNA - A Historical Timeline

Woods Park is one of the great parks in Lincoln. Located just west of 33rd St. and the Witherbee neighborhood's west border, the WNA has supported and advocated for Woods Park since the beginning of WNA. WNA wants to keep Woods Park a community park with space for recreation, sports, family events, and open space to enjoy right in the heart of Lincoln. A few of the events WNA has held at Woods Park: the annual ice cream social/pool party, several UNL Big Event park improvement projects and it's even a great WNA monthly meeting place during warm weather.

A timeline of the history of WNA & Woods Park is listed below. Check out past issues of the WNA Buzz for information on WNA and Woods Park. What? you don't save every issue of WNA Buzz? No problem, previous issues can be found at www.witherbeena.org.

- Woods Tennis Center Expansion in the Early Phase of Planning, pg 3 Fall 2021
- Woods Tennis Center Expansion Topic of September Meeting, pg 5 Summer 2021
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment Now installed at Woods Park, pg 5 Summer 2020

..... Continued on page 3



SEE INSIDE STORIES:

- Holiday Lighting Contest 2021 - page 4
- UNL Big Event is Back - page 5
- Planned Street Improvements 2022 - page 7

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

Mailing Address:

PO Box 5431

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402-413-0156

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President's Message

We held our annual meeting at Lefler Middle School November 4th. Those in attendance enjoyed Godfather's pizza and Witherbee Neighborhood Bingo. Julie Flodman, WNA board member put together a power point of pictures from activities, events and meetings. Volunteers were also highlighted. It was a great way to celebrate WNA's achievements in 2021.

You may have noticed we have moved our indoor meeting location to Lefler Middle School. Tabitha has been very gracious to provide a meeting room for WNA for many years. With continued COVID issues we felt it best to move to another location in order to decrease the risk of spread to a vulnerable population. We may return to Tabitha in the future. In the meantime, the Community Learning Center Coordinator has offered to host our meetings in the media center at Lefler. The parking lot on the north side of Lefler is just steps away from Door #5 with the media center close to that entrance. We anticipate holding our meetings there through May.

A new issue has arisen that is a concern to many in the neighborhood. With the potential expansion of the Woods Tennis Center at Woods Park, several individuals have formed a group in order to be proactive in advocating for maintaining Woods Park green space. This will be the topic of our March meeting. (See front page article.) We will have a chance to learn more about the future of Woods Park from the Director of Lincoln Parks & Rec, Lynn Johnson, and from JJ Yost, Parks & Facilities Planner. Come with your questions.

Goals for the WNA Board for 2022 include continuing the popular activities that have become annual events, such as the Neighborhood Cleanup, WNA sponsored Garage Sales, and the Ice Cream Social & the Neighborhood Free Swim. Watch for more information about these events and others on our Facebook page, newsletter and website. You can sign up to receive WNA neighborhood emails on our website: www.witherbeena.org.

One of the goals of the board this year is to update our bylaws. Details of our bylaws are always in need of review but currently we need to step back and look at the big picture, specifically the number of board members and length of their terms. As with other organizations, volunteer recruitment is always a challenge. Although term limits for our board members and officers is great in theory, we have had difficulty in recruiting enough volunteers to take over leadership roles. You have heard us talk about the need for more volunteers in the past. We can't stress enough how important it is to have a strong board and leaders to continue the viability of WNA!

We are off to a busy start in 2022! We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings and events! Let's continue to join together to keep the Witherbee neighborhood and the WNA moving forward. We hope you will consider renewing your membership or becoming a member of WNA! You will find the membership form on the back page of this newsletter.

All the best in 2022, Kathy Holland, WNA President

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

Organization Sponsors:

- Calvary Cemetery
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- FM Lawn Care

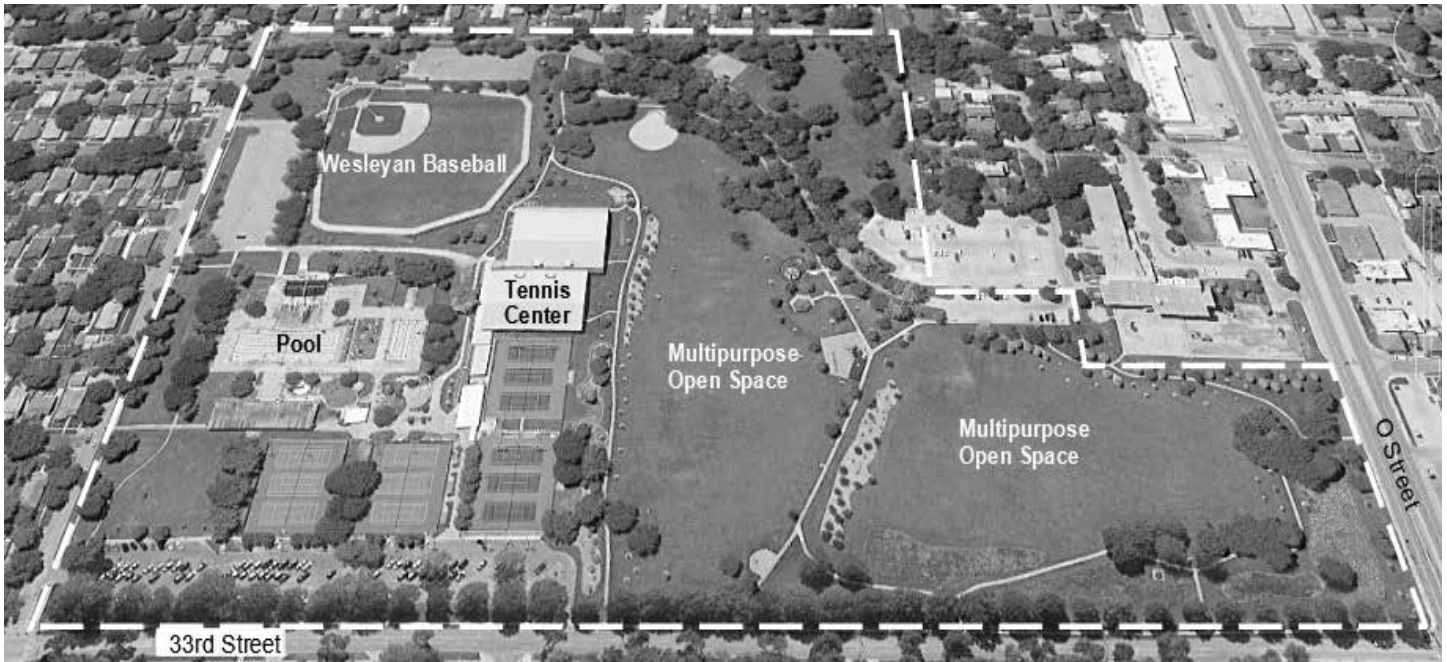
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- John Dzerk
- Fred Freytag
- James & Mary Solomos

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- Woods Park Tennis Complex Update..., pg 11 Summer 2017
- Woods Park Tennis Center Beam Raising Event, pg 3 Spring 2017
- Woods Park Tennis Project Ahead of Schedule, pg 5 Winter 2017
- Witherbee Supports Woods Tennis Center Bubble Replacement, pg 6 Winter 2016
- Woods Tennis Court Update, pg 10 Spring 2012
- Woods Park Tennis Center Update, pg 1 Winter 2012

- Woods Tennis Center Programming Update, pg 1 Fall 2010
- Woods Tennis Center Offers Free Neighborhood Event, pg 6 Summer 2007
- Witherbee History (History of Woods Park by Ed Zimmer), pg 4 Spring 2007
- Woods Park Land Exchange Update, pg 6 Fall 2005
- President's Message - Expand Health Dept Facilities in Woods Park, pg 4 Summer 2004



Aerial photo of Woods Park, 2021 - Google Earth

Stay in Touch!



Stay up to date with events & activities in the Witherbee neighborhood by checking our Facebook page, the App--Nextdoor and our website:

<http://www.witherbeena.org/>.

To receive program notices and other pertinent information via email from WNA, sign-up here: <http://www.witherbeena.org/subscribe-email-form.htm>



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Holiday Lighting Contest 2021

This year WNA enlisted Lefler Middle School to help us with judging. The nominations list was created, videos taken and the judging proceeded. Lefler students voted during homeroom. Thank you to Community Learning Center Coordinator, Emmary Lundberry, who organized the effort. The winners received a \$25 gift certificate from various businesses who support WNA. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who took the time to brighten up our neighborhood!

And the winners were.....

- Visions of Sugar Plums: 600 S 53rd St
- Traditional & Elegant: 4410 Randolph St
- Reason for the Season: 4840 J St
- LES Superior Customer Award (most lights): 640 S 52nd St
- Candy Cane Lane: 450 S 45th St



*Above: 600 S. 53rd St. - Visions of Sugar Plums
Below: 450 S. 45th St. - Candy Cane Lane*

Photos courtesy of Eyecon Photography



The UNL Big Event is Back!

Yes, The UNL Big Event is back after a two year absence!

Since its introduction in 2006, The Big Event at University of Nebraska - Lincoln has become the largest, one-day, student-run service project in the state of Nebraska. Each spring 3,000 UNL students will enter the community to serve the people that allow them to call Lincoln home. Could you use some help for that project that you are just not able to do on your own, maybe spring yard clean-up? When you complete the on-line registration to request volunteers, the Big Event coordinators will assign students to come to your home and help with your job. Please note, students are restricted from using power tools. Examples of jobs they can do include painting (exterior or interior), plant trees or flowers, trash pick-up, 1st story window cleaning and interior house clean-up. Students will spend three hours volunteering, from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm Saturday, April 23rd. Depending on the job, they may work up to three hours at your home.

To sign up, visit the website: www.bigevent.unl.edu and click on “request volunteers, then “private residence”. From there you will fill out a form specifying the number of volunteers you can use and the type of project that the volunteers will help with. Registration deadline is March 4th.

If you have questions you may email bigevent.unl@gmail.com. If you need assistance signing up, please call the WNA phone number at 402-413-0156, leave a message and someone will get back to you.



Financial Assistance Available for Home Ownership & Emergency Repairs

In working with City officials, Board members of WNA recently became aware of the following programs and want to pass on this information to our neighbors in Witherbee. If interested, visit nwlincoln.org and go to Homeownership Program to see program qualifications and application.

The First Home Program is for new homebuyers who have not owned a home in the past 3 years and with an annual income that does not exceed 80% of Lincoln median income. Potential new homeowners must complete a FREE Home Buyer Training offered by NeighborWorks Lincoln, 402-477-7181, ext 104. Or visit their website: nwlincoln.org for more information.

The City of Lincoln Urban Development Department has a program for Emergency Repair that is specifically for homeowners with low incomes, who live within the city limit and can't afford the repairs. Examples of emergency repairs include replacement of a furnace, water heater or dangerous wiring, or roof repair. If you qualify, the Emergency Repair Loan Program can help you make the repairs AND avoid a financial disaster. The Emergency Repair loan has a 0% interest rate and repayment may be deferred for 2 years, until your home is sold, or you no longer use it as your primary residence. To see if you are eligible, please call 402-441-7864.

You can find out more about the First Home and the Emergency Loan Program at the following website: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Urban-Development/Housing>

If you have questions on how applications can be started and the specifics about each of the programs contact the Urban Development Department at 402-441-7864 and ask for Mary.




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Tabitha's InterGenerational Living Becoming a Reality

Tabitha recently announced the public phase of their \$12.5 million dollar capital campaign. A silent phase which kicked off in April 2021, has resulted in \$7.5M in gifts and pledges. Early believers have provided tremendous energy and financial support to this project, including the Abel Foundation, the Acklie Charitable Foundation, Brester Construction, the DF Dillon Foundation, Pinnacle Bank, and Union Bank and Trust. This early fundraising success drove the Tabitha Board of Directors to give the go ahead to begin construction in spring 2022. The plan is to raise the remaining funds while construction is underway.

Two distinct groups, Independent seniors (65 +) and Bryan College of Health Science students will call the InterGen Living Community—home. Tabitha is currently wrapping up the Redevelopment Agreement with the City of Lincoln and the permitting process is slated to be finalized by mid-Feb. 2022. The cost of this project has increased to \$26 million (from \$22.6) due to COVID related supply chain interruptions as well as workforce labor shortages in the construction industry.



“This vision to build community in a new way, which Tabitha is so boldly bringing to life, is meant to tackle three major challenges: 1) the epidemic of

loneliness across generations, 2) a lack of moderately priced housing and 3) the shortage of health care workers. We could not be more excited that Tabitha is bringing forth this courageous vision which will focus on intentionally building connections among neighbors.” shared Kathi Hesser. Serving as InterGen Steering Committee Chairs, Hesser and her husband Mark, President of Pinnacle Bancorp and Tabitha Board Member have lent their time, expertise and financial support in bringing this initiative to fruition.

“This is one of the most innovative strategies nonprofit Tabitha has taken on in its 135+ year history,” said Christie Hinrichs, Tabitha CEO and President. “And one of the biggest projects at our Lincoln campus in over a decade with a goal to create such a significant impact that we will be able replicate this model.” A formal study is already underway in collaboration with researchers from Bryan College of Health Sciences. “We must be certain that the investment and faith so boldly extended to this project by our donors delivers on the vision. Continued research will grow that vision and expand the good we can achieve.”

The Witherbee Neighborhood Residents will be invited to join Tabitha as they formally break ground with a ceremony this spring. The project is slated to open in late summer, early fall 2023.

To learn how you can be a part of bringing this project to fruition, visit: www.Tabitha/InterGen or call the Tabitha Foundation at 402.486.8509.



Tabitha is slated to break ground on the new \$26 million InterGenerational Living Community on land already owned by the organization at the corner of 48th and 'L' Street. Image courtesy of Davis Design.

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² The first payment due date may be extended up to 90 days from the date of funding. Interest accrues from the date of funding. Deferring the first payment 90 days may not be eligible for all borrowers. Certain restrictions apply.

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Lincoln on the MOVE

Planned Improvements to Existing Streets 2022

Project Timeline: Late Spring to Early Fall

Witherbee Neighborhood

Frost Drive (36th St) from Randolph to "J"

37th from Lenox (Woods Ave) to "O"

38th from "J" to "L"

42nd from Randolph to "N"

45th from Randolph to "O"

47th from "J" to "O"

"M" from 47th – 48th

Total Project Estimate: \$1,030,000

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

Piedmont Neighborhood

52nd from Randolph to "O"

(part of a larger project)

Randolph from 40th to 56th

Total Project Estimate: \$800,000

Funding Sources: Lincoln on the Move & Highway Allocation Funds

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

Reference: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/LTU/LTU-Projects/LOTM> and Russell Miller, Witherbee Resident and member of Advisory Committee on Transportation (ACT)




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Join Us in Making a Difference in 2022!

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association (WNA) continues to help maintain and enhance the neighborhood you call home. And to help keep your neighborhood strong, we are conducting our annual membership appeal. As your neighbors and WNA volunteers, we hope 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.

We need volunteers to help with WNA events and activities. For example, we need help with the Neighborhood Clean-up in May, the Ice Cream Social/Pool Party in August (or another social activity). In addition we can always use individuals



who would like to write an article for the quarterly newsletter or help distribute the newsletter to the neighborhood. There are many other ways to volunteer. If you are interested in knowing more or want to help, please contact Kathy Holland at 402-310-9153, 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 _____ physical mail

Membership Categories:

- ___ Household\$20.00
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- ___ Sponsor (listed in Buzz newsletter)\$50.00
- ___ Business (listed in Buzz newsletter)\$50.00

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)
- ___ Holiday Lights Contest Committee
- ___ Newsletter Ad Sales Committee
- ___ Witherbee Connect Committee
- ___ Distribute Newsletters
- ___ Government Liaison Committee
- ___ Neighborhood Clean-up (help day of event)
- ___ Board of Directors (board member)
- ___ Witherbee Welcome Committee
- ___ Crime Watch Team
- ___ Garage Sales Committee

- ___ Witherbee Event Food Committee
- ___ Pool Party/Ice Cream Social (or other social event)
- ___ Membership Committee
- ___ Yard of the Month

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

