



# The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 21 No. 2 Newsletter

Spring 2024

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

## Update on the Tennis Expansion at April meeting

All are welcome to attend the WNA April meeting for a presentation on the proposed Woods Tennis Center Expansion. The informational meeting will be given by Gary Wells, a WNA neighbor who is also a retired parks designer with many years experience.

Gary will talk about the trees that will be moved, removed or be placed in danger due to the proposed additional tennis courts and parking lot changes. Gary will also talk about the proposed tennis courts compared to accepted tournament tennis court standards. Gary has recommendations for improving tennis facilities throughout the city of Lincoln that he will share with the group.

The meeting will be on Thursday, April 25th at 7pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church Family Education Center, 510 S 33rd Street.

## Clean-up Saturday, May 4

*by Mike Kreikemeier*

Mark your calendars – the annual Spring Cleanup is Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8 am to noon. The Witherbee Cleanup is a great way to dispose of unwanted items when cleaning up your garage, yard and home. Many hard to get rid of items, such as mattresses, box springs and old furniture can be disposed of by bringing them to the collection area along M Street directly north of Bryan Community School (48th and M Streets).

In addition to safely disposing of items, the cleanup has a big recycle and reuse component. Tires are taken to Firestone Complete Auto Care at 300 N 66th Street to be recycled. Complete Auto Care has been a generous cleanup partner for many years. No tires mounted on rims are accepted.

Metal and household appliances (washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, grills, etc) are delivered to Alter Trading for recycling. Appliances with freon are safely discharged before recycling.

*continued on page 6*

## LPD Team Captain Hubka to speak at WNA meeting May 23

The Witherbee Neighborhood Crime Team and WNA, would like to invite you to a presentation by LPD Northeast Team Captain Hubka on Thursday, May 23rd at 7pm. The presentation will be at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 So. 33rd St.



Captain Hubka has nearly 15 years of experience as a law enforcement officer, with about 13 of those years at the Lincoln Police Department. Captain Hubka's work experience includes time as a Drug Recognition Expert, SWAT operator, and Gang Unit investigator, as well time assigned to all patrol teams across the City of Lincoln. Captain Hubka has also served as a certified instructor in DUI investigations, firearms, less lethal weapons, chemical munitions, and active shooter response. For the past three years, Captain Hubka has worked as a Duty Captain, overseeing high level incidents across the city. In addition to his regular role, Captain Hubka also leads the department's Peer Support team, Wellness Committee, Chaplains program, and is a founding member of the Lincoln First Responders Foundation.

Throughout his career, Captain Hubka has placed a priority on community policing, engaging community members in positive interactions and working together to solve problems with the ultimate focus being on enhancing the quality of life for everyone. Captain Hubka strives to combine innovative solutions with proactive policing methods to maximize the positive impact of the police department. He is excited to take on the new role of the Northeast Team Captain and looks forward to working with the Witherbee neighborhood. Captain Hubka can be reached at 402-441-3002 or via email at [MHubka@Lincoln.NE.gov](mailto:MHubka@Lincoln.NE.gov).

***Please turn to page 4 for Captain Hubka's top security tips.***

**Wetherbee  
Neighborhood Association**

**Boundaries:**

33rd to 56th & 'O' to Randolph

**Meetings:**

Fourth Thursday of the month, 7pm  
Redeemer Lutheran Church

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

[www.WetherbeeNA.org](http://www.WetherbeeNA.org)

PO Box 5431

Lincoln, NE 68505

402-413-0156

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# President's Message

Mike Kreikemeier



Spring is here! It's snowing! According to the calendar, Spring began a few days ago. According to Nebraska weather, it will be a few more days (weeks?) before the weather and calendar align. Unlike the weather, the WNA Cleanup is much more predictable. This is the 21st neighborhood cleanup sponsored by WNA. Mark your calendars for Saturday morning, May 4th, 2024 and join your neighbors to clean up the neighborhood. See the article in this issue of the Buzz for more details. As with all things Wetherbee, this event depends on volunteers.

There are all sorts of jobs and I'm sure there is one that is just right for you. Picking up litter is a great way to spend a morning. Gloves, safety vest and trash grabbers are provided. Just show up at the Cleanup staging area at 48th & M Streets (just north of Bryan Community School). May the Fourth be with you!

If you have not renewed your WNA membership yet please do it now before you forget. Your WNA membership shows that you are part of your neighborhood, you support WNA events and causes that make Wetherbee a great place to live. Consider what a great deal your membership is. For a reasonable annual membership donation you get the Wetherbee Buzz filled with important neighborhood news delivered to your door. You support important events like the WNA Cleanup, garage sales, Pool Party & Ice Cream Social. You get bragging rights if you are chosen as a lawn of the month or holiday lights winner. WNA also works on many projects such as guiding the development of the 3 parks in the neighborhood, zoning ordinances to keep the neighborhood a great place to call home. Talk about a bargain! **Renew your membership. It's important.**

I would like to give a Presidential thank you to all of the volunteers that help produce and deliver the Wetherbee Buzz. This newsletter is the envy of other neighborhood associations. If you see your Buzz delivery person out on their route give 'em a tip of your hat and say "Thank you, job well done."

## WNA Calendar of Events

- April 25 7pm WNA Monthly Meeting, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S 33rd St.
- May 4 WNA Annual Neighborhood Clean-up; 8am-noon; Headquarters at 48th & M St.
- May 4 Hazardous Waste Drive-through Collection; 9 am – 1 pm; Star City Shores
- May 9 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting; 4pm; Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park
- May 14 Statewide Primary Election
- May 16 James Michael Bowers' Monthly Northeast Citizens' Meeting, 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Anderson Library, 3635 Touzalin Ave.
- May 23 WNA Monthly Meeting; 7 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S 33rd St.
- June 6 -8 WNA Annual Garage Sales
- June 20 James Michael Bowers' Monthly Northeast Citizens' Meeting, 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Anderson Library, 3635 Touzalin Ave.
- June 27 WNA Monthly Meeting; 7 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S 33rd St.

# Witherbee Mediation Team Concerned about Tennis Expansion at Woods Park

by Mike Kreikemeier

The eight members of the Witherbee Mediation team have been busy since forming in September 2024. The members have studied the tennis expansion proposal, gathered input from neighbors, researched the history of Woods Park development and learned about the master plan that guides the development of the park. The group has also met with Woods Park Keep It Green, Woods Park Neighborhood Association members and attended several mediation meetings in the past few months.

Many members attended and provided testimony at the Community Input meetings that were held March 2, 4 and 5, 2024. The meetings were very well attended. JJ Yost, Parks & Rec Planning & facilities manager, presented a brief history of Woods Park and the proposed tennis center expansion. The mediation team presented testimony opposing the expansion to Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Parks and Rec Director and JJ Yost.

One testimonial focused on the continual loss of green space in Woods Park over the last 20 years to tennis facilities, the Woods Park Place building and parking lot expansion.

Another team member talked about the loss of trees caused by the tennis & parking lot expansion. A third person presented information on the drainage and storm runoff problems that will be created with rearrangement of the parking lots and additional tennis facilities.

Testimony was given on how Parks & Rec recommends that tournament facilities be built in larger regional parks, not in a community park such as Woods Park. The mediation team, along with many other concerned neighbors made a very good case against changing the Woods Park Master Plan to allow tennis expansion. The mediation team supports building a second tennis facility in a regional park in another area of Lincoln.

The mediation team's next focus is on the Parks & Rec Advisory Board Meeting to be held on Thursday, May 9th, 2024 at Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park, 3200 Memorial Drive. The decision to amend the Woods Park Master Plan will be made by the Lincoln City Council. The action by the city council has not been scheduled but is expected in the next few months.



## FitLot Classes Resume at Woods Park

Tuesdays – 10:30-11:30am

Wednesdays – 10:30-11:30am

Fridays – 9-10am.

Jessie Krikac leads the informative, easy-to-follow classes, **FREE**, courtesy of Lincoln Parks & Recreation at the AARP Fitlot in Woods Park.



### Redeemer Lutheran Church

510 South 33rd Street,  
[www.redeemerlincoln.org](http://www.redeemerlincoln.org)

*Vacation Bible School*  
*June 3-7, 9am-noon*

*Children aged three (potty trained) – grade five*  
*Register at [redeemerlincoln.org](http://redeemerlincoln.org) thru May 29*



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## Security Tips:

**Secure your home:** Do your part to make theft and vandalism unpalatable to criminals. Keep the exterior lights on, install a security system, and if you travel, ensure a neighbor watches your house, picks up mail and newspapers, so it appears you're still at home. Keep your curtains and windows closed at night.

Captain Hubka would also like to remind people to be sure to **lock their vehicles**, never leave valuables inside their vehicles, and call LPD to report any suspicious activity. It is Better-To-Be-Safe: Rather-Than-Sorry. Lincoln has had significant increase in auto thefts, attempted auto thefts, and thefts from vehicles over the last few months. Most of those crimes are occurring overnight and they take a very short

length of time to be perpetrated, so they are very difficult for us to stop. Education and awareness are our best tools in limiting the number of victims of these kinds of crimes.

## LPD Crime Information & Links

LPD Non-Emergency Number: 402-441-6000

<http://lincolncrimestoppers.com>: (402) 475-3600

Lincoln Police Department, City website (Start Point)  
<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Police/About-LPD/News-Releases>

Lincoln Police Department Facebook Page:  
Events, Safety, Social Communication Link  
<https://www.facebook.com/lincolnpolicedepartment>

Lincoln Police Department Neighborhood Watch:  
Contacts, Crime Prevention, Learn more about Crime Watch, Quarterly News Release...

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Police/Documents-Publications/Neighborhood-Watch>


Lincoln Police Department, Set-up YOUR Crime Mapping Alerts: <https://www.crimemapping.com/Alert>



**327-0705**

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

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**Russ Meyer**  
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RUSS@FDRG.NET



Russ knows our Witherbee neighborhood and has helped many buyers and sellers. As a Lincoln native, Russ has a vested interest in selling Witherbee properties and getting top dollar. Ask Russ for a free market study of your home. With 12 years of sales, Russ is consistently listed in the top 100 REALTORS® in Lincoln!

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## Kathie Johnson Plays Heavy Metal

Kathie Johnson, your Witherbee neighbor, carillonneur at First Plymouth Church's historic carillon at 20th and D Streets, has touched many lives with her gift of music. She moved to Lincoln in 1968 with degrees in music education and church music to teach in the Lincoln Public Schools as well as teaching piano lessons in her home to many children for a number of years.

Kathie met her husband, Ray, who was in the bell tower playing a carillon concert at First-Plymouth in 1968. They have one son, Chris, two grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Ray played the carillon from 1964 to 2003 and Kathie continues to play "heavy metal" music to all of Lincoln. The largest bell is over 5,000 pounds, hence the term "heavy metal."

Ascending the 171-foot tower takes energy and determination to get to the cabin where the instrument is located. Several times a week Kathie goes up two sets of spiral stairs, a set of wooden steps, and climbs a ladder before she can reach the cabin where the console is stationed. The instrument is similar to the layout of an organ. The climate-controlled cabin is under the 57-bell chamber. Kathie plays the carillon by depressing a lever with a slightly closed fist while her feet play the pedal keyboard.

Kathie's gift to all of Lincoln have been concerts for special occasions. These include Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage with music written by women. Weekly concerts during Covid, which allowed Lincoln's community to sit in their cars and listen to the music of the "Singing Tower." Christmas of 2020, carillon music could be heard as cars stopped by to view the Christmas Nativity the church had on display. Kathie also joined in a world-wide effort to support Ukraine as carillons around the world resounded their bells in an Action for Peace.

With a donation of five-octave handbells to First Plymouth in 1973, Kathie became the first director of the Youth Handbell choir, whose premier was the 1973 Christmas Eve televised service. During the four years Kathie directed the handbell choir, the youth played for church services and dozens of events and festivals. She also had a puppet ministry where she worked with teens teaching the art of puppetry and performing in numerous venues.

Kathie served as Director of Children and Family Ministries from 2005-2013. Retirement has not slowed her down. Hiking up the bell tower to play the carillon for Sunday services, weddings, and special concerts keeps her gift of music resonating from the tower.



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## Clean-up, continued

Construction material and items such as windows and doors from building/remodeling projects as well as leftover lawn and landscaping materials and furniture in good condition are collected and donated to the new Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 5601 S 59th Street.

Goodwill Industries helps with recycling and reusing electronics and household items.

Brush coupons are also available. Brush coupons allow dumping a load of brush (sticks, twigs, small branches - NO LEAVES or TRASH) at the 48th Street transfer station for free. Only the coupons are provided. Picking up and hauling brush are not part of the WNA cleanup.

Items that CANNOT be accepted include trash, leaves, grass clippings, liquids of any kind (including paint, thinners, stains) ammunition/explosives, LP gas cylinders and CRT televisions and CRT computer monitors.

If you need help hauling items to the collection site email Mike Kreikemeier at [mbkreikemeier@gmail.com](mailto:mbkreikemeier@gmail.com) or call the WNA phone line at 402-413-0156 and make an appointment by leaving a message. The items must be easily accessible and placed near the curb for our volunteers to pickup.



## How can you help?

Glad you asked! All WNA events are volunteer powered. It's a great way to spend a Saturday morning and a wonderful way to meet your neighbors. Thanks to Mid-Town Hy-Vee for donating coffee, juice and donuts to fuel all of the volunteers. Litter pick up volunteers get exercise and make the neighborhood look great! Litter pick up counts for service

hours at all Lincoln High Schools.

Many volunteers are required to make this event a success. Please consider joining us for a few hours to help clean up the neighborhood. Volunteers just need to arrive at the collection site (48th & M Street) to sign in. Gloves, safety vests and other equipment is provided. Contact event organizers: Mike Kreikemeier – [mbkreikemeier@gmail.com](mailto:mbkreikemeier@gmail.com); Bryan Hurst – [bbacon.hurst@gmail.com](mailto:bbacon.hurst@gmail.com), Dan Wesolowski – [dwesolowski@windstream.net](mailto:dwesolowski@windstream.net) if you have questions.

This cleanup event is funded by a grant from "Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful". Refuse hauling is provided by Niederhaus Refuse Services.

***Witherbee Neighborhood residents  
receive their first application for FREE  
when they sign up for a program.***

**402-440-6297**  
***newtonslawncare.com***



## Witherbee Neighborhood New Social Facebook Page

WNA rolled out a neighborhood social Facebook page in February. This is in addition to the Facebook page that highlights events and city related issues. The social page is an excellent way to get to know your neighbors from 33rd to 56th streets and every block in between.

**Let's share happenings in the neighborhood!**



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## Meet New Board Members



### James Brewer

Hi, my name is James Brewer and I reside at 600 S. 45th St. with my wife Barbara. I have lived in the Witherbee neighborhood for 32 years. We enjoy spending time with our children and grandchildren as often as possible with their busy lives. We also enjoy being with our friends and belong to two social groups of which one is a Bible study group. We enjoy camp-

ing, fishing and working in our yard.

We have fun going on day trips to see some of the small towns in Nebraska. Barbara is retired from CBA/NRECA. Jim is retired from owning a Shoe Repair shop plus being the head of the prison ministry at Our Saviour's Lutheran and Bridges to Hope.

### Spring Shredding Events

Union Bank & Trust  
6801 S 27<sup>th</sup> St. (27th & Pine Lake)  
Saturday, April 20, 9 am-noon

LincOne Credit Union  
4638 W St  
Saturday April 27, 9-11 am

LibertyFirst Credit Union  
501 N. 46<sup>th</sup> St.  
Saturday, April 27, 9-11 am

Members Own Credit Union  
33rd & A Street  
Saturday, May 4, 9-11 am

University of Nebraska Credit Union  
301 N 52nd Street  
Saturday, May 11, 9-11am

### Yard of the Month

Once again WNA will be highlighting a *Yard of the Month* in May, June, July and August. We depend on your nominations for this award. Margaret Indriksons is the chair and will consider all nominations. Please send your nomination to [yardofthemonth@witherbeeana.org](mailto:yardofthemonth@witherbeeana.org) or call the WNA phone number, 402-413-0156, leave a message and we will get back to you!

### Fred Freytag

Fred was born and raised on a farm in Germany and immigrated to US when he was 19. When he first came to Nebraska he lived near and in Humboldt Nebraska for several years before moving to Lincoln.

He moved into the Witherbee Neighborhood in 1979 and raised his two children there, Stephanie and Michael. Fred started his business, FM Lawn Care, Inc. in 1981 and it's still going strong. Fred and his significant other Melodee like decorating outside their house for the various holidays, gardening, going country dancing and camping.

Fred believes strongly in community involvement and it shows. He is one of the founding members of Witherbee Neighborhood Association. He helped start the Witherbee Buzz, maintains the WNA web site and helps with various projects throughout the year. Over the years he has held various board positions including president and is back on the board now. He has attended Mayors Roundtable representing WNA for a lot of years.



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# Annual Witherbee Neighborhood Garage Sales

**Thursday June 6 through Saturday June 8**

**S<sup>2</sup>age will be joining us Saturday, June 8  
at 420 S 47th Street**

**Please complete the registration form and mail  
your \$5 registration fee & the form to**

**WNA Garage Sale  
P.O. Box 5431  
Lincoln NE 68505**



(The registration fee covers costs for item listings, mapping, advertising, printing)

**REGISTRATION IS DUE BY MAY 31, 2024**

**A neighbor will deliver maps and the Garage Sale sign on Saturday, June 1.**

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## **2024 Garage Sale (June 6-8, 2024) Registration Form:**

Name: (First & Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Thursday, June 6 (List Open - Close Times) \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. TO \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

Friday, June 7 (List Open - Close Times) \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. TO \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

Saturday, June 8 (List Open - Close Times) \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. TO \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

***Note: Each Individual Participant/Address determines their own dates and times for their sale.***

List Sale Items: (25 Words Or Less)