



# The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 21 No. 3 Newsletter

Summer 2024

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



## Witherbee Neighborhood and Redeemer Lutheran Church Family Pool Party!

### Sunday, August 4th

**Swimming – 6- 7:30pm**

**Fellowship and Snacks –7:30-8pm**  
**In front of the Woods Pool building, at**  
**3200 J St. (across from Redeemer Church)**

We hope your summer is a time of favorite activities such as beach days, deep orange sunsets, vacationing, riding bikes, eating ice cream — the list goes on and on. But please save our annual pool party date before the summer ends.

There's nothing quite like the annual pool party. It's a chance to break out your favorite swimsuit and shades, grab a towel, and turn up the tunes to celebrate the end of summer with your neighborhood family or friends. While every day at Woods Pool is just as exciting today as when we were kids, our pool party is unique.

We've made extra effort to make it a fun and memorable experience. And the best part? It's all free. We'll provide snacks, cold drinks, and other activities, ensuring everyone feels welcome and included.

Connecting with your neighbors and strengthening our community is a great opportunity. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Avoiding Scams and Fraud at the Sept. 26th Meeting

*Scams & Anti-Fraud Education (SAFE)* will be presented by Ryan Sothan at our Thursday evening meeting on September 26th. Ryan is the Outreach Coordinator for the Nebraska Attorney General's office. Their goal is to reduce the incidence of victimization of Nebraskans by arming them with the latest information and tools to guard against consumer fraud and financial abuse.



Ryan Sothan

According to Sofran, multiple studies point to a gap between incurred and reported incidences of fraud suggesting the problem is greater than we know. What we do know is that fraud and abuse steals from individuals financially, emotionally and, with older Nebraskans, through decreased life expectancy. It has to stop.

Education is a key weapon in the fight. This presentation is designed to help attendees recognize the common warning signs associated with scams, what they should do if they or someone they know is a target of fraud, and the measures they can take to substantially reduce the risk, if not eliminate, the likelihood of becoming a victim.

Plan to attend this important presentation Thursday, September 26th at 7 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 South 33rd St.

### WNA 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!**

**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)

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## President's Message

### Mike Kreikemeier



### Together We Get Things Accomplished!

Hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. The summer months go by so fast! I really enjoy this time of year when it's easy to ride my bike to music events around Lincoln. Jazz in June, Live @ The Telegraph, Hub & Soul are just a few of my favorites.

July is already here. Are we already halfway through the year? It has gone by quickly but WNA has accomplished quite a bit this year. As with all projects that WNA is involved with it takes everyone to volunteer and get things

accomplished.

It was exciting news to hear that the Friends of Woods Tennis group announced that they will not expand the tennis center in Woods Park. Instead they will expand at a larger site in Lincoln that is yet to be determined. I am happy that the green open spaces of Woods Park will be preserved and look forward to good things for the trees in the park as a Nebraska Arboretum Affiliate Site. Thanks to all of the Woods Park - Keep It Green members that worked diligently for our wonderful Woods Park.

The WNA cleanup was a success again this year thanks to all of the volunteers that stepped up and cleaned up! The neighborhood looks great. I am proud to be a cleanup leader for over 15 years. It's a big job made easier when there is lots of people willing to help. Thank you!

Did you find a treasure at all of the neighborhood garage sales in June? My daughter found a great table that looks made to order on their new patio. Best \$5 spend of the summer. Thanks to the hardy group that organizes the garage sales.

It's an impressive list of accomplishments for the first half of the year. Of course we are not done yet.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 4th and join your neighbors at the WNA Pool Party and Ice Cream Social. This fun event is co-sponsored by Redeemer Lutheran Church. Another great WNA partner.

WNA is also working on projects in our parks. More to come on these project as they take shape. More flowers in the parks is a beautiful thing. Attend the WNA meetings, get involved and help make it happen. It's work. It's fun. It's a chance to improve the neighborhood. All at the same time.

## WNA Calendar of Events

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Aug. 4   | Family Pool Party; Woods Pool at Woods Park; 6 - 8 pm   |
| Aug. 15  | James Michael Bowers' Monthly Northeast Citizens' Meeting, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Anderson Library, 3635 Touzalin Ave.         |
| Aug. 22  | WNA Monthly Meeting; 7 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S 33rd St.   |
| Sept. 1  | FitLot classes resume at the AARP Fitlot, Woods Park  |
| Sept. 19 | James Michael Bowers' Monthly Northeast Citizens' Meeting, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Anderson Library, 3635 Touzalin Ave.         |
| Sept. 26 | WNA Monthly Meeting; 7 pm, presentation on <b>Avoiding Scams &amp; Fraud</b> ; Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S 33rd St. |
| Oct. 24  | WNA Monthly Meeting; 7 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S 33rd St.   |

## Lincoln Bike Kitchen Relocating to the Telegraph District

by Mike Kreikemeier

Lincoln Bike Kitchen (LBK) is moving to the Telegraph District! The mission of LBK is connecting Community and Cycling by providing bicycles to all people that want to bike. The Bike Kitchen is run by volunteers and supported by donations (bikes, parts, tools, money). The donated bikes are refurbished by a dedicated team of bike mechanics. The bikes are then freely given to people in the community that want to bike for fun and transportation.

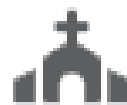
The LBK partners with several schools around Lincoln to provide bikes to students. They also partner with other organizations in Lincoln to provide bikes and promote biking as a healthy, fun and economical mode of transportation throughout Lincoln. LBK donated over 1,300 bikes in 2023.

The Lincoln Bike Kitchen is currently located at 1635 South 1st Street but will be moving to the 308 South 21st (old Muni Pool building) at the end of the summer. The new space will be larger and next to the Billy Wolfe bike trail along Antelope Creek.

For more information or to make a donation visit [lincolnbikekitchen.org](http://lincolnbikekitchen.org). Welcome to the neighborhood Lincoln Bike Kitchen!



Lincoln Bike Kitchen's new home.



### Redeemer Lutheran Church

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

*Rummage Sale - Aug. 1-3*

*Trunk or Treat - Oct. 24, 6:30 pm*



Kathy Holland, Christine Nesmith & Mary Schwab loaded bicycles to donate to the Lincoln Bike Kitchen during the WNA Cleanup in May 2023.



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# Yard of the Month – May

by Margaret Indriksons

## 3333 Woods Avenue

The lovely home and gardens of JoDee West is our May Yard of the Month. JoDee lives at 3333 Woods Avenue with her dog, Levi, and 2 cats. JoDee joined the Witherbee Neighborhood just 2 years ago and has been a busy bee renovating her yard and gardens. She brings 20 years of gardening experience, and it shows.

Lots of lovely perennials have been added to her gardens in front and the back. As she enjoys sitting on her back patio, she continues to dream and makes plans for more landscaping in the future. JoDee says “It’s all work in progress.” It will be fun to revisit the gardens in the next few years to witness the continued development.

She is very complementary about the neighborhood with its numerous features and highlights, including: the friendly neighbors, mature trees, older homes, and nearby Woods Park.

JoDee is retired. She has an adult daughter living in Colorado Springs.

Take time to stop and check JoDee’s yard and to welcome her to the Witherbee Neighborhood.





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## Yard of the Month – June

by Margaret Indriksons



I'm always amazed by the positive changes that can happen in yards and gardens in a relatively short period of time. Julie and Rick Flodman's home at 3401 L Street is a perfect example of this.

Rick and Julie moved into the Witherbee Neighborhood 6 years ago. Previous to moving into their house, it had sat empty for 5 years. They had their work cut out both inside and out. The yard was full of volunteer trees and overrun with weeds, but this is no longer the case. Lovely plantings are found in the front, on the side, and in back. Additionally, the back has a new patio and a winding walkway, which leads to a large outbuilding that looks like a small home.

Julie talked about the large variety of birds, squirrels, foxes, and an occasional cat that enjoys the food they provide. The large patio gives them a peaceful place to enjoy a morning cup of coffee and to watch the wildlife.

Rick and Julie enjoy the friendliness of their neighborhood. They say it's a joy to walk the area checking the diversity of homes and getting to know the people. The midtown location is also a plus.

Rick and Julie have one adult daughter, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren. A new dog is joining their household very soon.

Take a stroll down L Street and gaze at Julie and Rick's garden. And be sure to take a peek in the backyard...you'll be amazed!

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# Captain Hubka Featured Speaker at May Meeting

by Julie Flodman

The Witherbee Neighborhood Crime Watch Team hosted a very informative presentation by the LPD Northeast Team Captain at our May 23rd meeting. Captain Max Hubka shared details about his fifteen years of service and his expertise in law enforcement which includes a 13-year service history with the Lincoln Police Department.

Captain Hubka summarized results from the recent Crime Analysis & Intelligence Unit Statistical Report (January-May 2024). This data is used by the department to monitor crime in twenty-six categories. Overall, crime in Lincoln has decreased this year according to this report. However crime has increased in two of the twenty-six categories: larceny from autos (41% increase) and vandalism (145% increase).

Captain Hubka explained that the increase in these two categories reflects actual auto thefts and thefts from vehicles or damage to autos. Many of these crimes can be attributed to an existing, structured and organized juvenile & adult team effort. Because consequences and repercussions for these crimes are different for juvenile offenders, juveniles are being



used to perpetrate vandalism to autos and auto thefts for adult organized groups. Captain Hubka requested that neighbors and neighborhood associations consider getting involved in a growing movement to change current juvenile laws. Only with these changes will juveniles be held responsible for their role in these crimes.

Captain Hubka reminded everyone to keep their vehicles locked and to always take your possessions into your house or apartment.

Captain Hubka also shared information about crime mapping and citizen awareness of the types of crime occurring within our neighborhoods. He also spoke to the prevalence of gangs in Lincoln and growing crime in neighborhoods outside of Witherbee. He emphasized the importance of neighborhood crime team efforts in reducing crime within our city.

If you would like a copy of the Crime Analysis Report Captain Hubka shared at the meeting or more information about crime mapping, please contact Julie Flodman.



## Mass Celebrated on Woods Ave.

Jonah Brox grew up on Woods Ave. and that is where he celebrated mass with neighbors on Memorial Day. Jonah was ordained a priest in the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln on May 25th, 2024. His parents are Tim & Melissa Brox, long time residents of Witherbee neighborhood. Tim sent a text message to several neighbors in the afternoon. By 7:00pm the word spread and several families & friends gathered with lawn chairs and blankets on the Brox's front lawn. After the mass Kevin & Laurie Clark invited everyone to their backyard for snacks & drinks.

It was a very spiritual and enjoyable way to close Memorial Day weekend with the neighbors. Reverend Jonah Brox is a pastor at St. Mary parish and teacher at Lourdes Central Catholic School in Nebraska City.

### Would you like to be a part of the Crime Watch Team?

The Crime Watch Team involves neighbors who work together to communicate incidents about thefts, accidents and safety information.

They serve their neighborhood by staying informed through the Lincoln Police Departments' Citizen Awareness Programs.

They offer support to one-another by looking out for their neighbors.

Contact Julie Flodman for additional information or questions: [jsiffring@yahoo.com](mailto:jsiffring@yahoo.com)



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# Cleanup Success

by Mike Kreikemeier

It was a dark and stormy night. Luckily the sky cleared and Saturday, May 4th turned out to be wonderful weather for a Neighborhood Cleanup. Over 15 neighbors worked together to safely dispose of garbage and recycle metal, tires and building supplies.

Over one ton of metal was collected and recycled at Alter Metal Recycling. Seventy used tires were delivered to Complete Auto Care, 300 N 66th Street for recycling. A van load of construction material was taken to Habitat For Humanity's ReStore. Brush coupons were distributed to help neighbors clean up their yards of sticks and small branches brought down by the many storms this spring. There was a good crew of litter picker uppers that cleaned the major rights of way, parks and schools in the neighborhood.

At twenty years strong, the Neighborhood Cleanup is one of the longest running WNA events. It's always good to start summer with a nice, clean, good looking neighborhood! Good work and thanks to everyone that helped make it possible.

Thanks to Mid-Town Hy-Vee for providing coffee, juice and donuts. Thanks to Keep Lincoln-Lancaster County Beautiful for providing the guidance, equipment and grant money. Thanks to Complete Auto Care for recycling the tires. Thanks to all of the volunteers that helped with the litter pickup and collecting the garbage and recyclables.

A special thank you to the Cleanup Committee co-chairs - Mike Kreikemeier, Bryan Hurst and Dan Wesolowski.



Dan, Rick and Bryan load lots of used tires again this year!



Bryan, Dan, Mike, Rick, Rick, Jean & Christine are just a few of the hard working cleanup crew.

## Attention Parents with High School Students



*Consider having your students work in their neighborhood if they need volunteer hours. WNA has plenty of volunteer opportunities. You can volunteer with them, or they can work independently.*

*For opportunities, contact Rod Lane at 402-499-0807.*

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## 2024 Witherbee Neighborhood Assn. Garage Sales

The Witherbee Neighborhood Garage Sale event was held June 6-8. There were twenty-seven registrants this year. Committee members included Cheryl Wesolowski, Kathie Johnson, Julie Flodman & Rick Bagby. Mary Schwab and Jean Klone served as co-chairs

All registered participants received a packet which contained a list of all garage sales in the neighborhood, a printed

map of all sales and a flyer announcing the Little Free Pantries Benefit Sale in the neighborhood. The participants also received a yard sign and benefitted from advertising in the Lincoln Journal Star, on our Facebook pages and other social media platforms.

The weather was beautiful and word has it that the sales were a success! Thanks to the committee for their work and to all who participated by holding a sale or shopping!



Two of the 27 homes that participated.

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