



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 22 No. 3 Newsletter

Summer 2025

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

End of Summer Pool Party on Sunday, August 3rd Woods Pool, 6:30 – 8 pm • Sponsored by Redeemer Lutheran Church and WNA

by Rod Lane

As the summer season comes to a close, we find it to be an ideal time to gather at our community pool, Wood's Pool. Please grab a towel and your trunks for one last splash, or head to the spray park for a refreshing spray!

What's Happening?

We are excitedly anticipating a day of exceptional pool weather, where the laughter and joy of children and families will fill the air as they create unforgettable memories together. Whether you enjoy swimming or prefer to relax poolside, we wholeheartedly invite you to join us for engaging conversations.

Members of the Witherbee Board and Redeemer's Outreach Board will be on hand to connect with residents and listen to your thoughts. After the celebration, we'll delight everyone with refreshing popsicles and delicious ice cream treats.

We are also thrilled to announce that we anticipate the presence of Lincoln Fire and Rescue, along with our valued friends from the Lincoln Police Department, making this event even more special. Don't miss out on the fun and community spirit!

Community Events are Great!

Community events go beyond simple gatherings; they are vital moments that connect and strengthen the Witherbee neighborhood experience. These lively occasions allow residents to engage, share stories, and build trust, weaving together the relationships that enrich their community spirit. We look forward to meeting you next month!

This event is co-sponsored by Redeemer Lutheran Church and Witherbee Neighborhood Association.



A Witherbee Walking Tour with Ed Zimmer

Sunday, September 28th at 2 pm

Ed Zimmer, retired Lincoln Historical Preservation Planner will lead us on a tour of the western portion of the Witherbee neighborhood (33rd – 40th Streets) on Sunday, September 28th. Ed will point out architectural landmarks, some of the unique land use development patterns, and share information about some of the prominent early residents. If you haven't attended one of Ed's walking tours and you have an interest in history, you will not want to miss this!

The walk will begin at 2 pm and last about 1 to 1 ½ hours. Plan to meet on the north side of the Redeemer Church parking lot.

*More WNA activities
featured on Page 3*

**Wetherbee
Neighborhood Association**

Boundaries:

33rd to 56th and 'O' to Randolph

Meetings:

Fourth Thursday of the month, 7pm
Redeemer Lutheran Church

www.facebook.com/witherbeena

www.WitherbeeNA.org

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President's Message

Mike Kreikemeier



The Wetherbee Neighborhood Association Spring Membership drive was a big success. If you are a new WNA member, Welcome. Thanks for joining. Thanks also to all of our renewing members. Working together we keep improving the neighborhood.

Thank you to the membership committee, Julie Flodman, Kathy Holland, Mike Kreikemeier and Mary Schwab for putting in the work and trying new things. As you might have noticed WNA did not send out membership forms using direct USPS mail. The committee came up with several new ideas to increase

membership. We inserted membership forms in the Winter Buzz. All household annual memberships were only \$15. Many board members talked to neighbors directly to make sure everyone knew about the importance of membership. We planted yard signs throughout the neighborhood to spread the word. We also made it easier to use PayPal and Venmo. All of the changes cost less than a direct mail campaign and we increased our membership! We have over 120 household memberships so far this year. I would like to say thanks to the committee and all of our new and renewing members.

Members made our Spring Neighborhood cleanup a success again this year. The cleanup is a popular annual WNA event providing a convenient, low cost, safe way to dispose or recycle hard to get rid of items around your home.

The Neighborhood Garage Sale weekend in June was a busy time with friends and neighbors searching for a special bargain. I am happy to report that my son, Alec had a very successful Lego garage sale. I'm sure those Lego sets look better in your house than in my basement. Thanks to the WNA Garage Sale committee - Mary Schwab & Cheryl Weslowski.

Next up is the annual Pool Party and Ice Cream Social on August 3rd. Get all the details on the front page article.

As you can see, summer is a busy time for everyone, including WNA members. All it takes to get involved and make your neighborhood a great place to be is raising your hand, sending an email or making a phone call to volunteer.

WNA Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| July 24 | Wetherbee Monthly Meeting, 7 pm, Redeemer Church |
| August 3 | Annual Pool Party, 6-8:00 pm (see article on pg. 1) |
| August 21 | James Michael Bowers Northeast Citizens Meeting, 5:30-6:30 pm at Anderson Branch Library |
| August 28 | Wetherbee Monthly Meeting, 7 pm, Redeemer Church |
| Sept. 18 | James Michael Bowers Northeast Citizens Meeting, 5:30-6:30 pm at Anderson Branch Library |
| Sept. 25 | Wetherbee Monthly Meeting, 7 pm, Redeemer Church |
| Sept. 28 | Wetherbee Walking Tour with Ed Zimmer, meet at Redeemer Church, 2pm (see article on pg. 1) |
| Oct. 12 | Tour of Genealogy Library for Wetherbee, 2 pm (pg. 1 article) |
| Oct. 16 | James Michael Bowers Northeast Citizens Meeting, 5:30-6:30 pm at Anderson Branch Library |



Tree-mendous opportunity to be a Tree Hugger in Witherbee

by Mary Schwab

Members of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association enjoyed the Tree Walk on May 31 with Pete Smith, retired Arborist from the Arbor Day Foundation and Lincoln Community Forestry Advisory Board member. As we walked around the double block starting and ending at Redeemer Church, we identified the many types of trees in this area and observed their structure and overall health. This was extremely educational, but ominous regarding the health of trees and the need for planting more trees in Lincoln.

Lincoln's urban forest has been decimated by age, the diseases of Dutch Elm and Emerald Ash Borer, and lack of proper care. Overall, tree coverage in Witherbee has dropped from around 37% to 30% in just 6 years.

Trees for Nebraska Towns, a grant program through the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, would provide free, high quality street trees for our neighborhood. Members of WNA are reaching out to those who attended the tree walk and to others to determine if there is enough interest to bring this program to the Witherbee neighborhood. This core group of volunteers would help determine where replacement of trees is most needed, assist in planting and follow-up care of newly planted trees (along with the home-owner). Guided by arborist Pete Smith the program would also include community outreach and education of the importance of maintaining/improving our city forest.

If you are passionate about re-treesing Nebraska, please call our WNA phone number at 402-413-0156 and leave a message or email us at witherbeena@gmail.com. Mary Schwab or Kathy Holland will get back to you to provide more information about this program.



Finding Your Roots at LLCGS

by Mike Kreikemeier

Sunday, October 12th at 2 pm

There is a special WNA Genealogy Workshop at 2 pm on Sunday, October 12th at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society (LLCGS), 2900 'O' Street. The workshop will be given by Becky Martin a resident of the Woods Park Neighborhood Association. Becky is the VP of Programs at the Genealogical Library and has presented this popular workshop to other groups. There is no cost for the workshop. You can become a member of LLCGS and support their mission of providing education and resources in genealogy and family history.

The workshop includes an introduction to the library collection of over 8,500 books and magazines. This is a great opportunity to learn how to research your family history and tell your story. More information about LLCGS is at <https://llcgs.info>

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Randolph Elementary 100-year Anniversary Open House Oct. 5th

Randolph Elementary will celebrate their 100th anniversary in their current building on October 5, 2025, from 2-4 pm. Plans include vintage cars on display in the parking lot, vintage clothing and memorabilia around the building, refreshments in the gym, vintage hats in the library and HOPEFULLY the opening of a 50 year old time capsule. Apparently there is one buried and they are in the process of trying to locate it. All classrooms will be open for self-guided tours.

According to Vicki Fasnacht, Executive Secretary at Randolph School, "As we prepare to celebrate 100 years, we have been working hard for about the last 6 months to raise money to improve the playground. Our PTA, with the generosity of many donors, did raise nearly \$10,000 from Give to Lincoln Day."

As a school they are continuing that effort with a Fund-a-need from the Lincoln Public Schools Foundation. They hope to purchase more interactive and inclusive playground pieces for their students and the community. Use the QR code or link below to make a donation. You may also mail to: LPS Foundation, 5905 O St. (68510). Please reference Randolph Playground.

<https://foundationgive.com/campaigns/6704/randolph-elementary-playground>



Redeemer Lutheran Church

510 South 33rd Street,
www.redeemerlincoln.org

Community Movie Nights
Fridays, July 25 & Aug. 8

Rally Day – August 24

More info on FaceBook page

WNA Eagle Scout Helps Park Bloom

The month of April brought spring blooms to Witherbee Park. In fact, 3,500 flowers, as a result of the work of dedicated Witherbee volunteers last November.

David Swanson, a Witherbee resident, helped plan and plant these bulbs as his Eagle Scout project. In the photo above, David receives his Eagle Scout award on May 22nd. Congratulations and thanks to David for his help in initiating and completing this project!



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Playground to be Renovated at Stuhr Park

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department (LPRD) has announced upcoming playground renovations in seven parks across the city, thanks to a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant. The parks slated for updates consists of Belmont, Filbert, Henry, Herbert, Nevin, Peach, and our Stuhr Park!

What's Coming—

New, Modern Playgrounds – Outdated equipment and safety surfacing will be removed, making way for brand-new, engaging play structures.

Improved Safety & Accessibility – All playgrounds will feature resilient rubber tile surfacing, ensuring a safe and inclusive play environment.

Sustainable Design – With the exception of Herbert Park, all new playgrounds will be rebuilt in their original locations to preserve green space and trees to the extent possible.

This project represents a \$1.2 million investment, with \$600,000 provided by a LWCF grant and a matching \$600,000 from LPRD's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and private donations secured by the Lincoln Parks Foundation. Lincoln Parks and Recreation staff will handle removal work, while a contractor will complete grading and installation of concrete, resilient surfacing, and play equipment.

Construction is anticipated to begin in Summer of 2025 with survey crews and park staff preparing the sites ahead of the construction season.



Fitlot regulars: Roberta, Tim, Gary, April, Kate with Jessie

FitLot Classes Resume in September at Woods Park

Tuesdays – 10:30-11:30am

Wednesdays – 10:30-11:30am

Fridays – 9-10am.

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

For more info, or finding out if a class is happening due to weather, email Jessie at: janielsen00@hotmail.com



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May Yard of the Month

Mary Schwab has lived in The Witherbee Neighborhood has been home for Mary Schwab for more than 55 years, with the past 49 of those at her home at 3510 Woods Avenue.

Mary has a special fondness for trees, as her late-husband once served as the City Forester for Lincoln. He planted a large diverse urban forest in their yard throughout the years. Despite the fact she's lost nearly a dozen trees over time, Mary currently still has 21 trees on her property. And she continues to add to the landscape, having planted three trees in just the past couple of years alone.

It's not surprising that her favorite part of her yard is the mature trees and the shade they provide. She especially loves the scent of the Sugartime crabapple and the Japanese Lilac tree, along with the colors during the change in seasons and the lovely blooms in the spring.

Having lived in the neighborhood for more than 55 years, it goes without saying that Mary has a fondness for the area. She talks about the friendliness of the neighbors,



the community support through Witherbee Neighborhood Association, and the engagement in city issues. If you know Mary, then you know these are strong beliefs for her.

Mary believes that Lincoln's urban forest has and continues to decline, "Each of us must contribute time and attention to re-planting trees in our neighborhood."

Mary owned and operated 42nd O'Hair Salon for 36 years. Her successful cosmetology business which also worked with hair replacements options for cancer patients. She is also the proud mom of three grown

children: Andy, Shannon and Beth. Add in her five grandchildren, and Mary stays very busy with family.

Stop by and visit Mary about her yard and her trees. She will be happy to share her knowledge with you.



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

Rick Bagby

Karen Dress

FM Lawn Care, Fred Freytag



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June Yard of the Month

For nearly 46 years, Roberta and Bruce Sandhorst have call 3320 N St. home, and over that time, their garden has transformed through the years with several different projects. However, the green-thumb passion goes back to Roberta's parents who introduced their love of gardening to her growing up.

"We had a large, shaded yard and my father was the one who introduced me to shade gardening and his love of hostas," Roberta said. "I now have over 140 variety of hostas tucked into my small yard."

Over the years, there's been many gardening/yard endeavors Bruce has worked on according to Roberta. He's installed a brick patio, built a potting shed and bench, laid a stone pathway and those are a few of the numerous projects which made the garden into a wonderful, complete space.

Roberta's favorite part of the garden lies on the east side of the house. What was once an overgrown patch of weeds, now features a beautiful mix of hostas and other



shade plants. Not to mention a wonderfully cultivated, climbing rose covered arbor that greets you at the entrance.

Both Roberta and Bruce are retired from UNL, and while that might have afforded them more free time to work in their yard, their three grown daughters and five grandchildren also keep them busy as well. And don't expect their cute house and yard to be hitting the market anytime soon as they're exactly where they want to be in Lincoln.

"We love our neighborhood," Roberta said. "We love the tree-lined streets, the beautiful older homes, and the friendly people."



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2025 WNA Garage Sales a Witherbee Neighborhood Success!

by Mary Schwab

Seventeen garage sale sites were busy on June 5-8 selling one-of-a-kind treasures.

Participation in WNA Garage Sales this year was FREE with a \$15.00 membership in WitherbeeNA. This investment provided funds for advertising. Dozens of signs were posted in the neighborhood and dozens of posters were provided to local businesses. A week-long ad in the Lincoln Journal Star brought shoppers from all over Lincoln. A map of all sales was posted on the Witherbee facebook page.

Your neighborhood needs YOU to continue Witherbee neighborhood events like our annual garage sales. Please consider that your WNA membership and a couple of hours' time each year from each person who reads the BUZZ will keep your neighborhood events alive, and will bring you great friends.



Thanks to the Clean-up Crew!

by Mike Kreikemeier



Three cheers for another successful Witherbee Neighborhood Cleanup! The annual event was on Saturday morning, May 3rd. The pleasant Spring weather was a bonus. Over 17 neighborhood volunteers pitched in to clean. Several people collected litter from the major streets and rights of way. Picking up litter is a good workout for Saturday morning. Thanks to everyone that helped cleanup the streets, sidewalks and neighborhood parks.

This year we collected over 1900 lbs of scrap metal that was recycled by Alter Metal. We delivered 44 tires to Complete Auto Care at 66th & P Street for recycling. Several doors, windows and tools were donated to Habitat For Humanity Restore. We dropped off 14 bikes and assorted bike accessories to the Lincoln Bike Kitchen. And of course

we had a dumpster that disposed of bricks, old mattresses, etc. taken to the landfill.

We couldn't put on a successful cleanup without support from our sponsors. Thanks to Mid Town Hy-Vee for donating coffee, orange juice and donuts. Thank you to Complete Auto Care for recycling all of the tires. A big thank you to the people that run the Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County grant program that covers the cost of the roll-offs, hauling and disposal fees. Thanks to Niederhaus Refuse for providing the roll-offs and hauling services.

And a special Thank You to the WNA Cleanup committee: Mike Kreikemeier, Bryan Hurst, Trevor Phillips, Dan Wesolowski and Rick Flodman.

