

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

## **Chief of Police to Speak - Answer Questions Nov. 3rd.**

#### By Mike Fitzgerald

Lincoln Chief of Police Tom Casady has been on the job for 21 years. He knows Lincoln and he knows our neighborhood. These are key reasons why we're excited that he will be the featured speaker during the WNA annual meeting on Thursday, November 3rd. The meeting will be held in Tabitha's Life Ouest Center at 48th & J St. There are a lot of interesting things for him to talk about, so his presentation will cover a lot of ground. There will also be



Chief Tom Casady

time for questions from those who attend the meeting.

This will be an opportunity to hear directly from Lincoln's chief cop about topics such as the department's toughest challenges, its plans for the future, and what neighborhood residents and WNA can do to help his staff effectively handle our needs. For example, he'll discuss the most effective way for you to report a disturbance or crime.

The Lincoln Police Department's has five police teams and WNA is served by the department's Southeast Team. The team's area of responsibility spans from south of 'O' Street and east of 27th Street to the city limits. The team covers a land area of approximately 30 square miles.

The southeast area is home to many things including,

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28 schools, and 2 major medical facilities. There are 46 full-time department employees assigned to cover the team area 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each team member is committed to providing quality police service that promotes a safe and secure community.

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# WNA's Second Annual Meeting Nov. 3rd

Police Chief Tom Casady will join us as featured speaker. Everyone is invited to attend the annual meeting to hear more about what's going on in the neighborhood. While the annual program is informative and includes the nomination and election of directors and officers, it is also one of the neighborhood's biggest social events.

Free Pizza and drinks will be provided and attendees are invited to bring snacks or deserts to help round out the party atmosphere. WNA residents use the annual meeting to celebrate the activities and accomplishments of the past year, as well as to meet with friends new and old from throughout the neighborhood WNA has drawn compliments from city officials and other neighborhood associations for its wide range of successful activities.

The meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 3rd 7:00 p.m. in Tabitha's Life Quest Center, at 48th & J. Use the parking lot at 48<sup>th</sup> & J and enter the door under the big blue sign. A neighbor will direct you to the room. It would be helpful but not necessary to call if you plan to attend or like to bring desert. We want to make sure we have enough food. Call Fred Freytag at 435-2465.



Enter doors under Tabitha sign for Witherbee Meeting.

www.WitherbeeNA.org

### About the Witherbee Neighborhood Association

**Boundaries:** 33rd to 56th & 'O' to Randolph Streets

#### Web Site:

www.WitherbeeNA.org Meetings: first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Place to be announced at web site.

#### **Executive Board:**

Fred Freytag, President 435-2465 fred@witherbeena.org

Erin Schmit, Vice President 484-0044 schmit233@aol.com

Christine Nesmith, Secretary 484-7673

Ann Richards, Treasurer 560-6260 witherbeeAnn@aol.com

Mike Fitzgerald, Past President 486-4073

#### **Additional Board Members:**

Rick Bagby, rpsgt@alltel.net	488-8567
Jim Ihrie	483-4919
Steve Schwab ohair42@aol.com	440-7630
Josh Sovereign jsovereign@fnni.com	327-9360
Dan Wesolowski dwesolowski@les.com	488-8249
Fred Zarate fzarate@alltel.net	486-3448
Newsletter Editor: Larry Frisch,	486-9380
Web Development: Fred Freytag	435-2465

# President's Message

All of our lives are so busy with so many activities. This is what makes seeing neighbors taking time to work together on issues and concerns to make a difference in their neighborhood so great.



Fred Freytag

I want to say THANK YOU to everyone who has volunteered in WNA activities over the last year. This includes delivering newsletters, coming to monthly meetings, taking part in the spring cleanup, the garage sales, the Salt Dogs outing, working on special committees serving on the Board, helping with the new master plan for Woods Park and more. Together we make a difference and maintain the character of our neighborhood.

It is exiting to see progress at 48<sup>th</sup> and O street. And even though the construction will be an inconvenience for a year we hope that the revitalization of the area will have a positive effect on our neighborhood. On Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> I was asked to speak and represent the WNA at a press conference Mayor Seng held to announce the latest for the widening of O street project. We have worked hard to be involved and stay on top of projects in or near our neighborhood. In addition to the O Street widening and redevelopment in the area, with some luck we will get a new park at 41<sup>st</sup> & J street.

On behalf of the volunteers from throughout our neighborhood who have come together to protect and enhance the area, I would like to ask you to either join or renew your membership in the WNA. Doing so will show that you care and in return we will do out best to keep you informed. The small membership fee (see the form on page 8) will help with our projects and communication. You also may make your tax-deductible donations to the WNA. If you have funds you can give to a charitable cause, making a donation to your Witherbee Neighborhood Association would be a good way to leave your mark in the neighborhood.

For the next year I am looking forward to growing our membership list and taking on new projects such as looking at requesting the city to down zone a part of our neighborhood to help protect it from improper developments. I herby invite you to reach out to your neighbors, come to a meeting or take part in a neighborhood activity. You will not regret it. See you soon.

## **O Street Closing Update:**

**O Street widening**: The Mayor announced on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> at a press conference at Perkins restaurant that the city selected a one year option on the O street widening project from 52<sup>nd</sup> to 45<sup>th</sup> with a total closure of O Street and a de-

tour down R Street. The project is set to begin in March 2006. The reconstruction of 48<sup>th</sup> Street from M Street to R Street will be a two year project with one side being closed at a time for construction. You can find more details on line at <u>www.ostreetlincoln.com</u> It is great to see some common sense used and the street project getting done before the blighted area is redeveloped and new businesses suffer needlessly.

### Edward Jones

Debra J. Zimmer

Investment Representative 3701 "O" Street, Suite 102 Lincoln, NE 68510 Bus 402-476-2266 Fax 888-361-9101 800-497-4310 www.edwardjones.com

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# Witherbee Residents Urged To Take Advantage Of Disaster Training (CERT)

#### By Larry Frisch

Margo Mckendree, Emergency Volunteer Coordinator for Volunteer Partners, has announced that a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training class will be available for Witherbee residents the weekend of Nov. 18, 19, and 20.

The CERT class I attended earlier this year was extremely interesting and rewarding. Taking about 20 hours, the course started Friday evening and ended Sunday afternoon with a simulated disaster. We learned how to prepare for disasters, assess structure damage, use basic fire suppression techniques and resources, assist



Freshly trained CERT team receives details of a simulated disaster at the State Fairgrounds. They will organize into specific task teams and use their newly acquired skills to deal with the "disaster".

emergency responders, conduct light search and rescue, set up triage areas, apply basic medical techniques, and help reduce survivor stress among other things. The emphasis was always on safety.

The CPR/AED class was conducted by the Red Cross and took one Saturday. Completion of this course leads to certification for both adult and child CPR.

The CERT concept was developed and implemented by

the City of Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985. They recognized that citizens would very likely be on their own during the early stages of a disaster. Thousands of citizens have since been CERT trained in Los Angles. The program was so beneficial that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) felt the concept could be carried nationwide. The goal of the training is to prepare people to help

"We, as good neighbors, need to be able to provide appropriate assistance if needed."

people. FEMA, through grants to local agencies is committed to supporting the training of local CERT teams across the nation.

Local CERT training got a big boost in January 2005, when Mayor Seng announced the formation of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Citizen Corps Council. Citizen Corps activities are funded by a Homeland Security grand administered through Lancaster County Emergency Management and operated by Volunteer Partners.

Volunteer Partners assisted in the processing of over 3000 volunteers and documentation of 20,000 hours of vol-

unteer work during the relief effort following the Hallam/ Lancaster County tornados last year.

Within the boundaries of the Witherbee Neighborhood, hundreds of children at Hawthorne School, and residents at Tabitha could be vulnerable in a disaster. We as good neighbors need to be able provide appropriate assistance if needed.

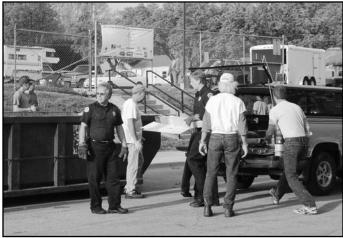
The free, no obligation, class is limited to 25 individuals on a first-come basis, so early sign-up is recommended.

Many retired people are especially suited to CERT training. Visit www. WitherbeeNA. org for sign up form.

For more information contact Margo McKendree, Volunteer Partners. 435-2100, or Larry Frisch, 486-9380 560-4565. or Web sites of interest: volunteerpartners.org, <u>citizencorps.gov</u>, ci.lincoln.ne.us.



good with any other offer or discount. Substitutions extra. One coupon per person or car per visit. Coupon expires December 31, 2005.



Firemen help Witherbee volunteers unload pickup.



Rick Bagby and Jim Ihrie help organize Scout volunteers





# **Huge Turnout Ensures Cleanup Success**

#### By Rick Bagby

40 Neighbors and friends gathered at Hawthorne School on May 7<sup>th</sup> for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual neighborhood Cleanup. The drop-off style cleanup gave Witherbee residents the chance to make and renew acquaintances, share coffee donuts and snacks, get a bit of exercise, and enjoy a beautiful spring day. We welcomed friends from the Lincoln Fire and Rescue department, Cub Scouts, Runza restaurants, and signed up 3 new memberships for the Witherbee Neighborhood Association.

Beads Galore • Oils • Incense & Oil Burners Cards • Posters • Jewelry • Crystals Awesome Clothing • Tye Dyes • Sunglasses Fantasy Items • Lucky Bamboo • Candles We are your "one stop" shop!! Euphoria 4139 "O" St. 488-8853 Sundays 12-5 p.m Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m

See us first and you won't have to go anywhere else!!

Oh yes, with an investment of nearly 200 hours of work, we collected 7 tons of rubbish and brush. We walked 8 miles of streets and two city parks picking up trash and cleaning utility poles. We trimmed obstructing brush from alleys and sidewalks. We collected 15 tires and 20 appliances and computers for recycling. We ran a pick-up service for those who called ahead and requested help getting items to us at the school. Metals and brush were separated from general trash for recycling. Several items were even rescued from the rubbish collection and taken home by neighbors for reuse. Coupons to pay the landfill/mulching center drop-off fee for loads of brush trimmings were distributed.

Though certainly not the main motivator for the cleanup, we are happy to report adding \$235 to the WNA general fund after expenses.

Major support for the cleanup came in grants from Keep Lincoln/Lancaster County Beautiful through the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Department of Environmental Quality. Also supporting the cleanup with in-kind and labor donations were: FM Lawn Care, Runza Restaurants, Cub Scouts of St. Teresa's Catholic Church, Lincoln Fire and Rescue, the Neighborhood Extra (front page!), and the many individuals who donated supplies and the use of vehicles. Thank You all.

# Make Plans Now For 2nd Annual Witherbee Holiday Lighting Contest

Cold days, long nights and leaves spread all over the lawn mean it's time to take your holiday lights out of storage and join us in our second holiday lighting contest. 1<sup>st</sup> place will get the holiday award sign placed in their yard and all winners will receive special prizes from local companies.

Our celebrity judges will tour the registered locations after 7:30 p.m. during the weekend of December 17<sup>th</sup> to judge on effective use of lights and decorations, creativity, and overall appearance.

You may nominate your home or any neighbors as long as it is in the Witherbee Neighborhood Boundaries (between 33<sup>rd</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> Streets and 'O' to Randolph Streets) by calling 435-6022 or by e-mail to <u>karenna ne@yahoo.</u> <u>com</u>. Please leave your name, the location address, and a phone number.

All registered locations will be posted on our web site at <u>www.witherbeena.org</u>. It's a friendly competition for all in this year's holiday season!



Witherbee volunteers place new picnic table at permanent site.

### **WNA Donates Table to Hawthorne**

During this year's Spring Neighborhood Cleanup the WNA donated a small heavy duty picnic table to Hawthorne Elementary School. It was purchased with proceeds from last year's neighborhood cleanup. The picnic table was purchased from Champlin Tire Recycling Inc., who took part in the tire amnesty program last year. The base is made from recycled tires and the top boards are made from #2 recycled plastics. The table was accepted by Principle Cindy Schwaninger and placed on the east side of the school for the enjoyment and education of all students.



Fall 2005

## Chief of Police to Speak -Answer Questions Nov. 3rd.

**Continued from Page 1** 

Our Southeast Team claims a long-standing tradition of leading the department in the number of problem-oriented policing projects completed each year. These projects are specifically designed to impact long- term, repetitive problems by using non-traditional policing methods and involving the community in the final solution.

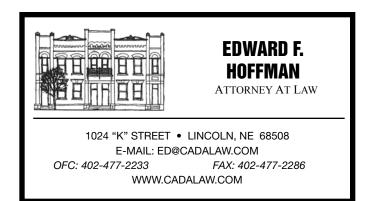
Chief Casady will highlight how residents and the WNA can partner with the team. For example, the Southeast Team established a Citizen's Advisory Council in 1996. The council meets five times a year and is comprised of citizens who live and work within the boundaries of the Southeast Team. The purpose of the council is to provide citizen input on Southeast Team issues and serve as a communication link with the various interest groups they represent. This type of forum provides citizens of Lincoln with a direct voice to their police department and is used to help identify and resolve community issues.

The department also has a long-standing program called the Citizen Academy. It is designed to build a better understanding between citizens and the police through hands-on education. By participating in the Academy WNA residents can become more familiar with the operations of the Lincoln Police Department and gain a deeper understanding of the policies and laws guiding officer's decisions. Academy participants meet once a week for nine weeks. Information-packed classes include criminal law, domestic violence, criminal investigation, traffic enforcement, lethal force, K-9 demonstrations, narcotics, gangs, DWI and a popular ride along with an on-duty officer.

Don't miss this chance to hear from and ask question of Lincoln's Chief of Police.

## **Could you HELP?**

From time to time we need volunteers to deliver newsletters or flyers in your neighborhood. If you could help deliver a block or two please call Fred Freytag at 435-2465. The newsletter is the most important communication tool we have. We want to make sure everyone receives one.



### Woods Park Land Exchange Update Sort of a Deja vu Situation

#### By Mike Fitzgerald

For those who are familiar with the issue of WNA efforts to have the city place a park at 41<sup>st</sup> and J, the good news is that there has been activity since the update in our spring newsletter. The unfortunate news is that not much progress has been made. Then again, the good news is that a couple options with potential still are viable.

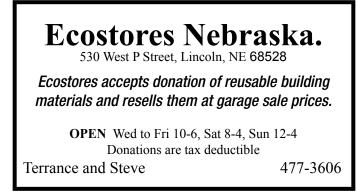
For everyone's benefit, here's the background on issue: The expansion of Health Dept. facilities in Woods Park requires lost park space to be replaced elsewhere in the city on a dollar value basis (approx. \$320,000). Representatives from WNA, Woods Park Neighborhood Association and 40<sup>th</sup> & A Neighborhood Association have visited with city officials during the past year in an effort to have a park developed in the center part of the city (we called it Witherbee Gardens).

The Parks and Recreation Dept. developed a proposal that would place a mini park at 4105 J and the city and WNA residents then toured the property to discuss the potential for increasing the size of a park and the city soon thereafter did propose enlarging the park at 41<sup>st</sup> and J. The city commissioned an appraisal of the property. Those activities are the good news. The unfortunate news is that the appraised value is reportedly lower than the \$160,000 estimate the city, property owner and WNA discussed before the appraisal. In addition, the city and the owner of the 41<sup>st</sup> & J lots have yet to get together to see if a deal can be worked out.

Anyone with questions or comments about this project can contact WNA past president Mike Fitzgerald at 486-4073 or via e-mail at seven\_f\_ranch@juno.com.

# Ecostores Nebraska opens non-profit business to recycle building materials

The warehouse at 530 West P Street, takes donations of all usable building and remodeling materials and sells them at garage sale prices. You can find doors, windows, sinks, toilets, lumber, trim, paint, light fixtures, ceiling fans, desks, furniture, office furniture and much more. Don't dump it, donate it!



## Tabitha Breaks Ground on Revolutionary Approach for Long-Term Skilled Care

Tabitha Health Care Services broke ground September 6 for the Tabitha Green House Project<sup> $\mathbb{M}$ </sup>, a revolutionary new approach in long-term care. The Green House concept allows individuals who require skilled nursing services to live in a neighborhood home designed, equipped and staffed to deliver long-term care. The 5,300 square-foot home, scheduled to open next spring (2006), is designed around a hearth strategically placed to evoke the spirit of warmth and convivial living. The plan includes nine private living spaces, each with its own private bath. The Green House model is a shift away from the traditional nursing home model. It is an intentional community built to a residential scale and situating necessary clinical care within a social model that gives primacy to the older person's quality of life.

The Tabitha Green House is one of four pilot projects in the United States developed by William H. Thomas,

M.D., Harvard-trained geriatrician and founder of the Center for Growing and Becoming, Inc. The first Green House opened in May 2003 in Tupelo, Mississippi. The Project in Tupelo has produced remarkable results including an overall improvement in quality of life indicated by an increase in appetites, mobility and socialization. Preliminary results also indicate an increase in family involvement and staff satisfaction with a reduction in employee turnover.

Major corporate sup-

port for The Tabitha Green

"Green House sets the bar in Elder health care services higher than ever before. We should not rest until we can assure every Elder needing this kind of care has the opportunity to live in a Green House environment."

Joyce Ebmeier, Administrator, Tabitha Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

House Project<sup>™</sup> has been provided by Lutheran Services for the Elderly Endowment; Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka; Lincoln Community Foundation; Immanuel Health Systems; City of Lincoln,





Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and STANLEY Senior Technologies.

Tabitha Health Care Services is the premiere provider of Elder health care services promoting the dignity, independence and health of older adults in Lincoln and 29 counties in southeast Nebraska. Tabitha offers Hospice, Meals on Wheels, Home Care Specialties, Home Health Care, Intergenerational Care for adults and children, Independent Living, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation in Tabitha LifeQuest Center and long-term care in its nursing center.

### **Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sales**

#### By Erin Schmidt

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association had their neighborhood-wide garage sales again this year from June 9-12<sup>th</sup>. There were 47 locations on this year's list, 45 within the WNA area and 2 outside the WNA area. A \$3.00 registration fee was collected to add your location to the list that also included days, hours, and short description of what was being sold. This list was posted on our web site, as well as in advertisements in the Lincoln Journal Star and Thrifty Nickel. A flyer was printed to hand out at locations and this list appeared in our summer newsletter as well. The turnout seemed to be a little less than last year because of rainy weather. A volunteer 10% profit donation was proposed to all who participated which brought around \$45.00. Thank you to all who participated!!



### You are invited to be a member of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association

	Membership Categories:		
Name:	Single	\$10.00	
	Family	\$15.00	
Address:	Senior Family	\$10.00	
City, St.:	Additional Household Member	\$ 5.00	
City, 5t	Sponsor	\$35.00	
Zip Code:	Benefactor		
Phone:	Business	\$40.00	
E-mail:	Benefits of membership: (besides being	g in the loop of things)	
	Single – one vote; Family – two votes,	one per person; Se-	
WNA is a Non Profit Association. Contributions of \$35.00	nior Family - same as Family; Additional Household Mem-		
or more will receive a tax deductible receipt.	ber -one vote; Sponsor – up to three votes, one per person;		
	Benefactor – same as sponsor and listed in newsletter once Business – one vote as per bylaws, reduced ad costs, one free		
Mail to:			
Ann Richards, 5030 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68510	listing in newsletter, and an ad on our web site.		

### In Just 7 Questions You Can Tell Us What You Think

The Board of Directors for the Witherbee Neighborhood Association consists of 11 residents from across the neighborhood (the area within 33<sup>rd</sup> to 56<sup>th</sup> and O to Randolph Streets). The directors are men and women with varying skills, concerns and interests and they would like to receive your input. The following seven-question survey is intended to get your views so the association's activities can reflect what you want your neighborhood to be. Please take a few minutes to give the Board your input. The directors volunteer their time to help protect the neighborhood and keep it vibrant – so please give them your opinion.

1. Name and address (optional, but helpful):
2. Profession or career:
3. Hobbies) or interest(s):
4. Meeting speaker topics: (check any that apply and feel free to rank your choices)
Auto purchases, Auto care, Child safety, Computers, Electrical, Family budgeting and finances, Garage
and workshop organization, 🛛 Gardening, 🗋 Health care, 🖓 Identity theft, 🖓 Insurance, 🏹 Interior design, 🖓 Landscaping,
Parenting, Pets, Retirement planning, Tutoring, College selection and financial aid, Other
5. What thing(s), projects, activities or issues would you like the association to address?
6. Other comments, concerns, ideas or suggestions?
7. Would you consider serving as a director on the WNA Board? $\Box$ Yes, $\Box$ No, $\Box$ Not at this time

**Please send your answers now** to Fred Freytag, 530 S. 38<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE 68510 or via e-mail at <u>fred@witherbeena.org</u>, or by phone at 435-2465. He will report early survey results at the WNA annual meeting on Thursday, Nov. 3rd in Tabitha's Life Quest Center at 48<sup>th</sup> & J St. You are invited to attend to hear about the results. Thank You.

-

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	402-434-3800 Lincolnshire 7141 "A" Street Lincoln, NE 68510	4230 Progressive Ave. Lincoln, NE 68504 402-467-2577	Digital Restorations Business Portraits and Groups Passport and Immigration Full Digital Services