



Firemen help Witherbee volunteers unload pickup.



Rick Bagby and Jim Ihrle help organize Scout volunteers



Huge Turnout Ensures Cleanup Success

By Rick Bagby

40 Neighbors and friends gathered at Hawthorne School on May 7th for the 2nd 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.

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.

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