



**Witherbee**  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

# The Witherbee - ?

- Buzz, - Line, - Watch, -  
Wire, - World?

Newsletter

July/August/September 2004

## WNA Garage Sales

Sign Up to participate.

Clean out your garage, basement, and attic! It's time for the first annual Witherbee Neighborhood Association Garage Sale – on Friday, August 13 and Saturday, August 14, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.??

Your sale can be one or both days, the entire time or just a portion. If you don't have enough items for your own sale, connect with a neighbor. You may contact us if you have room for more items to sell or need to find someone to have a sale with and we will try to match you up! The area-wide garage sale will be advertised in the Thrifty Nickel and Journal Star along with our website address where a map and list of addressees will be available for download. We will also place signs throughout the neighborhood displaying the nearest sale address.

### Signup Deadline August 1st

Signing up will entitle you to be on the garage sale map, on the list of participating sites and WNA website. Lists will include: locations, dates, times and types of items. They will also be available at sale sites. Please contact Bob Reeker at 742-9102 or 560-3530 or via email [breeker@lps.org](mailto:breeker@lps.org).



We are suggesting each garage sale location donate 10% of its proceeds to the Witherbee Neighborhood Association. In addition, we are requesting \$3.00 from each location by August 1, to cover newspaper advertisements and flyers.

This event is important to those living in our community and it brings people from all parts of Lincoln and the surrounding area into our neighborhood to see and appreciate the quality of life we have in the Witherbee Neighborhood.

## Joins Us at the Saltdogs

Witherbee Neighborhood is planning a fun night at Haymarket Park on Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:05 p.m. Bring your friends and neighbors to watch the Lincoln Saltdogs play the Joliet Jack Hammers. Everyone is welcome. This will be a great opportunity to meet neighbors, renew old friendships and make new ones.



Special ticket prices are \$4.00 per person and must be prepaid by Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can be picked up at the will call window, under your name, the day of the game.

Going as a group our name will be "in lights" on the video board and we will receive a special welcome over the PA system. There will be a drawing for a chance to participate in various game promotions, free Saltdogs programs and more.

Contact Jim Ihrie at 483-4919 or Fred Freytag at 435-2465 to prepay for tickets or more information.

Join us in starting an annual tradition.

## Vote for the Name!

Submit a vote for your favorite name for our newsletter from those listed above. At the May meeting, members chose five names from those submitted. Consensus at the meeting was to include "Witherbee" in the name.

Send your vote by email with your name and address to [name@witherbeena.org](mailto:name@witherbeena.org) or to Name the Newsletter, 530 S 38th St. Lincoln, NE 68510. Deadline is August 31.

# Adult Programs at Hawthorne CLC!

Your local Community Learning Center at Hawthorne Elementary School offers many opportunities that are available to adults living in the Witherbee Neighborhood. This coming fall we will be offering a wide variety of programs for adults including:

- Introduction to Photography Class
- Low Impact Aerobics
- Income Tax Assistance
- Evening Childcare
- Winter Volleyball League
- Adult Education Programs
- One Book One Family Book Club
- And Much More!



The majority of these classes, events, and programs are free of charge. Most of these events are currently in the planning stages, but we expect to have a complete program schedule available in August. If you would like to receive regular updates on the Community Learning Center's programming or sign up for a program please e-mail [wfruhl@lps.org](mailto:wfruhl@lps.org) or call Wade Fruhling at 540-1295.

We are very proud to serve this neighborhood and would greatly appreciate your participation in any or all of these upcoming events. If you have any suggestions for what the Community Learning Center should offer next please contact us at the above e-mail address or phone number.

~ Wade Fruhling, Site Supervisor

## Important Information !!!

This newsletter is published quarterly. In order for us to provide you with updates about issues and activities between editions, send us your email address and we will add you to the list. (The list is kept confidential). Send your name, phone number and address to [info@witherbeena.org](mailto:info@witherbeena.org).

To receive updates via U.S. mail, send a note to: WNA Mailing List - 645 S. 42<sup>nd</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68510

**We'll add your name to our list, but we'd also like your financial support to help cover expenses. See the membership form on page 8.**

### About Us:

### Witherbee Neighborhood Association

**Web Site:** [www.WitherbeeNA.org](http://www.WitherbeeNA.org)

**Meetings:** first Thursday of each month at Hawthorne Elementary School, 300 S. 48<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

#### Current Officers:

**President:** Mike Fitzgerald  
Ph. 486-4073 [seven\\_f\\_ranch@juno.com](mailto:seven_f_ranch@juno.com)

**Vice President:** Kevin Ward  
Ph. 730-3100 [KW3212@aol.com](mailto:KW3212@aol.com)

**Secretary:** Darrell McGhghy  
Ph. 488-5532 [gomer294@inebraska.com](mailto:gomer294@inebraska.com)

**Treasurer:** Josh Sovereign  
Ph. 327-9360 [jsovereign@fnni.com](mailto:jsovereign@fnni.com)

**Newsletter Editor & Web Development:**  
Fred Freytag, Ph. 435-2465 [fred@witherbeena.org](mailto:fred@witherbeena.org)

**Thanks for being a great neighbor,  
Hawthorne Elementary!**

## Our Purpose

The purpose of our association is to help residents, churches, schools and businesses here work together to preserve the low-density residential character of our neighborhood and enhance the best elements of the area for the benefits of residents. WNA is about making Lincoln the best community it can be and in the process, having neighbors meet each other.

We believe residents, developers and city leaders, have an obligation and an opportunity to work to make the best of our neighborhoods and city.

We take guidance from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan that says that neighborhoods are one of Lincoln's greatest strengths and their conservation is fundamental to the plan.

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## Looking to Buy a Home?

Neighborhoods, Inc. has been Lincoln's champion for healthy neighborhoods for almost 20 years. Located in the historic Carnegie Library Building at 2121 N. 27<sup>th</sup>, Neighborhoods, Inc. offers a variety of programs to promote homeownership and revitalize neighborhoods.

**The First Home Program** is a 0% second mortgage specifically designed for the first time homebuyer to assist with closing costs, down payment and rehabilitation.

The citywide program allows for up to \$25,000, with the amount determined by the location within the city. In order to qualify, residents must fall within certain income guidelines. A single person must earn less than the \$35,600 gross income cap. A family of two can make \$40,700. The amount increases to \$45,800 for a three-person household, \$50,900 for a family of four, and up to \$67,150 for eight.

In addition to the income parameters, applicants must participate in 12 hours of Home Buyer Education Classes. The classes, which meet weekly from 7-10 p.m., are offered monthly on rotating days. A series of daytime group classes were offered for the first time in June and will be offered again in the future as need arises.

In the past year, Neighborhoods, Inc. assisted approximately 50 families who used the First Home Program. For further information call 477-7181 or visit the website at [www.neighborhoodsinc.org](http://www.neighborhoodsinc.org).

**The Witherbee Neighborhood has some great homes For Sale. Take a look around.**

## Everyone's invited to:

**Neighborhoods, Inc. Annual Meeting**  
Thursday, September 23rd 5-7 p.m.  
Lincoln Firefighters Hall - 241 Victory Lane

Food, entertainment and special presentation about Free to Grow. **Please Join Us!**

**Income-eligible first-time homebuyers!**  
Borrow up to \$25,000 at 0% interest  
**Call 477-7181**  
[www.neighborhoodsinc.org](http://www.neighborhoodsinc.org)  
Down Payment - Closing Costs - Rehab

## Neighborhood Cleanup Update

We had good weather and a great time, lots of doughnuts and juice. At least 17 residents volunteered for the cleanup with over 50 contributing to the collection of rubbish and recyclable materials. Participants volunteered over 120 hours. Doughnuts and juice were donated by various people and FM Lawn Care, Inc., donated the use of three trucks and trailers to haul items from residents that were unable to do it themselves.

We filled three roll offs with rubbish for a total of 13,480 lbs. and one with metal to be recycled with 4,480 lbs. The cost of hauling done by Ron's Roll-Offs at a reduced rate of \$225.00 as well as, the landfill fee of \$114.58 were covered by a grant from Keep Lincoln Beautiful program. Eight coupons for free brush disposal were handed out during the cleanup.

Tires, computers and car batteries added to the list of recyclable items. We received a check for \$89.60 for the metal taken to Alter Scrap. We had \$101.70 profit from donations and monies remaining after disposing of computers, batteries and tires. We will receive a check of \$100.00 for a Mini Grant Cleanup that was for picking up litter along the public right of way of streets, alleys and in parks. About one third of our neighborhood was covered during this activity. In the end we have a profit of \$291.30 from the cleanup.

*continued on Page 5*

Clip & Save

**Aluminum Can Buyer**  
**MID-CITY Recycling**  
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**464-5880**  
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**Bring in this Ad for an additional 2¢ per lb.**  
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# President's Message

Mike Fitzgerald

I am pleased to report that since our last newsletter was published we have become involved in more than business matters, unlike our first year. It may not be evident reading this column because I have highlighted our more serious activities. But updates on other projects we've branched into are reported in this newsletter. The range of activities makes a pretty colorful statement about WNA.

## Redevelopment of Former Husker Auto Properties East of 48<sup>th</sup> Along O Street

In April, Wynn Hjermsstad from the Lincoln Urban Development Department explained what the city is doing to help redevelop the properties. As the first step in the process the city has conducted a "blighted and substandard study," with results to be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval. If approved, the department will present a redevelopment plan to the two bodies. Then the city would seek redevelopment proposals from developers and a redevelopment agreement could be approved by the City Council. The department has welcomed input from WNA developed by a subcommittee chaired by Russell Miller. The subcommittee listed items WNA wants to see in the redevelopment plan, items WNA can tolerate and items the neighborhood would oppose. WNA has requested Urban Development to provide feedback on the list and that WNA continues to be included in the redevelopment planning process. An update will be presented at the Aug. 5 meeting

## Expand the Health Dept. Facilities in Woods Park

The expansion requires lost park space be replaced elsewhere in the city on a dollar value basis (estimates range from \$270,000-550,000). In April, Mary Morin, WNA subcommittee chair, reported that the Woods Park Neighborhood Association has indicated interest in exploring the required land exchange to be done as part of the development of property at in the center of the

block between J and Randolph at 40<sup>th</sup> Street. In May, the Parks and Recreation Department Advisory Board voted to propose placing one third of the land exchange in the WNA area and the remaining two thirds on the northern edge of Lincoln.

However, the advisory board can be asked to reconsider the proposal. Doing so would be logical, if a proposal to keep the exchange within this area of the city could be developed by WNA, the Woods Park Neighborhood Association and the Parks and Recreation Department. At the July 1 WNA meeting, a small group was formed to work on the issue. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact Mary Morin. The group will provide an update at the Aug. 5 WNA meeting.

## Runza Recently Began Construction Of A Drive-Through Restaurant At 40<sup>th</sup> And Randolph

At the April WNA meeting, participants received a copy of a letter Runza had sent to a few property owners in the area of 40<sup>th</sup> and Randolph. It outlined Runza's plans for developing the property on the southwest corner of that intersection and the company's willingness to discuss how a sit-down restaurant with a parking lot might be designed to be acceptable to neighborhood residents and property owners. It was agreed at the April meeting that a group consisting of representatives from both WNA and 40<sup>th</sup> and A would meet with Runza officials to discuss neighborhood concerns the company could address in both drive-thru and sit-down designs and that it would report back to the larger group. Ed Hoffman and me and two 40<sup>th</sup> & A Neighborhood representatives met April 21 with a Runza official in an effort to relay neighborhood concerns and to seek more information about Runza's plans. The concerns were outlined in an April 22 letter, which the Runza Board considered on April 26 and issued a letter in response on April 27 that indicated the company intended to proceed with its plans to build a drive-thru facility.

### the Picture Man

#### Special Events Photography

We are everything you need when it comes to photography. So no matter what your next event, contact us and see what we can arrange for your photography needs.



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## President's Message *continued*

### **Sinclair Gas Station at 48<sup>th</sup> & Randolph Closed**

Discussion was held at WNA May meeting about the importance of working proactively to help find a neighborhood-friendly replacement. I contacted a Sinclair official and expressed WNA's interest in a constructive use of the property. Sinclair's representative said the company is looking to find an investor who is interested in reopening the station, perhaps offering auto repair services.

### **U.S. Cellular's 100-Foot Pole & Cell Phone Antenna**

In March and April, WNA worked with representatives from LCC International, working on behalf of U.S. Cellular, to gather input from residents about the phone company's plans to install a pole and antenna in the parking lot of Christo Rey Church, 4221 J Street. Resident concerns centered on limiting the time a parking lot light on the pole would be on and that the pole meet city codes. The pole has been installed. U.S. Cellular is preparing to launch a July marketing and promotion campaign to announce its entry into the Lincoln market.

### **Electing New Officers And A Board Of Directors**

WNA was established in March 2003 and an election should be addressed. From this discussion, a small group of volunteers has met and drafted WNA bylaws that include a schedule for elections. Fred Freytag, Ann Richards, Steve Schwab, Karen Vogeley and I met four times and then presented a draft at the July meeting. Revisions were suggested and a final draft will be voted on at the Aug. 5 meeting. To view the current draft you can go to [www.witherbeena.org](http://www.witherbeena.org) and follow the link. The draft bylaws call for a Board of Directors with a minimum of 7 directors and maximum of 12, with election of directors and officers to be held at the annual membership meeting in October. Director and officers from throughout the WNA area are needed. Anyone interested serving is encouraged to attend the upcoming monthly WNA meetings.

### **Woods Park Master Plan Meeting**

The Parks and Recreation Department begun the process to update its 10-year plan for Woods Park. A meeting was held July 15, at Redeemer Lutheran Church (510 S. 33<sup>rd</sup> St.) to seek public input for a new 10-year plan. Topics included recent park improvements and Health Department's expansion. A report will be provided at the August 5<sup>th</sup> WNA meeting.

## Neighborhood Hotline

If there are there tall weeds, junk cars, trash, over grown brush in alleys, tires or other city code violations or health concerns in your neighborhood call the Neighborhood Hotline at 441-6300 and report the exact address of the property with the problem. You do not have to give your name.

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## Cleanup *continued from page 3*

A BIG Thank You to all volunteers for making this first cleanup such a huge success. Larry Frisch, Mike Maguire, James Ihrie, Wade Fruling, Russell Schafer, Karina Voutas, Ann Richards, Elaine Monnier, Fred Zaeate, Josh Sovereign, Mike Fitzgerald, Bob Reeker, Doug Keyser, Erin Schmit, Michael, Sherry and Fred Freytag and we hope we didn't forget some one.

If you missed out this year get involved for next year. Thank you to the City of Lincoln for the money to make this possible and all the good advice from Harry Heafer, from Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful. Soon we will be posting pictures of this event on the Witherbee web site.

~ Fred Freytag

## Household Hazardous Waste Collections

The program will take heavy metals, solvents, pesticides and items containing PCB's. This is for household waste only. Call LLCHD at 441-8040 or follow the links on our website for more info. Collection dates are:

**Fri. Sept. 10** Lancaster County Shop Salt Dome, Waverly.

**Sat. Sept. 11** Lincoln-Lancaster Co. Health Dept. 3140 O

**Sat. Oct. 9** Lincoln-Lancaster Co. Health Dept. 3140 O



### **EDWARD F. HOFFMAN**

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## Woods Park Land Exchange, 48<sup>th</sup> & O Redevelopment and WNA Garage Sales

### What's Going On in Your Neighborhood

The next WNA monthly meeting will be held Thursday, Aug. 5 at 7:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – 1200 S. 40<sup>th</sup>. Residents and representatives of businesses in the Witherbee area are invited to the neighborhood association's next monthly meeting. During the school year, WNA meetings are held at Hawthorne Elementary School, 300 S. 48<sup>th</sup> – at 7:00 p.m., the first Thursday of each month.

#### August 5<sup>th</sup> Agenda Items to be Discussed:

- WNA's involvement in the city's plan to redevelop the former Husker Auto Group properties along O Street east of 48<sup>th</sup> Street
- Plans for WNA-wide garage sales Aug. 13 & 14
- Review draft bylaws and plans for Board and Officer elections in October
- Our work to persuade city leaders to keep Woods Park land in the Woods Park – WNA area
- Our input for the city's updating of a 10-year plan for Woods Park

We hope you will attend to hear about many of the interesting activities residents are doing to keep, protect and enhance the character of the neighborhood. In the process, we're meeting new friends and networking.  
~ Mike Fitzgerald

**' We've addressed several important issues and will continue to do so, but we're also branching out to do more positive and fun activities. '**

*Clip and Save*

#### WNA Calendar 2004/2005

All membership meetings are at Hawthorne Elementary School, 300 S. 48<sup>th</sup> – at 7:00 p.m. unless posted different.

##### Meeting dates

September 2, 2004  
October 7, 2004  
November 4, 2004  
December 2, 2004  
January 6, 2005  
February 3, 2005  
March 3, 2005

## WNA August 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1200 S. 40<sup>th</sup>

**WNA wishes to thank Our Saviour's Lutheran for making meeting space available for July and August.**

## Witherbee on the Web

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

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association launched its web site in January, with more pages, pictures and advertiser-supporters added during the past few weeks. We need and welcome your input and participation so we can add pages on links, history, home sales, garage sales, recipes and more.

If you know of someone who has pictures or information from past days of our neighborhood please ask them to contact us and contribute their information before it is lost forever. Thank you to those who have contributed already.

We want to publicize upcoming events and activities from your group on the web and in our newsletter. Please forward information and articles to us.

Contact Fred Freytag at 435-2465 for web page questions and input.

## FOR SALE

Are you selling your home, car, furniture or other valuables? We have set aside some pages on the Witherbee Web Site for sale ads. If you are a paid family or business member you can place an ad for **FREE** on these pages. You may include: pictures, text, maps, links etc. The Ads will help bring people to the Witherbee web site and see what we are all about, as well as, getting you the most for your items. Call or email us to participate.



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Midwest provides residential garbage, yard waste and curbside recycling collection.

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## Tabitha's Intergenerational Center

This month it will be three years that the Tabitha Intergenerational Center has been in your neighborhood! We still feel like "the new kid on the block." Several members of the Association have been asking me "just what goes on there."

We have two programs in our building, our Adult Day Services Program and our Early Childhood Program, called the "Developmental Play School" or simply "school" to the children here.

Our Adult Day Program brings services to 20-25 elders a day. About a year ago, Madonna's Elder Program transferred to our Center. The transition has gone very well and I can honestly say that they all belong to us now. We care for adults during the day who might be in a more restrictive environment (such as a nursing home) if it weren't for our program.

Our Developmental Play School provides care and education for children. As you know, the first five years of a child's life are critical to their future success. Our Center creates a warm environment for children to learn and grow.

The fun part of the Intergenerational Center is that both programs exist in the same building and we give elders and children the opportunity for intentional community. Our children and our adults know one another, play with one another and often tease one another. In fact, we have a mini "Neighborhood Association" right in our building.

We invite any neighbor to stop by to have a look around. If you would like to plan ahead for a complete tour, you can just call us to set one up! Our number here is 402-484-9600 and we sit right on the corner of 48th and J.

~ by Deb Sheely RN, BS  
Intergenerational Center Administrator

Building strong leadership for Lincoln's neighborhoods.

### Great Neighborhoods!

Is a program developed by the Urban Development Department (City of Lincoln), Neighborhoods Inc., and the Heartland Center for Leadership Development. Great Neighborhoods! will provide tools and techniques to develop and enhance the leadership skills of anyone interested in building a stronger neighborhood community. Classes start August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Call 474-7667 for more information

## New Friends Three Doors Down...

Ever had the thought that you should or wished you knew more of the people on your block or around the block? Ever wonder where they work, what their hobby is or if they know other people you know? WNA residents agree that the best thing about being involved in the group's activities is the friendships that have been established that would not have happened otherwise. The meetings and activities have helped us meet nearby neighbors, as well as others several blocks away. We invite you to join the growing network of WNA-area residents.

## Did you know?

You need to leash and pick up after your dog when you go for a walk around the neighborhood. It's the law and fines start at \$35.00 for the first offence and can go up to \$100.00 per occurrence. Be a good neighbor and pick up after your dog.

## Like to Paint?

The Paint•A•Thon 2004 will be held Saturday August 14. It is held on behalf of low income seniors and disabled home owners. Join to paint the exteriors of homes for those who are unable to do the work themselves or cannot afford to hire a commercial painter. Call Tom or Sheila (800) 330-9567 to volunteer or call the Lincoln Action Program at 471-4515 for more information on having your home painted.

## Operation House ID

City code states that address numbers should be easily read, be placed in a conspicuous place and be at least three inches tall. Could your house number be found easily at night when every second could count?

Reflective numbers in the right places could help.

**Steve Wolsleger**, Owner  
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Can **911** find your home when every second counts?

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OF NEBRASKA**

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(402) 429-6814

Lincoln, Nebraska

[www.OperationHouseID.com/?sewolsleger](http://www.OperationHouseID.com/?sewolsleger)



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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, St: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Membership Categories:

\_\_\_ Single..... \$ 5.00

\_\_\_ Family..... \$10.00

\_\_\_ Business ..... \$25.00

\_\_\_ Contribution..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### How would you like to help your neighborhood?

\_\_\_ Serve on the board

\_\_\_ Help with newsletter [ \_\_\_ articles \_\_\_ delivery ]

\_\_\_ Sell memberships and ads to neighborhood businesses

\_\_\_ Help with the annual Cleanup in April/May

\_\_\_ Plan workshops or other programs

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail to:

Josh Sovereign, 645 S. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68510

## Why buy membership and join WNA?

People who care enough about something get involved. When you buy membership you are entitled to privileges like: notification of meetings and events by email or postal mail, voting, holding office, being elected to the board, accessing member-only areas on

the website and more to come. The group also needs the membership fees to pay for expenses like providing copies at meetings, mailing responses to city or businesses and more. We all share the benefits of the actions taken by the group, let's all share the expenses. You can do your part by becoming a paid member.

## Celebrate Neighborhoods August 22<sup>nd</sup>

Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance is planning its first annual **CELEBRATE NEIGHBORHOODS** event, Sunday August 22<sup>nd</sup> in Antelope Park from 1:00 to 5:00p.m. The purpose of this event is to feature neighborhood associations from across the city joining together to promote the important role that neighborhoods serve in keeping Lincoln a wonderful place to live.

Neighborhood Association members will be representing their neighborhoods during the afternoon event. In addition, Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance's first Annual Celebrate Neighborhoods event will feature food, entertainment, games and music.

The Mayor has agreed to speak during the event and City Council members will be on hand to answer questions about neighborhood issues.

Fun and sharing is the theme for the afternoon. There will be displays and activities for the whole family. Antelope Park also offers a wonderful playground and outdoor recreation.

We are counting on your participation to celebrate the wonderful variety of Lincoln's neighborhoods. ***Bring the whole family and join in the fun as we Celebrate Neighborhoods!***



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