

Wildlife Damage Expert To Speak At August 7th Meeting

With all the rain we've had this season, gardens are growing a cornucopia of flowers and produce. We enjoy the visual aspect of the flowers and the taste of the produce. And we're not the only ones doing this. Rabbits, voles, squirrels and other wildlife may also be feasting on our plants. Since, as the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, Stephen Vantassel has compiled some wildlife damage prevention strategies to help reduce those problems.

In addition to gardens, inspect all the structures on your land. Are the window wells properly covered to prevent skunks from falling in and becoming trapped? Are



Stephen Vantassel rescues skunk.

all the crawl spaces under decks, porches and sheds appropriately trench screened to prevent ground-hogs, skunks and other animals from taking up residence? Finally, are all chimney flues screened with professionally manufactured stainless steel caps to prevent animals from entering your home through the chimney?

Steven Vantassel, a Witherbee resident, is Project Coordinator at the UNL School of Natural Resources. He will speak about wildlife damage to local property and how to fix it and avoid it in the future. He is one of the first Problem Animal Controllers in the state of Massachusetts and one of the first nationally Certified Wildlife Control Operators, starting Wildlife Removal Service, Inc., headquartered in his hometown of Springfield, Massachusetts. He also founded the Massachusetts Association of Problem Animal Controllers, which continues to this day.



Witherbee family enjoys 2007 free pool party.

Free Witherbee Pool Party And Ice Cream Social In August

The upcoming 2nd annual Witherbee neighborhood pool party and ice cream social will be a fun event that you will want to schedule as part of your summer time activities.

This may be the only notice you get so please mark it down now if you plan to attend.

Date: August 10

Pool times: 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Times: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Woods Pool and plaza area between pool and tennis courts in Woods Park

Cost: FREE (and FUN!)

You can swim, or not. You can have ice cream, or not. You can visit with friends, neighbors, and meet people you don't know yet and we hope YOU DO! Show up and stay the entire time or stay just awhile. Bring the kids, invite a neighbor, or come by yourself. Just be sure to attend this fun event. A great time was had by all last year and what better way to spend a summer evening than at Woods Pool and Woods Park. WNA will pay for the pool rental and the ice cream will be donated by Super Saver, 48th and O.

Hope to see you there!

Aging At Home
Page 2

Summer Fun
Pages 6-7

Tabitha Plans
Page 8

About the Witherbee Neighborhood Association

Boundaries:

33rd to 56th &
'O' to Randolph Streets

Meetings:

7:00 p.m. first Thursday of each
month at Tabitha Lifequest Center,
48th and J.

Web Site:

www.WitherbeeNA.org

Executive Board:

Curtis Wood, President

817-3809

cwood57@neb.rr.com

Larry Frisch, Vice President

486-9380

larry@npcenter.com

lfrisch@alltel.net

Mary Kay Kreikemeier, Secretary

477-9194

mkk@alltel.net

Karen Vogeley, Treasurer

435-6022

karena_ne@yahoo.com

Steve Schwab, Past President

440-7630

ohair42@aol.com

Additional Board Members:

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rkbagby@mac.com

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President's Message

Where has the year gone? Seems like 2008 just arrived and we are already into the seventh month with Independence Day already behind us! Our membership campaign blew past our goal of 500% growth much the way the year has flown by. We are now over 265 members strong with more coming in every week. It is extremely pleasing to be a part of our vibrant, growing association and work with dedicated people working towards our common goals. We can accomplish so much when everyone does a little.



Curtis Wood

All of our activities have been well received and supported by new faces and some familiar old friends. Our Neighborhood Cleanup had another great year with expanded services and some recycling efforts that turned the castaway items into support for other organizations such as Mad Dads. Lots of volunteers take home items too that counts as recycling! Local businesses threw their support behind our efforts easily making for our most successful Cleanup yet. Kudos to Steve Schwab and Rick Bagby for a very well organized event.

If you haven't visited our website you may be in the minority. Neighbors have used the website to get help, answer questions, ask questions, seek support, and to check out the calendar and links. Businesses have found us there and requested advertising in our newsletter and offered services and support. HGTV has even contacted us via our website about filming a segment for one of their shows in our neighborhood. Our free picnic on July 11th also came from our website presence. We had over 300 people attend as we used the website, emails, and flyers to advertise that event. The merchants sponsoring that event said we had the biggest crowd of any of the events they put on this summer.

Don't forget the upcoming FREE swim and ice cream party at Woods Park on Sunday August 10th. This one will be courtesy of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association. We had about 125-150 last year and we could easily have handled twice that many. Woods Pool is an Olympic size pool with a great waterpark for the younger crowd. It will be hard to top the July picnic, but we are going to try. Last year the comment was made that it was so much fun we should do it again next week! Hopefully this second annual event will continue to be something we want to do again next week every time.

With thoughts turning to the coming school year, I would like to draw your attention to the Safe Routes Nebraska Program, whose mission is to provide school and community groups with funds to build safer routes to school.

These school route improvements include engineering solutions as well as safety training, awareness, and strategies to encourage children to walk and bike to school safely.

For more information about grants, education and marketing resources available through Safe Routes Nebraska, visit www.SafeRoutesNE.com.

Be sure to do something neighborly this week. Stay tuned for more exciting developments in your WNA, but the best thing we do is to promote just being good neighbors!



Jeff Jacobson, DVM

4145 "O" Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
402.327.0705

Hours
8 a.m.-6 p.m. M-F
8 a.m.-12 noon Sat.

Aging at Home: The Wish Can Come True Here

Witherbee is considering an exciting, innovative program that could benefit seniors and the entire neighborhood. WNA, in cooperation with Tabitha Health Care Services, is exploring an opportunity to establish a program here that would help seniors remain in their homes rather than moving to an assisted living center or to a nursing home. The program has been successfully developed by neighborhoods in Boston and Washington, D.C. Now Witherbee and Tabitha are evaluating the possibility of adapting the program here.

The following excerpt from an article in the New York Times about the program in Boston is compelling.

Alone in his house on Beacon Hill, with four precipitous flights of stairs and icy cobblestones outside the front door, John Sears 75, still managed to look after himself after he was hit by a taxicab and left with a broken knee. That is because Mr. Sears was one phone call away from everything he needed to remain in his home, the goal of more than 80 percent of the nation's elderly as they confront advancing age, according to consistent polls.

Mr. Sears required both practical assistance and peace of mind: Transportation to and from the hospital. An advocate with him at medical appointments. Home-delivered meals from favorite restaurants. Someone at his side as he hobbled to the bank and the barber. Someone else to install grab bars in his bathroom. A way to summon help in an emergency. People to look in on him.

All these services were organized for Mr. Sears by Beacon Hill Village, an innovative nonprofit organization created by and for local residents determined to grow old in familiar surroundings, and to make that possible for others. Community-based models for aging in place designed by the people who use them are the wave of the future, experts say, an alternative to nursing homes and assisted living centers run by large service providers.

The article also states that in the Beacon Hill model, membership dues cover weekly trips to the supermarket, rides from volunteers, group exercise classes and lectures on topics related to aging. Paid services - including home repair or home health aides - are generally discounted anywhere from 10 to 50 percent from the going rate. The Washington, D.C. neighborhood program relies on a mix of membership dues, volunteers and fundraising to make it viable. The program can be modified to fit the make up and needs of any neighborhood.

Most valuable, many members say, is the comfort that comes from being one phone call away from familiar staff members who patiently talk them through problems. And family members who have moved away from the neighborhoods are relieved knowing that their elderly parents are able to remain in their home and get help with most all their wants and needs.

WNA would like to hear from neighborhood residents about their interest in learning more about such a program being implemented here, helping design it or participating in it. If you have questions or comments, call WNA board member Mike Fitzgerald at 486-4073 or email him at seven_f_ranch@juno.com.

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Christmas in July?

Yes, it's time to start thinking about the winter holiday lighting contest! (Isn't that a cool thought? Hee,hee.) July is a great time to start mulling over ideas for your holiday lighting display.

This year we're taking a somewhat non-traditional approach. We plan to have more awards and some new categories. Watch the next newsletter for those categories.

PARTICIPATION is the key. We'd like to become the neighborhood known as the place to take friends and family when you want to see a bunch of holiday lights without driving all over town. Keep it simple or go crazy! It's YOUR choice!

Special awards will be given to streets with a theme: Reindeer? Snowmen (and women)? Nativity scenes? Candy canes? The color red? Blue? YOU choose the theme and get with a couple of your neighbors. Any block with THREE or more homes with a common theme will get special recognition.

How about the "Block with the Most Decorated Houses" award? The "Most Musical" award... The "Most Whimsical" award...The "Sweetest"...The "Most Colorful"...

I hope this gets you thinking...and planning...and maybe even talking with your neighbors! Let's get ready to celebrate some of the simple pleasures in life: beauty, friendship, fun, and religious freedom, just to name a few. We have such a great neighborhood! Let's continue to make Witherbee the kind of neighborhood where people would like to own a home.

Another neighborly thought: Got more decorations than you know what to do with? Give some to a neighbor or volunteer to put some up for someone who isn't able, or doesn't have time to do it themselves. Make a date with a neighbor to help them put up their lights if they help put up yours!

If you have any suggestions for categories or would like to participate in the judging, just give me a call at 817-3809.

I'd love to hear from you! -Dee Wood



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Lincoln's Stronger Neighborhoods Coordinator Will Address WNA on Sept. 4th

In announcing his Stronger Safer Neighborhoods program in March, Mayor Chris Beutler named Jon Carlson to coordinate the initiative. Carlson will report on its plans and progress at the WNA Sept. 4th meeting.

As a new mayoral aid, Carlson is working in the Police Department to develop goals, devise strategy and oversee the effort. Carlson is a property owner, former Near South neighborhood leader and former member of the City-County Planning Commission.



Jon Carlson

He has business experience improving and managing properties, hands-on experience with neighborhood boards and public service experience of eight years on the Planning Commission. They provide Carlson with a strong understanding and insight into the building blocks that can be joined together to create stronger, safer neighborhoods.

Carlson said his goal is for every Lincoln neighborhood to be a place where people want to buy a home, start a business and have a family.

The Stronger Safer Neighborhoods initiative is focused on three priorities: 1) Bricks and mortar – restoring housing and reviving commercial vitality; 2) Good neighbors – re-building neighborhood organizations and getting residents to take charge; 3) Clean and safe streets - focusing law enforcement and code enforcement to reduce crime and blight and establishing standards to measure progress.



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October Meeting to Feature County Commissioner Candidates

WNA's October 2nd meeting will feature the four county commissioner candidates. Even though Witherbee is in District 4, we will also be able to vote for District 2 candidates in the general election.

The District 4 candidates are; Bernie Heier (Rep), and Nancy L. Intermill (Dem).

The District 2 candidates are; Larry Hudkins (Rep), and Barbara Baier (Dem).

This will be your chance to ask questions and get clarification of each candidate's position on issues you are interested in.



Curtis Wood places Yard of the Month sign

Yard of the Month

Sheila and Reed Maly are the recipients of the July Yard of the Month award from the Witherbee Neighborhood Association. Located at the northwest corner of 34th and Randolph street, Sheila and Reed have turned their front yard into a cheerful cottage style garden complete with colorful perennial flowers.

The Maly's are waterwise in their plant selection and gardening practices. The thirsty strip between sidewalk and street facing 34th street has been planted to buffalograss. Across the sidewalk they've turned a bordering slope into a long rock garden. Sheila continues to add plants each growing season that need little water or fertilizer after establishment. Above the rock garden she planted a row of the aptly named Carefree roses. These roses have few problems with diseases or insects.


Sheila enjoys growing plants for their beautiful foliage such as Heucheras (coral bells). She has a very nice assortment growing in the shade in the front of her house with other shade tolerant perennials. She follows another waterwise tip of mulching her perennials to help retain moisture and prevent runoff. Sheila and Reed try to use as few resources in their landscape as possible. For example, Sheila groups plants with the same moisture and light needs together to save water and for ease of care.

Congratulations to the Malys for being chosen the Witherbee Neighborhood Yard of the Month for July.

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Witherbee Residents Take To Outdoors For

For many years, residents in the heart of midtown have raised families, maintained their homes and participated in social events like block parties. And now, in addition to its work on neighborhood improvement projects and local issues, our neighborhood association also provides social events for residents.

Last year our first ice cream social event at Woods Park attracted over one-hundred residents to swim, enjoy ice cream and chat with neighbors. On July 11th, this year, we had a free picnic at Woods Park, provided by Glenn's True Value, Valentino's Pizza and Executive Travel, with almost three hundred residents ready to eat the pizzas and hot dogs. On August 10th the second annual Witherbee Neighborhood Association (WNA) social swim and ice cream party will be held at Woods Park.

And smaller events still occur. Monthly potluck parties at Stuhr Park have been organized by Cheryl Hejl for

several years. On May 1, 2005, she created an event named 'Get to Know Your Neighbor'. It was a fun time for all, so she organized more of them at Stuhr Park each month through September. Early in the year flyers are given to Stuhr Park neighbors to inform them on the dates of the potlucks, where they are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to share. The next party will be held on August 17th.

Now, motivated partially by hearing about block parties in other parts of the neighborhood, a small group is making plans for a get together for residents on 37th Street (J to Randolph) and H Street (37th to 40th). The 37th & H Streets Potluck Party is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 14 from 1 - 4 p.m. While it is tempting to try to have all the

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activities that more established block parties have, organizers of the 37th & H Streets event say they intend to keep plans simple. "There's a consensus that we don't want to make holding the get together so much work that we won't want to do it again," said Mike Fitzgerald. Kathy Stastny added, "We want it to be enjoyable for everyone involved. If there is interest in adding to it next year, we can borrow ideas from long-running parties such as Woods Avenue or Stuhr Park."

Large and small social events are active in our neighborhood for all to enjoy. If you want to have an event on your block or at your local park but don't know exactly what to do, contact the WNA board to get information and names of local residents who have agreed to help others with their new events.



For your best performance, call Tabitha.



486-8559 (800) 418-9335 Tabitha.org

Free Tire Collection September 27th and 28th

Your scrap tires may be dropped off at Shoemakers Truck Stop, 4800 West O on Sept 27th and 28th from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

This free collection is made possible by a grant from the Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality. There is no restriction on tire size or quantity for individuals, but no dealer or out-of-state tires will be accepted.



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Tabitha Expansion to Provide New Services, Facilities, Jobs

Tabitha Health Care Services announces the first phase of expansion plans on its Lincoln Campus that will add and improve services, create new jobs and enhance the campus and facilities located at 48th and Randolph Streets. The \$31-million expansion project includes assisted living and memory care, a south entrance addition, Green Houses®, a Hospice House and LifeQuest rehabilitation program expansion with private room conversions. Work is slated to begin in the Spring of 2009.

"Tabitha's legacy for 122 years has been to pioneer approaches to improve the quality of life for Elders. This expansion of services and facilities will offer new choices in older adult health care," said Keith Fickenscher, President & CEO.

This expansion phase is the result of client and family feedback, a needs assessment, market analysis and site analysis. Tabitha's expansion will provide a full array of housing and support services to enhance independence, health and living for Elders as well as continue to create superior environments to match Tabitha's exceptional care. The five projects are:

1. Assisted Living & Memory Care Facility. 15 units (20,000 sq. ft.) of assisted living apartments and 48 units (40,000 sq. ft.) of memory care apartments, both with studio and double-occupancy options. This facility will be located on the southwest corner of the campus. With close proximity to Tabitha Health Care Services, features include; safe, worry-free living in spacious, maintenance-free residences, 24-hour personal assistance, onsite health professionals, and specialized memory-care programming. Expected completion date: April 2010

2. South Entrance Addition. A three-story re-design of Tabitha Nursing & Rehabilitation Center's south face will include 18,000 sq. ft. of new construction and a 4,000 sq. ft. remodel of existing space. Expected completion date: December 2009

3. Green Houses®. Three additional Green Houses. Each House will have accommodations for 12 Elders, and will be Medicare and Medicaid certified. Green House environments produce superior clinical and social outcomes and greater family and staff satisfaction as demonstrated over the past two years in Tabitha's first Green House (second in the nation; first in Nebraska). Tabitha is a pilot project and training site for the National Green House Project Replication Initiative. Expected completion date: April 2011.

4. Hospice House. Accommodations for 12 Hospice clients will be Medicare and Medicaid certified. Environment, programming and amenities are designed to

enhance end-of-life care for clients, families and caregivers. Outdoor spaces designed for tranquility and comfort. Tabitha is recognized by the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization as the "Longest Serving Medicare Certified Hospice Agency in Nebraska". Expected completion date: April 2011

5. LifeQuest Rehabilitation Expansion & Private Room Conversion. Convert 19 semi-private rooms to private rooms. Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Certified. Inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation. Expected completion date: May 2011

On June 26, 2008, Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson announced that the Appropriations Committee adopted a bill granting \$800,000 in funding for costs associated with the creation of two additional Green House Project homes. Additional funding will be made available through financing, available reserve funds, operating funds and a capital fund raising campaign.

Over 1,800 Nebraskans rely on Tabitha services daily in 29 counties to maintain their independence, dignity and health. Over 1,000 employees compassionately serve these needs using Tabitha's network of Elder health, housing and support services. As a pioneer and innovator in health care, Tabitha was the first to bring hospice, meals on wheels and home health care to Lincoln.

Tabitha is the premier provider of Elder health care services promoting the dignity, independence and health of older adults in 29 counties in southeast Nebraska. Tabitha offers rehabilitation, home care, hospice, meals on wheels, intergenerational care and Elder living options including independent living, Green House®, skilled nursing and long-term care. Founded in 1886, Tabitha is a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 organization.

(Editors Note: WNA appreciates Tabitha's providing the above press release early so that we could include it in this *Buzz* issue. An architectural drawing will be printed in the fall edition of *Witherbee Buzz*. Unmentioned in the press release is that one floor of additional parking will be included in the new Assisted Living & Memory Care Facility.)



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Relive Memories At WNA Annual Meeting

Witherbee residents will have a special treat at the annual meeting in November. An historical photo slide show, customized for the Witherbee neighborhood, will be presented.

Dick Rumbolz and Jon Roth, local history buffs, realized they had found a photographic "gold mine" when they were given custody of thousands of historic negatives from the Edholm & Blomgren photo studio. It became apparent to them that many of these these priceless negatives of Lincoln street scenes had not been viewed for decades.

Wisely, they decided that the pictures were too valuable to be hidden in storage, and vowed to bring the photos to the residents of Lincoln. They embarked on an ongoing effort to digitize the negatives and show them to local groups.

Their shows have been a big hit with viewers, who

often are able to identify buildings and people in the photos.

To prepare for the Witherbee Show, we are asking that Witherbee residents who would like to share their old photos of houses/places in the neighborhood contact Larry Frisch, 486-9380, before the end of September.



Photos courtesy of Dick Rumbolz/Edholm & Blomgren Collection.



Find the intersection of 48th and O to help you orient the above photo

Your Help Needed For New Lincoln Book

Witherbee residents can share their humorous and endearing memories in a new book being written by Mary Nielsen and Jon Roth to be titled *Lincoln Looks Back*.

Mary Nielsen authored *A Street Named 'O'*, and the current best selling *Life in Lincoln as we remember it*.

If you have a humorous personal story about your life in Lincoln, please share it in this new book by submitting to Jon Roth, jroth516@neb.rr.com or call 310-0916; or Mary Nielsen, mjn@necos-ecuricity.com or call 474-3737.

Summer 2008



All Witherbee residents welcome at this free event.



Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association Presents

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Second Annual

Witherbee Pool Party and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 10

Woods Pool and Plaza Area

Pool Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Ice Cream: 6 to 8 p.m.



Fifth Annual Witherbee Neighborhood Cleanup Our Best Yet

Witherbee Neighborhood Association's fifth annual cleanup, which was held on May 3rd, was its most success-

ful yet thanks to the participation of neighborhood residents and assistance provided by Jay Carter Refuse and Niederhaus Bros. Refuse.

Both refuse haulers, who service the Witherbee neighborhood area, provided free curbside pickup of acceptable waste items. Together they picked up 11,520 pounds of non-garbage household trash.

In addition to the curbside pickup, three twenty cubic yard roll-offs from Midwest Refuse were located at 48th and M Streets for neighborhood residents to drop off their non-garbage trash items. Two of the roll-offs were for trash and one for scrap metal and appliances. A total of 5,880 pounds of non-garbage household trash was disposed of in two of the designated roll-offs. Scrap metal and appliances completely filled the other roll-off, which in turn was taken to Alter Scrap for recycling.

Other items that were collected and recycled included:

- Twenty-six car tires that were accepted by Firestone Tire at 300 N. 66th
- Eleven bikes that were taken to Mad Dads to be refurbished
- Six car batteries that were accepted by Interstate Battery at 4310 N 27th Street
- Six computer monitors, five CPU's, one keyboard/mouse, and three inkjet printers were collected and taken to TechWare Recycling.


The neighborhood cleanup project was funded by a 2008 Keep Lincoln-Lancaster Beautiful grant from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health.

Coffee, refreshments and pastries were provided by Braeda Fresh Express Cafe, 4901 O St.

Both Jay Carter and Niederhaus have already committed to providing free curbside pickup again for next year's annual Witherbee neighborhood cleanup. WNA will also try to recruit Paragon Refuse, which also services part of the Witherbee neighborhood, for next year's annual cleanup.

Thanks go out to all residents who volunteered to help cleanup the neighborhood.





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WNA Calendar

All WNA membership meetings are held the first Thursday of each month 7:00 P.M. at Tabitha's LifeQuest Center.

(Please note that membership is Not required to attend WNA meetings.)

Thursday, August 7, WNA Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Tabitha LifeQuest Center. Stephen Vantassel, will talk about wildlife damage control.

Sunday, August 10, WNA Annual Swim Party and Free Ice Cream Party at Woods Parks 6-8 p.m.

Sunday, August 17, Potluck at Stuhr Park. 6 p.m.

Thursday, September 4, WNA Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. at Tabitha LifeQuest Center. Jon Carlson will talk about the Stronger Safer Neighborhoods program.

Sunday, September 14, Potluck, Stuhr Park. 6 p.m.

Thursday, October 4, WNA Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. at Tabitha LifeQuest Center. County Commissioner candidates will speak.

Sunday, October 5, Potluck at Stuhr Park. 6 p.m.

Tuesday, November 4, General Election

Thursday, November 6, WNA Annual Meeting 7 p.m. at Tabitha LifeQuest Center. Jon Roth and Dick Rumbolz will show historical photos.

WNA 2008 Garage Sales

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association annually organizes garage sales for the neighborhood, and each year there are more services for the participants to make their sales better and better.



This year, in addition to our usual advertising and website information, each of the 34 participants in the garage sales received a clear and attractive sign with our neighborhood name and an arrow so they could stake it into the ground to have it point to their sale. They also received maps with lists of all sales in the neighborhood, including what each resident was selling, so they could distribute it to people coming to their sale, who could then go to other sales. It was a way for 'all to help all'.

We will be doing a survey of the participants before the date of our next neighborhood garage sales, in order to get more ideas about improving them even more. Stay in touch!

Summer 2008

HGTV To Shoot Segments In Lincoln During September

WNA has been contacted by Home and Garden Television (HGTV) to determine if residents of the Witherbee neighborhood are interested in appearing on their show *My House is Worth What?*

They are looking for homeowners who have lived in their home for a while and have done a major renovation to the property. New kitchens, bathrooms, additions, risky choices, and more. You may even qualify for the show if you have a project you want to do. The purpose of the show is to provide the homeowner with an evaluation by a local realtor and provide them with a potential market price.

The show's participants will meet and work with host Kendra Todd, season three winner of *The Apprentice*. This promises to be a fun experience and any interested Witherbee residents are urged to apply soon. This will be the show's first visit to Lincoln.

Local residents are invited to visit the application site at: http://www.pietown.tv/shows/mhiww_application-owners.html.

Local realtors are also being invited to participate and can apply at http://www.pietown.tv/shows/mhiww_applicationexpert.html.



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THE HOME IS A TIME CAPSULE

By Bridget Fitzgerald

Your home is one big time capsule, all of it. Bits and shreds of history and memories are stashed away everywhere.

I have often dreamt of finding a time capsule in my 1940 house. I imagine finding black and white photographs and a letter on yellowing paper that begins with "To whomever in the future finds this...", all in a old-fashioned, wooden jewelry box. Or at least I would find a name and message written on a wall or a name and date carved into the woodwork.



My dream came true. I had laid my pillow into my windowsill to watch the sunrise when I saw something written in black marker on the aluminum tracking

of the window. Leaning in closer, I saw that it read Curtis Silentite. I was really excited to finally find something a previous occupant of my room had left behind. Then I realized the words were engraved on all the windows of the house. It wasn't a message from a previous occupant as I had hoped. However, I googled the words and learned it was the name of a window company which had an interesting story..

Curtis Silentite was a type of window produced by the Curtis Company. The Curtis Company was established in 1866 when Charles F. Curtis arrived in Clinton, Iowa and purchased a small sash and door mill that had five employees. He was soon joined by his older brother George in this new business.

The small company managed to survive stiff competition because of an innovative step in the manufacture of sash. At that time all sash were sold without glass. It was up to the buyer to obtain the glass and putty from other

sources and the contractor then had to do the glazing. The Curtis brothers developed the idea of glazing the sash in the mill. Business boomed and the company moved to larger quarters. This was just the first of many improvements made by the Curtis company in the production of doors, windows, woodwork, and cabinets. As business grew branch plants were established in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Oklahoma, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In January 1894, Curtis Bros. & Co. opened a branch house, for the distribution of their goods in Lincoln, which became known as the Curtis & Bartlett Co. and was under the management of Paul Bartlett. It 1897 the Lincoln operation became a separate company.

Witherbee Neighborhood Litter Pickup Effort Receives Grant

This year's WNA litter pickup project, which was held on Saturday, April 12, 2008, recently received a \$200 mini-grant from the Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful Program, which is administered by the Lincoln & Lancaster County Health Department.

Thanks to Witherbee neighborhood volunteers and UNL Big Event student volunteers, this year's litter pickup project was able to canvass the entire 192 square block area of our neighborhood.

A total of sixteen volunteers helped with this year's litter pickup and donated an average 4 hours of their time in doing so. This amounted to 64 hours of donated labor at a rate of \$18/hr for volunteer labor, or a total of \$1,152 in-kind services.

Next year's WNA litter pickup project will again team up with UNL's Big Event. Greater help from neighborhood volunteers will also be a goal so that the entire neighborhood area can be done in two hours. Please consider volunteering for the 2009 project next spring.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St.: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Contributions of \$35.00 or more will receive a **tax deductible receipt.**)

Mail to:
Karen Vogeley, 3535 Frost Ct., Lincoln, NE 68510

Membership Categories:

___ Single	\$10.00
___ Family	\$15.00
___ Senior Family.....	\$10.00
___ Additional Household Member.....	\$ 5.00
___ Sponsor	\$35.00
___ Benefactor	\$50.00 & up
___ Business	\$40.00

Benefits of membership: (besides being in the loop of things)
Single – one vote; Family – two votes, one per person; Senior Family – same as Family; Additional Household Member -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 listing in newsletter, and an ad on our web site.