

Asst. Fire Chief John Huff To Be February 7th Speaker

US&R, LRT1, AED to be explained through photos and talk

Within an hour after an F4 tornado struck Hallam, John Huff was in the stricken town assisting with rescue efforts. When notified by FEMA of the 9/11 attack, John immediately left for the Pentagon. On May 4, 2007 an F5 tornado tore through Greensburg, Kansas. Again John answered the call, resulting in deployment to the devastated town of 1,600. Being in a constant state of readiness is normal for February's WNA featured speaker.

John will show pictures and share personal stories of his experiences as he talks about the role of Urban Search & Rescue and his involvement with Lincoln Rescue Team 1. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the Tabitha Media Room, 48th and J, on February 7th.

Many Lincolniters are unaware of how important a resource US&R is for Lincoln, or that FEMA Incident Support Team leadership is deployed from Lincoln. John will answer all your questions including the cost to the Lincoln taxpayer to have these resources available.

As a special bonus John will talk about AEDs (Automatic Electronic Defibrillators): Where they are located, what they do, how to use them effectively, and more important, what should you do if someone goes down and there is an AED nearby.

John Huff currently serves as Assistant Chief Support Services with the Lincoln Fire & Rescue Department. He began his career with the department as a firefighter in 1974, serving some of those years at the Piedmont Station, so he is thoroughly familiar with the Witherbee neighborhood.

John is responsible for the support services functions of the department. These services include the administra-



John Huff

Continued on page 8



Tornado damage at Greensburg was so extensive that 220 blocks of wreckage were searched. Scott Wiebe, left, and Eric Jones, right, both from Lincoln, assist Elaine Sawtell and her K9 Kachi search debris for trapped victims.

Hawthorne To Close; What Happens Next?

By Michelle Strand

On October 26th, 2007 the community came together to show their support for Hawthorne Elementary. Over 100 people with signs lined O Street before the Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education meeting in a show of support to keep Hawthorne open. Nearly 20 people spoke at the board meeting, all in support of the school. After a long hard fought battle, the LPSBE voted 4-3 to close Hawthorne Elementary at the end of the 2007-08 school year. It was an extremely emotional night. Hundreds of volunteer hours had been put forth by members of the Witherbee neighborhood and Hawthorne PTO in the attempt to convince board members to keep the school open. So what happens next?

LPS sent out letters to Hawthorne families on December 12th explaining where their students would go to school.

Most of the ELL (English Language Learners) will be moving to Hartley Elementary where a new ELL program will be started. Hartley is the neighborhood where most

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See pages 4 and 5 for March and April meeting information. Check www.witherbeena.org for any updates.

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

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President's Message



Curtis Wood

We had a great 2007 in the Witherbee Neighborhood Association(WNA). New officers have been elected. Past officers are enthused about continuing their service. Members who have had other life matters to attend to for awhile have returned to join in the fun. I sense a vibrant energy in the whole of the WNA board and the general members who have come forward to help out with the tasks at hand. Interested members have stepped forward voluntarily to fill out the whole board of WNA. My own energy is stoked by these motivated people and the ideas flowing out of the interaction of our membership.

A valiant battle was staged by WNA to try and stem the decision to close Hawthorne Elementary School this past year, but we were too few and too late to stop the eventual action of the school board. We did however get their attention to the fact that the citizens could be counted to demonstrate their concerns in a format to be reckoned with in the future. I feel that if we had more members for the work that needed to be done and more shoulders to bear the weight we might have had a different outcome. This event can be used as a wake-up call for us to be more vigilant in future meetings and to strive to gain the strength that numbers can bring to such a discussion or decision. Just think what talent, ideas, and energy can be gained from an increased membership with a direction to go. Past successes like the down-zoning have proved we can get a large force in motion to support good ideas.

At my first meeting as President in December, I set forth a goal of increasing our membership by the audacious goal of 500% this year. As an active organization in the local arena we need a more significant number of people on the association membership roles so that government entities and officials know that we represent a body of concerned voters and taxpayers. When we try to influence local decisions, we need there to be a sense that more resources can be called upon to do the work necessary to bring about change. The talent and enthusiasm of an active group can have a tremendous impact upon the decisions of policy makers at all levels. WNA is recognized as that kind of meaningful association by the attention we receive from our elected representatives. At our last annual meeting in November we had attendees of all levels of our government, Mayor, city council, school board, county, and state; and they did not just come for the snacks.

We recently mailed statements in January in the form of letters to invite past members to rejoin, to gain new members, and to help uncover the treasures of time, talent, and resources that I am sure exists in our neighborhood. There has always been strength in numbers and we want to increase our membership in both numbers and motivation. We can become the sort of organization that serious representatives reach out to assess the mood of the city and research the true nature of what neighborhoods mean to the future of the fine city of Lincoln.

Please read carefully the pages of this newsletter to discover for yourself the energy I describe apparent in everything we do and report upon there. Fill out that membership application and return it if you haven't already to join us for another year of action and fun!

Our WNA is not a homeowners association that the covenants of your property require you to join. We are a volunteer organization working for a better neighborhood and we invite all residents homeowners and tenants alike to join us in making Witherbee the "Pride of Midtown".

Won't you join us for an even better 2008.

City Leaders And WNA Elections Highlight Annual Meeting



Jim Ihrie, Mary Schwab, Lisa McNeel, Rick Bagby and Doug Emery discuss neighborhood concerns.

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association held its annual meeting in early November and elected board directors and officers. Before those business matters were conducted, attendees of the meeting heard from featured speaker Mayor Chris Beutler. And after his comments, the crowd enjoyed a question and answer session with Beutler. The discussion was complemented with refreshments and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Mary Schwab.

Steve Schwab introduced Mayor Beutler, who proceeded to congratulate WNA for drawing representatives from so many levels of government to the meeting. Among attendees were several community and state leaders, including Sen. Bill Avery, City Councilman Doug Emery, Lincoln Public School Board member Kathy Danek, and Lincoln Parks and Rec Director Lynn Johnson.

Beutler said that city issues can only be resolved through compromise and cooperation between the various interests. He stressed that a strong downtown core must be maintained for the health of the city, but money must be kept flowing to the neighborhoods. He lamented the fact that there is little money available for road infrastructure improvement. He then asked WNA members for their opinions, as he listed many city issues. The meeting turned into an informal discussion with members voicing their concerns and suggestions. Among topics covered: the new arena proposal; Antelope Valley Project, development at 48th and O; UNL Research Center; policy change on downtown parking; possible State Fair locations; emerald tree borer threat to Lincoln's ash trees.

Doug Emery reported that during a meeting held ear-

lier in the day, he had learned that Omaha has dug itself into a deep fiscal hole. He said that property tax in Omaha might have to increase \$600 per lot per year just to fund the storm water/sewer project, and that Omaha has \$340 million in unfunded liabilities for city retirees. He stressed that Lincolnite's fiscal challenges are manageable.

Re-elected to the WNA Board of Directors were: Steve Schwab, Larry Frisch, Karen Vogeley, Russell Miller and Mike Fitzgerald. New directors elected to the board are Kathie Holland, Rick Bagby and Cheryl Hejl. The re-elected and newly elected directors join four others who were not up for election: Christine Nesmith, Mary Kay Kreikemeier, Curtis Wood, and Lisa McNeel.

From among the directors, four officers were elected to serve a one-year term: President - Curtis Wood; Vice President - Larry Frisch; Secretary - Mary Kay Kreikemeier; and re-elected as Treasurer, Karen Vogeley. Steve Schwab will serve as immediate Past President.

The 12-member 2008 WNA Board recognized the service of outgoing directors Fred Zarate and Fred Freytag.

Volunteers needed ...

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help deliver the "Witherbee Buzz" newsletter on a regular basis, once every three months. If you can help deliver one or two blocks in your area please send an e-mail or call Curtis at 817-3809 or Larry at 486-9380.

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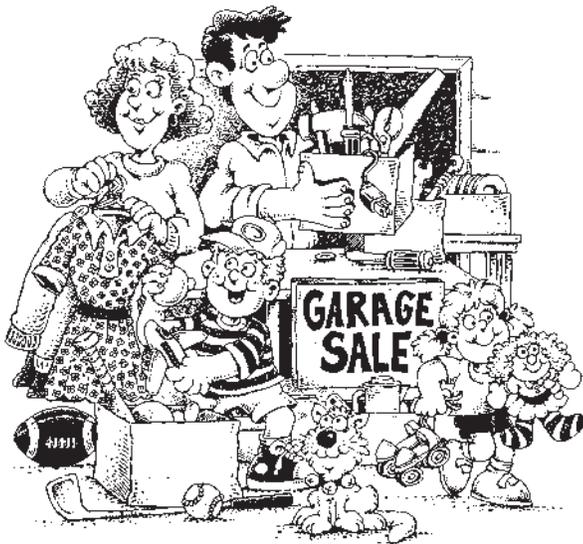
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Garage Sale Preparations Best Started In Winter



Whether you're an organizer of your possessions or a person who just lets them pile up, you'll enjoy a summer day by turning clutter into cash. Cold winter days are a good time to start organizing for a successful summer garage sale.

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association (WNA) will hold its 2008 garage sale on Thursday, June 5th through Saturday, June 7th. We will place advertisements in the Journal Star, American Classified, on our website and provide lists for customers that will include locations, dates, times and items for sale. These lists will be downloadable from our website and available at local retailers. This event brings people from all over Lincoln into our neighborhood to see our quality of life and get the chance to purchase your on-sale items.

Following are a couple of tips to get started on your sale:

- Collect what you want to sell over a few weeks; clean them, and put them in boxes or neat piles in one area of your home. Put similar items in the same box so you can decide on the proper price for all of them, not making a mistake by pricing one ring at ten dollars and a similar one at fifty cents. You also need to collect plastic and paper bags so your customers can easily carry away everything they want to buy.

- Pricing can be done when you collect the items to sell, or a day or so before the sale. You might want to research the prices by going to other garage sales or to www.ebay.com. You can put prices on individual items or make small signs for items in boxes. People like to know what things cost and will be less likely to walk away once they see the tag if you are too busy to tell them the price. You can price bigger items at slightly higher prices because people like to bargain.

The spring issue of the *Buzz* will contain a full list of tips to help you put together a successful garage sale.

March WNA Meeting About Tenant-Landlord Issues

Shawn Ryba, Community Organizer for Neighborhoods-Lincoln, will be the featured speaker at the March 6th WNA meeting.

He will talk about issues involving tenant-landlord relationships, and how they involve the neighborhood. Some neighborhood landlords only rent one property and they may not be aware of the many resources to help them acquire suitable tenants. Also, tenants have many rights that enable them to live in safe, comfortable housing. See the article on page 11.

In past years, Shawn has been very active in the Lincoln Free to Grow program which devises strategies to encourage neighborhood residents to take ownership of their own neighborhood by taking active roles in activities that help to improve the quality of life where they live.

Shawn has helped the Clinton neighborhood coordinate many activities including neighborhood clean-ups, neighborhood watch groups, block parties, and helped facilitate the address of property deterioration and blight. He has also been active in the anti-graffiti campaign.

The meeting will be at Tabitha Media Room, 48th and J, 7 p.m., March 6th. Tenants, landlords, and homeowners won't want to miss this meeting. Remember, membership in WNA is not required for any WNA meeting or function.

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David Innis spent 19 months in Iraq

April Speaker To Give Personal Look At Iraq

Come and hear the other side to what you see and read in the daily news in regard to Iraq. David Innis will share pictures, experiences and observations from working on a military base in the Iraq war zone from January 2006 through August 2008. He had direct supervision of Iraqi men as well as daily contact with our troops. While in Iraq, he visited the ruins of Ur in southern Iraq and traveled through Baghdad. This will be a civilian perspective that evolved over the nineteen months Iraq was called home.

David Innis and his wife Jan have been residents of Lincoln since 1981. They have lived in their home on J Street in the Witherbee neighborhood since 1998. December 12, 2005, David applied for a position with Kellogg Brown and Root as an electrician in Iraq. January 2, 2006, he arrived in Houston, Texas for orientation and screening. January 13, 2006, David landed at Ballad Air Base, Iraq. He worked as an electrician and electrical foreman at Camp Anaconda until August 14, 2007, when he returned to Lincoln. Time will be provided for questions and discussion.

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What's in Your iPod?

By Bridget Fitzgerald

Go and get your iPod or various other form of MP3. Go ahead, I'll wait for you.

Got your iPod? Alright: enable the 'shuffle songs' option and just listen. When I did this, I discovered songs in albums in which I had only listened to a select few favorites and ignored the rest. Listening to the previously unplayed songs was enjoyable and confirmed my varied taste in music. Listening to these new discoveries gives more value to the music I buy. My music library is pretty wide ranging and diverse as is and I'm working on sharing that with others. Sometimes I debate with myself whether to take my iPod with me because I fear some friends and other people would be like "What's this?!" I try to be diverse in what music I listen to and to be truly diverse I should be willing to let others know about it.

What is music diversity? It's a frame of mind, really. It's a part of you that allows yourself to be caught hearing something out of the ordinary, to see your friends browse your playlists and let them pull confused faces.

For a start, I recommend you try the movie soundtracks to "Amelie" and "Goodbye Lenin!", both scored by Yann Tiersen, a 30-something genius French soundtrack composer.

If you have comments or topics to suggest, contact me, Bridget, at teens@witherbeena.org.



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2007 Witherbee Holiday Lighting Contest



Grand Prize Winner 4300 Witherbee Blvd.



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Beginning in 2004, we've run every holiday lighting contest with different judges and prizes. This year, Janna Harsch and Clyde Trautloff, members of the Noyes Gallery, along with Renee Johnson, owner of the So-Oh Fine Art Gallery, and neighborhood artist Van Mueller, were driven through the snowy streets of Witherbee to look at 25 brightly decorated homes and judge them regarding the use of lights and decorations, uniqueness of the design and the overall appearance.

After looking carefully at the nominees, the judges awarded the grand prize to Jerome Osborn and Michael Kitt, 4300 Witherbee Boulevard.

Secondary prizes have been presented to homes located at 710 South 55th

Street and 4306 L Street. The winners have received gifts contributed by Discount Depot, Sips and Subs, Williams Cleaners, Coffee Connection, Primitive Scents and Treasures, Great Clips, Little Caesar, Pink Flamingo and Perfect 10 Nails. These prizes were acquired by WNA Board member Lisa McNeel.

A coordinator or coordinators always needs volunteers to find judges, acquire prizes, take pictures of the nominees, write articles for the Journal Star and organize the list for driving the judges to see all nominees and any other residence they want to score. So when the next Holiday Lighting Contest announcement appears in the newsletter, you can decide to do anything that interests you - decorating your home, volunteering, nominating homes for the contest, or whatever else shows up.



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Mayor presents 2007 Neighborhood Hero Awards. Left to right, Tracy Corr, Patte Newman, Michelle Strand, Mayor Chris Beutler.

Patte Newman, Michelle Strand Honored

The highlight of the "Get to Know your Elected Officials" event, January 26th, was the annual presentation of the Neighborhood Hero Award. Mayor Beutler presented two awards for 2007; Patte Newman, for her outstanding work to improve Lincoln neighborhoods, and Michelle Strand, for her tireless efforts on behalf of core area elementary school students.

Get On the List Now!

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association is interested in keeping you informed of happenings on your street or just around the corner. You may need us or we may need you to keep YOUR neighborhood a GREAT place to live. It may be too late if you wait and not get timely information that could affect you. Be part of the network. Think proactively, stay informed and keep us up to date too.

The WNA has developed a New email list and wants you to subscribe to it so we can keep you informed. Your email address will be kept safe. We are planning to use the list sparingly and send about two messages a month. We need you to visit our web site at www.witherbeena.org and click on the 'Subscribe to email list' link. Fill in the form fields and click submit. You will get a confirmation email when you have been added to the list. Of course you may unsubscribe from the list at any time. If you have any questions please email Fred Freytag (fred@witherbeena.org) or call 466-4655. Thank you for caring.

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West Gate Bank, Super Saver, And Braeda, Help Sponsor WNA Events

In 2007, WNA had corporate sponsors for various neighborhood activities. On April 21st, 25 volunteers gathered in Stuhr Park to help plant seven trees and Midtown Westgate Bank provided coffee and juice for the event.

For the neighborhood cleanup that was held on May 5th, Breda provided beverages and pastries for the neighborhood volunteers who helped with the cleanup. The "Hands On Help Out" project that was held on October 6th had 30 volunteers help prune and mulch trees at Stuhr and Witherbee Parks and at Midtown Commons. For that project Breda once again provided an assortment of delicious beverages and pastries.

We celebrated July with the free Witherbee Pool Party and Ice Cream Social at Woods Park, with over 100 residents attending. Super Saver provided a gift certificate for ice cream.

WNA would like to thank Don Everett, Jr., President of Runza National, Stacy Svoboda, Vice President, Midtown Westgate Bank, and Brian Hayes, Manager, Super Saver, for being corporate sponsors in 2007 and for their continued support in 2008.

Please see the Holiday Lighting article on page 6 for listing of prizes donated, and the companies and people who participated this year.

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John Huff (left) of FEMA Urban Search and Rescue briefs Senate and House members on the status of recovery operations at the Pentagon crash site on September 14, 2001. The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 thrust FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) teams into the spotlight. Their important work transfixed a world and brought a surge of gratitude and support. Photo by Jocelyn Augustino/FEMA News Photo



Nebraska Task Force 1 members meet in devastated Greensburg, Kansas, to update their operation plans. Pictured from left to right, Mike Agnew and K9 Kenya, Shorewood, MN; Kyle Tjelmeland and K9 Reggie, Sparta, MO; Kerry Scott, Jefferson City, MO; Leo Benes, Firth, NE; Dr John Bonta and John Huff, both from Lincoln, NE.

Asst. Fire Chief John Huff To Be February 7th Speaker *Continued from Page 1*

tive, training and maintenance divisions.

As coordinator for special projects, John has served since 1991 as Project Manager for the Lincoln Fire Department's FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. He is also a Task Force Leader for NETF1. John has served as Chief of the department in the absence of the Fire Chief.

John has been active in the community, serving as President and Vice President of the Yankee Hill Neighborhood Association, and is currently serving as President of the Capitol Beach Community Association since 1997. He has served as an elder and deacon in his church.

He has provided disaster response to Richmond, VA for Hurricane Emily in 1993, and the Murrah Federal Building Bombing in Oklahoma City in 1995. On Sept. 11, 2001 John was called to serve as the Incident Support Team

John will show photos of Greensburg's aftermath and compare to Hallam tornado, as well as Katrina damage.

Leader for the FEMA Pentagon US&R response. He spent 10 days on scene working as part of the unified on scene command directing the search and rescue operations. In February 2002, John served as the RED IST Leader for the winter Olympics US&R Standby in Salt Lake City. In 2005 he responded to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.



Thanks to generous help from volunteers, the three park areas within the Witherbee boundaries were winterized. With the coming spring will come another call for volunteers to do a general spring cleaning. No, this will not include moving tons of mulch, but will involve debris pickup, checking tree health, etc. Date will be set at either the April or March meeting.



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Hawthorne To Close; What Happens Next? Continued from Page 1

of the ELL students who were bused to Hawthorne live. Given the success of the ELL students at Hawthorne, the hope is that some of the Hawthorne ELL teachers will move with the students to Hartley.

Students who lived in Hawthorne's attendance area are being split by 48th street into Eastridge and Randolph Elementary schools. Approximately 35 students are being shifted to each school, though parents may request a permit into another open LPS school. The approximately 80 students attending Hawthorne on permit will have to either attend their neighborhood school or request a permit into another open school. The permit requests were due to LPS by January 4th, 2008.

All the teachers have been guaranteed positions within LPS and human resources representatives have been at the school at least twice to assist the faculty on the transition.

The question of what will happen to the building has not yet been addressed by the school board. It is hoped that Hawthorne will be used in a way that would allow it to return as an elementary when there is growth in the core of the city. The reality of the closing Hawthorne is that Eastridge, Randolph, Hartley, and Holmes schools will be at or over capacity in 2008-09, leaving no room for neighborhood growth. Converting Hawthorne into a new site for Bryan Alternative High School would make it highly unlikely for it to ever return to an elementary school if it was needed. It will be important in the months ahead for the Witherbee Neighborhood Association and all concerned Lincoln citizens to watch very closely what the School Board proposes for the Hawthorne building.

Hawthorne has served Lincoln students well for 80 years. Neighborhood children, children with special physical needs and children learning English as a second language have all found a home and tremendous success within the walls of Hawthorne Elementary. Parents from

nearly every corner of the city have at one time or another chosen to send their students to Hawthorne. While the education within all Lincoln's elementary schools is outstanding, Hawthorne was a special and unique school in the core of the city. The staff is a family who came together and made sure every student felt at home. The great diversity of cultures at Hawthorne provided Hawthorne students a global awareness and education that cannot be duplicated in a classroom. Hawthorne's history and excellence should be celebrated and always remembered.

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South side of O St. looks great as workers brave subzero temperatures to begin construction of a new HyVee on the North side.

Updates On Midtown, O Street From 45th To 52nd

WNA continues to actively monitor redevelopment of properties along O Street, specifically three projects: 4501 O St., the green space behind West Gate Bank at 50th and O St., and properties on the north side of O Street, 48th to 50th, north to R Street.

- The building at 4501 O Street that had been an adult video store was demolished last fall. The property owner had agreed in concept with Lincoln officials to accept a small piece of the city's green space east of his lot in exchange for some of his land the city needed to widen O Street. During the city's process to have the green space declared surplus property so the exchange could occur, city attorneys discovered the green space was originally designated as a park and thus was not to be sold. City officials, WNA and the owner of 4501 O are exploring what alternative options may be available so redevelopment can proceed.
- Regarding the green space behind West Gate's Midtown branch at 50th and O St., the city had a water source installed which allows its workers to maintain grass to prevent erosion and complement the landscaping that West Gate donated.
- The south side of O St., east of 48th looks great, but how about the north side? In July the city had the former car sales facilities demolished and street construction and utilities work done to extend 50th Street north to R St. Hy-Vee has begun foundation work for a store that will replace the car sales building, with opening targeted for this spring. Regarding the other properties in the 48th to 50th, O to R St. area, city officials have told WNA that local developers have expressed interest in making investments. No store names have been mentioned and the mix of commercial, retail and restaurant units is uncertain, but it is expected to involve a couple of smaller projects rather than one large development.

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.)

February 7, WNA Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. (first Thursday) at Tabitha Lifequest Center with John Huff, Assistant Fire Chief to be the featured speaker.

March 6, WNA Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Tabitha Lifequest Center with Shawn Ryba from Neighborworks and LNA Neighborhood Hero recipient in 2006. He will speak about Tenant/Landlord Strategies.

April 6, WNA Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Tabitha Lifequest Center. Dave Innis will be the featured speaker talking about his experiences in Iraq.

May 1, WNA Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Tabitha Lifequest Center Michael Snodgrass from Neighborworks to speak about Home Ownership.

June 5-7, Witherbee Neighborhood Garage Sales.

Buzz Reaches Milestone

This issue marks a milestone for your newsletter. In keeping with our commitment to not have advertising take more than 25% of newsletter space, this issue has increased to 12 pages. Thanks to your patronage of Buzz advertisers, we have become an effective marketing tool for businesses. Also, the Buzz has grown in circulation to over 2,500 copies delivered to area residents. The newsletter committee thanks all persons involved in making the Witherbee Buzz the best neighborhood newsletter.

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 Murphy Beds Home Offices Media Centers Closets

Make Good Tenant-Landlord Relationships

Around 30% of Witherbee residents rent, so if you are one of those people, you are not alone. Often, as renters, we are faced with the questions of how to look out for ourselves, just as landlords want to make sure that their investment is protected. The following are a few things that will help you get the most out of your lease and community:

- **Document all correspondence between you and your landlord** – This includes all legal documents such as lease agreements, but also such things as requests for repair and similar items. This includes documenting the condition of your apartment or home when you move in by taking pictures, as well as getting a receipt for your paid rent.
- **Get renter's insurance** – For an average of ten dollars per month, all of your family's belongings can be covered in the event of damage or theft.
- **Pay rent on time**, or early when possible.
- **As a tenant, you are responsible for keeping a clean, safe unit** – needed repairs that are caused by you or your guests are your responsibility.
- **No more than 3 unrelated tenants** are allowed to

live together.

- **Get active in your community** – As a resident of the Witherbee Neighborhood, your voice matters: get to know your neighbors, get active in the neighborhood association, take an active role in your community. Come to a WNA monthly meeting or contact one of the WNA Board members listed on page 2.
- **Getting outside help** – If you have a concern about the safety or livability of your unit that you have not been able to work out with your landlord, you can call the Department of Building and Safety for an independent inspection. To request an inspection, call 441-8213 and leave a message with your name, address and phone number, along with your concern and a time that you would be available to meet the inspector.

As a tenant, you are protected by the Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act against retaliation in the event that you do have a complaint. In the end, if you do what you agreed to do in your lease and are a good neighbor, you should have a good relationship with your landlord.

New Hawthorne Cookbook Released

A last memento from Hawthorne Elementary School. In October 2007, the Lincoln Public School Board of Education voted 4-3 to close Hawthorne Elementary School at the end of the 2007-08 school year. As a dedication to preserve the special diversity, which has been a hallmark of Hawthorne, the Hawthorne PTO commissioned a cookbook. Over 150 recipes were gathered from staff and families at Hawthorne as well as from neighborhood residents celebrating their favorite foods from their heritage.

These cookbooks are now on sale for only \$7 each, a must have memento for anyone that has ever had anything to do with Hawthorne. They make great gifts for friends, neighbors and relatives, too. There are several easy ways for you to get your copy. They can be: 1) picked up in the main office of Hawthorne Elementary, 300 S. 48th St. 2) seen and bought at any of the next WNA monthly meetings. 3) ordered on line. The order form is on the Witherbee Neighborhood website at www.witherbeena.org. 4) Contact Michelle Strand (Hawthorne PTO president) at shelhusk@hotmail.com Phone 402-770-2840.

Money raised will support the celebrations of students and staff at Hawthorne Elementary as they all prepare to begin a new chapter without Hawthorne. At the end of the year, any money left in the coffers of the Hawthorne PTO will be distributed to the main schools Hawthorne students will attend.

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The (Winning) Witherbee Neighborhood Team Needs You

WNA consists of residents like you who volunteer in lots of ways - large and small - to help preserve and enhance the character and quality of life in the WNA area. The neighborhood is in the middle of a membership campaign. *If you have mailed in your check and form – Thank you! If you haven't yet, please do so soon.*

We had a productive 2007, and 2008 promises the same. WNA is a winning team, well known and respected by public officials and envied by other neighborhood associations. To continue the record we need your help.

Some items your neighborhood association did in 2007:

- Worked with the City on a plan to redevelop a 45th & O St. property and a park
- Worked with Hawthorne PTO trying to keep the school open
- Worked with the City to clean up and redevelop property at 33rd & O St. (northeast corner)
- Monitored City efforts to get 48th & O properties redeveloped (northeast corner)
- Conducted a neighborhood cleanup, coordinated neighborhood garage sales, conducted the Holiday Lights contest
- Hosted a free Pool Party and Ice Cream Social at Woods Park for neighborhood residents
- Adopted Stuhr Park, planted trees and provided tree maintenance for the fall.
- Contributed to Crimestoppers to fight graffiti
- Hosted speakers monthly who addressed neighborhood concerns

We have ideas to continue to improve the neighborhood. One 2008 priority is to work with realtors, lenders and public programs to increase the number of home owners in the neighborhood. If this project or another interests you, we invite you to attend our monthly meetings held on the first Thursday each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Tabitha Lifequest Center, 48th and J St.

To support our efforts to enhance your neighborhood, send in your WNA membership. For about the price of just one pizza you can support your neighborhood for an entire year! Please make your check to Witherbee Neighborhood Association. Contributions of \$35 or more will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

We enjoy the people we've met, friends we've made and the fun we've had. We invite you to join us by volunteering a little time on a specific project and/or serving as a board member.

And if you want more information, the WNA website is www.witherbeena.org.

Please include your email address — we keep WNA member email addresses confidential and will send emails sparingly—as it will allow us to send updates and event reminders between issues of the quarterly Witherbee Buzz newsletter.

Sincerely,

WNA Board (neighborhood residents like you)

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.