



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 10 No. 3

Newsletter

Summer 2013

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

Free Swim Party and Ice Cream Social to Take Place August 4th at Woods Park

For the seventh year in a row the Witherbee Neighborhood Association is offering a FREE swim party at Woods Park Pool along with FREE ice cream in front of the Woods Park Tennis Center.

Last summer hundreds Witherbee neighbors and their guests enjoyed this event at Woods Park Pool and Tennis Center, located at 33rd and J streets.

This year's event is scheduled for August 4th at 6:00 p.m. Summer is here, please come and enjoy a refreshing dip in the pool and a couple dips of ice cream while enjoying the company of your neighbors.



Joyful Witherbee toddler.

GRAFFITI Prevention to Be Topic of Sept. 5th Meeting



William Carver

William Carver rescheduled his graffiti talk from our May meeting to this September. Graffiti is a public nuisance. Carver was hired by the City of Lincoln Mayor's office about 3 1/2 years ago as part of the Stronger, Safer Neighborhoods pilot program. He said recently the Lincoln Police Department has become more proactive in graffiti prevention. William also said that contrary to popular belief, not all graffiti is gang graffiti. William will talk about the different kinds of

graffiti and other details of his job. William said if a property owner does not remove the graffiti within 15 days of being notified the owner may be subject to a lean against the property if the city has to clean it. The graffiti perpetrator if caught faces fines and/or community service.

Come to the September 5th meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Tabitha's LifeQuest Center located at 48th and J Street to find out the prevalence of graffiti in our city and neighborhood and find out what you can do to report and prevent it.

Once again ice cream will be served from the shady spot just outside the Tennis Center doors. The Tennis Center will graciously be providing tables, garbage cans and will have their water fountains on. Super Saver is generously donating all the ice cream we can eat along with condiments, dishes, bottled water, etc.

The pool will open at 6 p.m. and is reserved just for our party. Bring your family and friends to have a swim and a dish of ice cream, served from 6 to 8 p.m. Woods Park Pool is huge so there is plenty of room for all your guests. The pool "spray ground" will also be running and is a great place for toddlers to splash or children of all ages to run through on their way to or from the pool or ice cream.

Adults and children alike are encouraged to take a few swings on the tennis courts. Woods Tennis Center pros will be on hand to feed balls and offer their expert advice. Racquets and balls will be provided.

Walgreens will be on hand with chalk, giveaways and will also provide bottledwater for the event!

Don't miss this annual event which includes a fire truck, police car, music and more. So come one, come all and enjoy a wonderful night of activities! Plan to join us and make this year's event the biggest and best ever. It's a great way to meet new neighbors or get to know old ones better, and the price can't be beat for a fun family evening. All neighbors and their guests are welcome regardless of whether they are members of WNA.

About Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association

Boundaries:

33rd to 56th & 'O' to Randolph

Meetings:

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

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www.WitherbeeNA.org

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President's Message



Mike Kreikemeier

It took a few weeks but summer finally arrived. I hope you are having a wonderful summer enjoying time outdoors on your patio, porch or deck, walks through the neighborhood and bike rides around town. One of my favorite neighborhood trips is to Runza to get an ice cream cone! I also like to search out the Yard of the Month and WNA Home Improvement Project and get a first hand look at a great yard & wonderful home. I get new ideas and encouragement to keep trying for a green lawn and flowers around my house!

Many things are happening around the neighborhood. Last April a group of UN-L students helped Witherbee volunteers clean up and mulch around the trees in the neighborhood parks. Volunteers joined together for the annual Witherbee Neighborhood Clean-up the first week end in May. Both of these events helped get the neighborhood ready for spending time outdoors this summer. Check out the articles in the following pages for more details. The clean-up story is on page 12.

Witherbee Neighborhood Association made a large donation to Randolph Elementary School in June. The donation will help the school complete the walking path around the school yard. See the story on page 8.

The WNA pool party and ice cream social is Sunday, August 4th. I hope everyone can make it to this great event. Come to Woods Park for swimming, ice cream and visiting with your neighbors.

Don't miss our regular meetings featuring ways to keep our area clean and safe. See page 1 for the Sept. meeting and page 3 for our October meeting.

Of course all of these activities don't just happen. It takes work done by volunteers. I invite everyone to come to a meeting or contact a board member, get involved and help make things happen. It's your neighborhood, let's all work together to keep improving it!

Community Action Launches Educational Website

Community Action has launched a free website with information and resources specifically for tenants and landlords in the state of Nebraska. The purpose of the website is to educate tenants and landlords about their rights and responsibilities with an ultimate goal of eviction prevention.

Currently, if tenants or landlords have a question regarding their rights and responsibilities, they can either call or meet in person with Community Action's Tenant Support Services Specialist, Andrew Ritta. "Many of the questions I receive on a day-to-day basis are those that can be more easily addressed on an always available and immediately accessible webpage," said Ritta. "Having this website resource will allow our program to increase efficiency and help more people facing potential crisis situations."

The website will also complement Community Action's efforts to empower individuals to independently locate resources and devise solutions based on the information they have learned. "A large part of what we strive to accomplish with the individuals we come into contact with is to not find answers for them, but to provide them with resources and support them in their efforts to find solutions," said Community Action's Supportive Housing Administrator, Lee Heflebower. "The educational website will do just that."

The website is located at www.tenantservices.org.

Ham Radio Opportunities To Be Discussed October 3rd

There is something for everyone in Ham Radio as Witherbee resident, Larry Frisch, will explain at the October WNA meeting to be held at Tabitha's LifeQuest Center at 48th & J St., beginning at 7 p.m.

Make new friends who share your interests

Lincoln is host to hundreds of Hams with diverse interests. You are sure to find Hams who are interested in the same hobbies and activities you are. Conversations with friendly Hams in other states or countries result in new perspectives.



Larry Frisch

Public Service

Ham Radio has had a resurgence of many newly licensed Hams interested in using their radio skills to provide communications for many local events.

The Lincoln Marathon, Cornhusker State Games, Trail Trek, Market to Market Relay, Lancaster County Fair, and Pioneers Park Gran Prix Bike Race are some of the events where local hams volunteer their time to provide communications.

Of course SkyWarn, (storm spotters), is a very necessary public service. When the Lancaster County SkyWarn was activated last June, 69 local Hams with special training by the National Weather Service, turned out to watch threatening weather from key vantage points around Lincoln and Lancaster County. The weather information they gather is instantly passed to TV and radio stations for broadcast to residents.

Disaster preparedness

Communication is the Life-Blood of our society. Cell phones, internet pages, e-mails, home phones, text messages, etc., have become necessary accoutrements to our daily lives. Recent disasters have shown that these forms of communication quickly break down.

After all other forms of communication fail, there is always Ham Radio which provides local, national, and even international communication without extensive infrastructure. At virtually every disaster in recent years Ham Radio operators provided necessary communications.

Licensing is easy and radios affordable

For many years it was necessary to learn Morse Code and demonstrate a level of proficiency to get any Ham radio license. That requirement has been dropped, and a new level "Technician" has been added.

It is not difficult to pass the Technician test, and free classes are available, and also portable radios have dropped in price, allowing Hams to get on the air for much less than \$100.

Summer 2013

Witherbee Residents Invited To Tabitha's Toe Tappin' Tuesdays

Tabitha, your answer for Elder Care, is working this summer to connect Elders to the community, with a little help from a guitar or two. Tabitha is pleased to announce its first outdoor concert series, Toe Tappin' Tuesdays, to be held the second Tuesday of July, August and September on Tabitha's main campus in the heart of Lincoln's Witherbee Neighborhood.

Community members are invited to join Tabitha's Lincoln campus residents for this free, family-friendly event. Kicking off the series on July 9 was The Links, a nostalgic trio bringing to life the hits from four decades and many musical eras gone by. The series continues with polka band The Brad Kusak Trio, taking stage on Aug. 13, and concludes on Sept. 10 with The Lightning Bugs, a popular jazz group with a big band flair.

"Community is a guiding principle throughout our continuum of Elder Care services," said Christie Hinrichs, Tabitha president and CEO. "We're pleased to be able to welcome our neighbors and engage our Elders in a fun and entertaining new way."

Music begins at 7 p.m. on Tabitha's east lawn near the corner of 48th and Randolph Streets. Free popcorn and lemonade will be available during the concert. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets.



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Left to Right, Libby Schinstock, Lucia Rutledge, Stephanie Vishoff, Ben Langdon, Charlotte Langdon, and Grace Langdon.



Monsignor Nemeč is followed by the Burda family.

4th of July Tradition Stronger Than Ever

Pat and Lucy Langdon moved into their Home at 714 South 36th Street in 2002 and to their delight a Fourth of July tradition had been well established with an annual parade route going past their house each year. Pat said, "When we moved here I know the parade had already been going a couple years and had been started with kids playing the flute and drums, it was really cool." While the flute and drums weren't part of the parade this year several other traditions continued with many people taking part and enjoying the event.

Each year a host family volunteers to promote the parade with a flyer that is distributed through the neighborhood alerting everyone about the time and place where people should meet. This year the Schinstock Family who lives at 600 South 36th Street was approached by the Koperski Family, who hosted the parade last year, to see if they could pass the baton onto them for this year. The Koperskis live right around the block on South 37th St. The amazing thing is the Schinstocks were asked on July 2nd if they would do it. Sarah said the whole thing was quick and impromptu and worked out great this year with more participants than ever.

Sarah Schinstock said she was happy to host this year. The parade would begin and end in her and husband Jeff's front yard. Her job would not only entail providing the flyer and making sure it got distributed, she printed 75 flyers and neighborhood kids put them out the morning of July 3rd, but she and Jeff would also have to provide watermelon and water for people to enjoy at the end of the parade in their yard. The watermelon, water and established parade route were three traditions

the Schinstocks could not change. Sarah had suggested that the kids would really enjoy popsicles but she was informed that all the past hosts had only provided water and watermelon.

Sarah said the first family to host a parade was the Greg and Patti Lang family who live nearby on South 37th Street. She estimated that it started about 15-20 years ago. Year after year since then the parade route goes along 36th Street from F Street to J Street, then over to 37th Street from F Street to J Street. It covers an eight block area.

Monsignor Nemeč, Pastor of St. Teresa's Parish, is also in on the tradition enthusiastically participating at the beginning of each parade by leading a prayer written by Thomas Jefferson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, then with a boom box in hand he follows the lead flag carrier while the Stars and Stripes song rings out all along the parade route.

Monsignor has participated throughout the years and he said this year seemed like the largest in participation. He said more people than usual stood out on their porches as the parade passed by and yelled and screamed in celebration of the birthday of America. Sarah estimated that 75-100 people walked in the parade. All six watermelons that she cut up and provided were eaten and all the water she and Jeff provided disappeared. A good time was had by all those who attended the 2013 annual 4th of July parade!



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TABITHA SHOWS COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Tabitha, your answer for Elder Care, and the Witherbee Neighborhood Association, whose reach spans nearly 2,000 homes in the heart the city, have come together to form a unique partnership in mutual support of their central Lincoln community.

“Community is an important guiding principle throughout the 28 Nebraska counties served by the Tabitha Elder Care Continuum,” said Joyce Ebmeier, Tabitha’s senior vice president of strategic planning and communication. “The Witherbee Neighborhood Association has been a phenomenal partner throughout Tabitha’s Lincoln campus expansion, and we’ve made intentional efforts to include them on our journey.”

Since 2009, Tabitha’s strategic expansion plan has called for the construction of five new senior living communities, reaching even farther into the Witherbee neighborhood that Tabitha has called home since 1890. The new communities include three Green House® homes that provide residential, family-oriented skilled nursing and long-term care, Journey House SNF for Hospice Care, and GracePointe Assisted Living & Memory Care Suites.



“Many neighborhood groups do everything they can to keep the neighborhood entirely comprising single-family homes. Witherbee doesn’t operate like that,” said Larry Frisch of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association. “When Tabitha looked to expand, we spent some time thinking about it and ultimately discovered that Tabitha’s Elders are just as much members of Witherbee as our neighbors in single-family homes. They deserved to be included, too.”

Tabitha and the Witherbee Neighborhood Association have grown into close partners during the expansion phases. In 2012, Tabitha’s on-site fitness gym, Club 4, was opened to membership by Witherbee members aged 55 and older. The fitness gym features a fourth-floor, birds’ eye view of the neighborhood and offers members exercise equipment including treadmills, elliptical machines, stationary bicycles and a walking track. The fitness gym provides an ideal environment for Witherbee Neighborhood Association members to join Tabitha employees in maintaining their health side-by-side. Since offering Club 4 memberships to Witherbee neighbors, more than 60 people have made the step toward health with this low-cost and conveniently located opportunity.

Other partnership ventures have flourished between Tabitha and Witherbee, including the association’s monthly meetings, held on Tabitha’s main campus. Most recently, Witherbee neighbors were invited to Tabitha’s inaugural outdoor concert series, Toe Tappin’ Tuesdays, held on the second Tuesday of July, August and September.



629 So. 52nd St.

June Yard of the Month

The June yard of the month goes to William & Linda Fuller. They live at 629 So. 52nd Street. They were quite surprised to hear about yard of the month because their favorite part of their yard is the back yard. I’d have to say it is beautiful! The back yard has been a work in progress for some time, and the result is amazing.

You will find a potting shed, a workshop, a nice vegetable garden, and a beautifully landscaped back yard. The patio area is where there used to be an above ground pool for their children. The back yard has been a happy gathering place for their family and friends.

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3830 J St.

May Yard of the Month

The first yard of the month for the 2013 season, is 3830 J Street, the home of Ray & Janet Holliday. The spring season has just begun and already this home has a lush and well manicured yard.

Many yards had not even begun to green when this home was chosen. You can see that a lot of time and effort goes into keeping a yard so beautiful. In addition to the front yard, the home also has an impressive back yard.

Please keep the nominations coming! We have received so many nominations over the last few months, it makes the choice difficult. It's great to have so many yards in the neighborhood that friends and neighbors are proud of, and that are inspiring to us all.

To make a nomination please e-mail jworrall05@gmail.com or call 402-601-5269.



Large back yard provides plenty of room for flower gardens.



Water feature in back yard.

Volunteers Needed to Keep Lincoln And Lancaster County Beautiful

Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB), a program of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, assists residents to take greater responsibility for improving their community's environment. The program aims at keeping Lincoln and Lancaster County clean, preventing and reducing litter and promoting good waste management practices. Volunteers help to educate youth, community members and businesses to improve their waste-handling practices and to increase the number of residents who are aware of appropriate waste disposal and recycling options and are motivated to keep the City clean, safe and attractive.

Volunteers have the opportunity to assist with one of the following community improvement projects:

Litter cleanups: Volunteers participate in litter cleanup activities to maintain a clean City and County. These efforts are part of Keep America Beautiful's national cleanup campaign. Cleanups occur throughout the year but are mostly scheduled in April and May. The Witherbee Neighborhood Association Cleans up every May! Volunteers are assigned a specific area for cleanup and are supplied with trash bags, safety vests and other equipment that is necessary. Cleanup locations include

Continued next page



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LES Recycling Program Launched July 1

On July 1, as part of Lincoln Electric System's popular Sustainable Energy Program, LES launched its refrigerator/freezer recycling incentive program.

The program pays LES residential customers \$35 for having their old, secondary, inefficient refrigerators and freezers picked up and recycled.

As the demand for energy rises in the summer, you can cut your electricity costs, earn cash and conserve energy by having your outdated appliances picked up free of charge.

Older refrigerators and freezers require as much as four times the amount of energy as newer, more efficient models. And those operating in unconditioned spaces, such as basements and garages, consume even more energy to keep cold. By removing these older appliances, an average LES residential customer can save \$90 to \$100 annually.

LES has contracted with national appliance recycler JACO Environmental to pick up and transport the old refrigerators and freezers to a demanufacturing facility where 95 percent of each appliance is converted into recyclable metals, glass and plastics. The hazardous materials that are contained in these appliances are safely extracted to prevent environmental damage.

What are the equipment requirements?

- The refrigerator or freezer must be in working condition.
- It must be between 10-32 cubic feet in size.
- Energy Star rated units do not qualify.
- Only secondary refrigerators or freezers are eligible.

KLLCB *Continued from previous page*

city areas, county roads and lakes. It is a great opportunity for groups. Mini-grant opportunities may be available for community groups.

Special Events: Volunteer at special events that promote keeping Lincoln and Lancaster County Clean, preventing and reducing litter and assuring good waste management practices. Examples include the Earth Wellness Festival, Earth Day, Cleanest High School Campus Competition, Greening of the Lincoln Marathon, Green Holiday exhibit, Reusable Bag Campaign, Fireworks Cleanup and other Litter-Free Events.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections: These events encourage citizens to reduce toxic materials commonly found in households. Collections are held once per month March through November. Volunteer activities include handing out educational material, directing traffic, taking surveys and other duties as assigned. These are great opportunities for groups.

Storm Water Awareness Program (SWAP): Protect the waters in our lakes and streams by marking storm drains with a NO DUMPING message and distributing door hangers to homes. Work outdoors in groups of 2-4 people, weather permitting.

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How the recycling program works:

- Beginning July 1, visit les.com to complete the online form at www.les.com
- JACO Environmental will contact you to set up an appointment to pick up your refrigerator or freezer.
- You will receive a call 48 hours in advance of the four-hour time frame for pickup.
- The unit needs to be operating when the crew arrives to pick it up. If it is not working, they will not take the unit.
- Customers can expect to receive their \$35 rebate within four weeks.

Funding for 50 percent of the program costs will be provided through a matching grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. The program will end Oct. 31, 2013.

Start making wise energy decisions today and you can help keep your energy costs down and LES rates low by doing your part to help delay the need for LES to construct the next costly power plant.

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3633 "O" Street (37th & "O")



Witherbee representatives Fred Freytag, Rick Bagby, Mike Kreikemeier meet with Wayne's Body Shop co-owner Kellie Johnson, (center), and Enterprise Rent-A-Car representative Ashley Cleveland, (right), to celebrate the donation of \$2500 from the Enterprise Holdings Foundation to Witherbee Neighborhood Association.

Neighbors Work Together to Fund Walking Track for Randolph School

By Rick Bagby

Randolph Elementary School needed an all-weather walking path. A fund-raiser was announced. Witherbee jumped into action. Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association pledged to donate \$500 as a challenge match if neighbors would too. You didn't raise \$500, you raised \$4400! With the pledge from Witherbee added, we presented a check for \$4900 to Dr. Wendy A. Bonaiuto, Principal of Randolph Elementary School.

After spreading the word in this newsletter, on our website, Facebook, and in the Neighborhood Extra, the checks started piling in. Dozens of neighbors contributed \$5, \$10, \$20 and more. Neighbors talked to neighbors, they talked to area businesses, they made connections, and spread the word. They asked, would you help us support an all-weather walking track for the school? They asked not only for the students and kids, but for all of us as well. The answer was yes. The matching fund quickly hit the \$500 target, then blew right on past.

The largest single donation came from local business Wayne's Body Shop. Owners Kellie and Craig Johnson are celebrating 40 years in business in Lincoln by donating to the community. As a part of their "Wayne's Gives Back" celebration they chose to include the Randolph walking track as one of the many donations they are making in the area this year. Connections were made, grant applications written, and a recommendation from Wayne's was essential in winning a grant for \$2500 from the Enterprise Foundation (Enterprise Rent-A-Car) for the Witherbee Neighborhood Association.

Thank you to all who made it possible for us to assist Randolph Elementary with this project. Our history as a group of neighbors coming together to make life better in Lincoln made it possible. Many were involved, from connecting with neighbors and businesses, publicizing the fund drive, producing and distributing this newsletter, to writing checks.



View of home before demo of garage.



Con

Wesolowski's Year-plus Ho

By Mike Fitzgerald

Quality workmanship has been a priority throughout the home improvement project Ryan and Veronica "Voni" Wesolowski are finishing at their home at 3626 Woods Avenue. When they purchased the home in November 2006 they envisioned changing the flat-roofed garage to better match the rest of the brick house and adding approximately 220 square feet of living space above the garage.

Voni is a full time stay at home mom caring for their three sons, Jay 4, Luke 2 and Paul 1. The extra living space will be much appreciated and enjoyed.

The project began in March 2012 when Ryan rented a dumpster and tore down the vinyl-sided, wood frame garage, completing the demolition in a day. Consulting with architect and neighbor Kevin Clark, Ryan obtained a building permit and the construction phase began last summer with installation of concrete footings. Ryan currently works for Lincoln Electric Service but has construction experience he has utilized during the project. Emphasis on quality construction began below ground level when the footings were made four feet deep, an extra foot deeper than regulation three-foot deep.



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Construction progress in spring.



Outside view in July.



Wesolowski family has lived in Witherbee since 2006.

Home Improvement

Framing began in the fall and was made weather tight before winter weather arrived. Ryan did the electrical work. Because heating, cooling and lighting in their house are electrical, the original chimney is not needed for ventilation. This allowed Ryan to route electrical wires from the garage through the chimney to the circuit board in the basement. Also, a hotel room style heater and air conditioner will be used for the living space above the garage, which means they didn't have to install duct pipes. In addition, a doorway already existed on the second floor. All these factors have meant that the family didn't have to live with the dust and noise of many home improvement projects.

The Wesolowski's found brick for the garage to match that of the house a year ago and stored it in their back yard. Bricking the outside of the garage was done this spring by Don Kobza, Ryan's second cousin, who single handily did the mortar mixing, brick hauling and laying. Their similarly old-school three-man framing crew, that have worked together for 40 years, did their part of the construction without power tools.

Finding shingles for the roof of the second floor room to match was not a big task because the rest of the house was shingled only seven years ago when they bought the house.

The only remaining tasks are siding for the dormers, one front and one back, adding gutters and down spouts and installing drywall in the second floor living space.

One change to the look of the front of the house they did not anticipate was the loss of a tall pine tree. A disease and last year's drought combined to kill the tree. When Ryan cut it down they realized the shade they had lost. For now, the front view of the house is more open, but they are planning to plant a red maple as a replacement. That species was selected with input from next door neighbor and tree expert Steve Schwab.

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Ryan, who likes biking and the outdoors in addition to house projects, and Voni, who likes walking the neighborhood, garage sale-ing and shopping, said they like the neighborhood and their neighbors. "We have joked that we had to do this project because if we moved out of the neighborhood we would have had to take our friends with us and that would have been too expensive."

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Utilize Your Exterior To Create Extra Living Space

By Sharon Cochrane

This issue let's talk about EXTERIOR design, as outside rooms are very popular now. Putting out a few lawn chairs just doesn't get it any more. Think of this as a new way for us to spend more dollars at our local garden centers, assisting our sluggish economy.

In my back yard, I placed a conversation area under the large maple tree, starting with 4 sling chairs in a circle. Their "coffee tables" consist of 2 large tree trunk sections set on end, repurposed (eco-friendly) from a tree cut down out of a friend's back yard. He was happy to provide them, getting them here was another matter. Hanging in the maple are several chandeliers purchased from thrift stores and one from a garage sale (eco-friendly). The garage sale find actually has crystals and I have strung it with mini Christmas lights to accent it. Then I added 2" globe light strings to the tree, along with lots of hopes that this time the doggone squirrels won't eat thru the wires.

The "dining room" is placed on the cement patio (the other area is on pea gravel), and in order to soften the look, I bought an outdoor rug. It is plastic (yuk) but serves the added purpose of more color and it won't rot. I have placed an umbrella off to the side so it can be adjusted as the season changes. The chairs have comfy cushions - I have used this area for paying bills and other delightful tasks in addition to actually eating.

Up on the deck, there is a bench for my morning paper reading and crossword solving, plus my water feature. I strongly believe that each deck/patio/outdoor room should have the peaceful sound of water, and getting one doesn't have to be expensive.

I bought a large plastic (!) terra cotta flower pot 30" wide by 24" tall (\$35), sealed up the bottom holes with plumbers paste, added a pump, an equisetum, a dwarf papyrus, and a water hyacinth (from Finke's). I went to the Fish Store in Piedmont and John helped me select 2 beautiful goldfish and one lovely koi. Voila! If I leave my den door open, I can hear the water feature as I sit here writing this article. I probably spent around \$125 for the entire thing. When winter arrives, I will take the fish to a friend who has a large pond so the fish can winter-over there. (Eco-friendly.)

I wanted to be able to hang some hanging plants to give color to the remaining green area of the back yard. But the fence didn't allow me to do it the way I wanted to and there were no other "hangers" available. So my friend gave (eco-friendly) me some used bamboo poles about 6' long, and we tied them into threes to make tripods. I bought the hanging plants, hung them in the tripods, and now I have the color I wanted.




Sharon Cochrane

I know you all picked up on the "eco-friendly" references in this article. I do think we should be aware of how we treat our Home Earth every day.

Until next time....Sharon

Editors Note: Sharon has become a regular contributor to the Witherbee Buzz for her expertise in Design. Sharon lives in the neighborhood and would welcome questions you may have about your design challenges. She can be reached at 402-328-0318.

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Witherbee Connect Update

By Kathy Stastny

If you are new to the neighborhood or sitting down to read the Buzz for the very first time I'd like to introduce you to Witherbee Connect. Witherbee Connect is a contact source you can go to when you are in need. Maybe you don't know who to call to report a problem occurring on your street, or you need to find out who to call for help with yard work after having just had surgery. Give us a call and we can help find you the right resource. The number is 402-488-3314. Witherbee Connect has been up and running for about a year now and has helped several people. One solid partnership we have established is with Tabitha and their Club 4 Gym. They are allowing our 55+ neighbors who are members of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association to use the gym for \$40.00 per year. For more information please call me at 402-488-3314.



Kathy Stastny
402-488-3314

Thanks to a great committee Witherbee Connect has been off to a good start. We are still ironing out some wrinkles that have occurred and hope to be able to do more as we go. We have done some really good things but also have not been able to do some things we wanted to do. It is a joy to really be able to help individuals with problems. We have more resources in Lincoln than lots of cities and most times we are able to connect people with the correct resource. That really makes a difference and we can solve many problems.

We were able to help one individual with some water problems this spring. That seems odd since it has been so dry the past few years. It took a few days to find the help but once we did it went well. We did run out of time for the outdoor work that some folks asked for. The problem was school was out so we did not have the Hawthorne students as usual. We plan to complete those projects in the fall. Also we hope to find ways to be more responsive

to the outdoor needs. We are so happy to have the calls.

I am glad to see folks enjoying the Tabitha Club 4. I have been doing some really heavy yard work so I have not been to the gym for awhile. I think it is as valuable in the hot weather as the cold weather so as soon as I have my new patio in I will get back to the gym. I cannot say enough kind words to Tabitha and staff for allowing Witherbee seniors to use Club 4 gym.

Please remember to ask us when you need help as we will work hard to help. We are always working for ways to answer requests. Your ideas and thoughts are always welcome too. Maybe you know of a good resource we can recommend to others. One of the ideas we are working on is finding more people willing to help a neighbor. It is really special when neighbors help each other. People seem to be so busy or they are simply afraid to help others and it is a real challenge these days. When I was a kid I remember people taking their neighbor a sack of groceries, taking a child in for a few days or cleaning house for each other if someone was ill. These kind of activities build neighborhoods and can sure save us all money. Also, when we get to know each other and look out for each other our neighborhood is safer. I have heard of some groups even sharing tools with each other. If I have stirred up any ideas please share them with me. Give me a call at 402-488-3314.



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Witherbee Connect

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Volunteers Get Witherbee Neighborhood Spruced

By Mike Kreikemeier

It was cold. It was wet. It was not a perfect weather day for a neighborhood cleanup. But it turned out to be a wonderful cleanup event despite the weather. On May 4th over 30 volunteers helped collect garbage, used tires, recyclables, electronics and building materials from the Witherbee area. This was the 10th year for the annual cleanup event. The event has expanded to include an emphasis on recycling and reusing materials in addition to general cleanup of garbage. Many people and organizations pitched in to make this cleanup a big success.

I would like to thank the students at Bryan Community School and their teacher Roger Burris. The students have helped with the cleanup for several years. This year they pitched in to pick up litter along "O" street and the other high traffic areas in the neighborhood.

Boy scouts from Troop 28 (St. Teresa's Parish) and their parents were another group that helped pick up litter around



Cold rain greeted, but did not detour, volunteers.

the parks, churches and schools in the neighborhood. Thank you for your hard work on a cold, wet day. If I could I would award you all a merit badge for your efforts.

Adam Rhoads is the coordinator for Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful at the City/County Health Department. Adam provides guidance on filing the grant applications that cover the cost of the cleanup. Thanks for your help Adam.

There are several businesses that I would like to thank for supporting the WNA cleanup. Neiderhaus Refuse provided the roll-offs and hauling services at a reduced rate. Two roll-offs were filled with refuse and one roll-off was filled with metal for recycling. Thank you to everyone at Neiderhaus Refuse for supporting Witherbee Neighborhood.

Thanks to Hofeling Enterprises for accepting brush & tree limbs at no charge from Witherbee residents on the day



Bryan students, (above), and Boy Scout troops, (below), picked up street litter.



Large stack of construction material was re-cycled.

Kealey Butler
Independent Consultant

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Up For Spring



Brian Hurst, Bob Callaway, Mike Fitzgerald, Kathy Stasney, Christine Nesmith, and Mike Kreikemeier load the big pile of tires gathered this year.

of the cleanup.

Thanks to Goodwill Industries for providing collection bins and hauling away used electronics, clothing and household items. It was a great way to reuse and recycle many items collected.

Thanks to Eco-Stores Nebraska for their help. Eco-Stores brought a large covered trailer and helped load it full of construction material including lumber, windows & doors. These materials were collected from WNA residents after a remodeling project. What a great way to re-use the material and save it from going in the landfill.

Thanks to Alter Metal Recycling for processing the metal collected. The payment from metal recycling helps cover the cost of the cleanup.

Thanks to Fred Freytag and FM Lawn Care for providing a trailer at cleanup headquarters. It was wonderful to have clean & dry place for the food, drinks and paperwork.

Thanks to Bryan Hurst for cochairing the cleanup event with me this year. I also need to thank Bryan for providing a pick-up truck that collected refuse from neighbors that were not able to bring it to the collection site.

All of the volunteers were well fed with donations of food & drink from area businesses. Thanks to Braeda for the generous donation

of cinnamon rolls, bagels, muffins & orange juice. Braeda has supported the cleanup with a donation of food for several years. Thank you to Mid-Town HyVee for their donation of coffee & juice. They really came through in a pinch when I forgot about Summer 2013



Bryan at Hawthorne volunteers Ashley Omer and Stephen Reis pick up litter.

providing coffee for workers until a day before the cleanup. (My wife is the coffee drinker in the family.) A big thank you to Bread & Cup for a delicious donation of scones, cinnamon rolls & breakfast pastries. This donation was especially nice since I didn't even have to ask, they saw the announcements about the cleanup and called to offer a donation, they even delivered it that morning! If you need a little extra nudge to volunteer for next years cleanup, just remember, you get to dine on fine breakfast treats the entire morning!

I hope I didn't miss anyone or forget to mention a business that supported the cleanup. If I did, please accept my apology and know that your support was very greatly appreciated.

Thank everyone, I hope you can all help out again next year!

Witherbee 

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WNA Calendar

*Membership not required for
any meeting or event.*

Thursday, August 1st — 7 to 9 p.m., WNA Monthly meeting, Volunteer sign-up for Ice Cream Social/Swim Party. Tabitha LifeQuest Center conference room, 48th and J.

Sunday, August 4th — 6 to 8 p.m., Swim Party & Ice Cream Social. Woods Tennis complex and pool, 33rd & J. (see pgs. 1 and 16).

Sunday, August 11th — 6 p.m. Stuhr Park Potluck

Tuesday, August 10th, — 7 p.m. Toe Tappin' Tuesday, Tabitha east lawn. Guests encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

Monday, September 2nd — Happy Labor Day.

Thursday, September 5th — 7 to 9 p.m. WNA monthly meeting, featuring William Carver (see page 1). Tabitha LifeQuest Center conference room, 48th and J.

Sunday, September 8th — 6 p.m. Stuhr Park Potluck

Tuesday, September 10th, — 7 p.m. Toe Tappin' Tuesday, Tabitha east lawn. Guests encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

Thursday October 3rd — 7 to 9 p.m. WNA monthly meeting, featuring Larry Frisch, (see page 3). Tabitha LifeQuest Center conference room, 48th and J.

Sunday, October 6th, — 6 p.m. Stuhr Park Potluck

Thursday, November 7th — Save the date for Witherbee Annual Meeting.

A Little Divine

By Jackie Varicak

I'm going to say it like it is.....I can be a huge procrastinator; I can drag my feet and find a million excuses to NOT do what I need to do sometimes. I'm willing to admit that this Buzz edition brought out the worst in me when it comes to these occasional character weaknesses. I found myself in a pickle to be quite honest. We had a deadline to get stories written, ads placed, pictures in, and our layout completed and I was down to the wire! We needed the Buzz to be printed and delivered for you to get it in time for our August 4th Swim Party and Ice Cream Social (see story on page one).

My biggest job each quarter, with the help of many, especially Larry Frisch, is to come up with and assign stories to our volunteer writers, collect them once they are written, review and edit them and finally place them in the layout of the newsletter. I usually write a few articles each quarter as well. Since this is a volunteer based venture we like to have it ready a couple weeks prior to events we are promoting so our volunteers have plenty of time to deliver. (By the way if you want to help deliver Buzz newsletters please let me know.)

Now... allow me to give you one of my million excuses for letting this Buzz get to the edge of failure and then share how I got out of my pickle. My problem was that I was simply unmotivated and stuck in a rut. I had a few story ideas I planned to write but couldn't seem to get organized and ready to sit down and pound them out. One idea was to do a Fourth of July Parade story. I had heard a few years ago from a friend that there was an annual parade done in our area but that's about all I remembered. The problem was I would have to find out when and where it was and plan ahead and I really wasn't feeling up to the effort. I had actually done a Fourth of July parade story in the past but that was right on my street. A parade didn't happen on my street this year so I couldn't take the easy route.

In the meantime Fourth of July came and went and I completely missed a Witherbee neighborhood parade to take pictures of, interview attendees, take notes and write about. I gave up on the story and was planning to move

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Intervention Came to My Rescue!

on to other ideas. I had a July 9th deadline for the entire Buzz to be ready to print and it was looking completely impossible to make it because I had not even written one word on any story yet. I was starting to panic a bit. But thanks to Divine Intervention I got a burst of energy and a Fourth of July story is in this Buzz for you to enjoy (see page 4).

Here's what happened: I had the 5th of July off from my job and took advantage of the day and made a couple of appointments. One of them was to meet with Witherbee



Jackie Varicak

Neighborhood Board of Director Kathy Stastny and Monsignor Nemeč, Pastor of St. Teresa's Parish, to talk about our Witherbee Connect Program (See Witherbee Connect story on page 11). When we began our meeting midmorning in the St. Teresa's Rectory at 36th & Randolph, we started telling our Fourth of July stories and Monsignor Nemeč and Kathy brought up a parade that had happened on their streets. I perked up and began asking questions about the whole thing getting all the details I could from Kathy and Monsignor. I told them right then and there I would write an article about the parade for the Buzz. I asked Kathy and Monsignor if they saw anyone taking pictures so I could try and get a picture or two to go along with the article. Kathy mentioned that her neighbor, Tony Marquez (WNA Board of Director), was taking pictures or videotaping the parade. I was glad to know I could call him later and see if he had pictures he could share.

We had our discussion about the Witherbee Connect program after talking about the parade and when Monsignor's next appointment came, we wrapped up our meeting and he showed us to the door. Kathy and I continued visiting just outside the door between the rectory and the church when all of the sudden Tony Marquez walked up the sidewalk towards us with a Walgreens picture envelope in his hand. I said, "Hi Tony what do you have in that envelope?" He said, "Parade Pictures for Monsignor Nemeč." I thought, Oh My Gosh, that's crazy.....I now had everything I need to write my story with pictures and all. Kathy and I explained to Tony how we had just been talking to Monsignor Nemeč about the parade and his pictures. We marveled that Tony showed up with those pictures! Tony gave them to me for as long as I needed them.

That's not the end of the story. I had walked over to St. Teresa's church and rectory from my home with a note pad in hand with only two things written on it I wanted to

be sure and talk to Kathy and Monsignor Nemeč about. I had written "We Help" and the "Grande Group" because I wanted to make Kathy aware of these St. Teresa's programs and to see if Monsignor would agree with me that these would be good to have on the Witherbee Connect resource list. We ran out of time to talk about these two things with Monsignor, but just after Tony walked up and talked to us a woman name Phyllis Weisser walked toward us. I recognized her as being the woman who happened to start both of these programs at St. Teresa's parish that I had written down. I showed them all my note pad. I couldn't believe it! Divine Intervention had set that all up I believe.... I introduced Phyllis to Tony and Kathy and they were all glad to get to visit, especially about the Grande Group for seniors.

After our visit I took the pictures across the street to the Langdon family, whose three children are shown in one of the parade pictures and got their permission to use the picture. Lucy Langdon was how I had originally heard about the parade a few years ago. I was all a twitter about what had just happened and told Lucy about the Divine Interventions that had just come to my rescue. Sometimes people show up at just the right time for us!

If you would like to participate in the Buzz in any way shape or form please let me know.....I can find a job big or small that can suit your ability. Contact info is on pg. 2.

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Sunday, August 4th

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Ice Cream: 6 to 8 p.m.

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All Witherbee residents,
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their guests welcome
to this free event.



and



WNA is providing the the free pool time, music, and SuperSaver is providing the free ice cream.

Woods Tennis Center is providing tennis racquets, balls, & tips.

Walgreens is providing chalk and giveaways.