

Lifting Spirits With Home Decor is Topic of February 7th Mtg.

You have put away the the glitz, the bling, the lights and all things associated with the recently past holiday season, and now - how does your house look?

Pretty lackluster, maybe? In keeping with the

weather's gloom and passage of the party season, this time of year could very easily be labeled The Doldrums. Let's not allow it to get us down. Make some lemonade out of these lemons by taking the opportunity to do some home decorating and redesign.

Sharon Cochrane, a Witherbee resident, will speak at the February 7th WNA meeting about how some simple, and inexpensive decorating techniques will improve our families living space, and lift your spirits from those winter blahs.



Sharon Cochrane

It's a perfect opportunity to reassess what we have going on in our houses and make some changes. The artwork hanging above the fireplace has been there for 10 years; should it stay there for another 10? How about a change in the furniture arrangement? Take some of the stuff out of the den and change it out for the living room and vice versa. Take some of your decorative items (known more commonly as "foo foo") and move it around. Time for adding some live plants, maybe?

With 25 years of design experience, Sharon points out that good interior design should be accessible to everyone. She abhors the thought that some people are reluctant to consult a professional decorator because they believe that a decorator will come into the home and "automatically find fault with what they have and propose expensive changes". Decorating "with what you have" has been her motto.

After growing up in Lincoln, she spent several years working across the country, gaining a variety of experience in design. She returned to Lincoln a dozen years ago, and was a floral designer for Campbells Nurseries. She is an adjunct teacher at Southeast Community College, and operates her own design consulting service.

Sharon purchased a home in Witherbee about four years ago. "I love this neighborhood, It is such a friendly place to live," she says.

Come to the WNA meeting February 7th, 7 p.m., at Tabitha, and find out how to lift your spirits.



Unsafe gravel would be replaced by concrete.

WNA Will Match Funds For Randolph School Project

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association is excited to announce their support of Randolph School's quest to fully pave a walking path around the playground on the south side of the school. WNA is allocating up to \$500 in matching funds for donations from Witherbee Neighbors for this project.

One of the life skills taught at Randolph School is making healthy choices and promoting life-long physical activities. Every recess, the students walk or run two laps around the playground. Only part of the route is paved. The rest of the lap area is gravel. Students with physical disabilities and students who use wheelchairs are not able to participate in this daily activity because the pathway

Continued on page 3

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.

www.facebook.com/witherbeena

www.WitherbeeNA.org

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President's Message

Hello and Happy New Year! As the first part of 2013 takes hold there are many things happening around the neighborhood. Our membership drive is underway. If you have not renewed your membership please turn to the back page and fill out the registration form and send it in. If you are new to the area, you are invited to join WNA and help make your neighborhood an even better place to live. You will also be receiving a membership letter from WNA giving you another chance to join.

Unlike a home owners association, membership in Witherbee Neighborhood Association is voluntary. You are not required to join WNA if you live in the neighborhood but we certainly hope you will. Your membership in WNA is important and quite a bargain. Just take a minute to read the list of events, projects and benefits your Neighborhood Association makes possible. I am sure you will agree that WNA membership is a very good return on investment.

WNA will again sponsor several free social events this year such as the summertime Pool Party & Ice Cream Social as well as the annual meeting with free food and entertainment in the fall. These are great events to relax and enjoy some time with your friends, family and neighbors. Both events are free. What a bargain!

WNA also helps make your neighborhood better with several annual projects including improving our parks by teaming up with the UN-L Big Event and hosting the neighborhood cleanup in May. The spring cleanup is a great help when cleaning up your home and yard making it easy to recycle and dispose of unwanted items. The Big Event and WNA cleanup are both free. Another great deal!

Are you 55 or older with a New Year's resolution to keep in shape and improve your health? Your WNA membership entitles members 55 and over to join the Club 4 Gym at Tabitha at the amazingly low rate of \$40 per year. Club 4 has several types of professional grade exercise equipment including treadmills, elliptical machines & stationary bicycles. What a great way to start a healthy year and save.

This newsletter is full of interesting stories concerning your neighborhood. It also includes money saving coupons. Using the coupons in this newsletter alone will almost save you the cost of a family membership in WNA. Did you know that all printing, production & delivery costs for the Witherbee Buzz are covered by the advertising in the newsletter? No membership dues money is spent on this newsletter. Another great bargain brought to you by your neighborhood association.

So how does WNA make all of these events, projects and activities happen? Of course your membership dues help by providing money to cover some of the costs. Businesses around the neighborhood also provide very generous sponsorships for many of the events. Grants from Keep Lincoln/Lancaster Beautiful help cover the cost of the spring cleanup. But it takes more than just money to make all of these great events and projects happen. It takes work. Work by neighbors just like you. Everyone can help out. If your schedule is already filled with other commitments and you only have a little bit of time then please volunteer for a job that only takes a little bit of time. Every job is important and needs to get done. Of course, if you have more time to help out that would be even better. If you live in the neighborhood get involved with WNA. I am sure you will agree it is a great investment.



Mike Kreikemeier

Randolph School Project *Continued from page 1*

is in the deep gravel playground. During inclement weather, when it has rained or snowed, the gravel area is impassable. Completion of the pathway will ensure that ALL students will be able to participate. About 310 feet of new concrete will be needed to complete the six foot wide walking path. The total project cost is estimated at just over \$7000. About \$2000 have been raised so far. The goal is to complete the project this summer.

When WNA past president Fred Freytag brought up the issue with the Board of Directors they were quick to jump at the chance to do something knowing that this not only will aid the school in encouraging students to be healthier but also to help all of our neighbors young and old since the playground and walking path are open to the public. It will be a safe place for walking or running exercise. A great example to the usefulness of this path is the possibility of a mom pushing a stroller around it while her older children play on the playground close by. The walking path will be maintained by the school and cleared all year around.

With the recent success at offering Gym memberships to our 55 + members at Tabitha, the board felt this was an extension of helping neighbors find additional safe places nearby to exercise. Randolph School is located just a few blocks away from WNA boundaries at 37th and D Street and serves a large part of Witherbee. A couple other great outdoor spots to safely run and walk include Woods Park at 33rd and L Street, and Calvary Cemetery at 40th and L to O Streets.

We need your donation to help complete this project. The Witherbee Board is challenging all neighbors and businesses to participate. The goal is to raise at least \$500.00 from Witherbee neighbors so that it can be doubled to \$1,000. All funds collected will be sent directly to the school.

To have your tax-deductible donation doubled in value please send your check to Witherbee Neighborhood Association, PO Box 5431, Lincoln NE 68505. Note Randolph School in the memo.

Witherbee is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and will send receipts for donations over \$35.

Contact Fred Freytag if you have questions. 402-430-6658.



Lighthouse's Mission to Serve Youth will be Topic of April 4th Witherbee Meeting

Bill Michener, Executive Director of the Lighthouse, will speak at the Witherbee Neighborhood Association meeting on April 4th, at 7:00 p.m., to be held at the Tabitha Lifequest Center. The Lighthouse, located near our boundaries at 2601 N St. is an After-School Program that offers middle and high school aged-youth academic support, evening meals and enrichment/recreational activities during non-school hours, Monday-Friday, twelve months a year. The Lighthouse After School Program goal is to increase the likelihood of high school graduation of middle and high school-aged youth by providing high quality programming.

Bill Michener says, "We believe that love is our change agent." He will share his own experience with the Lighthouse as a youth and tell us about the Lighthouse's mission and current programs.

Please join us April 4th to learn all about the Lighthouse!



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Why You Should Have a Rain Barrel or Two or Three..., to Be Topic of March Meeting

Bryan Hurst, Witherbee Neighborhood Association Board Member, has six rain barrels of his own and he will be the featured speaker at our March 7th general meeting to be held at the Tabitha LifeQuest Center located at 48th and J Streets.

Bryan says with a drier than normal growing season predicted for 2013 rain barrels are a great investment.

Here's why you should learn about rain barrels:

1) They are easy to make from scratch or you can buy a wide variety of kits or purchase them already made. Come to the meeting to learn where and how!

2) They will pay for themselves with lower water bills. Come to the meeting for further explanation!

3) They collect rain water, so its use is not subject to City of Lincoln water restrictions. Come to the meeting and learn more about staying out of trouble with the City of Lincoln!

4) They can be decorated by painting or putting wood around them. Get more ideas at the meeting!

Bryan will also share all the tips he has learned from his and wife Julie's experience in purchasing and creating 6 working rain barrels. Tips will include all of the above and more including that most of their rain barrels were purchased from Craigslist. They started out as bulk food barrels that had tapioca syrup in them so they needed to be cleaned out. Bryan and Julie also learned to try and get barrels with removable lids. Other items needed to make your own rain barrel are a fill vent, pet cock and overflow pipe which are available at stores that sell plumbing supplies.

Amazingly barrels fill with as little as a tenth of an inch of rain. Your rain barrels will fill rapidly if you have your entire drain pipe emptying into them.

Don't miss this very informative meeting where you will learn how to take better advantage of one of earth's greatest and most necessary natural resources. With a rain barrel or two or three your garden will flourish!



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UNL Big Event Will Help Private Residents and Mulch Trees in Woods & Stuhr Parks

The Big Event wants to help you, your home, and your neighborhood. The students attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are aiming to give back and give thanks to the Lincoln community this spring by volunteering for improvement projects around Lincoln and the surrounding area. One of the main goals this year is to expand volunteer efforts to private residences. Previously, private residences have had volunteers do different projects such as raking, cleaning garages and basements, painting fences, and planting flowers, clean windows and trim shrubs. The Big Event can supply some tools. The deadline for signing up is March 30th. To sign up or for more information go to <http://bigevent.unl.edu/> or call (402) 472-2581

Witherbee is again teaming up with students volunteering for the Big Event and the Lincoln Parks Department to stretch our tax dollars caring for our city parks. Trees will be re-mulched at Woods and Stuhr Parks. The Parks Dept. will provide mulch and most of the tools. We also need you! Please bring gloves, wheelbarrows and rakes if you can. Mark your calendar and come join us on Saturday, April 13th for coffee, juice, doughnuts and lots

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Neighborhood Watch-Simple and Effective-Let's Make it Stronger

Lincoln Police Officer Erin Spilker was the speaker at the January monthly Witherbee Neighborhood Association meeting and shared what Neighborhood Watch is all about. The WNA seeks to strengthen Neighborhood Watch in our area. Currently there are 375 Neighborhood Watch groups in Lincoln. We would like your help in increasing that number greatly.

Officer Spilker made the observation as those in attendance went around, introduced themselves, and said where they lived, that there were potentially 20 neighborhood watch groups in the room. There were twenty in attendance at the meeting.

The Neighborhood Watch Program establishes a formal network for concerned citizens to communicate with their neighbors and the police regarding crime-related problems. The program asks you to be involved with your neighbors, and their property, by becoming more aware and alert to the activity on your street. You will be the eyes and ears of the Lincoln Police Department.

It is important to realize that criminals find it difficult to operate in areas where citizens take an active role in reducing criminal opportunity and reporting suspicious activity. As you go about your daily routine you have the opportunity to casually observe the neighborhood. Such observations are useful in alerting neighbors and police to suspicious persons and activity in the area.

Officer Spilker explained the crime triangle which includes the three elements that are necessary for a crime to occur. These three elements are Ability, Desire and Opportunity. There is very little that a citizen can do to impact a criminal's ability or desire to commit a crime. What a citizen can do, however, is to deny criminal opportunity.

THE BLOCK SECURITY COORDINATOR

Consider becoming a coordinator or recruiting a neighbor close by for this role. The coordinator acts as the leader of the Neighborhood Watch Program for their particular area and serves as the group's liaison with the police department's crime prevention group. The coordinator must be a resident of the geographic area represented by the watch group. Officer Spilker said her rule of thumb is that the areas this person looks out for are the properties within the vision of the coordinator's own property.

Get started today! It's as easy as One, Two, Three...

One... Contact your neighbors and determine if interest in starting a Neighborhood Watch group exists.

Two... Contact the Education and Personnel Unit of the Lincoln Police Department. Their telephone number is 441-7261. You will be sent a Neighborhood Watch start up kit, which contains a group roster sheet, a Neighborhood Watch book and window stickers.

Three... The last step is to go back to your neighbors and gather the needed information for the group roster.

Then return the roster to the Lincoln Police Department Education and Personnel Unit to activate your group. Once your group has been activated, you will be sent the needed materials to supply your group.

For more information you can go to the web at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/> and go to the search box and type in neighborhood watch and you will find a lot of information about Neighborhood Watch including newsletters with great articles about protecting your area from criminal activity.



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Annual Meeting was

The November 8th annual Witherbee Neighborhood Association meeting was chock full of neighbors, good food, fun, recognition of volunteers, and a sense of pride and safety as the meeting was kicked off with the introduction of four Lincoln police officers who attended to show their commitment and appreciation for our part of the City. These fine community partners were introduced to the 60+ neighbors in attendance: Sargent Mark James, Captain Marti Ferring, Officer Chris Schamber and Officer Josh Schaaf. They each took the opportunity to give their backgrounds and thanked the WNA for being a strong organization. On behalf of all Witherbee neighbors we'd like to thank them for their presence at the annual meeting.

Following the introduction of the officers, recognition and certificates were given to 2012 volunteers: Jackie Varicak- for being the Secretary of the Board of Directors and Witherbee Buzz Newsletter Editor, Rick Bagby-for serving as Past President, Board of Directors Kathy Stastny and Tony Marquez for their work with Witherbee Connect and the partnership forged with Tabitha to provide a deeply discounted membership of only \$40 a year to WNA members aged 55+. Hawthorne School was recognized for their work with Witherbee Connect including delivering the Buzz newsletter and helping neighbors in need with



Food was donated by HyVee at 50th and O.



Everyone enjoyed Mike's version of Witherbee Bingo.



Fun time visiting with neighbors.

UNL Big Event

Continued from page 4

of fun at Woods Park parking lot at 31st & J Streets starting at 9 a.m.

The Big Event, started at Texas A&M in 1982, to give back to local communities through one large day of service. UNL expects more than 2500 students, faculty, and staff to volunteer and give thanks to Lincoln this spring. The organization is entirely student-run and funded by donations from the community. "One Big Day, One Big Thanks" guides the Big Event in showing its gratitude to the surrounding community through completing one day of service-oriented activities for neighbors and the community. Volunteers are available to work at private residences and for community organizations. Sponsors from the community fund the event.

The Big Event will be held on April 13, 2012 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Rain or shine. The Witherbee Chairperson is Fred Freytag. Contact him at 402-430-6658 or fred@witherbeena.org for more information or to volunteer for the event.

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Another Success

their lawn and snow. Board of Director Jeff Worrall and his wife Dawn were recognized for chairing the Big Event, the Ice Cream Social, the monthly Yard of the Month awards and the annual Holiday Lighting Contest. Mike Kreikemeier received a certificate for serving as Vice President and Fred Freytag for serving as President. Fred Freytag's company, FM Lawn Care was thanked for their Adoption, landscaping and maintenance of Witherbee Park. And special recognition was also given to Larry Frisch for his leadership and continuing contributions to the Buzz Newsletter.

The next agenda item at the meeting was the election of WNA Board Members for 2013:

The following candidates were elected for a two year term: Barbara Cutler, Jackie Varicak, Jeff Worrall and Kathy Statsny. Officer candidates elected for 2013 were: President-Mike Kreikemeier, Vice President-Jeff Worrall, Secretary-Barbara Cutler and Treasurer-Karen Vogeley.

The meeting continued with Witherbee Bingo which was created by Mike Kreikemeier. The game helped attendees be reminded of all the prominent and familiar places in the boundaries of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association along with learning of and being reminded about all the events and projects that WNA does. Many prizes were donated by the Witherbee Neighborhood Association including T-shirts, key chains and more. A pot was donated by Down Under Pottery, which happened to be the first prize chosen. The game was played and many prizes awarded to the delight of those in attendance.



Witherbee Neighborhood Assn. Board members talk about why they became involved



Roger Burris and Bryan students are recognized.



LPD officers introduce themselves.

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Looking west through a dinning room window.

By Mike Fitzgerald

The Hamilton family wants to sell their historic home at 3530 J Street to a family that will renovate it and revive it as a neighborhood jewel. Witherbee leaders have supported this goal by obtaining historic information for the family and prospective buyers, as well as putting prospective buyers in contact with the family.

According to Ed Zimmer, historic preservation planner for the Lincoln Planning Department, the house was built in 1922 by and for Arthur and Effie Edgren. He was the Lancaster County Engineer. They moved to the area a few years before building the big house, living in the small frame house just east of it at 3540 J. Both the deed for the property and the building permit were in Effie's name. The estimated cost of the house was \$6,500 but the permit listed the material as "frame" (wood), not the "stone-faced tile" of the actual construction as cited on the Sanborn insurance atlas. The permit documents mention "self" as the contractor and lists no architect.

Preservationists call the house Mission Style for its tile roof, stone construction, and curvy dormer parapets. The most comparable example in Lincoln is the Spalding House at 2221 Sheridan Blvd, built in 1908 from designs by Ferdinand Fiske.

Arthur Edgren died Oct. 3, 1932 at age 48. His widow Effie had a much longer span, from 1891 to 1977. Both



Historic Han

were interred at Wyuka. She remained in the house only until about 1934 (with daughter Marian Edgren, listed as a student), when she sold to the Stalon family. Wilbur Stalon's occupation was "land and loans," according to the 1935 directory; later (1950s) he had Stalons Furniture Co. at 1434 O Street and his wife Betty was listed as working at the City Library.

1963 was the last year in which the Stalons were residents, selling to Roy and Velma Rorabough. They were not listed as residents, instead in 1964 police lieutenant Dean Leitner (later chief from 1979 to 1988) and his wife Rose lived there. The Leitners bought the property in 1972 and shortly sold to Delwyn D. and Sharon Hamilton. Del was a photographer and had a studio in the home. He died in 2005.

Also, Zimmer says the home would be eligible for landmark designation by local and federal programs. The advantages are mostly the quiet honor and recognition. One



The staircase includes a back stairway to the kitchen.



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Hamilton House

option for an owner undertaking a major rehabilitation is Nebraska's Valuation Incentive Program (VIP) that "abates" or freezes property tax valuation at the pre-rehab value for 8 years, no matter how much the value of the property might have increased from the work. Then for 3 more years the valuation stair-steps back to the regular full value, by year 12.

Shannon Henry (one of the family's three children) recalls her family moving into the home when she was in second grade. "I remember my Dad driving us by the house and telling us that's where we were going to live. My younger bother Kenny (deceased) and I couldn't believe it. We thought it was a castle." Their step-sister Chari was born about a year later.

One of Shannon's favorite memories is a huge Christmas tree brought in each year that touched the 10-foot ceiling in the dining room. "There were a lot of kids that lived on J Street and we had fun in the big yard. The boys would play football and the girls were cheerleaders. And of course, our yard was a great place for hide and seek."

Hamilton photography was well known in Lincoln and Shannon recalls her mother receiving customers in an office that was set up in the room that is to the left of the entry way. Many photographs were taken outside in a gazebo, on the front porch or using trees as background. "I recall fond memories of those days when I recognize our home setting in photographs I see in homes and businesses." She added, "We hope a family will buy it and restore it to its grandness. I remember a photo taken at Christmas time at dusk, with the rooms lit up and candle



Looking south out one of the solarium's arched windows.

lights in all the windows. We would love for that to happen again here."

The two-story home consists of 3,792 square feet, and includes five bedrooms, a solarium with large arched windows, a two car garage built in at the basement level, a fire place and a back stairway connecting the staircase in the center of the entryway to the kitchen. The home sits in the middle of a 1.16 acre lot. The house is assessed at \$222,100 and the lot at \$70,000 for a total of \$292,100. The property has recently been appraised at \$300,000 and the asking price is \$300,000.

Anyone interested in purchasing and renovating the home can contact Andy Lutes via email at andylutes@gmail.com.



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Don't Judge A Book By It's Cover

Editors Note: This article was written by a Bryan At Hawthorne School student for publication in the Witherbee Buzz. Her name is being withheld to provide privacy.

Who doesn't remember those late night football games, painting your faces, cheering the team on with the cheerleaders, and laughing with all your friends! The roar of cheers when your team makes a touchdown, the excitement of the half time band and performance of dancers. I have many meaningful memories with friends, and teachers from high school. However I've also experienced the horrors that can come from high school.

The school I attend now doesn't have a football team, a dance team, bowling team, or even a choir. There is one thing we attain that other schools do not though. We are a community. One big family, working together to better our futures and get one another through our present lives. This school may be identified as an alternative school for kids who need the extra help because of behavioral, legal, or even learning issues. Every one of us here has our own story. We aren't bad teenagers, some of us have just chosen the wrong paths.

I couldn't tell you everyone's story here, or what brought them to this school. All I can share with you is my story, to help you better understand that with hope, knowledge, and perseverance, anything is possible. Teenagers are strange beings, I will give you that! We're hard to understand, communicate with, and most of all hard to control! Along with the mistakes we often make though, we also learn from them. Sometimes we don't always need orders, and directions, and rules. Those are all vital, but often we just need someone to listen and understand. Someone to relate to us.

In my experiences growing up, I didn't have any of that. No rules, no chores, no orders, and most of all no one that would just sit and listen. On the outside, I appear to be a well kept, joyful, energetic, fun loving, smart, sweet girl who has her life together. What you can't see from my facade is my past that haunts me. The horrible memories you can't trace in my eyes, but the wisdom I've acquired from having to endure the life I did. Before I share some of my childhood with you, I want to make it clear I do not regret going through any of it. I wouldn't be who I am today, or have learned from all the mistakes I witnessed. I find myself to be a stronger, smarter young woman than others my age because of it.

I grew up with an abusive step dad. My mom and him were both alcoholics for a portion of my life. Everything that happened in my home, stayed in my home. I never told anyone until the stress started to physically take a toll on my body. Holding back all those repressed memories of seeing my mom beaten would make me physically sick. I never told because I knew if I did, they would take me away from my mom. And she was all I had. I felt if I was there, he would never take it far enough to kill her in front of me. I stayed to protect her, which may sound

silly considering I was a kid! I would lie to case workers, and hide things from them to ensure I didn't get taken away. I endured waking up every morning to my heart racing, waiting to hear screaming, or thuds from upstairs. On a good day, it was silent. I learned to enjoy silence, for the pure fact that it was better than hearing the profound things they would say to each other.

School was always my escape, my safe place, my happy place. I was always happy to go to school to see my friends, and be acknowledged for the hard work I did. It was a place I was cared for, and appreciated. Something I didn't get much of outside of the classroom. It was horrible having the place you sleep, eat, and live be the one place that terrifies you the most. Being run out of your own home because your step dad is on meth and destroying the house. Throwing large speakers, breaking phones so we couldn't call the police. Growing up watching them make their own decisions no matter who it hurt. Doing drugs, drinking, and being careless. Once my world had no more chaos it was strange for me. It was like there was something missing because for so long all I ever dealt with on the daily was drama. So I guess I just started my own.

I've been locked up in the juvenile detention center for being an uncontrollable teenager. I've been caught stealing from a store, speeding, possession of marijuana, and a hit and run. Listing those out, you would say I'm the right type of kid to be attending Bryan. What you don't know is how well I do in school, how respectful I am, the goals I have in my life. The daily struggle I have with myself, fighting my own depression to not let it ruin my life. To not let that darkness take over me and pull me further away from the potential greatness I could do in my years to come! But the confidence, and courage the teachers fill me with, pushes me to overcome my weaknesses, and do this not for everyone else but for me. Some students here take advantage of the benefits, and don't understand that they're lucky to be able to attend this school and get the extra help they need. But that's their decision and it's not going to affect anyone but themselves. We're a school full of friends, a big family, we are Bryan Community!

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Wetherbee Connect News and Important Updates on Tabitha Gym

By Kathy Stastny

I want to give you updates on Wetherbee Connect! The Hawthorne students are still available to shovel snow and also even walk your dog. Please keep them in mind if the need arises and give me a call. They have a one hour class each day to assist with such chores. Also there is a new program by the name of Snow Angels. United Methodist Churches of Lincoln has started this program to help with snow removal needs for the City of Lincoln. What a wonderful idea. We are working with them to put a program in place as a backup resource for snow removal. They are asking for folks to volunteer to help with the program and also will help with shoveling needs. If you go to the Snow Angels web site <https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/engine/traffic/snow/snow-angels.htm> you will find out much more about the program.



Kathy Stastny
402-488-3314

Angie Cardwell at Tabitha said there has are about 25 to 30 people signed up at Tabitha's Club 4 gym. She said they have enjoyed meeting the neighbors and seeing them using the gym. What a great opportunity with the snow on the ground. I personally love the small, quiet gym. It feels like I belong there and I have not felt that way in other gyms. It is so easy to just go into the north door, walk to the end of the hall and up the elevator. Maybe I should be using the stairs but will try that after I get more exercise under my belt.

Tabitha has asked that I pass along some important gym information to those who have joined or plan to. If possible please avoid the use of the gym between 5pm-6:30 p.m. because it is such a busy time and people are getting off work. Please plan to wipe down the equipment after use due to flu season.

I am willing to coordinate workout buddies for you. If you need a buddy to go to the gym with call me at 402-488-3314 and leave your name and the time you would like to work out with a buddy and I will coordinate matching you up with one.

On another note, in an effort to make our neighborhood safe we would like to encourage you to keep your eyes and ears open. I have not called the police several times when I wish I did. For example one time I felt something was going on when a car load of people was parked by my house. I decided to go around the block to check on them. I saw them go to a garage sale up the street so I thought they were going to the garage sale to buy. But rather than buying they robbed the woman having the garage sale. If I had called the police and just said they were acting odd the police could have watched them and maybe stopped the robbery. I was watching but not following through.

Lincoln Police Officer Erin Spilker came to talk about Neighborhood Watch at the January 3rd WNA meeting and brought up this very issue. Please take her advice and act if you see something that looks out of place in your neighborhood. Please call me if you need more information about Neighborhood Watch.

As always Wetherbee Connect is willing and ready to help you. Please watch for your neighbors needs as well and refer them to us if we can help. Please keep in mind the kids at Hawthorne School are willing and ready to respond and when they help you it helps them. We are just a call away at 402-488-3314.

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**CAREDAY
QUEST**

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



First Place: 715 So. 46th St.



Second Place: 4844 J St.

Holiday Lighting Contest Winners Announced

By Lisa McNeel

A HUGE thank you goes out to all Witherbee residents who decorated their homes this holiday season. Your efforts brightened the lives of those living within Witherbee boundaries and the lives of many people from other areas of our city. Once again, Witherbee neighborhood shone with lights, greenery, bows, Nativity's, blow-ups and various other holiday decorations. Driving through our streets, the judges were delighted by the variety of displays and the snow made each home even more delightful! Judging each nomination proved to be a fun but challenging task for our panel. A discussion of all the homes took place over hot chocolate and cookies and after much deliberation; the top three places were named.

First place (\$25 Super Saver gift card) was awarded to the home at 715 South 46th street. This display took top honors because of the huge tree made up of lights with a gorgeous star on top. The display also had some very sparkly deer that delighted the littlest judge on our panel and the eves dripped with icicle lights.

Coming in at a close second place (\$15 Super Saver gift card) was the home at 4844 J Street. From Santa and his reindeer to snowmen, snowflakes, carousel horse and blinking stars, this home had it all. The display lit up the night and was a delight to all the judges.

Third place (\$10 Super Saver gift card) was just

plain fun to look at!! The helicopter on the roof of 4011 Witherbee captured the attention of motorists and brought smiles to countless Lincoln residents as they drove past on 40th street.

There were many homes that shone brightly in our neighborhood and we encourage you to check out the WNA website for pictures of just a few of those nominated for Honorable Mention at www.witherbeena.org.



Third Place: 4011 Witherbee

Auto | Home | Life



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Home At 38th & L Overhauled in WNA Fashion Looking For a Family

By Mike Fitzgerald

Jolene Gee has just finished totally overhauling the house at 3820 L Street and is hoping a family will buy it and be a positive addition to the neighborhood. The home improvement stories we have told in the newsletter have been about families who have made major improvements because they wanted to live in the Witherbee neighborhood. Most of them said they probably invested more in their home than the market might return, but they did so because they wanted to live here.

Jolene's story is similar but with a couple of major differences. Jolene bought the house in March 2012. Jolene is an artist and the home has space that would have worked as a studio.

She planned to make some improvements and then realized many more repairs were needed. Jolene decided to complete the home improvement and sell it. Her oldest son took a semester off from college to help with improvements that began in earnest in May 2012. The initial project of repairing part of the foundation led to several other repairs. "I didn't want to make cosmetic improvements because I wanted to be able to look back and know a family was enjoying the home and not enduring costly surprises that might be associated with me."

The foundation work lead to rewiring, which lead to re-plumbing and replacing the air conditioner. The list goes on. Wood flooring has been installed throughout the first floor. The approximately 1,300 square feet on the first floor includes two bedrooms, formal living, dining room and kitchen, each with large picture windows. The kitchen has new cabinets. Half of the basement is finished and includes a newly carpeted living area and bedroom, as well as a bathroom. New egress windows were added to the basement living room and bedroom. The stone home includes two fireplaces, one on the first floor and a second in the basement. Rewiring includes cable and internet and new lighting throughout the home. All the walls and trim have been freshly painted. Outside, an enclosed breezeway connects the home to the garage, which has a new door. Also, trees have been planted in the front yard and a circle driveway was added to ease parking by the nearby bus stop.

The backyard is an area the new owner can develop

Home Improvements Stories Wanted

This is the fourth installment of our spotlighting home improvements made in the Witherbee neighborhood. If you have made an improvement or know someone who has, please contact WNA Buzz editor Jackie Varicak at (402) 438-3616 or email wvaricak@neb.rr.com

WNA wishes to thank Tabitha
for being a great neighbor and providing
meeting space for us each month.



Overhauled home at 3820 L St.

to their liking. It has a small creek that joins the yard to the adjacent cemetery. "There is wonderful quiet space and a lot potential for supporting it with trees and plants," Jolene said.

Jolene may identify with other owners in the neighborhood who may not see a financial return on the investment they have made to a home. And she would make a good nominee as an honoree WNA member.

Anyone interested in the home can contact Jolene at (402) 484-5515.

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Tabitha Meals on Wheels Delivers More than a Meal for Clients, Volunteers

Rain or shine, sleet or snow, Tabitha Meals on Wheels has delivered a warm, nutritious meal to those in need 365 days a year for over 45 years. But for those Tabitha serves, Meals on Wheels is much more than a meal.

"It's so much more," said Christie Hinrichs, Tabitha's president and CEO. "We have always believed that for an Elder to be able to stay in their own home is ideal and sometimes it's just a meal that allows them to remain independent."

Over 400 Elders in the community receive a daily meal delivered with love from a Tabitha volunteer. In addition to the meal, the volunteers provide an invaluable safety check for recipients, some of whom see no one else during the day. In the winter months, the need for meals and for volunteers significantly increases because of cold, ice and snow.

"We always have a need for volunteers," said Shirley Smith, Tabitha's director of food and nutrition. "The need only increases in the winter months. The clients we deliver to have a harder time getting to the grocery store when the weather is bad and our volunteers, some of whom are elderly themselves, have a difficult time delivering."

With so many meals being delivered each day, Tabitha needs at least 50 daily volunteers to deliver and provide safety checks for recipients. The need increases when snow enters the forecast. Frequently, the program struggles to find enough volunteers to deliver the meals.

Volunteers who brave the wintry conditions when snow is expected are called "Snow Angels" and are in high demand for the program.

"We recruit volunteers with 4-wheel drive vehicles who are willing to deliver meals when other volunteers can't because of the snow or ice," said Smith. "Regardless of the weather, our clients count on the meals to be delivered."

Seventy percent of Tabitha Meals on Wheels recipients are unable to pay the full \$5.50 cost of the meal. Tabitha asks recipients to pay what they can and relies on donations to make up the difference. With the help of volunteers, grant-funding and individual donations, Tabitha can continue to deliver meals to individuals unable to leave their home or prepare food because of physical limitations.

Tabitha Meals on Wheels volunteer opportunities are available seven days per week, 365 days per year. Volunteers deliver weekly or monthly and others pick up routes when they can. Visit www.Tabitha.org/volunteer, or call 402.486.8564 to find out how you can become a volunteer.

For more information about supporting Tabitha Meals on Wheels financially, visit www.Tabitha.org/foundation or call 402.486.8509.

"We make such an impact on those we serve," said Hinrichs. "Volunteers and donors are often looking for a way to give where they know they are making a difference. Feeding someone makes a difference."

Why Join the Witherbee Neighborhood Association?

Barbara and John Cutler moved to their new home on Steele Street in 2010. Their former home was in the 40th and A Neighborhood and they were well acquainted with association activities – cleanups, neighborhood watch, and social events.

Still, the motivation wasn't there until one of Barbara's co-workers suggested she come to a meeting. Oh yes, and maybe she could add her administrative skills as Association Secretary. Being a good sport about it, Barbara said OK.

"Once we looked over our latest copy of the Witherbee BUZZ and had a chance to visit with leaders about the broad base of neighborhood activities, we were thinking this was a pretty strong and active neighborhood group," John says. "The list of events and promotion efforts made to improve the neighborhood are strong."

Witherbee neighbor social events, cleanup days, and the Association's collaboration with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are especially significant, because they offer opportunities to associate with the community not available in other neighborhoods. "Volunteers have taken time to make the community work and it looks like it works well together," Barbara says.

So, how long will the Cutlers hang out with the Witherbee Association?

"Well, I'm stuck for a year," Barbara chuckled. But she quickly pointed out the enrichment that comes from getting to know neighbors and leaders in the close-but-open group of people who live here. "We'll be around probably as long as we live here," she quipped.

John agrees. "It's great to have a group of your neighbors acquainted with one another and having your best interests at heart. Doesn't get much better than that."

We welcome the Cutlers and look forward to getting to know them better and hope they do indeed stay and hang out for a long time!



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7141 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

WNA Calendar

Membership not required for any meeting.

Monday Mornings— 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. “Our Street” on KZUM 89.3. Shawn Ryba and Lynn Fisher focus on issues facing Lincoln neighborhoods. Program airs each Monday.

Thursday, Feb. 7th — 7 to 9 p.m., WNA Monthly meeting, featuring Sharon Cochrane Tabitha LifeQuest Center conference room, 48th and J. (see page 1).

Thursday, Feb. 14th — Happy Valentines Day!

Thursday, Mar. 7th — 7 to 9 p.m. WNA monthly meeting, featuring Bryan Hurst. (see page 4). Tabitha LifeQuest Center conference room, 48th and J.

Sunday, March 17th—Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

Saturday, March 30th —Big Event Registration Deadline (see page 4)

Sunday, March 31st—Happy Easter!

Thursday, April 4th —7 to 9 p.m. WNA monthly meeting, featuring Bill Michener. Tabitha LifeQuest Center conference room, 48th and J. (see page 3).

Saturday, April 13th — Big Event Volunteer/ Mulching Day (see page 4)

Saturday, May 4th — Neighborhood Clean Up Day Save the Date!

Hazardous Collections Schedule — Contact Dan King at 402-441-8084



Why Do We Join The Witherbee Neighborhood Association?

We Don’t Buy A Newspaper—We Buy The News!
We Don’t Buy Life Insurance—We Buy Security!
We Don’t Buy Glasses—We Buy Vision!
We Don’t Buy Awnings—We Buy Shade!
We Don’t Buy Membership In WNA—We Buy The Cooperation Of The People In The Neighborhood With Whom We Can Join Hands To Do The Things We Can’t Do Alone!!!

Yard of the Month Coming Soon

By Jeff Worrall

The Yard of the Month Award Will Start Up Again Soon! The yard of the Month award is given out during the months of April - October. The recipient receives a sign to place in their yard for the entire month and a short story with a photo goes into the Witherbee Buzz. It’s an honor to be chosen for this award and there are many beautiful yards in our neighborhood to choose from.

As the Yard of the Month judge I will look for yards with:

- * Drive-by appeal
- * Plants with same sun/shade and water requirements planted together
- * Mulching for water conservation
- * Appropriate irrigation (no watering the streets)!!

Be sure to nominate your neighbor or yourself by contacting me at 402-601-5269. Please leave a message. Include your name, phone number, and address. The Yard of the Month can be a home or a business.

Thank you, Jeff Worrall Vice President of Witherbee Neighborhood Association



Happy New Year!

Start the new year out right and pay off some of those holiday bills! Contact us today and apply for a new money Personal loan for up to \$3,500, 12 month repayment plan and a rate as low as 2.90% APR! Hurry, this offer ends January 31, 2013!

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It's Surprisingly Easy To Help Keep Your Neighborhood Strong

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association (WNA) celebrates 10 years in 2013. Like the saying goes – time flies when you're working hard and having fun! Since it was organized, your neighborhood association has accomplished many important things to help maintain and enhance the neighborhood you call home. To help keep it strong we are conducting our annual membership appeal. As your neighbors and WNA volunteers we hope that you will read the following points and send in your membership (or sign up or renew on line at www.witherbeena.org/membership). Thank you to those of you who already have. In addition, we hope you will come to a meeting or participate in an activity.

In 2012, in addition to annual events (Pool Party and Ice Cream Social, Mulching trees at Woods and Stuhr Park, Neighborhood Cleanup, Yard of the Month and Holiday Lights award contests) your neighborhood association:

- Dedicated Witherbee Park at 46th & O Streets
- Coordinated assistance to residents through Witherbee Connects program
- Began Recognizing Home Improvement projects

- Addressed concerns with problem properties.
- Sent representatives to Mayor's Round Table, Lincoln Policy Network and Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance meetings.
- Hosted monthly speakers and open meetings to address neighborhood concerns.
- Published and distributed the quarterly Buzz newsletter keeping you informed of all of these neighborhood issues and activities.

When we each do a little, we all do a lot. Please become a member and participate at whatever level of involvement that fits you and your schedule. Everyone has a talent, skill, idea or area of interest that would be an important contribution to your neighborhood association. There are many jobs, large and small, that we could use your help with. And if there isn't anything currently that strikes your interest, WNA can be the platform for you to start a new project or tradition. Please attend a meeting or contact a board member today to get more involved.

Last, but certainly not least – participating in WNA is a very good way to meet nice and interesting people – from across the street, down the block and throughout your neighborhood.



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

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
- ___ Extra WNA window sticker logo\$5.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St.: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

___ Check here if you want to receive one free WNA Logo window decal for your car, home, or business with your paid membership. Additional decals are \$5. Please enter total number of decals needed here ____.

Contributions: Donations to WNA of \$35.00 or more will receive a tax deductible receipt.)

Please indicate your areas of interest and mail to Witherbee Neighborhood Assn, P.O. Box 5431, Lincoln, NE 68505

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ___ Serving on the board | ___ Newsletter writing/photography | ___ Neighborhood Watch |
| ___ Witherbee Connect | ___ Newsletter production | ___ Bryan/Hawthorne School |
| ___ Distributing newsletters | ___ Web pages | ___ Other (describe below) |
| ___ Neighborhood Cleanup | ___ Acquire meeting speakers | _____ |
| ___ Organizing garage sales | ___ Annual Meeting | _____ |
| ___ Holiday Lights contest | ___ Boosting home ownership project | _____ |
| ___ Pool Party & Socials | ___ Witherbee Park | _____ |