



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 11 No. 1

Newsletter

Winter 2014

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

WNA Wants to Influence Fate of Hamilton House

Attend the February 6th WNA meeting at 7 p.m., at Tabitha's LifeQuest Center at 48th & J Streets to contribute your voice and ideas to the fate of the Hamilton house.

The Witherbee Buzz ran a story a year ago featuring the Hamilton house which is located at 3530 J Street and shared that the Hamilton family wanted to sell their historic home. As of this writing the house has not been sold. WNA had hoped that a family would see the house and property as an opportunity to restore the unique and historic family home. Now that time has lapsed there is concern that a developer could buy the property, demolish the home and erect unattractive multi-family units.

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. Preservationists call the house Mission Style for its tile roof, stone construction, and curvy dormer parapets.

According to Ed Zimmer, historic preservationist



Future of Hamilton House at 35th and J Street in Question, Attend Meeting to Learn More

planner for the Lincoln Planning Department, the house was built in 1922 by and for Arthur and Effie Edgren. Now the home would be eligible for landmark designation by local and federal programs. The advantages are mostly quiet honor and recognition. One option for an owner undertaking a major rehabilitation is Nebraska's Valuation Incentive Program that "abates" or freezes property tax valuation at the pre-hab value for 8 years, no matter how much 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.

WNA will bring together folks on February 6th to talk about various scenarios of the fate of the Hamilton House and begin to formulate a plan of action for steering it in a positive direction so that future owners and possibly tenants will hopefully make a positive impact on the area.

Anyone interested in learning more or being involved in the process is encouraged to attend the meeting. Questions or suggestions before the meeting can be e-mailed to Mike Fitzgerald at sevenfranch@windstream.net.

Nebraska Sports Council Director to Speak at April 3rd WNA Meeting

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association is excited to announce that Nebraska Sports Council Executive Director Dave Mlnarik will be the featured speaker at the April member meeting. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend! The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 3rd beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Tabitha's LifeQuest Center at 48th and J Street.



Dave Mlnarik

Dave Mlnarik grew up in Clearwater, Nebraska, where his family owns and operates a feed & grain elevator and cow-calf ranch. He received his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of

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2014 WNA Membership

Please use the coupon on page 16 to join or renew your WNA membership. Indicate your interests in the check boxes as your participation is vital in keeping your Witherbee Association vibrant and strong.

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

*This is Witherbee and
You are Witherbee Neighbors*

Here is what I see in our neck of the woods: A helping hand, a smile, a wave, free books. Healthy living, longer living, walking, safe biking, climbing. Flowers, snow shoveling, litter cleanup, swimming, schools. An ear to the ground. An eye on city hall. A place to gather, laugh, complain, learn, share. Weeds vs. flowers? Water conservation, recycling, trees. A place to be heard. A way to connect. Elders, toddlers, teens, youth, young adults. neighbors, prime adults. Remodeling, de-cluttering. Ice Cream, learning, bingo, pizza, playground renovation, celebrating heros, overcome challenges, poetry, gardening, conservation, energy efficiency, saving money, coupons, making money, Neighbors.



Rick Bagby

We kick off another year in midtown Lincoln

I just went out to clear the latest nuisance snowfall from my sidewalk. Already done. Thank you to my unknown Snow Angel. Do you need a Snow Angel? See the article in this issue of the Witherbee Buzz. Not enough closet space? Look inside for the article about our upcoming Neighborhood Garage Sales. Neighbors pull together to face adversity, bullies, gathering to celebrate the seasons. As you receive this newsletter you just have received or soon will be receiving a ballot in the mail for the Lincoln Public Schools bond issue election. I hope you take a few minutes to learn about the bond issue before you fill out and return your ballot. Neighbor and Witherbee member Ed Zimmer gave us an overview at the January meeting. Be sure to learn about the proposed investments in our schools. Go online to learn more before voting, <http://www.LPS.org/2014bond/>

The trees and landscape of Woods Park have benefitted from our mulching efforts for the last several years. We recruited volunteers from UNL to help neighbors care for Woods Park in April at the student led "volunteer in the community," day known as the Big Event. This year the mulch around the trees is in good shape so we are re-directing the student volunteers into the neighborhood to help individual homeowners with home and yard projects. See the Witherbee Connect update in this issue for details.

Coming this year - UNL Big Event volunteers - what can they do for you? Garage Sales, Neighborhood Cleanup, Swim Party and Ice Cream social, Little Free Library. Witherbee Connect. Stuhr Park playground renovation planning. None of these happen without volunteers, without you, neighbors.

Need help and don't know where to turn?

Our goal is to provide a safety net for the Witherbee Neighborhood, as well as provide possibilities to use all available resources.



402-488-6397

Witherbee Connect

Nebraska Sports Council Director to Speak at April 3rd WNA Meeting

Continued from Page 1

Nebraska-Lincoln in 1991 and has worked for the Sports Council ever since. He and his wife Chrystal have four children. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, traveling and singing/playing music. Fun Facts about Dave: He was a Singer/Songwriter (Full Choke Band 1990-2002) and wrote and recorded two country CDs, one in Nashville.

The Nebraska Sports Council conducts the Cornhusker State Games, the LiveWell Challenge Series and annual stand-alone events including the Mud Run, Pumpkin Run and the Big Red Challenge. Total annual participation averages around 30,000. The Nebraska Sports Council was recently chosen to host the 2015 State Games of America. The State Games of America will take the place of the Cornhusker State Games in 2015.

The 2015 State Games of America in Lincoln is expected to attract 12,000 Nebraska participants and 6,000 non-resident qualifiers, making it the largest in history. The previous record was set in Colorado Springs in 2009 with just over 10,000 total participants. With 18,000 participants, 5,000 volunteers and 24,000 additional spectators/guests, total attendance is projected at 47,000.

The 2015 State Games of America will generate an estimated \$20 million economic impact.

More than 60 sports will be offered, which is also an event record. Attendance for the 2015 State Games of America Opening Ceremonies, which will take place at UNL's Memorial Stadium, is expected to exceed 35,000.

Dave will share how Lincoln won the bid over other cities for the State Games of America, more about what the games are all about as well as the other events of the Nebraska Sports Council, and how local athletes and volunteers can participate.

For more information on the events and programs of the Nebraska Sports Council you can go to <http://nebraskasportscouncil.com/>. Don't miss the opportunity to meet and hear Dave Mlnarik on April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at Tabitha's LifeQuest Center!!

Bicycling Is Topic Of March 6th WNA Meeting

Bob Boyce, is looking forward to talking with fellow Witherbee residents about the Bicycle Education program of the Great Plains Bicycling Club on March 6th at 7 p.m., at Tabitha Lifequest Center, 48th and J.

Bob says; "I've been a Witherbee neighbor since my wife and I bought a house on South 37th Street in 1976, and I still live there. I bicycled to work from the time we first came to Lincoln in 1973 until I retired in 2009."

The Great Plains Bicycling Club began doing bicycle education about 8 years ago, and in the past four years they have talked mostly one-on-one with over 7,400 children and adults at various community events, like the Witherbee Ice Cream Social, Bryan Health and Safety Fair, and bike rodeos.

They do education in two ways, with a parking lot exercise, and a booth with a big, colorful Bicycle Wheel of Fortune, using handouts and the questions and explanation they give the kids and their parents. They focus on what skills bicyclists need to know for on-street biking.

They reinforce what kids already correctly know about bicycling, and correct the misconceptions which they and their parents might have. (Here's a test question: In a year, how many collisions with cars do cyclists riding on the street in downtown Lincoln have?)

Come and see what you can learn to make your kids' cycling more safe and fun! on March 6th at 7 p.m.



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Winter Safety Tips – Prevention of Slips, Trips and Falls

- Walk slowly and carefully on icy or snowy walkways. Take short, deliberate steps in which the mid-foot strikes the ground first, not the heel. The body should always be centered over the feet. This avoids slips at the heel strike phase of gait, the most common slip occurrence. Slowing the walking pace further reduces the likelihood of slipping.
- Avoid areas with poor lighting, when possible.
- Change direction carefully when walking on slippery surfaces.
- Be aware that black ice can look like wet pavement.
- Be especially cautious when new snow may have hidden icy patches beneath it.
- Ensure footwear has good treads and is appropriate for cold or wet weather.
- Avoid walking with your hands in your pockets; keep hands free for balance.
- Carry items in a way that will not throw you off balance or obstruct vision. It is important to see where you are walking.
- Use handrails on stairs, so you can catch yourself if you slip on icy steps.
- Place your full attention on walking. Digging in your pocketbook or backpack or using cell phones or other devices while walking is dangerous.
- Be aware of changes in friction on walking surfaces (for example walking from snow to ice, from curb to road, or from inside to outside).
- Be particularly careful of slippery conditions in the morning when melt water from the previous day may be frozen.
- Use special care when entering or exiting vehicles. Don't jump from vehicles and equipment.
- When getting out of your vehicle, look down at the surface. If it's coated with ice you might want to park in a different place. Test potentially slick areas by tapping your foot on them.
- Use the vehicle for support. Where practicable, brace yourself with the vehicle door and seat back before standing. This will give you some stability.

Source: City of Toronto - Toronto, Canada

Start Planning For WNA Garage Sales

Dates have yet to be determined, but we missed a year of garage sales in 2013, and would like to get them on the agenda again for 2014! Calls came in from people missing this annual event. There also seems to be neighborhood



interest in holding garage sales in June and possibly again in the fall but we are looking for a couple volunteers to help organize the garage sales in order to get them on the agenda.

If you would like to get involved your job will be simple, here is how you can help:

* Choose the dates when our neighborhood garage sales will be held.

* Take registrations and collect money (\$5.00) from neighbors who would like to hold a sale. They will either mail them or call and bring them to you. The registration form will be available in the next Buzz.

* Develop a sheet with all registration addresses to be given to everyone holding a sale. Make copies to hand out to shoppers on the days of the sales.

* Give out signs to those holding a sale for their yards


* Place ads in the Lincoln Journal Star, Craigslist etc....

We are looking to have a full garage sale article in the next Buzz newsletter! So please contact any board of director listed on page 2 if you would like to help in any way with this year's garage sales.

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WNA Calendar

Membership not required for any meeting or event.

Thursday, Feb. 6th — 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., WNA Monthly meeting, featuring a discussion on the Hamilton House, LifeQuest Center conference room, 48th and J. (see page 1).

Tuesday, Feb. 11th — Mail in ballots of LPS Bond Issue must be received by election commission.

Friday, Feb. 14th — Happy Valentines Day!

Thursday, Mar. 6th — 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. WNA monthly meeting, featuring Bike Safety topic. (see page 3). Tabitha LifeQuest Center conference room, 48th and J.

Monday, March 17th—Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Saturday, March 30th —Big Event Registration Deadline (see page 14)

Thursday, April 3rd — 7 p.m., to 9 p.m., WNA Monthly meeting, featuring Dave Mlnarik, LifeQuest Center conference room, 48th and J. (see page 1).

Saturday, April 5th — UNL Big Event (see Witherbee Connect Article page 14)

Sunday, April 20th—Happy Easter!

Save These Dates:

Saturday, May 3rd — Neighborhood Clean Up Day

Thursday July 3rd—City Fireworks, No WNA Meeting

Thursday July 10th—WNA Monthly Meeting

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

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Amateur Radio Class To Begin April 8th

Classes to prepare for the FCC Technician Exam will begin Tuesday, April 8. Classes will run from 6 p.m., to 9 p.m., for six weeks. This class is sponsored by the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club, and is FREE of charge. There will be a \$15 fee to take the FCC exam on the last day of class. The class is open to the public and there is no obligation to take the exam. Anyone interested in radio is encouraged to attend.

FCC Technician license holders have operating privileges on 2 meter and 70 cm radio bands which are local frequencies. These are the frequencies normally used for amateur radio communications at public service events, such as the Lincoln Marathon, Cornhusker State Games, Bicycle Tours, Lancaster County Fair, Mud Run, and various other events. With additional weather training, Technician license holders may participate in Skywarn, (Lancaster County Storm Watch), to help protect residents against severe weather events.

Additionally, CERT, (Community Emergency Response Team), members are encouraged to obtain Technician licenses to assist with communications during local disasters.

For more information, contact Reynolds Davis at 402-488-3706. Location is anticipated to be at Union College, with additional details to come later.

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Home Improvement - Wish



Kitchen Before.



Kitchen After.

By Mike Fitzgerald

Home improvement stories in Witherbee have similarities, but their differences are what make them fun and interesting. Alice Baden's home improvement story is of the improvements wish list variety.

Alice lives at 3700 H Street. Her 1922 white bungalow home is on the northeast corner of the intersection of H and 37th Streets. Before she purchased it in 1997, she was renting a duplex near 40th & D and was familiar with this area from taking walks. Alice says she was prompted to purchase a home when her rent jumped unexpectedly. She contacted a realtor couple and they knew that the 3700 H Street home was going to be listed and arranged for Alice to look at before it was placed on the market. It needed some work, but it had what Alice wanted. It was an older home, a bungalow, with a formal dining room and also had a garage. She made an offer the same day she toured it. There was another interested buyer, but the home owners, the McCaffrey's, decided to sell it to Alice because she wanted to live in it and the other interested buyer wanted to turn it into a rental.

Alice made a list of improvements she wanted to

make and she has steadfastly completed all of them but two. She prefers not to borrow money so she saved money for each project and crossed them off her list as they were completed. First was the stripping multiple layers of paint and wallpaper in 1997. The hot water heater was replaced in 1999 and ceiling fans were added in 2000. About 2001, carpeting was removed and the oak floors refinished. The house and the garage were reroofed in 2002. In 2004, the finished half of the basement was carpeted. In 2005, she had the garage and house painted. In 2007, a retaining wall



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List Style



Renovated home at 3700 H St.

was built on the west side of the yard to halt erosion. In 2008, the kitchen was gutted and totally redone. She paid off the mortgage in 2011, so in 2012 she was able to replace the water heater, finish the basement ceiling, replace the air conditioner, and waterproof the exterior of the north basement wall. Last year she replaced the windows with new energy efficient, easy-to-clean ones.

The final two items on her wish list are getting an energy efficient furnace and replacing 1950-style woodwork with 1920-style woodwork that will be more in keeping with the original construction of the home.

Similarly, the landscaping has been improved along with all the inside work.

Alice is a do-it-yourself homeowner, preferring to do as much of the maintenance and home improvement work as possible herself. Whether done by herself or hired, she insists on quality materials and workmanship. She says when it comes time for the home to be sold, she wants it to be known as a nice home throughout, not one that was just fixed cosmetically for a quick sale.

Witherbee is pleased to recognize her investment in the neighborhood with its Home Improvement Award.

Alice grew up near Hebron and is the fourth of eleven children. She was a “non-traditional” student earning a BS degree in Human Nutrition and Food Service Management at UNL in 1980 and completed her dietetic internship at Hines VA in Chicago. Her first job as a dietitian took her to Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1981. She transferred to the Lincoln VA in 1992 and retired from there in 2011. While working at the Lincoln VA, she also earned a masters degree in Adult and Continuing Education.

Although retired, she keeps plenty busy with volunteer activities which include the People’s City Mission, Matt Talbot Kitchen as well as teaching English as a second language through an outreach ministry in her church. In addition, she is a Master Gardener and is certified in Diabetes Education. She prefers all the glory to go to the Lord!



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For the first time, Calvary Cemetery was lighted this holiday season. Viewable from "O" street and 40th street, the full effect could only be realized from the "L" street view. This lighting display was most "liked" on Facebook.



4306 L St. This home, decorated by Vicky Englehart was a popular spot because of all the animated displays. Before their retirement, Vicky and her husband decorated their truck tractor with 1000 running lights. They were a sensation on the highway.



623 So. 46th St. Gene and Carol Mueller had an impressive display with a nativity scene showing the reason for the season.



5041 Witherbee Ho

The home at 5041 L Street was selected as the best residential lighting display in the WNA holiday lighting contest. For neatly and creatively covering nearly all angles of the home and for the wonderful yard display the owner Todd Mitchell was rewarded with a gift card to Best Buy and the WNA First Place Holiday sign was placed in front of their home. Receiving gift cards to Noodles were the homes at 623 So. 46th St., and 4306 L St. for second and third place.

This year WNA took the contest to Facebook for feedback on the best display with pictures of five notable homes with their addresses. Facebook friends were asked to like their most favorite display. Included in the set of pictures was Calvary Cemetery to make neighbors aware of the new, large, unique and very festive display of lights covering the trees along the middle street that leads North off of 39th and L Street. All the newly budding trees were covered with green, red, blue, white and purple lights which led to a very large pine which was placed in the round-about island that takes drivers further into the cemetery. The tree was dazzling with white lights and large round bulb ornaments that were memorials placed

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L St. Holiday Lighting

there by loved ones whose family members are buried in the cemetery. Further to the North trees surrounding the large white cross statue lighted up the section making it very visible from O Street. It felt like a winter wonderland driving through the cemetery.

Our Facebook friends took notice of Calvary Cemetery and gave it the most likes. The display was very impressive. In second place for most likes was the residential display at 5041 L Street. WNA and neighbors very much appreciated the cemetery lights but it was decided that a private neighbor should receive the sign and gift card for helping make our area welcoming, bringing the spirit of the season to all who drove through the neighborhood during the holidays.

Thanks to those who participated on facebook regarding the lighting contest. We hope more neighbors will consider checking out WNA facebook posts to stay informed. Please like us at www.facebook.com/WitherbeeNA and you will automatically become a facebook friend of the WNA and will begin receiving notices of news and events important to you.



4142 M St. This display was very tastefully done with the arch at left totally covered in blue lights.

Winner Has Decorated for 18 Years

Todd Mitchell was delighted when he learned that his home had been selected as the winner of the Witherbee Neighborhood Holiday Lighting Contest. After decorating his home for nearly two decades, he was beginning to wonder if he would ever win. Todd purchased his home at 5041 L St. 18 years ago, and has put up holiday lights every year.



Todd Mitchell

Todd's goal each year is to turn the lights on Thanksgiving evening. He accomplishes this by taking a week off of work prior to Thanksgiving to put up the lights and decorations. Each year he changes placement and themes to keep it interesting.

Todd has worked at Fiserv, (formerly Information Technologies), for 22 years. The company develops software for banking and financial institutions, and Todd provides customer support all over the world.

"I like the Witherbee location because it is easy to access all parts of the city." Said Todd, "I also appreciate the friendly neighbors, and have no intention of moving out of Witherbee."

The untimely cold weather affected some Witherbee resident's ability to put up their lighting decorations this season. We appreciate all the work Todd, and other Witherbee Lighting decorators, do to make our holiday season a little brighter and more enjoyable, and look forward to next season's lighting displays.

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A Birthday Celebration was Held at the Annual Meeting

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association's 10th birthday was celebrated at the November 7th, 2013 annual meeting including cake, candles and the singing of the birthday song! All who attended had a great time and enjoyed the pizza provided by Hy-Vee, mixed salad provided by the WNA and the birthday cake which was provided by Super Saver.

Special Volunteer recognition was given to Larry Frisch for his many years of service to the WNA especially for the *Buzz Newsletter* advertising sales, construction, printing and distribution. It has been due to Larry that you get such a high quality newsletter every quarter. Larry has been spearheading the newsletter for a minimum 7 years now. The newsletter is seen as consistently the best newsletter in Lincoln over all other neighborhood association newsletters. Because of Larry making good relationships with area businesses who routinely advertise in the Buzz, servicing their ads and helping with the collection of the sales, the newsletter is always well funded. Larry is also the brains behind the construction of each newsletter as well as handling the printing. The good relationship Larry continues with the Nebraska Printing Center is very important to its quality. If you get a chance be sure to e-mail Larry and thank him for all he has done to produce your *WNA Buzz Newsletter* at lfrisch@winstream.net. Or mail him a handwritten thank you to 4105 N St. Lincoln, NE 68510.



At the conclusion of dinner and dessert and the special recognition given to Larry, the WNA got to business electing board members for the next term. Here is a listing of those who were elected: For Officers, Rick Bagby was elected President, Jackie Varicak Vice President, Dawn Worrall Secretary and Fred Freytag Treasurer. Mike Kreikemeier will stay on as Past President. At large board members are Kathy Stastny, Cheryl Hejl, Kathy Holland and Sandy Mahoney. To learn about a couple of our new board members go to page 11 to get to know Dawn Worrall, and page 12 to get to know Kathy Holland.

The annual meeting ended on a good note with the

playing of a special version of "WNA" bingo. Most people in attendance went home with a prize that included gift cards from local businesses such as Play it Again Sports, Runza and various prizes provided by Walgreens. Thanks goes to Kathy Stastny for collecting many of the Bingo prizes.

Finally a big thank you went to Mike Kreikemeier at the meeting, who ended the year with many successes as the WNA President, which included the organizing and carrying out the annual meeting. It was his idea to plan the 10th birthday party for WNA which ended the year with a grand celebration.

Again, on behalf of WNA neighbors, thank you Mike Kreikemeier and all board members and volunteers who served in 2013. Your past contributions are very much appreciated and set the standard high for future WNA activities and events!



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Get To Know Your WNA Board of Director Secretary Dawn Worrall

Dawn M. Worrall first got involved with the Witherbee Neighborhood Association when she and husband Jeff attended a neighborhood clean-up to drop things off and stayed to help out. She says it was a fun time to meet people in the neighborhood. Eventually Dawn began partnering with her husband Jeff, former WNA board of director, in walking the neighborhood each month to select a neighbor for the Yard of the Month award. Jeff has served the WNA as Vice President and as a Board of Director at Large in the past couple of terms and has helped with many events. Jeff's work schedule changed and he is unable to be as active, so Dawn stepped up to take a more active role in the association and we are all very fortunate to have her on board!

Dawn and Jeff have been married 25 years and have two daughters, Aubry, who has a son named Aiden, and Rebecca. They bought their house at 417 S 40th Street in 2003 from Dawn's grandmother who lived in the neighborhood for over 20 years. Dawn had spent a lot of time with her grandparents and already knew many people in the vicinity. She had also previously lived with her grandparents growing up and so she has been part of the area for quite a long time.

Dawn is a secretary at Schoo Middle School, which is in Northwest Lincoln located in the Fallbrook neighborhood. She is currently enrolled as a student at Southeast Community College and is working toward a degree in Human Services. She takes one to two classes at a time. Dawn enjoys DIY (do it yourself) improvements, crafting, scrap booking and gardening. In fact, according to Dawn, she can be called "Mrs. Fix-It" at her house because she can hang drywall, do tile work, etc. She enjoys trying her hand at new things and when they do hire someone to work on the house she likes to be right there watching!

When asked what interests or contributions Dawn plans to make as a board member she replied, "I am hoping that being a long time member of the community, and also working for the public schools will help to give some additional insight to the WNA. I believe that though we are a neighborhood association, we are just a small part of a much bigger picture in our city. We can set examples for other neighborhoods and be a partner with other associations." Dawn says her favorite thing about the neighborhood is that it is fairly quiet and it is close knit. Dawn and husband Jeff also plan to continue serving the Yard of the Month program by walking the neighborhood and selecting yards deserving of the award during Spring, Summer, and early Fall.

If you get the chance, tell Dawn thank you for serving the Witherbee Neighborhood Association. We appreciate her willingness to jump in where Jeff left off!

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



Dawn and Jeff Worrall enjoy choosing Yard of the Month recipients. When spring arrives, they will be out again.

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Get to Know New WNA Board of Director Kathy Holland

Kathy Holland has lived at 55th & L Street since 1983 and is married to Rick Holland and has two daughters, Sara and Alissa. Sara and her husband Adam have two boys, Braylon & Avery who are 2 ½ years and 7 months old. Alissa recently became engaged to Nick. Both daughters and their husband/fiance' live in the Papillion/Bellevue area. All are teachers at the secondary level at Bellevue East, Andersen Middle School-Millard, and Omaha Westside.



Kathy Holland

Kathy is a Registered Dietitian and Licensed Medical Nutrition Therapist with a Bachelor's Degree and some hours towards a Master's degree from UNL. She attended Kearney State College for two years then transferred to UNL where she met her husband. She and Rick have been in Lincoln ever since.

When we asked Kathy where she lived and how long she has lived here she realized she and her husband have been in their home at 55th & L Street for over 30 years! She says they did consider moving to a larger home when their children were in elementary/middle school. Their home is relatively small compared to newer homes. They did the Parade of Home tours, etc. But when it came down to thinking about moving, they weighed the benefits of where they lived; the good neighbors, the short distance they lived from work and schools and ultimately decided moving out to the edge of Lincoln was not for them. How could they beat living 5-10 minutes away from work and the schools their girls planned to attend? Living in this area has been a great decision because of being so close to so many things, Kathy really likes the feel of mid-town and says there are many benefits to living simply and "green".

Kathy retired from St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in September of 2012 after working there for 32 years. One of her areas of focus was working with patients in the Burn and Wound Center. Though she is retired she says she usually doesn't like to say she is "retired" because

LPS Bond Issue Election

All voters in the LPS Bond Issue election are urged to complete their mail-in ballots correctly. (Follow instructions carefully or your ballot will not be counted.) The ballot must be received at Lancaster County Election office by 5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11.

she is transitioning to work in ministry with the elderly either as a lay person or as a Commissioned Associate in Ministry. Kathy enjoys yard work/flowers, volunteering, walking, genealogy which is a new venture, and current events.

Kathy first became involved in the Witherbee Neighborhood Association when the decision to close Hawthorne Elementary was in discussion. She joined the "Save our Schools" work group, walked the neighborhood with flyers, attended LPS Board Meetings and researched the LPS Board and Administration positions. She did what she felt was one of her strengths, researched the issue and did "leg work" for those who were speaking to the public and to the School Board.

Kathy served on the WNA Board previously for 3 years then opted not to continue due to family and work obligations. Now that she has retired from full-time work, she says she has more time to become involved again. Kathy says WNA has great leaders and a great history. She is impressed with the various talents of all the individuals who serve in some way to support the organization. She says; "WNA does great things, for example, the communication of neighborhood news through the newsletter, Witherbee Connect, and the connections of current and past Board members with the Mayor and other City organizations to ensure mid-town Lincoln is not forgotten when policy decisions are made by the City Council and other governing boards."

Kathy especially looks forward to helping with Witherbee Connect. The concept of connecting neighbors with neighbors to lead to a strong and safer neighborhood is of great interest to her. She grew up on a farm in south central Nebraska (Bertrand). She says, "this shaped who I am and what I think a neighborhood should "look like". I believe Lincoln is a friendly community because of the number of individuals who moved to Lincoln from rural environments. It is my hope that we do not lose this in future generations."

We are very fortunate to have Kathy on the Witherbee Neighborhood Board of Directors again and look forward to utilizing her strengths to help us continue serving this area so it can be a great treasure for the City of Lincoln.



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Little Free Libraries To Spring Up Around The Neighborhood.

Todd Bol created the first Little Free Library in 2009 as a way to promote reading and build connections in his neighborhood. Based on those simple ideas the Little Free Library movement took off. It is estimated that there are



Mike Kreikemeier and Todd Bol with Little Free Library that Todd created.

now over 10,000 Little Free Libraries worldwide. There are several Little Free Libraries in Lincoln, in fact there is already one Little Free Library in the Witherbee neighborhood.

Victoria Springer set up a Little Free Library last June that caters to children. The library is a re purposed antique milk delivery box. Victoria created a space for it in her flower bed near the

end of her driveway. She stocked it with children's books that she acquired during her career as a teacher. The library was soon a big attraction for children on Woods Ave. In fact it was so popular with the children that one day a little girl rang Victoria's doorbell and asked if she had any more books to share. The little girl had read all of the books in the library already. As any good librarian would, Victoria added a second milk delivery box and stocked it with chapter books for the older children! Victoria is delighted with the response the library has received. She commented that even on the cold days of winter, she sees children stopping to check if there are any new books to read.

Mike Kreikemeier provided information about Little Free Libraries at the January WNA meeting. As a Witherbee board member he was interested in building community connections with a second Little Free Library in the Witherbee neighborhood. Mark Holt, a neighborhood resident who is an accomplished woodworker, showed off the Little Free Library he built and donated to WNA. Mark spent over 25 hrs constructing the library. It is built to withstand Nebraska weather with a shingled roof and heavy duty doors. The library includes 2 shelves and will hold a large selection of books for readers of all ages.

The neighbors at the January meeting were very enthusiastic to add another Little Free Library to the neighborhood. Russell and Sherri Miller attended the meeting and expressed interest in hosting the Little Free Library in the front yard of their home on S 52nd Street.

Mike, Mark and the Millers will be working out the details over the next few months. Hopefully, you will see the Little Free Library pop up in the springtime with the tulips and daffodils.

For more information on Little Free Libraries and for an interactive locator map go to www.littlefreelibrary.org.

LES' Sustainable Energy Program – 2014


LES' rates are among the lowest in the nation. And, their Sustainable Energy Program is designed to help keep them that way. It's very simple. Customers taking advantage of this program may save money, help reduce the need for energy during more expensive peak periods of the year and ultimately help delay the necessity to build additional, high-cost power plants. Sustainable reduction in energy use will help keep our rates among the lowest. That's why they're offering financial incentives to residential and commercial customers to increase energy efficiency.

How the program works:

1. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Jan. 1, 2014.
2. Visit www.les.com/SEP to see the current balance and for a list of the participating contractors.
3. Contact contractors for bids.
4. Ask your accountant if the project qualifies for federal tax credit.


Contact Lincoln Electric System at 402-475-4211 as soon as possible to see if you are eligible to participate, and what your options are.

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Witherbee Connect Opportunities

Witherbee Connect wants to share some great volunteer opportunities. You can either serve as a volunteer or receive help through these programs.

Snow Angels

By the time this newsletter reaches your home, we will likely have had more snow storms than many of us would like to deal with. The fact is, the city of Lincoln averages 28 inches of snow fall per year. For many, removal of snow from sidewalks and driveways can be a challenge, either physically or because of health issues. The Snow Angel project was started as a resource for our neighbors who have these challenges and do not have family or friends to call upon for help.



Kathy Stastny
402-488-3314

As I write this article, a check of the Snow Angel web site revealed there is a need for snow angels within the Witherbee Neighborhood.

If you would like to volunteer to become a Snow Angel, simply go to the Snow Angel web site and sign-up. You will be asked to provide your name, address or nearby intersection and a phone number. You can share the times you are available, where you can serve and the

Radon Testing Should Be Done

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil and water that can build up to dangerous levels inside any home; this means new and old homes, well sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without a basement. Radon gas is odorless and invisible and the only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test for it.

Breathing radon can increase your risk of lung cancer. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among people who do not smoke. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer for people who do.

Nebraska has a very high prevalence of radon in homes. One out of every two radon tests conducted in the state is elevated. Homes with an annual average radon level at or above 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) should be mitigated to reduce radon levels.

Testing for radon is easy. If a house has a radon problem, it can be fixed.

Additional information and test kits may be ordered from the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services. http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/radon_index.aspx.

tools you have available whether it be simply a shovel or a snow blower. Individuals who need help with snow removal then locate a Snow Angel in their neighborhood by going to the website to access contact information of a nearby Snow Angel. If internet access is not an option, individuals can call the Public Works Snow Center at 402-441-7644. The Snow Angel Web site is at Lincoln.ne.gov where you will need to type in the keyword snow. There are helpful links on the side.

Also if you need additional help contact Witherbee Connect, we will do our best to locate someone to help you with snow removal. Call 402-488-3314.

UNL Big Event – April 5th

The Big Event, a national organization started at Texas A&M in 1982, aims to give back to local communities through one large day of service. At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, more than 3,000 students, faculty, and staff are expected to volunteer and give thanks to Lincoln this spring as part of The Big Event. The organization is entirely student-run and funded by donations from the community. This year the UNL Big Event is scheduled for April 5th, 9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Witherbee Connect would like to help connect Witherbee Neighborhood residents with volunteers for this work day. Examples of projects that volunteers are able help with include: raking and general yard clean-up, trimming shrubs, cleaning windows, cleaning garages and basements, painting fences. Volunteers may not use power tools.

Do you have some undone home improvement projects for which you could use some help? Do you have a neighbor who could use volunteers for spring clean-up work? To request volunteers for the UNL Big Event, call Witherbee Connect for more information and assistance in signing-up. Individuals may also request volunteers independently. To do this, go to the UNL Big Event web site: <http://bigevent.unl.edu/>.

Editors note: Thanks go to Kathy Holland for her contribution to this article.



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Cabin Fever Leads To Decorating Thoughts

By Sharon Cochrane

As I sit here writing this column in several layers of clothing, the heat turned to max, and visions of beaches in Jamaica dancing in my head, it is indeed difficult to get whomped up about home decorating projects for the new year. However....

With some pretty good downtime facing us (no trips to the pool or yard work to do), now is a good time to tackle some facelifts for the old homestead. Obviously, the most inexpensive thing to do is paint. Pantone, one of the biggest companies to influence the colors we use, has dubbed Radiant Orchid as its Color of the Year. Sherwin Williams has selected Exclusive Plum. You may view both of these colors by Googling them online and I would love to be a mouse in your house to hear your verbal reactions. Yup, I've seen more exciting colors in the cheese department at HyVee.

Anyway. Cabin fever calls and decorate we must. I am working with a young couple who purchased a 125 year-old house in NebCity, and the wife has been captivated by "comfort paint" for most of her young life. Beige. Tan. Brownish Beige. Tannish Brown. So, finally she has taken a big step and selected a couple of color strips from Sherwin Williams in green. You know, this is a great way to go if you are color paralyzed? Find a color you like, like green or yellow, then select a paint strip. You can use the colors from dark to the lightest on that strip in your entire home, especially if you have a smaller home, as many of us in the Witherbee Neighborhood do. You can use the lightest hue, even on the ceiling. If it is too dark for you, have the Paint Guy lighten it a bit. The darkest colors can be used as accents such as on moldings or other trims if you don't have the guts to use them on an entire room. And if you do want to experiment, you can make an incredible statement by painting a small room such as a bathroom a very dark color, especially since there are all those white fixtures, white wood trim on the doors/windows/ceiling and white tile flooring. Obviously, the middle colors on the strip can go on the walls. I did this in my bedroom - Plantation Brown on the walls and all the rest of it is white, including the carpet and window treatments. It worked.

The reason I say you can use the entire strip of colors together is that they are all mixed from the same colors/hues. If you have a good eye, you can see that some strips of the same color have a red hue, others have blue in them, and yet others are greenish. Try mixing them together and you can end up with a real color disaster. When in doubt, ask the Paint Guy. I usually go to Luther at the Sherwin Williams on 46th and O Street. He has always come thru with good advice, both on paints and supplies. I have found that with paint, the old adage is true: you get what you pay for and some of the newer types of paints are well worth the extra few bucks you pay for coverage, ease of application and just plain good-looking results.

And don't forget your ceilings...they get drab and grey after many years, kind of like our hair and could always use

sprucing up. Paint them first, then the rest of the room. Besides, it's a great way to get your tall cousin Ben to get involved. Tempt him with a hot bowl of chili and a Bud later.

Another good way to spruce up your rooms that won't take much money is to improve the lighting. I have been in so many homes in the neighborhood and wonder why people around here are not visually challenged! And as we age, we need more and more light in order to see clearly. We have a great lighting store in our area at 40th and O Streets, Lincoln Lighting, and Greg is my go-to guy there. For a refundable fee (if you buy something), they will come to your house and give you advice on what should be done to improve or update your lighting project (call for the details). I used this service for a kitchen update I was doing in our area, and the installation of only 6 recessed lights was a total transformation. The homeowner said that it was finally so nice to be able to see who she was eating with!!!

FYI: Southeast Community College is sponsoring a trip to Nell Hills' Briarcliff store just north of Kansas City on March 29th. Watch for details in the next SCC catalog to arrive in the mail. This store is filled with design wonders! You won't want to miss this. Grab a friend and enroll quickly as this trip fills up very fast. Hope to see you there! (If you don't know about Nell Hill's, Google it, too!)

Stay warm and happy, Sharon

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Keep Witherbee Strong, Join or Renew Your Membership

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association (WNA) celebrated 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 2013, 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:

- Supported the first-ever Prom for Bryan Community School.
- Coordinated assistance to residents through Witherbee Connects program

- Supported Randolph School walking path paving.
- Met with LPD on neighborhood safety.
- 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

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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

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