

# Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 13 No. 2 Newsletter Spring 2016

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

# Award Winning Neighborhood Cleanup Continues! - May 7th

By Mike Kreikemeier

The Award winning Witherbee Neighborhood Cleanup returns on Saturday, May 7th from 8 am to Noon. Keep Nebraska Beautiful recognized the Witherbee Neighborhood Association cleanup as a great recycling and waste reduction event in 2015. Mike Kreikemeier, Dan Wesolowski and Bryan Hurst, co-chairs of the annual event are not about to mess with success. They all agreed that the only change needed is to make this year's event bigger than last year.

The collection site will be along 50th & M Street north of Bryan Community School at Hawthorne.

The Neighborhood cleanup is also a recycling event. We partner with Goodwill Industries for electronics recycling and EcoStores Nebraska for reusing construction material. Metals (grills, lawn mowers, water heaters, etc.) are recycled by Alter Metal Recycling. With generous support from Firestone Complete Auto Care at 300 N 66th Street we are able to accept used tires for recycling.

EcoStores Nebraska, located at 530 West P Street, will accept construction material and items such as lumber, windows and doors from building/remodeling projects as well as leftover lawn and landscaping materials.



Jim Ihrie, Larry Frisch, Michael Freytag volunteer at 2005 WNA cleanup. Photo By – Rick Bagby

Goodwill Industries can recycle and reuse many of the electronics and household items collected. We will be taking part in the Goodwill Neighborhood Challenge again this year. Witherbee will be competing against other neighborhood organizations to make the largest Goodwill donation and win a cash prize.

Appliances containing Freon (refrigerators, deep freezers, dehumidifiers) will be accepted for a nominal fee.

Cleanup Article Continued on page 3

# **Explore, Learn, Grow with UNL's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** at the May 5th WNA Meeting

The speaker for our May meeting will be Dr. Dee Aguilar, coordinator for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (OLLI at UNL). OLLI at UNL is one of 119 OLLIs across the United States. OLLI at UNL partners with and is supported by the College of Education and Human Sciences to provide stimulating and varied opportunities to lifelong learners age 50 years plus. Programming is funded by interest from a Bernard Osher Foundation endowment, course & membership fees, and donations.

Kathy Stastny, a member of WNA, says this about OLLI, "I have enjoyed all of the classes I have taken,

from classes about movie musicals to the history of Christianity." "There is something for everyone. This term I am taking "Astounding Developments in Physics since Einstein. I would have never taken this class back

UNL Osher Article Continued on page 3

SEE INSIDE STORIES: Neighborhood Garage Sale, page 10

Garage Sale Tips, page 11 Emerald Ash Borer Workshop, page 12

#### 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

#### **Mailing Address:**

PO Box 5431 Lincoln, NE 68505 402-413-0156

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# President's Message

It is 53 years later and opportunity is still knocking. How will you respond?

by Rick Bagby

Our lawns and gardens awaken for another growing season. I want to thank all who work to grow not just lawns and gardens, but also our neighborhood. Witherbee is a great place to live in Lincoln, but only because those



Rick Bagby

who live here choose to invest time and effort to make and keep it that way. Please look all through this issue for events, for opportunities to participate share and celebrate community. Join us as we work to make and keep Witherbee a great neighborhood.

It's also graduation season as we all celebrate the efforts hopes and dreams of the graduates of our schools. I wish to share a family heirloom, recently rediscovered. I believe that with but a few updates the words apply even today with equal urgency. Aunt Genie delivered the commencement address at age 18, with only a few more years on this earth to fulfill her own call to action. She graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan, taught in Norfolk, Nebraska and died early in life. She did answer. How will you? Opportunity knocks. We must open the Door.

The Valedictorian's Address to the Tekamah, Nebraska class of 1963, as presented by my aunt Genevieve Allely:

Parents, friends, faculty, and fellow students—This year, the Senior Class has chosen a rather unusual motto: "Opportunity knocks. We must open the door."

Opportunity knocks at the door of each of us, but it does more. It also beckons us into a present and a future, the likes of which the world has never seen. In business, teaching, medicine, and science, the world awaits us with open arms. We live in the world of manned space flights, atomic power, and surgery to restore the sight of the blind.

For months now, we seniors have received letters, pamphlets, and brochures urging us into this field- into that field- all "wonderful opportunities" knocking at our doors.

But, we must open the door. And when we open the door to opportunity we also open the door to the world- to hungry millions in Hong Kong, to the current crisis in Laos, to the segregation riots in the South, to the little boy down the street, crying, because no one cares for him and he is cold, and hungry, and sleepy.

When we open the door in answer to the knock, do not many of us reach out, grab opportunity, pull it in, and shut the door against the world- locking inside our family, close friends, and job? Don't we owe that world outside everything? That world which gave us that opportunity? I believe we do, and I have the hope and the faith that we, the class of 1963, and you, the adults in the audience, will go out into that world and strive to raise the faith of God in man, and the faith of man in God.

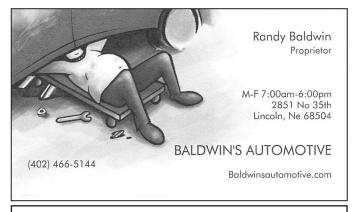
# It's Spring Are your Neighbors Behaving?

#### LINCOLN MUNICIPAL CODE

9.20.050 Disturbing the Peace

It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally or knowingly disturb the peace and quiet of any person, family, or neighborhood, or any public assembly, or assembly of persons for religious worship. The offense of disturbing the peace shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to the following:

- (a) Engaging in fighting;
- (b) Exhibiting threatening or violent conduct directed towards another person;
- (c) Using abusive, threatening, or other fighting language or gestures directed towards another person or persons;
- (d) Operating any radio, tape player, compact disc player, stereophonic sound system, or similar device which reproduces or amplifies radio broadcasts, or musical recordings, in or upon any street, alley, or other public place in such a manner as to be audible to other persons in such public place more than fifty feet from the source;
- (e) Picketing or demonstrating on a public way within 150 feet of any primary or secondary school building while the school is in session and during the onehalf hour before the school is in session and during the one-half hour after the school session has been concluded.





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### **UNL** Osher

Continued from page 1

in my college days, but I can just listen and learn enough to satisfy my curiosity and there are no tests!"

Come and learn more about OLLI from Dr. Aguilar Thursday, May 5th. She will tell us about the organization, how to get involved and explore fascinating subjects through courses, classes, special events and travel. OLLI is for all who want to connect with peers who share common interests, make new friends and have new experiences. Best of all with OLLI there are NO TESTS and NO GRADES! OLLI may be for you!!

### **Neighborhood Cleanup**

Continued from page 1

A limited number of brush disposal coupons will be available. These coupons are good all summer and can be used to haul a load of brush to the Lincoln Transfer Station for free.

Items that CANNOT be accepted include trash, leaves, grass clippings, liquids of any kind (including paint, thinners, stains) ammunition/explosives, LP gas cylinders and CRT televisions.

Several volunteer crews will be picking up litter along the major streets rights of way, around the schools and in the neighborhood parks.

If you need help hauling items to the collection site call Mike Kreikemeier at 402-477-9194 to make an appointment. The items must be easily accessible and placed near the curb if possible for our volunteers to pickup.

Many volunteers are required to make this cleanup event a success. Please consider joining us for a few hours to help clean up the neighborhood. We also need volunteers with pickup trucks and/or trailers. Vouchers are provided to volunteer haulers to help defray the cost of gas. Volunteers help make a great place to live even better! Contact event organizers: Mike Kreikemeier, 402-477-9194 mbk@windstream.net; Bryan Hurst, 402-202-9309 bbacon.hurst@gmail.com or Dan Wesolowski, 402-488-8249 dwesolowski@windstream.net to volunteer or for more information. Delicious breakfast treats, coffee & juice are provided to all volunteers.

Neighborhood cleanup is funded by a grant from "Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful". Food and beverages are donated by Braeda & Midtown Hy-Vee. Refuse hauling is provided by Niederhaus Refuse Service.

# Stormwater Bond Issue on May ballot

Ben Higgins of Lincoln's Public Works Department will fill us in on the bond issue at the May Meeting.

Large areas of Lincoln and Lancaster County were flooded and Salt Creek threatened to overtop the levee through much of the city last year. According to our County Engineer another couple of inches in rise in the creek would have resulted in damage in the \$ billions of dollars. You'll be voting in May's primary on a Stormwater bond. Passage of the bond issue would fund projects in 17 specific areas to protect property from stormwater runoff and flood damage, to improve water quality and to prevent or repair failing stream banks. The projects are identified in the City's Watershed Management Capital Improvement Program and are on a current priority list of storm drainage needs. The projects would be completed over the next two to three years.

The improvements will: improve and enhance urban drainage systems that are undersized, insufficient or with structural issues; reduce stormwater runoff and flooding if major rains occur; reduce flooding impacts from stream channels; prevent or repair degraded stream channels; improve water quality

If approved, the bond issue would cost the owner of a \$150,000 home about \$4 a year. Join us at the Witherbee monthly meeting Thursday May 7th to learn more.

Find your voting location and see a sample ballot online at http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/election/

Voting early is available now at the Election Commission office at 601 N. 46th Street.



# Pioneer Telephone Museum Update

By Wally Tubbs

Here is an update on what's been happening at the Frank H. Woods Telephone Pioneer Museum since the Witherbee Day at the Museum February 7th. Mayor Beutler asked that a committee be formed to drive the process of moving the museum to a new location. The committee is moderated by Kent Seacrest and its members include our museum representatives, city staff, the developers of the Telegraph District, representatives from major funding foundations, and other business leaders and interested parties. The goal is to develop a sustainable business plan that will be implemented over the next year for a new and larger location for the telephone museum in Lincoln.

The museum will be staying at its current location at 2047 M for a while. The developers are providing one year rent-free to provide time to explore relocation options. We invite you to visit the museum. It is open Sundays, 1:00 – 4:00 pm and by appointment by calling (402) 436-4640.

I would personally like to thank the Witherbee Neighborhood Association and its members for their support of the museum. Your Neighborhood Day tours, visitation comments, and letters to the editor showed a strong statement of support that is greatly appreciated. Thank you all. – Wally Tubbs

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### Recycle Lincoln! Report from Mayor's Task Force

By Russell Miller

The Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable meeting of 11 April 2016 was a presentation about Lincoln's low recycling rate and what that means in tax dollars plus a possible solution.

The City's presenters gave an overview Lincoln's very low recycling rate compared Omaha and other comparable cities and how that low recycling rate is costing us approximately \$1.5 million a year to bury these materials in the City's landfill. This is a two time losing situation first because we pay today (by higher garbage fees) to bury material that should be recycled and second, we will pay in the near future to locate and open a new landfill because the current one is being filled faster than necessary



A 20 member citizen's advisory committee has made the following recommendations to focus the plan: 1. expand education and encourage behavior change 2.

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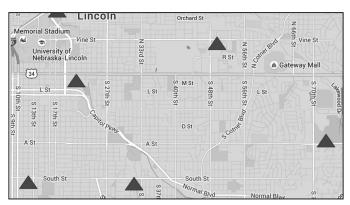
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keep recyclables out of the landfill 3. expand curbside recycling 4. expand commercial recycling

Item #2 will affect Witherbee members the most because it, if enacted, would start with a total ban on cardboard being brought to the landfill i.e. each of us will have to take cardboard to one of 28 free City drop-off sites or pay for a curbside pick-up service. (page 47 of telephone blue pages lists the free drop-off locations or use Lincoln's recycling website: http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/solid-waste/recycle/ for additional information)

Recycle Lincoln! was introduced to the city as a part of the Earth Day 2016 observance.



City website shows nearby City of Lincoln cardboard drop-off sites



# Recycle Lincoln! Lincoln Can Build a More Sustainable Community, Save Money and Grow the Economy

#### The Challenge

42% of all waste (about 86,500 tons per year) that enters Lincoln's landfill is readily recyclable. Depositing recyclable material in the landfill is an expensive means of handling Lincoln's waste. Recycled material has great value-those 86,500 tons of recyclable waste are worth an estimated \$5.5 million in value. Currently, City residents pay \$1.5 million to bury these materials in the landfill. That doesn't make sense. Recyclable materials that enter the landfill increase pressure to expand the landfill. If

the 86,500 tons were NOT buried at the City landfill, the estimated value of the space saved is \$1.5 million. Of course, sorting and processing recyclables has a cost also. The question for the community is: do we spend our money burying materials in the ground OR spend our money recycling them back into the local economy? Increasing the City's recycling rate saves money and is good for the local economy.

#### Citizen Review

 A 20-member citizen advisory committee was appointed by Mayor Beutler to review and recommend options to increase Lincoln's recycling rate. The group included people from all walks of life and the waste haulers that serve the community. They recommended a goal of gradually reducing the amount of waste entering the landfill.

#### The Solution

A stakeholder Recycle Work Group recommended several ideas to increase recycling that balances the needs of the residents, waste haulers, and local businesses:

#### 1. Education/Behavior Change

Educating people on what can be recycled and how is a key to changing behavior and keeping recyclable material out of the landfill. The committee recommended a financial commitment by the City to provide the staffing and resources to educate residents and businesses.

#### 2. Keep Recyclables Out of the Landfill

The committee recommended that corrugated cardboard no longer be accepted in the landfill (nearly 20,000 tons of corrugated cardboard is thrown way in the landfill each year). City leaders are also recommending that after the cardboard prohibition is in place, other fiber based material

like paper and newspaper be gradually diverted from the landfill. These actions could double the City's recycling rate when fully implemented.

#### 3. Expand Curbside Recycling

Waste haulers would have to offer curbside recycling available to all single family residences and duplexes. However, it will still be up to the residents if they want to pay for recycling service. No one will be required to hire a recycling service. In fact, most Lincoln residents choose to haul recyclables themselves to one of the City's convenient 28 recycling drop-off sites.

#### 4. Expand Commercial Recycling

Waste haulers would have to offer curbside recycling available to all multifamily units, businesses and institutions. Again, it will be up to the consumers whether or not to take advantage of the service.



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# Witherbee Joins 2016 **Neighborhood Challenge**

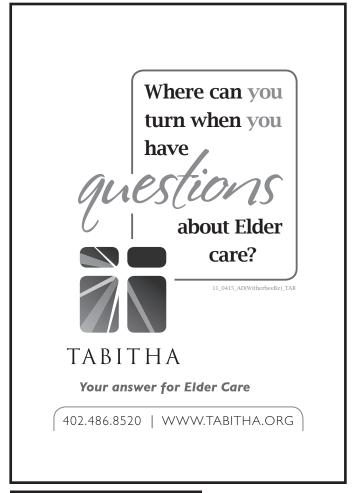
Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association is again participating in the Goodwill Neighborhood Challenge. Witherbee's Challenge events are the Neighborhood Cleanup in May, and the Witherbee Garage Sales in June. See details in the Cleanup and Garage Sales articles in this newsletter.

The Neighborhood Challenge is a friendly competition to promote community involvement among the neighborhood associations and organizations of Lincoln. Last year the winning neighborhoods each expressed how they planned to strengthen their community with the prize money which included planting trees along Fletcher Boulevard in the Highlands and sponsoring the portable toilette at Herbert Park in the Meadowlane area. "It's been really great working with Goodwill. They were very accommodating and made plans that worked best for our neighborhood. Everyone was so helpful, including their truck driver Mark. Goodwill is a great place to donate" said Myrna Coleman of the Highlands Neighborhood Association.

"We are very excited to kick off this event again and to work with neighborhoods in ways that connect neighborhood members to each other and to Goodwill." said Amanda Hamilton, Communications Director for Goodwill. "The Neighborhood Challenge not only promotes and furthers our mission of serving those who struggle to find work, but also give the neighborhood communities a chance to strengthen their own neighborhoods."

Donations to Goodwill fund employment programs for individuals who face barriers to employment as well as help fund other organizations' employment programs, including Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters, Lincoln Literacy, Community Justice Center, and YWCA Job Outfitters. For more information about Goodwill's Neighborhood Challenge, visit www.lincolngoodwill.org.





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# **Bright Lights: Summer Learning Adventures**

by Pam Magdanz

As the days grow longer, the weather turns warmer and the end of the school year approaches, it's time to think about the opportunities available to keep children motivated and learning this summer. Celebrating 30 seasons of experience in the Lincoln community, Bright Lights: Summer Learning Adventures is offering 111 half-day classes and 9 full-day camps for students who have completed kindergarten through 9th grade. Although registration began on April 1, many wonderful options remain available.

For the past nine years, Randolph Elementary School has been a welcoming "home" for Bright Lights summer classes. But with the current renovation of the school in process, the main program site for 2016 will be at Holmes Elementary School, located at 5230 Sumner St. We thank the Randolph community and Witherbee Neighborhood for their support of our summer classes and hope they will join us at our new site this summer.

The summer classes offer students fun and engaging projects, group challenges and career exploration, as well as the opportunity to practice important learning skills through motivating and high interest curriculum.



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Before-care and lunch-care options provide a convenient opportunity for families to schedule a full day of learning for their student.

This summer, students can explore their passion for art in Jewelry Designer Day Camp, Cupcake Decorating Wars, So You Think You Can Dance and Room Décor. Hands-on science opportunities will be offered in Use the Force: The Physics of Motion, Edible Science and Beyond Building Blocks. Returning favorites include Robotics: LEGO Mindstorms EV3, Are You Fancy Like Nancy?, Hogwarts Day Camp, Reptiles Rock! and New Heights: Rock Climbing.

Don't let the warmer days of spring distract you from planning ahead for these exciting summer learning opportunities for your children. Check out our website at www.BrightLights.org for program dates, registration information and complete class descriptions.

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#### **WNA Calendar**

April 16th Eastridge Elementary Electronics Recycling collection

May 5th Witherbee Monthly Meeting.
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute UNL 7pm, Tabitha, 48th & J

May 6th Eastridge Elementary Fun Night 5-8 pm. Eastridge Elementary.

May 7th 14th Annual Witherbee Neighborhood Cleanup 8-Noon, M Street 48th-50th.

May 7th Latex Paint Exchange, Habitat for Humanity ReStore 47th & Y St, ReStore does not accept unusable paint.

May 7th Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9am-1pm, Zoetis, 601 West Cornhusker Hwy

May 14th Community Crops Plant Sale 9 am-12pm Wyuka Stables, 35th & O

May 21st Composting Demonstration, 2 pm, Pioneers Park Nature Center

June 2nd Witherbee Neighborhood Association -Emerald Ash Borer, 7 pm, Tabitha, 48th & J

June 9-11 Witherbee Garage Sales

June 11th Composting Demonstration, 10 am, Pioneers Park Nature Center

July 7th Witherbee Monthly Meeting - planning, Board meeting. Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm. Join us on Thurs. July 7th, Tabitha, 7 pm., 48th & J

# **Seeking Yard of the Month Nominations**

A home surrounded by a well kept yard really looks inviting. Witherbee Neighborhood Association will again feature a "Yard of the Month" this summer. If you have a friend or a neighbor who does an exceptional job with their lawn and landscaping please nominate them by sending an email with their name and address to yardofthemonth@witherbee.org or call and leave a voice mail on the Witherbee line at 402-413-0156.

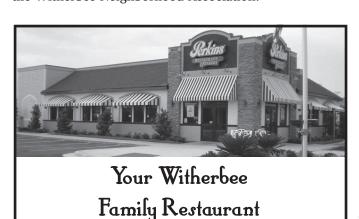
### **Neighbor Shout Out**



By Mary Schwab

During a snowstorm the last weekend of January I was worrying how we were going to get the show cleared off of our driveway and walks. Although Steve and I have a snow blower, we were both feeling ill and I knew I would not be able to run it myself. The snow had just stopped in the middle of the day, a Saturday, when I heard the

sound of TWO roaring snow blowers. The two neighbors to the east of our house, Ryan Wesolowski and Stan Collins, were clearing our drive and walks. In past years, Steve would have been out there enjoying dueling show blowers with them and clearing walks a block in each direction. We were so grateful for this act of kindness. It was an affirmation that the golden rule is alive and well on Woods Avenue. This is just another reason we love Witherbee Neighborhood. We encourage all our neighbors to be engaged with and actively participate in the Witherbee Neighborhood Association.



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### Neighborhood Garage Sales Set for June 9th - June 11th

By Sandi Mahoney and Kari Gentzler



If you have a SALE thev will come! Mark your calendars! The annual Witherbee Neighborhood Garage Sales will be held June 9th, and 10th, 11th, 2016. Registering your garage sale

with WNA for only \$5.00 means you'll receive a LOT of advertising that will translate into foot traffic (and sales!) at your garage sale. Your registration fee helps us place ads in the Lincoln Journal Star. Additionally, information about your sale will be posted to the WNA website, Craigslist, multiple Facebook pages, as well as local radio stations and event calendars. Think of the time you'll save when all of this advertising is done for you. Please spread the word about this opportunity to your family and friends in the neighborhood!

Last year, WNA purchased 50 colorful and durable yard signs that also help to advertise your sale during the weekend of the WNA garage sales. Ten of these signs are printed on both sides and will be placed at prominent neighborhood borders, from 33rd to 56th streets and Randolph to O streets. The rest of the signs are printed on one side (they were more budget friendly) and will be distributed to individuals who register their sales with WNA. Committee members and neighbors who held garage sales last year heard many positive comments about the visibility of the signs.

If you decide to hold a garage sale and register your sale with us, there are a few things you should know. First, you should fill out and return the registration form and \$5.00 no later than Friday, May 27. In order to guarantee your sale gets full advertising, it is important to mail the information in by the deadline. When you are completing the registration form, keep in mind that you get to pick the days (June 9, 10, and/or 11) and the times for your sale. On June 7th or 8th a member of the garage sale committee with deliver to you a WNA Garage Sales yard sign as well as a stack of maps with a list of all WNA garage sales. Please share the maps with your shoppers to encourage them to visit other WNA sales. Additional maps will be available at the A Street Market at 33rd and A.

Because we plan to use the yard signs for multiple years, we ask that you place it by your front door after your sale is over so that a member of the committee may pick it up on June 11th or 12th. You are also free to make your own garage sale signs. If you choose to do so, they should be legible and sturdy. Also, after the sale you should make plans to pick up all the signs that you

personally place in the neighborhood. Please note that it is illegal to place garage sale signs on light poles or in the right-of-way.

Still have items left over after your sale? WNA is again participating in the Goodwill Challenge. If you want Goodwill to pick up your leftover items, please indicate on the registration form. Goodwill will do one pick up, starting after 5pm on Saturday, June 11th. Items must be placed at the curb. If you want a receipt, please call Molly at (402) 438-2022 Ext 118.

Bryan Community School will be participating in the WNA Garage Sales with their annual "Junk in the Trunk" Sale on Friday, June 10th from 9am-4pm. Please visit their sale at 300 S. 48th street and support our neighborhood school.

Before May 27, please mail your completed registration form and \$5.00 (checks payable to Witherbee Neighborhood Association) to:

Kari Gentzler 3834 H Street Lincoln, NE 68510

Questions can be directed to Kari at (402) 719-5848 or Sandi Mahoney at (402) 570-7029.



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### Some Tips For Having A Successful Garage Sale

By Sandi Mahoney

- 1) Group like items together for the most appeal. Hang up clothing on racks or fold clothing neatly just like they do at the store. Big items like furniture, grills, and bicycles draw customers in. Place them near the entrance to your sale so shoppers can see them first.
- 2) Price items with easy-to-read tags. Always mark chipped or cracked items "as is", so the buyer is aware. Be honest with the condition of your items!
- 3) Be ready to negotiate. You may want to set a price higher to leave room for price-haggling. Take a lower price for some items to help them move when someone is already actively buying. Negotiate politely. If you do not want to haggle, think about posting a sign that reads "all prices are firm" so your buyers are aware.
- 4) Carry your money safely in a fanny pack or carpenters apron. Have plenty of ones, fives, and coins for change.
- 5) Always have bags, boxes, and newspaper to wrap items to go. Make it easy for your buyers to carry off multiple items by supplying the bags or boxes for them!

- 5) Create a FREEBIE box. Everyone wins! Place this freebie box near the curb and shoppers may be more inclined to stop and see what else you have for sale.
- 6) If one reason you participate in a garage sale is to remove "clutter" for your home, consider instituting the rule that nothing returns to the house after the sale! In this case, consider arranging a pick-up with Goodwill. If you register your sale with WNA this is an option!
- 7) Be helpful, but not annoying. Don't be the pushy salesman, but if a customer is interested, ask if you can help with anything.
- 8) Make it YOUR sale. It's like owning your own store for a couple days. Have fun and make it memorable.

Please thank the businesses who support this newsletter and the Witherbee Neighborhood Association with their ads. Clip and use the coupons.

Stop in to say

'Thank You' for supporting Witherbee

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Date of Sale	Time of Sale	
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Friday, June 10	a.m./p.m. to	a.m./p.m.
Saturday, June 11	a.m./p.m. to	a.m./p.m.
	TO DETERMINES THEIR OWN DATES AND TIMES FOR	•
Sale items 25 words or less:		
Sale items 25 words or less:		

Send \$5 payable to 'Witherbee Neighborhood Association' by May 27, to Kari Gentzler, 3834 H Street, Lincoln NE 68510

# **Emerald Ash Borer Workshop-June 2**

By Laurie Stepanek

Many homeowners have heard warnings about the tiny green insect that kills ash trees. Emerald ash borer, or EAB, has killed millions of trees in 25 states, mostly in the eastern U.S. Emerald ash borer has not yet been found in Nebraska (as of this writing), although infestations have been found in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado. Once EAB is discovered in a community most of the ash trees die within 10 years if nothing is done to manage the pest.

Ash trees can be found scattered throughout the Witherbee neighborhood. Many are street trees, but others are growing in yards. Several mature ash trees provide shade and beauty to Witherbee Park and Stuhr Park.

Residents concerned about EAB are encouraged to attend an upcoming workshop presented by Laurie Stepanek, Witherbee resident and Forest Health Specialist with the Nebraska Forest Service:

#### Thursday, June 2 at 7:00pm Tabitha LifeQuest Center 48th & J

#### General information on emerald ash borer:

Identification: Trees infested with EAB show an overall thinning of the canopy followed by death of branches. Unfortunately these symptoms are commonly seen in trees declining for many other reasons, such as drought, mower injury and herbicide damage. Examine declining branches for more definitive symptoms of EAB: small (1/8") D-shaped holes in the bark and winding tunnels just below the bark. The insect itself may not be easy to find. The adults are shiny green beetles about ½" long and may be found on the bark or leaves. The larvae



The large trees in Witherbee Park are ash. All ash trees in Nebraska are threatened by the anticipated arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer.

are creamy white flattened "worms" that feed under the bark.

Report suspected infestations to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (402-471-2351) or the Nebraska Forest Service (402-472-2944).

Management: The decision to remove a tree or treat it for EAB can be difficult. Trees provide many benefits, including shade, improved air quality and beauty for our



homes. Treatments, however, have drawbacks including cost, health risks, harmful environmental impacts, and injury to the tree (particularly

with trunk injections). Trees to be saved will need to be treated on a regular basis (perhaps every 1 to 2 years) for the rest of their lives. The best candidates for treatment are high value trees in very good condition. However at this time, no trees should be treated because EAB has not been found in Nebraska nor close enough to justify the costs and drawbacks of treatments.

If your ash tree is not in good condition, you may want to remove it now or very shortly after EAB is discovered in Lincoln. It may be better not to wait until your tree dies of EAB, since at that time there may be a backlog of dead tree removals and potentially higher removal costs. Dead ash quickly become brittle and hazardous.

Tree removal is dangerous work and should be done by a professional. Ask for estimates and be sure the arborists are licensed and insured. Check online with the Nebraska Arborists Association and the International Society of Arboriculture for lists of certified arborists.

Consider replanting now with another tree to replace the ash that will be lost. More than 30 species of shade trees do well in southeast Nebraska. Try to avoid planting the same trees your neighbors have. A variety of trees makes a healthier urban forest. For more information on emerald ash borer visit: EABNe.info

#### **Stuhr Park Picnics**

By Sherri Miller

The neighborhood picnics return to Stuhr Park on Sunday evenings this summer. The potluck dinner will start about 6 pm. Iced tea and lemonade will be provided. Bring your own table service. Your guests are welcome to join us. If there is rain, we will see you at the next picnic! Questions? Contact Sherry Miller 402-488-2568.



May 22<sup>nd</sup>

June 26th

July 24th

August 28th