



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 13 No. 3

Newsletter

Summer 2016

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

Free Ice Cream Social and Pool Party set for August 7

For the tenth year in a row the Witherbee Neighborhood Association is offering a FREE swim party at Woods Park Pool along with FREE ice cream in front of the Woods Park Tennis Center. This year's event is scheduled for August 7th beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Summer is here. Please come and enjoy a refreshing dip in the pool and a couple scoops of ice cream while enjoying the company of your neighbors. Once again ice cream will be served from the shady spot just outside the Tennis Center doors. The Tennis Center will graciously be providing tables, garbage cans and will have their water fountains on. Music will also fill the air. Kids activities will include sidewalk chalk and small sidewalk games.

Super Saver has been a valued partner every year, generously donating all the ice cream we can eat along with condiments, dishes and bottled water. Ice Cream is 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

The pool will be open from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. and is reserved just for our party. Woods Park Pool is huge so



Beat the Heat at Woods Pool
Photo - Kerstin Mullen-Bagby

there is plenty of room for all your guests. The pool "spray ground" will also be running and is a great place for toddlers to splash or children of all ages to go through on their way to or from the pool or ice cream.

Adults and children alike are encouraged to take a few swings on the Woods Tennis Center outdoor courts. Racquets and balls will be provided.

Don't miss this annual event which includes a fire truck, music and more. Lincoln Fire and Rescue will have Engine 2 on display in the parking lot. If you need Lincoln's dedicated Firefighters, it's likely that the Truck 2 crew will be the first ones at your door. Come and meet them, and ask plenty of questions.

So come one, come all. Enjoy a wonderful night of activities! Join us and make the tenth annual event the biggest and best ever. It's a great way to meet new neighbors or get to know old ones better, and the price can't be beat for a fun family evening. All neighbors and their guests are welcome regardless of whether they are members of WNA.

Meet the Leak Detective, August 4th



Gus Ponstingl

What causes the most leaks in basements? Join us August 4th for the answer! Gus Ponstingl owns the basement leak investigation Company called the Leak Detective. Gus started the basement leak investigation service in the fall of 2015, but has been helping people fix their leaks for over 3 years. Gus possesses a broad range of civil design, landscape and architectural experience. Gus has a Masters

Degree in Architecture from UNL and began working in Architecture in 1991. Gus began working at a Civil Engineering Company in Lincoln in 2001. Gus specialized in storm water systems. His work has given him vast experience with drainage and grading. He has a strong knowledge of architecture, landscaping and civil engineering. Gus has recently owned and operated a Registered Civil Engineering company. He has investigated almost 100 residences and has found many low cost solutions for people.

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

By: Rick Bagby

Neighborhood and Community.

Witherbee residents consistently rate tree lined streets as a top feature of the neighborhood. Laurie Stepanek, a neighbor, a member, and a NE Forestry Health Specialist spoke at our June meeting. She told us about an approaching risk to our trees, the Emerald Ash Borer. The very next day, the beetle was found in Omaha, and ten days later, in Greenwood. By the time you read this it may well have been found in Lincoln too. If not, no doubt it will be soon.

The time is now to identify your ash trees and plan your response to this beetle's threat to their existence. See the recap of Ms. Stepanek's workshop in this newsletter, or make plans to hear her at upcoming Lancaster County Extension Service workshops, on dates listed in our calendar.

As important as trees are as a defining feature of Witherbee, the people of Witherbee are even more significant. Welcoming and friendly, kind and well... neighborly. This issue of the Buzz features several stories and photos featuring neighbors. Please find inside several stories of Witherbee neighbors at our cleanup, garage sales, at home, choosing to come to and stay in Witherbee for decades, and choosing when to leave for new adventures.

As neighbors, we form a community when we get to know each other. That is why we sponsor our annual Ice Cream Social and Pool Party at Woods Park. To get to know each other. Join us for a dip in the pool in relief of the summer heat and get ice cream too! Bring your neighbors, meet your neighbors. Free. Sunday evening, August 7th, Woods Park.



Rick Bagby



June Yard of the Month - Steve & Nancy Holman, 601 S 46th. Photo - Kathy Holland

June Yard of the Month 601 South 46th St.



The home of Steve & Nancy Holman is the June Yard of the Month. Their home was nominated by an anonymous neighbor who took note of the extensive amount of sweat equity put into the landscape renovation over the past couple of years.

Steve and Nancy have made 601 South 46th St. their home for over 20 years. In fact, the home has been in Nancy's family since it was built by her grandfather in 1950. The new landscaping was preceded by some extensive work on stabilizing and "water proofing" the foundation. This work took place from November of 2014 to March of 2015. With the spring of 2015, began the work of beginning anew with the landscaped areas on three sides of the house. Soil amendment for drainage issues and the addition of mulch were key to preparing the ground for plantings. They chose to plant shrubs and other perennials to the area to simplify landscape maintenance in the future.

In addition to the landscaping completed around the house they added an oval planter made of stone, surrounded by flagstone in the back yard. They chose to plant late summer blooming flowers and other pollinators in this area. The pictures of their yard taken for this article do not do justice to the work they have done in beautifying their yard.

Sustainability, a variety of color and ease of maintenance have been key to the Holman's choice of shrubs and plants. We congratulate them on their work and being long-time Witherbee neighbors!

Leak Detective

Continued from page 1

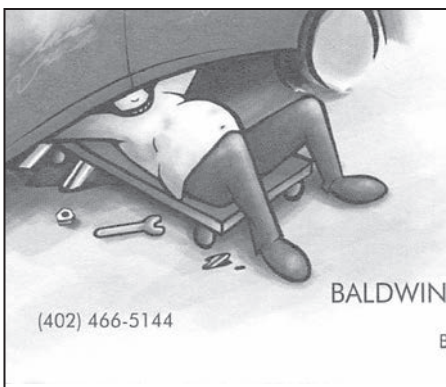


Is this your basement? Photo - Gus Ponstingl

Gus's company does not do any of the remediation work, but rather finds the cause of the leak, and then tells his customers the best way to fix leaks. Gus feels that gives his customers an advantage over other "Leak Experts" that work for Construction companies, giving homeowners the chance to avoid the "Gold Bucket trick." If your house is leaking, you really want to stop the leak, not buy a gold bucket to carry the water out.

Gus saves his customers 90% or more over the construction companies cost - and it can save his customers even more if they are a DIYer (do it yourselves). Recently, one of his customers fixed a leak estimated to cost \$4,000 by one of those large construction companies, with a \$5 bottle of caulk.

Gus offers an additional service for those who need documentation of the leak. He writes detailed reports that help home sellers show their customers what caused the leak and how it was fixed. These reports can also be sued to get bids from others to show how the work should be done. This can be very helpful when a contractor wants to suggest an expensive alternative method to fix the leak. Gus charges a simple hourly fee, plus driving time (Gus lives near the neighborhood). Most investigations take about 1 hour. Temple Baptist Church as well as many other Witherbee neighborhood residents have been helped by Gus, the Leak Detective. Come August 4th to learn how he could help you.



Randy Baldwin
Proprietor

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Reflection on Living in Witherbee

By: Sherry Miller

Russell and Sherry Miller and their two children moved to 341 South 52nd Street on a cold, rainy November general election day. The house was drafty and the bay window was threatening to fall out, but these problems were offset by the friendliness of the neighbors, who almost immediately invited them to the annual carol sing around the fireplace in Stuhr Park.



Miller home, 341 S 52nd. Photo - Sherry Miller

So began a 39 year residency in what is now Witherbee Neighborhood Association area. Russell managed his recycling business at 4th and J Streets, while Sherry stayed home with Rebecca and Andrew and volunteered extensively in the Hawthorne Elementary PTA. The children developed close friendships with the other kids in the neighborhood. Summer found them spending hours in Stuhr Park, playing capture the flag or cops and robbers and winter sledding down the gentle slope toward the storm sewer. They played unattended until Sherry would step out the back door and call them home for meals or bedtime. Every 4th of July found neighbors gathering at the tennis court in the park to share fireworks and treats, always careful to bring buckets of water and clean the mess up afterward.

The Stuhr Park area was once a tree nursery and



Witherbee

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the developer left as many trees standing as he could. Sherry recalls having about 12 Austrian pines removed from the back yard when pine blight was killing them. Neighbors were long term residents of South 52nd and Lenox Circle. In fact, four of the six houses on the Circle are still occupied by friends met back in 1977. The rest of the immediate area is changing with young families moving in, drawn by affordable housing. 52nd

Street is a favorite walk to Hy-Vee and Barnes and Noble. It's always fun to meet and greet young and old stopping at the Little Free Library in the Millers yard or to accept compliments on the flower gardens cultivated by Sherry over the decades.

Cheryl Hejl of 50th and L Streets began a tradition of potlucks in Stuhr Park several years ago to bring neighbors closer together. Sherry and Russ inherited stewardship of this program when Cheryl moved and are aiming to reach out further around the park to include more young families in this tradition.

Both are retired now, but Sherry keeps busy with the League of Women Voters and Russell with the storage business he has developed at what was the old Hill Hatchery property. Home maintenance is an ongoing chore and they are currently doing some deferred improvements, and plan to enjoy their home for many more years. They have found that living in the very middle of the city has many advantages, such as the food oasis of six grocery stores, and easy access to major streets.

Witherbee Neighborhood Association has been a strong reason why this area has remained stable and safe and the Millers say they are happy that WNA reaches all the way to 56th Street.



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EAB Discovered in Nebraska

On June 2nd, the Witherbee Neighborhood Association hosted a workshop on the approaching Emerald Ash Borer, presented by Laurie Stepanek. Laurie is a Forest Health Specialist with the Nebraska Forest Service and a Witherbee resident.

The next day the Emerald Ash borer was discovered in Omaha, and ten days later in Greenwood. The city of Lincoln cannot be far behind. What did we learn? Ash trees will start dying in large number 4-5 years after EAB invades an area, with most of them dead ten years after that. Already stressed trees will most likely be affected first. Lincoln and Eastern Nebraska are not in the ideal growing zone for ash trees. Many if not most ash trees are stressed already. Adding the EAB will kill most ashes within the next 15 years.

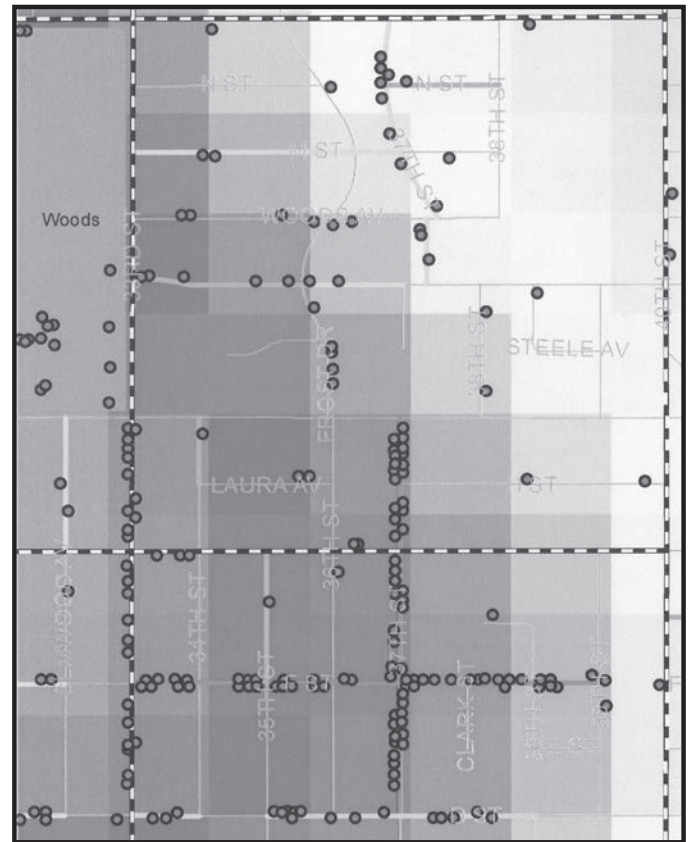
Ms. Stepanek advised assessing your Ash Trees for health, economic, and sentimental value. Those healthy trees of good or high value would be candidates for treatment. She further advised to begin planning now for the eventual removal of your ashes. Treatment of high value trees is possible, but costs about \$100 per year, per tree, and will only prolong their lives, not save them.

The city of Lincoln is conducting a search for EAB now, inspecting the most likely spot to find the bugs, in

the highest limbs of mature trees.

The City of Lincoln forestry department provided a survey map of a portion of Witherbee, showing ash trees on city property. The ash survey is not yet complete for all of Witherbee, but we do know that both Witherbee Park and Stuhr Park contain multiple mature ashes.

Missed the workshop? Ms. Stepanek has additional workshops scheduled at the Lancaster County Extension Service Wednesday, July 27th, 7-9 pm, and again Saturday August 27th, 7-9 pm.



Lincoln Forestry Dept. Ash Trees on Public Property. 32nd to 40th, D St. to O St.



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Witherbee Resident Begins Missionary Work in Africa

By: Kathy Holland

We frequently highlight individuals who live in the Witherbee neighborhood, perhaps because of an interesting life story or a unique hobby or profession. You may remember Alice Baden from an article published in the Witherbee Buzz the winter of 2014 which described her on-going home improvement projects at her home at 37th & H Streets. Our friend and neighbor has another story waiting to be written. She has sold her home, most of her belongings, packed a few trunks and is headed to work in Africa for the Rafiki Foundation. This at the young age of 70 years!



Training Village for four weeks to immerse herself in the culture and life within a Rafiki village. After that trip she knew this was what she must and would do.

At the time of this writing, Alice has just returned from a survival training camp with the Rafiki Foundation at their headquarters in Eustis, Florida. Her tentative assignment as of July 2016 is Dean of the Rafiki Institute of Classical Education (RICE), Malawi, Africa. If you would like to travel alongside Alice on her journey (not literally), she will be providing regular updates on the Rafiki website: <http://www.rafikifoundation.org/AboutUs/staff.aspx>.

Why Africa? Alice tells us in her own words. “Africa has been of interest to me since the mid 1980’s when a friend went to the Congo with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Her letters and stories made me want to see what real poverty looked like and be more appreciative of the freedom we have in the USA. I saved twice to go but each time the funds were needed elsewhere. After September 11, 2001, I had no desire to travel overseas so going to Africa was not even on my radar. Besides, my friend had since returned to the states.” However, in 2013 and 2015, Alice had some nudging from friends. Neither of these friends was aware that the other had sent Alice an email encouraging her to consider traveling to Africa to work for Rafiki. This led to more research and before she knew it, she had submitted her application and had received the necessary immunizations to travel to another part of the world.

Rafiki means “friend” in Swahili and depicts the purpose of the foundation – to befriend orphans and widows in their distress (James 1:27). The Rafiki Foundation’s mission is to help Africans to know God and raise their standard of living. To accomplish this, Rafiki established ten Rafiki Training Villages within the African countries of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. These villages provide living, educational and lifestyle facilities through Rafiki’s five programs – Bible Study, Childcare, Education, Rafiki Institute of Classical Education (RICE), and Widows. If you want to learn more about this mission, go to www.Rafikifoundation.org.

Before making the decision to dedicate two years of her life to this work Alice traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa, in January. Once there she lived in a Rafiki

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A Shout Out to UNL Big Event from Dale and Retta

By: Sandi Mahoney

The Big Event, a national organization started at Texas A & M in 1982, aims to give back to local communities. Their motto is "One Big Day, One Big Thanks." The Big Event at UNL is based on the same core values as its predecessor at Texas A & M: service and unity. The event is entirely student run and funded by donations from the community. While many UNL students are involved, anyone can volunteer as an individual or as part of a group. This year the event took place on April 9 from 10am to 1pm and there were over 2500 volunteers. A UNL representative said, "the students really show up in force."

Dale and Retta Bettenhausen who live in our neighborhood, very much appreciated the help they received. They wrote an email to WNA noting how much they enjoyed the UNL Big Event Day and wanted to thank the volunteers. They said the students raked and cleaned up the yard and washed the outside windows. At one time Retta counted seventeen volunteers working. She said the kids were friendly and energetic and she wished she had their energy! She gave them a big bag of homemade cookies to thank them for their labor. I'm willing to bet the volunteers had some yummy cookies to enjoy!

Thanks to the UNL volunteers and the people/businesses who sponsor this event!

Tabitha Proposes Expansion

Tabitha officials will present preliminary plans for construction on their campus in Witherbee. Additional Greenhouse buildings and revisions to campus parking are proposed.

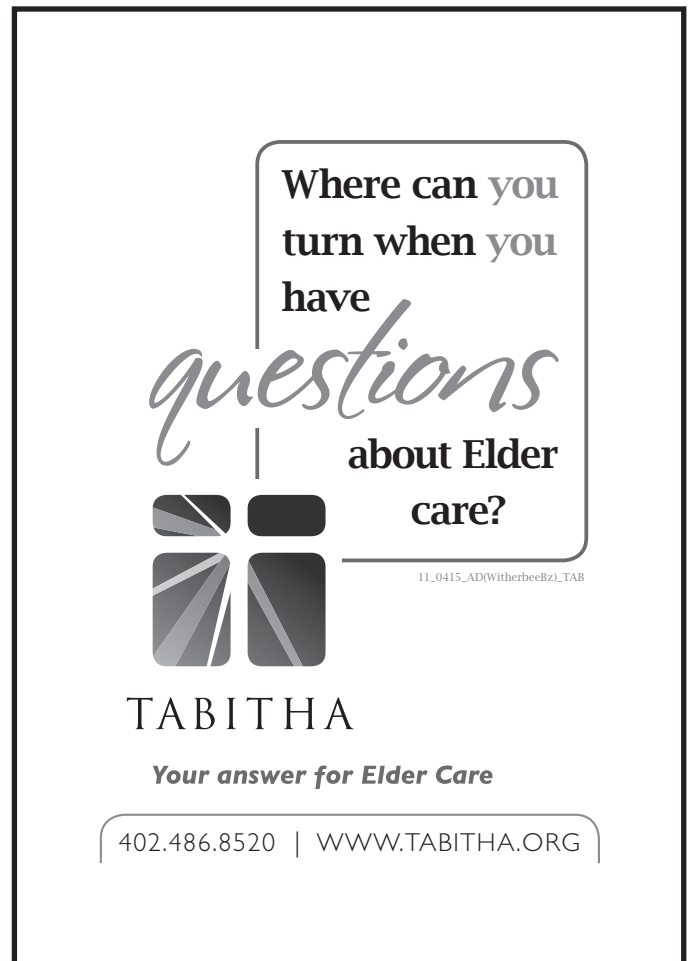
The project centers on the block 47th to 48th St, J St. to L St. Tabitha has been very welcoming to neighborhood concerns with previous expansion plans here in Witherbee. Join us August 4th to review this upcoming project.



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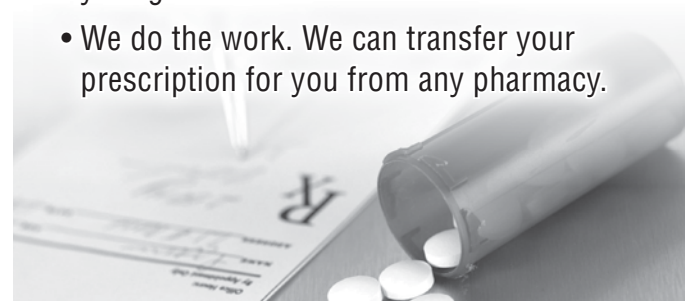
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Save The Date: Sept 11Th. Annual Tabitha Carnival Set For Grandparents' Day

Tabitha, your answer for Elder Care, is pumping up the bounce house and gearing up for a block's worth of summer fun at the annual Tabitha Carnival!

Hosted by Tabitha's Green House® neighborhood, this year's celebration is slated for Grandparents' Day—Sunday, Sept. 11—and features the “five and ten,” marking five years of carnival celebrations and 10 years of innovative, residential-style skilled nursing and long-term care living.

Our Witherbee neighbors are invited to join the party along with residents and loved ones from Tabitha Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; GracePointe Assisted Living & Memory Care Suites; Journey House SNF for Hospice Care; and Tabitha Village Independent Living Apartments.

With bingo, games, prizes and snacks the carnival is again expected to draw several hundred visitors to fill the S. 47th Street block between J and K Streets for this year's celebration.

We'll see you this then, neighbors!

Save the Date!
 Sunday, September 11 | 3:00-5:00 p.m.

5TH ANNUAL TABITHA
Carnival

Hosted by Tabitha's Green House® Neighborhood

Mark your calendar to join us for the “five and tens” this Grandparents' Day weekend! With games, food, family and friends, we're proud to celebrate five years of carnival fun in our 10th year providing innovative, residential-style living to Lincoln-area Elders.



TABITHA.ORG

Register to Vote

Are you a new neighbor? Election Day is November 8th. Registration deadline: Mail-in Oct. 21st, In-person Oct 28th.

Voter registration info : <http://lancaster.ne.gov/election/votereg.htm>

Election office : 601 N. 46th Street

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WNA Calendar

- July 24th Stuhr Park pot-luck picnic
- July 27th, Emerald Ash Borer Workshop, Laurie Stepanek, Lancaster County Extension Service
- August 4, Thursday, 7 pm WNA Monthly meeting, The Leak Detective - Gus Ponstingl Tabitha Greenhouse Expansion
- August 7, Sunday, 6-8 Ice Cream Social, Woods Park Pool & Tennis Center
- August 27th, Emerald Ash Borer Workshop, Laurie Stepanek, Lancaster County Extension Service
- August 28th Stuhr Park pot-luck picnic
- Sept 1, Thursday, 7 pm WNA Monthly meeting. Board meeting and Planning meeting. Newsletter articles and Meeting topics.
- Sept 11, Sunday, 3-5 p.m. Tabitha Carnival.
- October 6th, Thursday, 7 pm WNA Monthly meeting- Financial review and planning, ByLaw revisions.
- Councilwoman Cyndi Lamm's Northeast Citizens' Meeting Anderson Branch Library 3635 Touzalin Avenue, 5:30-7:00 pm
Third Thursdays: August 18th, Sept 15th, October 20th
- Save the Date:
- Nov 3rd, Thursday, 7pm, Witherbee Annual Meeting

Stuhr Park Neighbors Gather



Stuhr Park Neighborhood picnic, May 22

The May 22nd park potluck attracted new and old neighbors on a lovely spring evening, as shown in the photo. The June 26th potluck was more of a challenge because of the oppressively humid weather, but we were delighted to welcome a new family on "M" Street. These young folks will be a great addition as the neighborhood transitions from one generation to the next.

Two potlucks remain, July 24th and August 28th. Plan to gather around 6 p.m. Iced tea and lemonade will be provided, along with milder weather we hope. Bring your own table service. Your guests are welcome to join in. If it rains, we'll see you next time!

Sherry and Russ Miller, 402-488-2568



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Hot Weekend Weather doesn't Stop Success of Annual WNA Garage Sales

By: Kari Gentzler

Thirty-eight households participated in the annual Witherbee Neighborhood Garage Sales on June 9-11. Like last year, Bryan Community School coordinated with us and sponsored a "Junk in the Trunk" sale on Friday. The garage sale committee, Rick Bagby, Kari Gentzler, Sandi Mahoney, Christine Nesmith, Kathy Stastny, Cheryl & Dan Wesolowski, and Mary Schwab, met a number of times leading up to the big weekend: organizing sale entries, coordinating advertising efforts, and delivering materials to garage sale participants.



Shade for Shoppers at the Wesolowski Sale on J St.

As in years past, each household got to decide the dates and times for their individual sale. A list of participants' addresses, a short description of items being sold, and the days and times they would be open was gathered into one informational sheet. This garage sale participant list was advertised numerous places online (the WNA website and Facebook page, other Facebook buy/sell/trade pages and event pages, and Craigslist). Additionally, an advertisement describing the WNA garage sale weekend more generally was placed in the Lincoln Journal Star for four days leading up to the sale. This advertisement directed readers to the WNA website for more specific information about each sale.

The weather was HOT during the weekend of the sales but that 99 degree weather did not seem to stop people from shopping! Committee members who were out and about noticed lots of traffic at the sales, especially when neighbors on the same street coordinated their efforts for their sales. We heard many positive comments about the sales and are pleased to be able to offer Witherbee residents the opportunity to clear out unused items and make a little money in the process! Registering your garage sale with WNA only costs \$5 and you will definitely make your money back! If you did not host a garage sale this year, be sure to be on the lookout early spring next year for the 2017 sales. The sale dates will be announced and the registration form will be included in the spring WNA Buzz Newsletter (also available on the WNA Facebook page).

Last year the WNA purchased yellow professionally-printed, weather resistant garage sale signs for participants to use during the sales. Each participating household got a one-sided sign. Ten double-sided signs were placed at busy intersections around the perimeter of the neighborhood. Our



Donna Christophersen, Ruth Gewecke, Mary Larson, and Lori Hood enjoy their sale at 3730 L St.



Morin Family Snow Cone Stand

goal was that by investing in the signs we could use them for years to come. This goal can only be reached with your help! When committee members distributed the signs to participating households, they also included an "information sheet" with instructions to allow committee members to pick up the signs after the sales ended. We got the majority of the signs back but are still short a couple. If you still have a sign (and even if you plan to participate next year) please call/text Kari at 402-719-5848 and she will come pick it up. All in all, it was a successful garage sale weekend. Thank you for your work in contributing to the community feel of our neighborhood!

Witherbee

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Successful Neighborhood Cleanup

By: Mike Kreikemeier

The morning weather was perfect for a Neighborhood Cleanup on Saturday, May 7th. I woke early to finish the last minute preparations. Event committee members Dan Weslowski, Bryan Hurst and myself had been planning the cleanup event for a couple months there were still several small jobs left to do. My first job was to load up the van - markers, tape, scissors, poster board, volunteer forms, notebooks, clip boards; gloves, lawn chairs, sun screen & water bottle. With the van loaded I set out for Mid Town Hy-Vee to pick up donuts, coffee. As I passed the intersection of 48th & O Street I glanced south two blocks to the 48th & M intersection to see if any neighbors had started setting up the collection site. I thought I saw a Dan's pickup truck but not much else. Nothing to worry about, it was only 7:15 am, the cleanup did not start until 8:00.



Alyce Bayden, Christine Nesmith, Mike Kreikemeier, Mike Fitzgerald, Rick Bagby and Fiona Fitzgerald picked up litter at the the WNA Cleanup.

I walked up to the customer service counter and inquired about the Hy-Vee donation of donuts and coffee. A few minutes later I picked up 2 dozen donuts from the bakery and was on my way to the Caribou Coffee counter. My request for coffee was greeted with a smile and then a grimace from the barista as she explained that one of the coffee machines was not cooperating. "No problem" I replied, "I am a bit early". The barista returned to her duties of helping other customers and trying to cajole the misbehaving coffee machine to start dripping hot water onto the coffee grounds. After several minutes a back up plan was implemented with coffee delivered from the deli

counter. With coffee & donuts in my cart I was on my way with only a few minutes delay.

As I pulled into the parking lot a few minutes before 8:00 am several volunteers had gathered which was great to see. What was a bit troubling was the lack of roll offs. It would be hard to collect debris if there was nothing to put it in. After brief chat with Dan Weslowski I was back in the van heading home to find the cell phone number for Neiderhaus Refuse. I found the phone number, called and left a message. Right after I hung up my phone rang. It was Dan, the roll offs were being delivered. Everything is ready to go.

Even with a few hiccups at the start it was a successful neighborhood cleanup. We collected over 30 used tires, a trailer full of construction material for Eco Stores Nebraska, a couple pallets of electronics & household goods, a roll off full of metal that was recycled at Alter Metal Recycling and one roll off of debris that was hauled to the landfill. The volunteers also picked up litter along major streets in the neighborhood. All in all it was a very good morning. The planning and organizing was worth it. The neighborhood was cleaned up and looking good for the start of summer.

I would like to thank Dan Weslowski & Bryan Hurst for volunteering to co-chair the WNA Cleanup with me as well as all of the neighborhood volunteers that helped with the Cleanup. I would also like to thank our business partners that donated services & supplies: U-Haul Moving and Storage at 48th & Vine; Firestone Complete Auto Care at 66th & Q; Eco Stores Nebraska, Goodwill Industries, Mid Town Hy-Vee and Braeda. I would also like to thank Neiderhaus Refuse for supplying the roll-offs and hauling services.

The WNA Cleanup is funded by grants from Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful. Thanks to Adam Rhoads for his help and advice.



Neighborhood volunteers sort and load scrap metal for recycling.



Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association and Super Saver Present

Tenth Annual

Witherbee Pool Party and Ice Cream Social

FREE!

FREE!

Sidewalk chalk-drawing and activities for children provided.
Woods Tennis Center will provide court time, rackets, and balls.

Sunday, August 7th

Pool Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Ice Cream: 6 to 8 p.m.

Woods Pool
and Plaza Area

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



and



WNA is providing the the free pool time, music, and SuperSaver is providing the free ice cream.
Woods Tennis Center is providing tennis racquets, and balls.