



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 15 No. 3 Newsletter

Summer 2018

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

Annual Neighborhood Party

**WNA wants you to be SAFE,
IN and AROUND water!!**

The theme of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association's Annual Pool/Tennis/Ice Cream Party on Sunday, August 5, will be water safety. Josh the Otter will be there to educate children with a fun and simple message:

STAY AWAY FROM WATER UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT and ALWAYS SWIM WITH A BUDDY.

FREE PRIZES--- AND THREE LUCKY KIDS WILL WIN A DRAWING FOR JOSH THE BABY OTTER BOOKS

Josh the Otter Childrens' Charities presented by the Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation and Rotary Clubs International are combining literacy and education to teach a life saving message.



DID YOU KNOW?

Drowning is the number one cause of unintentional death for children 1-4 years of age, and the second leading cause for children 1-14 (CDC, 214)

Nearly 3,500 drownings occur in the United States each year, averaging 10 deaths per day (CDC, 2014)

For more information see www.joshtheotter.org and www.float4life.org.



SEE INSIDE STORIES:

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Ed Zimmer Historical Talk - page 6-7

June Yard of the Month - page 11

**FREE Pool Party and Ice Cream Social
Set for August 5th!**

For the twelfth year in a row, the Witherbee Neighborhood Association is hosting a FREE swim party at Woods Park Pool along with FREE ice cream !! This year's event is scheduled for Sunday, August 5th beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Summer and all it's fun activities is in full blast so come share a cooling dip in the pool and a scoop of ice cream while enjoying the company of your neighbors.

The pool will be open from 6 to 7:30 p.m and is reserved just for our party. The pool 'spray ground' will be also be running and this is a perfect spot for all those little one's to safely enjoy the water. If you've never been to Woods Pool, this is the perfect opportunity to come check out this great asset to our neighborhood! The pool is HUGE and there is plenty of room for all your family and friends so feel free to invite guests to join you so we can show off what a wonderful neighborhood we live in.

Ice cream will be served from 6 to 8 p.m in the area just outside the Tennis Center doors. WNA would like to thank Super Saver for supporting our ice cream social with a monetary donation.

The tennis center will be providing complimentary use of tennis courts, rackets and balls for your tennis fun, so adults and children alike are encouraged to take a few swings or play a match.

Members of the Cornhusker Model A Club are planning to join us and will have a few of their cars there for us to enjoy taking a look at.

A representative of the fire department will be present and will be happy to discuss fire safety with all ages.

Don't miss this annual FUN event and the opportunity to visit with well known friends from the neighborhood and perhaps meet some new ones! All neighbors and their guests are welcome regardless of whether they are members of WNA.

About Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association

Boundaries:

33rd to 56th & 'O' to Randolph

Meetings:

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

www.facebook.com/witherbeena

www.WitherbeeNA.org

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President's Message

Hooray!! Summer!! Time to get outdoors and take a walk, meet your neighbors, enjoy all the beauty around us. I recently walked and/or drove down every street in our Witherbee Neighborhood. I wanted to become more acquainted with the good folks who choose to reside in this part of mid-town Lincoln we call home.

Do you know what amazes me? There are so many homes and yards around us that just make you sigh and smile as you enjoy the scents of the lilac and flowering crab trees. It is evident that the people who are our neighbors have planted every type of tree, shrub and flower for our collective enjoyment. The neighborhood is inviting and comfortable, clean and well swept, busy, LOVED! Witherbee Neighborhood gives you a feeling of being home.

This fine neighborhood didn't just happen by accident in the past week, month, or year. Some of the homes have been loved and lived in by the same families for generations. Some of the homes are welcoming new families who choose to rent or own property in Witherbee because they recognize they can be an asset to the neighborhood. And the neighborhood's fine reputation can make them feel safely at home.

This, condensed from Cody Keenan, President Obama's speech writer, in a message to the graduates of Northwestern University- these days, it is easier, possibly safer, to be cynical with the world as we see it. However, there is a huge reservoir of goodness in the world, we just need to look for it and be part of it.

Witherbee Neighborhood is filled with good people who make our neighborhoods a great place to live. Come be engaged with your neighborhood association and help us make good things happen!

The truth is, the regular attendees at the meetings of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association are looking out for you and the area you call home. We are always looking for new people to share thoughts and suggestions to improve our neighborhoods. Are you able to take some time out of your busy lives and give back at the local level? All new ideas are Welcome.

Please attend WNA's next BIG event on SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, AT WOODS POOL AND TENNIS CENTER. Meet your neighbors, cool off in the pool and enjoy ice cream. Meet Josh the Otter. Price?? FREE!!

Mary Beecham-Schwab
President



St. Teresa Preschool, Lincoln ENROLL TODAY! 402-477-3358

Available Sessions:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday
8 to 11 a.m.

Tuesday/Thursday
8 to 11:45 a.m.



Mission Statement:

We are a faith-filled Catholic community called by God to teach, nurture and guide children to achieve their God-given potential on life's journey to heaven.

TeamMates of the Month:

A Game Changer

Isaiah was only a fifth grader at West Lincoln Elementary when he first met his mentor, Tyler Niday. The two strangers didn't know what to talk about at first, but then the chess board came out.

"He crushed me," admits Tyler with an affectionate glance at Isaiah who is preparing to enter Lincoln Northeast High School as a freshman in August.



Turns out chess was only the first of several games that cemented their bond.

Later, Tyler introduced another strategy game to his mentee, Settlers of Catan. "We get a little competitive," says Tyler. The games have become a standard during the weekly meetings and who dominates is another game.

"I think I'm still the winner of the last game," Isaiah says, further revealing the bonds of admiration and respect between the match.

Isaiah wins in many ways from his affiliation with Tyler.

"I didn't really have that many friends back in fifth grade, and I got bullied a little bit, so Tyler was one of the first friends I had," Isaiah says. In elementary school, he struggled to get his homework done. "I kept it in my backpack which got bigger and bigger . . . If it was too hard, I left it for the next day, which became the next month."

During their weekly meetings, Tyler would inquire about school, but Isaiah sidestepped the question. Over the course of their four years together, their relationship became more comfortable and trusting, and each could share more honestly about his life. "I used to be pretty immature," says Isaiah, "but now my parents praise me about how I've grown." He credits Tyler with helping him become more mature, confident, and responsible.

"I'm so proud of him." Tyler shares a pleased look with his mentee. "He's an A student now."

Isaiah isn't the only one changed by their interactions. "I've become a better listener," Tyler says. "I have two young children, and listening to Isaiah, I've gained perspectives that have made me a better parent."

Tyler and Isaiah's more recent meetings still feature games – sometimes chess, sometimes Settlers of Catan, sometimes basketball. One of their best memories came during an intense contest of H.O.R.S.E., a basketball shooting game. On this day the two had decided to make the game a half-court competition. At the pinnacle of battle, Isaiah attempted a final backwards, over the head shot, and, "Swish, I made it!" he says with a satisfying smile.

The impact of TeamMates on this pair is clear. "It's cool," Tyler says, "to have a time set once a week to get to know somebody, then watch that person grow."

Isaiah adds, "It's fun. You get to hang out with a stranger, at first, but a friend later on."

Both anticipate their future relationship continuing through high school and beyond. Isaiah aspires to become an astronomer and is considering the math and science courses he'll be taking during high school and the universities he might attend. There is no doubt that he is capable of achieving his goals.

What began with a game of chess has blossomed into a game-changing relationship for Tyler and Isaiah. "I'll be around for a long time," says Tyler with a grin.

The Witherbee neighborhood association would like to thank the following organizations and households for sponsoring the Buzz newsletter with their membership donation.

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One Book One Lincoln

by Mascha Miedaner

Have you ever wondered, while you were enjoying reading one of the finalists of the One Book One Lincoln program, how it came to be chosen? At the June 7th meeting of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association, Katie Murtha, coordinator of the program, shared with us the entire process from nominations to the winner.

The One Book One Lincoln (OBOL) program is based on a similar program that was started in Seattle. One Book One Lincoln was started in 2002 and is designed to “encourage reading and dialogue by creating a community-wide reading and discussion experience.”

Nominations are taken year-round and anyone can nominate a book. Think a book has interesting themes? Nominate it! Is it multi-layered with many plot twists and turns? Nominate it! Will it appeal to a lot of people? Nominate it! Is it a book that you would recommend to a friend to read? Nominate it! Will it spark thoughtful discussion? Nominate it! The on-line nomination form can be found at <http://lincolnlibraries.org/one-book-one-lincoln/one-book-one-lincoln-nomination-form/>. Or you can vote via drop boxes at all library branches during January.

In February, the Selection Committee gets busy whittling the list of nominations down to about nine to twelve and from this group, the three finalists are chosen. The Selection Committee is made up of citizens and library workers. Eighteen people are on the committee and candidates serve for three years. If you really LOVE to read and want to be part of this process, contact Katie at K.Murtha@lincolnlibraries.org or 402-441-8592.

Those finalists are announced to the public on Memorial Day and then the voting begins. “Vote early and vote often”, Katie urged us. The three finalists for 2018 are: Beartown by Fredrik Backman; Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng; and Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann. There are four different ways to vote: on-line; on Facebook; on Twitter; or with paper ballots at library branches. Voting will continue until July 31st and the winner will be announced on Labor Day, September 3rd.

In addition to the Selection Committee, the Programming Committee organizes events around the three finalists for further public engagement. These activities take place throughout the summer. Currently, three discussion groups are scheduled, one for each book. Friday, July 13, 10:30 am at the Bethany Branch Library for Little Fires Everywhere. Sunday, July 22, 2:00pm at the Gere Branch Library for Killers of the Flower Moon. Sunday, July 29, 2:00 pm at the Walt Branch Library for Beartown. Librarians are also available to assist you with your own neighborhood discussion group. Contact them at 402-441-8503 or fill out the signup form at <http://lincolnlibraries.org/one-book-one-lincoln/one-book-one-lincoln-sign-ups/>.

The final committee in the process is the Steering Committee and they are responsible for reviewing the entire year of OBOL and looking for ways to improve it. You can pick up a copy of the prior years’ winners at any branch or view it on the OBOL website <http://lincolnlibraries.org/one-book-one-lincoln/>.



Katie also gave us an overview of the Lincoln Public Library’s free mobile app called BookMyne and introduced us to another reading program called The Great American Read presented by PBS. If you want to read books on-line, use either Hoopla for your home computer or Libby on your mobile phone, iPad, or iPod. And if that’s not enough, holders of Lincoln City Library Cards are eligible to take out books from the Omaha City libraries. Stop in at any library branch or visit the main web page for City of Lincoln Libraries at <http://lincolnlibraries.org/> to get all the information. Happy Reading!!!

Batter UP!!!

By: James McCarville

'Take me out to the ballgame'! As kids, this was the song we would sing at the top of our lungs when Mom and Dad would take us out to see a baseball game. We'd jump in the car and off we'd go, home plate advantage or away, it didn't matter... I knew it would be a great time. These trips were guaranteed to make fun memories for all!

After moving to Lincoln a few years ago, one of my first outings was to Haymarket Park to watch our own Lincoln Saltdogs play a ballgame on a warm summer evening. What a wonderful baseball stadium we have right in our own backyard! If you've not taken advantage of this great facility, then this summer is the perfect time to catch a game or two. Tickets can be purchased for as little as \$5 for berm (grass) seating and up to \$18 for bleacher seats. The berms are a great place for families to catch a game as there is plenty of room for little people to run around while parents can keep an eye on them and the game.

From the first pitch to the last, there's a lot to cheer about. The Salt Dog's always do a fine job of entertaining the crowd with their baseball skills and the stadium staff work hard to plan and coordinate crowd involvement with games, songs, contest and freebie's! 'Buck Night' is a popular game night as hot dogs, sodas and popcorn are all just \$1 each! You can plan a fun night out with the entire family and have a great time on a little cash.

Make sure to come out to the Witherbee Neighborhood Association FREE pool party and ice cream social on August 5th!

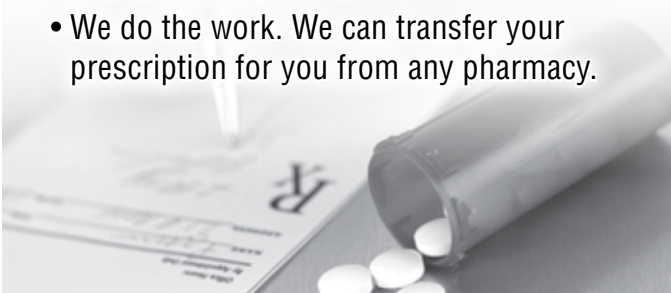
A family pack of 5 Saltdog game tickets will be raffled off during the event



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Be a Tourist in your own Neighborhood!

Join your WNA neighbors at the August meeting and learn the history of our awesome neighborhood! Ed Zimmer, well known Lincoln historian and WNA resident, will be our guest speaker for the evening and will share the geographical history of Witherbee as well as many fun and interesting details.

Refreshments provided

Thursday, August 2nd, 7:00 p.m., Tabitha LifeQuest 48th and J st)

If you miss the August presentation, then be sure to join us in September as Ed takes us on a guided walking tour of our neighborhoods for an up close look at many historical spots within the boundaries of WNA.

Come be a tourist in your own neighborhood!! You are sure to learn some new and amazing facts about the area you call home!

Stepping into the Past: A Witherbee Walking Tour with Ed Zimmer

Ed Zimmer will share his knowledge about the Witherbee Neighborhood on a walk on September 9th. Meet at the Woods Park parking lot at the corner of 33rd and J Streets. The walk begin at 2 pm and last about one to one and half hours. We will explore the Witherbee Neighborhood between 33rd and 40th Streets and O and Randolph Streets. Remember to bring some water; wear a hat; and don't forget the sunscreen.



From Scoville's Lincoln, Nebraska and Environs, 1903 A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF WITHERBEE NEIGHBORHOOD

By Ed Zimmer

The present-day Witherbee Neighborhood is too large and too varied in its historic development to accept an easy summary, but we can begin to understand its stories if we focus (somewhat separately) on the land and on the buildings. A 1903 map of Lincoln identified "platted" (subdivided) land by color and subdivision name, and unplatted land simply by the owner's name. Our neighborhood from 33rd to 56th Street, O to Randolph, already showed a complicated pattern of large undivided tracts and several subdivisions by 1903. Beginning on the west side of the neighborhood, the "James Rogers Est." already outlined the familiar shape of Woods Park. But in 1903 (and until the 1950s), the Rogers Tract stood as a large undeveloped parcel while the city grew up to and well past it. Eventually, with funds from the Woods family, the city gained a major park and the park gained a name.

East of 33rd Street, Lyman & Laura Frost subdivided their 80 acre farm in 1885, bounded by J and L Streets, from 33rd to 40th. Frost's Subdivision produced 24 "acreage" lots ranging in size from two to five acres. Only a few of the lots initially were developed with houses, of which Arnott Ricketts'

Continued on page 7

large brick mansion at 33rd & L (now “Parkview” apartments) is the outstanding example. Frost’s large and varied lots created over a century of unique development opportunities in this area, including :

1. The original Campbell’s nursery land (and surviving house) northeast of 35th and J Streets.
2. Frost Court of the mid-20th century and Christensen Court of the early 21st century.
3. County Engineer Arthur Edgren’s huge houselot and stone mansion of 1920 at 3530 J Street.

North of Frost’s Subdivision, Calvary Cemetery at the east edge of the western third of the neighborhood was established as Saint Theresa Cemetery in 1877, named for Lincoln’s original Catholic cathedral downtown.

The middle portion of Witherbee neighborhood, from 40th to 48th, is the source of the Association’s name, where Erasmus Witherbee of Wisconsin claimed a Civil War veteran’s benefit of farmland in 1865. He is said to have visited Lincoln in 1865 and he was a supporter of Nebraska’s William Jennings Bryan in his presidential bids of 1896 and 1900. But Witherbee resided most of his life in Hazel Green, Wisconsin, where he owned mines. In 1903 the Witherbee name was still inscribed on about 120 acres of his original 160 acre Lincoln holding. His heirs platted “Witherbee Gardens” in 1925, putting Witherbee Boulevard on the map and eventually his name on this neighborhood. The Tabitha Home, originally sheltering young orphans as well as the elderly, was established in the southwest corner of this section of the neighborhood in the 1880s. Most of the housing in this part of the neighborhood dates from the middle third of the 20th century, but like most of the neighborhood, it includes both older and younger residences.

The eastern third of Witherbee, from 48th to 56th, included Elijah Lemming’s subdivision of the 1880s, splitting the north half of that portion into just eight 10-acre lots. The unique Cordner House at 325 S. 55th Street of ca. 1912 originally occupied one of those lots, which it now shares with three dozen mid-20th century residences. In general, the eastern third of Witherbee is characterized by mid-20th century homes. Hawthorne Elementary School at 48th & L Streets was constructed in 1927, replacing an early wood-frame school house (first called Jordan, then Hawthorne School) that stood on O Street where Petco now occupies a former grocery store building.

Ed Zimmer, City of Lincoln Historic Preservation Planner and long-time Witherbee resident, will be our speaker at the August 2 monthly meeting. Ed will share more of the history of the Witherbee Neighborhood with us. His talks are both informative and fun and include many wonderful slides. Come see how the Witherbee Neighborhood began and how it has evolved. You might even see your house featured!

Come with your questions for Ed. Join us at 7 pm at the Tabitha LifeQuest Center conference room at 4720 Randolph Street. Please enter by the main entrance.

Lincoln Map from 1903 with subdivided land indentified by name.



THIRTY HOMES PARTICIPATE IN WNA GARAGE SALES

For the past several years, the Witherbee Neighborhood Association has organized a neighborhood garage sales weekend in early June. This year's sales were held June 7-9 and although the weather was a bit warm that weekend, many cars and shoppers were observed at the sales! This year 30 homes in the Witherbee neighborhood registered their sales with the WNA. Each household chooses their own sale days/times in order to best work with their personal schedule. For only \$5, a registered sales benefit from a multitude of advertising efforts. An ad about the neighborhood sales is placed in the Lincoln Journal Star and on many online event calendars. In addition, all sales information is compiled into a master list that gives shoppers the addresses, days/times of each sale, and description of sale items. This list is posted on our WNA website, Facebook page, Craigslist, and is emailed out to our membership mailing list to drive traffic to the WNA sales.



Households also receive a yellow yard sign to display in their yard during their sales. These signs are also placed on the perimeter of the neighborhood to entice people down our Witherbee streets to the sales. The yard signs were purchased several years ago and we are fortunate that neighbors who have hosted sales have taken care of them. We have only "lost" a couple of signs over the past several years! Volunteers from the garage sale committee hand-deliver these signs to registered sales, and pick them up at the end of the weekend to be used again next year.

Speaking of volunteers, the women who served on the garage sale committee this year deserve a note of thanks. Kari Gentzler served as chair and had a lot of assistance from Nancy Holman, Cheryl Neafus, Christine Nesmith, and Cheryl Wesolowski. Nancy Holman and Cheryl Neafus were both new

volunteers on the committee this year and we very much appreciate the time and effort they dedicated. These WNA-sponsored events are a benefit to our community but they only run smoothly when people are willing to get involved and help out.

If you or someone you know would be interested in helping plan the 2019 WNA garage sales weekend, please email witherbeena@gmail.com or write to us at PO Box 5431, Lincoln, NE 68505.



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Neighborhood Safety Tips

LET'S BE SAFE !!!

9:00 p.m Routine

- Close you garage doors
- Remove valuables from your vehicles (purses, laptops, cell phones, backpacks, GUNS)
- Lock your vehicle
- Turn porch lights on (Criminals don't like lights!)

*Let's work together to reduce larcenies from autos this year!

Vacation Safety

- If you're planning to go on vacation, make sure to have a trusted family member or neighbor stop by to check on your residence
- Set motions lights or lights on timers
- Don't post on your social media that you're leaving or out of town, try to share your pictures after you've enjoyed your vacation time

Skimming Devices Scams

- Please be aware and try to pay close attention to the port where you put your ATM cards, the criminals are becoming better at making them blend in better with the ATM machines.
- Also check your bank and credit card accounts on a regular basis, to ensure that your account is safe.



If you See something, Say something!



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Neighborhood Resources

Useful Phone Numbers and Websites

Emergency: 9-1-1

Non-emergency phone number for Lincoln City Police Department: 402-441-6000

To report non-emergency quality-of-life issues within the Lincoln City limits, such as streetlight problems, downed tree limbs, potholes or park maintenance issues. use UPLNK online or download app for cell phone:

<https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/uplnk/>

Weed abatement program:

<http://lancaster.ne.gov/weeds/abate.htm> (there is a link to the Weed Complaint Form on the left hand side of page) or call (402) 441-7817

Web page that is a condensation of some of the more important traffic laws from the Traffic Code of the City of Lincoln. Traffic laws are enforced for the purpose of protecting life, limb, and property:

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/traffic/traffic.htm>

Contact page with links for City of Lincoln Police Department:

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/contact.htm>

Lincoln Electric Power Outage Reporting Line: 1-888-365-2412 or online at

<http://www.les.com/report-outage>

Lincoln Electric Power Streetlight Problems Line: 402-467-7676 or online at

<http://www.les.com/report-outage>

Black Hills Energy: To report a problem: 800-694-8989 or online at

<https://www.blackhillsenergy.com/>



How to Reach Your City Offices



Animal Complaints.....	441-7900
Buried Lines.....	477-0547
City Council Representatives.....	441-7515
Crime Stoppers.....	475-3600
Household Hazardous Waste.....	441-8022
Housing Codes.....	441-7785
Mayor's Office.....	441-7511, 441-6300
Neighborhood Watch.....	441-7204
Parks & Recreation.....	441-7847
Quality of Life (24 hour anonymous complaints, suggestions).....	441-6300
Sidewalks (repair, shovel, etc.).....	441-7541
Weed Problems.....	441-7817
Zoning Violations.....	441-7521

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JUNE YARD OF THE MONTH

The June Yard of the Month award goes to Mary & Pat Rowan at 5110 Lenox Avenue. Their yard was nominated by a neighbor, Kate High. In her nomination, Kate stated “Mary has worked hard to make her front yard a place of natural beauty and peace. This spring it was in full bloom and especially beautiful.”

A tour through the yard revealed three unique sections. The area of the yard closest to the street has a wide variety of heat tolerant and sun loving perennials, many currently in bloom. The front yard is a peaceful, shaded area with lush, green flowering perennials as well as ground covers and vines highlighted by a water fountain. In the back yard, Mary has created a fairy garden surrounded by baskets of flowering annuals.

Mary describes her yard and garden as a work in progress over the last 41 years. She has accumulated an increasing variety of perennials, purchased or given to her by fellow gardeners. According to Mary, the fun part of her yard and garden is that it is different every year but always remains a restful, peaceful



place to unwind. The quote, “one is closer to God in a garden than anywhere else on earth” is how Mary feels about gardens.

Thanks to Kate High for her nomination and congratulations to Mary & Pat Rowan for being recognized as the June Yard of the Month!



Join Us in Making a Difference!

Since the Witherbee Neighborhood Association (WNA) was organized in 2003, 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 send in your membership (or sign up or renew on line at www.witherbeena.org/membership).

More neighbor volunteers are needed. For example, there are unfilled board seats. In addition we need help with the quarterly newsletter. And there are other needs for

help. If you are interested in knowing more or want to help, please contact Mary Schwab at 402-440-4131 or email Witherbeenamary@gmail.com.

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. There are many jobs, large and small, that we could use your help with. Please attend a meeting or participate in an activity.

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.



**Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association presents
12th Annual**

FREE!

**Witherbee Pool Party
and Ice Cream Social**

FREE!

Sunday, August 5th

Woods Pool and Plaza Area

Pool Time 6:00 to 7:30 • Ice Cream 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Woods Tennis will provide court time, rackets and balls.

All Witherbee residents and their guests welcome at this free event.

WNA Membership is not required.

