



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 19 No. 2 Newsletter

Spring 2022

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

WNA Calendar of Events

- April 23rd: 9:00 am – Noon Nebraska Recycling Council Annual Recycling Day –at Nebraska Innovation Campus; a recycling event for hard to recycle materials. For more information go to: <https://nrcne.org/2022charm/>
- April 23rd: 12:30 – 3:30pm UNL Big Event
- April 30th: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Household Hazardous Waste Drive –Through Collection, at Star City Shores (4375 S 33rd Ct)
- May 5th: 7:00 pm WNA Meeting – Lefler Middler School
- May 7th: 8:00 am – Noon Annual Neighborhood Cleanup – 48th & M St.
- May 10th: State Primary Election
- May 11th: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Wheels for Meals Car Show - Tabitha Southeast Parking Lot, 48th & Randolph
- June 2nd: 7:00 pm WNA Monthly Meeting – Location to be announced
- June 9-11: WNA Annual Garage Sale Event, including The Little Free Pantries "Food Raiser" Event

Annual WNA Cleanup is Saturday, May 7th!

By Mike Kreikemeier

Spring is here and it's time for the annual neighborhood improvement project, the award winning WNA Neighborhood Cleanup.

The WNA cleanup will be on Saturday, May 7th running from 8 am-Noon.

The collection site will be along M Street directly North of Bryan Community School (48th & M Street). The Witherbee Cleanup is a great way to dispose of unwanted items when cleaning up your garage, your yard & your home.

Volunteers make it happen. Please consider helping out. Litter pick up volunteers get exercise and make the neighborhood look great! It's a great way to spend a Saturday morning and a wonderful way to meet your neighbors. Litter pick up counts for service hours at all Lincoln High Schools.



Unloading all of the litter at last year's Cleanup Day!

Tires are taken to Firestone Complete Auto Care at 300 N 66th Street to be recycled. Complete Auto Care has been a generous cleanup partner for several years. No tires mounted on rims are accepted.

The metal & household appliances (washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, etc) are hauled to Alter Metal Recycling. Appliances with freon are safely discharged before recycling.

This year we encourage neighborhood residents to donate construction material and items such as windows and doors from building/remodeling projects as well as leftover lawn and landscaping materials and furniture in good condition to the new Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 5601 S 59th Street. ReStore is not accepting donations on the May 7th grand opening weekend. Please check the web site for donation times. <https://lincolnhabitatrestore.org>

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SEE INSIDE STORIES:

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- Little Free Pantries Food Raiser - page 6
- Lincoln Pharmacy Helps Refugees - page 7

About Your Witherbee Neighborhood Association

Boundaries:

33rd to 56th & 'O' to Randolph

Meetings:

7:00 p.m. first Thursday of each
month. Check our Facebook page or
website for meeting location.

www.facebook.com/witherbeena
www.WitherbeeNA.org

Mailing Address:

PO Box 5431
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402-413-0156

Executive Board:

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President's Message

Hello Witherbee neighbors,

As I write this, trees are just starting to bud out. By the time you receive this newsletter, the green canopy above us will have returned. Arbor Day is April 29th and is always a good reminder to plant a tree. Speaking of trees, a project through

Urban Development, City of Lincoln, has recently been announced. Titled "At-Risk Tree Removal & Replanting Grant Program," this program will cover the cost of tree removal for homeowners who income qualify. Trees must be dead, structurally weak, or otherwise in need of removal. The program also covers the cost of replanting. Look for more information in this newsletter about application requirements.

Thank you to all who have either renewed your membership or who have joined in the last two months. At this point we have almost 140 members with 18 of these being new. This number is consistent with past years. We have had several individuals/ households who have donated an additional \$5 - \$10 when sending in their membership. All donations, whatever the amount, are greatly appreciated! And, it is not too late to send in your membership form! If you need a form please give me a call. You may also go onto our website and pay by Paypal (www.witherbeeNA.org). While you are on our website, don't forget to subscribe to our email list so that you can receive timely announcements.

We are excited about our upcoming events, including the annual Neighborhood Cleanup and the WNA sponsored Garage Sale weekend. Detailed information about these events is also included in this newsletter. I don't know about you, but a trip to the landfill to get rid of stuff is never convenient. Our annual cleanup event provides a means for you to get rid of those hard to haul items or ones that may cost extra for your refuse hauler to pick up. See the article for information about what you can bring. And, if you need help in hauling your stuff to the site, arrangements can be made. See the article for details. The WNA Garage Sale weekend is June 9 -11. We hope you will consider participating either by signing up for your own garage sale or by patronizing the many sales that will be held in our neighborhood! It has come to our attention that the Little Free Pantries in the Witherbee neighborhood are sorely in need of donations. Please see the article on page 6 as to how you can help.

Your neighbor,
Kathy Holland, 2022 President

Bylaws Update -- Membership Vote at June Meeting

Much needed updates to our Bylaws have been made by our Bylaws Committee. The Board is set to vote on these changes at our May 5 meeting. Upon their recommendation, the Bylaws then need to be approved by the membership. Please plan to attend our June 2 meeting to cast your ballot. The revised Bylaws will be available for review following our May meeting. Our website and Facebook page will provide a link so that you can download and review. Should you desire a hard copy, please contact Kathy Holland by phone or email to request a copy.

Thank you to the following individuals & businesses who support the activities of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association with their sponsorship donations.

Organization Sponsors:

- Redeemer Lutheran Church
- FM Lawn Care

Individual Sponsors:

- Richard Bagby
- Fred Freytag
- Carolyn Barber
- Russell & Sherry Miller
- John Dzerk
- Mary Schwab

Continued from page 1

Goodwill Industries will recycle and reuse electronics and household items collected.

Brush coupons are also available. Brush coupons allow dumping a load of brush (sticks, twigs, small branches - NO LEAVES or TRASH) at the 48th Street transfer station for free. Only the coupons are provided. Picking up and hauling brush are not part of the WNA cleanup.

Many hard to get rid of items, such as mattresses, box springs and old furniture can be disposed of by bringing them to the collection area.

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 and CRT computer monitors.

If you need help hauling items to the collection site email Mike Kreikemeier at mbk@windstream.net or call the WNA phone line at 402-413-0156 to make an appointment by leaving a message. 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. Contact event organizers: Mike Kreikemeier, - mbk@windstream.net; Bryan Hurst - bbacon.hurst@gmail.com, Dan Wesolowski - dwesolowski@windstream.net and Jay Ridenour - jridemc@hotmail.com to volunteer or for more information.

This cleanup event is funded by a grant from “Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful”. Food and beverages are donated by Midtown Hy-Vee. Refuse hauling is provided by Niederhaus Refuse Services.

Vacation Bible School	June 6 - 10
	9AM - Noon
	Redeemer Lutheran Church 510 South 33 rd Street For Children Age 3 - 5 th grade Register from April 25 - June 1 Register at www.redeemelincoln.org

WNA Members attend Neighborhood Forum

WNA members Kathy Holland, Mike Kreikemeier, Mary Schwab and Fred Freytag attended the 6th Annual Neighborhood Forum on Saturday, February 26th, 2022. The forum is organized by NeighborWorks Lincoln. The focus of this years forum was affordable housing in Lincoln. The event began with a panel discussion with representatives from the city departments of Building & Safety, Planning and Urban Development. Break out sessions with several city departments followed the panel discussion. The WNA members each picked different breakout sessions to attend. There were sessions hosted by Parks & Recreation/ Lincoln Transportation & Utilities, Planning/Urban Development, Climate Resiliency and Building & Safety/Health/Lincoln Police. WNA members regrouped after the sessions to share the information that was learned. Representatives from WNA have attended all of the previous Neighborhood Forums; this is another way that WNA board members stay informed and make connections.



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Yard of the Month

Send in your Nominations!

WNA will again feature a “Yard of the Month” this summer from May through August. If you have a friend or neighbor who does an exceptional job with their lawn and landscaping, please nominate them.



You may send your nominations to Sherry Miller by phone (402-488-2568) or email at yardofthemonth@witherbeena.org. Please include the address of the nominee plus their name and phone number if you know it.

Just Announced -

At-Risk Tree Removal & Replanting Grant Program

The City of Lincoln, Urban Development Department has recently announced the availability of the At-Risk Tree Removal and Replanting Grant Program. The purpose of this program is to remove and replace at-risk tree(s), those that are dead, structurally weak or otherwise at-risk, free of charge for homeowners who income qualify. This program requires the applicant to submit an application along with income documents. To learn more, please go to: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Urban-Development/Housing>. You may also contact Loren Roberts with the Urban Development Department at 402-441-8209 or email her at LRoberts@lincoln.ne.gov.



Fitlot at the Woods!

Have you used the Fitlot equipment at Woods Park? If not, what a better way to begin than to start with a class!

Classes began in early April but it is not too late to take part! These FREE classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays (and eventually some Fridays!) this spring season, 10:30am to 11:30am at Woods Park (33rd & O Street, north of the baseball field and sand volleyball court, and north west of the pool). The instructor comes highly recommended!

To be ahead of the game, you can sign up on the Eventbrite app or [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). Login, select all your Tuesday and/or Thursday classes that work for you, enter your information, click on liability waivers (3) then you can add to your calendar. Any questions or problems, contact Jessie at janielsen00@hotmail.com. If you have questions about Fitlot activities, find more information here: <https://fitlot.org/parks/lincoln/>



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Attendance High for March WNA Meeting

By Mike Kreikemeier

The passion for Woods Park brought over 50 neighbors to the March WNA meeting at Lefler Middle School. Lynn Johnson, Director of Lincoln Parks & Recreation and JJ Yost, Planning & Facilities Manager presented information about the history of Woods Park, the Woods Park Master Plan, the new playground equipment and the new basketball court. The proposed Tennis Center expansion was of great interest to many in attendance. The agreement for the use of the Kiwanis baseball field by Nebraska Wesleyan University was also discussed.



The Woods Park Master Plan is a tool to guide the use and development



of the park. Woods Park is fairly unique, most Lincoln parks do not have a master plan. Major changes to the park require approval by the Lincoln City Council to update the master plan. The most recent change to the Woods Park Master was in 2017-18 when the Health Department parking lot was expanded.

The last major update to the Tennis Center was started in 2014 with the “Taking the Game to the Community” campaign. The campaign raised money to replace the “tennis bubbles” with a more permanent structure for 6 indoor tennis courts and improvements for 12 outdoor courts. The majority of the indoor tennis building and improvements were completed in 2017. The Woods Tennis Center would like to expand once again to complete the previously approved Phase 2 with 4 additional indoor tennis courts and a new proposal to add 3 additional outdoor tennis courts. The new proposal of 3 additional outdoor courts and expanding the east parking lot requires an update to the Woods Park Master Plan.

Mr. Johnson outlined the process of updating the Master Plan. The first stage would be a proposal from Woods Tennis Center to the Parks & Recreation Department detailing how they would like to expand. The Parks & Recreation Department would begin a community involvement process that would typically last for 3-4 months. The community involvement process includes meeting with Neighborhood Associations and other stakeholders to get input on the expansion plan. The plan could then be revised based on information gathered from the community. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would review the updated plan and make recommendations to the Parks & Recreation Department, City Council and Mayor. Eventually the City Council would need to approve any changes to the Master Plan.

Both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Yost indicated the timeline for the beginning of this process is still not known as a proposal has not been received from Friends of Woods Park Tennis, a non-profit organization that supports access to the sport.

Several expressed their appreciation for the work by Mr. Johnson and Mr. Yost in leading efforts to oversee all parks and making recreational opportunities available to all Lincolniters in all parts of the City. Stay tuned for more information about the future of Woods Park.

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Little Free Pantries of Lincoln “FOOD RAISER”

By Chris Booe

The Little Free Pantries of Witherbee will be hosting a “Food Raiser” event on June 11th to help bring in donations of non-perishable food to help re-supply The Little Free Pantries of Lincoln. What is a “Food Raiser”? A “Food Raiser” is much like a “Fund Raiser”- with a twist. Instead of soliciting funds we will instead be asking for donations of non-perishable food. In exchange for donations we will have tables set up with free clothing that donors can “shop” from.

Little Free Pantries are set up in yards and driveways of citizens all over Lincoln. They offer free food, hygiene products, and daily essentials on a 24 hour basis to those in need, on fixed incomes, or homeless. All you do is drive up or walk up and take what you need and, if you can, leave what you can. There are over 30 pantries in Lincoln with five of them right here in the Witherbee Neighborhood. Those pantries are located at 380 South 44th St., 612 South 42nd St., 3755 J St., and 4115 Lenox Ave., and at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S. 33rd St. A full listing of all the Little Free Pantries can be found on Facebook by looking up “Little Free Pantries LNK”.

Our event will coincide with the Witherbee Neighborhood Garage Sales so save the date! Plan to participate in the “Food Raiser” at Christo Rey Church, 4221 J St, June 11th, 9-5 pm. Look for signs the day of the event to direct you to the area within Christo Rey where the event will be held.

Tabitha Breaks Ground in Many Ways

With the formal groundbreaking complete on March 16, nonprofit Tabitha’s InterGenerational (InterGen) Living Community, the very first-of-its kind, is one-step closer to coming to fruition. Witherbee Neighborhood Association and community leaders were on hand to kick-off the start of this initiative.

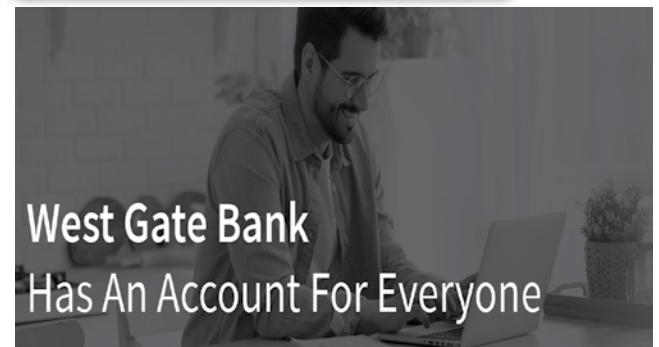
As neighbors can see by passing by the site, grading has begun in preparation for the construction stage of this unique project. Tabitha is currently in the permit process.

If you would like to call this InterGenerational spot home, touchbase with Tabitha now as apartments are quickly being reserved. Call 402.496.8520 to speak with Tabitha’s chief of staff, Joyce Ebmeier.

The community is slated to open in late summer of 2023 and paves the way to a fresh approach to senior and student living.



Tabitha leaders break ground, Joyce Ebmeier, Chief of Staff; Christie Hinrichs, President & Chief Executive Officer; Katie Lechner, Chief Operations Officer and Brian Shanks, Chief Financial Officer.



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Annual Meeting - May 26, 2022

Our Annual Meeting is when you elect your Board of Directors. They are members of the Credit Union and are volunteers who are not paid for their service. The Board represents and makes directional decisions for the members.




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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Lincoln Pharmacy Helps Afghan Refugees

By Mary Schwab

Faheem Rashidi and his wife, Rabia, owners of Lincoln Pharmacy at 33rd and A Street, came to Lincoln from Afghanistan in 2000. Today they are giving back by helping a new wave of refugees arriving in Nebraska.

Faheem was only 8 when his father died and his mother walked, with her children, to a refugee camp in Pakistan. After 8 years of living in tents, he and his sisters emigrated to Lincoln, where their first home was the basement of a church in Havelock. Kate and Tim Pieper, the family's sponsors through Catholic Social Services provided care and food – and have remained good friends.

“At that time, we could not speak English, and we did not eat the first night because I did not know how to open a can,” Faheem recalls. “I came here with nothing and I had all these opportunities. I was thinking to myself if, at age 16, I have to start everything from scratch, why not just work hard and follow my dreams?” Faheem learned English with Lincoln Literacy classes at many of Lincoln's churches. After 3 years as an ESL student, he was admitted to UNL and earned awards for excellence. He then went on to complete his pharmacology degree at Creighton. This was fulfilling his mother's goal that he would be the first of his generation to graduate college.

One night, Tim Pieper took Faheem to the Old Country Buffet, where he met Rabia, who was the waitress. Both had arrived in Lincoln a few months before and attended school together. They have been married 12 years now, and Faheem's eyes light up when he talks of his son and three daughters, ages 3-9.

Faheem and Rabia are heavily involved in helping the city's newest Afghan refugees adjust to life in Lincoln. Faheem stresses that “the first thing the refugee families need is a welcoming smile and to

be considered part of the community. Next is help with learning English”.

“Reflecting on what I went through, language is the biggest challenge”, he said. “If you can't speak, you can't talk to the doctor, buy food or ask for help. We make sure they get through that first period of “where am I”?”

“I am so grateful that we have wonderful support from every corner. Not everywhere in the world do you get this opportunity we have here now. In this beautiful country you have opportunity to help other people, why not do it? What are we going to take when we leave this world? I think we all leave empty-handed so if we have this opportunity to help, I will do it. Refugee families get encouraged, they go to school, and they contribute back to the society.”

Faheem feels that opening Lincoln Pharmacy was the best decision. “In this wonderful neighborhood, people come here and say ‘Welcome to the Community’. “I want to say thank you to all the wonderful people.”

Editor's Note: We are grateful to Faheem for his support of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association. He has been an advertiser for our newsletter for more than two years. Thank you, Faheem, for all you do to make Lincoln a welcoming community for new refugees and for your support of our neighborhood! To learn more about the work Faheem and his wife Rabia are doing, check out this story: Hundreds Gather at Welcoming Event for Afghan Refugees published by Nebraska Public Media. <https://nebraskapublicmedia.org/en/news/news-articles/hundreds-gather-at-welcoming-event-for-afghan-refugees/>





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Annual Neighborhood Garage Sales!

Are you going to do some Spring Cleaning? Instead of storing those items to use, someday... why not try to sell them? One man's junk is another man's repurposed or revitalized treasure!

WNA is having their annual neighborhood garage sale event Thursday, June 9th through Saturday, June 11th. Join in the fun, meet your neighbors! It's one of the traditional, community events the Witherbee neighborhood celebrates together!

Please Complete The Form Below To Register Your Garage Sale. When you Register your garage sale address with WNA for \$5, it means you'll receive a lot of advertising that could translate into a lot of foot traffic; people hunting for their treasures within the Witherbee neighborhood. The WNA Garage Sale Committee will spread the word about our neighborhood event on Facebook, Radio Stations, the Nextdoor App, Craig's List, & our WNA Website. The WNA will post flyers + more. A bright yellow Garage Sale Yard Sign will be delivered to you, for temporary use, advertising your garage sale event. Registered neighbors will also receive an event listing of address locations to display, copy and/or handout. Each address will list some of the treasures neighbors are selling, correlating to the WNA Website Map. Garage Sale Committee Members will be placing additional, bigger, bright yellow signs at various locations around the perimeter of the neighborhood to make a BIGGER ANOUNCEMENT.

So get those treasures priced! Join in on the WNA Garage Sale Event!

To complete the form below, choose your Sale Dates and the times you will be open for business. Please list a few of the special treasures you are offering.

Don't miss the **May 29th Deadline** to submit your registration form!

Lets join forces, Saturday June 11th, with the Witherbee Free Little Pantries and support their efforts to stock our neighborhood pantries. Bring your food items to trade for free clothing!

All four pantry owners need your help. Please look for their location and additional event information listed on page 6 of this newsletter.

WNA Garage Sale Signs: Please remember the WNA will use these signs for future garage sale events. They are temporarily loaned to you and are the property of the WNA. Please Do Not misuse or cause damage to the sign. We ask that you leave the sign near your front door by June 11th. Someone from the committee will be by to pick up the sign, after the event.

Note: It is illegal to place garage sale signs on light poles or in the right-of-way.

Please Note: This year the Witherbee Neighborhood will not be able to participate in the Goodwill Challenge. Goodwill staff shared with WNA that they have very limited manpower available to pick up donated items and instead were asking neighborhoods to drop off items at specific donation collection points on days different then our event schedule.

2022 Garage Sale Registration Form

WNA Garage Sale: Thursday, June 9th - Saturday, June 11th

Name: (First & Last) _____ **(Please Print)**

Address: _____ **Phone No: (XXX-XXX-XXX)** _____

Email Address: _____

_____ a.m./p.m. TO _____ a.m./p.m. **Thursday, June 9th (List Open - Close Times)**

_____ a.m./p.m. TO _____ a.m./p.m. **Friday, June 10th (List Open - Close Times)**

_____ a.m./p.m. TO _____ a.m./p.m. **Saturday, June 11th (List Open - Close Times)**

***Note: EACH INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT/Address
Determines THEIR OWN DATES AND TIMES FOR THEIR SALE***

Sale Items: (25 Words Or Less) _____

**Send \$5 payable to Witherbee Neighborhood Association & This Completed Form
Before May 29th, 2022**

TO: 3401 L Street Lincoln NE 68510