



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 20 No. 4 Newsletter

Fall 2023

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

Witherbee Neighborhood Assn's 20th Birthday Celebration



*Join us for a pizza dinner
Thursday, Nov. 16, 6 pm
at Redeemer Lutheran Church
510 South 33rd Street*



It all started in 2003, with a handful of neighbors who decided to work together to keep Witherbee Neighborhood a wonderful place to live. It's now 20 years later, and we are still at it! Our 20th Birthday is the perfect time to celebrate our amazing volunteers and to let them know we appreciate them and all they have accomplished over the years.

A special invitation goes out to our many dedicated volunteers, but we also want to invite anyone who lives in the

Witherbee neighborhood to help celebrate our volunteers and find out more about our activities and opportunities. Join us for a pizza dinner, cake and a brief program to recognize our volunteers on Thursday, Nov. 16th, 6pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 South 33rd St.

We hope you will join us, get to know your neighbors better and find out how you can be involved!

Tennis Center Expansion Addressed by Neighborhood Assn.

by Mike Kreikemeier

The August WNA meeting was held on Thursday, August 24, 2023 at Redeemer Lutheran Church. The meeting was well attended and neighbors discussed changes to the Woods Park master plan allowing The Friends of Woods Tennis Center to move forward with expanding the tennis center. The Summer 2023 edition of the Buzz included a front page article detailing some of the proposed changes. The discussion led to the approval of two motions that were voted on by the members attending the meeting.

Motion 1: WNA is opposed to the proposed draft design submitted by Friends of Woods Tennis to Parks and Recreation on June 2, 2023. WNA will address and consider any future design proposals that emerge throughout the duration of the mediation process.

Motion 2: WNA opposes amending the Woods Park Master plan as proposed by Friends of Woods Tennis submitted to Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Lincoln Parks & Rec Director on June 2, 2023.

While the motions oppose expanding the tennis center there was support for WNA taking part in the mediation process led by The Mediation Center. This discussion led to passing a third motion that WNA would hold a special meeting to select members of the WNA mediation team.

The board met in an open meeting on September 13, 2023 to select these members for the mediation team: James Burton, Mary Schwab, Mike Kreikemeier, Rick Flodman, Rick Bagby, Fred Freytag and Lisa McNeel.

On Thursday, September 14, 2023, Mike Kreikemeier attended the Parks & Rec Advisory Board meeting and presented the motions. Although the Woods Tennis Center expansion proposal was not on the meeting agenda many other concerned neighbors and other citizens in Lincoln spoke against the Tennis Center expansion plan.

The list of mediation team members has been sent to The Mediation Center. No mediation sessions with the team have been scheduled yet. The Mediation Center is working with UNL Public Policy Center designing a community survey to gather information on Woods Park and how it can be used to the benefit of the neighborhood and the surrounding community.

Stay updated on this important topic by checking future issues of the WNA Buzz, the WNA & Woods Park Keep it Green Facebook pages as well as attending the monthly WNA meetings. It's our neighborhood, together we keep it a great place to call home.

**Witherbee
Neighborhood Association**

Boundaries:

33rd to 56th & 'O' to Randolph

Meetings:

7:00 p.m. Check our Facebook page or
website for meeting location.

www.facebook.com/witherbeena

www.WitherbeeNA.org

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Lincoln, NE 68505

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President's Message

Kathy Holland



Five years ago I agreed to be a co-president of WNA. Taking on this job alone was more than I thought I could handle. As it turned out, the other co-president had to step away about six months later. I agreed to continue on as sole president. Now, here we are five years later. I'm the perfect example of one who said, "I don't know enough", "I'm not good enough". With all the support from the Board, doing the job became possible. That is my message to anyone who has an interest in becoming more involved in WNA or another organization. Taking that first step is often the hardest but I think you will

find you will be a better person for volunteering.

All of us want to contribute. We all want to feel we can contribute to our little spot in the world. For those involved in WNA we believe that our neighborhood association can make a difference in decisions that are made by the City, that we can work together to clean-up the neighborhood and that we can bring people together to create a community within the City of Lincoln. None of this could be accomplished without a group of people volunteering their time and working together. No one person has all the skills needed to keep this organization going. I'm proud to have had the chance to work with so many talented people.

So... this leads us to the theme of this year's annual meeting: *Celebrating Volunteers!* The committee has planned an event where there will be plenty of time for food and conversation. The only business will be an election of Board members and officers for 2024. All who live within the Witherbee neighborhood are invited to attend. You do not have to be a member of WNA. It will be a good time to meet some of your neighbors. Please check out the details on page 1 and circle the date on your calendar!

It has been quite an experience to lead this organization and represent WNA! I am humbled to have had this opportunity.

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

– Unknown

With gratitude,

Kathy Holland

WNA Calendar of Events

October 26 WNA Monthly Meeting; 7:00 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church

November 16 20th Birthday & Volunteer Celebration; 6:00 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church

December Monthly Meeting; Date to be Announced

Holiday Lights Contest; Details to be Announced

December 21 James Michael Bowers' Monthly Meeting; 5:30-6:30 pm, Anderson Library, 3635 Touzalin Ave.

January 18 James Michael Bowers' Monthly Meeting; 5:30-6:30 pm, Anderson Library, 3635 Touzalin Ave.

January 25 WNA Monthly Meeting; 7:00 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church

What's Going on at 33rd and A Street Area?

by April Stevenson

Like me, you've probably noticed the updating of the facade and the new signage on the building on 33rd Street between the alley north of A Street going to B Street. I met the new (one year!) owners of the building, Terry and Jen Loge. They've been spiffing up District 33, with more improvements to come. You can meet Jen inside her beauty salon next to the alley.

Next to Jen is Chez Hay, one of Lincoln best caterers. Sean Carmichael has plans to add take-out dinners and soups from his location there, hopefully by December.

In the middle of the strip is Fisher's Beauty and Barber Shop in two of the spots there. Husband and wife, Dwarnell and Corinthia specialize in ethnic hair, healthy hair, weaves and extensions. They're proud to offer a black-owned business in the middle of Lincoln.

Next to the corner of B Street is Curio. I asked Joslyn Schmutte and Sarah Scheer, the owners, to tell me their story: Curio (formerly Stella Clothing and Agora) is a women-owned shop and creative space. Curio offers women's and men's clothing, home goods, handmade pottery, and apothecary items, as well as curated vintage and consignment items. The creative space offers art workshops and special events.

Another change in the intersection is the purchase of A Street Market by Faheem Rashidi, owner of Lincoln Pharmacy. There are improvements in the store and you can now go into the pharmacy from the market. The pharmacy has a full line of health care items, reasonably priced.



Beautiful curated interior of Curio.



Join us in person or online

Redeemer Lutheran Church



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S2age Living Coming to Life

As the season shifts, so does the construction activity at South 47th and 'L' Streets. Tabitha's first phase of construction of S2age Living is wrapping up and student and senior residents will be moving in early November to the So. 48th Street Tower. Work will continue through spring 2023 on the second phase, 'L' Street Tower and other areas.

Take a glimpse of what the future of connection looks like — **join Tabitha at Tis the S2age Season' Holiday Open House from 3 – 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11.** We are opening our doors to the public for you to take in all the amenities the building has to offer and become acquainted with your new neighbors who will call S2age home. We are excited to showcase this beautifully designed, convenient and highly engaged way of life that S2age brings.

In addition, if you are looking to give back to the com-

munity, S2age will be offering some great volunteer opportunities right in the comfort of your own neighborhood. Make a positive impact by joining your neighbors and share your interest with Team S2age to learn more (see contact info below).

Tabitha is grateful for the Witherbee Neighborhood Association. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with you.

Some one and two bedroom as well as micro units are still available. Interested in learning more? Visit Tabitha.org/LiveAtSage to view floor plans and amenities, or contact Aubrey Paulsen, S2age Director, to schedule a personal tour: 402.484.9981 or email Aubrey.Paulsen@Tabitha.org.

Holiday Lighting Contest 2023

The Witherbee Holiday Lighting Contest will be here before we know it! We will be highlighting some of our neighbor's holiday outdoor decorations in December. Email your nominations to the WNA email: witherbeena@gmail.com or call 402-413-0156. Watch for more information on our Facebook page.



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Russ Meyer

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Russ knows our Witherbee neighborhood and has helped many buyers and sellers. As a Lincoln native, Russ has a vested interest in selling Witherbee properties and getting top dollar. Ask Russ for a free market study of your home. With 12 years of sales, Russ is consistently listed in the top 100 REALTORS® in Lincoln!



Seller or Buyer? Call Russ Meyer!

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2023 WNA Survey Summation, Part 3

by Julie Flodman

The purpose of the WNA Survey was to gather information from neighbors and explore “how” the WNA could serve our neighborhood better. The 2023 survey was distributed with the Witherbee Annual Membership form and promoted through the Buzz.

You can still submit your responses through the Witherbee Facebook Page, the WNA Website, our NextDoor App, or by linking to the QR Code on our Website. It’s never too late to have your voice heard. *Surveys can be completed anonymously.*

The third part of this survey analysis was compiled after reviewing 114 survey submissions. Survey answers had to be condensed due to space limitations. All three survey articles can be found on the WNA website in their entirety.

When neighbors were asked what they believed would improve our neighborhood or improve the community spirit of our neighborhood, they suggested:

Social/Seasonal Events:

Easter Egg Hunt

4th of July Bike Parade or Bike Decoration Event; 4th of July Block Parties

Fall Food Truck Party

Routine Block Parties or Inclusive Multi-Block Parties

Quarterly Picnics, Rotating or Changing Park Locations

Presentation topics or other suggestions related to meetings:

Disaster Preparedness

Grass or Lawn information & Maintenance

Tree Trimming, Owner Information & Maintenance

Woods Park: Keep it Green

First Time Home Buyer Information

Community Assistance Programs

Location information and Supply Needs for both Little Free Libraries & Pantries

Bring a Neighbor, Promo to Meetings



WNA Activities or Events:

Signage (Welcome to Witherbee Neighborhood); fundraisers to support

School Supply Drives

Craft Sale

LGBTQ Events

Shredding Event

Welcome Visits or Welcome New Neighbors

Create Neighborhood Babysitter or Daycare Listing

Ecological Campaigns for Trees

Community Garden

Additional Neighborhood Clean-ups to Prevent Trash Build-up

Neighborhood Tours

Scholarship Exchange = Kids trade work for free Piano Lessons, Tutoring, Photography Classes, etc.

WNA work with City to Accomplish:

Sidewalk improvements (added, repaired or leveled)

Form Committee to Represent Neighborhood to LPD & City Government, regarding “O” St. Racing

Improvement in Park Equipment

Add More Sports or other Activities in the Parks: Yoga or Pilates Classes, Meditation, Cycling

Additional Neighborhood Concerns and Suggested Improvements:

Better Communication through Facebook and/or dedicated WNA NextDoor Group

Periodic Newsletter Changes to Catch People’s Eye

Improve Neighborhood Watch

More Communication with Police Regarding Speeding and Noise Issues in Neighborhood

Have Police Patrol Every Street in Witherbee, 2 X’s per Night
Stronger Efforts to Reduce Crime

Put Trash Bins in Stuhr Park

Pressure Home-Owners About their Run-Down Properties
Resurface Randolph 33rd To 40th

Post a notice reminding neighbors to clean-up after their pets.



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Coffee with a Cop



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www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Police

Several WNA members attended the Lincoln version of the nationally celebrated "Coffee With A Cop" day, Wednesday, October 4th. This event was just one of the four events hosted by LPD in all quadrants of the City. The Northeast LPD hosted the event at the Hy-Vee at 50th & 'O'. Those attending from LPD were Captain Bucher, Erika Thompson (public relations officer) and Acting Police Chief, Michon Morrow, along with several additional LPD Officers from various departments. Members of our WNA Crime Team along with other Witherbee neighbors were in attendance.

The event provided an opportunity for casual discussions, for both neighbors and LPD officers, to share open dialog about crime-related concerns and safe neighborhoods.

Our Crime Watch Coordinator, Julie Flodman, reminds us to check out the LPD Facebook page for LPD community events and safety concerns. It also provides neighbors with the opportunity to learn more about LPD. Search for Lincoln Police Department.

Also, all Lincoln residents may sign up for LPD Crime Mapping by using this link:

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

You can sign up to have current crime information for your neighborhood sent to your email address.



Mary Schwab, Jean Klone, Julie Flodman, Kathie Johnson at Northeast Coffee With A Cop.



Captain Woolman, Acting Police Chief Michon Morrow, LPD Officers and Therapy Dog Companion at Southeast Coffee With A Cop.

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Check Out These Beautiful Yards of the Month

by Margaret Indriksons

July Yard of the Month

Janet Ackerman has created unique and colorful multiple garden areas on her property at 518 S. 50th Street. This property has been in Janet's family for many years. Janet left to raise her family and returned in 1996 to care for her mom. Janet is currently an independent Medicare insurance agent and full time gardener.

A lot of work has gone into these gardens and is ongoing.



You can see by the pictures, the multitudes of raised beds in all colors and sizes. These beds contain a variety of annuals (lots of zinnias), perennials, vegetables, and fruit (such as strawberries). Many of the raised beds are fire rings purchased from Amazon that Janet has painted in

bright colors. Janet has recently added many more beds to the backyard. She has big plans as to what will occupy these new beds.

Janet surprised me when she told me that this whole project was started during the Pandemic when as she tells it, she was looking for something to do. Janet is quick to point out that she has had lots of help from her son and others.



L o o k i n g around her property, it is evident that Janet loves color. Color is everywhere in her choice of plants, the colors of her raised beds and her Tibetan

Peace Flags that hang between her house and garage. Take time to drive by this amazing yard. You may discover ideas for your own yard.



August Yard of the Month

You will find this yard at 3636 Woods Avenue. Stan and Linda Collins have called this home for the past 30 years.

The first thing you notice is the well-kept yard and gardens. Almost immediately, your eye is drawn to the unique fencing that starts at the driveway and curves to the back fence. Linda says they wanted something different to make the transition between the lawn and the native planting area. After much research, the fence technique hails the 16th and 17th century, and it happened to be exactly what they were looking for aesthetically.

The couple began their fencing project this year. First, they found a source of willow trees the owner proved too happy to have removed. After bringing the trees home, the process of stripping them of their leaves and thinner branches began. A great amount of straight branches were needed before beginning the fence. Cedar and hackberry comprise the supports and the willow branches are nailed to the supports. Linda said once actual construction of the fence began, the process took about 90 minutes. As you can see, the process and outcome are a sight to behold.

If you stroll down the driveway and peek into the backyard, you will find a lovely oasis that serves as a calm and peaceful place to enjoy lunch or a cup of coffee. Stan and Linda constructed the patio themselves and planted boxwoods and evergreens to enclose the area. And be sure to notice, the three very large river birches. Although, Stan said that he would never plant river birches again; they are famous for dropping leaves and small branches all year round.

The couple say that they love the quiet of the area, the friendly neighbors, and the convenience to church and other activities. Take a stroll and check out this lovely home and yard.



Witherbee Celebrated 20th Birthday at the Pool Party

by Mary Schwab

The weather tried to dampen the WNA 20th Birthday Party on August 6th, as the swimmers and neighbors gathered to celebrate. WitherbeeNA board members, wearing the new WNA t-shirt, greeted with a smile and an invitation to join in membership.

Donations of over \$1,100 for food and prizes by area businesses added fun to the music and announcements by Complete Music.

Redeemer Lutheran Church rented the pool for this event; they also provide the meeting space for WNA each month.

Everyone in Witherbee is invited to volunteer, participate, swim, meet your neighbors and enjoy the Pool Party/ Ice Cream Social next year!



Many thanks to the volunteers who make this party a successful event.



Gus takes to the water in the splash pad



Sadie & Sylvie enjoy bowls of ice cream.



WNA volunteer Barb, Aaron, the winner of the grand prize, is congratulated by Officers Sullivan and Cooper



Paramedic, Christian, visits with Doris & Dora Lee