

Tennis Board Seeks Significant Changes to 2016 Plan

by Mike Kreikemeier

The Friends of Woods Tennis Center Board requested a modification to the Woods Park master plan to allow for significantly expanding the Woods Park Tennis Center on Friday, 6/30/23. The proposal includes erecting another building to cover 4 indoor tennis courts as well as adding 6 outdoor tennis courts. The parking lot along 33rd street would be expanded. The parking lot would have an entrance on the north lining up with Woods Avenue. Another parking lot entrance would be added further south. The walking trail and recently planted trees on the north side of the tennis courts will be removed. These are all major changes to Woods Park.

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation department is finalizing a contract with The Mediation Center to facilitate community engagement. The Mediation Center will be holding public meetings to gather input on modifying the Woods Park master plan. Woods Park is an important part of the neighborhood.

Witherbee NA invites you to get involved and have a voice in how Woods Park is used and developed.

Follow "Woods Park: Keep It Green" on Facebook for information and updates about the Woods Park Master Plan changes.



Witherbee Neighborhood Annual Pool Party & Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 6th, 6 to 8 pm

*Join your friends and neighbors at the
20th Anniversary Party of the
Witherbee Neighborhood Assn
at Woods Park.*

This is a FREE Event!

The pool will be open 6-7:30 pm

Ice cream served 6-8 pm

Cookies, prizes, music & more!

See the Lincoln Fire Department's rig.

Visit with Lincoln Police Officers.

Sign-up for door prizes given away every 1/2 hour beginning at 6:15.

Thanks to all our WNA volunteers!

Co-sponsored by Redeemer Lutheran Church

**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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President's Message

Kathy Holland

Greetings Neighbors! This year continues to be busy as Board members and other volunteers plan WNA sponsored activities. We have also been involved in city government as well as crime and safety issues.

We look forward to working with Redeemer Lutheran Church as we co-host our annual Pool Party & Ice Cream Social. This year is a special year as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Witherbee Neighborhood Association! That will be the theme of this year's Pool Party/Ice Cream Social. We hope you will reserve the date of Sunday, August 6th.

WNA leaders, along with leaders from other neighborhood associations, testified at public hearings held by the Planning Commission and the City Council regarding new zoning rules for Collaborative Living (Sober Homes). Please see the article on page 4. A big thank you to Mary Schwab who led the effort to inform and engage other neighborhoods in getting involved with this issue.

At the end of June, the Friends of Woods Tennis Center Board formally requested a revision of the Woods Park Master Plan with the goal of expanding Woods Tennis Center. (See article on page 1.) This issue has been on the minds of Witherbee residents for the past two years. Woods Park: Keep it Green, a separate group from WNA, has been advocating to keep the current green space and has been very active in maintaining and improving the landscape of Woods Park.

Officially, WNA has not taken a position on this issue. However now that a specific plan has been submitted, WNA will be meeting with representatives of The Mediation Center, who will facilitate discussions and seek our input. There will be opportunities for you to voice your opinion. Please watch the Facebook pages of WNA and Woods Park: Keep it Green for updates as to when meetings will be held. Also, sign-up for email notifications by going to our website, www.WitherbeeNA.org.

As we head into the second half of 2023, we will begin making plans for our annual meeting to be held in November. We will also establish a nominating committee as we seek nominations for Board members for 2024. It is OK to nominate yourself!

Please contact myself or any of the current Board members if you have questions about what is involved. For an organization to stay "fresh" (as opposed to becoming stale) we need individuals who can offer new perspectives. We are also in need of neighbors who would be willing to get involved with our planning teams for activities such as the Pool Party/Ice Cream Social, our annual clean-up, and our annual garage sales. We need volunteers to keep these activities going! Please join us and become involved in your neighborhood!

WNA Calendar of Events

July 27 WNA Monthly Meeting; 7:00 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church

Aug. 6 Pool Party & Ice Cream Social; 6-8pm, Woods Pool and Woods Tennis Center Plaza

Aug.17 James Michael Bowers' Monthly Meeting; 5:30-6:30pm, Anderson Library, 3635 Touzalin Ave.

Aug. 24 WNA Monthly Meeting; 7:00 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church

Sept. 28 WNA Monthly Meeting; 7:00 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church

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

Another Successful Neighborhood Cleanup!

by Mike Kreikemeier

Neighborhood volunteers came together on Saturday, May 6th to help dispose and recycle over 2 tons of material. Many of the items collected were recycled and reused. Over 79 tires were taken to Firestone Complex Auto Care at 66th & Q street to be recycled. Building material was delivered to Habitat for Humanity Restore and over 1 ton of metal was recycled at Alter Metal Recycling.

In the spirit of helping the neighborhood and helping others, over a dozen bicycles were delivered to The Lincoln Bike Kitchen to be repaired. The bikes will be given to kids age 4-13.

Volunteers dressed in fashionable hi-vis vests picked up litter along all of the major streets, around churches, schools and in the neighborhood parks. We picked up over 20 garbage bags full of litter. All of the effort made the neighborhood great. Make our job easier and keep the neighborhood looking great all year, Please don't litter.

The Cleanup is an important project of Witherbee



Volunteers collected many bags of litter from around the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Association. It requires many volunteers to be successful. I would like to thank Dan Weslowski & Bryan Hurst for again volunteering to co-chair the WNA Cleanup with me.

I would also like to thank our business partners that donated services & supplies: Firestone Complete Auto Care at 66th & Q and F-M Lawn Care. The Mid Town Hy-Vee donated coffee and donuts for hard working volunteers. The roll offs were provided Niederhaus Refuse. Funding for the neighborhood cleanup is provided by grants from Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful.



Loading tires, tires and more tires!



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Collaborative Living Update

by Mary Schwab

“Collaborative Living”, an amendment to Lincoln’s zoning Ordinance Title 27 is a conditional use for group housing, commonly called sober homes. This would allow for up to 10 people in one residence, does not provide for therapeutic services, provides on-site parking for .5 cars per resident, and can be spaced within 1000 feet in the Witherbee area zoning of R-2.

The Near South NA drafted a proposal of comprehensive suggestions. WNA as well as the Country Club NA, Irvingdale NA and East Campus NA voted to support that document. With planning department’s refusal for accepting further discussion, the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission unanimously adopted the amended zoning

rules on May 19.

The City Council meeting on June 26 saw dozens in attendance to support the neighborhoods’ requests for amendments to the Collaborative Living proposal. These included Reasonable Accommodation evaluation, spacing, licensing and enforcement.

At the City Council meeting July 10, the ordinance was approved by the Council by a vote of 6-1. It was acknowledged that the ordinance was imperfect and that it would likely need to be updated in the future. Our WNA government liaison committee will continue to follow this issue and provide updates when and if changes are made

FitLot Classes Resume in September at Woods Park

Plan to return to Fitlot classes after Labor Day, September 5th:

Tuesdays – 10:30-11:30am

Wednesdays – 10:30-11:30am

Fridays – 9-10am.

Jessie Krikac leads the informative, easy-to-follow classes, **FREE**, courtesy of Lincoln Parks & Recreation at the AARP Fitlot in Woods Park.

**Have some home improvements to do?
Have equity in your house?
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Contact Cheryl or Dannielle for details and to apply today!



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2023 WNA Survey Summation, Part 2

by Julie Flodman

This portion of the survey analysis was completed by Julie Flodman, June 2023. One hundred and twelve surveys have been submitted to date.

When asked: What do you like best about your neighborhood?

54% responded that they like the friendly people. Respondents wrote that Witherbee neighbors were always willing to stop to chat for a minute. Neighbors also shared that they had developed close relationships with several of their neighbors.

35% responded that they liked the central location of the Witherbee neighborhood; its close proximity to shopping, groceries and many other resources as well as parks.

18% responded that they enjoyed the character of the Witherbee neighborhood, including the shaded, tree lined streets and the variety of different styles & architectural types of homes. They are proud of the clean streets and the homeowners who care about the community & wildlife.

8% commented that they are happy to live in a quiet, peaceful neighborhood.

When neighbors were asked how familiar they were with the Witherbee Neighborhood Association and the volunteer efforts made, they responded:

27% were Very Familiar
46% were Familiar
17% were Somewhat Familiar
6% were Neutral
5% Not Familiar
6% did not answer

When neighbors were asked to choose 1 or more methods of contact, they preferred to get information about events, guest speakers or neighborhood meetings from:

Witherbee Facebook: 21%
Email: 46%
Nextdoor: 8%
Newsletter: 70%

When Neighbors were asked if they would like to participate in the Witherbee Facebook Page and be able to communicate through it, they responded:

37% said YES
57% said NO
6% did not answer

Look for Part 3 of the survey results in the Fall Buzz.

Thank you for submitting your surveys, it's never too late to make a difference and be heard!



Russ Meyer
REALTOR®
ASSOCIATE BROKER
402.310.8262
RUSS@FDRG.NET



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!

Redeemer Lutheran Church
510 South 33rd Street
Summer Rummage Sale
AUGUST 3-5

Thursday & Friday: 7:30AM-5:00PM
Saturday: 8:30AM-Noon



2023 WNA Annual Neighborhood Garage Sales

By Julie FLodman

For several years the WNA has organized an annual neighborhood garage sale event. This year our garage sales were held June 8-10. Witherbee neighbors from twenty-nine homes participated.

This was my third year to hold a garage sale. Not only am I able to downsize but I've met some great people, new and returning customers. Our garage sale event contributes to establishing Witherbee as a friendly community.

I would like to thank all the folks who visited our neighborhood and contributed to the fun. Special thanks to area businesses who helped get the word out by posting flyers announcing the event. Sincere thanks to Rachel Jones who so very kindly makes advertising in the Lincoln Journal Star so easy and so very special! Also, a big thank-you to Chris Booe and all the Witherbee Pantry Administrators for participating on behalf of the Free Little Pantries. Your contributions shine a light on the importance of caring for all of our neighbors.



Lisa Neal's successful garage sale.

And last but not least, thank you to the volunteers who helped this year: Cheryl Wesolowski, Mary Schwab, Kathy Holland, Pastor Rod Lane, Rick Bagby and Rick Flodman. Thank YOU ALL, your support was generous and very much appreciated!

If you would like to see the Witherbee Annual Garage Sales continue and you have suggestions or concerns, please feel free to share your comments with me or any WNA Board Member.



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Check Out These Beautiful Yards of the Month

by Margaret Indriksons

May's Yard of the Month is located on the short two blocks of Laura Avenue. It is the home of Laurie Stepanek. Laurie has lived in her home since 2007. She is the Forest Health Management Specialist with Nebraska Forest Service University of Nebraska. She is the go to person for information on the Emerald Ash borer.



Laurie has removed all grass from her front yard and has layered it with rock ledges. Look carefully and you may find a small plastic animal or two hidden amongst it all. In the



Spring, her front gardens are bursting with tremendous colors of tulips, iris, and other Spring perennials. It is a sight to behold. I, along with others have been the lucky recipients of some of her irises.

She enjoys finding new and unique perennials to add to her front and backyards. She enjoys visiting with neighbors and being just down the street from the church is an added bonus. Laurie is one

of several neighbors on Laura Avenue that designed and maintain the three medians during the last 10 years.

Take a drive down Laura Avenue. Enjoy Laurie's home and check out the medians.



June's Yard of the Month is the lovely home of Matt and Tammy Anderson. The Andersons moved into their home at 3782 H Street in 2001. Matt is an electrician with Capital City Electric and Tammy works in the office of Elliot Elementary School. When asked what they like about the Witherbee Neighborhood they live in, their first response was how peaceful the area is. They also, talked about the wonderful neighbors and the proximity to St. Teresa's, work, and nearby shopping.



The front yard is beautifully serene with an expanse of green lawn and foundation plantings. The back area is in transition. The comforting back porch, redesigned and built by Matt and Tammy is the perfect place to enjoy morning coffee. The couple has added a patio and plan to build



a pergola over it. This, too, will be designed and built by them, making it a perfect place for family and friends to gather. Stop by 3782 and say "hi" the next time you stroll down H Street.



Drive by the July' Yard of the Month, 518 S. 50th. It's a fascinating and very large garden area. (Article and photos next issue.)

Do you have a friend or neighbor who does an exceptional job with their lawn and landscaping? If so, please nominate them for Yard of the Month! Send nominations to Margaret Indriksons at mindriks@aol.com or call 402-217-4882. Please include the address of the nominee plus their name and phone number if you know it.

Neighborhood Crime Watch

by Julie Flodman

On May 11th Witherbee neighbors were invited to the 1st Northeast Team LPD meeting at the New Hope Church at 45th & Orchard St. The purpose of the town hall was to increase communication between area residents and the Lincoln Police Department. Information and concerns were shared between neighbors and the Northeast Team Area Captain, Jeff Bucher, along with LPD Chief Ewins and several other LPD staff and the Swat Team Commander.

The LPD Southeast Team held a similar Town Hall, June 12th at the Auld Recreation Center at Antelope Park. Residents of the Witherbee Neighborhood were invited to attend this meeting also, along with the neighborhoods in the Southeast area. Area team Captain Mike Woolman and LPD Chief Ewins along with additional LPD Commanders and staff attended this meeting and shared information and statistics relevant to the Southeast area.

Attendees of both the Northeast and Southeast Team Town Halls learned about crime statistics in their neighborhoods and had the opportunity to voice their concerns and questions in an open floor discussion with LPD Officers. Neighbors received strategies and listened to the experienced advice offered by the LPD about protecting themselves and their neighbors.

Did you know the Witherbee neighborhood is protected

by both the Northeast Team and the Southeast Team? The western portion of Witherbee, 33rd - 40th Streets is part of the Northeast Team while the remaining portion, 40th - 56th Streets is part of the Southeast Team.

LPD plans to continue to hold Town Hall meetings in the future and will share the location, date & time with Crime Team Coordinators and on the LPD Facebook page.



Would you like to be a part of the Crime Watch Team/Group? It's simple!

- ◆ The Crime Watch Group involves neighbors who work together to communicate incidents such as porch pirates/thieves, accidents and safety information.
- ◆ They serve their neighborhood by staying informed through the Lincoln Police Department's Citizen Awareness Programs.
- ◆ They offer support to one-another by looking out for their neighbors.

If you are interested in participating or volunteering to support this team, please return this sheet to me with your name, address, email address and phone number on the lines provided below. .

Julie Flodman, Coordinator
3401 L St.
jsifftring@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone # : _____

Preferred Method of Contact: _____

Interests or concerns you would like to share: _____

Do You Have a Video Camera You Are Willing To Allow LPD Access To, For Video Review:

_____ Yes _____ No