

Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 20 No. 1 Newsletter

Winter 2023

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

We Need YOUR Help!

Please, take a few minutes to complete our 2023 neighborhood survey. We hope this survey will help



the WNA bring neighbors together to be one voice, united in strength, sharing community awareness and promoting neighborhood involvement. We hope to collect new information from our neighbors and develop a fresh community vision of our Witherbee friends, we want to represent YOU.

The WNA would like to make your effort to complete the survey and share your thoughts with us simple and convenient. The same survey has been made available to you in various ways:

- You may have already received your Annual WNA
 Membership Form along with the Survey in your
 mailbox. If you did not receive them, please go to www.
 witherbeena.org and follow the links to complete both
 the Annual Membership form and the Survey online.
- A digital copy of the survey may also be accessed at bit.ly/WNAsurvey2023 or by scanning the QR Code:



The WNA is a resident-led, nonprofit group of volunteers who care about their neighbor's ideas and interests. Please help us improve and refresh, by submitting your survey. All comments are very important, welcomed, and will be held confidential.

WNA Calendar of Events

March 23 – 7:00 pm WNA meeting, Justin Evertson, Speaker. Please note this is the 4th Thursday, rather than our usual 1st Thursday. We will be discussing moving our meeting date to the 4th Thursday rather than the 1st Thursday at our February meeting. Stay tuned for upcoming meeting dates for April & May.

April 4 - Lincoln City Primary Election

April 15 – UNL Big Event

May 2 - Lincoln City General Election

May 6 – Spring Clean-up

Nebraska's Largest Pin Oak Tree is here in Witherbee Neighborhood!

See it here, at the next WitherbeeNA meeting on Thursday, March 23 at 7pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S. 33rd Street.

Justin Evertson, Educator and Green Infrastructure Coordinator from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, will show us drought tolerant landscape design and saving money on watering in this changing climate. You will appreciate the value of trees on your property, the



need to develop diversity in species and age of trees and how to keep them prominent over time. Justin says we need to be proactive in tree planting in Lincoln's older neighborhoods.

Justin will also comment on Lincoln's newest Statewide Arboretum affiliate Landscape Steward site at Woods Park, our neighborhood park.

Justin Evertson has worked for the Nebraska Forest Service and Nebraska Statewide Arboretum since 1990, serving as the green infrastructure coordinator since 2010. He oversees programs that provide funding, technical assistance and educational outreach for community forestry and public landscaping efforts across the state.

His areas of expertise are in trees, arboriculture and sustainable landscaping. Evertson has authored several publications with an emphasis on woody plant selection. He's passionate about trees, the native landscape, biodiversity and sustainability.

See Inside Stories:



Holiday Lights Contest 2022 pg. 7

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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

We have exciting news about Woods Park! The Woods Park: Keep It Green organization and Lincoln Parks and Rec officials have announced that Woods Park has been named a Nebraska State Arboretum Affiliated Landscape Steward Site. This is a significant award as it recognizes, "excellence in landscape horticulture." You can learn more about this recognition from the Woods Park: Keep it Green article. Better yet, make plans to attend the presentation by Justin Evert-

son at our WNA meeting March 23rd. Although Woods Park lies outside the Witherbee neighborhood boundary, there is a lot of history of between Woods Park & WItherbee. We were reminded of this at our Annual Meeting in November when Ed Zimmer spoke about this history.

For more than 15 years WNA has met on the first Thursday of the month. For much of this time, we met at Tabitha at 48th & Randolph. The pandemic has brought many changes, one of these being the need to find an alternate meeting site. In addition to Tabitha we have met at Hawthorne, Lefler and most recently at Woods Tennis Center. We are grateful to all of these organizations for serving as our host. At our February 2nd meeting we will be discussing the possibility of changing our meeting date to the 4th Thursday of the month. This change is being considered as we look for a location that can hold 20-25 people, or more, when we host a special speaker. If this change would affect your ability to attend a meeting or be active in the association, we want to hear from you.

In this issue of the Buzz, we are excited to introduce six new Board members. We are thankful that these individuals are willing dedicate some of their time to support WNA. As you will see by reading their bios, they bring much talent to the table. The current number of Board members exceeds the maximum number outlined in our bylaws. However, the 2022 Board believed we needed to increase this number so that we can transition some new people into leadership positions.

We did have three board members step away from their positions at the end of 2022. We thank Jay Ridenour- 4 yrs, Tim Duey -4 yrs, and Mary Rowan -3 yrs ,for their service to WNA. A highlight of 2022 was the opportunity to welcome April Stevenson to our newsletter team. She has years of newsletter and printing experience and is volunteering her time to advise us and do the layout and graphics for the *Buzz*.

Last but not least, please note the front page story about your opportunity to provide feedback and your ideas for the improvement of WNA. Please complete the survey that you receive in the mail. Or go on-line to complete it if you prefer. We would like your feedback about what we are doing well and what we could do to help WNA meet your needs. While you're at it, consider becoming a member of WNA or renew your membership. If you haven't already done so you can complete the form you received in the mail. The same form is on the back page of this newsletter. Or, again, you may do this on-line.

Your neighbor, Kathy Holland, WNA President

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nebraska-property-tax-credit



Woods Park Gets Arboretum Status

by Jane Raglin Holt

In November KIG member Mary Anne Wells worked with Parks staff to submit paperwork for Woods Park to become an Arboretum. In late January, the Nebraska State Arboretum (NSA) notified the Parks Department that Woods

Park will be designated a Landscape Steward site. The NSA called out the park's "excellence in horticulture" in their notification. KIG and neighborhood volunteers will provide the Parks Department with hands-on support in the process, as needed.

After being designated an Adopt-a-Park group this fall, Woods Park: Keep It Green volunteers and neighbors have worked to remove suckers and weeds from several treed areas of

the park. The group will also look at refurbishing and maintaining the park's pollinator garden on the north side.

If you would like to help with any of Keep It Green's ongoing maintenance projects, email KIG member Mary Anne Wells at mamwells2@gmail.com. Find Woods Park: Keep it Green on Facebook.





Serence Woods Park vista.



You are invited to attend Vacation Bible School at Redeemer Lutheran Church 510 South 33rd Street June 5-9, from 9:00AM-Noon. Open to children ages 3 thru grade 5 (Including those that just finished grade 5) Online registration will begin on April 5 www.redeemerlincoln.org



327-0705

Hours:

M.-F. 8-6 Sat. 8-12

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Randolph Circle Update

by Mike Fitzgerald

The Witherbee neighborhood is gaining home owners as the building of homes in the Randolph Circle development at South 41st Circle continues.

The Lincoln Lancaster Planning Commission approved the WNA-brokered redevelopment plan on January 22nd, 2020, but Covid-19 put the brakes on most everything in Lincoln for much of the rest of that year. However, developers Ken and Lana Rosburg, their engineer consultant and city officials continued working on plan details which allowed grading to be done in the fall. And construction of the first home, 745 South 41st Circle, began in May 2021. In December 2021, the new home at 709 South 41st Circle was the first to be occupied.

The special permit for redeveloping the area allows for the construction of 13 homes. That is much less of a footprint than a 2003 plan by a previous developer, which called for a day care center for 100 children and 32 condo units. After sparking neighborhood opposition, that plan was unanimously voted down by the Planning Commission.

Of the 13 homes approved, eight are nearly done and two more are now being framed. Most of the new owners are from or near Lincoln, some from within the Witherbee area, and most are active in their careers.

Ken Rosburg said the new residents were attracted to low-maintenance homes within the city rather on the edge of town. Membership in the homeowner's association is part of their purchase, and benefits include lawn care, snow and refuse removal and maintenance of the common area sidewalks.

Rosburg said he intends to keep building. The homes have all been about 1,400 square feet on the main floor, making a possible total finished area of around 2,700 square feet, including two bedrooms up and two bedrooms in the basement. When directed early enough by the buyer, Rosburg can leave the basement unfinished.

Additional items on his task list include more sidewalks and planting trees along the street.



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The Rosburgs also own the lot at 4105 J Street, which is on the north side of the Randolph Circle homes. It was a smaller home with foundation problems and repairs would have cost more than the value of the house. The house was removed and the Rosburgs plan to build a single-family home on the property.

Asked what challenges they had to overcome to get the project to its current status, Ken said delays in getting infrastructure (water, sewer, electricity, and the new street) completed took nearly a year. "Far and away though," he said, "the elevated cost of constructing the homes has been the biggest struggle."

However, the most pleasing aspect of the project for the Rosburgs has been them seeing owners get excited about moving into their new homes.

One aspect few people think about is what happens to all the dirt excavated for basements of the new homes. That dirt primarily has gone to help fill demolition projects within the city, such as filling the hole left after a house or a commercial building is razed.

Reflecting on the blossoming project, WNA President Kathy Holland reiterated the closing comment she made while testifying during the Planning Commission's hearing on the project. The neighborhood appreciates and recognizes the significant improvement the Rosburgs made to the residences and landscape plans and their willingness to work with the Witherbee Neighborhood Association."

"We look forward to meeting the new Witherbee neighbors and hope they will want to join WNA and participate in our activities," Holland added.



Of the 13 homes approved in the Randolph Circle plan, eight are nearly done and two more are now being framed. Most of the new owners are from or near Lincoln, some from within the Witherbee area, and most are active in their careers.

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2023 New WNA Board Members

Mike Fitzgerald

Mike Fitzgerald joins the WNA Board for a second time. He was a member of the first board and served as President when the association was formed in March of 2003. While not a board member for many years, he has remained active, participating in annual events and special projects.



His wisdom and experience bring even more support and strength to our neighborhood association. Mike and his wife, Elizabeth, raised their five children in the Witherbee neighborhood after moving to their home on H Street in early 1996. His hobbies include gardening, woodworking, and playing with his grandchildren. Mike's career has included editing the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association magazine and assisting Lincoln residents in need at Catholic Social Services. Welcome back Mike!

James Fleege

James and his wife moved to the Witherbee neighborhood in August of 2022. He enjoys kayaking, woodworking and disc golf. James is currently serving as the VP of the Lincoln Flying Disc Club and promotes disc golfing in the community. James spent the majority of his career in the music



industry as an audio engineer and producer and has also recently started working at UNL in the media production offices. Jame's wife, Lydia, teaches at Lincoln High School. Welcome to Witherbee!

Kathie Johnson

Moved to the Witherbee neighborhood in the early 70's. She and her husband purchased multiple homes in this neighborhood because of the friendliness of Witherbee folks. The neighborhood has been home for her family for





Full service grocery store open 7am-10pm everyday! Fresh Randy's donuts & coffee daily • "Grab & Go" hot soup & sandwiches • Best meat & produce in town! more than 50 years. Kathie's son attended Hawthorne elementary school. Kathie retired as the Director of Children & Family Ministries from First Plymouth Congregational Church. She enjoys walking through Witherbee and meeting neighbors. Kathy believes a friendly hello and a brief visit to learn about their dog or children is a great way to meet neighbors and she enjoys every opportunity. Kathie's late husband taught her how to play the Carillon Bells at First Plymouth Church. She now continues to climb the tower at the church to play the Carillon Bells every Sunday and for special events.

Jean Klone

Jean and her husband moved to Witherbee after retiring in 2013. Jean has one daughter and two sons, plus the blessings of 10 grandchildren. Her children live with their spouses and children in Lincoln or the Waverly area.



Jean retired from her career as a Registered Nurse. She worked in geriatrics, rehabilitation & research, specializing in work place safety. She noted that it was a very gratifying career, sometimes filled with laughter and other times, heartbreaking. She is proud to say she is a nurse. Taking care of people rewarded her with fond memories and a sense of gratification knowing she made a difference in someone's life, with memories to cherish.

Jean loves to work in her yard, either planting flowers or pulling weeds (which she says there are plenty of). She is a huge football fanatic and a Kansas City Chiefs fan. Jean calls Witherbee her "forever home." Jean, thank-you for caring and sharing your time!

Rod Lane

Has been a part of the Witherbee neighborhood while working at Redeemer Lutheran Church for 15 years. Rod serves as the Director of Christian

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Holiday Lights make Witherbee Neighborhood Merry & Bright!

by Mike Kreikemeier

The neighborhood looked festive for the holiday season thanks to all the people that created light displays on and around their home. The WNA Holiday Lights committee met on a very cold night in December to ooh and ahh over the holiday displays. After driving around the neighborhood to see the nominated homes, the group selected the following homes for this year's win-

Simple Elegance: 3725 M Street; Kirk & Cindy Conger

Best for LES: 714 South 33rd; Stephanie Saalfeld

Best Little Free Library Lights: 700 S 42nd Street; Brian &

Katie Hammond

Festive & Bright: 3812 H Street; Charlie, Claire & Noah Worley

Reason for the Season: 4118 L Street; Allan & Julie Dasenbrock

Festive and Bright: 5113 M Street; Windy, Bill, Elly & Kain Johnson

Visions of Sugarplums: 354 S 54th Street; Stacy & A.J. Schuman



Lighting up Reading was a clever spin on Holiday

The committee had a lot of fun driving around the neighborhood to see all of the displays. A few nights later it was even more fun to present awards to the winners. Each winning home shared a little story about their holiday lights. It was nice to meet the winners and visit with neighbors on a very cold night. Thanks to all of the winners for graciously opening their door on such cold winter nights

Winners were awarded a gift certificate to A Street Market, Hy-Vee, Super Saver or Runza. The WNA 2022 Holiday Lights committee members were Julie Flodmon, Dawn Bevans, Jan Swanson

and Mike Kreikemeier. Photos of all the winning displays are on the WNA Facebook page.



The multitude of white lights displayed by Stephanie Saalfeld really brightened up the dark winter night.



Charlie, Claire & Noah Worley receiving the Festive and Bright award.

The UNL Big Event is April 15,1-3pm

Since its introduction in 2006, The Big Event at University of Nebraska - Lincoln has become the largest, one-day, student-run service project in the state of Nebraska. Each spring 3,000 UNL students will be entering the community to serve the people that allow them to call Lincoln home. Could you use some help for that project that you are just not able to do on your own, maybe spring yard clean-up? When you complete the on-line registration to request volunteers, the Big Event coordinators will assign students to come to your home and help with your job. Please note, students are restricted from using power tools. Examples

of jobs they can do include painting (exterior or interior), Lincoln Pharmacy Your Friendly Community Pharmacy!

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plant trees or flowers, trash pick-up and1st story window cleaning. Depending on the job, they may work up to two hours at your home.

To sign up, visit the website: www.bigevent.unl.edu and click on "request volunteers, then "private residence". From there you will fill out a form specifying the number of volunteers you can use and the type of project that the volunteers will help with. Registration will open February 15th. If you have questions you may email bigevent.unl@gmail. com. If you need assistance signing up, please call the WNA phone number at 402-413-0156, leave a message and someone will get back to you.



2023 New WNA Board Members, continued

Education of Youth, Family and Outreach. Rod and his wife Lori have been married for 28 years. They have two children, ages 22 and 24. Rod's work and his dogs are the closest thing he has to a hobby. His dog's names are Rocket, a Sheltie and Guilda, an Australian Shepard. They walk the Witherbee neighborhood with Rod, almost daily. Both dogs have helped Rod deliver the *Witherbee Buzz*. Rod enjoys paying trivia with his sons twice a month and always enjoys family vacations. Your Witherbee neighbors are grateful for your help!

Janice Swanson

Has lived In Witherbee for over 20 years. She has seven children and one grandchild. Janice works as a Speech & Language Pathologist at Madonna Rehab Hospital... and she loves it! Her favorite activities include her family and her work. She loves to see kids playing outside year-round and people walking their dogs. Janice also enjoys sitting on



her front patio and relaxing in the evenings. Janice's favorite neighborhood events are Halloween and the WNA Ice Cream Social & Pool Party. Handing out Halloween candy, watching faces light-up for ice cream, brings a smile to Janice's face.

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Director of Parks & Recreation speaks at our December 1st Meeting



Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Lincoln, was our guest for our December 1st meeting. Maggie has been making a point to visit community organizations. Our December meeting was the 15th neighborhood association meeting since assum-

ing the role of Director following the retirement of Lynn Johnson in June.

She elaborated on her priorities: First is the "Mayor's priority," which is establishing the new downtown park that will lie on nine acres south of the Haymarket. Second priority is bolstering the section of Community Forestry as they prepare for an influx of federal funding through the American Rescue Plan for Parks and Recreation Departments in cities with populations of more than 50,000 in Nebraska. Maggie reported that the greatest need is for replanting trees lost from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and overall deferred maintenance forestry requirements. Maggie's third priority is to develop a strategic plan which includes a community forestry plan and a street tree master plan.

Maggie answered questions from the group and encouraged us to contact her office with any questions or concerns.





Join Us in Making a Difference in 2023!

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association (WNA) continues to help maintain and enhance the neighborhood you call home. And to help keep your neighborhood strong, we are conducting our annual membership appeal. As your neighbors and WNA volunteers, we hope you will send in your membership (or sign up or renew online at www.witherbeena.org/membership).

Your membership dues help support the production of our newsletter, help with the cost of hosting our annual neighborhood pool party/ice cream social and other activities. But more importantly, we need your input and your ideas. (Please complete and submit the enclosed WNA Survey) We need you to help with WNA events and activities. For example, we need help with the Neighborhood Clean-up in May, the Ice Cream Social/Pool Party in August (or another social activity). In addition we can always use individuals who would like to write an article for the quarterly newsletter or help distribute the newsletter in the neighborhood. There are many other ways to volunteer. Please indicate below the activities you are interested in helping with and we will contact you to visit further about the committee or activity. If questions, contact Kathy Holland at 402-310-9153, email: witherbeena@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, within the organization. Please attend a meeting or participate in an activity! You do not need to be a member to participate. Come check us out!

And finally, one of the best reasons to participate in WNA – it is a great way to meet nice and interesting people – from across the street, down the block and throughout your neighborhood.



Become a new member or renew your membership today!

Date:	Phone:	Membership Categories: \$20.00 Household
Email:	My Preferred Method of Contact:emailphonetextphysical mail Mail this form along with your payment to: WNA Treasurer, P.O. Box 5431, Lincoln, NE 68505. You may also now pay your dues online at www.witherbeena.org	
	 Membership Committee Neighborhood Clean-up (help day of the event) Crime Watch Team Garage Sales Committee 	Holiday Lights Contest Committee Witherbee Event Food Committee Government Liaison Committee Board of Directors (board member) If you don't see something you're interested in here, please tell us your ideas and suggestions!