



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 22 No. 4 Newsletter

Fall 2025

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

Volunteer Appreciation Event

Thursday, November 20th, 6 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S 33rd St.

Our November meeting will be a time to celebrate our neighborhood, our volunteers and WNA's accomplishments in the past year. Come enjoy a pizza dinner at 6 pm followed by a presentation by Mary Kay Roth and Jane Holt regarding their brain child, *Naturally Nebraska*. In February 2019, these two friends got the idea to make short films highlighting our state. Six years and 222 videos later, *Naturally Nebraska* is still telling local stories. At our November 20th meeting, Mary Kay and Jane will share stories of the journey and show some clips of favorite—and disastrous—

moments from the show.

The evening will conclude with acknowledgement of some of WNA's volunteers and highlights of WNA's work in 2025. We will also elect board members & officers for 2026.

All Witherbee neighbors are invited to join us, Thursday, November 20th at 6:00 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church in the Family Education Building, 510 S. 33rd Street. You do not need to be a member of WNA to attend this free event..



*The Annual Witherbee Holiday Lighting Contest is
just around the corner!*

*Win Great Prizes * Join the Fun*

Nominate your Neighbors or nominate Yourself!

*The winning homes will be featured on the WNA Facebook page
and in the Witherbee Buzz.*

Email your nominations to witherbeena@gmail.com

Or call 402-413-0156 to leave a voicemail message

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Witherbee Neighborhood Association Community Page

**Wetherbee
Neighborhood Association**

Boundaries:

33rd to 56th and 'O' to Randolph

Meetings:

Fourth Thursday of the month, 7pm
Redeemer Lutheran Church

www.facebook.com/witherbeena

www.WetherbeeNA.org

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President's Message

Mike Kreikemeier



It has been a busy fall around Wetherbee Neighborhood. Here is a list of some of the things that happened in August, September & October:

The annual Pool Party & Ice Cream Social was a cool success.

The LPD K9 Team gave an interesting presentation. The specially trained dogs were the stars of the show.

10 Trees were planted around the neighborhood.

Ed Zimmer's History Walk was a well attended success.

The Special WNA Tour and Workshop at the Lincoln-Lancaster Genealogical Society was an interesting dive into history.

Not to brag too much but it is great to see this many things going on around the neighborhood.

I hope you were able to attend or take advantage of the many programs and activities. These events are great ways to meet new people, learn something interesting and stay connected with your neighbors.

As always, it's the volunteers that make things happen. WNA is always looking for more people to help out. If you are interested in getting involved the best place to start is by becoming a member and attending the monthly meetings.

The November 20th meeting is our Annual Appreciation Dinner. It is a fun night full of visiting, dinner and thanking people that have helped WNA succeed. See the article on the front page for more details.

The November meeting is also when we elect new Officers & board members. That means that I will be stepping down as President at the end of the year. I would like to thank the entire board of directors and especially the officers - Julie Flodman, Mary Schwab and Jan Swanson. This team has done a wonderful job of making the neighborhood better. Thanks for saying "Yes, I'll help".

Although I will not be president, I will still be involved with Wetherbee Neighborhood Association. And I hope you all say "Yes, I'll help" when I call, email or ask when I see you around the neighborhood. The next list of Wetherbee events can't happen without you!

WNA Calendar of Events

- | | |
|---|--|
| Nov. 20 | WNA Annual Appreciation Night, Dinner & Program, 6:00 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S 33rd St. |
| Dec. 18-19 | Holiday Lights Judging |
| No WNA monthly meeting in December. Happy Holidays! | |
| Jan. 15 | James Michael Bowers Northeast Citizens Meeting, 5:30-6:30 pm at Anderson Branch Library |
| Jan. 22 | Wetherbee Planning Meeting, 7:00 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S. 33rd St. |
| Feb. 19 | James Michael Bowers Northeast Citizens Meeting, 5:30-6:30 pm at Anderson Branch Library |
| Feb. 26 | Wetherbee Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S 33rd St. |

LPD K9 Unit Presentation to Witherbee Residents

by the Witherbee Crime Team

A full house attended the Lincoln Police Department's K9 Unit presentation September 10th at S2age Living on the Tabitha campus. Officers Howard, Housh and Arnold spoke while canine's Eros and Dredd showed off their skills. Attendees from 5 to 85 years of age learned how this special unit works to keep citizens of Lincoln safe by tracking suspects, sniffing out narcotics and detecting explosives.

Since the first LPD Officer and Canine were paired in

1961, the team has proven to be a valuable resource to LPD. The current unit consists of five canine officers and their partners. Lincoln's LPD Officers and their canines work, train, and live together creating a special bond between the officer and their dog.

You can learn more about the LPD K9 Team at:
<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Police/About-LPD/History/Canine-Unit>



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July Yard of the Month

by Margaret Indriksons

Head over to the home of Robert and Monica Cramm at 631 S. 45th and you will find a delightful yard consisting of variety of perennials, annuals, and garden décor. Check out the fun fairy garden that resides on the front porch.

Robert and Monica moved into their home in August of 2018. Monica expressed that when she moved back to Lincoln, she hoped to find a place close to where she grew up. As luck would have it, she found a place just two miles from her childhood home.



had to revamp their choices. Where hostas once thrived, varieties of ornamental grasses, hydrangeas, and zinnias were added to take advantage of the sunny area.

Monica said how much they enjoy living in the Witherbee Neighborhood. She appreciates the neighbors who wave and stop to visit. Monica loves her walks with her dogs, Henry, a Golden Retriever and Maya, a Great Pyrenes.

Robert and Monica are always looking to add more to their gardens. Stop by, offer your thoughts and maybe, a plant or two.

Robert and Monica are new gardeners and are learning as they continue to make adjustments in their landscape. Before moving back to Lincoln, they explain that they had zero experience because they were busy raising their two children Taylor and Olivia, both grown now.

When a storm took out a large shade tree in their front yard, it presented a challenge. Now, instead of hostas, Robert and Monica



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August Yard of the Month

by Margaret Indriksons

Every month, I get the delightful task of choosing an inspiring and delightful Witherbee Yard of the Month. I am lucky to have many nominations but it does make it tough to pick just one. For August, I chose the home of Steven and Sally DeLair. You'll find their home at 3412 Woods Avenue alongside many other well-kept yards in the neighborhood.

Steven and Sally are not new to the neighborhood. They moved in 29 years ago come this November and here they raised their two children, Steven and Andrea.

Sally is a commercial realtor with NAIFMA Realty and Steven is an artist. It is evident, they use their skills in designing and maintaining their lovely yard, both front and back. When asked about their experiences with gardening, they expressed their life-long love of it and how they learned by doing it.

The front yard is pleasing to look at and pairs well with



the architecture of the house. The backyard is chalked full of color and interesting annuals, shrubs, and perennials. Sally and Steven say that the backyard is their favorite part of the yard where you will find two distinctive garden settings. It is a lovely setting to enjoy any time of the day.

The couple expresses that they are quite fond of the neighborhood. They like the centrally location and that Woods Park is so nearby. As with most occupants of Witherbee, they enjoy the friendliness of the neighbors.

To see color photos of this home and others, please check out the Witherbee Facebook page.



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I had many nominations this year for YARD OF THE MONTH. I thought that I would list them here. They are all lovely and well-maintained yards. Drive by and take a peek. I apologize if I missed or repeated any. Thanks for all the suggestions!

Please, renominate these and others next year.

3527 J	4132 L	421 S. 44
3734 H	3788 H	3511 M
3401 Woods	3468 Woods	3475 Woods

Witherbee Neighbors & Bryan School Team up to Green up

by Kathy Hollarnd

On the afternoons of October 9th & 10th Witherbee neighbors, school staff and students transformed the landscape surrounding Bryan School at 300 S. 48th St. to one that will look a lot more green in the spring of 2026. Using donated perennials, all of this work was done without cost to the school or WNA.

Thanks to the many neighbors who donated plants and to those who donated their time: Cheryl Sharp, Rick Bagby, Janet Buck as well as the Bryan Principle, Denise Craig and Cheryl Wilkins, School Librarian, plus the many students who were able to break away from class for an hour.

We look forward to continuing to work together!



Coordinators of the Project: Principle Denise Craig, Mary Schwab, Margaret Indriksons, Kathy Holland, School Librarian, Cheryl Wilkins



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Mail to WNA Treasurer, PO Box 5431, Lincoln NE 68505

2025 Annual Pool Party

Never underestimate the twists in Nebraska weather. It was a chilly day for the annual swim party on Sunday August 3rd. Yet, the pool party was a success. Neighbors came together to swim, enjoy ice cream treats donated by Mid-Town Hy-Vee and visit on a cool but pleasant summer evening.



The chilly weather didn't deter the little ones from enjoying the spray ground.



Teenagers brave the cold for a swim in Woods Pool.



A "heated" discussion to warm up after a cool swim.



José Herraro, fourth from the right, surrounded by Witherbee Neighborhood board members.

Hidden Holiday Treasure in our Neighborhood

Last January a few Witherbee neighbors met at **Cristo Rey Catholic Church, 4221 J St.**, to view the nativity display that has become a favorite stop for hundreds of Lincolniters during the holiday season. The detailed display, which is more than 28 feet long, depicts the town of Bethlehem, the village of Nazareth, the walled city of Jerusalem, and Egypt. It features more than 200 moving and stationary figurines, running water with live fish and swirling smoke from a chimney. The display runs on a four-minute cycle, portraying night and day.

According to José Herraro, artistic director and one of the organizers, many pieces featured in the display are from all over the world. There is a stone from the Sea of Galilee, icons from Egypt, and pieces from Italy and Spain.

A group of dedicated volunteers work around the clock for a week to ensure the intricate display is ready for visitors by mid-December. While there is no admission fee, donations are appreciated. In the past, proceeds have gone to support Catholic communities overseas and a local charity, the St. Vincent DePaul Society, which supports those in need in and around Lincoln.

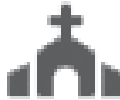
Watch our Facebook page in December for dates and hours the display will be open for viewing.



327-0705

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

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Saturday at 6 PM, or
Sunday at 8:30 AM or 11 AM.
More info on FaceBook page

Witherbee Tree Idea Takes Root

by Mike Kreikemeier

Ten trees were planted in the western section of Witherbee Neighborhood on September 26th & 27th. The new trees look great and will only get better as they mature. Planting the trees was the culmination of work started by Mary Schwab several months ago. Mary wanted to plant trees in the neighborhood to replace some of the trees that had been lost to storm damage, old age and street projects.

Mary found that the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum sponsored a grant program that provides free trees to organizations that will plant and maintain the trees in public spaces.



Tree planting perfection!

In this case the public space was to fill in missing “street” trees. A street tree is a tree planted in the public right of way between the sidewalk and street. Mary brought her tree idea to WNA and a tree committee was formed with members Mary, Mike Kreikemeier & Kathy Holland. The committee found a tree expert in Pete Smith. Pete retired from a career with the Arbor Day Foundation. The committee applied for the tree grant in July and was awarded 10 trees in August.

Then the work really began. The committee did an inventory in the western section of Witherbee neighborhood selecting places where street trees were missing. Next, a tree interest form was delivered to each household where a street tree was missing. Committee members met with many neighbors when delivering the tree interest forms. Trees and planting would be provided free of charge. The home owner only needed to agree to water the tree the first few years. Ten neighbors quickly showed enthusiastic interest in getting a new tree.



Pete Smith explains how to successfully plant a tree.

The trees were delivered from Great Plains Nursery on September 11th. The committee then asked for volunteers to help plant the trees. Home owners and tree enthusiasts stepped forward and soon tree planting teams were formed. Pete Smith provided an informative tree planting tutorial while the group planted the first of the 10 trees. 5 trees were planted on Friday and the remaining 5 trees were planted on Saturday. All of the trees were mulched and watered. Thanks to all of the neighbors that helped make Witherbee more Green. Thanks to Pete Smith for all his help and guidance and thanks to Nebraska Statewide Arboretum for sponsoring the Tree grant program. Hopefully this tree grant program will continue for several more years and WNA can plant street trees throughout the neighborhood. Planting trees in Witherbee every year will pay big dividends for decades.



The tree planting crew gather around 10 trees to plant.