



The Witherbee Buzz

Vol. 23 No. 1 Newsletter

Winter 2026

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

March 26th Meeting – DIY Home Gardening

by Mike Kreikemeir

DIY (Do-it-Yourself) Home Gardening task force member, Julie Diegel, will present an overview of the DIY initiative, hatched in 2024 by a small group of experienced gardeners and neighborhood activists, at the Witherbee Neighborhood meeting on Thursday, March 26th at 7:00 p.m, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 S. 33rd Street.

DIY Home Gardening is an outgrowth of the Hawley Hamlet Neighborhood Garden, started by Tim Rinne and Kay Walter in 2009. (Tim gave a presentation at the Witherbee NA meeting in April 2025, and Kay provided tours of Hawley Hamlet for Witherbee and Woods Park Neighborhoods later that Spring.)

Julie will share updates on the coalition of city and nonprofit organizations now supporting this effort, an overview of the newly launched Transplant Brigade, and ideas about how residents of Witherbee and other neighborhood associations can help the initiative increase home gardening and food security across Lincoln. Free DIY Home Gardening yard signs will be shared with gardeners who wish to display them in their



WNA Membership Drive 2026

by Rod Lane

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association is dedicated to fostering a strong, connected, and vibrant community. Our association is not a regulatory body but a group of residents committed to promoting a positive neighborhood environment and encouraging constructive neighbor-to-neighbor engagement.

A strong membership base allows the Association to effectively advocate for neighborhood interests with city officials and to support initiatives that improve our shared quality of life. Paid membership remains crucial to maintaining our budget and ensuring the continuation of our activities, programs, and services.

Membership directly supports the following initiatives:

- * Spring Community Event
- * Neighborhood Clean-Up Project
- * Quarterly Newsletter
- * Community Crime Watch
- * Representation at the Mayor’s Round Table
- * Speakers and advocacy on neighborhood issues
- * Summer Pool Party
- * Networking opportunities
- * Yard of the Month / Holiday Lights Contest
- * And additional community-building efforts

We respectfully invite you to become a new member or renew your membership for 2026. Your participation plays an integral role in strengthening our neighborhood, and each membership contributes to meaningful improvements throughout the Witherbee community. New memberships or renewals may be submitted by mail or completed online by scanning the QR code on the membership form inserted in your newsletter.

Additionally, we welcome you to attend WNA meetings, held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 510 South 33rd Street. All residents are invited to attend, and we encourage you to bring a friend or neighbor as we work together toward continued progress. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our community.

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**Witherbee
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.WitherbeeNA.org

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Co-President's Message



Trevor Phillips and Rod Lane

This year is off and running. We have two presidents serving in this capacity. It is an honor for us to serve as the Co-Presidents of our Neighborhood Association, and we are grateful for the trust you have placed in us. Our Witherbee community is a special place—one where people look out for one another, take satisfaction

in their homes, and work together to make our neighborhood safe, welcoming, and alive.

Your co-presidents are Rod Lane and Trevor Phillips.

Rod Lane has served as the Youth and Family Minister at Redeemer Lutheran Church since 2007 and has been married to his wife, Lori, for 30 years. He has a dog named Arlo. They have two adult sons who reside in Lincoln. In his spare time, he enjoys playing trivia, traveling, and walking Arlo.

Trevor Phillips moved to Lincoln in 2015 and has been a Witherbee resident for a few years. Trevor loves being involved in the community through work and volunteering, and he enjoys sporting events, gardening, and spending time with friends. It's wonderful to see his passion for connection!

As we begin this new term, our goal is simple: *to strengthen the connections that make our community thrive*. Whether you have lived here for decades or have just recently joined us, you are an important part of the story we are building together.

In the coming months, our association will focus on several key priorities:

- * **Community Engagement:** Creating more opportunities for neighbors to meet, share ideas, and build relationships.
- * **Beautification and Maintenance:** Supporting projects that keep our shared spaces clean, attractive, and enjoyable. (Neighborhood-wide clean up)
- * **Safety and Awareness:** Partnering with local officials and first responders to promote a secure environment for all. (Crime Watch, Mayor's Round Table)
- * **Transparent Communication:** Ensuring every resident has access to updates, resources, and ways to get involved. (Newsletter, two Facebook Pages, and meetings).

But none of this can happen without *you*. Our neighborhood is strongest when every voice is heard, and every household plays a part. We encourage you to attend meetings, volunteer when you can, and share your thoughts openly. Together, we can continue to foster a community defined by cooperation, respect, and genuine care.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. We look forward to working alongside each of you to make this the best place to call home.

Trevor & Rod

New Board Members



Suzanne Oehm

Suzanne was born in Beatrice, raised in Omaha, and lived in Bellevue, NE for nearly 25 years. She decided to become a resident of Lincoln in October of 2023, after commuting for three years to work for the City of Lincoln. She currently works for the Lincoln Police Department in their Finance Division.

Suzanne has two sons and a daughter-in-law. She has always been an involved parent serving in various roles on her sons' athletic teams, marching band, and theatre. She also served in her church as an Awana Club leader and pre-school teacher.

After only four weeks of living in Lincoln she received the Witherbee *Buzz* and attended the WNA November Volunteer Appreciation dinner to see what the organization was all about. She was impressed and has been involved in some capacity ever since by delivering the quarterly newsletter, planting bulbs and trees. She enjoys getting to know her neighbors, so it seemed like a natural progression to be further involved with the Witherbee Neighborhood Association by serving on the Board.

In her spare time you will often see her in her yard working on landscape projects and watering her flowers. Or, you may see her walking her Border Collie around the neighborhood or on the MoPac East Trail.

It's money in your pocket –

The Nebraska homestead exemption program is a property tax relief program for the following categories of homeowners:

- Persons 65 years of age and older
- Disabled veterans and spouses
- Other disabled individuals

Go to revenue.nebraska.gov and click on Homestead Exemption for more information and forms.



Alex Rose

Alex joined the Witherbee Neighborhood Association Board in January of 2026. She works full time as a pharmacy technician and part time at a local hardware store. Alex enjoys her many years of customer service and strives to have meaningful interactions with her customers. She has a degree in psychology and hopes to pursue graduate school in the near future.

As a local home owner, Alex has found home maintenance projects to be never-ending but also rewarding. Alex challenges herself to learn as much as she can about home repair and upgrades with each project. Every spring and summer she works on her yard and continues to learn more about landscaping and gardening.

Alex hopes to help grow Witherbee membership in the pursuit of building a strong community of neighbors who know and support each other.



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Redeemer Lutheran Church
510 South 33rd Street,
www.redeemerlincoln.org

- ◆ **Ash Wednesday Service:** Feb. 18, at 4:30 & 6:30 PM
- ◆ **Lenten Worship:** Each Wednesday at 4:30 and 6:30 PM; Dinner from 5-6 PM, running from Feb. 25 to March 25

GoodToGo Store is Great!

by Mike Kreikemeier

The GoodToGo store is open for business. This new store is part of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Dept. Waste Management and Hazardous Waste program.

The store is located at 5101 North 48th Street and is open on Wednesdays, Fridays and the 3rd Saturday of the month. Hours are 9:00 am to 1:00pm. **A huge difference from other stores is the missing register at the checkout counter since all items are Free!**

The GoodToGo store is located in the same building as the HazToGo collection facility located on the North 48th Street Transfer Station Campus, 5101 N 48th Street.

The goal of the GoodToGo store is to reuse products for home cleanup, gardening, hobbies and automotive care. The products are unopened or gently used material that has been



turned in at the HazToGo facility. All of the items are checked for quality and suitability by the HazToGo team. The store is stocked with useful items for homeowners. A few of the products you will find on the shelves are motor oil, windshield wiper fluid, ice melt, fertilizer, carpet cleaner, de-greaser, glue, caulk and grout.

Plan to spend a productive Friday or Saturday morning before Spring arrives - Collect your household hazardous items to donate to HazToGo, put a few buckets or containers in the trunk along with any recyclables you have and head to the Transfer Station on North 48th street. Recycle, donate your hazardous material, shop at GoodToGo, and finally pickup up some free compost for your flower beds. Wow! you will be set for a great Spring.

More information on the Good To Go store can be found at <https://goodtogolnk.com>



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WNA Calendar of Events

- Feb. 26 Witherbee Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Mar. 19 James Michael Bowers Northeast Citizens Meeting, 5:30-6:30 pm at Anderson Branch Library
- Mar. 26 DIY Gardening at Witherbee Monthly Meeting; 7 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Apr. 16 James Michael Bowers Northeast Citizens Meeting, 5:30-6:30 pm at Anderson Branch Library
- Apr. 23 Witherbee Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm, Redeemer Lutheran Church
April 26 Spring Flower Celebration at Witherbee Park, 4:00 pm
- May 2 Neighborhood Clean-up, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, 48th & M Streets

Take Advantage of UNL's Big Event

The UNL Big Event will be held Saturday, April 11th. Through service-oriented activities, The Big Event promotes campus and community unity as students come together for one day to express their gratitude for the support from the surrounding community.

You may request volunteers to complete projects that you are just not able to do on your own, such as spring yard clean-up.

Other examples of service work students can do include painting (exterior or interior), planting trees or flowers, trash pick-up, first story window cleaning. Projects can range from 1 to 3 hours and must be in-person volunteer opportunities. You may request more than one volunteer.

To sign-up, visit the website: www.bigevent.unl.edu, click on request volunteers and complete the form on-line. Deadline for sign-up is March 29th.

Questions? Send an email to bigevent@unl.edu.



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Neighborhood Spring Cleanup and Scrap Metal Drive

by Mike Kreikemeier

The Witherbee Neighborhood Cleanup will be on Saturday, May 2nd; 8am-Noon. As in past years the cleanup is a great way to dispose, recycle and reuse hard to get rid of items like tires, box springs, old furniture and appliances.

New this year is the WNA Scrap Metal Drive. Clean out your garage, home & yard looking for metal posts, lawn furniture, metal plumbing pipe & fixtures, appliances, tire rims and other metal items. Bring them to the collection site at 48th & M streets. The metal will be taken to Alter Metal Recycling. It's a big win for everyone. You will be cleaning up your home & yard in an environmentally responsible way and WNA will get a bit of cash from Alter Metal Recycling.

Steel is the most recycled material in the United States. Most metals can be recycled indefinitely without losing quality. Metal recycling is efficient, saving 60-95% of the energy required to produce virgin metals. Recycling aluminum cans saves 92% of the energy compared to a new aluminum can. Recycling metal diverts tons of material from the landfill.

Nebraska Scrap Metal Trivia - The Omaha World Herald hosted a scrap metal competition between all counties in Nebraska during WWII. The drive was a huge success and the World Herald won a Pulitzer Prize in 1943.

Recycle your scrap metal at the WNA Spring Cleanup on Saturday May 2nd. Together we make Witherbee neighborhood a great place to live.

Holiday Lights 2025

by Kathy Holland

The Holiday Lights committee members, Rod Lane, Mary Schwab and Kathy Holland, are pleased to announce the award winners for 2025. Each of the award winners received a gift card to A St. Market. Photos of the winners can be viewed on our Witherbee Neighborhood Community Facebook page, posted December 30.

Sparkle of the Block: 308 S 54th St

LES Superior Customer: 4811 L St.

Best Window Treatment: 500 S 46th St.

Serendipity Award (Delightful Surprise): 401 S 44th St.

High Pitch Award: 4323 J St.

Most Unusual: 4132 L St.

Over the Top Award: 3812 H St.

The Sparkle on the Block: 3734 H St.

Honorable Mention awards go the following homes.

They were either nominated or were spotted as the judges made rounds in the neighborhood.

703 S 34th St.

340 S 37th St.

205 S 35th St.

410 S 38th St.

3540 J St.

3748 Randolph St.

3545 L St.

5401 L St.

3645 L St.

5545 M St.

3743 Woods Ave.

Congratulations to our 2025 winners. So many lights, so little time! Nominate yourself or a neighbor in the coming year! **We are looking to add a Halloween decorating contest in 2026!**



4811 L St.



308 S 54th St



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Volunteer Appreciation Event - Fall 2025

by Rod Lane

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association celebrated its dedicated volunteers on November 20 at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Neighbors gathered for an evening of gratitude, community spirit, and fun.

The night opened with delicious food, beautiful live piano music and plenty of conversation.

WNA honored 75 volunteers whose efforts powered neighborhood initiatives throughout the year—newsletter production, clean-ups, garage sales, pool party planning, holiday lights, Crime Watch, Yard of the Month, and park care, among others. Their work reflects a strong tradition of neighbors helping neighbors.

The evening included a presentation by Mary Kay Roth and Jane Holt describing some of their adventures in creating 222 (and counting) videos highlighting nature in Nebraska. They shared clips of some of their favorite—and disastrous videos. All of their videos can be viewed on their YouTube channel, Naturally Nebraska.

A heartfelt thank-you to all who contributed this year, including outgoing President Mike Kriekmeier for his ongoing leadership and support. Volunteer dedication continues to make Witherbee a community we're proud to call home.



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District 33 Streetscape Master Plan Survey Wants Your Input

District 33, the area around 33rd & A Streets is developing into quite the neighborhood hang out. A place to grab a coffee with friends, pick up a few grocery items or six pack, get a prescription filled, and do a bit of banking all just minutes from home. While not within the WNA boundaries it is close by and convenient.



Now is your chance to help make District 33 even better with more of what you want in your neighborhood. You can be part of the planning process and give your opinion on parking, traffic, sidewalk and landscape improvements by filling out the District 33 Streetscape Master Plan Survey. Scan the QR code with your smartphone or go to <https://forms.office.com/r/GArEba38Le>

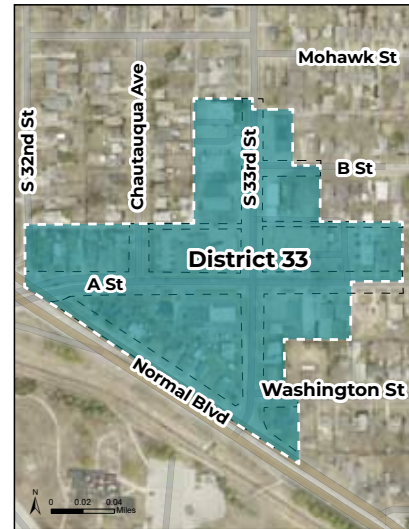


The City of Lincoln is beginning the planning process for the District 33 Streetscape Master Plan, and your perspective as a resident of the area is an essential part of this effort.

The plan includes a revisioning of the existing streetscape design for a portion of District 33, specifically the area near the intersection of 33rd & A Street. This planning effort is being conducted in coordination with area residents and business owners. Community feedback on the existing street and sidewalk design will help inform a streetscape master plan that will guide future improvements.

A community survey is currently available until March 31, 2026 to collect local input. Your feedback will help the City better understand existing conditions, identify priorities, and ensure the Streetscape Master Plan reflects community needs. Survey results will assist in the development of recommendations for future streetscape improvements.

PROJECT AREA



Legend
District 33

The Randolph Street – Capitol Pkwy to 40th Street Project

by Kathy Holland

A public information open house was held November 13th at Antelope Park to review this transportation improvement project beginning at Capitol Pkwy and ending approximately 200 feet east of South 40th St.

A survey in 2022 found 6,410 vehicles travel this roadway daily. This is projected to increase to 8,000 vehicles by 2045.

Key improvements include:

Roadway/Driving Conditions

- * Replace concrete base as needed
- * Resurface with mill and overlay
- * Repair or replace curb and gutters

Safety/Traffic Capacity:

- * Construction of roundabouts on Randolph St. at South 33rd and South 40th Streets
- * Widen driving lanes

Pedestrians & Bicycles

- * American with Disabilities Act – compliant curb ramps
- * Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at Billy Wolff Trail and crosswalk east of South 36th St.

Construction could begin as early as the spring of 2027 and be completed by the spring of 2028. The project would be delivered in multiple phases to minimize disruptions to traffic, residences, and businesses. The proposed project costs are estimated at approximately \$4.5 million and would come from federal and local sources.

For more information visit lincoln.ne.gov and type “Randolph Street” in the search bar.

