



# Gifford Park's Pride

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn and Play

June 2002

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## GPNA Community Garden News

I hope everyone who attended the community garden grand opening event Saturday, May 4, enjoyed themselves. We tried to provide a variety of fun and educational activities which included "Ask the Master Gardener", building birdhouses, planting vegetables, arts & crafts, and of course lots of good food. There was also the opportunity to learn about community gardening and to sign-up for your very own garden plot. We had a lot of great help from the fine people at Indian Creek Nursery, Wild Oats, Great Harvest Bread, J'N'J Grocery, California Tacos, Dear Heart Clown, Roberts Dairy, HY-VEE, Ready Mixed Concrete, Ideal Pure Water, County Extension Agency, Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, Omaha Public Schools, Yates School, and City Sprouts Community Garden. Many thanks to the following volunteers: Eric & Annemarie Noll, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Rod & Dana Flint, Mike Caban, Cynthia Shuck, Jan Franks and everyone who donated treats. We thank Jim & Vera Horton for donating the tiller and Bob Hutton for tuning it up— it has saved a lot of time! Special thanks to my wife Sallie who has contributed more hours than you'll ever realize.

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*Digging the hole is one of the first steps in the planting process. Here, Mike Caban and Sallie Foster provide guidance to some of the neighborhood children who came to learn more about gardening.*

## Next Meeting

**Thursday, June 6  
7:00 P.M.**

**Election of Officers  
For 2002 - 2003**

**Guest Speaker:  
Northeast Precinct  
Captain Thomas Warren**

**St. Joseph's Hospital  
Becic Dining Room**

**Note: No July Meeting!**

## Show Wagon To Make Stop At Gifford Park

Once again this year, the Omaha Parks and Recreation Department has scheduled two Show Wagon performances for the summer of 2002. The first presentation, a district performance, will be held on **Thursday, June 13, at 7:30 p.m.** Plans are underway to schedule some type of entertainment that would start before the Show Wagon presentation. **Roberts Dairy** has graciously agreed to provide a treat during the Show Wagon performance.

The Show Wagon program is a competition for youth ages 1 - 18 to display their talents on stage, whether it be singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, etc. Entry forms are available by calling **Karin Madden at 444-5216**. The next performance, the regional finals, is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 10**.

**GPNA OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Peter Cihunka 341-7293

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Vicki Frey 344-0757

**TREASURER**

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS****ADVERTISING**

Dar Sweazy 345-0125

**CLEAN-UP**

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

**COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**COMPLIANCE**

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

**HISTORIAN**

Eva Swanson 345-1707

**KELLOM SCHOOL LIAISON**

Jean Peck 344-0722

**MEMBERSHIP**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**NEWSLETTER**

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

Mike Bacome 933-7506

**PARK**

Roger Freeman 557-2914

**PARKING VIOLATIONS**

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

**TOOL LENDING**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**WATCH GROUP**

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

**WEEDS & LITTER**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**WELCOMING**

Vicki Frey 344-0757

**The President's Column**

Well, it has been a whole year that I have been the president of this fine organization; it has flown by. So many things have happened, so many goals met, so many accomplishments. Yet, I feel like there is so much more to be done.

When I took this office last year, I set out to accomplish three things. The first goal was to increase membership/participation in the neighborhood association. Originally, I thought the best way to do this was to reach out to the different groups who live with in our boundaries...get them more involved. This has been a slow process and it is still in the works. But one thing that has happened is that we have brought new people into the core group. Every organization has a core. For years, the GPNA has prospered and been successful because of the hard work of a small core group of dedicated people. As the year went on, my goal was to expand that core... and I am glad to say we have. So, mixed results here.

The second goal was to maintain public safety around 33<sup>rd</sup> and California and throughout the neighborhood. We continue to work with city officials, the Omaha Police, landlords, and property owners to better our way of life. There have been some challenges that have surfaced over the last year, but overall, we have been very successful. I have received buy-in from several people who live in our neighborhood who agree with my philosophy that ultimately we are primarily responsible for our own public safety. We all need to accept this fact and watch out for each other. Overall, I would say we have been successful here.

The third goal was to double the membership of the GPNA. I have fallen far short in this area. On average, we have approximately 160 paid households in our organization. We literally have over a thousand households within our boundaries. So, approximately 10% of the households in our neighborhood are members of our organization. This needs to improve. We should be able to double this number by this time next year.

So, I look forward to another year of serving you as your president. I consider it to be my honor to hold this office and to serve with those folks listed to the left: The Board. They make up that "core group" I was talking about earlier. They are very dedicated and have a great deal of concern for our neighborhood and the people who live here. I would also like to welcome the new board members: Eve Randone, Heather Nelson, Cynthia Shuck, and Ron Frey (see page 3). I look forward to working with all of you for the next year.

by Peter Cihunka

**Editor's note:** If you have something that would be of interest to our neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for our monthly newsletter. Editorials must be approved by the GPNA Executive Board. Articles can be left at the GPNA Office; please include your name and phone number. Contact Sue Wilwerding (342-2795) or Chris Foster (342-6006) for information regarding the newsletter.

**Election of Officers at June General Meeting**

The GPNA Nominating Committee will place the following slate of candidates in nomination for election as officers for 2002 - 2003:

**President: Peter Cihunka**                      **Recording Secretary: Ron Frey**  
**Vice-President: Terry Wilwerding**      **Treasurer: Dana Carlton**

The election will be held at the general meeting on June 6th. Only current GPNA members will be allowed to vote.

## Community Garden . . .

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To date twelve garden plots have been spoken for. There are two plot sizes available to rent: a 5' x 8' section is \$8/year, and a 5' x 15' section is \$15/year. We require each plot owner to follow basic common sense guidelines and organic gardening practices. We are building a tool shed in the next couple weeks to store garden tools and supplies. Besides the individual plots, we are planting some different "theme" gardens (herb, butterfly, children's, etc.) to make it interesting - everyone is welcome to walk onto the community garden site to see what is going on. If you are interested in being part of this project or if you would like to donate plants, tools, or any garden related items, please call 342-6006 or 342-0213 for more information.

*by Chris Foster*



*At the Community Garden Open House, Bob Hutton helped kids build 20 birdhouses. Here, Brad Bogard and his kids Benjamin and Janine finish nailing the roof.*

## Neighborhood Walk Schedule

Join us as we tour our neighborhood on these beautiful summer evenings. The walks will begin at 8 p.m. at the locations listed below:

**June 7:** Gifford Park (upper)

**June 21:** Gifford Park (lower)

If you have any questions, please call Peter at 341-7293.

## Chairs Named For GPNA Committees

At the May GPNA executive board meeting, President Peter Cihunka announced the chairs for the standing committees. The committees and respective chairs, effective 7-1-02, are:

**Advertising:** Dar Sweazy

**Calling Committee:** Heather Nelson

**Community Garden:** Chris Foster

**Compliance:** Leo Wilwerding

**Historian:** Eva Swanson

**Kellom School Liaison:** Jean Peck

**Membership:** Heather Nelson

**Newsletter:** Sue Wilwerding

**Newsletter Distribution:** Eve Randone

**Newsletter Mailing:** Mike Bacome

**Park:** Roger Freeman

**Parking Violations:** Leo Wilwerding

**Public Relations:** Cynthia Shuck

**Tool Lending:** Chris Foster

**Watch Group:** Terry Wilwerding

**Weeds & Litter:** Jim Wilwerding

**Welcoming:** Vicki Frey



**Proudly Fly The Flag on  
Flag Day - June 14**



## City of Omaha Parks & Recreation Sun Dawg Summer Fun Youth Program

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Beginning June 10 - August 1**

\$10 per person fee or \$1 per day drop-in  
ages 6 - 15 - activities include:

**Fun, sports, games, reading, arts  
and crafts, field trips,  
camp programs, swimming and  
more.**

**The Gifford  
Park Sun  
Dawg Shack  
is the "cool"  
place to be  
this summer!**



## What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

Recently, Mayor Mike Fahey announced that the city would make a substantial amount of money available for various neighborhood improvement programs. Consequently, the GPNA can apply to receive a \$5,000 neighborhood grant. The grant is to be used to finance a project that will enhance the quality of the neighborhood, such as a beautification effort or addressing a safety issue. If you have any reasonable ideas as to how this grant can be applied to our neighborhood, please bring them to the June general meeting.

The GPNA sends its congratulations and best wishes to **Jed** and **Becky Parry** on the birth of their son **Kieran**. Kieran was born on April 12 and joins his big sister **Maya**, who is 2 1/2 years old.



The GPNA sends its sincere and heartfelt condolence to longtime members **Mel** and **Mary Ann Beckman** on the loss of their daughter **Katherine** in April.

## Youth Sports Program To Be Held At Creighton

Its not too late to register your child for the **National Youth Sports Program (NYSP)** which will be held at **Creighton University June 5 - July 12**, from **7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Monday - Friday**. Since 1968, the NYSP has combined sports instruction with exciting educational programs for youth ages 10-16. Enrollment is open to all youngsters in the community whose parent(s) or guardian(s) meet(s) Department of Health and Human Services income guidelines, at no cost. Activities include swimming, basketball, football (touch or flag), softball, track and field, soccer, volleyball, baseball, bowling, and golf. Top-quality sports equipment is provided by the program. Field trips to locations such as the Henry Doorly Zoo are also part of the program. Community leaders bring information to participants on subjects such as alcohol and other drug-abuse prevention, nutrition and personal health, career opportunities and job responsibilities, higher education and community concerns, and math/science instruction. NSYP participants also receive an NSYP T-shirt, a daily USDA-approved meal, transportation to campus (if necessary), a medical examination, accident/medical insurance coverage, and interaction with college students and staff. For more information, call 280-1752.


**For City Services,  
Information, or  
Complaints  
Call:  
Mayor's Action Office  
444-5555**

**TOOL  
LENDING  
HOTLINE**

*Mike 933-7506  
Chris 342-6006*

Mowers - \$5  
Rent for most tools - \$3



**GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
532 N. 33rd Street, Omaha, NE 68131  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
*(Please print clearly)*



Membership year: \_\_\_\_\_ *(Membership year runs from June 1 through May 31)*

Type of membership: Single (\$5) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$8) \_\_\_\_\_ Business (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of business \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First)

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip)

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work)

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Can we contact you for help on any of the following items? (please circle areas of interest).

Cleanup/Beautification	Tennis Program	Block Captain	Tool Lending
Membership	Youth Activities	History	Newsletter
Neighborhood Walks	Park	Merchants	Newsletter Distribution
Social Activities	Tree Planting	Watch Group	Meeting Program
Landlord/Tenant Issues	Calling Committee	Public Relations	School Liaison

**Renew Your GPNA  
Membership Today!**