



Gifford Park's Pride

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

September 2002

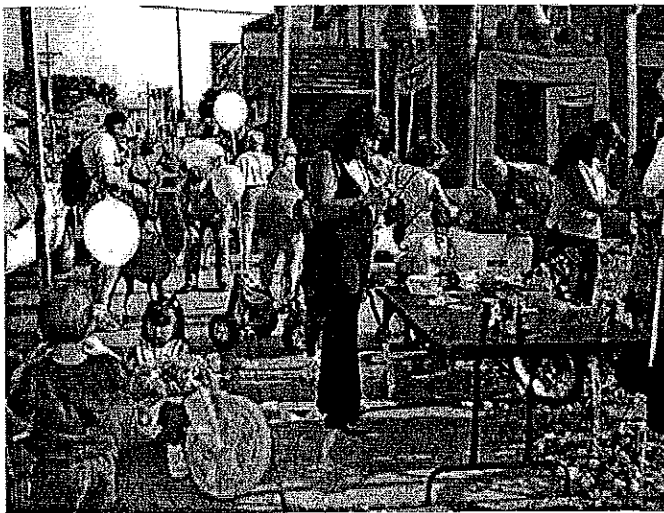
A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

GPNA's Block Party A Great Neighborhood Event

The Gifford Park neighborhood celebrated National Night Out in a big way on Tuesday evening, August 6. 33rd Street from California to Cass was closed to host a variety of activities that included something for everyone. The GPNA worked with the Northeast Precinct to provide an event focussed on safety, health, education, neighborhood and business promotion, and a lot of fun!

Briefly, here are just a some of the many highlights of the evening: Long-time GPNA member **Chuck Kilgore** dazzled the crowd with his band's jazz music; the rock-climbing wall was awesome (**City of Omaha**); **Bryan Hill Entertainment** provided the Moonwalk; **Loren Johnson** arranged the hot dog wagon and all proceeds were donated to the GPNA; **Dale Robinson** showcased four classic cars; Gordon Bunn organized the very successful hoop-it-up basketball tournament; **Glenn Burns** shared his artist's talent with many neighbors by having people of all ages paint on 2 sheets of plywood – we still hope to display the paintings in the area; local soccer players gave a soccer clinic; the **Condors**

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Volunteers help decorate bikes, scooters, big wheels, and more for the parade down 33rd Street. The parade, just one of many activities for the youngsters, was an exciting way to start the festivities.

Next Meeting

**Thursday, September 5
7:00 P.M.**

**Guest Speaker:
Kevin Fasana
Project Impact**

**Creighton University
Medical Center
(St. Joseph Hospital)
Dining Rooms A, B, and C**

GPNA Garage Sale!

Back by popular demand! The GPNA will once again sponsor the annual neighborhood-wide garage sale event. This is a great opportunity to get rid of unused items and make some extra cash. The GPNA will place an ad in the **Omaha World-Herald** for **Saturday, September 21st, 9 AM to 3 PM**. Signs will be posted throughout the neighborhood to promote the sale and flyers will be available listing each participant's address. If you would like to be listed as a seller, please call **Vicki Frey 344-0757**, before **September 13th**. You keep all the money you make. Or if you have just a few usable items in good condition, and would prefer not to be tied up that Saturday, consider donating them to the **Community Garden Fundraising Event**. This will also be held **Saturday, September 21st, 9 AM to 3 PM**. Volunteers will be on hand, so come check out the progress of the garden, enjoy some refreshments, and do a little bargain hunting! All proceeds will go to the Community Garden. Call **Cynthia Shuck 556-2090**, **Annemarie Noll 342-1340**, or **Chris Foster 342-6006**, for more information.

GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

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TOOL LENDING

Chris Foster 342-6006

WATCH GROUP

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

WELCOMING

Vicki Frey 344-0757

The President's Column

When I agreed to be President a year and half ago, I did so with much anticipation and excitement. My previous year as Vice President was very educational and believe it or not, fun. Despite all the experience I gained that year, I still had my doubts. Would I make good decisions? Would I do what was best for the neighborhood? Would I make a fool out of myself? Will I be able to fill the large shoes of my predecessor? Am I crazy?

The truth is that I have enjoyed all my time as President. In many ways, it is the easiest "job" I have ever had. The GPNA Board has more experience than Nebraska's coaching staff (speaking of which, are you as happy as I am that football season is here? About time!). As for time invested, I have realized that you get out of it what you put into it. When I worked hard at something, the rewards were unbelievable and those times when I chose to coast, the rewards were minimal. This is one position where you can really make your own mark. Nothing in my life has compared to the good feeling I get from doing something good for the neighborhood or seeing the positive impact one of our projects has on the area. Does this sound like something you would be interested in doing? My tenure as President expires in June 2003 and I am looking to train a replacement. Give me a call.

I want to say a quick word about the block party. In July, I was out of town for 3 weeks (in Oklahoma of all places). While I was gone, I sent an e-mail to the GPNA Board saying that I thought it would be nice to do something for National Night Out. In my mind, I was thinking maybe a cook-out in the park followed by a walk or something like that. What evolved was absolutely amazing! In my 6 years in this neighborhood, that was the best event I have ever been involved in. I would love to take credit for it, but I cannot. That goes to **Chris Foster** and his band of volunteers. Special thanks to the business owners for all your donations and help.

The last group I want to thank is the Omaha Police Department. Thank you **Capt. Warren** and "team" for coming down, participating, and helping out. Special thanks to the Chief for coming down too. Who knew Capt. Warren was such a good public speaker? Thank you to everyone who helped to make that event outstanding!

School is back in session, so please drive carefully.

by Peter Cihunka



**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE**

**Mike 933-7506
Chris 342-6006**

**Mowers - \$5
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**Childcare Now Available At GPNA Meetings**

Perhaps you've wanted to attend a Gifford Park Neighborhood meeting in the past but were unable to do so because of young children in the home. Or maybe you've wanted to connect with other parents in Gifford Park who have children about the same age as your kid(s). In response to these concerns, the GPNA is starting a trial program that will provide free childcare (up to age 12) during the next three monthly meetings. Parents can register their children in Dining room D (follow the signs) at 6:45 PM, prior to that night's meeting. **Vicki Frey** and her 14-year-old son, **Erik**, will head up various age-appropriate activities and games for the kids. A snack will be offered. If you have any questions, call **Vicki** at 344-0757.

College Students: Welcome To The Gifford Park Neighborhood

We have a large number of university students living in the area who have returned for another year of school. The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association has been working with the city and police to improve the appearance and safety of our neighborhood. The goal of the GPNA is to improve the neighborhood and make it a better place for all residents, and we would ask our new student neighbors to become a part of this effort.

The largest part of being a good neighbor is consideration for others. First we ask students to be considerate in terms of noise, especially after 10:00 PM. Many families in our neighborhood have children or go to work early. Parties are another problem. Unfortunately, parties always seem to end up bigger and noisier than first planned, and the police have been more active in enforcing noise and underage drinking ordinances. Another difficult problem is parking. Our neighborhood has barely enough parking (like school), so you may not always be able to park directly in front of your residence. Please do not park on lawns, across sidewalks or on the wrong side of the street (facing traffic). Besides making the neighborhood look bad, all of these are parking violations. Also, do not litter and help us keep our neighborhood picked up. Many of us pick up trash that we did not leave and we ask that you would help us by doing the same.

Finally, consider coming to one of our meetings and perhaps joining our Association. A \$5.00 yearly membership will get this newsletter delivered to you every month, and you will meet your neighbors and many other wonderful people during our activities such as the neighborhood clean-up (we can always use more help), holiday events, and walks. We welcome the students for the upcoming year, and we hope that you will help us continue to make the Gifford Park neighborhood a better place to live.

A.V. Sorensen Library & Recreation Center

48th & Cass Streets 444-5274

Library Hours:

Mon, Tues, 12:30 - 8 pm

Wed, Fri, & Sat 10 am - 5:30 pm

Closed Thurs & Sundays

Recreation Center info: 444-5596

Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 9:00 pm

Friday 8:30 am - 5:30 pm



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Matt 740-6929/345-8611

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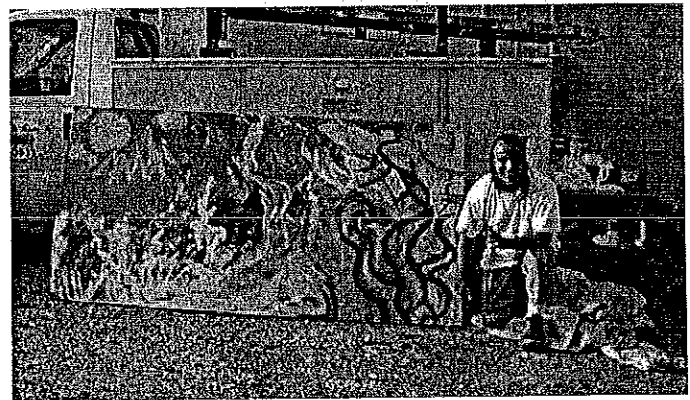
GPNA Block Party A Great Neighborhood Event . . . *continued from page 1*

Marching Band gave a spectacular performance of drums and dance as they led a parade down 33rd Street; a fire truck and the Mobile Command Unit (with Police Chief Don Carey) were displayed; Roberts Dairy provided ice cream treats to make a hot day a bit cooler; Jim Wilwerding provided everything for the always popular water balloon contest; there was face-painting and other hands-on kids activities; and how about the event signs on the street and overhead to add to the festivities!

We had many tables setup for safety, health and education including: **Project Impact**, Lead testing for 17 children by the **Douglas County Health Department**; **Project Healthy Start**; representatives from **Health South** and **Creighton University Medical Center**; recycling information; GPNA information; **Compass Ministries**; and **Main Street** business district revitalization. A big thanks to the **Omaha Public Schools** for use of the many tables and chairs, and the **Omaha Public Works Department** for use of the traffic cones.

Northeast Precinct Captain **Thomas Warren** and Crime Prevention Specialist **Stacy Henry** did a great job of helping to organize and support the event. Captain Warren even entered a team in the hoop-it-up...and almost won the tournament! **Judy Johns** with the **Community Resource Center** and **Deidra Andrews** with the **Omaha Neighborhoods Center** lined up a few of the safety activities.

And finally, because there was such an outpouring of volunteers before, during, and after the event, there probably isn't room in this article to name everyone without missing somebody. However, the great efforts of the men from the Wolf House (Director **David Staenberg**), who live in the neighborhood, should be highlighted. The Wolf House men did a great job of cleaning up Gifford Park and 33rd Street a few days prior to the block party. They were there early to help set up and stayed late to break down after the event. They also donated a "ton" of candy at the GPNA table. The Gifford Park neighborhood showed again why this is a very special neighborhood...and that we know how to PARTY!



Upper left: Chuck Kilgore and his friends performed great jazz music. Upper right: The Condors Marching Band began the parade down 33rd Street. Lower left: Dale Robinson of Robinson's Garage shows off his impressive set of classic cars. Lower right: Glenn Burns sits next to one of two "community paintings" completed during the block party. (Photos by Chris Foster)

GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN'S CHILDCARE II

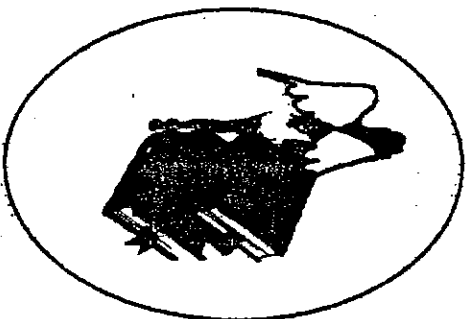
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Corporate Office

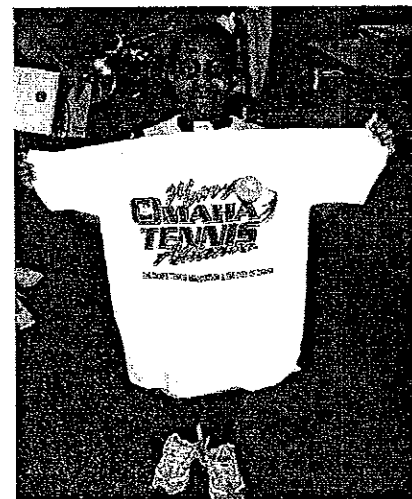
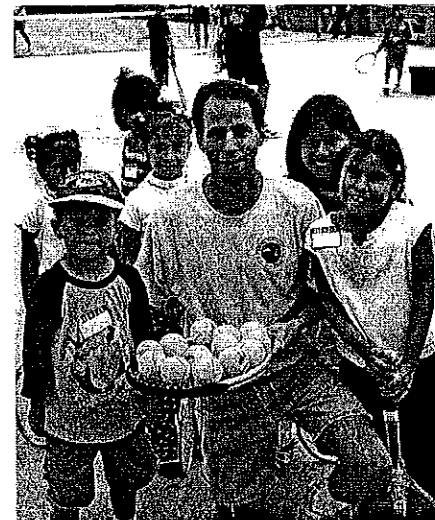
(402) 342-7494

Closed on Sunday

Tennis Program 2002 Highlights

Even a little light rain couldn't dampen the spirits of everyone participating in final session of the 9th annual GPNA Tennis Program held in Gifford Park. This year we had at least 12 instructors for each of the four sessions in August. We averaged about 45 children per session with over 50 on the last day. As in the past, kids were divided into age groups so they could learn each of the basic tennis skills. The kids then used their practice skills to win prizes during target practice at the end of each session. The last day featured awards and a tennis party. Special recognition goes to the winners of the annual Sportsmanship Award – **Brittanie Love**, age 13, won the award for the girls, and **Tyler White**, age 8, was the boys winner. A BIG thanks goes to **Godfather's Pizza** again this year, donating 12 pizzas for the event! **California Tacos** donated dinner coupons, and neighborhood volunteers made delicious treats. Many thanks go to all the instructors – **Bob & Nancy Gaarder, Roger Freeman, Laurie Bolte, Jack Mallett, Cecil Peterson, Vince Emory, Bill Roach, John Dervin, Jackie Foster, Willie Foster, Jenny Foster, Paul Johaneck, Chris Raymond, Scott Veitzer, Jane & Eric Hines, Keith Cronican, Sharon Reeve** and **Ron Goodman**. Special thanks go to **Jan Franks, Bette Tanner** and **Betty Slayden** for helping with registration. Thanks also to **Ed Hubbs** and the **Omaha Tennis Association**, and the **City Parks & Recreation Department** for their generous support over the years. GPNA members **Jim Wilwerding, Terry Wilwerding, and Ron & Vicki Frey** were a great help at the finale when things got quite busy. My wife **Sallie** worked very hard behind the scenes to help prepare before each session – thank you! If any children who participated in the tennis lessons are interested in more advanced lessons this fall, please contact **Chris** at 342-6006.

by Chris Foster



Community Garden Update

A bulletin board and literature holder have just been added to the outside wall of the tool shed. This allows us to display all kinds of neighborhood information including events/activities, pictures, flyers, brochures, health and educational information, and much more. Feel free to check out the information – we will try to keep it updated. To date 18 garden plots have been spoken for. There are two plot sizes available to rent: a 5' x 8' is \$8/year, and a 5' x 15' is \$15/year. We require each plot owner to follow basic common sense guidelines and organic gardening practices. 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. Also, if you have any ideas about having activities or events at the community garden, please call.

Dundee Day is September 21

Dundee Day 2002 will be held on Saturday, September 21, with most events taking place along Underwood Avenue between 50th and 51st Streets. There will be a large variety of activities going on during the day, including a pancake breakfast (8 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.), parade, a history tour on Olley the Trolley, antique bikes on display, arts and crafts, musical entertainment, community service displays, merchant sidewalk sales, and a Dundee Merchants Silent Auction held inside Bomba Dia Restaurant from noon until 3 p.m. Join our neighbors to the west and have a fun time!

California Tacos & More

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Monday - Saturday: 11a.m. - 9 p.m.

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7:00 AM - 11:00 PM Friday thru Saturday

8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Sunday

"Giving Gardener" Program Puts a Fresh Spin On Food Donations

At this time of the year, many gardeners find that they have an over-abundance of fruits and vegetables. Instead of letting this nutritious food go to waste, **Catholic Charities** wants to make it easy for gardeners to donate their excess produce to local pantries. Catholic Charities operates two food pantries, **St. Martin de Poores**, at 2417 Burdette St. and **The Juan Diego Center**, at 5211 South 31st St. The pantries supply area families with an emergency food supply which includes meat, canned goods and produce, when it is available. The pantries serve more than 10,000 low-income families a year.

Gardeners can drop off the produce at two collection sites: **The Juan Diego Center** at 5211 South 31st St. or the **Daniel Sheehan Center** at 3300 North 60th St. If gardeners are unable to drop off their donation, they can call **The Giving Gardener Hotline** at 829-9217 and have the produce picked up by Catholic Charities volunteers.

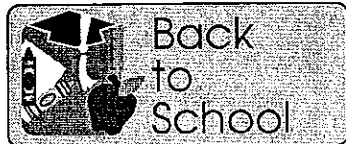
Catholic Charities, a non-profit organization, provides a wide spectrum of services to the Omaha community including addiction recovery services, counseling services, domestic violence shelters, food pantries, adoption, low-income housing, and educational programs.

Fall Cleanup Time Is Near

The GPNA will be holding its annual Fall Cleanup on **Saturday, October 19th**, in Gifford Park. There will also be a "pumpkin patch" - pumpkins will be available for the youngsters who'd like to have one for Halloween. The Fall Cleanup is a **MEMBERS ONLY** event, so this would be a great opportunity to join or renew your membership to the GPNA now. More details will be available in the October newsletter. If you want to volunteer or if you have any questions, please call **Peter** at 341-7293 or **Chris** at 342-6006.

Neighborhood Walk Schedule For Sept.

Summer is quickly coming to an end, and so are the neighborhood walks through Gifford Park. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy these late summer/early fall evenings by taking a walk through the neighborhood. Our final walks, now **starting at 7 P.M.** are:
September 13: Gifford Park
September 27: Gifford Park: Taco Night!
 If you have any questions, call **Peter** at 341-7293.



Please Drive Carefully!

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

Name of business _____

Name _____ (Last) _____ (First)

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Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

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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 |

Join or Renew Your GPNA Membership Today!

For City Services, Information, or Complaints Call: Mayor's Action Office

444-5555