



Gifford Park's Pride

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

May 2003

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Community Garden To Kick Off Season With Compost Bin Demo

The Gifford Park Community Garden, located at 3416 Cass St., will host a demonstration on how to build a compost bin on **Saturday, May 3** starting at **noon**. This demo will be part of our season kickoff to introduce the project to neighborhood residents – **EVERYONE** is welcome! We will also have registration information for people interested in renting a garden plot. Please call **Chris 342-6006, Annemarie 342-1340, or Cynthia 556-2090** for more information about the Community Garden.

OCCP Honors Patroller, Officer

On March 27 the Omaha Coalition of Citizens Patrols (OCCP) held its annual awards banquet at the Westside Community Education Center. Each neighborhood association nominates a citizen Patroller of the Year and an officer who has performed outstanding police work in the neighborhood. This year from the GPNA the honored patroller was **Terry Wilwerding**, and the officer was **Mike Majewicz**. Terry and Officer Majewicz received their awards from Mayor **Mike Fahey** and Police Chief **Donald Carey**.



The landscape of the Gifford Park neighborhood has changed dramatically in the last few weeks with the demolition of nearly all the houses between 30th -32nd, California to Webster St. Creighton University is conducting the demolition as part of its campus expansion project.

Next Meeting
Thursday, May 1
7:00 p.m.

6:45 P.M. - Ice Cream Social

7:15 P.M. - Guest Speaker:
Stan Baumann
History Of Prospect Hill
Cemetery

Creighton University
Medical Center
Becic Dining Room

First Neighborhood Walk Of The Season Set For May 2

We need people to gather for an evening walk; male or female, young or old, who care about the Gifford Park Neighborhood and want to learn what is happening in our neighborhood. We need to let our presence as a group be felt. This may just make us all more aware of the activities taking place in our area. The purpose is to walk and observe our neighborhood streets in a non-confrontational manner.

Our first neighborhood walk this year will be **Friday, May 2, 7 p.m.** We will meet at the Gifford Park baseball diamond. This is a great opportunity to become acquainted with new neighbors, get some exercise, and show your support for our neighborhood. We usually walk about 45 minutes to an hour and walk various routes to see different parts of our neighborhood. For more information, call **342-6006**.

GPNA OFFICERS**INTERIM PRESIDENT**

Chris Foster 342-6006

VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

RECORDING SECRETARY

Ron Frey 344-0757

TREASURER

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

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COMMUNITY GARDEN

Chris Foster 342-6006

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Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

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KELLOM SCHOOL LIAISON

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Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Cynthia Shuck 556-2090

TOOL LENDING

Chris Foster 342-6006

WATCH GROUP

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

WELCOMING

Vicki Frey 344-0757

The Interim President's Column

I recently had the opportunity to listen to **Marty Schukert**, former City of Omaha Planning Director and principal of **RDG Crose Gardner Shukert**. Marty talked about community development in more than just the physical sense. Marty made these points about building a sense of community: 1. Neighborhoods should be physically safe and clean. 2. Neighborhoods should provide secure economic investment (homes and businesses). 3. Neighborhoods should offer life-enhancing opportunities and places, like special events and parks. 4. Neighborhoods should share and contribute their values and experiences to other neighborhoods. I believe our neighborhood association already strives for these.

Marty went on to talk about "Communitarianism", which is really a fancy word for neighborhoods to become more involved in the urban planning process. More specifically, it means supporting better design standards, promoting more vitality and diversity in our neighborhoods, and creating more linkages between neighborhoods (like walk/bike trail systems). What I took from his talk is that our neighborhood is doing a lot of things right, but we have a lot to work on to reach our potential. As we discussed at our April GPNA general meeting, everyone's participation in the Destination Midtown master planning process will be critical to see real improvement in our area. This opportunity for residents and business owners to help shape the future of our own neighborhood does not happen very often.

The GPNA applied for two grants, the Omaha Community Foundation (\$2,500) and the Mayor's Neighborhood grants (\$5,000). We focused on improvements for Gifford Park. Between the two grants we asked for 10 new park benches, fall cleanup funding, and supplemental entertainment funding for the two Show Wagon events. Also a facet of the grant is for volunteers to help do a few small projects in the park, including expanding the tennis backboard, painting the old swingset, and painting line games on the blacktop. Please contact us if you are interested in helping.

And finally, I wanted to mention some people who recently, in very different ways, demonstrated their commitment to this neighborhood. First of all **Jan Franks** did a great job with our Easter Egg hunt, and along with a ton of candy donations from **David Staenberg** and the Wolf House, made this another successful event. **Ron Yates** probably saved a man from further injury or worse as a result of the man being shot on Easter Sunday morning near 33rd & Webster. Ron acted quickly to stop serious bleeding and called 911. He also reviewed our 33rd & California video surveillance tape to most likely identify the vehicle involved in the shooting. And the GPNA thanks **Ron Frey**, **Cynthia Shuck**, **Eve Randone** and **Vicki Frey** for volunteering to be our slate of officers for the June elections – we greatly appreciate your commitment.

by Chris Foster



**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE**

Mike 933-7506

Chris 342-6006

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



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.

City Councilman Addresses Noise Issue

The GPNA received a letter from **Jim Vokal**, City Council Representative, concerning the issue of loud stereo or "boom box" noise in various neighborhoods within the district. He stated that he had recently met with the Southeast Police Precinct Captain to discuss this matter and to determine the best ways of dealing with these disturbances. As a result of these discussions, Mr. Vokal recommended the following actions be taken to help this situation:

- Citizens with a complaint should continue to call 911 (records are established when a call is made).
- If practical, citizens should request the offending party to reduce the noise. This is not always practical or possible but if done, it establishes for a judge that an attempt was made. Make a record/note for yourself for later reference.
- Police officers can ticket offenders when they observe the offense. However, if not observed, the citizen can file a complaint and the officer will write the ticket based on the citizen complaint. The citizen may be required to appear in court later.
- The police department will make noise disturbances a "focused item" this spring. Officers will be instructed on giving verbal warnings and/or issuing tickets. Citizens lodging complaints may be contacted for assistance.

Mr. Vokal explained that he will continue to work within the legislative process to find a solution and discuss with the City Prosecutor the value of strengthening police enforcement and other actions as necessary to reduce this noise issue.

Opportunities For Seniors, Disabled

Helping Hands is a program designed by **Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc.** to help elderly and disabled citizens with a free, one time yard clean up which includes raking, litter and limb pick up, and weed pulling (mowing optional if the equipment is available). Bags, gloves, rakes, shovels, etc. will be provided by KOB. If you know citizens who need and want this service, or if you would like to volunteer to help, call **Kay Replogle-McDonnell**, Keep Omaha Beautiful, at 444-7774.

Also, **Brush Up Nebraska** will perform exterior house painting for low income elderly and the permanently disabled during their annual paint-a-thon. For information on eligibility requirements, dates, and the application procedure, call 965-9170.

On A Historical Note . . .

Beginning at noon on Saturday, May 3, Mr. Peyton C. (Bud) Clark, the great-great-great grandson of William Clark, of the Clark half of the **Lewis and Clark Expedition**, will join Mayor **Mike Fahey** and other dignitaries for dedication ceremonies of the **Lewis and Clark Landing**. Mr. Clark will be attired in an 1803 U.S. Army dress uniform. The site of the dedication is accessed from 8th and Douglas St. Activities and rides aboard the **River City Star** will continue throughout the afternoon.

A Memorial Day ceremony is set for **May 26th** at **Prospect Hill Cemetery, 3202 Parker St.** A concert by the **Preservation Brass Ensemble** will begin at **10:40 a.m.** with the program beginning at **11 a.m.** **Dr. Orville Menard**, who has just completed a book entitled "From Rulo To Lynch With Lewis & Clark", will be the speaker. Bring lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy this fitting way to experience the occasion. Parking is available inside the cemetery.

by Eva Swanson



Happy Mother's Day!



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Hunt An Egg-ceptional Success

Once again we had great fun for the 14th annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt held in Gifford Park Saturday, April 19, at noon. Before "hiding" the candy, volunteers helped clean up the park at 10:30 a.m. We got lucky again with the weather as we had just a few sprinkles which didn't phase the kids. As is always the case, out of the thousands of pieces of candy, it took a matter of a few minutes for the kids to pick the park clean of goodies.

There were many volunteers and donators helping to make this event a success, but we want to recognize a few who put forth a special effort. **Jan Franks** headed up efforts to get candy donations, and her granddaughter **Brittney Rubik** did the countdown, and along with **Zach**, organized the candy. The **Wolf House** donated not only a tremendous amount of candy and treats, but a lot of healthy snacks as well. They also helped clean up the park for the hunt. **Hy-Vee** (50th & Center store) donated a generous amount of candy as well and have always demonstrated their commitment to our neighborhood. The **PKA Fraternity** brought a good sized crew to help clean up the park and provide crowd control – they were the "muscle" we needed to control the kids! **Jenny Foster** filled in for **Candy Bacome** and played this year's Easter bunny and gave out treats to youngsters. Others who made donations were **Chuck Kilgore**, **Brad Bogard**, **Jan Franks** and the GPNA. We also appreciate **KETV Channel 7** for doing a news story on the event.



Variety Of Summer Programs Available For Area Youth

Opportunities abound for kids this summer to have plenty of fun and learn a variety of things at the same time. First of all, the **SunDawgs** program will be available for kids ages 6-15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, **June 9 - July 31**. Consult the June GPNA Newsletter for more information.

The **Show Wagon** will make two appearances in Gifford Park this summer (**Districts - June 17, Regionals - July 22**), and will provide kids ages 1 through 18 with the opportunity to display a variety of talents such as singing, dancing, and playing musical instruments. The four minute acts are judged on the basis of presentation, difficulty, and originality. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place winners in each age division of district contests are eligible to advance to regional contests; 1st and 2nd place winners in each division are eligible to compete in the City Finals contest. Certificates are awarded for each individual winning District and Regional Competitions; trophies are awarded for the finals. For more information, call **Karen Madden** at 444-5216.

Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc. is conducting an **Ecology Day Camp** for kids in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., **June 2 - June 13**, at **Crestridge Elementary School, 818 Crestridge Road**. There is no fee, plus lunch, snacks, and drinks are provided. The camp is designed for young people to learn about the world they live in. Plan on a trip to the Recycling Center, Water Treatment Plant, and Fontenelle Forest. Trips are provided by bus. Other activities include making art from junk, garbage pizza, games, and much more. To obtain a registration form or for more information, call **KOB, 444-7774**.

The **National Youth Sports Program** will be held at **Creighton University June 3 - July 11th**. This program combines sports instruction with exciting educational programs for youth ages 10-16, and 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. Free physicals (required) are available prior to the program. Transportation and 2 meals are provided. For more information, or to obtain an application, call **Wayne Morford**, Director of Campus Recreation, at 280-2486.

Para servicios, informacion o
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GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN'S CHILDCARE II

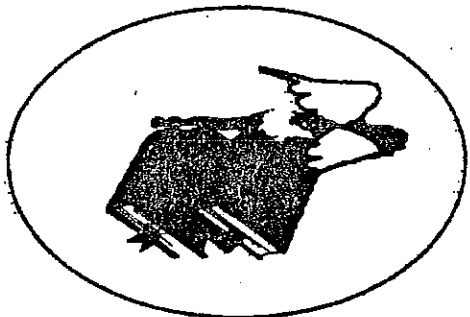
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Corporate Office

(402) 342-7494

Closed on Sunday

"Hard Time For Gun Crime" Is Program's Theme

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nation-wide offensive to put criminals in prison who illegally use or possess guns. Every community in America along with federal, state, and local law enforcement are working together to get gun wielding criminals off America's streets. Today, if you are caught using or possessing a gun in violation of the law, you will go straight to prison. If you're caught with a gun you cannot legally possess, you will face harsh penalties in federal prison with **NO POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE**. And, if you have three or more prior violent felony or serious drug offense convictions, you face a minimum of 15 years in prison without parole.

Whether or not you have ever been convicted of any crime, if you use, brandish, display, carry, or possess a firearm in a way designed to further or carry out a drug-trafficking crime or a federal crime of violence, you can be charged - in addition to the crime itself - with a federal firearms crime. In fact, you can be convicted of this offense even if the gun is not on you! The lightest sentence you can get for this crime is 5 years minimum, with no parole. The sentence must be served in addition to any other sentence for the drug-trafficking or violent crime. And, if you are convicted of having a gun during a second violent crime or drug-trafficking offense - even during the same trial - you're automatically going to prison for at least 30 years.

Other facts concerning illegal gun use: 1) if you steal guns or have anything to do with guns that you know or have reasonable cause to believe were stolen, you can go to prison for up to 10 years 2) possessing or discharging a firearm in a school zone can get you a prison sentence of up to five years 3) obliterating or altering the manufacturer's serial number on a firearm - or even transporting or possessing such a firearm - is punishable by up to five years in prison 4) as of September 13, 1994, making a semiautomatic assault weapon is against the law. It is also illegal to transfer or possess any semiautomatic assault weapon made after that date. The sentence? Up to five years in prison 5) Making or possessing a machine gun, sawed-off shotgun or rifle, silencer, or destructive device without registration through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives can result in a 10 year prison term.

Who is prohibited from possessing any kind of gun or ammunition? Convicted felons, fugitives from justice, drug traffickers or users, illegal aliens or



SATURDAYS

May 3 - October 11
8:00 am - 12:30 pm

WEDNESDAYS

June 11 - September 10
4:00 - 8:00 pm

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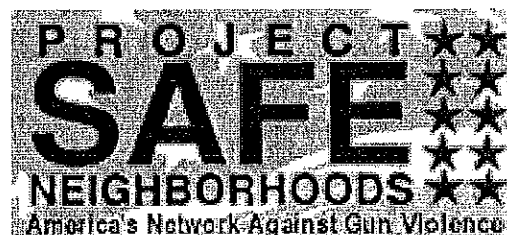
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aliens that are on temporary status, persons determined to be mentally deficient or incompetent or committed to mental institutions, people who have formally given up their U.S. citizenship, people who have been dishonorably discharged from the Armed Service, and people involved in committing domestic violence, such as anyone subject to a protection order, or who has been convicted of a crime of violence against an intimate partner. You have committed a crime and can go to federal prison if you help anyone in one of these categories get a gun or ammunition (even if you yourself are not in one of the categories). It may not matter if you knew the person was in one of the groups; if you buy a gun for someone else and lie on the federal form about who the gun is for, you have committed a federal crime.

Project Safe Neighborhoods wants your help. If you know of a felon, drug dealer, or other individual possessing an illegal firearm, **CALL 444-STOP**. If your anonymous tip leads to an illegal gun arrest, you could be eligible for an **IMMEDIATE \$250 REWARD**.



City Sprouts Sponsoring Garden Planning Seminar

Grow your own food right in your backyard or at a community garden! Eat well and sell the rest for extra income! To help you get it going, City Sprouts is sponsoring its Fourth Annual Growing for Market seminar series at the UNMC Office Complex, Annex 4 located at the northwest corner of 38th Avenue and Leavenworth Streets.

The first seminar is Saturday, May 3, and the second is Saturday, May 10, both running from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The topic is "Organic Gardening." Tom Thomas, veteran market gardener, educator and professional organic farm certifier, will discuss and show participants how to plan a garden for consumption and profit. By attending both seminars, participants will learn how to organically grow fresh produce and market that produce directly to consumers through farmers markets and other venues. Afternoon site visits to Omaha community gardens for hands-on practice will follow the morning sessions each Saturday. The site visit location will be announced at the seminar. Topics covered during the seminar include: growing for market techniques, sustainable gardening, pest management, harvesting, and organic gardening skills. The cost is \$10 for both sessions of the seminar series. Each registered participant will receive some seeds or transplants for their gardens, at no additional charge. All the residents of our community are welcome and encouraged to register. Please RSVP by Thursday, May 1. For more information contact Nancy Williams at 451-7054. Other sponsors of this event are the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society, UNMC, and the GPNA.

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What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

Congratulations to our past GPNA President **Peter Cihunka** on the birth of **Frances Rose Cihunka**, on March 19th. She weighed 8 lbs, 12 oz. We wish both Peter and Stacy all the best for their new addition!

Many thanks to IRS volunteers **Jackie Foster** and **Pat Prochaska** and others who provided free tax help in our neighborhood again this year. St. Cecilia's Cathedral was this year's site. They processed a total of 154 returns this year, most electronically filed. This is the highest total in the 9 years they have been doing this program.

Thanks also to **Doug Bisson** of HDR Architects for being our guest speaker at the April GPNA meeting. Doug is the Project Manager for **Destination Midtown** and he shared some of the details and timelines of this project.

The **Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities** is sponsoring a lecture series entitled **Ecospheres 2003 Public Art In The Community**. This program is the first feature of the 2003 series. The topic is Public Art and Creating Community Beyond Sculpture. Hor d'oeuvres begin at **5:30 p.m.** with the program and discussion following from **6 - 7:30 p.m.** on **Thursday, May 8**.

The election of GPNA officers for 2003 - 2004 will be held at the June general meeting. The Nominating Committee has announced the following slate of officers: President: **Ron Frey**, Vice-President: **Cynthia Shuck**, Recording Secretary: **Eve Randone**, Treasurer: **Vicki Frey**. The GPNA thanks these dedicated members who have made the commitment to volunteer their time and talents for the betterment of the Gifford Park neighborhood.

2003-2004 Membership Year Begins

The membership year for the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association officially runs from June 1, 2003 through May 31, 2004, and any membership purchased now will be good through May 31, 2004. It's a new beginning for Officers, Executive Board Members and residents. It is truly exciting to have new people volunteer to help. We will have new officers to give the organization a great start.

If you have been a member and supported the GPNA in the past, we appreciate your support and hope you will renew your membership. If you have not been a member, we encourage each of you to consider joining. Your membership helps pay for this newsletter, neighborhood cleanups and beautification projects, youth activities, social activities, neighborhood watch equipment, tool lending and many other worthwhile programs. Please join the GPNA today.



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 |

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