



Gifford Park's Pride

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

July 2005

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

4th Annual Neighborhood Block Party To Be Held August 2 Celebrate National Night Out

Mark your calendars and help celebrate **National Night Out** on **Tuesday evening, August 2**, at **33rd & California**. 33rd Street will be blocked off from California to Cass for the event. **EVERYONE** is welcome to participate and have a good time. It's a great opportunity to get together and show support for our neighborhood in a big way.

We plan to include many of the same activities as last year - food booths, refreshments, jazz music, firetruck, classic cars, face painting, moonwalk, hoop-it-up 3 on 3 basketball, water balloon toss, information booths (health, safety, neighborhood), and much more. Detailed information will be available when a flyer comes out later in July. For more information or if you would like to help, call **Cynthia 556-2090** or **Chris 342-6006**.

Show Wagon, Gravy Dippers Entertain Gifford Park

Gifford Park again this year was fortunate to be a host site for the **Show Wagon Youth Talent Competition** Tuesday evening, June 21. Over a dozen acts performed their talents including singing, dancing, acting and more. Thanks to the **Gravy Dippers** band who played great classic rock and other music to begin the evening. We

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The "Cheetah Girls", a musical act composed of girls from the Gifford Park area, performed at the Show Wagon on June 21.

Reminder: No July Meeting!

Next General Meeting
Thursday, August 4
7:00 P.M.

Creighton University Med Center

Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, July 21
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
California Taco
33rd & California

GPNA Summer Activities Abound

No doubt the summer heat and arid landscape returns to the heartland; and with it we greet the usual abundance of activity... and the unusual spotlight of revitalization efforts in our Midtown neighborhoods. It is a great time to get involved in the neighborhood association. There will be no general membership meeting for July, but the Board of Directors will conduct their regularly scheduled July meeting to outline priorities and goals for the next year. Committee chairs and interested parties are encouraged to attend **July 21, 2005, 7:00-9:00pm** at **California Taco's (33rd & California St.)**.

Youth Tennis Program Continues Next Month In Gifford Park

For the 12th consecutive year, the **GPNA Youth Tennis Program** will be held every **Wednesday evening** in **August (August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)** at the tennis courts in **Gifford Park**. Instruction focuses on the fundamental strokes in tennis, such as the forehand, backhand, serves, and volleys. Look for more information in the August edition of the newsletter. Registration forms will be available at **J'N'J Grocery** and **California Tacos** later in July. For more information, or if you would like to help with any or all of the sessions, call **Chris Foster** at **342-6006**.

GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Cynthia Shuck 556-2090

VICE PRESIDENT

Dan Bodmann 496-8419

RECORDING SECRETARY

Diane Kaye 341-4146

TREASURER

Kate O'Brien 496-8419

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Chris Foster 342-6006

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Jean Peck 344-0722

MEMBERSHIP

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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

Getting To Know Your GPNA Officers**Cynthia Shuck, President**

I spent my formative years learning to appreciate an array of Great Plain venues including Omaha, Weeping Water, Nebraska, Columbia, Missouri, and Manhattan, Kansas, followed by a short stint after college living and working in New York City. While I miss friends/colleagues as well as the buffet of prolific art and architecture NYC offers, the amiable midwestern sensibility and big, private sky is more appealing.

My immediate family resides in Lexington Kentucky, while my brother Ryan and I live here in Omaha. Work-wise, a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Kansas State University enables me to look forward to architectural licensure in the next couple years. Environmental accountability, sustainable architecture, and acknowledging the interconnectedness of all things are paramount.

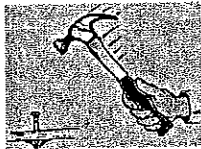
Dan Bodmann, Vice President

I grew up near San Francisco in a town called Half Moon Bay. Half Moon Bay has a handful of claims to fame, including the annual Half Moon Bay Pumpkin festival in October. I now have a degree from UCSD (University of California, San Diego), but it took me almost a decade to get it! In 1995, with 3 years of college under my belt, I decided to take a break from college and I enlisted in the US Army. Five years later I left the Army as a Sergeant and returned to San Diego to finish my Bachelor's degree in Economics.

In the late summer of 2001, diploma in hand, I put all my stuff into a Ryder truck and moved to Nebraska with Kate O'Brien (currently Treasurer in the GPNA). Kate is a native Nebraskan. In hindsight, the fall of 2001 was not a great time to be in a new city looking for a job and a place to live, but things eventually worked out.

Currently I work for a broker/dealer firm in Omaha called Securities America, Inc. Kate and I have lived in the Gifford Park Neighborhood for about 3 years. Before buying a house in Gifford Park (330 North 36th Avenue) we rented in the neighborhood for about a year. We are getting married in September!

P.S. Get to know the Secretary and Treasurer in next month's newsletter!

**TOOL LENDING HOTLINE****Chris 342-6006**

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3

**Sex Offender Information Available**

It is important for all citizens of this state to realize that information on Level Three sex offenders (sexual predators who are identified as most likely to re-offend) is public knowledge and is readily accessible. This information is available on the Internet (if you don't have the Internet, access is available free at the public libraries) on the Nebraska State Patrol's website (<http://www.nsp.state.ne.us/sor/find.cfm>). When you type in the city and zip code, you will be able to obtain information on those Level Three offenders who reside in that area. The site provides clear pictures, addresses, dates of birth, physical descriptions, and information concerning the types of crimes committed and when the individual was convicted. Once you access this information, talk to your neighbors and children about avoiding this individual. By law you are not allowed to harass this person, but if you notice that this person is acting in inappropriate ways or does not live at the address listed on the website, notify the police immediately. Take the time to go to this website and find out if these types of individuals are living in the neighborhood. Help keep our children safe.

Information for this article courtesy of Bridget Howell, the Benson Neighborhood Association *Benson News* June, 2005.

A Tribute To A Neighbor

Chris Foster is well known within the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association and by city officials. Many may not realize, however, what a fantastic contribution he has made to all of us. Such titles as "The Driving Force", "Unsung Hero", "Human Dynamo"; such descriptions as "an inspiration to others", "shining example", and "self-sacrificing" are all appropriate.

Since moving into the neighborhood 20 years ago, he and wife Sallie have been an inspiration and anchor to their end of California Street. While some seem to have high expectations of others yet can't seem to keep their own houses in shape, the Foster home is always a showplace – this, despite the long hours Chris spends on our behalf. Whether it be neighborhood cleanups, neighborhood walks, lining up Music in the Park, Show Wagon, bike rodeo, tennis lessons, or putting up Christmas lights at 33rd & California, Chris is always in the forefront. He also served two and a half years as president. If you add up all the time he spends at meetings he attends, you are talking about many hours each week.

In addition to all this, don't forget the Fosters' investment in time and dollars in the neighborhood garden. The cost for purchase, installing water, grading, and other improvements has been thousands of dollars– that's dedication! Besides this expense, the Fosters have purchased and rehabilitated several other properties.

I know for sure that the Gifford Park neighborhood would not be what it is without Chris and Sallie. In fact I am in awe of their past and continuing contributions!

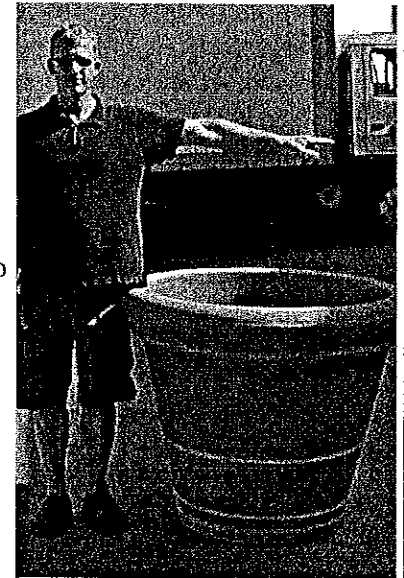
by Leo Wilwerding



A participant in the summer youth program at the Gifford Park Community Garden, Anna Carlson, displays the fruits (or vegetables) of her labors.

Mulhall's Nursery Donates Flower Pots

In last month's newsletter we put in the following plea: "Needed: we are looking for several large planters to place on the corners of 33rd & California St. We would like to plant some flowers and do a small beautification project in the business district." Well GPNA member Jay Genoa, who happens to work at Mulhall's Nursery, secured a donation of four large flower pots that we plan to install next spring. Jim O'Brien also made a significant donation toward our business district beautification efforts. We would like to get more ideas and donations (for more flower pots, plants, planting material, etc.) between now and next spring. Contact Chris 342-6006 if you can help. Thanks Jay and Jim for your efforts!



CALIFORNIA BAR
510 North 33rd St.
Come join us!
Nascar Racing Sundays
Happy Hour Weekdays
449-9138

Charles R. Kilgore Jr.
Attorney At Law
4913 Underwood Avenue
558-5000

Personal Injury Law
 Worker's Compensation
 Injury
 Auto Accidents
 Insurance Claims

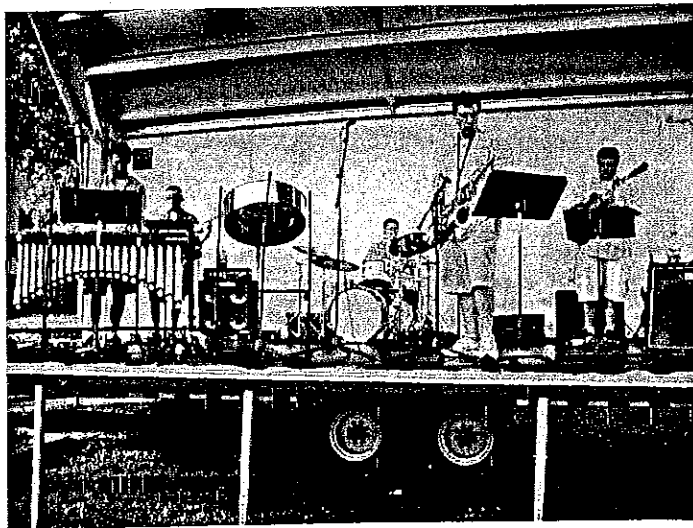
Show Wagon . . . continued from page 1

wish to thank **Jan Franks** and **Brittney Rubek** for handing out the treats. We greatly appreciate the **House of Faith Church** (33rd & Cass St.) for opening up their church restrooms for event participants. Special thanks go to **Marcia Coffeen** (Parks & Recreation Supervisor) who handles the City Show Wagon, and **Rick Weiner** who handles sound year after year. Thanks also to our "local" neighborhood judges **Jan Franks**, **Betty Slayden**, and **Brian Kokensparger** – they had a tough job. Thanks to the **Slayden family** for helping with event setup. Thanks to **Loren Johnson** (J'N'J Grocery) for donating the proceeds from all sales of soda and water to the GPNA. Thanks also to **Roberts Dairy** for the good deal on ice cream treats. And of course many thanks to the **Omaha World-Herald** who helps sponsor this event year after year.


by Chris Foster

"Music In The Park" Concerts Are Big Hits This Summer

The first two concerts of the 2005 "Music In The Park" series have proven to be very popular with Gifford Park area residents. The GPNA thanks the **Highlighters**, who performed vocal rhythm & blues on June 10 and **Jazz'N the Pan** (who performed at the opening ceremonies of the College World Series) on July 8. The GPNA also wishes to thank the **Omaha Musicians Union**, the **City of Omaha**, **US Cellular**, and **First National Bank** for helping to sponsor these concerts, and **Roberts Dairy** who gave us a good deal on ice cream treats. Thanks also to **Jan Franks**, **Brittney Rubek** and **Ben Spahn** for distributing the treats. The next and last concert is scheduled for Friday evening, **August 12**. See you in the park!



The GPNA Is Now On The Net!
Visit www.Giffordpark.org

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SAFE Tour Makes Stop In Gifford Park

Many thanks to the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Omaha** and the **Police Athletic League** for sponsoring the **SAFE (Safety and Family Education) Tour** stop in Gifford Park Thursday July 7. **Jerry Hulin** (Boys & Girls Clubs), **Lt. Rich Gonzalez**, **Tony Espejo** (South Omaha Gang Unit), **Alberto Gonzales** (OPD), and **Gabi Galvan** (Keystone Youth Group) roasted 130 hot dogs, gave away 50 T-shirts, and shared a lot of good information with families and youth in the park. They will make more tour stops in other Omaha parks in July.



Sun Dawg Program In Full Swing

At the Sun Dawg shack, supervisors Evan Volkwein, Skyler Johnson and Stephanie Christensen are heading up the Gifford Park site this year. Please consider stopping down any weekday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to help with activities. Special thanks go to Tom Lebida (Parks & Recreation Supervisor) for always paying close attention to our Gifford Park site. By the way, the GPNA wishes to thank the City of Omaha, Omaha World-Herald, Alltel, and other private donors who help keep the Sun Dawgs program going and for making it possible for Gifford Park to be a full-time site; this means a lot to our neighborhood.



California Tacos & More

Homemade Mexican Food

342-0212

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Monday - Saturday: 11a.m. - 8 p.m.
Closed Sunday

California Tacos & More



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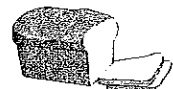
WE DELIVER!



7:00 AM - 10:00 PM Monday thru Thursday

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

8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Sunday



Identity Theft Update: Protecting Personal Information

- Before you give out your personal information, ask your bank, doctor's office, other businesses, and your employer how they will use the information, who will see it, and how they will protect it.
- Never carry your Social Security Card or number, birth certificate, or passport unless necessary.
- Do not have your social security or driver's license numbers printed on your checks.
- Do not put your address, telephone number, or driver's license number on a credit card receipt.
- Never give identifying information over the phone unless you initiate the call.
- Never give identifying information over a cordless or cellular telephone.
- Shred all financial or confidential information (including pre-approved credit card applications) before discarding.
- Keep a list of your credit card and bank account numbers, expiration dates, and phone numbers in a safe place.
- Store seldom-used credit cards in a safe place; consider canceling the account altogether and cut up credit cards before discarding.
- Carry only the credit cards you plan on using.
- Do not use your mother's maiden name as a password.
- Unless your mailbox is secure, mail payments at the post office, and pick up checks at the bank.
- Get a free copy of your credit report once a year online at www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling 877-322-8228. Check to make sure your report is accurate.
- Two key indicators that your identity has been stolen are that your monthly credit card and bank statements suddenly stop arriving in the mail, and you are denied credit for no apparent reason.

Reprinted from the OPD Community Resource Center Newsletter

Tour Of Via Christe Planned For August

According to Steve **Rothenberg**, director of **Via Christe**, the assisted living facility on Duchesne Academy's campus, plans are being made to conduct a "hardhat" tour for Gifford Park neighborhood residents. The tour is scheduled for **Saturday, August 6th**, from **10 a.m. to noon**. The facility will be open to the neighborhood for an open house and tour of the building. Refreshments will be served. Look for more information in the August edition of the newsletter.

Thanks, Brad!

The GPNA would like to thank **Brad Bogard (California Tacos)** for providing free chips & salsa and pop to all who participated in the June 3 neighborhood walk and litter pickup. Thanks to all who participated and helped clean up the area. A good time was had by all!



GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 31462 Omaha, NE 68131-0462

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 |

Vacation Bible School At Area Church

Harvest Community Church is inviting children, ages kindergarten through 6th grade, to join them for Vacation Bible School July 18 - 22, from 5:50 - 8:30 p.m. Harvest Community Church is located at 3903 Cuming St. For more information, please call the church at 558-4119.

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