



Gifford Park's Pride

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

August 2005

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Third Annual Block Party Is August 2

Celebrate National Night Out With Neighbors

Tuesday, August 2nd is the 21st National Night Out - the night when neighborhoods throughout the Omaha area and nation-wide will be organizing block parties, cookouts, picnics, ice cream socials, and other activities in order to foster greater community spirit and heightened crime and drug prevention awareness. Other goals of the program include increasing support and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthening police-community partnerships, and sending a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime. Last year, the NNO campaign involved over 32 million citizens in all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide. The theme for the event continues to be "Dusk 'til Dawn, Leave Your Lights On!", which serves as a reminder that maintaining a well-lit neighborhood by leaving outdoor lights on all night is one of the simplest, yet most effective crime deterrents we have!

For the fourth straight year, the GPNA will participate in National Night Out by holding its third annual **Block Party** at 33rd & California St. 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 the neighborhood.

The activities planned will be similar to last year's event: food, refreshments, jazz, a firetruck & classic cars on display, face painting, rock-climbing wall, moonwalk, 3 on 3 basketball, water balloon toss, information booths, and more. For more information, or if you would like to help, call Cynthia 556-2090 or Chris 342-6006

DUSK TIL DAWN
LEAVE YOUR LIGHTS ON

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 4
7:00 P.M.

Topic: Omaha Police
Department
Nuisance Unit

Creighton University
Medical Center
Morrison Seminar Room



Open House For Gifford
Park Area Residents

Saturday, August 6
10 a.m. - Noon

"Hard-Hat" Tour
Refreshments



Music In Gifford
Park

Friday, August 12
7 - 8 p.m.

U.S. Air Force Heartland of America
Band - Winds of Freedom

Free Ice Cream Treats!

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

COMPLIANCE

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

KELLOM SCHOOL LIAISON

Jean Peck 344-0722

MEMBERSHIP

Kate O'Brien 496-8419

NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Chris Foster 342-6006

PARK

Roger Freeman 557-2914

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chris Foster 342-6006

TOOL LENDING

Chris Foster 342-6006

WATCH GROUP

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

WELCOMING

Vicki Frey 344-0757

TOOL LENDING HOTLINE**Chris 342-6006**Mowers - \$5
Rent for most tools - \$3**Getting To Know Your GPNA Officers****Kate O'Brien, Treasurer**

There are so many wonderful reasons to get involved in Gifford Park! In the three years I have lived in the neighborhood I have found most of the reasons revolve around the people. So many have given their time and energy to help our neighborhood thrive that when I was asked to be treasurer I was happy to accept.

My first introduction to Gifford Park was when Dan and I were looking for a place to live close to downtown where I work. A small home at 34th and Cass seemed to fit our needs. One evening before we moved in we were in the neighborhood just to check things out. It happened to be the night of Show Wagon. I immediately knew I was hooked; lots of activity and friendly people. It has set the tone for our time in Gifford Park thus far.

Now Dan and I have moved on to our own place, not too far, just up the street really. It is not quite as bustling as the corner of 34th and Cass but there is still a lot of life, bike riding, football tossing, and the occasional street hockey game or scooter race.

Gifford Park really is a great place to live and I am glad I can be a part of it. Without the years of commitment by those before me it would not be the neighborhood I call home. Thanks to those who have contributed in the past and those who will contribute in the future.

Fred Bruce Passes Away

Sadly, longtime Gifford Park resident **Fred Bruce** passed away on July 26; he was 83. Fred and his wife Doris were married on May 22, 1943 and lived at 320 North 35th Ave for 58 years. Due to an illness, they moved to an assisted living center three years ago. They raised 5 children: Kenneth, Fred, Harley, Jerry, Beverly. Fred worked at Wilson's Packing House in South Omaha until it closed, then at Tip Top Industries on 16th and Cuming Street until it also closed. Fred worked as an insurance salesman until he retired. When Fred went to call in the kids at night he had a distinctive whistle that could be heard for blocks around. Doris had a pet goose and played Mother Goose on Halloween. The goose "gargle" would follow her everywhere she went and the children at school loved to see her coming. She was an active supporter on the Yates School PTA. The GPNA sends its sincere condolences to the Bruce family.

by Jan Franks

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 mailed to the GPNA, P.O. Box 31462, Omaha, NE 68131-0462; please include your name and phone number. Contact Sue Wilwerding (342-2795) or Chris Foster (342-6006) for information regarding the newsletter.

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

**Mayor's Action
Office
444-5555**

Reinvestment Area Program Information Available At SNB

The City of Omaha's Reinvestment Area Program (RAP) is now available and Security National Bank has been selected to be one of the financial institutions participating in this program. The RAP program is designed to help homeowners east of 72nd St. to improve their homes. By combining these funds with a home improvement loan from a local bank, the City provides a way to rehabilitate or improve homes at half the cost. RAP is a special opportunity to make a home a safer and more enjoyable place to live.

For example, if you intend to do \$40,000 worth of work, under RAP you would only need to borrow \$20,000 from a bank and the remaining \$20,000 is provided as a grant from the City. The bank loans will be at a fixed interest rate. Through RAP, the smallest home improvement amount is \$10,000 (\$5,000 in RAP funds and a \$5,000 bank loan) and the largest is \$40,000 (\$20,000 in RAP funds and a \$20,000 bank loan). More than \$20,000 can be borrowed from the bank for a home improvement, but the City will only match up to \$20,000. Participants must be the owner and occupant of the property to be rehabilitated, the property can have from one to four dwelling units, it must be east of 72nd St., south of I-680, and north of Harrison, the annual household income cannot exceed 80% of the Area Median Family Income, and the participant cannot be a City of Omaha employee. There are maximum income limits which vary according to family size.

The types of improvements eligible and the City's priority in approving RAP funds are 1) lead-based paint hazards 2) code items 3) exterior general property improvements 4) all other general property improvements (a brochure includes a list of eligible and ineligible improvements). Some acceptable improvements include exterior siding, new roof, new windows, new furnace, central AC, add/remodel bathroom, remodel kitchen, room addition, finish basement, new sidewalk or drive, landscaping, deck, interior or exterior paint, new carpet, new wiring, or built-in kitchen appliances. The RAP process is as follows: 1) The City will take and approve applications 2) Approved applicants contact the Rehabilitation Inspector who will identify major code items and lead hazards and prepare a Property Evaluation Report 3) Applicant hires a contractor 4) Applicant applies at a bank for a RAP loan (must meet bank lending guidelines).

RAP applications and brochures are available at the following three Security National Bank locations: 35th & Farnam St., 29th & L St., and 52nd & Center St.

ACTIVIDADES EN EL VECINDARIO – En Español

Celebrando (National Night Out) – vamos a tener una fiesta para todas las familias del vecindario Gifford Park. El Martes 2 de Agosto, de 5:30 de la tarde hasta las 8pm, en la calle 33 y California. Vamos a tener actividades de juegos para los niños, música, comida, y mucho mas.

Musica en el Parque Gifford – el Viernes, 12 de Agosto, de 7 a 8pm, el conjunto de las Fuerzas Aerea HEARTLAND OF AMERICA BAND Winds of Freedom van a presentar un tremendo concierto musical. Helados gratis

El Programa de Tenis para la Juventud – Clases de instrucción en la cancha de tenis en el parque Gifford, los Miércoles 3, 10, 17, 24, y 31 de Agosto, de 6 a 7pm. Tienes que traer el formulario de matriculación y permiso de los padres antes de participar en este programa.

by Mike Caban

Next Neighborhood Walk Friday Aug 5, 7–8 p.m.

Meet in front of California Tacos (33rd & California). Brad Bogard, owner of California Tacos, is offering free Chips & Salsa and Soft Drink for those participating on the walk. Adults and children welcome!

Free Kindergarten Traffic Training

The 53rd Annual Kindergarten Traffic Safety Training Program will be held at the Westroads Mall from **August 8th through the 12th**. There will be two sessions each day. The registration table will be inside the mall by the entrance to Dick's Sporting Goods by the Westroads Campground. The morning session registration is at 9:30 a.m. and the afternoon session registration is at 1:00 p.m.

The children will be divided into small groups and escorted by uniformed police officers. They will learn about playing and staying out of the street. They will ride a yellow school bus and be instructed on proper etiquette while on the bus. They will meet a talking traffic light who tells them about the different colored lights and symbols that help them cross the street. The children will meet safety patrol crossing guards dressed in orange vests just like the ones that will be at their school in the fall. They will also meet some Omaha firefighters and learn about the ABC's of fire safety.

Please pick one session and bring your soon-to-be kindergartener to the Westroads for an hour of fun that may save their life.

Reprinted from the OPD Community Resource Center Newsletter

Hortons Celebrate 60th Anniversary

James and Vera (Madison) Horton met in 1944 on a blind date at Offutt Air Force Base in Fort Crook, Nebraska. The couple were married on July 21, 1945, in Birmingham, Alabama while James was on a 30-day furlough from the U.S. Army during World War II. The couple celebrated their 60th anniversary on July 21, 2005 with their daughter, **Bonnie Price**, and their son, **Thomas Horton**. James and Vera also had a son, James Horton, and grandson, Scott, who are both deceased. James and Vera lived in Palmerdale, Alabama, for three years, and they have lived in Omaha for 57 years, including living next to Gifford Park near 34th & Davenport since July 1949 (back when 34th Street went through the park). They are life members of the V.F.W. Post 247 and the Disabled American Veterans. They like to travel and have been on 16 cruises and visited 39 countries in Europe, Asia, and South America. James worked for Watson Brothers Trucking for 16 years and then P.I.E. Trucking for 17 years. Vera was a homemaker, lifetime P.T.A. member, and was very active with the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts.

They have fond memories of ice-skating in Gifford Park. In fact, James used to "enhance" the ice-skating rink by turning on the water hydrant after the City quit for the day when flooding the park – I don't think anyone minded too much! James & Vera donated a roto-tiller and other items to the community garden and are always eager to help the GPNA. Congratulations, Vera and James, on your 60th anniversary, and we wish you many more!



by Chris Foster

12th Annual Tennis Program This August

For the 12th consecutive year, the free 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. Registration forms are available at J'N'J Grocery and California Tacos. For more information, or if you would like to help with any or all of the sessions, call **Chris Foster at 342-6006**.

Block Party Volunteers Needed

Business District Clean-up
Tuesday, August 2, 2005 4:00-5:00pm prior to the National Night Out Block Party and then again afterwards from 8:00-9:00pm for trash pick-up (gloves and trash-bags provided.)

Table and Booth Set-Up
3:30-5:00pm 33rd & California
Clown's Assistant

5:30-8:00pm
Jugglers, Fire-Breathers and Face Painters

Show-up or call **Chris 342-6006** or **Cynthia 556-2090** to volunteer.



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 |

"Under The Sink" Facility Is Open!

Need a place to take left-over paint, home, garden, garage, car & workshop products, including poisons, flammable and caustic items? "Under The Sink" opened June 1st, but you need to call **444-7465** to make an appointment. There is more information on their website: underthesink.org, and they are located at 4001 South 120th St. This is a place we've been waiting for to get rid of all of the left-overs!