



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 2005

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Restore Omaha Conference Set For First Weekend In November

Historic property owners and owners of older homes who are seeking information on restoration and preservation techniques can choose from an extensive menu of programs at the **Restore Omaha Conference, Exhibition, and Tour, November 5-6, 2005**, at the **Mutual of Omaha Dome**.

Participants can select from up to 20 educational sessions and spend hours on the exhibition floor meeting with more than 30 representatives of products, craftsmen, and associations geared toward restoring, repairing, and preserving historic buildings.

A frequent contributor to **Old House Journal**, **John Leeke** will be the keynote speaker of the event. Leeke grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska and watched his father learn the woodworker trade from **Keats Lorenz**, an early 20<sup>th</sup> Century woodcarver and architectural stylist who worked on Nebraska's State Capitol. He now lives in Portland, Maine and gives preservation workshops through his company **Historic Home Works**.

Starting off the day will be **Bob Yapp**, a nationally known preservation consultant, PBS television host (**About Your House with Bob Yapp**), columnist, radio show host, and old house lover. He'll speak on "Preservation Doesn't Cost...It Pays."

Conference sessions will start **Saturday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.** with Yapp's presentation and go throughout the day. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear topics ranging from porch and window repair to how to get their home on the historic register. The conference also will allow plenty of opportunities to network with historic property owners to gather ideas and solutions. Conference price is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Admission includes the keynote session, up to three lectures, hands-on demonstrations and the exhibitor area.

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CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION, AND TOUR  
November 5 and 6, 2005

## Next Meeting

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

**Guest Speaker:  
Kristine Gerber  
Restore Omaha  
Conference Director**

**Creighton University  
Medical Center  
Morrison Seminar Room**

## GPNA Fall Cleanup Set For October 15



This year's annual GPNA Fall Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, October 15th**, from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in **Gifford Park**. The fall cleanup is for **GPNA MEMBERS ONLY**, or people who donate their time or money to the cleanup. There will be dumpsters and a compactor for hauling trash, a membership and donation drive, scrap metal recycling, a Halloween pumpkin patch, and lunch for the volunteer workers prepared by **Rodney Hay**. Volunteers are needed to provide pickup trucks for hauling, assist in packing and monitoring dumpsters, and help in making pickups. **PLEASE NOTE:** It is very important for you to call the phone numbers listed below **BEFORE** the day of the cleanup if you are unable to bring your trash to the park yourself and need a volunteer to help. Tree brush **WILL NOT** be accepted. There will be a \$10 charge for appliances containing refrigerant (freon). Tires **WILL** be taken at the fall cleanup this year for \$1.00 apiece. Please call **Chris (342-6006)**, **Cynthia (556-2090)**, **Jim (551-1344)** or **Terry (342-2795)** for more information or if you can assist with the cleanup.

**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**

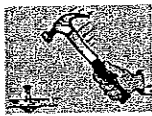
Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

**WEEDS & LITTER**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**WELCOMING**

Vicki Frey 344-0757

**TOOL LENDING HOTLINE****Chris 342-6006****Mowers - \$5****Rent for most tools - \$3****Code Enforcement: Omaha Neighborhood Scan Update**

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association's scan volunteers established the following goals for this project:

1. The data will serve as a public record documenting the current condition of housing stock in the neighborhood.
2. The data will identify the problems neighborhood residents face and facilitate pertinent informational workshops organized by the Association.
3. The data will be valuable when approaching private and/or non-profit agencies for funding collaborative neighborhood improvement projects.
4. The data will encourage homeowner cooperation to negotiate better pricing for individuals by banding projects together to offer a higher volume project.
5. The data will serve to identify property owners who provide sub-standard housing conditions by disregarding current property maintenance codes established by the City of Omaha.

Our process:

The volunteer scan team identified three levels of priority based on the number of major code violations per property.

0 major violations: 233 letters sent in this category and a follow-up survey is forthcoming.

1-3 major violations: 92 letters sent in this category. Property shall be re-scanned 45 days after letter date and a follow-up survey is forthcoming.

4+ major violations: 19 letters sent out in this category. Properties shall be re-scanned 45 days after letter date and a follow up survey is forthcoming, and if no improvements are noted in the re-scan report, property shall be submitted to the City Inspections Department for review.

The results:

41% of properties in Gifford Park's first scan quadrant have an issue with stair handrails. Either the handrail is missing at a set of stairs with 3 or more steps or it is in poor condition. The next most commonly cited problem at 23% is weeds. Any of the following situations qualify as a weed problem: weeds over 12", uncultivated weed trees at property perimeter which includes the Tree of Heaven shrubs or shrub hedges obstructing sidewalks or exceeding the height limit. Be aware: a shrub hedge, like a fence, cannot exceed four feet in height in the front yard and six feet in height in the backyard.

The next problem on our list was sidewalks and driveways in major disrepair. 14% of property owners need new driveways or sidewalks replaced or repaired. 11% percent of properties have vehicles parked on someone's lawn and 10% of properties have issues with sanitation.

After October 17, 2005, scan volunteers will begin re-scanning properties with one or more major code violations noting efforts to correct problem(s). Around this same time UNO project staff will prepare an information-gathering survey for all participants in the scan project. Please respond to the survey, as it is an important aspect of the pilot project. For any questions contact **Cynthia 556-2090**.

*by Cynthia Shuck*

Note: Look for information in next month's newsletter concerning property rezoning issues in our neighborhood.

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

A **Keep Kids Alive Drive 25T** Pilot Project is a pending project interested in partnering with local Midtown neighborhoods, law enforcement, faith communities, and businesses over a 4-6 month period. The focus of the project will promote education and action around driver, pedestrian, and cyclist safety. Keep Kids Alive Drive 25T can be the lead agency in the educational effort in working with residents, associations, schools, places of worship, business, and other interested organizations to mobilize the community to create safer streets, sidewalks, and parks for everyone who walks, bikes, or drives. Questions? Contact **Cynthia 556-2090** if you are interested in participating or representing Gifford Park in the project.

Congratulations to **Dan Bodmann** and **Kate O'Brien** on their marriage September 17. Dan is currently GPNA Vice-President and Kate is GPNA Treasurer. They have both been very active in the neighborhood association for the past few years, including the Community Garden and most other events.

GPNA member **Bob Hutton** is recovering from mid-September surgery. It's amazing how much Bob is missed when he's not his normal active, energetic self. Get well soon Bob.

Thanks to **Mike Bacome** for recently donating a lawn mower to our GPNA Tool Lending program.

A seminar entitled "**Dispelling The Myths Of Reverse Mortgages**" will be held on **Thursday, October 20, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at **Savannah Pines, 3900 Pine Lake Road, in Lincoln, NE.** This seminar is specifically designed to address a diverse audience and will be beneficial to financial planners, attorneys, customers, senior housing providers & caregivers, advocates of the senior population, lenders, and real estate professionals. The hosts for this presentation are **Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Financial Freedom & Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Nebraska.** Direct questions to **Linda Maraman, CCCS, at 402-484-7200.** To register, call **Maggie** at the same number.

**ICE (In Case of Emergency)** is a campaign encouraging people to enter an emergency contact number in their mobile phone's memory under the heading ICE. ICE allows paramedics and police to be able to contact a designated relative in an emergency situation without having to search through an entire list of phone numbers. It's easy to do: select a new contact in your phone book, enter the word "ICE" and the number of the person to be contacted.

## Restore Omaha . . . *continued from page 1*

On **Sunday, November 6**, a \$5 tour is planned from **1 to 5 p.m.** highlighting current and completed preservation efforts in Omaha's midtown area along with having the **Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center** open for tours.

A committee consisting of representatives of a number of midtown neighborhood associations, **American Institute of Architects, Nebraska State Historical Society, Omaha Main Streets, Landmarks Inc., Omaha 2020,** and **Midtown Neighborhood Alliance** is helping to organize the conference.

For a complete conference and tour listing and for registration information visit [www.destinationmidtown.org/events](http://www.destinationmidtown.org/events) or call **Kristine Gerber**, Conference Director, at **(402)614-0056.**

The conference is made possible with support from the **Omaha Community Foundation, Midtown Neighborhood Alliance, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Mutual of Omaha, Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association, Park East Neighborhood Association, Wells Fargo, Leo A. Daly, and IBEW Local #22.**

## Destination Midtown (DM) Update

DM has secured grant money in order to offer business development classes geared toward starting a business in the Midtown area. Look for future announcements.

**Public forums for the Destination Midtown Traffic Study** are anticipated for January 2006. According to the March 22, 2005, press release, the study will examine the conversion of Dodge Street from five to seven lanes, a reconfiguration of the intersection at Dodge Street/Saddle Creek Road, the conversion from one-way to two-way traffic on Farnam and Harney Streets between 10th and 42nd streets and between Happy Hollow Boulevard and Saddle Creek Road, and the Dodge to Douglas "S" curve at Turner Park.

DM is thoughtfully reviewing the potential **Identity Garden** sites submitted by each neighborhood association. GPNA committed to planting the flowering annuals each year but requested Destination Midtown assist in watering maintenance. Construction is scheduled for completion prior to winter. City annuals will be planted in the spring. If you are interested in the planting project contact **Chris Foster 342-6006** or myself **556-2090.**

*by Cynthia Shuck*

**The GPNA Is On The Net!**  
Visit [www.Giffordpark.org](http://www.Giffordpark.org)



# 11th Annual Haunted House

**Where:**  
PKA House  
3100 Chicago St.



**When:**  
Saturday, October 29th  
Ages 10 & under: 6 p.m.  
All ages: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**FREE!**

hosted by:  
*Pi Kappa Alpha (PKA) Creighton Fraternity*  
*Gifford Park Neighborhood Association*



All Neighborhood Children And Parents  
Are Welcome to Stop By For Refreshments  
And Trick-or-Treats!



**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          |

## Neighborhood Walk

Friday, October 7  
7:00 - 8:00 pm

Meet at California  
Tacos & More  
33rd & California  
Free Chips, Salsa, &  
Pop for Participants

For City Services,  
Information, or  
Complaints  
Call:

Mayor's Action  
Office  
444-5555