



Gifford Park's Pride

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

November 2005

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Wealth Of Information Available To Area Homeowners At Restore Omaha Conference

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 20th 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." (See pages 6 and 7 for an interview with Mr. Yapp.)

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

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Next General Meeting
Thursday, November 3
7:00 P.M.

Preview Of GPNA Booth
For Restore Omaha Conference

Drawing For Free Ticket
To Restore Omaha Conference

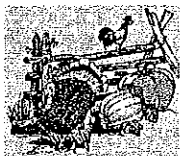
Creighton University Med Center
Morrison Seminar Room

Fall Cleanup 2005 Highlights

We had perfect weather and generous neighborhood volunteers once again for our annual **GPNA Fall Cleanup** held Saturday, October 15 in Gifford Park. The cleanup itself filled two trash compactors (provided by **Dale's Trash Service**). The other events included the pumpkin patch (100 pumpkins given away – **Earl May Garden Center** gave us a great deal), pumpkin painting supervised by **Jan Franks, Brittney Rubek** and special help from **State Senator Gwen Howard**, police officers and a police cruiser on site to educate children about public safety, **Rodney Hay** with help from **Sue Wilwerding** provided us with great barbecue pork sandwiches & beans, **Loren Johnson** with **J'N'J Grocery** provided hot dogs, **Lilly Estes** and **Jack Sutton** with **California Bar** provided pop and ice, we recycled a lot of metal, appliances, & 12 tires, and received over \$300 in memberships and donations. **Roger Freeman, Jackie Foster, Danielle Talkington, Brittney Rubek** and **Ben Spahn** supervised groups of youth to help pick up litter in the park and business district. Everyone who volunteered at the cleanup "earned" their free pumpkin and food.

Thanks to Scout Master **Jim Detwiler**, his boy scout troop had a great setup in the park for anyone interested in learning about scouting.

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Happy
Thanksgiving!
from the Gifford Park
Neighborhood Association

GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

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Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

WELCOMING

Vicki Frey 344-0757

From The President

There are "responsible" small steps to redevelopment and revitalization available to (and going on all around) us. Reducing, reusing and recycling are finally fashionable!

According to **Steve Tonn**, Extension Educator-Omaha Metro Area Lakes, Low Impact Development is an innovative stormwater management approach with a basic principle that is modeled after nature: manage rainfall at the source by increasing infiltration and evapotranspiration and reducing runoff. This more environmentally friendly concept is gaining interest in the Omaha metro area. Low impact development is being encouraged in the Cunningham Lake Watershed as a part of its watershed management plan and the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership. The Watershed's Green Watershed By Design concept encourages more environmentally friendly development. With the federal mandate to manage stormwater quantity and quality, reducing pollutant loads into stormwater runoff is becoming more and more important.

The goal of low impact development is to decrease runoff volumes by increasing runoff infiltration and maximizing evapotranspiration. Use of water permeable materials for sidewalks and parking areas, reduction of sidewalk and street widths in low traffic areas, reductions in building setbacks from roads to reduce driveway lengths, routing water from rooftops and driveways to lawns, and eliminating conventional curbs and stormwater drains on streets will all decrease overall runoff volumes.

Just check out the following links: www.worldchanging.com, www.landliving.com, www.we-make-money-not-art.com, www.gotoreviews.com, www.inhabitat.com.

Low Impact Development (LID) is not just for government agencies; each person in our neighborhood is accountable for their portion of waste. Be nice-save the City of Omaha some money (it's your money by the way.) Conserve resources (like water) and be an informed consumer. 47 properties in quadrant one of our neighborhood's scan have major problems with sidewalks and drives. This is an opportune time to learn about permeable paving options which you may not find at your local hardware store as easily as concrete or asphalt (it's not that fashionable yet) but definitely available in the local marketplace. Permeable paving allows us to "pave the world" and be environmentally responsible at the same time! Call me and ask me where to get this stuff and what it looks like!

GPNA is a 2005 recipient of a \$10,000 grant through the **Community Enhancement Program (CEP)** at Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. CEP is a cooperative effort of the **Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR)**, **Nebraska Forest Service** and **Nebraska Statewide Arboretum**. The program makes available federal transportation funds to assist communities and other public entities in Nebraska with the implementation of landscaping projects that improve the state's transportation corridors. GPNA asks for your support for community sustainability and diversity in our street-tree collection by considering an offer to plant a select tree in your parkway. If interested in participating in the grant program, let me know. If you receive a letter from us, your property is lucky enough to be on a designated "green" corridor!

Other news of the value of recycling and modest means: my humble abode was selected to win the honor of a consultation with **John Leeke**, historic preservationist and main speaker at the Restore Omaha conference. I'm thrilled... I've got four hours to find out everything I need to know about owning an older home.

by Cynthia Shuck

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

GPNA And Residents Oppose Hard Liquor Sales At Kum & Go

Neighborhood opposition in early October has helped to prevent our Kum & Go convenience store from upgrading its liquor license to include the sale of hard liquor. Kum & Go Corporation sought to add hard liquor sales to five Omaha locations. Due to an outpouring of complaints from local residents, Kum & Go retracted its request to upgrade the locations in Gifford Park and Ford Birthsite neighborhood. According to an October 5 article in the *Omaha World-Herald*, "The store chain's self-described 'terrible' reputation in Omaha contributed to its problems, and neighborhood opposition forced it to back off attempts to sell liquor at two other stores." Kum & Go won the "probationary" backing of the City Council to add hard liquor sales to the three other locations.

Some local residents were frustrated that there was so little warning of Kum & Go's application for hard liquor sales. Neighbors learned of the application only days before the matter was to be brought before the City Council. Despite the short notice, the GPNA produced a letter of opposition on behalf of the Executive Board. Several petitions, initiated by Ron Yates and Lilly Estes, gathered over 150 signatures. In the future, GPNA will be alerted via e-mail of new liquor license applications being brought to the City Council.

Other local neighborhoods are not pleased with the recent outcome. Orchard Hill residents met with City Councilman Frank Brown after the vote to discuss their concerns and to plead for suggestions about what can be done to overturn the decision. Neighboring residents learned of the application for hard liquor at their Kum & Go only 24 hours prior to the City Council meeting. According to neighbors, they feel that the Orchard Hill Kum & Go (located at 3784 Hamilton Street) is already a magnet for local criminal activity and underage drinking. It is hard to imagine that the increased availability of hard liquor in the neighborhood will improve the quality of life.

Interestingly, some people in Gifford Park feel that the 33rd Street Kum and Go may already violate the spirit of a city ordinance banning the sale of any alcohol in close proximity to a church. When this issue came up a few years ago, the business was able to persuade city officials that after they rearranged the interior of the establishment that the liquor sales would be compliant (although just barely) with city rules. The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association would like to see better management of the 33rd Street Kum & Go. GPNA believes that the Kum & Go can be a good

neighbor but that it needs to improve its management and commitment to our neighborhood. Specifically, GPNA wants the area to be kept free of trash, graffiti, and loitering. Furthermore, GPNA encourages Kum & Go to be proactive in reporting suspicious activity on its premises to the police. Regardless of management, however, local residents clearly believe that there is already sufficient availability of liquor in our neighborhood. The GPNA will continue to oppose the expansion of hard liquor sales in these situations.

by Dan Bodmann



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



California Bar
And Package
510 N. 33rd. Street



Happy Hour Discounts, Mon. - Fri.
\$1 Wells, Thursday & Saturday, 7pm to close!
449-9138
Just 1/2 Block South of California Street

Enjoy our "Beer Garden"
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Order your beer Kegs here!

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4913 Underwood Avenue
558-5000

Personal Injury Law
Worker's Compensation
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Insurance Claims

Know The Law

It shall be unlawful for any person owning any animal to do any of the following:

- (a) Permit an animal to defecate on any privately owned or occupied property other than that of the owner or the person having control of the animal without immediately cleaning or removing the excrement;
 - (b) Permit an animal to defecate on public property including designated off leash dog parks, without immediately cleaning or removing the excrement;
 - (c) Permit an animal to unreasonably obstruct the use and enjoyment of property held by others in the community by allowing such animal to habitually bark, howl, yelp, bay or make other noise which by loudness or frequency causes a breach of the peace; provided, however, this section shall not apply to the animal shelter, veterinarians, and medical laboratories.
 - (d) Permit unsanitary conditions to exist on any premises where an animal is kept which would cause foul or obnoxious odors, attract flies or vermin or otherwise threaten the public health and safety;
 - (e) Permit an animal to engage in menacing behavior including but not limited to the chasing of vehicles or the molesting, or frightening of passersby or neighbors.
- An animal control officer may abate any of the above nuisances, either through issuance of a citation or impounding the animal, if no owner or agent can be found at the time of the nuisance.
(Ord. No. 36463, § 2, 12-16-03)

The violation of any such provision or the failure to perform any such act shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding \$500.00, or by imprisonment not to exceed six months, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

SNAP! Productions Presents A New Brain

SNAP! Productions is pleased to present the musical **A New Brain**, November 17-December 11 at 3225 California Street. There will be no show on Thanksgiving. Curtain times are 8:00 pm, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; 6:00 pm on Sundays. The theater opens 45 minutes before curtain time. Reservations may be made by calling 341-2757 or on the SNAP! website: www.snapproductions.com. Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$12 students, senior citizens, and TAG members. The November 20 performance will be sign language interpreted for the hearing impaired.

A New Brain takes us on a surreal semiautobiographical tour of a songwriter's struggle to find meaning in his life when confronted with the possibility of terminal illness. **A New Brain** is a musical medicine from the heart meant to inspire and encourage - and that is just what it does. **Roxanne Wach** directs this absorbingly intense musical with musical direction by **Rod Carlson**.

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Restore Omaha . . . *continued from page 1*

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.

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 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.**

Fall Cleanup . . . continued from page 1

The rest of our dedicated volunteers included: Darryl Hutton, Lloyd Canfield, Rich Exline, Terry Wilwerding, Justin Brown, Jim Wilwerding, Jarred Randone, Cynthia Shuck, Dan & Kate Bodmann, Mike Wilwerding, Martin Janousek, Chris & Sallie Foster, Leo Wilwerding, Richard & Bonnie Kaster, Eva Swanson, Eric McGee, Creighton University Medical Center, and the City Parks Department. GPNA President Cynthia Shuck and Treasurer Kate Bodmann get the MVP award for this year's fall cleanup, as they were real troopers from start to finish! And special thanks again to the **Omaha Community Foundation** for providing most of the funds for this event, and make it possible for the variety of interesting, healthy activities. Thank you all!

By Chris Foster



Early in the morning of October 15, volunteers helped prepare the pumpkin patch, one of a variety of activities at the annual GPNA fall cleanup.

California Tacos & More

Homemade Mexican Food

342-0212

33rd & California Street

Dine In or Carry Out

Hours:

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

Closed Sunday

California **Tacos & More**



J'N'J

GROCERY STORE

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3301 California Street -- 422-1058

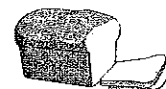
WE DELIVER!



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



A Conversation With Bob Yapp

Bob Yapp will give a presentation at the Restore Omaha Conference on Saturday, November 5. The following question and answer session with the nationally known preservation consultant was conducted by the Small Home Gazette.

Small Home Gazette (SHG): What's the state of the old house movement?

Yapp: The state of the hold house movement is very good in many ways and scary in other ways. What we've found in the Midwest is that there are a lot of people who love their old houses. But I'm also finding a huge property rights movement that's growing every day. These are people who love their old homes but don't want what they view as the 'paint police' or the 'preservation Nazis' telling them what to do or what not to do with their homes.

Most of this resistance is based on misconception. I am often asked to give talks to angry groups of property rights people. Usually I walk out with all of my limbs, and at the end of most of those sessions, we're all hugging. There's a perception with a lot of property rights people that somehow preservation is a left-wing conspiracy; that we're out to take their property rights away. The truth is, nothing could be more conservative than preserving and conserving our built environment.

I end up talking about the economics of practicing preservation, and then they get it. No one's taken the time to sit down and walk them through what the big lie in America is and how it's raping historic homeowners' pocketbooks.

SHG: The "big lie"?

Yapp: The big lie is that preservation is expensive. Preservation doesn't cost; it pays. Retaining original materials virtually always costs less than replacing things, and it's almost always more energy efficient.

It is the ultimate in recycling, based upon the fact that our landfills are 40 percent filled with demolition and construction debris. From time to time I train architects for the American Institute of Architects. They ask, what do you think about 'green' [environmentally friendly] construction? My first thought is, that's all well and good, but what could be more green than rehabbing an existing house?

SHG: Where do we get this idea that preservation is expensive?

Yapp: Take the replacement product industry for homes. It spends hundreds of millions of dollars a year to market their products, to convince you that they're better than what is already on your house. Does that automatically make it true? Of course not. Yet when I ask a group how many have replaced their windows or resided their house or any number of things that are detrimental—and cost them more than it should have—they sheepishly raise their hands.

Part of what I'll be walking people through at the Bungalow Club's presentation is how they can hire someone—or do it themselves—to restore original windows in their bungalows, make them more energy efficient than a replacement window, almost as easily cleaned as a replacement window, for less money than a replacement window.

Most consumers are blown away when I walk them through this. They slap their foreheads and say, this makes perfect sense. They say, why have we been lied to? They're mad at the replacement product industry because they've been duped. I'm talking about the vinyl siding industry. And doors. Go to the big-box lumberyards and look at the cheesy doors they sell. Take laminate wood floors—they cost as much as laying a ¾ inch tongue-and-groove oak floor and having it sanded. Pre-finished flooring is another one—in accelerated testing those finishes just don't hold up.

Last year at the Chicago Bungalow exposition I had a large group in a window restoration seminar. I asked for a show of hands, and about 60 percent of them were there to talk to vendors at the fair that were selling

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A Conversation With Bob Yapp . . . continued from Page 6

replacement windows. At the end of the two-hour talk I again asked people to raise their hands, asking who was going to talk to the replacement window people, and about five percent of the people raised their hands. When I asked how many were going to talk to the window restoration companies, virtually every hand in the audience went up.

SHG: Our bungalows are typically small, often plain, and usually not owned by avid preservationists. How does one go about addressing preservation in neighborhoods where people don't drive through and think: Wow—what magnificent architecture! Let's save it!

Yapp: The question is: have we done our job as preservationists? In the big picture, no, we haven't. What the preservation movement did in the first 30 years was create this exclusivity, this hoity-toity notion that somehow preservationists were only the well heeled. The average working family couldn't relate to that.

My whole mission in life is to take preservation through the back door by talking about economics and self-reliance. Many working families do a lot of things themselves. If they're shown, through education, that it's easier to repair that windowsill with epoxy than it is to rip it out, that it's easier on their pocketbook to restore an original window, they'll come around.

People are concerned with the bottom line. The cultural aspects of preservation are incredibly important to me—the sense of neighborhood, of keeping interiors and exteriors of old houses intact. But we cannot promote preservation to the average working family by talking only about the cultural aspects of preservation. We have to talk about the positive economics, from the methods used to achieve home improvements to the value added to bungalows that have retained their original features.

SHG: There are many people who are sympathetic to repairing their homes or replicating features if original pieces are gone. But it can be hard to find someone who's willing and able to do that kind of thing, especially at a reasonable cost. It's much easier to find a vinyl siding salesman.

Yapp: That is the crisis in America for historic neighborhoods today. It is exactly what my whole career is based on. It's what I do for Historic Landmarks Foundation here in Indiana. I identify and train contractors in how to do cost-effective, preservation-oriented rehab and make a profit while competing with the replacement industry and giving excellent value to the consumer. The problem is that this is not a nationwide movement. There are probably five people like myself who do this.

In my opinion, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has dropped the ball. They need to hire 500 people like myself to go all over the country and target young, small contractors. What's happening is that some contractors know that they can get away with overcharging, but even more importantly, they don't know how to do work efficiently.

That's what I teach at a school I founded in the Appalachian Mountains called the Pine Mountain School for Practical Historic Preservation, in concert with the Kentucky Heritage Council. We get preservation staff and contractors from all over the country to come down there to learn cost-effective, efficient preservation in the old mode of an apprenticeship. I'm also going into schools and starting vo-tech programs for at-risk kids, teaching them to be preservation contractors.

SHG: You sound passionate about your work.

Yapp: This is my heart, my love—neighborhoods and preservation, especially the Arts and Crafts era. When I was a little kid, all I ever wanted to do was go into a crappy old neighborhood and buy an abandoned house. To me, that was the ultimate in being a pioneer. To do that was the most romantic thing I could think of doing.

My purpose in life is to be that nerd that does all the research, digs up all the studies, finds all the objective information that's done by not-for-profits and universities that don't have millions of dollars to market what they've found. I see myself as the consumer's advocate for old houses and their owners.

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

You never know what a difference someone's good efforts might make. Case in point: on a recent chilly mid-October evening **Rich Exline** and **Eric Miller** found a man lying on a bank near the alley by the Kum & Go. Rich and Eric had someone nearby call 911 to report the man who was obviously drunk or in serious medical need or both. A rescue squad and other authorities came promptly and it turned out the man was mainly drunk. There are several bad outcomes that could have easily occurred if not for Rich and Eric deciding to do something such as a) this man could have easily rolled about a foot or two into the alley and gotten run over by any vehicle using the alley (how do you think the driver in this situation would feel about running over someone?) b) the man could have easily suffered medical effects from chilly and wet weather that night. Eric and Rich, thanks for taking the extra effort and being good neighbors!

Congratulations to **Sandy Freeman** for her recent retirement from the Omaha Public Schools after nearly 30 years. Sandy worked in the Human Resources/Administration Department. She has committed to helping her husband **Roger** to keep Gifford Park cleaned up – this could probably be a fulltime job! The GPNA wishes Sandy and Roger the best of health and good times ahead, thanks for all you have both done for our neighborhood.

Many thanks to **Brad Bogard** and **California Tacos** for providing free chips and salsa for all those participating in our monthly Neighborhood Walks this spring, summer and fall. The chips added a little incentive to get a good number of folks walking. Our last walk was October 7, and we had a great showing of PKA Fraternity members, making for about 20 walkers for the evening. We plan to start our walks again in the spring.

by Chris Foster

New Night For GPNA Holiday Banquet

Once again, plans our underway for the Annual GPNA Holiday Banquet. This year will be the 17th consecutive year that **Creighton University Medical Center** has hosted this wonderful event. Because of a scheduling conflict, however, the banquet will not be held on the usual night (first Thursday in December), but will be held on **Tuesday, December 6, at 7 p.m.** For the past several years, **Rodney Hay** has been preparing smoked and fried turkeys for this event, and he has graciously agreed to do so again this year. Since this is a members only function, now is the time to join or renew your membership - send in the application on this page with your dues or bring it to the November general meeting. Look for more information on the banquet in next month's newsletter.

Just A Reminder . . .

The next meeting of the GPNA Executive Board will be held **Thursday, November 10, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** at **Yates Alternative School, 32nd & Davenport.** (This meeting is usually on the third Thursday of the month.)

Yardwaste collection season will end the week of **November 28-December 2.** Also, beginning on **December 5,** Deffenbaugh will no longer collect glass placed in green bins. Glass bottles and jars can be taken to recycling drop-off sites, a list of which can be found at www.wasteline.org.



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 |

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