



Gifford Park's Pride

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn and Play
www.giffordparkomaha.org

March 2007

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Gateway Feature Planned Get a Sneak Peak And Provide Feedback At March 1st Meeting

Plans are underway for the neighborhood gateway feature slated for 30th and California Streets. This busy intersection marks the terminus of the neighborhood's main E-W street at Creighton University Medical Center (CUMC). The neighborhood has been working for the last year to obtain approvals from the city for the signage and finalize the design of the Gifford Park landmark. The proposed design will be presented at the general meeting on March 1. Attendees will have the opportunity at the meeting to provide feedback and suggestions for the gateway feature.

This project marks the locus of elements that are important to our community. As a pivotal resource for greater Omaha, CUMC's presence in Gifford Park is a defining feature of our identity. This project is a chance for residents of Gifford Park to define the interface between the door to CUMC and the door to the neighborhood's core at 33rd and California. With the likelihood of future development of CUMC's campus in the neighborhood, this is an interface that will continue to be refined and enriched.

The feature is also a way to share the "Grow in Gifford Park" spirit with the rest of Omaha. Complimenting our successes with the Community Garden, the Identity Garden, and tree plantings along our streets, the gateway can incorporate landscaping that showcases the talents of our community members. The generous site offers area for both perennials and annuals to lend the feature a seasonal dynamic. Lighting is another way the gateway can bring interest to the trafficked crossroads.

As a significant project for the neighborhood - currently funded at \$20,000 by Peter Kiewit Foundation, The Mayor's Grant, and Mutual of Omaha - the gateway will also set a precedent for future projects. Similar guidelines will potentially shape additional neighborhood gateway features and development within Gifford Park itself. Please plan to attend the general meeting and help us put our best foot forward. For more information about this project, contact me at **216-1235**.

by Stuart Shell

**Next General Meeting
Thursday, March 1**

7:00 P.M.

**Speaker: Stuart Shell
Gateway Feature Presentation
and Discussion**

**Creighton University Med Center
Morrison Seminar Room**

**Executive Meeting
Thursday, March 15**

7:00 P.M.

**Via Christie
36th & California**

**See Page 2 For A Gateway
Feature Preview!**

17th Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt



**Saturday, April 7
Noon (Sharp!)
Rain or Shine
at Gifford Park
Children Ages 12 &
Under**

**Bring Your Easter Baskets
& Be Ready To Hunt!**

GPNA OFFICERS

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VICE PRESIDENT

Rodney Flint 346-4575

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Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

WELCOMING

Dana Freeman 850-9611

From The President . . .

Destination Midtown (DM) and the **City of Omaha** sent out its first Request For Proposal (RFP) for a DM Micro-Masterplan in the Ford Birthsite Neighborhood. The study area is from Harney to Woolworth and I-480 to 33rd. A Micro-Masterplan provides guidance to smart redevelopment and economic enhancement to area developers and residents. Gifford Park's own business district at 33rd and California would benefit greatly from such a plan which could seamlessly overlay onto our Green Masterplan. Best of luck to residents of Ford Birthsite! Get involved and be part of the exceptional efforts going on at Destination Midtown!

Combined Sewer Overflow/Clean Solutions Omaha CSO

Hoping for a new street or sidewalk in front of your house due to combined sewer? It appears there are no sewer separation projects anticipated in Gifford Park. You're just going to have to fix that broken sidewalk yourself and GPNA is here to help! This spring we hope to collaborate with Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association to offer residents a do-it-yourself, hands-on session on how to mix, pour, and finish a square of concrete sidewalk. The sessions will be free to residents.

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA) holds its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers (President and Secretary) on **March 21, 6:30 p.m.**, at the **Perk Avenue Café (1107 Park Ave)**. Officers serve a two year term and must be an appointed or elected neighborhood representative from the MNA board. A strategy session for 2007-2008 will follow the election.

The **Alliance Executive Board** is in the process of raising private funding for dues so MNA can have three seats again this year on Destination Midtown's advisory board. The goal is to raise \$2000.00. Any donations toward the effort are welcome. Contact **Jim Farho** at jfarho@cox.net, 351-8379, or MNA, PO Box 6721, Omaha NE 68106.

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.



Left: An artist's rendering of the proposed gateway feature
Above: Location of the gateway feature near the southwest corner of 30th & California St.

Free Tax Help Available

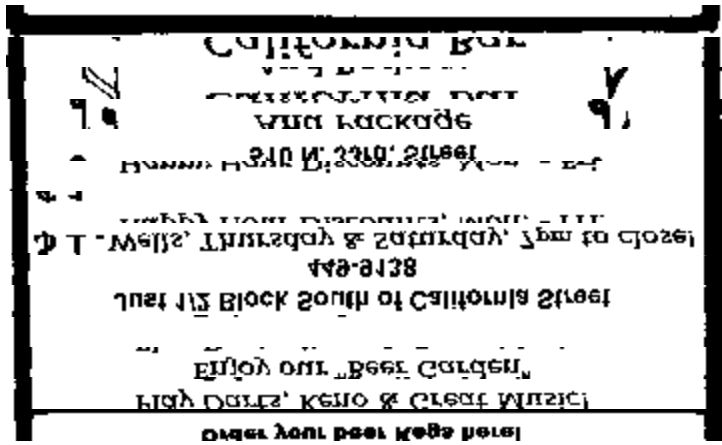
The site for the annual free tax assistance is the **Lay Apostolate Center at St. Cecilia's Cathedral, 40th & Webster St.** Tax help will be available on **Mondays from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** through the tax season, **except for Wednesday, March 14, Saturday, March 17th, and Monday, March 19th.** Everyone is welcome! AARP representatives will provide free tax help for our neighborhood for the 13th year in a row. Processing of basic tax returns and electronic filing will be available. No appointment is necessary; individuals will be helped on a first come, first serve basis. Please call **Jackie** at **551-3629** for more information.

To be able to provide assistance, persons will need to bring the following:

1. Valid Picture I.D.
2. Copies of ALL W-2, 1098, 1099 Forms and the amount of other income received by you and your spouse
3. Tax Identification Number (example: Social Security Number, Individual Tax Identification Number) for you, your spouse and any others shown on the tax return.
4. Provider's address and Tax Identification Number for Child/Dependent Care Credit
5. Form 8332 or copy of divorce decree for non-custodial parent claiming child
6. Proof of Account Number and Routing Transit Number of the financial institution for direct deposit into a savings or checking account.
7. Copy of prior year's tax return, if available.

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

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



Good Luck In Kentucky, Sister Glaser!

The GPNA and folks involved with the Community Garden will miss the company of our friend **Sister Joan Miriam Glaser**. Sister Joan is moving to Saint Catharine, Kentucky – a great opportunity for her to be with her Dominican Sisters. Sister Joan, as well as Sister Pascalla Noonan, took a special interest in the Community Garden project back in 2001, and were instrumental in securing significant grants for “Earth Education”. These grants have helped provide funding for training & development, and programs for adults and children, including the Youth Garden program. Sister Joan was also involved in the acquisition of the Peace Pole (in the front center of the garden) and the subsequent celebration event. Sister Joan maintains a very active schedule and she is a wonderful example of how we all should live a healthy lifestyle. She promises to come back and visit as time allows. Sister Joan, we will do our best to continue the mission of “Earth Education” through the Community Garden. Good luck and stay in touch!

by Chris Foster



Sister Joan working in the GPNA Community Garden

Kitty Corner



Noticed any stray cats or kittens near your home or business? Their lives can be tough. Please call **553-3736**, and we can help you to help them.

Companion cats kept indoors lead safer, healthier, longer lives. If you let your cat out, the law says that she must be microchipped, or wear a collar with ID tags. Only ID can bring a lost pet home, and it helps a rescuer know that your cat has a home.

Most importantly, PLEASE SPAY AND NEUTER. Spayed/neutered pets are happier and healthier. Only spaying/neutering indoor and outdoor cats alike, humanely and effectively controls the feral cat population. Call your local vet. (For info on a low-cost spay/neuter option, call **Clarinda** at **553-3736**.)

The **Coalition for Animal Protection (CAP)** offers low-cost vaccination clinics for cats and dogs (1-yr. rabies \$5; 3-yr. rabies \$10; distemper combo \$5, and others). Also microchipping, at \$25, inclusive. They will be selling pet licenses, too, (due March 15) for one-stop shopping!

The next CAP vaccination clinics will be **March 3, 1-4 p.m.**, at **Christie Heights (37th & P)**; and **March 10, 1-4 p.m.**, at **Sherman Community Center (5701 N. 16th)**. Questions: **490-0111**.

by Clarinda Karpov

Progress Being Made At Bike Shop

Work at the **Community Bicycle Shop of Omaha** continues at **525 N. 33rd Street**. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of volunteers from nearby **Duchesne Academy** and **Central High School**, renovations are nearly complete and the shop will be open this spring. The Community Bicycle Shop will provide a safe, positive environment for the repair and rebuilding of bicycles for both people living in the Gifford Park Neighborhood and the greater Omaha community. Anyone can participate and learn— from the most experienced bicyclists to first time riders. The Community Bicycle Shop will offer open hours for people to come and use the shop's tools and space, get advice on repairs, or find parts to rebuild a bicycle. The shop will hold workshops on bicycle safety and basic repairs with a focus on helping area youth learn and enjoy bicycling. It will also serve as a gathering space for groups going on bike rides throughout the city.

Volunteers, bikes, parts and tools are needed. For more information about the shop, contact **Jill Westfall** at **213-3105**, visit **www.omahabike.org** or email **omahabike@yahoo.com**.

Nebraska Legislative Update

The legislative session continues to move forward as we approach the half way point. Most of the work of the Legislature during the first half of the session is done in committee. I was able to get my bill, LB 205, out of committee and sent to the full Legislature. This bill would require all Nebraska school districts to adopt anti-bullying policies to protect our children. Bullying has become a real problem in recent years and we need to address it head on. No longer can we simply ignore it as "kids being kids." I am very optimistic that the full Legislature will pass this much needed legislation.

The Education Committee has been very busy working on revisions to LB 1024. The Education Committee held a very informative public hearing earlier this month on several bills that have been proposed as alternatives to LB 1024. I believe the Legislature has an obligation to correct the constitutional concerns that have been raised in the lawsuits against LB 1024 this year. I believe that the break up of the Omaha Public Schools is an unconstitutional segregation of our schools and must be changed by the Legislature. I have put forth a plan that addresses all of the constitutional questions because we need to find a resolution that brings an end to the court battles. We need to once again focus on the classroom rather than the courtroom.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me when you have a concern or want to express an opinion. It is an honor to have the privilege of representing you in the Legislature.

Gwen Howard
State Senator
ghoward@leg.ne.gov
 471-2723

P.O. Box 94604
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509



Advertising Rates For The Gifford Park's Pride Newsletter

Advertisements appear in six issues a year (newsletters that are hand-delivered to neighborhood residents for the odd-numbered months). The following rates will apply:

Size	One Issue	Six Issues
Business Card	\$20	\$100
Quarter Page	\$30	\$150
Half Page	\$40	\$200

For more information, or if you would like to advertise in the *Gifford Park Pride*, call **Sue Wilwerding**, **342-2795**.

SNAP! Presents Prize-winning Drama

SNAP! Productions presents the Omaha premiere of Doug Wright's "I Am My Own Wife." This gripping and moving drama tells the true story of playwright Doug Wright's encounter with Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, an East German transvestite who survived the two most repressive regimes of the Western world - the Nazis and the Soviet-dominated Communist dictatorship. In this highly theatrical journey, Wright is driven to uncover the secrets of a woman whose very existence seems an impossibility.

Kevin Lawler will direct actor Nick Zadina as he brings to life Wright, von Mahlsdorf, and nearly 40 other characters in this widely-acclaimed story of truth and survival.

Winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the 2004 Tony Award for Best Play, and a host of other awards, "I Am My Own Wife" promises a "vibrant, vital, and fascinating" night of theatre (USA Today).

"I Am My Own Wife" will run from **March 8 - April 1, 2007**, at **3225 California St.** Curtain times are 8:00 P.M. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; 6:00 P.M. on Sundays. The April 1st performance will be at 2:00 P.M. The theater opens a half hour before curtain time. Reservations may be made by calling **341-2757** or on the SNAP! website: www.snapproductions.com. Tickets are **\$15.00** for general admission, and **\$12.00** for students, senior citizens, and TAG members.

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What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

According to **Pam Goudriaan**, Destination Midtown graduate intern, a **Saddle Creek Relocation Feasibility Study Community Forum** will be held on **Thursday, March 15th**, from **6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.** at the **OPS TAC Building** at **32nd & Burt St.** Attend this forum to learn more about the progress of this feasibility study.

Hanscom Park United Methodist Church will be holding a craft show, garage sale, used book sale, gift basket sale, bake sale, and lunch on **Saturday, April 21 st**, from **9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.** The church is located at **4444 Frances Street.** For more information, contact **Louanne Gruidel** at **551-1516.**

Welcome back, Harry! **Harry Dirgo** is back home after completing rehabilitation after a fall several months ago. It's great to have you back in the neighborhood!

Spring is coming soon- believe it or not - and that means it will be time again for the annual **GPNA Spring Clean-up.** Although no date has been set by the city yet, the clean-up will be held on a Saturday in either April or May. It's not too early to start rounding up items to take to the clean-up, so go ahead and start that spring cleaning!

For Your Information . . .

The **Nebraska Humane Society** proudly provides animal control services for the City of Omaha. The Animal Control Officers work under the authority of the Chief of Police, and are allowed to issue citations for violations such as stray animals, barking dogs, dead animals, and animal bites. Investigators are authorized to write search warrants and testify in court for such crimes as animal cruelty, dangerous dogs, dog fighting, and pet shop violations. Animal Control Officers are on the road between 8 AM and midnight, with an on-call officer between midnight and 8 AM who will respond only to emergency calls from citizens, such as bats in houses, animal bites, dangerous animals, etc. Non-emergency calls are held until 8 AM. For more information, please call the Nebraska Humane Society at **444-7800.** *Reprinted from the OPD Community Resource Center Newsletter.*

Don't Forget - Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 11!



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)

P.O. Box 91462, Omaha, NE 68131-0462



Membership Application

*Note: The GPNA membership year runs from June 1 through May 30

Today's Date: _____

Type of Membership: Single (\$10.00) Family (\$15.00) Business (\$26.00)

If Business, Name of Business: _____

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES I am interested in helping out with... (Circle interests):

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Cleanup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Cleanup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Wash Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Walks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Lending | <input type="checkbox"/> Cal. Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Banquet |



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