



Gifford Park's Pride

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

March 2008

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Liquor License Applications Update

On February 20th the **Nebraska Liquor Control Commission** (NLCC) approved **Selena's Market** liquor license application for a full liquor license, the vote was 2-1 (Commissioners **Rhonda Flower** and **Bob Logsdon** voted to approve, **Pat Thomas** voted to deny). Selena's Market is located on the northeast corner of 33rd & California.

Currently our 33rd & California business district has three separate businesses applying for liquor licenses, the other two are **K-N-J Grocery** (upgrade from beer to full liquor sales), and the former Kum & Go now **One-Stop** (reapplying for current beer license). For the record, the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Executive Board opposes these three applications; the main reason is that the GPNA believes additional alcohol outlets will have a negative impact on our neighborhood, and the neighborhood already has enough alcohol outlets. GPNA members have written opposition letters and testified at City Council and NLCC hearings, we appreciate your efforts.

You may remember on October 19, 2007, in Lincoln, the NLCC denied the K-N-J liquor license upgrade application; the vote was 2-1. The owner is appealing the decision, and this will now go to Lancaster District Court in April. Regarding the former Kum & Go license, this application is scheduled to go before the NLCC in March. On January 8, the City Council voted 4-3 to deny the former Kum & Go application. We will keep you updated.

Next General Meeting
Thursday, March 6
7:00 P.M.

Speaker: To Be Announced

Creighton University
Med Center
Morrison Seminar Room

"A Bicycle Is A Curious Vehicle - Its Passenger Is Its Engine."

Community Bicycle Shop Omaha
Open House
525 North 33rd St.
Saturday, March 15
5 - 7 PM

18th Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, March 22
Noon (Sharp!)
Rain or Shine
at Gifford Park
Children Ages 12 & Under

Bring Your Easter Baskets
& Be Ready To Hunt!

GPNA Spring Cleanup
Saturday, May 3
See Next Month's Newsletter For Details



GPNA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Open

VICE PRESIDENT

Stuart Shell 216-1235

RECORDING SECRETARY

Mary Ledbetter 342-4866

TREASURER

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

SERVICES

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Chris Foster 342-6006

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NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

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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

Dana Freeman 850-9611

Green Homes: Indoor Water Use

The average person in Nebraska uses about 100 gallons of water each day in her/his home. That means a 4-person household uses about 400 gallons of water a day. If that sounds like a lot, it is! Imagine if you had to carry 100 plastic one gallon milk jugs from your house to the Missouri River to fill each day in order to quench your daily water needs... and this doesn't even take into consideration the time you would spend boiling and purifying all that nice "clean" river water. If we each had to haul the water we use in a day, our daily water use would be dramatically reduced.

Fortunately for us, we have a public water system that delivers clean, drinkable water to us with the turn of the tap. Because we get our water so easily, we often take it for granted and, consequently, use more than is necessary for many of our daily tasks. There are many free, easy, low-cost ways to reduce our indoor water consumption, which can also save a substantial amount of money (and resources) over time. Consider, for instance, the following breakdown of our typical daily water use (and accidental waste):

Average Indoor Water Use per Person: 100 Gallons/day

Toilets: 26%

Clothes Washers: 22%

Showers: 17%

Faucets: 16%

Leaks: 14%

Other Domestic Uses: 2%

Baths: 2%

Dishwashers: 1%

Leaks

Up to 14% of all water use in your home comes from leaks. A drip every second from a faucet can lead up to 1,600 gallons of water each year. A leaky toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons each month.

- Check for leaks: 1. Turn off all water in your home. 2. Write down the reading on your water meter. 3. Wait one hour. 4. See if your water meter has changed. If it has changed, you have a leak!
- Toilets: Drop a few drops of food coloring into the toilet tank. Check in 15 minutes and again in 30 minutes. If you see food coloring in the toilet bowl, you have a toilet leak.

Bathrooms

Over 50% of all indoor water use occurs in the bathroom.

- Turn off water when brushing your teeth, washing your face, and shaving.
- Install a 0.5 gallon per minute (gpm) maximum bathroom faucet aerator. Cost: \$4. Savings: Greater than \$15 per year.
- Install a low-flow showerhead which provides the same or greater pressure with less water. Look for 1.75 gpm models. Standard is 2.5 gpm max, so get at least a 2.0 gpm or lower. Cost: Less than \$10. Savings: Greater than \$15 per person each year.
- Take shorter showers. If you lose track of time in the shower there is a "Shower Coach" water-proof 5 minute sand timer which sticks to your shower wall. Cost: \$3. Savings: Greater than \$10 per year.
- Install a shower on/off valve. This low cost device lets you reduce the water flow while shampooing or lathering soap—without affecting the perfect temperature you spent so long coaxing. Cost: \$4. Savings: Greater than \$15 per person each year.

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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.

Legislative Update

The first month of this year's legislative session was a very busy one. During the first ten days of the session, Senators could introduce new bills. The Legislature has already taken up issues like the repeal of the motorcycle helmet law and the Safe Haven law. As a member of the Education Committee and the Health & Human Services Committee, I expect this session to be very productive.

The Legislature did pass my bill LB 205 on a 41-0 vote. This bill requires school districts to adopt anti-bullying policies. This is a very serious issue that has been ignored for too long. We need to recognize the serious impact bullying has on the lives of our children. No one should have to go to school in fear of being bullied by other students.

I have designated LB 782 as my priority bill for this year which means it will be debated on the floor this session. I introduced this bill on behalf of the Governor to provide more transparency to our government. The bill would expand the state's ability to release information in child abuse and neglect cases under limited circumstances. I believe the public has a legitimate interest to know more in these cases.

I have also been following closely the efforts of several neighborhood associations to oppose new off-sale liquor licenses for nine of the former Kum & Go locations. The Omaha City Council made recommendations to deny licenses to six of the nine locations but the final decision will be made by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission in Lincoln on February 20th. I plan to attend the Liquor Control Commission meeting in support of the neighborhoods. More off-sale liquor licenses in Midtown Omaha is not the positive economic development that we need.

As always, please feel free to contact me on any issue or when I can be of assistance to you.

Gwen Howard
State Senator
402-471-2723
ghoward@leg.ne.gov
District 9
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509



**For City Services, Information, or
Complaints
Call: Mayor's Action Office
444-5555**

Free Tax Help Available Now



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.** and **Wednesdays** from **5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** now through the tax season (**April 15**). Everyone is welcome!

AARP representatives will provide free tax help for our neighborhood for the 14th 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

What's New, Pussycat?



Clarinda asked me last month if I would do a “guest column” for this issue after I had recounted to her my experience of becoming a “cat person”, so here goes:

The Saga of Mr. Cat

I found myself in a very unusual place - the pet food aisle at Baker's on Saddlecreek. I can't believe I'm standing here looking at all the different brands and varieties of . . . cat food? How did this happen? How did I, a person who had never had a pet except for a few introverted goldfish, who was deathly afraid of dogs until the fourth grade, and whose nearly total knowledge of feline behavior had come primarily from watching Warner Brothers cartoons, become a cat owner?

Well, it happened one August, shortly after we had returned from vacation. A large brown long-haired cat with a ringed tail had started to hang around our house. He seemed to be rather friendly for a cat, and my daughter started playing with him. She had always wanted a cat, but it had never been much of an issue. Having come from a petless family, I had never seriously entertained the idea of having one. Oh sure, I would listen to a co-worker talk about how wonderful her cats were, all the cute things they did, and how important they were to her, yada yada, yada, whatever - I just didn't get it. “Just you wait,” she said, “someday if you get a pet, you'll know what I'm talking about.”

The cat was starting to come around daily now (we had been feeding him some tuna fish because we were afraid he was hungry). My daughter was becoming attached to him. She thought he was very distinguished-looking, so she named him “Mr. Cat”. He was a cute cat - he had a darling face and he was very friendly. I started to pet him and play with him, too. My husband, who came from a catless and dogless family also, seemed to take a liking to him as well. And then, the inevitable question arose: “Mom, can we keep him?”

Well, now what? Mr. Cat had no tags. He didn't seem to be a homeless stray, as he looked like he had been taken care of. After talking to some neighbors, we found out where Mr. Cat was from - he belonged to a lady who lived around the corner from us, someone we knew. When my husband talked to her and told her that her cat had been hanging around our house, she didn't seem too surprised. Her daughter had just gotten a new dog, and Mr. Cat didn't seem to like the situation. He had left before, and she couldn't seem to keep him there. She had taken him in as a stray before she had moved into our neighborhood. She had given him his yearly shots and had him neutered. She had a couple of other cats and

she knew Mr. Cat (whose real name was Sam) was not happy at her house anymore, and so she told us that even though she would miss him because he was such a great cat, she knew he would be happier at our house. After some serious discussion, we decided to take the plunge and become first-time cat owners.

There was a lot I didn't know about taking care of a cat, but I learned quickly with the help of others. I found out that cats are not terribly hard to take care of. Over the years since we've had Mr. Cat, I have come to understand how many of the common cat sayings came about, such as “cat-nap” (how can he fall asleep in 10 seconds thirty different times a day?), “cats have nine lives” (after making at least that many trips to the vet after he's gotten himself into various scrapes), and “curiosity *could* have killed the cat” (climbing into an open clothes dryer to explore a new space is probably not a good idea). I have discovered how having a pet does enrich one's life. Cats are not always the cold and aloof animals I thought they were - when I come home, he always runs to the garage to greet me and trots to the front door along side me. When I'm sitting in the recliner, he will wedge in between me and the arm of the chair - always on the left side! He even comes to the door when I whistle for him (if he feels like it!) And my mother, who never met a cat she liked, has become quite fond of Mr. Cat. Because of my experience with Mr. Cat, I feel as though I now have a deeper respect for all of God's creatures. My co-worker can only give me that “I told you so” look when I tell her another one of my Mr. Cat stories. All in all, he has been a lot of fun, and I will miss him dearly when he is gone.

What can I tell you about having a cat? If you are willing to take care of one, it can be an incredible experience. And even if you don't want to keep one, helping the feral cats in our neighborhood with food and shelter as Clarinda has described in past articles can also be rewarding. I will always consider the day Mr. Cat came into our lives as a very special day.

by Sue Wilwerding

Security Lighting Program

Do you have an outdoor area that needs more lighting to discourage prowlers? You may want to consider the **OPPD Security Lighting Program**. It's simple: you don't have to buy light fixtures, and you only pay for the electric service. OPPD furnishes, installs, owns and maintains the security light, which is mounted on a utility pole near your home.

The lights will operate automatically each night from dusk to dawn. For more information on security lights, call **OPPD Customer Care Services at (402) 536-4131**.

Indoor Water Use . . . continued from page 2

- Install a toilet sink which takes the place of the lid on the back of your toilet. This allows you to use clean water to wash your hands which then goes into the toilet tank to be used the next time you flush your toilet.
- If you have an older toilet, consider replacing it. Older toilets can use more than 5 gallons per flush (up to 7.5 gpf). New models use no more than 1.6 gpf.

Kitchens

- If you have a dishwasher, use it. Washing by hand can use up to 20 gallons per washing, whereas newer dishwashers use as little as 5-10 gallons per load. Wash only full loads of dishes. Most new dishwashers do not need to have the dishes rinsed. Just scrape food scraps into your compost bucket and place your dishes in the dishwasher.
- If you need to wash dishes by hand, fill up two sinks. One for washing and the other for rinsing.
- Instead of dumping good water down the drain, leftover water from your metal or glass water bottle can be put into a watering can for thirsty plants next time you water.
- Install a three-way kitchen sink aerator. This aerator has an on/off lever, a full stream option for filling containers, and a spray option for hand and dishwashing.
Cost: \$4. Savings: Greater than \$15 each year.

Clothes Washing

- Wash only full loads of laundry. This alone can save you as much as 1,000 gallons each month.
- Wash clothes in cold water. Up to 90% of all energy used to wash your clothes comes from heating your water. Most detergents work just as well in cold water.
- If you are in the market for a new clothes washer, look for a high-efficiency, front-loading washer. Front-loading models can cut water use in half and energy use by one-third compared to a top-loading model.

Many of the water-efficient products are sold on-line. I have found www.efi.com to be a useful resource in their consumer division. Use promotional code: CMC for 10% off your next purchase. Other places to check are www.amconservation.com and www.niagaraconservation.com

If you have questions or comments about how to green your home or would like to see a specific topic covered in the Green Homes column, please email **Daniel Lawse** at: livesimply93@gmail.com

How many of you say it's about time for Spring...now? I'm sure just about everyone would raise their hand, especially after weathering one of the coldest winters in the last 25 years. It won't be long until the weather is nice enough for gardening. We are preparing for the seventh full year of planting at the **Gifford Park Community Garden** located at **35th & Cass St.** **Dana Freeman** is already thinking of ideas for this year's youth gardening program (fifth year!) during spring and summer – we can always use volunteers interested in helping. We also have tentatively set **Saturday, May 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** as the date for our annual **Season Opening** event. For more information about the community garden or youth gardening program, call **Dana 850-9611, Chris 342-6006, or Cynthia 556-2090.**

Don't Forget - Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 9!



Investigate before you invest in pest control

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Vokal Working To Strengthen Anti-Graffiti Laws

In response to an outbreak in graffiti damage within the City of Omaha, especially through Midtown & North and South Omaha, Councilmember **Jim Vokal** has been working with the City Prosecutors, Omaha Police Department, and neighborhood associations to strengthen the current laws.

It is encouraging to note the recently reported citations and arrests for graffiti in Omaha. To further address this problem within the city, Councilmember Vokal is introducing a city ordinance to increase the penalties and where appropriate, the fines and restitution of property through community service by those caught for graffiti violations. There will be a public hearing on March 4, 2008, at the City Council meeting. The proposed changes to the ordinance are as follows (previous penalties are in parentheses):

- a) for minors: minimum 120 (80) hours of community service
- b) for adults: minimum 72 (48) hours in jail, or 120 (80) hours community service, or both
- c) for businesses violating subsection 18-69(b): minimum \$150 (\$75) fine for first violation; minimum \$200 (\$150) fine for second violation within a 12-month period; minimum \$500 (\$300) fine for third and subsequent violations within a 12-month period.

Omaha citizens are still encouraged to be vigilant and report suspicious activity to the Police Department immediately. For additional information, please contact Councilmember **Jim Vokal at 444-5525**.

This information was obtained from a February 20, 2008, media release from the Omaha City Council.

California Bar And Package

510 North 33rd Street
402-449-9138

Happy Hour Discounts - Mon thru Fri - 5 to 6 pm

Nightly Specials - 7 till Close

Package Liquor, Beer and Wine

Welcome to your Friendly Neighborhood Bar!

Editor's Note: Mike Caban Article

Due to a computer glitch that was missed during the proofreading process, the article about **Mike Caban**, the 2007 GPNA Neighbor Of The Year, which appeared in the previous edition of the *Gifford Park's Pride*, was incomplete. The paragraph affected should have read as follows:

Mike was born in the Bronx, New York, and lived there until age 11. He ended up finishing high school in Puerto Rico, and one week later joined the Navy. Mike served in the Navy from 1965-1969, and 14 months of that was in Vietnam, including 5 1/2 months in the Mekong Delta doing coded secure communications. After the Navy, Mike put his communications skills to work at the phone company (Northwestern Bell, which became US West) from 1969-1995. Then he switched careers to Human Resources, working at IBP, Con Agra, and now Oakland Food. He is retiring in January, lucky dog!

The editor regrets any confusion this caused to those reading the article - and sorry about that, Mike!

Winter Fires: Life-Saving Tips From The Omaha Fire Department

- * Make sure wood stoves are properly installed, away from combustible surfaces, have the proper floor support and adequate ventilation. Never use flammable liquids (such as gasoline) to start or accelerate a fire.
- * Make sure your space heaters have an emergency shut off in case they tip over. Kerosene heaters are not permitted in many areas. **ONLY** use the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot. Refuel outside, away from the house.
- * Have your furnace and chimney professionally inspected annually, and cleaned if necessary. Chimney tar build-up is a common cause of chimney fires.
- * Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks igniting nearby carpets or furniture.
- * Never thaw frozen pipes with a blowtorch or other open flame.
- * Dispose of hot ashes in covered metal containers placed away from the house.
- * Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
- * If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of snow for easy access.
- * For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install a smoke alarm in each bedroom.



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www.DuchessneAcademy.org

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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

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

Join us for our Monthly Green Living Workshop: **How to Green Your Lawn Care**. It will be held on **Saturday, March 22, 2008**, from **10 am to 12:00 noon** at the **Neighborhood Center of Greater Omaha, 115 S. 49th Ave.** There will be a chance to win "green" lawncare products and items. Please bring a calculator for the Turf Math workshop. RSVP to **Daniel** at livesimply93@gmail.com

Destination Midtown will host a **Park Avenue Redevelopment Study Open House** on **Thursday, March 6th**, from **7 - 8 pm**, at **St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, 602 Park Avenue** (enter through the west side of the building on 30th St.) The results of the Park Avenue Redevelopment Study will be unveiled at this time. For more information, call **Jamie Grayson-Berglund** at **233-7142** or jamie@destinationmidtown.org

Meetings continue within the Omaha Public School Board about options for returning Yates back to a neighborhood school. We are happy to report there is still good reason to be optimistic about this possibility. There is still much more discussion that will occur, we will keep you posted. GPNA again thanks **Senator Gwen Howard** for her great support of Yates returning as our neighborhood school.

SNAP! Productions will present the Omaha premiere of Tony Kushner's apocalyptic saga of people struggling with AIDS during the Reagan administration: **Angels in America: Perestroika**. The play will run from **March 6-30th** at **3225 California St.** For reservations, call **341-2757** or visit the SNAP! Productions website www.snapproductions.com

Newsletter Delivery Volunteers

One of the most important jobs in our neighborhood is that of hand-delivering this newsletter every other month and event flyers to nearly most all residents within our association boundaries (27th to 37th Street, Dodge to Cuming). These dedicated volunteers do a great job of getting the information to your door, many times on short notice and when there is bad weather. And best of all, after I recently contacted all these fine folks to see if they are still interested in delivering newsletters, they all said yes and are glad to continue – a big **THANK YOU** to the following people from the GPNA: **Justin Brown, Mike Wilwerding, Tim Schroeder, Paul Ferrand, Terry Wilwerding, Brian Kokensparger, John Lynch, Maggie Jones, Jim Wilwerding, Ann Johnson, Cynthia Shuck, Eric Noll, Chris Foster, Roger Freeman, Richard White, Jim Kyler, Emerick Huber, Bob Hutton, and Kirk Peck.**



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 31

Today's Date: _____

Type of Membership: Single (\$10.00) Family (\$15.00) Bulk rate (\$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):

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Chairperson | Newsletter Delivery | Community Garden | Easter Egg Hunt |
| Membership | Book Club | Youth Garden | Boiling Cleanup |
| Social Activities | History | Tree Planting | Tall Cleanup |
| School Liaison | Wash Group | Youth Activities | Neighborhood Walks |
| Tool Lending | Cal. Committee | Lawn Program | oliday Banquet |

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