



Gifford Park's Pride

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

April 2006

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

"Salute To Safety - Expo 2006" To Be Held April 22 At Westroads Mall

On April 22, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, the Westroads Mall will be hopping with "Salute To Safety-Expo 2006" activities! Sponsors of the event include the Omaha Police Department, AAA Nebraska, the Omaha Fire Department, LifeNet Medical Helicopter Service, Omaha Police Union, Omaha Fire Union, the Fraternal Order of Police #1 & # 2, Absolute Power Communications, and Wheatfields.

The event will include police cruisers, fire rigs, helicopters, ambulances, the Nebraska State Patrol's roll-over car, fingerprinting and ID's for kids, KoKo the School Resource Dog, Omaha/Douglas County Citizen Corp, clowns, face painters, small robotic police and fire cars, the nine-foot tall Officer Johnny Justice and Spanner the Fire Dog.

AAA Nebraska will award a "4 Games in One Value Pack" every 15 minutes starting at 11 AM. At the "What's Right For Me?" booster seat booth, all children between the ages of three and eight who participate in AAA's coloring contest will receive a Wikki Stix Travel Fun Pack valued at \$14.99. AAA Nebraska will also have a teen driving booth, and will provide the first 500 visitors with a free copy of the new Driver-ZED DVD, valued at \$24.95. The Omaha Fire Department will have several fire trucks and medic units on display. LifeNet will coordinate numerous outdoor activities, including Elkhorn Fire Department's severe weather and sprinkler simulator trailer which enables children to practice the safety skills needed in the event of tornadoes/severe weather. The Bellevue Fire Department will be bringing their smoke trailer for children, which will include a short fire safety presentation, and hands-on practice escaping from a "burning structure". They will also be hosting a vehicle extrication demonstration using the "Jaws of Life" at 11 AM in the south parking lot of the Mall. The Omaha Fire Department will be conducting a "Grand Finale"; a hazardous materials scenario at 2 PM, which will include demonstrations of the special equipment and specially-trained personnel that respond to biological, chemical, and terroristic threats. The scenario will include "victims with injuries" that will result in the LifeNet Helicopter transporting a "critical" victim to the Nebraska Medical Trauma Center. Also for children, there will be a "Kids to the Rescue" station that is a hands-on approach to different accident scenarios, enabling them to be "little heroes" in extricating victims from car accidents and

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 6
7:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker:

Scott Farrington
Indian Creek Nursery

Creighton University
Medical Center
Morrison Seminar Room

Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, April 20
7:00 P.M.

Yates Alternative School
32nd & Davenport St.

16th Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 15
Noon (Sharp!)
Rain or Shine
at Gifford Park
Children Ages 12
& Under

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

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District 9 Report From The Legislature

The Legislature is already 2/3 of the way through the short 60 day session for this year. I am very pleased with the success I have had so far this session. Each senator is allowed to designate one bill as a priority bill, which gives it a very good chance of being debated. My priority bill for this session is LB 228, which would require accredited schools in Nebraska to provide all day kindergarten by the 2009-10 school year.

Senator Synowiecki and I introduced two bills to address the on-going prostitution problem. LB1086, which I was able to get out of the Health and Human Services Committee, would provide treatment for those convicted of prostitution. LB 1253, which was heard by the Judiciary Committee, would increase the criminal penalties for prostitutes and "johns". I was also able to get my bill LB866 attached to LB 994, which has already had first round approval. This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to review the child-care regulations at least every 5 years.

I am happy to report good news on the home repair sales tax. The Revenue Committee unanimously approved a tax cut bill that will be forwarded to the full Legislature. The Revenue Committee did remove the Governor's proposal to repeal the sales tax on labor for commercial and residential projects, which would have cost nearly \$ 90 million in 2007-2008. The Revenue Committee replaced it with the language from my bill, LB967, which would repeal the home repair sales tax on owner-occupied residences. This would cost the state \$32 million in 2007-2008. While I support the repeal of the tax on both residential and commercial property, my top priority since coming to the Legislature has been removing this unfair tax on the homeowners of District 9. We have cleared a big hurdle getting out of the Revenue Committee but we still must get through three rounds of debate on the floor of the Legislature. Thanks to all of you for all of your hard work on this issue. While we still have work to do, I am optimistic that I will be able to get my bill passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

As we head toward the end of this session, there are many very complicated issues still awaiting debate. We still must adopt changes to the budget as well as the tax cut bill. The boundary dispute between the Omaha school districts is still before the Education Committee. There has been a great deal of discussion on this issue but there has been no agreement yet on a possible compromise. In addition, we have difficult issues such as water management, Qwest Center funding, and the possible impeachment of University of Nebraska Regent David Hergert. As always, I appreciate hearing from those that I represent and I hope that you will contact me to let me know your views.

by State Senator Gwen Howard

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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 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 Gifford Park Neighborhood Association was formed in 1988 to enhance public safety, promote community-building activities, and encourage economic and land-use rehabilitation in an effort to preserve as well as adapt its late 19th and early 20th century infrastructure to modern and contemporary uses.

Tax Deadline Approaches; Help Still 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. Everyone is welcome! IRS representatives will provide free tax help for our neighborhood for the 12th year in a row. Processing of basic tax returns and electronic filing will be available. No appointment is necessary; walk-in appointments only. Please call **Jackie at 551-3629** for more information. This year's deadline for filing is **Monday, April 17.** To be able to provide assistance, persons will need to bring:

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.

From The President . . . Current Projects For The GPNA

State Senator Gwen Howard has opened up a dialog with OPS Superintendent **John J. Mackiel** regarding **Yates School**. If the alternative school outgrows the current space at Yates School, GPNA leaders advocate OPS reinstating a neighborhood K-6 elementary school.

GPNA is partnering with **Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association (JCNA)** and **Omaha Neighborhood Scan (ONS)** <http://neighborhoodscan.unomaha.edu/index.php> to address broken sidewalks in the neighborhood. Broken public walks are a trip hazard and a liability to both property owner and the City. GPNA and JCNA are writing a joint grant to **Alegent Health** in an effort to offer a cost share program which replaces broken walks. Presently only half of Gifford Park Neighborhood is included in the scan area. Scan volunteers are needed! Contact **Cynthia, 556-2090**, if interested.

(continued)

GPNA Projects . . . *continued*

ONS neighborhoods (which include Gifford Park) are seeking **Mayor Fahey's** neighborhood grant funding for the "Address It Now" campaign. Area residents, with the assistance of ONS, determined missing and improperly marked property addresses which are a safety and health risk for area residents. Property owners put themselves, their tenants, and their neighbors at risk by not displaying a property address. If funded, a pilot project campaign will be carried out in Gifford Park, Joslyn Castle, Miller Park-Minne Lusa, Ford Birthsite, Clairmont Heights, and Park East neighborhoods.

In April, the GPNA looks forward to discussing its gateway feature plans for 33rd and Dodge Street with Mutual of Omaha's retail and residential developer.

by Cynthia Shuck

GPNA SPRING CLEANUP
SATURDAY, MAY 6
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Gifford Park
See the May Newsletter
For More Details



Salute To Safety . . . *continued from page 1*

other simulated medical emergencies. There will also be a Children's First Aid station where children can practice bandaging, splinting, and caring for minor injuries.

Inside the Mall, OFD's "Hazard House" will give children and adults the opportunity to try and find the hidden hazards within the display. Another highlight will include the kick-off of "CPR Anytime for Family and Friends" sponsored by the American Heart Association, Laerdal Medical Corp., and the OFD. This innovative, self-directed learning program is designed to teach the skills of CPR in less than 25 minutes. The kit contains everything you need to learn how to recognize and respond to a sudden cardiac arrest emergency. To learn more about this project, stop by the American Heart Association booth to see a demonstration and register for a free CPR Anytime Kit.

As you can see, there will be no shortage of events to watch or activities to take part in. The "Salute to Safety Expo 2006" is for the whole family – come and learn about crime prevention, fire safety, car safety, emergency procedures, child safety seats, and much more!

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

Restore Omaha, a conference, exhibition and tour, is planning another great event **November 3-5, 2006** at the University Of Nebraska at Omaha's campus and other Omaha sites. Volunteers are needed to help identify topics and speakers, to recruit exhibitors experienced in preservation and restoration work, to help organize a tour of homes and to help promote and market the event. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees or just have suggestions for the 2006 conference contact **Kristine Gerber**, conference director, at **614-0056** or eventive.marketing@cox.net. Mark your calendars! More information will be coming soon on Restore Omaha.

It won't be long until the weather is nice enough for gardening. In fact, some of the perennials already have new growth. We are preparing for the fifth full year of planting at the **Gifford Park Community Garden** located at **35th & Cass St.** **Kate Bodmann** is already making plans for this year's youth garden program during spring and summer. Please contact Kate if you think you might be interested in helping with the youth program on Saturday mornings for an hour or two starting **May 13**. This is also the date for our community garden season opening event; more details in the May newsletter. For more information on the community garden project, call **Chris 342-6006, Kate 496-8419, Cynthia 556-2090, or Annemarie 342-1340.**

Neighborhood Builders held its 10th annual Leadership Sessions each Saturday in February at Creighton University Medical Center. The GPNA had four individuals attend the sessions - thanks **Cynthia Shuck, Dan & Kate Bodmann, and Mary Ledbetter**. Also, at the last session, **Chris Foster** received the **Mildred Lee Award**. This award is given annually to an individual who is committed to supporting neighborhoods.

Congratulations to GPNA members **Neil & Mary Liberty** on the birth of their twin boys on February 8. **David Joseph** weighed in at 7 lbs 2 oz, and **Tyler Patrick** was 5 lbs 15 oz. Neil & Mary live near 34th & California and have been active in GPNA activities including the community garden, cleanups, neighborhood garage sales, and public safety issues.

Bob & Virginia Hutton are the proud grandparents of **Kurtis William Rein**. Kurtis was born March 21 and weighed 8 lbs 14 oz. Bob & Virginia's daughter **Cheryl** and son-in-law **Fred** live in Daytona Beach, Florida. Congratulations!

We are glad to report longtime GPNA member and volunteer **Bob Ford** is continuing to recover from surgery he had a few months ago. With any luck we hope to see Bob out and about this spring picking up litter in the park and helping with other GPNA activities.

Just a reminder - Deffenbaugh will resume collecting yard waste the week of **April 3**.

GPNA
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