



Gifford Park's Pride

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

April 2008

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Community Garden Season Opening Event May 10th

This year marks the Gifford Park Community Garden's seventh season in operation. To celebrate, we will have a **free** and fun event with activities for EVERYONE. Kids can build birdhouses, create a garden stepping stone, have their faces painted, and sign-up for a library card and receive **free** books. Community gardeners will register and pay for plots and paint their very own name stake. All adults will have the opportunity to "Ask a Master Gardener" any lawn and garden questions, receive free seeds, and enroll their children and volunteer to help with the **free** summer Youth Garden program. The Youth Garden is in its fifth year of existence and promises to be great fun! Come visit with your neighbors and see what we are all about on **Saturday, May 10th** from **11 AM to 1 PM**. Registration forms available at the opening event and in next month's May newsletter. As always, music and refreshments will be provided. For more information on the community garden project and this family-friendly event, call **Dana (850-9611)**, **Chris (342-6006)**, or **Cynthia (556-2090)**.

Wake Up And Smell The Coffee

Hello Gifford Park neighbors! We're **Blue Line Coffee**, recent occupants of the small building just north of Selena's Grocery at 615 North 33rd St. We plan to open a coffee shop here in the near future, but for the time being, we are using our building as an office, kitchen, and a roasting facility to support our coffee shop in Dundee at 50th and Underwood Ave. and a new location that will be open very soon at 14th and Cuming in the new Saddle Creek Records development. We want to thank the Gifford Park Newsletter for this opportunity to introduce ourselves and to let everyone in the neighborhood know what we are doing here and to explain some aspects of

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



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

**Speaker: Justin Evertson
Nebraska Statewide Arboretum**

**Trees & Beasts: How Mammoths,
Giraffes, & Dinosaurs Changed
The Canopy Of Omaha**

**Creighton University
Med Center
Morrison Seminar Room**

**Executive Meeting
6:00 - 7:00 P.M.**

USD Students Coming To Gifford Park April 19-20

The GPNA is fortunate again to have 8 to 10 **University of South Dakota (USD)** students spend a day and a half helping us with neighborhood projects April 19-20. In the past they have helped us with many different projects including neighborhood cleanups, tree planting, weeding, planting, mulching, community garden projects, community bike shop projects, painting over graffiti, and more. The USD students have made this trip to Gifford Park three times in the past two years; they have become "legendary" and we really appreciate the new friendships with the students. We plan to meet at Gifford Park **Saturday April 19 at 9 a.m.** for a few hours to work on similar projects mentioned above – the GPNA would like to see our local volunteers lend a hand. We plan to have tools, mulch, paint, food, and a list of duties we need help with – we'll take all the help we can get...remember it's Earth Day weekend! Contact **Chris (342-6006)** or **Cynthia (556-2090)** if you have questions.

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

COMPLIANCE

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

KELLOM SCHOOL LIAISON

Jean Peck 344-0722

MEMBERSHIP

Stuart Shell 216-1235

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

Dana Freeman 850-9611

Green Homes: How To Green Your Trash

What is considered one of the least favorite chores of homeowners, apartment dwellers, and college students? That's right—Taking Out the Trash. It happens once a week, community-wide, people dragging out bags and cans of garbage and bins of recyclables. After a night out at the curb, the cans and bags wait patiently to be picked up by dump trucks and driven to the local landfill.

If you are a resident of Douglas County, your trash likely ends its journey at the Pheasant Point Landfill, located near Elk City, Nebraska. During 2007, the Douglas County landfill received a total of 615,000 tons of garbage. Think about it. That's equal to 1,683 Honda hybrids being dumped at the landfill every single day. And it is we, the citizens of Douglas County, generating that amount of trash. Results for surrounding communities are similar. It is estimated the average person generates 5lbs of garbage every day.

Being an advocate of waste reduction in the home I have recently begun weighing my garbage. In one week I generate approximately 2.5 lbs of garbage. Compare 2.5 lbs of garbage in a week to 5 lbs of garbage in a day.

It is possible to reduce your waste. Not only is it possible, but it can be easy and fun too. And, it's pretty popular as well. Take for instance the recently launched Waste Diet website. Go to www.thewastediet.com and take the waste diet challenge and figure out 1) how much waste you generate in a month and 2) how to challenge yourself and your family to reduce your waste.

To get started, here are a few tips for reducing waste around your home.

- Save money and reduce landfill waste by eliminating disposable tissues from your home. An environmentally friendly alternative to facial tissues is handkerchiefs. You can even make your own by hemming squares of fabric from unused table linens and/or t-shirts. Just throw them in the washer with your dish towels.
- Speaking of dish towels, choose tea towels or dish towels over disposable paper towels. This will save you money and eliminate a portion of the waste stream.
- A variety of beauty and cleaning products are now available in dispensers that you purchase just once and then refill from flexible pouches. You can reduce packaging waste by as much as 80% when you buy shampoo, hand soap, lotions and detergents in this way.
- Reusable and/or canvas bags can be kept with you and used for all your shopping needs, not just at the grocery store.
- Remember, if you reduce what you bring into your home you automatically reduce what will go out to the curb!

For more information on how to green your home, please join us for the Green Neighborhood Council's monthly Green Living Workshop: Reduce Your Household Waste. Rick Yoder, director of Pollution Prevention Regional Information Center P2RIC (located on the campus of University of Nebraska at Omaha) and Trilety Wade, local waste-reducer, will help you learn how to reduce your waste and green your garbage.

Join us for our Monthly Green Living Workshop: How to Green Your Trash. The Workshop will be held from 10:00 am to noon on Saturday, April 26, 2008, at the Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha, 115 S. 49th Avenue. Learn the story of your trash and sign up for a chance to win Waste Reduction Tools. RSVP to Daniel at livesimply93@gmail.com. The event is free and open to the public.

by Trilety Wade

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.

Easter Egg Hunt 2008 Highlights

Nearly 300 children, parents and neighborhood volunteers participated in likely the largest GPNA Easter Egg Hunt in the 18 years of the event on Saturday, March 22, in Gifford Park. Cool but dry early spring weather made for a great time. Before “hiding” the candy, volunteers cleaned up the park at **10:30 a.m.** – ~~we got a big boost from the~~ **BKA House Fraternity** guys again this year. Thanks to **Roger & Sandy Freeman** for regularly picking up litter and requesting three additional trash cans from the City for this event – they came in handy! As always, out of the thousands of pieces of candy, it took a matter of a few minutes for the kids to pick the park clean of goodies and prizes.

There were many volunteers and donators who helped put forth extra effort – **Darryl Hutton** did a great job getting MANY donations from a variety of people and businesses; **Jan Franks**, her grandson **Zach Rubek**, and **Robin Hansen** organized the candy by age groups. **Ben Spahn** did the countdown honors again this year. Many thanks to all those who donated time, money, candy, and other items to make this a special event: **Mick Whelan** (Whelan Law Office), **Chuck Kilgore** (Attorney at Law), **Brad Bogard** (California Tacos & More), **Lilly Estes** (Lilly’s California Bar), **Dale Robinson** (Robinson’s Garage), **David Matschiner** (Louis Market), **Dale Walls** (Ideal Hardware & Paint), **Jeff Dyke** (No Frills Supermarket), **Dennis Tran** (Nail Art), **Walgreens Drug Stores**, **Oriental Trading Company**, **Robert’s Dairy**, **Ron Yates**, **Jerry DeSanti**, **Jim O’Brien**, **Cathi Draper**, **Poncha Esquivel-Martinez**, **Bart Reed**, **Chris & Sallie Foster**, **Betty Slayden**, **Randy** (Four Aces), and **James Nordaker** (James picked up most of the candy!). **Candy Bacome** again played this year’s Easter bunny and giving out treats to youngsters. Also thanks again to **Senator Gwen Howard** for coming and donating some special Easter prizes.

by Chris Foster



Last Call For Free Tax Help

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.

Coffee . . . continued from page 1

coffee roasting, especially the odors, smoke and large amounts of steam that are emitted from the roasting chimney and that are often mistaken for a building fire. In fact, some of our neighbors have called the fire department recently, and while we are grateful for the concern we hope to eliminate the false alarms and not trouble the fire department again. During the roasting process, brief bursts of smoke, coffee odor, and primarily steam emanate from the chimney. When the air outside is chilly and/or humid, the steam doesn’t rise quickly and simply hangs around the roof near the chimney. Anyone who didn’t know what was going on and wasn’t used to the smell of roasting coffee could easily mistake the roasting odor and the steam for evidence of a building fire, but we hope everyone in the neighborhood now knows that this is not the case. We will try to keep our roasting scheduled for late evenings, after dark, to do as little as possible to raise concern. We love the neighborhood, we’re happy to be here, and we look forward to opening up a coffee shop as soon as possible. Thanks again!

Blue Line Coffee

Bike Shop Open: Volunteers Welcome!

Community Bike Shop Omaha is proud to open for its second season! Once again we are offering the Earn-a-Bike Program for youth and adults alike interested in a new bicycle. Participants spend time in the shop working with our volunteers to learn bicycle basics and in return, pick a bike for their own.

Thanks for all those who were able to attend our second annual **Open House** (see photo). The event was very positive and to our pleasure, crowded! The spotlight was on our newly renovated workstations that double the capacity we had available last year.

To help us spring into the warm season please support **Whole Foods 5% Community Support Day** on **Tuesday, April 8**. A portion of the proceeds from your purchase at Whole Foods will go to CBSO. We'll have volunteers there eager to greet our neighborhood friends.

As a community service, we also offer our tools and workspace for your regular bike maintenance or your special bike project. If you're looking for a bicycle we have several donated gems for sale. Regular shop hours are **Saturdays from 12-4pm**.

The mission of CBSO is to provide a safe, positive environment for learning bicycle mechanics. A volunteer organization, CBSO helps repair used bicycles, works toward building community, and promotes cycling. If you're interested in learning more about our programs and events, like the upcoming bike rodeo, urban ride, and benefit bike auction, please contact the board at omahabike@gmail.com.

GPNA Leaders Attend Annual Program

Gifford Park sent three lucky residents to Neighborhood Builders this year: **Dana Freeman, Stuart Shell and Mary Ledbetter**. The series of workshops, sponsored by **The Neighborhood Center For Greater Omaha**, introduces neighborhood associations to various resources available in Omaha. The program is a wonderful networking opportunity that exposes participants to best practices in leading community groups.

Have you ever struggled to craft a letter of protest? **A'Jamal Byndon** of Catholic Charities described the role of advocacy in our community and helped participants understand several sample letters. How many of us have watched a meeting fall apart? UNL Extension Educators **Vernon Waldren** and **Mark Simmons** elucidated the value of Robert's Rules of Order and how varying your conversation approach can lead to action where once was conflict. And to provide perspective on the role of activists in Omaha, **Mayor Mike Fahey** addressed participants with closing remarks and a handshake!

Many thanks **Ron Abdouch** at The Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha for organizing the Saturday workshops in February. You can contact Ron for more information on this program at **561-7582**.

What's New, Pussycat? . . . back next month!



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 (\$25.00)

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 | Ball Committee | Tennis Program | Holiday Banquet |



Youth Tennis Block Party
Wednesday, May 28th
6:00 - 7:30 P.M.
Gifford Park Courts
See Details In May
Newsletter