



Gifford Park's Pride

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

April 2009

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association



The official spring kick-off of the Community Bike Shop Omaha (CBSO) was held on Saturday, March 21. The event featured music, refreshments, and a tour of the shop. New volunteers were also recruited, and many bike enthusiasts were present. Current (summer) hours for the bike shop are Saturdays from noon until 4 PM and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 PM.

**Special Midtown Business
Association/Destination Midtown
Networking Event
Tuesday, April 28th,
4:30 to 5:30 or 6 PM
California Bar
510 N 33rd St**

This 80 year-old neighborhood bar welcomes the every day working person, with happy hour weekdays from 5 to 6 and daily discount specials every day from 7 till close.

The bar offers a great beer garden in the summer and celebrates Thanksgiving and Christmas with the owner providing the turkeys, and all the customers bringing side dishes.

Come out to show your support for this business that has been in the news recently and to join in some good old fashioned neighborhood socializing.

RSVP to **Chris Kilroy at 558-2111** or
linda.mayfield@edwardjones.com

**Next General Meeting
Thursday, April 9
7:00 P.M.**

**Speaker: Chris Combs
Topic: Permaculture Gardening**

**Creighton University
Medical Center
Morrison Seminar Room**

**Executive Meeting:
Thursday, April 23
At The Flint's
152 North 35th St.**

**Don't Forget To
VOTE!
City Primary
Tuesday, April 7**



**20th Annual GPNA
Easter Egg Hunt**



**Saturday, April 11
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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WATCH GROUP

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

WELCOMING

Julie Kalkowski* 342-2103

* denotes new officer, board, or committee member

Grant Updates

Water in North Park- The bid has been approved and we will see work being done in less than two weeks thanks to **Chris Foster's** diligence on this project. Backlund Plumbing will be the contractor. No more hauling water to the identity garden!

Shelter Roof- Pat Slaven is in possession of the shingle samples and as soon as they are approved our new roof will be put on. Husker Roofing will be the contractor and they are not only replacing the roof but all of the underlayment, fascia boards, and metal tuck work with a brown color that will blend in with the structure (currently it is silver).

Lighting- Locations have been discussed with OPPD (you can find the locations in the Grant/Lighting article) and GPNA is currently working with OPPD, GPNA neighbors and businesses to secure the actual locations and erect additional safety lighting. Potential lighting sites will be published in the next newsletter and a location map will be brought to the May general meeting. The lights that are installed under this grant (which was made possible by an anonymous donor) will be funded for 3-4 years. Thanks to **Daryll Hutton** for his continued work on this project.

by Dana Carlton-Flint

Can You Dig It?

Greetings, fellow gardeners! It's time to rejoice—spring has finally sprung. Friday, March 20th, marked the vernal equinox. In case you didn't know, vernal means "spring" and equinox literally translates to "equal night." The sun was positioned directly above the equator making day and night equal in length across the globe. Since then, those of us in the northern hemisphere have perceived our days lengthening, while the reverse is true for those poor folks in the southern half of the world. The crocuses, daffodils, and forsythia shrubs also noticed the increased daylight and have come to life. We're very excited to start growing in Gifford Park this season!

A Sneak-Peek at a Gifford Park Gardener's Calendar

- April 4th Community garden meeting at Yates School, 9:15 to 10:30AM
- April 4th "Caring for the Soil" class with Do. Co. Extension for kids & adults at City Sprouts, 11AM to 12:30PM
- April 15th Applications for garden plot rental due to Mike Caban (341-4722)
- April 18th "Flowers or Vegetables?" class with Scott Farrington at City Sprouts, 11AM to 12:30PM
- April 18th Community garden clean-up with USD students, Noon to 5PM
- April 18th "Earth Day Omaha" at Elmwood Park, Noon to 6PM
- April 25th "Spring Affair Plant Sale" at State Fair Park, Lincoln, 9AM to 4PM
- April 29th Community garden meeting, 6 to 7PM
- May 2nd-3rd "Spring into Spring Plant Sale" at Lauritzen Gardens, 9AM to 5PM
- May 6th Community garden Work Party, 6 to 8PM
- May 9th Gifford Park Community Garden Kick-Off, 11AM to 1PM
- May 16th "Latino Gardening Traditions & Cooking" class with Sue Hamilton at City Sprouts, 11AM to 12:30PM
- May 23rd Youth Garden program begins! 10AM to 11:30AM

WANTED: The Gifford Park Community Garden is looking for a few good garden benches and picnic tables for its newest expansion area. Give **Dana (850-9611)** a call if you have something you would like to donate to our worthy cause, and we'll do the heavy lifting and haul it away!

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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)**.

Can You Dig it . . . continued from page 2

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Storm Sewer Labeling

If you don't have anything better to do than gorge yourself on candy after Gifford Park's Easter Egg Hunt, I've got the perfect solution! Join neighbors and volunteers from Sierra Club and PKA Fraternity on **Saturday, April 11th at 1PM** while we work to clean up and label ALL the storm drains in Gifford Park. Dress for the weather, and meet us at the purple Sun Dawgs shack at 35th Ave. & Davenport St. to raise awareness about the connection between storm drains and local bodies of water. We want to remind neighbors how seemingly straightforward activities like fertilizing their front lawn can contaminate our water supply. Contact **Dana (850-9611)** for more information.

by Dana Freeman

Teen Market Garden Informational Meeting – Wednesday, April 8, 2009 7 – 8:00 P.M. Yates School, 3260 Davenport, Omaha NE

Gifford Park takes our young farmers to market for the first time ever. Dive into the basics of entrepreneurship from product selection, to marketing, to pricing and selling. Interested teens between the ages of 10 and 18 years can join us to discuss the program concept, possibilities and questions. Parents Welcome! Contact **Kate Bodmann (496-8419)** or **Cynthia Shuck (556-2090)**

Last Chance For Tax Help

The site for the annual free tax assistance is Yates School, 32nd & Davenport St. Tax help will be available every **Monday (except March 23)** from **1 to 4 p.m.** through the tax season (**April 15**). Everyone is welcome! AARP representatives will provide free tax help for our neighborhood for the 15th 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, and to find out what documents are necessary to bring along to the tax assistance session.

Thanks, Guys!

Many thanks to the members of Creighton University's **PKA Fraternity** for donating \$102 to the GPNA during a hot dog eating contest fundraising event held Saturday, March 28. The winner got a \$50 gift certificate, the event was held at the PKA House at 31st & Chicago.

GPNA Calendar Of Events

April 9th General Meeting - Chris Combs will speak on Permaculture Gardening
April 11th Annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Park @ Noon
April 11th Storm drain labeling 1:00 Meet in the park
April 18th South Dakota students in Gifford Park for work day
April 23rd Board Meeting @ The Flint's
May 9th Garden Kick off
May 14th General Meeting - Subject TBA
May 23rd Childrens' Garden starts
May 27th Youth Tennis Block Party 6 - 7:30 PM
June 6th Spring Cleanup - see May newsletter for details

Sen.Howard Loses Daughter

Carrie Howard, daughter of **State Senator Gwen Howard**, sadly passed away March 24; she was 33 years old. Just last summer Carrie and her fiancé Jared Schultz purchased their home at 3402 California Street because she loved the Gifford Park neighborhood. She worked on numerous congressional and state legislative races and frequently attended fundraisers and rallies. She also was a fixture in the State Capitol, where she worked as a volunteer in her mother's legislative office. In 2004, she was a staffer for John Kerry's presidential campaign. Most recently, Carrie was working as the campaign manager for City Council candidate Jim Farho. She was very energetic and enthusiastic about our neighborhood. Carrie, along with her mother Gwen, volunteered and participated in GPNA activities including the community garden, block party, holiday banquet and Easter egg hunt. Besides Gwen and Jared, she is also survived by her sister, Sara Howard of Chicago; many aunts, uncles, cousins, other family members and friends who loved her very much. The family suggests memorials to "Carrie A. Howard Scholarship" at Omaha Central High School Foundation, PO Box 31610, Omaha, NE 68131-0610. The Gifford Park neighborhood will miss Carrie very much, and will keep her community spirit alive.

by Chris Foster

Candidates Forum A Success

The Candidates Forum held at the GPNA General Meeting on March 12 was a very informative and well attended event. All the mayoral and District 3 city council candidates appeared; each was given a set amount of time to respond to the same questions prepared by representatives of the GPNA. They were also allowed to present an opening statement before the questioning began. The GPNA would like to thank mayoral candidates **Hal Daub, Jim Suttle, & Jim Vokal** and council candidates **Brian Buescher, Steve Cross, Jim Farho, Chris Jerrum, Chip Maxwell, & Crystal Rhodes** for taking the time out of their busy campaign schedules to appear.

What's Happening In Midtown . . .

Destination Midtown, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Midtown Business Association, and Mutual of Omaha will host an extended version of **Rush Hour Connections** at **Midtown Crossing at Turner Park (3333 Farnam St.)** from **4 to 7 PM** on **Thursday, April 23rd**. Enjoy appetizers and beverages while learning about Midtown's new high-density urban living environment. Take a trolley tour of Midtown at 4:30 or 5:30 PM highlighting development, investment, and fresh business opportunities. Tours will focus on four of Omaha's most historic commercial districts surrounding Midtown Crossing: Park Avenue (Park Avenue and Leavenworth St.), Gifford Park (33rd & California Sts.), Joslyn Castle (40th & Cuming Sts.), and Blackstone (40th & Farnam Sts.) The cost is \$5 for advance reservations and \$10 at the door, if space is available. Visit www.omahachamber.org for more details on how to register for this event.

Join **Landmarks, Inc.** on **Saturday, May 9**, from **1 to 5 PM** for the **Park Avenue Walking Tour** and see some of Midtown's beloved historic buildings and homes. With the help of **Destination Midtown**, the **City of Omaha** has planned a new vision for redevelopment in this area. As advocates for historic preservation, Landmarks, Inc. believes that conserving buildings such as Terrace Court play an instrumental role in the success of that redevelopment. Up to 10 sites will be open for viewing outside or interior guided tours along the one mile stretch of Park Avenue from St. Mary's Avenue to Hanscom Park. Registration begins at 12:30 PM at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Christian Church located at 602 Park Avenue. Tickets are \$10 at the door or 2 for \$15. Visit www.omahalandmarks.org for more details about this great opportunity.

One Million Gardens is an exciting campaign to help accelerate the national move towards growing more of our food closer to home. As the economic challenges continue to grow more and more Americans are considering getting involved in local food production. The campaign's goal is to identify, encourage, and document the creation of at least 1,000,000 food gardens throughout the US in 2009. Please take a few minutes to register your community or home garden on the social network site onemilliongardens.ning.com. All it takes is an email address, a name for your garden, and, when you have one, a garden photo. The group will be using the growing popularity of their site to attract corporate and organizational sponsors which in turn will allow them to heavily promote the One Million Garden campaign to get America growing even faster. Consider adding yourself to this effort before the growing season hits full force.

by Dana Freeman



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)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |

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



**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE**
Chris 342-6006

**Mowers - \$5
Rent for most tools - \$3**

