



Gifford Park's Pride

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

July/August 2008

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Bike Night 2008

Returning this year to 33rd Street is the Gifford Park Neighborhood Block Party! The GPNA has teamed with **Community Bicycle Shop Omaha** to highlight bicycles at this year's celebration, which will be held **Tuesday evening, August 5th**, from **5 to 8 p.m.** Mark your calendar and plan to attend this evening of food, music, and bicycles!

Planned for the event are several bike-related activities, including BMX racers to "show off", a bicycle obstacle course where you can test your maneuvering skills, bicycle police officers, and an open repair stand for guests to use. The bicycle shop will be working with children to create "art bikes" that will be auctioned at the shop on **August 16th**, from 5-7 p.m., along with other "tricked-out" cycles.

Bike Night will be a great event for families in 2008. Coinciding with **National Night Out**, we'll emphasize the right for all to use the streets safely. Volunteers will be face painting, always a favorite in Gifford Park. Also, children can sign up for library cards and choose from free library books! Live music, hot dogs, and fun! For more information, or if you would like to help, call **Stuart 216-1235** or **Chris 342-6006**.

by Stuart Shell

At The Next Meeting . . .

Chris and Lori Combs of **Sweet Thyme Farm** will discuss their efforts to turn a 1/2 acre of the Gifford Park neighborhood into a forest garden. They plan to present information on Urban Permaculture, which means an agricultural system or method that seeks to integrate human activity with natural surroundings so as to create highly efficient self-sustaining ecosystems. Permaculture ethics include care for the earth, care for people, limited consumption, and share surplus. Please join us for an interesting talk (see upper right-hand corner for meeting information).

Also at the meeting, election of officers will take place for 2008-2009. These fine folks have volunteered for the following positions: **Dana Carlton-Flint** (president), **Stuart Shell** (vice-president), and **Rod Flint** (treasurer). Please come to the meeting, vote, show your support, and thank them for their service to our neighborhood!

Next General Meeting
Thursday, August 7
7:00 P.M.

Speaker: Chris Combs
Topic: Sweet Thymes Gardens
(Rescheduled from June)

Election Of Officers

Creighton University
Med Center
Morrison Seminar Room

"Music In The Park" Date Set

On **Wednesday, July 16th**, Gifford Park will be the host site for the popular "**Music in the Park**" concert series.

This year a young jazz band named **Double Shot** will perform from **6 to 7 p.m.** Then **Soldier of Soul**, a soul, funk and pop band featuring **Steve Thornberg** and **Mary O'Keefe** will perform from **7:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Many thanks to the **City of Omaha**, **The Reader Magazine**, **omahamusic.com**, **omahanightlife.com**, and the **Recording Industries Music Performance Fund** as administered by the **Omaha Musicians' Association** for sponsoring this free event. We plan to have free ice cream treats and lots of frisbees in the park, so bring a chair or blanket and enjoy the show!



DUSK TIL DAWN
LEAVE YOUR LIGHTS ON

25TH
ANNUAL
NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT
TUESDAY
AUGUST 5
2008

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Open

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NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Chris Foster 342-6006

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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

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.

Green Homes: Reducing A Household's Carbon Footprint Through Recycling

So you want to reduce your carbon footprint, but wish it could be as simple as sliding across a hardwood floor in your socks? Recycle.

"But recycling has too many do's and don'ts," you say. Perhaps recycling does take more thought than impersonating Tom Cruise in "Risky Business," but the environmental benefits are huge. This article will explain what and why to recycle.

PAPER

The most prevalent recyclable is newspaper, but that barely scratches the surface of the paper that is recyclable. The EPA estimates 35% of the average household's waste stream is made up of such paper products as magazines, bulk mail, food packaging (e.g., cereal boxes) and cardboard boxes. A large percentage of Omaha's paper is turned into insulation (look for the "Cocoon" brand when you're at a home improvement store; it might well contain your old newspaper). Here are two simple paper recycling rules:

1) If it tears, it's recyclable. Cardboard, which comes in all shapes and sizes, is tough to tear, but yes, do recycle it; it will be made back into another box. Prime examples of what doesn't tear and thus shouldn't be recycled are plastic coated items such as frozen food packages, aseptic packages (soy, rice, and almond milks and some types of soups are packaged in aseptic containers) and gable top cartons. Some paper mills are equipped to pulp and recover these items, but unfortunately the distance to these mills and the relatively small percentage available to recycle make them impractical to recover. If you are into crafts, soak the plastic covered packaging overnight then peel off the plastic to make your own paper.

2) When it's soiled, discard it. This is as much a safety rule as it is a recycling requirement. Tissue, paper towels and even wet newspaper after washing windows (which works great without streaking) are better composted.

PLASTICS

Plastics, both because of their volume and suitability for recycling, rank next on the list of items that should be readily recycled. The plastics most recognized as acceptable are milk jugs, detergent bottles and similar colored bottles (all of which are #2s) and soda and water bottles (#1). They are made into piping, recycling bins, shipping containers, mud flaps, shelving, backing for carpeting and packaging strapping.

Rising oil prices and worldwide demand for all recyclables and plastics in particular have made it possible to now recycle #3 and #5 resins. Examples include yogurt containers, margarine tubs and salad trays. Indeed, packaging designers and manufacturers have steadily switched to more recyclable types of plastic. Chances are every plastic bottle and tub in your home, from the hair and body care products in your bedrooms and baths, to the coffee tub in your kitchen cupboard and condiment containers in your frig, are either #1, #2, #3 or #5 plastics. Simply empty all of them as completely as you can and include them in your bin.

Plastic bags and Styrofoam should not be included because they will contaminate the other materials. Plastic bags, however, are recycled by most grocery stores. There is no local market for Styrofoam, but some shipping companies will reuse peanuts.

METAL

Steel and aluminum cans should also be recycled because, as is true for all recyclables, of the huge energy savings. The energy from recycling one aluminum can is equivalent to a six ounce cup of gasoline.

Whether you have paper, plastic or metal, toss them all together in your household recycling bin (or wheeled cart if you are a patron of the RecycleBank

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Green Homes . . . continued from page 2

program). The fact you no longer must separate materials is thanks to Omaha switching to the single-stream collection program and Firststar Fiber's investment in the mechanical sorting system. Compartmentalized, non-compactor trucks held approximately 2 to 3 tons of material, whereas the single-stream compactor trucks hold an estimated 6 to 10 tons. By enabling materials to be commingled, at a higher capacity, in regular compactor trucks, the city saved money and reduced air pollution (the hauler was able to reduce its fleet of trucks by slightly better than half). Firststar Fiber uses a series of screens, magnets and manual laborers to separate cardboard from paper, paper from metals and plastics and then these from one another. Even several large area employers have adopted single-stream recycling at their work sites with great results. The bottom line is by making recycling simpler and more convenient, those who otherwise wouldn't recycle are now willing to participate. Now there's a reason to kick off your shoes and slide across the floor.

For more information on how to green your home, please join us for the Green Neighborhood Council's monthly Green Living Workshop: Reducing a Household's Carbon Footprint through Recycling. Dale Gubbels, President and CEO of Omaha's recycling facility, Firststar Fiber, will guide a tour through the recycling plant, help you learn the ins and outs of recycling, and teach us how to improve Omaha's recycling program.

The Workshop will be held from 10:00 am to noon on Saturday, August 23, 2008, at Firststar Fiber, 10330 'I' St. Learn all about recycling and sign up for a chance to WIN recycling related prizes. RSVP to Daniel at livesimply93@gmail.com.

The event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Green Neighborhood Council of the Green Omaha Coalition.

www.greenomahacoalition.org

by Dale Gubbels

Liquor License Application Denied

On Wednesday, May 28, several GPNA members, Senator Gwen Howard, and others from Midtown neighborhoods testified in Lincoln before the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (NLCC) to oppose three former Kum & Go stores' (now called Infinite Oil located at 33rd & Cass St., Park Ave, and 30th & Lake) liquor license applications. The NLCC decided to take a month to review the documents and evidence before making a ruling. On June 24, the NLCC vote was 1 to 1 and because there are only 2 commissioners, the tie goes to the protestants (the neighborhoods) so the applications were denied. For the record, the GPNA opposed this application mainly because it believes additional alcohol outlets will have a negative impact on the neighborhood, and the neighborhood already has enough alcohol outlets. GPNA members have written opposition letters and testified at City Council and NLCC hearings, efforts appreciated by those spearheading the movement.

Special thanks to Margie Magnuson for her tireless efforts in creating and sustaining a group called the Alcohol Impact Coalition. This group is made up of neighborhood leaders from mostly in and around the midtown area and is committed to studying the impact of alcohol within our

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Omaha Indoor Swap Meet

Tianguis, Baratillo, Pulga, o como le quieramos llamar

¡Se Necesitan Vendedores!

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What's New, Pussycat?

Fauna and Flora

If urban wildlife—or even cats!—are unwelcome in your garden, there are safe, simple, and above all, humane solutions, working with Mother Nature. For example, you can research humane repellents on-line or at pet stores, for every animal from squirrels to deer.



When a raccoon rooted in a friend's garden, I learned of a wonderful local resource, **Nebraska Wildlife Rehab** (NWR). My friend thought it might be humane to trap and relocate the raccoon, but NWR does not advocate this. At this time of year, 80% of female raccoons have babies who will die if their mother is relocated; a relocated raccoon is unlikely to survive in a new territory. Also, relocation probably won't solve your problem, as many other raccoons wait in the wings. Instead, NWR can tell you simple effective ways to make your garden unattractive to wildlife, and explain in what ways your garden may currently be a wildlife magnet! Contact NWR at (402) 341-8619. You can request brochures, or leave a message for a rehabilitator who will happily help you. The friendly NWR raccoon rehabilitator explained easy ways for my friend to raccoon-proof his garden, without harming the raccoons. Or go to www.nebraskawildliferelhab.org and click on site index, "Problems with Wildlife."

If cats are unwelcome in your yard, **Alley Cat Allies** (www.alleycat.org) suggests options. Liberally apply non-toxic cat-repellent (from pet stores or www.gardeners.com) or fresh citrus peels around the edge of the yard, on tops of fences, and on favorite digging areas. Or install an ultrasonic repeller, or a motion-activated water sprinkler (ScareCrow or CatStop, from Contech, www.scatmat.com).

If cats dig in your garden, scatter fresh citrus peels, coffee grounds, or pipe tobacco in the garden. Spray the area with citrus-scented fragrances, or oil of lavender, lemongrass, citronella, or eucalyptus. Plant rue, or sprinkle dried rue over the garden. Or cut up and scatter weeds, branchy lemon verbena prunings, or dead fern leaves. Cover exposed ground in flower beds with attractive river rocks, which also deter weeds. Consider Cat Scat plastic mats (www.gardeners.com) that you cut into smaller pieces and press into the soil. The mats have flexible plastic spikes that are harmless to cats and other animals but discourage digging. (Or use plastic carpet runners, spike side up, lightly covered in soil. Or set chicken wire firmly into the dirt with sharp edges rolled under.) Or place lattice fencing, or branches in lattice pattern, over the soil, planting flowers in the openings. Try embedding wooden chopsticks, pinecones, or sticks with dull points deep into the soil eight inches apart with the tops exposed. You can even establish a litter box by tilling the soil or

placing sand in an out-of-the-way spot in your yard. Keep the litter box clean and free of deposits. This works well combined with one or more of the deterrents in your garden.

Note that neutering dramatically reduces a cat's tendency to roam, keeping them from unwanted areas. Please never use antifreeze or poison against animals. It is extremely cruel, and pets and children often fall victim. My vet reports cases where attempts to poison squirrels have killed dogs. Some use cats to deter rabbits. Feed the cats well, to minimize preying because rabbits may carry parasites dangerous to cats. Contact NWR and learn how to deter bunnies humanely.

Healthy Pet writes, "Watch what we feed our lawns. More than 40% of the calls received by [the ASPCA] Animal Poison Control Center regard pets exposed to lawn and household chemicals. For example, shells derived from cocoa beans are often used as lawn fertilizer or garden mulch but can be harmful to dogs if consumed. Affected dogs may develop theobromine toxicosis, which can result in ailments ranging from gastrointestinal upset to seizures. So be careful what you give your lawn; you might be giving it to your pet as well."

Your garden can also HELP fauna, like bees, who need our help! According to Friends of Animals Action Line, "Have a variety of plants that flourish throughout the season. Bumble bees get all their nutrients from flowers, so why not brighten your surroundings and sustain bees with flowering plants? Early spring flowers are particularly important to new colonies, and bees especially appreciate blue, purple, and yellow flowers, planted in clusters four feet or more in diameter. Avoid show varieties; they may lack sufficient nectar or pollen for bees. Native plants are better adapted to your regional bees. Native plants can also provide key routes for animals, connecting them to nearby remaining wildlands." (Lavender beardtongue, azaleas, and purple prairie clover are all Prairie natives.) The Natural Resources Conservation Service (<http://plants.usda.gov/index.html>) lists native plants. A local beekeeper counsels minimizing pesticide use and GMO's, which threaten our vanishing bees.

Provide butterfly houses, butterfly nectar, or plant a butterfly garden to attract those lovely visitors. Bat houses attract fascinating and beneficial bats who help control mosquitoes. And of course—don't forget birdfeeders, birdbaths, and birdhouses! In our neighborhood, feed the birds throughout the year for beautiful garden birdsong year-round!!

Low-cost vaccination/microchip clinics for cats and dogs will be held on **July 12, 1-4 p.m.**, at **Christie Heights Recreation Center, 5105 S. 37th St. (37th & P)**; and **August 2, 1-4 p.m.**, at **Sherman Community Center, 5701 N. 16th St.** Most vaccinations are \$5; microchips, \$25.

by Clarinda Karpov 553-3736

Youth Gardens Growing Strong

A swift-moving summer storm cannot put a damper on the Gifford Park Youth Garden. The kids' gardens have made a speedy recovery from damage done by strong winds and hail. With an over-abundance of moisture from the sky, plots at the Community Garden are green and productive. Ask seven-year old **Jeraldine Hernandez** about her recent lettuce harvest for proof of a garden's surplus. Time has passed quickly this summer, and our fifty-two young gardeners and priceless volunteers have been busy learning and growing together. The following is an update on our activities:

Week Three, May 31st, of the program was spent erecting and planting tepees, trellises, and tunnels in the garden. Volunteer **Stuart Shell** led the construction of our bean tepee. After lashing together five wooden poles, **Van Stanek** and his dad made a woven framework from rope upon which the beans will vine. **Dawn & Crystal Stanley** planted heirloom Mayflower Beans that will provide a verdant cover for the tepee. **Kate Bodmann** helped some of our youngest gardeners, like **Curtis & AJ Flint**, prepare the soil and sow seeds around our two large gourd tunnels. We are awaiting anxiously the ornamental birdhouse and snake gourds. **Mike Caban** strung the trellis upon which we like to grow the lovely hyacinth bean vine with its purple flowers and pods. **Vanessa Saavedra** planted donated Elephant Ear bulbs under the guidance of the great digger **Chris Foster**. Tropical green cannas given to the garden last fall by our **Senator Gwen Howard** were put in the ground by **Brittany Story**. Volunteer **Sue Freeman** and **Justine Stanley** finished planting in the gourd tunnel with interesting vines, like *Thunbergia* and *Love-in-a-Puff*. Parent volunteer **Blanca Saavedra** helped young gardeners with our nationally renowned "These Boots Are Made for Planting" project. Thanks to our neighborhood **Westlake Ace Hardware** store for donating the plants and potting soil a second year. To **Sallie Foster**, the ever present Gifford Park photographer, we express our sincere gratitude. Maybe we will win another photo contest with pictures of these fun planters!

Everyone had a chance to wrangle with worms on **Week Four**, June 7th. We all played a question and answer matching game and learned vermicomposting (the root "vermi" meaning worm) factoids. Participants made their very own wormeries in a clear container to take home. Thanks to our neighborhood **No Frills** supermarket for donating the plastic deli dishes and **Lyman-Richey** for the bucket of pea gravel used to improve drainage in the worm bedding.

We recognize the importance of honoring parents and mentors who continually guide our development. Youth gardeners celebrated Father's Day a little early on the Saturday of **Week Five**, June 14th, with quality time spent working hard together followed by a picnic lunch. **Preston Noll** and his dad **Eric** did the tough job of moving and spreading mulch in the gourd tunnel area. Dedicated volunteer **Mike Caban** helped kids hang birdhouses and mount a jumbo rain gauge. Dad **Paul Farrand** supervised the painting of primer on our two rain barrels, in preparation for more elaborate decoration. **Cynthia Shuck** and mom **Dana Carlton-Flint** directed planting of vacant youth plots with cotton, corn, and more vegetables. Others, like visiting Chicago volunteer **Dawni Freeman**, took to the necessary but dirty job of pulling weeds. Special thanks to **John Barna** for the hotdog donation and those who brought side dishes to share, especially **The Larson Family** and fruit-bearing **Fosters**. Our lunch would not have been successful without you!

The weather was perfect **Week Six**, June 21st, for making art in the garden. The entire process was facilitated by members of **The Octopuses Garden Art Alliance (TOGAA)** (www.octopusgardenart.org), a group whose mission is to celebrate diversity in our community by providing opportunities that foster creative self-expression and dignity. After visiting Gifford Park and talking with gardeners, TOGAA suggested the creation of a sign posted in the back of the garden that would be visible from Cass Street. We decided to cut "Gifford Park Community Garden" from wood and let our youth gardeners add the color. Adults and kids alike communicated with paint their thoughts and feelings about community gardening in our neighborhood. The results were stunning. Look for this awesome sign to be posted in the very near future.

TOGAA invited us, as well, to contribute to a community art project that would be displayed at the **Summer Arts Festival**. They provided a rain barrel for us to ornament that would also serve to promote Gifford Park during the festival. Afterwards, the barrel would return permanently to our garden. From brainstorming through project implementation, TOGAA dedicated an outstanding number of volunteer hours in order to further beautify our garden with art. We especially thank TOGAA directors **Peter Lochren**, **Christine Walker**, sisters **Lindsay & Shelby Beck**, and **Melynda Stanek**. Donations of paint, brushes, stencils, and cash from **The Waltemath Family**, **Adam Gottsch**, **The Noll Family**, **Jan Franks**, and **Sue Freeman** were crucial to our success. **The Anderson Family** provided tasty treats so that everyone could keep up their strength and finish painting. We are thankful to have such staunch and generous supporters.

Despite the storm that ravaged the city Friday evening, many folks attended the **Week Seven**, June 28th, bug lesson. **Dr. Tom "Mosquito Man" Janousek** and his lovely wife and assistant **Traci** brought some of their friends for

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One For The Books! Summer Storm Swamps Park

"Wow!" That's how I commented after riding out what was arguably the most destructive storm to hit Omaha since the tornado of 1975. 80 to 115 mph winds, quarter to golf ball sized hail, and the following torrential downpour of an estimated 4 inches, left a trail of downed power lines, uprooted trees, and wet basements throughout Gifford Park.

Bewildered residents who ventured out afterwards were amazed to see that the tennis court and the ball field now resembled a lagoon. By my estimates, at least 3 to 4 feet of water covered the area. Just imagine how different things would have been if not for all the trees and vegetation that have been planted though out the years. Ours is a truly resilient park!

The power outage that started Friday, June 27, lasted up to 8 days in the western areas of Douglas County, but most residents in the Gifford Park Neighborhood had complete restoration by the following Tuesday through a Herculean effort completed by the City of Omaha, OPPD and sub-contractor Kansas City Power and Light. A truly remarkable feat considering the outage left 125,000 residents without power.

Remarkably, no deaths or serious injuries occurred in Omaha.

Last, I want to say how much I appreciated how in the hours of darkness following the storm, many residents were out checking on their neighbors. Although we may have our differences at times, it was truly magnificent how we came together to help one another in a time of need.

by John Barna



The June 27th storm created a temporary "lagoon" in Gifford Park. Ben Spahn used the opportunity to float a toy boat in the newly created body of water - Lake GPNA!

Youth Gardens . . . continued from page 5

show and tell, such as a Madagascar hissing cockroach and a silkworm caterpillar. We also got to check out mosquito larvae, tadpoles in different stages of development, and the aptly named toe biter. Thanks to **The Stanley Family** for providing us a healthy snack even though they were without electricity at home.

Avian expert **Sarah Newman** visited the garden **Week Eight**, July 5th, to teach us about our backyard birds.

Our kids worked hard to clean up and stock our numerous birdfeeders, wash and fill our birdbath, and help make our garden more hospitable to wildlife.

Children looked for insects to fill each of their very own homemade Bug Barns. A special thanks to **Don Freeman** for his woodworking expertise, tools, and materials, as well as **Chris Foster** for donating much needed supplies. Thanks to **Stuart Shell**, **Sue Freeman**, **Cynthia Shuck**, and **Daniel Lawse** for helping with their construction and assembly.

Can you believe we are more than halfway through our summer program? But kids and volunteers have seven more weeks of fun to which they can look forward. We still have to go on a scavenger hunt, visit some butterflies, check out a weather station, play with snakes, cook in the garden, see a farm, and party with our friends before the end of August. All friends and family of the Youth Garden should mark their calendars for our **HARVEST PARTY** at **10AM** on **Saturday, AUGUST 23RD**. We aim to celebrate what we have grown and accomplished, as well as honor those folks who have helped make summer 2008 so wonderful. Please plan on joining us and, if you like, bringing your favorite food to share. Come see what's been growing for more than 15 weeks in Gifford Park!

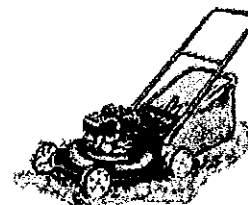
Call (850-9611) or email (dana.freeman@gmail.com) Dana with any questions on how to get involved in our community gardening project, or look online (www.giffordparkomaha.org) for neighborhood information and new garden pictures.

by Dana Freeman

Ben's Yard Work & Landscaping

Call Ben Spahn 707-1507

He lives in Gifford Park





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Community Garden Fun

Have you driven down Cass Street lately and taken a look at the Gifford Park Community Garden? With the incredible amount of rain that has fallen, our garden has recovered quickly from the whirlwind storm that wreaked havoc across town. The blooming garden is a busy place with more than fifty youth gardeners registered for our Saturday morning program and 29 families with garden plots. Everyone is free to walk around or sit at one of our lovely benches during the day, keeping in mind that flowers and vegetables should not be taken from the garden. A great time to visit is during our **OPEN TOOL SHED HOURS** each **Wednesday** during the growing season from **6 to 8 PM**. It is also a chance to meet the many gardeners who water and tend their plots during that time. Or you can check out our first **POTLUCK** of summer 2008. All friends and family of the Community Garden are invited to attend our picnic beginning **5 PM** on **Saturday, July 19th** at **35th & Cass St.** Our main course will consist of grilled hamburgers and chicken, and everyone is encouraged to **bring a side dish or dessert** to share. Join in our celebration of gardening, good food, and neighborhood friends. The garden is maintained through the work of dedicated volunteers who mow the grass, pull weeds, water, and tend our numerous herbs, flowers, and shrubs. Community gardeners with a plot are asked to **volunteer 7 hours** of service to these ongoing tasks. Many people fulfill this requirement through work for the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association or Youth Garden. Folks can contribute on their own by pulling weeds next to their assigned plot or taking on jobs from the white board posted on the shed. A fun way to complete both garden chores and one's service obligation is attend a **COMMUNITY GARDEN WORK PARTY**. The next one will be held **Wednesday, August 6th**, from **6 to 8 PM**. We can keep our garden beautiful more easily when many hands are at work. Special thanks to our Chief Weeder **Diane Kaye** for her dedication regardless of summer's heat. Check out our website for more Gifford Park information (www.giffordparkomaha.org), or call **Dana (850-9611)**, **Chris (342-6006)**, or **Cynthia (556-2090)** with questions.



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Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Fireworks Impressive

I hope everyone had a chance to grab a blanket and enjoy the 3rd annual **Midtown Fireworks Show** that took place Sunday, July 6th, at Field Club of Omaha. I want to recognize the business leaders and institutions that support our neighborhoods by sponsoring this event: **The Nebraska Medical Center, University of Nebraska Medical Center, City of Omaha, Kiewit Construction, KPTM Fox 42, Field Club, Security National Bank, Midtown Business Association, Mutual of Omaha Bank, Centris Federal Credit Union**, and several private residents. Many thanks to everyone who worked to put it together!

*by Cynthia Shuck, MNA Secretary and
Gifford Park Representative*

Liquor License . . . continued from page 3

neighborhoods and an advocate for supporting neighborhoods during the liquor license application process. This group has many hard-working individuals supporting each other's neighborhood efforts to oppose liquor applicants who the group feels will have a negative effect on the neighborhood. Thanks Margie for your leadership and perseverance.

And the GPNA extends a big thank you to a great guy, **Steve Virgil**. Unfortunately for the Omaha community and beyond, Steve will be leaving us and heading for Wake Forest, where a great opportunity to teach law awaits him. We will greatly miss Steve's incredible work with community outreach through the **Creighton University Law Office**. He was a big help in preparing GPNA to oppose several recent liquor license applications, as he also helped many nearby neighborhoods with important issues including non-profit help and training people to help themselves help their neighborhoods. Steve's integrity, values, patience, and commitment to our neighborhoods makes it that much tougher to see him go. Good Luck Steve!

by Chris Foster

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

The GPNA was deeply saddened and sends its sincerest condolences to **Chris Foster**, whose father, **Willie**, passed away in June at the age of 70. According to Chris, Willie loved sports (tennis in particular), nature, weather, had a great sense of humor, and had many friends. One of the most successful of all the programs the GPNA sponsors, the Youth Summer Tennis Program, was no doubt a product of Willie's passion for tennis, which he passed on to his son. Our deepest sympathy to Chris and his wife **Sallie**, his mother **Jackie**, his sister **Jenny**, and the rest of the Foster family.

Back by popular demand, we plan to have a neighborhood-wide garage sale on a Saturday in September. The GPNA will pay for an ad in the Omaha World-Herald to promote garage sales in the Gifford Park neighborhood. If you would like to donate usable garage sale items (no clothes or shoes, please) to the GPNA, please call Neil 933-1960 or Chris 342-6006; we will sell items in the business district at 33rd & California, with all the proceeds going to the GPNA. This is a great way to get rid of unused items and make some extra money for yourself or the GPNA at NO COST to you!

Special thanks go to **Tom Lebeda** (Parks & Recreation Supervisor) for always paying close attention to our Gifford Park site for this year's Sun Dawgs summer youth program. The GPNA wishes to thank the **City of Omaha** and other private donors who helped keep the Sun Dawgs program and for making it possible for Gifford Park to be a full-time site.

Hawkins Construction has requested closing the right-hand lane for westbound traffic on Cuming Street under the Highway 75 bridges. The closing will begin on **Monday, July 14**, and continue indefinitely until the pier for the new bridge is constructed. During this time, Cuming Street will remain open to traffic with one lane in each direction.

The effort continues to get **Yates School** back as our neighborhood school. Things look very positive for this to happen in the next few years. The next step is for people from the community to work with **Omaha Public Schools (OPS)** to decide how best to use the current Yates building at 32nd & Davenport for the short term (next couple years) to benefit our neighborhood. Neighborhood folks involved with this effort met in June with OPS representatives. The meeting was very productive and the GPNA appreciates the efforts of OPS and **State Senator Gwen Howard**. We will keep you posted; call **Chris 342-6006** for more information.



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)

P.O. Box 31462, 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)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Cleanups | Newsletter Delivery | Community Garden | Easter Egg Hunt |
| Membership | Block Captain | Youth Garden | Spring Cleanup |
| Social Activities | History | Tree Planting | Fall Cleanup |
| School Liaison | Watch Group | Youth Activities | Neighborhood Walks |
| Tool Lending | Call Committee | Tennis Program | Holiday Banquet |

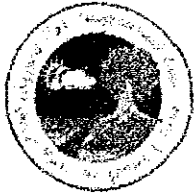
**For City Services,
Information, or
Complaints
Call: Mayor's Action
Office
444-5555**



**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE
Chris 342-6006**

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





15th Annual Gifford Park Free Tennis Program

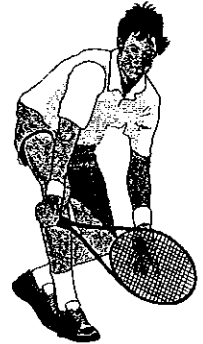


For: Youth (4 to 18 years old)

Dates: August 6, 13, 20, 27
(each Wednesday in August)

Where: Gifford Park Tennis Courts
(33rd & Cass St.)

Time: Ages 4 to 9 (6 - 6:45 p.m.)
Ages 10 to 18 (6:45 to 7:30 p.m.)



The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is offering **FREE Tennis Lessons** and will provide tennis racquets, balls and instructors for each lesson. Parents and others are welcome to help.

To be enrolled, YOU MUST complete the form shown below and bring with you to the tennis lessons. Special prize for those who attend every lesson and demonstrate good sportsmanship. There is limited space available so please **be on time.** Call **342-6006** for more information.

Registration/Permission Form - Bring this form (completely filled out) with you to the tennis lessons to be enrolled.

Youth's Name: _____ Parent's Name: _____
 Street: _____ Street: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
 Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ School: _____
 Parent/Guardian Phone: Home: _____ Work: _____

As the parent or legal guardian of the child named above, I hereby give my full consent and approval for my child to participate as a member of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Youth Program.

I understand that there are certain risks of injury inherent in the practice and play of this sport, as well as related activities incidental to my child's participation, and I am willing to assume these risks on behalf of my child. I hereby certify that my child is fully capable of participating in this sport and that my child is healthy and has no physical or mental disabilities or infirmities that would restrict full participation in these activities, except as listed below.

I hereby waive, release and hold harmless the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Youth Program, and the City of Omaha, Nebraska, its Officers, coaches, sponsors, supervisors and representatives for any injury that may be suffered by my child in the normal course of participation in this sport and the activities incidental thereto, whether the result of negligence or any other cause. Furthermore, I give consent to any necessary medical treatment in case of emergency.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____