



# Gifford Park's Pride

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn and Play  
[www.giffordparkomaha.org](http://www.giffordparkomaha.org)

September 2008

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale Set For September 13th; Now Collecting Items

Back by popular demand, we plan to have a neighborhood-wide garage sale **Saturday, September 13**. 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 33<sup>rd</sup> & California from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with all of these 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 and at NO COST to you!

## 15th Annual Tennis Program Highlights

Unlike last year, there were NO rainouts for this year's **15<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Tennis Program**. This year's program, held in Gifford Park, was the third year we had two age groups to better handle the number of kids on the limited court space. We had about a dozen volunteer instructors for the Wednesday evening sessions. The kids learned each of the basic tennis and rallying skills. With the number of participants, we again used the old basketball court and set up mini-nets for the younger kids.

A BIG thanks goes to **Godfather's Pizza** again this year for giving us a deal on 18 pizzas for the event! Neighborhood volunteers provided delicious treats also. Many thanks go to all the wonderful instructors for their support and dedication to this program: **Rick & Jane Hines, Jim Wilson, the Schuele family (John & Mary, Cathy, Kara), Buddy Hogan, Jim Lang, Roger Freeman, Laurie Bolte, Kirk Peck, Michaela Peck, Vince Emory, Ike Thomas, Jackie Foster, Chris & Sallie Foster, Jenny Foster, Don Gildon, Ryan Shuck, Matt Kooney, Melissa Giersch, David Pursel, Ron Goodman, Abdid Mohammad, and Mark Beiting.**

A special note about volunteers **Jim Wilson** and the **Schuele** family: Jim Wilson was named as the OTA's

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**Next General Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 11\***  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Speaker: Mike Terry, Realtor**  
**Topic: Midtown Housing Market**

**Speaker: Justin Wayne**  
**Topic: The Learning Community Structure**

**Vote On Proposed**  
**By-Laws Revisions**  
**(see pages 4 & 5)**

**Creighton University**  
**Med Center**  
**Morrison Seminar Room**

**\*Note: GPNA General Meetings will now be scheduled for the second Thursday of the month**

**Executive Meeting:**  
**Thursday, September 25**  
**At The Flint's**  
**152 North 35th St.**



**Kids Are Back**  
**In School**  
**Please Drive**  
**Carefully!**

**GPNA OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Dana Carlton-Flint\* 346-4575

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Stuart Shell 216-1235

**SECRETARY**

Jill Westfall\* 213-3105

**TREASURER**

Rodney Flint 346-4575

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**AT LARGE**

Justin Brown\* 932-5932

**AT LARGE**

Luther Larson\* 330-3286

**BUSINESS**

Martin Janousek\* 558-4070

**LANDLORD**

Open

**GARDEN LIASON**

Dana Freeman\* 850-9611

**COMMITTEES**

**COMPLIANCE/PARKING VIOLATIONS**

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

**HISTORIAN**

Eva Swanson 345-1707

**MEMBERSHIP**

Stuart Shell 216-1235

**NEWSLETTER**

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**PARK**

Sandy\* & Roger Freeman 557-2914

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

**WATCH GROUP**

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

**WEEDS & LITTER**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**WELCOMING**

Julie Kalkowski\* 342-2103

\* denotes new officer, board, or committee member

**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).

**President's Column**

It's the start of a **new** year for GPNA! For those of you who don't know me I am pleased to introduce myself as the **newly** elected GPNA President. My husband Rod and our son Curtis live on the SW corner of 35th and Davenport and we love it! I have served as GPNA treasurer two times in the past and have participated in numerous activities in our association. I own a design company and participate in many other community organizations in one capacity or another. If you see me around please say hi!

As mentioned earlier it is the start of a **new** year for GPNA. A few **new** things you may want to be on the look out for are:

- The Board-A **new** board is being put into place and it has a diverse mix of our members with officers, at-large members, business members, landlord members, and a garden liaison. We are hoping to accomplish many **new** goals with this great group.
- Newsletter- A **new** format is being adopted to meet the needs of our members. The Neighborhood garden will have its own section/page, neighborhood updates on grants, projects, and codes will be shown every month, and more advertising will be seen to help offset our costs.
- Volunteerism- As in most organizations 20% of the people do 80% of the work; this is not different in Gifford Park. Our **new** goal for 2008/2009 is to get more diversity in our volunteers. This has started with the board which now has 5 members that have never served before this year. So get your volunteer hat on...we comin' to see you...participate!
- Grants- Our **new** approach to grants, which are to identify our needs, put a team in place to execute the project, write for the grant, and implement the plan. This should have our neighborhood looking great.

I am looking forward to serving as the **new** GPNA President and more so I am looking forward to all of the **new** accomplishments we will achieve as a team!

Thank you,  
Dana Carlton-Flint

**Attention All Gifford Park Community Gardeners!**

Don't forget to stop by Gifford Park for our first -Wednesday-of-the-month **Work Night, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**, from **6-8PM**. This is a special effort to prepare the garden for the Green Home Tour (see related article). Nearly one thousand participants are expected to make their way through Gifford Park, and we want our garden to look its best! We will eradicate weeds, water, and mulch as necessary. If we have enough time and volunteers available, we can try again to paint our two rain barrels.

Remember: many hands make light work!

As a reminder to community gardeners, everyone agreed and is expected to contribute **8 hours** of general service to the garden or neighborhood. Some folks volunteered for the Youth Garden program or one of the numerous other GPNA activities held throughout the year, but everyone can easily pull weeds and tend to the area around their plot. Check out the dry erase board posted on the shed for more chores you can do throughout the week.



## Community Bicycle Shop Expands In Its Second Year

The programs of **Community Bicycle Shop Omaha** (CBSO) continue to expand as the shop nears the end of its second season. CBSO's flagship program, Earn-a-Bike, boasts over forty participants and nearly ten graduates so far this year. Building from the community-building mission of CBSO, the program centers on the mentoring relationship between youth and positive role models. An expanding volunteer base and continued bicycle donations makes further growth of the program likely.

Bike Night 2008 was also a neighborhood success. Expanding on the bike rodeo CBSO hosted last year, this year's event benefited through collaboration with GPNA and the Northeast Precinct of the Omaha Police. Nearly forty youth completed the bicycle obstacle course that CBSO organized. Each participant took home a bicycle license provided by the Health and Safety Council. To promote safety, the shop gave helmets to children without them.

CBSO's Open House in the spring, and Bike Auction in the fall put the bookends on the active season at the shop. This year saw continued support from neighborhood partners at the Open House. Live music and tasty treats made the second annual shop opening a hit. And the Bike Auction raised 30% more income for CBSO than last year. Bike Masters Cycling Club reached out to CBSO by adopting a bike in the auction and boosting proceeds for the event.

The shop will continue to be open into the fall on Saturdays from 12-4pm. CBSO's mission is to teach bicycle mechanics, promote safe cycling, and build community. The nonprofit has been active in Gifford Park for three years.

*by Stuart Shell*

## 2008 Calendar Of Events SEPTEMBER

6th: Green Homes Tour  
11th: General Meeting @ CUMC  
13th: Neighborhood Garage Sale  
25th: Board Meeting @ Flint's 152 N. 35th St.

## OCTOBER

4 & 5th: USD Students  
9th: General Meeting @ CUMC  
19th: Landmarks' Restore Omaha Tour  
23rd: Board Meeting

## NOVEMBER

13th: General Meeting @ CUMC  
20th: Board Meeting ( Note change of date due to Thanksgiving holiday

## DECEMBER

11th: Holiday Banquet @ CUMC  
No Board Meeting....Happy Holidays!



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## Proposed By-Laws Changes

*Note: Changes in parantheses. A quorum (15 members) must be present to vote.*

### ARTICLE II. MEMBERS

**E. ~~The annual expiration date for membership shall be~~** (January) first of each year.

*SECTION 5. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP* An Honorary Life Membership in this association may be conferred by two-thirds vote at any meeting of the Executive Board. An honorary member shall have none of the obligations of membership in the association, but shall be entitled to all of the privileges except those of making motions, of voting and of holding office.  
(Delete this section)

### ARTICLE III MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

*SECTION 1. ANNUAL MEETING.* An annual meeting of the members shall be held *on the first Thursday in the month of (in the month of) June* each year, *beginning with the year 1991, at the hour of seven o'clock, P.M. (delete)* for the purpose of electing officers and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting. *If the day fixed for the annual meeting shall be a legal holiday in the State of Nebraska, such meeting shall be held on the next succeeding business day.* If the election of officers shall not be held on the *day (month)* designated herein for any annual meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, the Executive Board shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of the members as soon thereafter as conveniently may be.

*SECTION 5. QUORUM* Fifteen (15) members, including at least *two (2) elected officers ( and 2 Board members)* shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of this Association.

*SECTION 6. REGULAR MEETINGS* Regular meetings of the Association shall be held *(Monthly )on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM,* unless otherwise specified by the Executive Board.

### ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE BOARD

*SECTION 1.* The Executive Board of this Association shall be:

- A. The officers; and
- B. *The chairman of the standing committees. (5 members of the membership including 2-At Large members, 1-Business member, 1-Landlord member, and 1-Garden Liasion)*

### ARTICLE V OFFICERS

*SECTION 1.* The officers of the Association shall be a president, vice-president, *recording (delete) secretary, corresponding secretary (delete)* and treasurer.

*SECTION 5.* There shall be a nominating committee composed of *(the Executive Board) five (5) members who shall be elected by the Association at a regular meeting held at least sixty (60) days prior to the election of officers.* The committee shall elect its own chair. *(chair shall be the outgoing President)*

### ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS

*SECTION 1* The President shall:

**F. Set the agenda for all meetings of the Association and the Executive Board**

*continued on page 5*

SECTION 3. The *Recording* (delete) Secretary shall:

- A. Record the minutes of all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board;
- B. *In cooperation with the president, set the agenda for all meetings of the Association and the Executive Board* (Move to **Presidents duties**)
- C. Have custody of the official documents of the Association; and
- D. Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by these Bylaws or assigned by the Association, its Executive Board or the president.

SECTION 4. *The Corresponding Secretary shall:*

- A. *Manage and keep an accurate record of all correspondence of the Association;*
- B. *Notify all Executive Board members of all Executive Board meetings; and*
- C. *Perform such other duties that may be prescribed by these Bylaws or assigned by the Association, its Executive Board or the president.* (delete)

SECTION 5. The Treasurer shall:

- E *Serve as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee;* (delete)

SECTION 6. *All offices shall prepare an annual report which shall be presented at the annual meeting of the Association.*(delete)

#### ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

SECTION 3. Special committees shall be appointed for specific purposes. These committees and their chairs shall be appointed by the Executive Board. When the committee has finished its work *and its final report is accepted or adopted* (delete), it automatically goes out of existence.

SECTION 4. *The chairs of all standing committees shall prepare an annual report which shall be presented at the annual meeting of the Association.* (delete)

#### ARTICLE VIII FISCAL POLICIES

SECTION 1. The fiscal year of this Association shall begin on *June first and end on the following May thirty-first.*(**January 1<sup>st</sup> and end on December 31<sup>st</sup>**)

SECTION 3. There shall be an annual budget prepared by the *budget and finance Committee.*(**executive board**)

B *The chair of the Budget and Finance Committee* (**treasurer**) shall present the proposed budget for approval at the *annual meeting* (**November meeting**) of the Association.

C The Executive Board may authorize disbursements not to exceed *two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00)* (**\$1000.00**) annually in addition to budgeted funds without prior approval of the membership of the Association.

SECTION 3. The Executive Board is authorized and directed to declare fund raising events for the purpose of raising funds with which to carry out the purposes of this Association. All such fund raising events shall be under the direct supervision and control of the *Budget and Finance Committee* (**Executive Board**) unless otherwise provided by the Board.

SECTION 4. There shall be an annual (delete) Audit of the accounts of this Association.

- A. The audit shall be performed by an auditing committee of not less than three (3) members, who satisfied that the treasurer's annual report is correct, shall sign a statement of that fact at the end of their report.
- B. The members of the Auditing Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Board at least thirty (3) days before the end of the fiscal year.

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## Tennis Program . . .continued from page 1

(Omaha Tennis Association) "Volunteer of the Year" award for his good work with the Gifford Park program and Dewey Park clay courts (note: you may have seen on the news that Jim's home was damaged by an explosion August 27 from an apparent gas leak; thankfully he is ok but his home suffered damage). The Schuele family was named OTA's Family of the Year. John & Mary, Cathy and Kara all helped with both the May Gifford Park Tennis Block (which received the OTA award for "Event of the Year") and the August program. Daughters Cathy and Kara are not only excellent players for Marian High School, but taught tennis lessons at Gifford Park on Wednesday mornings in June and July. John also played a big part in the Andy Roddick/Serena Williams tennis event at the Qwest Center – several Gifford Park tennis families attended. Congratulations from the GPNA for well deserved awards!

Special thanks go to **Jan Franks, Britney Rubek, Betty Slayden, Tyffaney Slayden, and Kayleen Slayden** for helping with registration – the program could not happen without your help year after year. Thanks also to the **Omaha Tennis Association, the Nebraska Tennis Association, the United States Tennis Association, and the City Parks & Recreation Department** for their generous support over the years. GPNA members **Dana Freeman, Jim Wilwerding, and Ben Spahn** also helped out in a variety of ways. And last, I'd like to dedicate this year's program to my dad **Willie** who passed away in June – his competitive spirit, sportsmanship and love of tennis was out there on Gifford Park's tennis courts; my dad always left it all on the court. If anyone who participated in the tennis lessons is interested in more advanced lessons this fall, please contact **Chris** at **342-6006**.

*by Chris Foster*



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## Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Tours UNMC

After MNA members toured the new facilities at the **University of Nebraska Medical Center**, one word was on every ones lips: "Impressive".

Facilities Manager **Ken Hansen** stated it is a "very exciting time here on and around campus". He outlined recent construction and future plans for the site which include new teaching facilities, trails, and public areas including a Rockefeller Plaza-style ice skating rink.

**Glenn Haut** of Human Resources highlighted hiring and retention trends. Over the next 2 to 4 years, 650 new jobs will be created.

**Theresa "Terry" Hartman**, Head Librarian of the McGoogan Library showed us through the three-story facility. Not widely known is that the library is totally funded by public donations and is open to the public 7 days a week. So the next time you want to research any medical issues or just want to find an answer quickly, "Don't just Google it, McGoogan it!" The top floor of the McGoogan houses the Archival Library. On display are a wonderful collection of period era medical equipment and texts that have been meticulously preserved. Our thanks to **John Scheicher** for sharing with us this truly remarkable look into the medical past.

Our last stop (and certainly not least) was the Sorrell Building. Director of Clinical Skills **Patty Carstens** walked us through the state-of-the-art teaching facility. The 500 seat lecture / banquet room, combined with new computer imagery, smart book technology, and 3D virtual reality teaching programs puts this cutting edge facility as one the best in the country.

MNA would like to thank Ken, Glen, Terry, John and Patty for taking time from their busy schedules to show us around. Special thanks go to UNMC Docents **Sharon Palmer** and **Ardis Berquist** who kept us on schedule throughout the tour.

*by John Barna*

## Gardeners Love Potluck In Gifford Park

Hooray for the first Community Garden Potluck of 2008 held on the evening of Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>! The weather was just right for a picnic. Thanks to all of the gardeners who brought succulent side dishes and delicious desserts to share with the more than fifty attendants. **Neil Liberty** did another extraordinary job at the barbecue grilling chicken, hamburgers, and hotdogs for the group. Thanks, as well, to **Peter Lochren** from The Octopus Garden Art Alliance and neighbors **Don Freeman, Chris Foster, Rod Flint, & Jim Wilwerding** for making sure that our new garden sign was posted before the event. It created a lovely backdrop for our event celebrating gardening, good food, and neighborhood friends.

**Also, the Omaha Rose Society** ([www.omaharosesociety.com](http://www.omaharosesociety.com)) held its annual picnic on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> in the Gifford Park Community Garden. **Diane Kaye**, our community garden rosarian, helped host the lovely and well-attended luncheon. The group provided the main course, and members brought side dishes to share. It was a great gathering of rose lovers and a good opportunity to check out another Omaha garden club.

We invite all friends and family of the garden to mark their calendars for our upcoming second seasonal potluck on **Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM**. Our main course will consist of the usual grilled chicken, hamburgers, and hot dogs, and everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share. This community dinner will coincide with the volunteer visit of University of South Dakota students. Come celebrate a hard day's work cleaning in the garden and another season's end.

by Dana Freeman

## USD Students Returning in October

Our great friends from the **University of South Dakota** plan to come to our neighborhood the weekend of **October 4 & 5** to help us with a variety of duties in Gifford Park, the Community Garden, and the Community Bicycle Shop. The students have done great work helping the GPNA over the past two years. We encourage neighborhood folks to help out; more details in the October newsletter. Please note to save your cleanup items for the Spring Cleanup as there will be NO Fall cleanup. If you have questions, please contact **Chris 342-6006** or **Dana 346-4575**.

## Ben's Yard Work & Landscaping

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## Bylaws Revision . . .

*continued from page 5*

C. The treasurer shall submit an annual report and all necessary materials for audit at the end of the fiscal year.

D. The audit shall be completed within thirty (3) days following the end of the fiscal year.

E. The report of the auditing committee shall be presented to the Executive Board and the Association following its completion. (delete)

A. At its discretion, the Executive Board may request the materials and information from the Treasurer to conduct an audit, or may appoint a committee of not less than three persons to conduct such audit and report to the Board as well as the general membership.

Article IX

OBJECTS (objectives)

## Can You Dig It? Another Great Gardening Season

Can you believe that we have already finished our 5<sup>th</sup> fantastic summer gardening with kids in Gifford Park? Fifteen weeks sure has a way of flying by when you have as much fun as we do! The Youth Garden program has grown even larger this summer with nearly 60 registered participants, more adult volunteers, and new partners in our community. We would like to extend our thanks to all of our gardeners, parents, Saturday morning volunteers, lesson presenters, and donors of project supplies, planting materials, snacks, and greenbacks for contributing to another successful season. If you didn't have a chance to make it to our garden on 35<sup>th</sup> & Cass Sts. every Saturday, the following light reading will help you catch-up on the final seven weeks of the program.

On **July 12<sup>th</sup>, Week 9**, we took a hike. Through Gifford Park, that is. **Justin Evertson**, arboreal expert and Assistant Director for Community Programs at the **Nebraska Statewide Arboretum** ([arboretum.unl.edu](http://arboretum.unl.edu)), led the way on an exciting **Tree Walk**. Justin pointed out trees and specific ways in which they have adapted to survive in our urban canopy. Whether it's getting ready for winter by dropping their leaves or protecting themselves from wildlife with thorns, trees are both interesting and fun to explore. Kids simultaneously took part in a **scavenger hunt** and followed clues to collect natural samples, like Catalpa seedpods and conifer cones, with which we attempted to make **sun prints**. They didn't turn out as expected because we had a little trouble with exposure time. Maybe next year! Thanks to **UNL Douglas/Sarpy Extension 4-H** and **The Arbor Day Foundation** for providing everyone with a copy of **What Tree Is That?™ Pocket Field Guide** to help identify neighborhood trees and parent **Leticia Alvarez** for the CiCi's pizza snack.

We went to Omaha's **Henry Doorly Zoo** on **Week 10**, July 19<sup>th</sup>, to check-out the brand new Berniece Grewcock **Butterfly and Insect Pavilion**. Twenty-seven kids and twelve adult chaperones were guided through the free-flying butterfly exhibit and insect displays by a friendly zoo educator. Ask **Curtis Flint** how long he can stand still so a butterfly can use him as a rest stop. We also had time to tour the Walter and Suzanne Scott **Kingdoms of the Seas Aquarium** with two knowledgeable docents. Favorites included swimming penguins, the shark tunnel, seahorses, and leafy sea dragons. We rested under a nearby pavilion to sample butterfly cupcakes and refreshments before heading home. Unfortunately, our school bus was blocked in by other vehicles in the parking lot, and we had to wait nearly two hours to be picked up by another bus. Everyone was a good sport, though, about hanging out in the summer's heat. What great patience!

Neighborhood weather enthusiast **Chris Foster** led another exciting and educational lesson in meteorology on July 26<sup>th</sup>, **Week 11**. He was assisted by **Caitlin Roth**, the newest member of the **WOWT Channel 6 Weather Team**. Watch her forecast during morning and weekend broadcasts. It was a perfectly humid summer day devoid of the predicted scattered thunderstorms. Together, we studied temperature variations in garden microclimates, made thunder, reviewed and graphed summer rainfall, and watched a couple of cool dry ice experiments that effected fog and clouds. Thanks to **Bob "Goggles" Hutton** for lending a hand with these very scientific endeavors, parent **Blanca Saavedra** for providing a pizza sandwich lunch, and the **National Weather Service** Forecast Office in Valley for again providing us with awesome cloud identification posters, fun activity booklets, and informative weather-related pamphlets. Everyone constructed a simple kite from a brown paper bag before heading home, and although one needed a good amount of space in which to run and get one's kite up to the highest heights, they were at least useful for carrying home all of our neat handouts.

**Dennis Ferraro**, herpetologist and UNL Extension Associate Professor, made his first snake-charming appearance in the community garden on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Week 12**. For show and tell, Dennis brought pillow sack samples of common non-poisonous snakes native to Eastern Nebraska. Did you know that, of the 29 different snake species native to the state, only 4 are poisonous, and none are venomous water snakes? From ringneck to racer to ratsnake, Dennis dazzled young and old alike as he deftly handled one slithering serpent after another. Our vocabulary word of the day was "**ectotherm**," the label now preferred in scientific communities for cold-blooded organisms. Unlike mammals and birds, reptiles regulate body temperature by drawing heat (therm) from outside (ecto) their bodies. Thanks to Dennis for sharing snake-identifying coloring books and **Sue Freeman** for providing an ants-on-a-log sneaky snack. Be sure to check out the herpetology database ([snrs.unl.edu/HerpNeb](http://snrs.unl.edu/HerpNeb)) for games and guides to Nebraska's reptiles and amphibians.

We went on a fun food adventure **Week 13**, August 9<sup>th</sup>, with garden neighbors **Eric & Annemarie Noll** and their son Preston and new baby Lucas. They mixed up a batch of their famous vinegary brew so that everyone could make their own jar of **pickles** from a wide variety of vegetables to take home. Did you know that by adding even the smallest piece of beet all of your veggies will be dyed red? Our garden chefs then got to toss together their own fresh salad snack to enjoy. Cooking in the garden is both healthy and yummy!

Fifteen kids and five adult chaperones ventured on another school bus for a 30-minute ride to **LinHaven Gardens** for **Week 14**, August 16<sup>th</sup>. **Linda & Fran Hangren** welcomed our group of young gardeners to their small farm on the border between Douglas and Washington Counties. We toured their well-kept **greenhouse** of big raised-beds containing

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## Can You Dig It? *continued from page 8*

salad greens and woody floral row-crops outdoors. We can attest to the tastiness of their arugula. As members of the Nebraska Woody Florals cooperative ([www.nebraskawoodyflorals.com](http://www.nebraskawoodyflorals.com)), the Hangrens provide wholesale florists with decorative stems like the corkscrew willow and colorful yellow- and red-twiggged dogwood. Linda then let us try our hands at sowing three flats of "microgreens," a tiny salad trend, as well as dividing and repotting balloon flowers. We were so busy working and having fun that we had to eat our sack lunch on the bus! But before we left, Fran generously presented us with one of his handmade curly walking sticks, and Linda gave everyone a small Shasta daisy to plant at home. While the Hangrens sell their produce to the Nebraska Food Cooperative ([www.nebraskafood.org](http://www.nebraskafood.org)) and Metropolitan Community College's Sage Student Bistro ([www.mccneb.edu/culinary/bistro.asp](http://www.mccneb.edu/culinary/bistro.asp)) that is open to the public, they do have some live plants for sale. Contact [hangren@yahoo.com](mailto:hangren@yahoo.com) for more information. We are so thankful to have visited such a friendly pair of local farmers!

We welcomed all of our friends and family to a **Harvest Party** celebrating another successful growing season on **Week 15**, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, of the 2008 Gifford Park Youth Garden. Sisters **Dawn & Witney Stanley** had perfect attendance this summer and received the prized woody walking stick. Everyone had a chance to make their own **greenhouse** to take home and choose a cutting to root, memorize a garden **poem** and select a prize, and get a new Youth Garden **t-shirt**. Our neighborhood **Spirit of Peace** community shared ice cream treats provided by **Edy's Slow Churned Neighborhood Salute**, and gardeners contributed samples of their favorite foods. Some dishes were even made with produce we grew! Thanks to **Shannon Kyler** for bringing our groups together over a sweet snack, **Stuart Shell** for our darling t-shirt designs, and **Sue Freeman & Dana Carlton-Flint** for their t-shirt ironing expertise. It was a well-attended and great garden event to cap off another terrific summer.

While the Gifford Park Youth Garden has drawn to a close, the **City Sprouts Youth Garden** program is just getting started. This free program is open to all school-aged youth and meets Saturday morning from 10-11:30 AM at their garden on 40<sup>th</sup> & Franklin Streets. Upcoming classes include: Create a Piece of ART on September 13<sup>th</sup>, another Harvest Party on September 20<sup>th</sup>, Stories...Stories...Stories on September 27<sup>th</sup>, and finally a Halloween Party on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Join them anytime to learn and have fun in the garden. Contact Nicole Giron (402.556.6772) for more information.

## Gardening Events

The Omaha Council of Garden Clubs (OCGC) ([www.omahagardenclubs.com](http://www.omahagardenclubs.com)) is hosting a special **fundraising event** at Joslyn Castle **September 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>**. Each club will be decorating tables around the theme "Home for the Holidays," representing New Year's, Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, or Christmas. The Gifford Park Community Garden, a member club, will be designing a "**Harvest Party**" table. Members of Joslyn Castle will enjoy the creations Friday evening. The **public** is invited to view the tables on Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM for a cost of \$8. Everyone who attends will have their name entered in a drawing Saturday evening for a prize and need not be present to win. A **catered dinner** open to all OCGC members will be held on Sunday at 5 PM for a cost of \$13 to celebrate the event. If you are interested in attending the dinner, please contact Dana Freeman (402.850.9611) for more information.

On Saturday, **September 27**, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) and the Joslyn Castle Trust join forces to present a spectacular **fall plant sale** featuring primarily native and adapted plants. A variety of trees, shrubs, and prairie plants will be available for fall planting. The sale will run from **9 AM to 1 PM** and will be held on the historic Joslyn Castle grounds, located at 3902 Davenport Street in Omaha. The plant sale is open to the public and a complete plant list can be found on the Arboretum website ([arboretum.unl.edu/plantsales](http://arboretum.unl.edu/plantsales)) or by calling the NSA office (402.472.2971).

Dr. David Zlesak is coming to Omaha the weekend of September 19, 2008. Dr. Zlesak is a horticulture educator with the University of Minnesota Extension Service. He is also a Regent at the University of Minnesota. The Douglas/Sarpy County Master Gardeners and the Omaha Rose Society would like to invite all to a potluck on September 18 at 6 PM at the Douglas County Extension Office. David will speak at 7 PM. Please plan on meeting David and to hear him speak on roses - specifically the Northern 20 Earthkind roses that he has selected for his testing. Please RSVP by phoning the Extension Office (402.444.7804) by September 15th if you are planning on attending.

by Dana Freeman

## Welcome, Students!

We have a large number of university students living in the area who have returned for another year of school. The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association has been working very hard with the city and police to improve the appearance and safety of our neighborhood. The goal of the GPNA is to improve the neighborhood and make it a better place for **all** residents, and we would ask our new student neighbors to become a part of this effort.

The largest part of being a good neighbor is consideration for others. First we ask students to be considerate in terms of noise, especially after 10 PM. Many families in our neighborhood have children or go to work early. Parties are another problem. Unfortunately, parties always seem to end up bigger and noisier than first planned, and the police have been more active in enforcing noise and underage drinking ordinances. Another difficult problem is parking. Our neighborhood has barely enough parking (like school), so you may not always be able to park directly in front of your residence. Please do not park on lawns, across sidewalks, or on the wrong side of the street (facing traffic). Besides making the neighborhood look bad, all of these are parking violations and are subject to ticketing. Also, please do not litter and help us to keep our neighborhood picked up. Many of us pick up trash that we did not leave and we ask that you would help us by doing the same.

Finally, consider coming to our monthly neighborhood meetings and perhaps joining our Association. A \$10 yearly membership will get this newsletter delivered to you every month, and you will meet your neighbors and many other wonderful people during our activities such as neighborhood cleanups and holiday events. We welcome students for the upcoming year, and we hope that you will help us continue to make the Gifford Park neighborhood a better place to live.

## What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

Congratulations to GPNA members **Eric & Annemarie Noll**; they have a new baby **Lucas** born in July. Eric & Annemarie volunteer in many of our events, particularly with the community garden.

Congratulations to GPNA members **Diane Kaye** and **James Nordaker**; they were married Aug 29<sup>th</sup>. Diane has been volunteering for the GPNA for many years and is very active with the community garden - she loves to weed!

Mark your calendars for this year's **Restore Omaha Home Tour** in the Miller Park, Minne Lusa, Florence Blvd areas **Sunday October 19**, 1 to 6 p.m. (rain date October 26). There will be a number of great homes to tour. The 4th annual Restore Omaha Conference is planned for Spring 2009; we will keep you posted.



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      | Cal. Committee      | Lawn Program     | Holiday Banquet    |

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444-5555**



**TOOL  
LENDING  
HOTLINE**  
*Chris 342-6006*

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

