



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

December 2006

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Restore Omaha Conference a Great Learning Experience

The second annual **Restore Omaha Conference, Exhibition, and Tour** (November 3-5) attracted nearly 900 people who love older properties. The event started off Friday night with a great opening reception at Joslyn Castle, complete with tours of the castle. On Saturday, attendees heard from keynote speaker **Bob Yapp**, and about 20 breakout session speakers about how to preserve and restore their homes or businesses. On the exhibition floor were 50 representatives of products, craftsmen, and associations geared toward restoring, repairing, and preserving older buildings. Sunday morning there were hands-on workshops at Metro Community College that included window repair, plaster repair, woodturning, and electrical basics. Nearly 400 people also attended a tour of midtown homes, churches and businesses on Sunday which included Bemis Park, Joslyn Castle and our own Gifford Park neighborhoods. Special thanks to **Steve & Rose Carlson, Paul Farrand & Julie Kalkowski**, and **Terry & Sue Wilwerding** for having their wonderful Gifford Park homes on display for the tour. It was a great day for our neighborhood, including perfect fall weather, to show what great homes and people we have. In fact, some people were asking if there were any homes for sale in our neighborhood - how's that for a positive statement!

Attendee response for the second annual event was enthusiastic. Everyone agreed the value of the conference was far and above the small cost of just \$20 and \$5 for the Midtown home tour. Money raised from this year will provide seed money for next year's event.

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## Next Meeting

Thursday, December 7  
7:00 P.M.



Holiday  
Banquet



Creighton University  
Medical Center  
Becic Dining Room

See Page 3 for more details!

**Note: No December  
Executive Board Meeting**

**No January General Meeting**



## Holiday Caroling/Tree Lighting on December 9

Mark your calendars on **Saturday, December 9**, for a family holiday event...caroling in the Gifford Park neighborhood! At 5 p.m., everyone will meet in front of **California Tacos (33rd & California)** and sing holiday carols (we will provide song books) starting in the business district and walking to the community garden. At 5:30 p.m., we'll gather around the tree at the **Community Garden (35th & Cass)** for a tree-lighting ceremony and more caroling. Then we'll walk back to California Tacos for hot apple cider and your favorite holiday treats at about 6 p.m. (in the "party room"). Needed: Anyone who would like join in the holiday spirit. Also, if anyone would like to bring holiday goodies (cookies, breads, desserts, etc.), that would be great!

Call **Chris 342-6006** or **Cynthia 556-2090** for more information.

## GPNA OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Cynthia Shuck 556-2090

### VICE PRESIDENT

Rodney Flint 346-4575

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Open

### 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

Chris Foster 342-6006

### 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

## From The President . . .

Another great year in the neighborhood passes. I hope December finds everyone warm, happy, and settling into early sunsets, as nature suggests. To everyone who is still interested in a street tree (we know who you are), the GPNA's offer is still good into spring 07! We will contact you over the winter to pick out your tree and set up a planting date with the nursery in early spring.

If you've traveled around midtown lately you can see that Mutual of Omaha knocked down the first building along Dodge Street (east of 33rd). According to MNA chair **Jim Farho**, "eight more [buildings] to go." House of Lee and Kentucky Fried Chicken will close at the end of the year to allow demolition to proceed. 2009 is the anticipated opening year for development.

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA) welcomes two new neighborhoods into the 2007 alliance, Dundee Memorial Park and Bemis Park Neighborhood Association. The alliance is looking forward to three planned projects for the coming year. The first is the annual fireworks show/fundraiser at the Field Club of Omaha. The second project is growing association memberships and the third project is a pocket walking guide to a historic midtown neighborhood. In 2007, two executive board positions are up for general election: president and secretary. The term is for two years; interested candidates can contact Jim Farho at [jfarho@cox.net](mailto:jfarho@cox.net). MNA looks forward to another planning session in early 2007 to prioritize efforts.

Efforts are being made locally to address prostitution in midtown and throughout the state. **Gov. Heineman** vetoed the funding but not the law change, on last year's

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## Gifford Park Cats: How You Can Help

Working with **Feline Friendz** and the **Nebraska Humane Society**, several GPNA members are launching "Gifford Park Cats", a neighborhood-wide **Trap-Neuter-Release (T-N-R)** program to address our stray and feral cat concerns. Cats are humanely trapped, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and returned to their territory to live in managed colonies. T-N-R has been effective around the world, as it humanely controls feral cat populations and prevents litters of homeless kittens, resulting in stable, healthy feral populations and a reduced number of cats annually destroyed in our shelters.

Gifford Park Cats can be effective only with YOUR help. Therefore, the taskforce (**Michelle Rubek** - director, **Diane Inserra**, & **Clarinda Karpov**) asks you to please telephone **553-3736** if you:

- 1) know of feral/stray cats in the neighborhood; how many and where
- 2) are currently feeding homeless cats; how many, where, adult or kitten, gender if known, and whether any are pregnant
- 3) would like to foster or adopt home-able cats and kittens
- 4) can make a donation, no matter how large or small
- 5) have questions about T-N-R or Gifford Park Cats

The Nebraska Humane Society is working with the Omaha City Council to legalize the feeding of managed feral cat colonies. Pending this revision (expected by early January), the Humane Society has helped Feline Friendz to establish feral colonies all over the city.

*by Clarinda Karpov*

Holiday Tip: Please remember that chocolate is poisonous to dogs and cats

*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.*

## Another "Frightfully" Successful GPNA-PKA Haunted House

The 12th Annual GPNA-PKA Haunted House was held Saturday, October 28th. GPNA volunteers **Jan Franks, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Betty Slayden, Tiffany Slayden, Kayleen Slayden, Billy Slayden, Jacob Slayden, Ben Spahn, Christine Pane,** and **Clarinda Karpov** helped to make everything run smoothly. Many thanks to all of the GPNA volunteers who made goodies. **Stuart Shell** and **Dana Freeman** did a great job calling volunteers to donate treats and help with crowd control. Thanks to **Lois Baumhover** who again this year donated many stuffed animals for the younger children who attended. We had great weather for the event. About 190 kids and some adults went through this year's haunted house (including some who went through more than once!) The **PKA Fraternity** put on another great event - thanks for doing a great job!



## From The President. . .

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prostitution bill. A group of committed residents are still trying to find mental health dollars to offer solid solutions for recovery. They meet with the County Justice Task Force this month. Contact **Jan Quinley 346-0311** if you are interested in getting involved.

Many thanks to our first donor to "Gifford Park Cats" (our newly formed feral cat taskforce), **Carmen Trandahl**. The GPNA board approved the formation of a task force to address feral cat populations already living in Gifford Park. The effort shall be supported solely by specified donations to the association for the cause. Each \$10 donation raised by GPNA shall go to Feline Friendz to underwrite the cost of the Trap-Neuter-Release program.

*by Cynthia Shuck*



The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association requests your presence at the

## 18th Annual Holiday Banquet "Taking Root"

to be held

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7th

at Creighton University

Medical Center

601 N. 30th Street

in the glassed-in (Becic) dining room  
south of the cafeteria.

Creighton University Medical Center graciously demonstrates its support of the GPNA by hosting this annual event for members.

There is no cost - you just need to be a GPNA member.

Please bring a canned good item which will be donated to Sienna Francis House



Creighton  
UNIVERSITY  
Medical Center

## Restore Omaha . . . *continued from page 1*

The GPNA put together an exhibitor booth for the conference. Many thanks to **Cynthia Shuck, John Barna, Dana Carlton-Flint** and **Chris & Sallie Foster** for creating the display which drew praise from attendees. Many thanks to **Kristine Gerber**, event director, and **Martin Janousek**, event president, and the many volunteers and organizations who helped put on this year's event. Please contact Kristine at **614-0056** if you are interested in volunteering time (or sponsorship) to next year's event.

*by Chris Foster*



Happy Holidays from the  
GPNA!

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

Please keep longtime GPNA member **Bob Ford** and his family in your thoughts and prayers, as you may know Bob has been very ill recently. Bob is brother to **Jan Franks**. You have probably seen him helping with GPNA events as well as picking up litter and cans in the park and surrounding streets. We're thinking of you, Bob!

A big thanks to **Loretta Zuck** and her staff at the **Creighton University Copy Center** for doing a great job printing our neighborhood newsletter every month. The newsletter is the most important communication tool we have to distribute information about our neighborhood. Loretta helped us out last month by doing a special rush printing job – we appreciate the extra effort!

Congratulations to the **Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association** for recently completing and dedicating a new historic marker at 40th & Davenport. The marker details the history of Joslyn Castle, which was completed in 1903 as a home for prominent Omahans George and Sarah Joslyn and is still open today for tours. **Margie Magnuson, Rob Parolek** and **Julie Mierau** were instrumental in turning their vision into reality.

Watch the January edition of the GPNA newsletter for information on the upcoming **Neighborhood Builders** program that will be held again in February. An added feature will be Neighborhood Builders sessions for teens which will be held at the same time as the adult program.

Members of the GPNA and **State Senator Gwen Howard** have been working together in discussions with the **Omaha Public Schools** to return **Yates School at 32nd & Davenport** to a neighborhood school. It is currently one of the district's alternative schools.

## Holiday Lighting Contest 2006

For the eighth year in a row, the GPNA is sponsoring a **Holiday Lighting Contest**. In the last few years, Gifford Park residents have been doing a fabulous job decorating their homes and yards for the holidays - and many have been winners in past contests. This year we invite you to join in the fun. You do not have to do anything to enter the contest, other than decorate your home and/or yard. A panel of judges will travel throughout the neighborhood on the evening of **Thursday, December 14**, looking for the best holiday displays. Any residential location within the boundaries of the GPNA is eligible to win. Last year, 8 prizes were given in various categories, such as "greatest variety of lights" and "brightest lights". Not only may you win a prize, but you also help the neighborhood by contributing to a festive atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. Good luck and happy decorating!



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      | Call Committee      | Lawn 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

