



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

June 2009

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## 2009 Tennis Block Party Highlights

The GPNA partnered with the **Missouri Valley Nebraska Tennis Association** and the **Omaha Tennis Association** to put on a Tennis Block Party at Gifford Park on Wednesday evening, May 27. Nearly 90 youth participated in the event, where they learned the basic tennis skills along with having six mini rally courts. Thanks go to **Godfather's Pizza** again this year for giving us a good deal on 18 pizzas for the event. Everyone attending received a T-shirt. Many thanks go to all the wonderful tennis instructors – **Ric Hines, Don Gildon, Jim Lang, Jim Wilson, Lou Harrison, Jackie Foster, Ashley Hinck, Claire Schelble, Alex Schelble, Emma Schelble, Dee Dee Carmody, Calvin Webster, Matt Tondl, Loren Tondl, Susan Mayberger, Ike Thomas, Adam Stevenson, Roger Freeman, Laurie Bolte, Ed Hubbs, Deb Hubbs, Vince Emery, and Buddy Hogan**. Thanks to **Jan Franks, Mary Schuele, Dana Freeman, Mike Caban, Nancy Gaarder, Bette Tanner, Jim Wilwerding, Ben Spahn, and Chris & Sallie Foster** for helping with registration, setup, food and T-shirts. **Eli Gieryna**, Missouri Valley Tennis Association Communications Coordinator, came up from Kansas City to take video and pictures. Special thanks once again to **Jane Hines** for doing a lot of behind the scenes work to help make this event possible. **Mayor Mike Fahey** was our special guest; he read the "Mayor's Tennis Proclamation" making it official that May is "Tennis Month" in Omaha – this helped to kick off the event. Several police officers attended, including **Sgt. Martinez** who gave a great talk informing youth and adults about the importance of public safety in our parks and neighborhoods.

We are offering to the older youth (9 to 19 years old) the opportunity to continue on playing tennis with several instructors on **Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for ages 9-11 and 11:00 - noon for ages 12-19 from June 10 – July 15 at Gifford Park**. Anyone interested, please contact **Chris** at **342-6006** for a registration form, or you can show up at the tennis courts. One final note: many thanks to **City of Omaha Park Maintenance** and the Graffiti Van – on very short notice (just a few hours before the tennis party) - they painted over and removed graffiti on the tennis backboard and court.

*by Chris Foster*

**NOTE: NO JUNE  
GENERAL MEETING!**

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

**Topic: Creighton's Master Plan  
Update: Lighting Placement**

**Creighton University  
Medical Center  
Morrison Seminar Room**

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

**Music In  
The Park  
July 15**



Gifford Park will once again be a host site for the popular "Music in the Park" concert series. This year we will host one date on **Wednesday evening July 15**. A musical group to appear at the event has not been determined as of yet, but it is sure to be an entertaining evening for young and old alike. Many thanks to the **City of Omaha, The Reader, and the Recording Industries Music Performance Fund** as administered by the **Omaha Musicians' Association** for sponsoring this event. We plan to have free ice cream treats, so bring a blanket and enjoy the show.

**GPNA OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Dana Carlton-Flint\* 346-4575

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**HISTORIAN**

Eva Swanson 345-1707

**HOLIDAY BANQUET**

Jean Peck 344-0722

**MEMBERSHIP**

Stuart Shell 216-1235

**NEWSLETTER**

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**PARK**

Sandy\* &amp; 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**

What perfect timing.....the second week of the citizens mini police academy had us speaking with the Gang Unit. It was great to see the huge arrest made, a considerable pay off for many months of background work done by that group of officers spanning over multiple organizations.

The gang unit spoke about...

What gangs are...a group of individuals who associate on a continual basis.

Why do youngsters join a gang...peer pressure, feeling of acceptance, protection, or money. Money is often made through the sale of drugs.

Does Omaha have a high number of gang members... hundreds of at-risk youth participate in gangs but only a small percent are considered hard core gang members.

Who are the leaders... most often gangs are formed in neighborhoods by local youth.

How do you know if your son/daughter is involved in a gang....look for changes in their behavior, truancy, decline in academic performance, changes in friends, or refusal to wear certain colors.

What to do if you suspect your child is involved in a gang...communicate with your children, help to build their self esteem, take an interest in their education and school work, become acquainted with their friends, and help them to find constructive alternatives to gang involvement, such as family activities, sports, or volunteer work.

Many gangs in our city use graffiti to communicate with each other, mark territory, or express themselves. The OPD (Omaha Police Department) now has the ability to track graffiti and when a tagger is arrested they can tie all of that tagger's work to him/her and charge them accordingly. This increases the severity of the crime thus leading to tougher sentences.

We would all love to see gangs completely eradicated from our city; this process more often than not takes many months of planning, watching, and documenting on the part of OPD, always in hopes of the "Big" arrest. I can say after listening to how their unit works we want OPD to concentrate its efforts on the big fish so to speak...although they do catch many small fish along the way.

Please report any suspicious or gang related activity. Until next month ....be safe!

by Dana Carlton-Flint

**Newly Planted Flowers Stolen From Business District Flower Pots**

Unfortunately within hours of flowers being planted in the 13 large flower pots in the 33rd & California Street business district, vandals stole a significant number of flowers. Plants included sweet potato vines, coleus, petunias, vinca, and cannas. Video and pictures of the persons actually stealing the plants on at least two separate occasions was turned into police. After the flowers were first planted Friday afternoon, May 22, a woman stole plants Saturday morning, May 23 at 2:35 a.m., then a second incident occurred when a man stole plants Tuesday morning, June 2, around 7:15 a.m. If anyone has information regarding anyone stealing flowers please contact **Chris (342-6006)** or **Martin (558-4070)** or the police. The flower pot project is a cooperative effort between the business owners and the GPNA toward beautification in the area for everyone to enjoy. The business owners are funding the cost of flower pots and plants. Many thanks to **Mulhall's Nursery (Ann Wichenhouser)** for donating 4 more pots last year. Thanks to those of you helping to weed and water the flower pots.

by Chris Foster

## GPNA Calendar Of Events

**June 11** No General Meeting  
**June 25** Board Meeting at The Flint's  
**July 9** General Meeting-Topic: Creighton's Master Plan Update/Lighting Placement  
**July 15** "Music In The Park" in Gifford Park  
**July 23** Board Meeting at The Flint's  
**August 4** National Night Out Block Party/Bike Rodeo

## Garden Opening Another Success

Gifford Park Community Garden kicked-off the 2009 growing season Saturday, May 9th with good weather, food, and friends. **Cynthia Shuck** helped young gardeners build seed bombs, **Chelsea Balzer** painted fun faces, **Diane Kaye** distributed children's library books donated by **Kay Scarpello** from **Sorenson Library**, and **Stuart Shell** from **Community Bicycle Shop Omaha** assisted cyclists in tuning-up their bikes. Many children registered for Youth Garden, planted sunflower seeds, and took home a 4-pack of Mother's Day annuals generously donated by our neighborhood **Westlake Ace Hardware**. **Kathleen Cue** from **University of Nebraska Extension in Douglas & Sarpy Counties** scheduled an "Ask the Master Gardener" table, staff from **Paradigm Gardens** displayed organic gardening solutions and held a drawing for a free bag of soil amendment, and **Mike Caban** signed up new community gardeners and sold reusable Chico bags and plants thinned from our herb garden. **Clarinda Karpov** again arranged the musical entertainment provided by **Christine** and **Ivy**. A special thanks to **Chris & Sallie Foster** for all they do, **Jeanie Dickes** from **City Sprouts** for the free tomato plants, and everyone who brought a snack to share, volunteered their time, and stopped by the event. This summer is off to a wonderful start, and we look forward to seeing you in the garden!

### Coming Soon to the Community Garden Near You

**June 13** :: Youth Garden "Tepees, Tunnels, & Trellises", 10 to 11:30 AM  
**June 20** :: Youth Garden "Hands on Herps", 10 to 11:30 AM  
**June 24** :: Garden Meeting, 6 to 7 PM  
**June 27** :: Youth Garden "From Broomcorn to Brooms", 10 to 11:30 AM  
**July 1** :: Garden Work Party, 6 to 8 PM  
**July 4** :: Youth Garden "Hot Tamales", 10 to 11:30 AM  
**July 11** :: Youth Garden "Musical Gourds", 10 to 11:30 AM  
**July 18** :: Youth Garden "Living Sculptures", 10 to 11:30 AM  
**July 18** :: "Cooking from the Garden" class, 11 AM to 12:30 AM at City Sprouts  
**July 18** :: Garden Potluck, 5 PM

*continued on page 6*

## Duchesne Preschool

*Low student-teacher ratios*

*Highly qualified teachers*

**Christian environment includes classes in**

♦Art ♦Music ♦PE ♦Spanish ♦Computers

3-5 year old boys and girls

**ENROLLING NOW!!**

Call 558-6250 [www.duchesneacademy.org](http://www.duchesneacademy.org)

## Legislative Update

The Legislature is rapidly heading towards the end of this year's session. It has been a very productive session and I am very pleased with what I have been able to get accomplished on your behalf.



A great deal of time has been spent addressing the declining revenues coming into the State because of the economy. We are very fortunate that the Legislature was very prudent in previous years in building up the rainy day reserve fund. This has allowed us to continue funding important services like education, prisons, and human services without severe cuts. We were also very fortunate to receive over \$1 billion in federal stimulus funds without which drastic cuts in services would have been unavoidable. Overall, the Legislature was able to pass a very conservative budget with a 1% increase in spending for next year.

A few of the bills that I was able to get passed into law will:

Provide for more flexible guidelines when it comes to applying for homestead exemptions.

Require motorists on interstate highways and freeways to move over when approaching emergency vehicles with flashing lights.

Require school districts to develop policies and curriculum to prevent teen dating violence.

Establish a statewide hotline for families in crisis trying to deal with children with emotional and behavioral problems to let them know how to get available services in response to the safe haven crisis of last year.

It continues to be a great honor for me to serve you in the Legislature. I hope that you have a great summer and please do not hesitate to let me know when I can be of any service to you.

State Senator Gwen Howard P.O. Box 94604 Lincoln, NE 68509 402-471-2723 [goward@leg.ne.gov](mailto:goward@leg.ne.gov)

**Major Traffic Impacts 2009/2010 of Completing  
the Rebuild of I-480/US-75 Interchange**

**2009/2010  
Fall/Winter  
Stage I Work**

- 1). **Closed: Southbound On-Ramp from Hamilton to I-480 Southbound in Fall 2009.**  
This ramp will remain closed for entire project construction period (late Fall 2010).
- 2). **Several nighttime closures of Burt and Cuming** for bridge removal and the setting of new girders.
- 3). **Weekend Closures: I-480 Westbound lanes and 24<sup>th</sup> Street** for removal and setting girders on the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (max. of 5 closures).
- 4). **Nighttime Closure: I-480 exit to 30<sup>th</sup> Street** for placing girders. Estimated two nights.
- 5). **Lane Closure: I-480 Westbound to US-75 Northbound Ramp** reduced to one lane (one month).
- 6). **Lane Reduction: I-480 East of 17<sup>th</sup> Street On-Ramp** will be reduced to two-lane from three-lane. This will be that way for the entire project construction.
- 7). **13<sup>th</sup> Street On-Ramp** reduced to one lane and must merge into the two Westbound I-480 lanes. This is maintained throughout the entire project construction.

**2010  
Spring – Early Summer**

- 1). **Closed: Cuming On-Ramp to I-480 Southbound.** This closure will be in Early Spring 2010 for pavement construction.
- 2). **Lane Reduction: I-480 Westbound/Southbound** will be reduced to one lane from 30<sup>th</sup> Street exit to connection with US-75 Southbound Ramp: This will happen in the Spring 2010 and with incentives may only be 5 to 6 weeks.
- 3). **Nighttime Lane Closures on I-480** for pavement construction (except in area of single lane operation).

**2010  
Summer**

- 1). **Closed: 17<sup>th</sup> Street On-Ramp to I-480.** This ramp will not be closed until the Cuming Street On-Ramp is open. This ramp will be closed until late Fall.
- 2). **Closed: I-480 Westbound to US-75 Northbound Ramp** for pavement construction (one month or less).

**2010  
Late Summer to Late Fall**

- 1). **Closure: US-75 Southbound Ramp to 30<sup>th</sup> Street** will be closed.
- 2). **Street Lane Reduction: 30<sup>th</sup> Street** will be reduced to one lane each direction and constructed in two phases.
- 3). **Closure: 30<sup>th</sup> Street On-Ramp to I-480 Southbound** will be closed during the 30<sup>th</sup> Street construction.

**Note:** I-480 Westbound to 30<sup>th</sup> Street Exit Ramp will be maintained open during all phases of construction (except one weekend closure for bridge removal).



## Summer Activities In Omaha

### “The Secret of the Old Queen: A Hardy Boys Musical Adventure”

**May 28, 2009 - June 21, 2009**

A delightful musical romp in which the only mystery the Hardy Boys can't seem to solve is that of their own sexual identity. Hosted by SNAP! Productions at the Shelterbelt Theatre (3225 California St.). Tickets \$15 adults and \$12 seniors, students & military. For showtimes go to <http://www.snapproductions.com>

### Playing with Fire Concert Series

**June 13, 2009**

Blues music concert at Lewis & Clark Landing Park (515 N Riverfront Dr.) on Saturday, June 13 from 4:30 to 10PM. Free will donations accepted at the gate, with a portion going to The Food Bank. Featuring Angel Forrest and Trampled Under Foot. <http://www.playingwithfireomaha.net>

### Munroe-Meyer Guild Garden Walk

**Sunday, June 14, 2009**

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Garden Walk is back! The 41st MMI Garden Walk will be held on Sunday, June 14, 2009...rain or shine. It will feature five fantastic gardens in the metro area. This year's Garden Walk will feature unique and creative ideas in landscaping, planting and patio treatments. Garden Walk tickets are on sale now. Advance tickets are \$12. Tickets will be \$15 on the day of the event at all gardens. Children under 12 are free; however, no strollers are allowed in the gardens. Tickets may be purchased at local Hy-Vees and gardening centers in May 2009. Or contact Rose Kratochvil at (402) 559-6460 or via mail at: Garden Walk Tickets, Munroe-Meyer Institute, 985450 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, 68198-5450. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to benefit children and adults with developmental disabilities through various programs and research at MMI. If you have questions, please call 359-1864 for more information.

### Shakespeare On The Green

**June 18, 2009 - June 28, 2009**

An annual family tradition, Nebraska's Shakespeare On The Green 2009 produces Macbeth, June 18-21, 24-28. Professional artists and actors create magic, enchanting audiences in a beautiful natural amphitheater tucked between Elmwood Park and UNO's campus. Lawn chairs and blankets welcome in the picnic-friendly ambiance. Souvenirs and concessions available at our Towne Square. Live music/Seminars at 6:30. Performances at 8 PM. Art, Education, Community & Nature: a winning stay-vacation. **Showtimes** 6/18-21: Thurs-Sun/5:30-10pm AND 6/24-28: Wed-Sun/5:30-10pm

at Elmwood Park (60th & Dodge Sts.). FREE ADMISSION. <http://www.nebraskashakespeare.com>

### Summer Arts Festival

**June 26, 2009 - June 28, 2009**

135 of the nation's finest visual artists, three stages of continuous entertainment including national performers and a large hands-on Children's Fair. Food, Nebraska craft brews, special events and artist demonstrations. One of the city's premier destinations for exceptional art, atmosphere and entertainment. Have fun Fri & Sat/ 11am-8pm AND Sun/11am-5pm. FREE ADMISSION. <http://www.summerarts.org>

### Bank of the West Celebrates America

**June 27, 2009**

FREE concert beginning at 6pm, at Memorial Park, a full evening of entertainment by Grand Funk Railroad, the Guess Who and Night Wing ending with fireworks by Grucci at 10pm. Donations of non-perishable food items & toiletries accepted by Food Bank. Park opens at 5pm, vendors will sell food & beverages and MUD will provide free water.

### Omaha World-Herald Fireworks Night

**July 03, 2009**

A 25-year tradition for thousands of people in and around Rosenblatt Stadium following the Royals game. Fireworks by Grucci will present biggest fireworks show west of the Mississippi after the Omaha Royals Baseball game at approximately 9:30PM. Choreographed to music. <http://www.oroynals.com>

### Playing with Fire Concert Series

**July 18, 2009**

Blues music Concert at Lewis & Clark Landing Park (515 N. Riverfront Dr.) on Saturday, July 18 from 4:30 to 10PM. Free will donations accepted at the gate, with a portion going to The Food Bank. Featuring Tommy Castro Band, Awek, and Jim Suhler & Monkey Beat w/ Alan Haynes. <http://www.playingwithfireomaha.net>

### Wild About Omaha Weekend

**July 24, 2009 - July 25, 2009**

Join Mutual of Omaha in celebrating 100 years! Two days of fun-filled FREE events at several Omaha arts & entertainment venues. Participating venues include the Henry Doorly Zoo, Durham Museum, Slowdown, Film Streams, Joslyn Art Museum and so much more! See [www.wildaboutomaha.com](http://www.wildaboutomaha.com) for the full list of events and locations.

*by Dana Freeman*

## Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law 4913 Underwood Avenue

558-5000



### MNA To Sponsor Fireworks Show

In celebration of Independence Day, the **Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA)** will host the 4th Annual Midtown Fireworks Show on **Sunday, July 5**, at **Field Club of Omaha, 3615 Woolworth Ave.** at **10 p.m.** Guests are welcome to bring a blanket and congregate around Field Club of Omaha's property. MNA represents 11 neighborhoods and over 150,000 residents in Midtown. Its goal is to foster healthy and active neighborhoods in Midtown and cultivate a community that is secure, diverse and historically and economically robust.

To support the event send donations to:

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance  
P.O. Box 6721

Omaha, NE 68106

For more information contact **Deb Knott**, executive director of MNA, at (402) 614-7597.

### Bike Night Set For August 4

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, August 4, 5 to 8 p.m.** at 33rd & California for "**Bike Night**" and to celebrate **National Night Out**. 33rd Street will be blocked off from California to Cass for the event. **EVERYONE** is welcome to participate and have a good time. The main event will be a bike rodeo organized by the **Community Bike Shop (525 N. 33rd Street)**. Other activities planned include bicycle repair, food, live music, fire engine, library books, face painting, information booths and more. More details to come as it gets closer to the event date.

### Ben's Yard Work & Landscaping

Call Ben Spahn 686-8079

He lives in Gifford Park



### Garden Opening . . .continued from page 3

**July 25** :: Youth Garden "Veggie Tales", 10 to 11:30 AM

**July 29** :: Garden Meeting, 6 to 7 PM

Another Summer of Youth Garden Fun

Young gardeners, parents, and volunteers gathered at Gifford Park Community Garden on Saturday, May 23rd, for Week 1 of Youth Garden, "Get to Know Your Garden." New and returning Youth Garden participants collaboratively created a list of expected behaviors for adults and children to follow. These rules ensure everyone has fun at the garden. Gardeners each painted a beautiful namestake to identify their plot and add vibrant color to the garden before discussing what fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers could be planted in their individual 30" x 30" raised garden boxes. Believe it or not, bush watermelon was the most desired plant. A special thanks to **Holly Israel** and her three boys for bringing treats to share.

Gardeners got a lot accomplished during Week 2, "Plant Your Plot!" Parents and volunteers helped thirty-four children select a garden plot, claim it with their namestake, prepare the soil, and plant a variety of vegetable plants and seeds. Children made a root-top vegetable garden from carrots, turnips, beets, and radishes to take home and nurture. Everyone got to sample the tasty raw roots and take home two tomato plants generously donated by our friends at **Indian Creek Nursery and Garden Center**. Thanks to **Salesia Larson** and her children for providing a granola snack, and a very, very special thank you to **Sue Freeman** for growing our tomato, pepper, and tomatillo plants. You've given our gardens a healthy head start.

Everyone is excited for another summer of learning, working, and playing in the garden. We wouldn't have nearly as much fun without the additional help of volunteers like **Mary Bamesburger, Mike Caban, Bren Duvall, Chris Foster, Stuart Shell, and all the parents, grandparents, and young adults** who support us each week. You are welcome to stop by and check out Youth Garden any Saturday from 10 to 11:30 AM. Come grow with us!

by Dana Freeman



Happy  
Father's  
Day!



Fly The Flag Proudly On  
Flag Day - June 14



## Bike Lane Project Moving Forward

The wheels are in motion. Omaha cyclists are now just months away from something they've wanted for years: a web of commuter routes that adapts city streets such as Turner Boulevard, Leavenworth Street and Woolworth Avenue in Midtown Omaha for east-west bicycle transportation.

"We've been conceiving and developing this pilot network since the publication of the [Omaha Metro Area Bicycle Map](#) in May 2008, and working closely with the City's Public Works Department on its implementation," said **Marty Shukert**, a former Omaha city planning director and a principal of RDG Planning & Design.

"Details of the project include removal of barriers, pavement markings such as bike lanes and shared-use lane symbols (or sharrows) and graphics."

An active transportation advocate and urban cyclist, Shukert works closely with Activate Omaha, serves on the Live Well Omaha Kids executive committee and chairs the Mayor's Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The 20-mile system, called Bike Omaha, connects the Keystone Trail and Boulevard Trail with downtown Omaha and major midtown destinations. Bike Omaha's five routes include:

- Fontenelle Route - from downtown to Fontenelle Boulevard and Miami Street and the future Fontenelle Boulevard Trail.
- Ak-Sar-Ben Route - from downtown to Ak-Sar-Ben Village and the Keystone Trail.
- Boulevard Route - connecting the Fontenelle Route to UNO, Elmwood Park, and the Keystone Trail.
- Doorly Route - from downtown to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo
- Midtown Route - from Creighton University at 30th and Burt streets to the Field Club Trail and Lauritzen Gardens.

Completion of the pilot system with five color-coded routes is scheduled for 2010. Key destinations like Midtown Crossing, Creighton University, University of Nebraska Medical Center, University of Nebraska at Omaha and Ak-Sar-Ben Village are all on the system, which generally uses streets that provide a better experience for cyclists and minimize friction with motorists.

"The system capitalizes on former streetcar corridors that have some extra width or streets that are moderately traveled but still convenient. There are a couple of unavoidable, busier streets, but we offer alternates to those," Shukert said.

The \$600,000 bike lane project is funded by grants from two foundations, including the Peter Kiewit Foundation. In addition, the City hopes to use federal transportation funds to complete the 32nd Avenue segment of the system, which also includes traffic-calming features.

## California Tacos & More

*Homemade Mexican Food*

**342-0212**

**33rd & California Street**

**Dine In or Carry Out**

**Hours:**

**Monday - Saturday: 11a.m. - 8 p.m.**

**Closed Sunday**



## Trees Added To Midtown

Dozens of trees will soon be added to Midtown-area parks and public areas, thanks to a **Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA)** initiative.

The Re-tree Initiative is a 3-5 year, three-phase project to add trees to parks and public spaces with a high percentage of diseased trees or trees damaged by storms last summer. During the first phase, volunteers will plant approximately 70 trees throughout six areas: **Morton Meadows, Bemis Park, Dundee-Memorial Park, North Gold Coast, Gifford Park and Blackstone.**

"Soon, Midtown parks and public areas will be vibrant with new greenery," said **Judy Alderman**, MNA president.

The estimated cost for the first phase of the Re-tree Initiative, which is funded through grants and donations, is \$15,000. If your civic organization or business would like to contribute to the Re-tree Midtown fund, call **(402) 614-7597** to request a donation form. All donations are tax-deductible.

If you would like a tree planted in memory of a loved one, call **(402) 614-7597** to request a memorial.

The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance is a 501(c)(3) organization made up of 14 Midtown neighborhoods. The MNA is bordered by Hamilton Street on the north, 20th Street on the east, Center Street on the south and 72nd Street on the west.

Shukert said Activate Omaha was instrumental in securing the grants for the bike lane project. The organization is dedicated to creating "awareness, advocacy, and excitement about activity and the importance of designing our community for active lifestyles." Promoting active transportation is integral to that mission.

"Our perspective is that bicycles are not just for recreation," Shukert said. "Bicycles are an extremely efficient and pleasant form of transportation, especially for short- and medium-distance trips. Bike Omaha is designed to encourage more people to use bikes in place of cars for some of their trips."

Future plans, he said, include the possible western expansion of the bike lane network.

## Summer Of Solutions To Provide Weatherization

The **Omaha Summer of Solutions**, a youth collaborative organizing program based in the Gifford Park neighborhood, is working with various community organizations to bring a free weatherization program for low income households to Gifford Park and the surrounding area. This program is being run in conjunction with the **Omaha Weatherization Trust**, an organization established with funding from the Federal Stimulus Package, that has so far weatherized over 200 homes in the Omaha area. The Weatherization Trust does free energy audits of low income homes, assessing where there is a large amount of energy being lost, and then comes into the home and fixes the problem. Projects they do to help save energy and money include: adding insulation to the attic, walls and/or floors, replacing broken glass in primary windows, installing or adjusting door weatherstripping, thresholds, and/or door sweeps.

In order to qualify for this free energy audit and weatherization, a household must meet certain criteria. Households with persons receiving either ADC (Aid to Dependent Children) or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) are automatically eligible for the free weatherization. Also, a Maximum Household Income requirement must be met. (Please email or call to find out if you qualify - see the email address and phone number at the end of this article).

This is a great way to decrease your energy bill, thus saving you money! The updates the Weatherization Trust will install will dramatically lower your energy or heating/cooling loss, resulting in less energy used to heat or cool your house. In addition to saving you money, this also goes a long way to decreasing energy use as a whole, which reduces global warming pollution, so by participating in this free program, you are both saving your household money and helping to stop climate change! To get involved in this program: email the Summer of Solutions at [omahasummerofsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:omahasummerofsolutions@gmail.com) or call **Aaron** at **990-4170**. Thanks!

## Opportunity To Deter Graffiti Available Through Neighborhood Center

Are You Looking for a Solution to Neighborhood Graffiti? You and your neighbors will benefit from a new opportunity that decreases neighborhood graffiti, thanks to the support of the Neighborhood Center. The Neighborhood Center is providing free security cameras for graffiti victims who successfully fill out an application. These cameras are given on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested in filling out an application, please contact **Jessica Regan** at **402-599-9486** or email her at [jaregan@unomaha.edu](mailto:jaregan@unomaha.edu).



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**

