



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

July/August 2009

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Dana Has Spirit!

Gifford Park Neighborhood's own **Dana Freeman** was awarded the **Spirit of Midtown Award** by **Destination Midtown** on June 27, at the GP Community Garden. In a mild drizzle and before a small crowd of neighbors and guests, **Jamie Grayson-Berglund** presented the award in recognition of Dana's contributions to an urban environment where people want to live, work, shop, and play. **Martin Janousek** worked the helium tank to fill balloons and all enjoyed ice cream provided by Destination Midtown. Introduced by **Dana Carlton-Flint** and **Chris Foster**, Dana accepted the award on behalf of all the volunteers who make the community garden a gem on Cass Street.

P.S. See what others have to say about Dana. She was the topic of articles in the **Daily Record** on July 10, the **Omaha World-Herald** on July 18, and the **North Star** on June 25. Many stopped down for the Channel 3 community garden story that aired on July 7. There will also be an upcoming story in **ONE Magazine** to watch for!

*by Stuart Shell*



*Dana Freeman received the Spirit of Midtown award in the Gifford Park Community Garden from Jamie Grayson-Berglund of Destination Midtown. Dana has played a key role in developing the Youth Garden program and has been a dedicated volunteer for a variety of GPNA activities. Congratulations, Dana, on an award that is well deserved!*

**NOTE: NO AUGUST  
GENERAL MEETING!**

**Next General Meeting  
Thursday, September 10  
7:00 P.M.**

**Creighton University  
Medical Center  
Morrison Seminar Room**

## Neighborhood Bike Night/Block Party August 4

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, August 4**, from **5 to 8 p.m.** at **33rd & California** for "Bike Night & Block Party". 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, rock climbing wall, fire engine, library books, face painting, information booths, farmers market and more. For more information or if you would like to help, call **Chris 342-6006**, **Jill 213-3105**, or **Stuart 216-1235**. It's a great opportunity to get together as a community to celebrate National Night Out and show support for our neighborhood in a big way!



**26TH  
ANNUAL  
NATIONAL  
NIGHT OUT  
TUESDAY  
AUGUST 4  
2009**

**GPNA OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Dana Carlton-Flint\* 346-4575

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Stuart Shell 216-1235

**SECRETARY**

Jill Westfall\* 213-3105

**TREASURER**

Jackie Foster\* 551-3629

**BOARD MEMBERS****AT LARGE**

Justin Brown\* 932-5932

**AT LARGE**

Luther Larson\* 330-3286

**BUSINESS**

Martin Janousek\* 558-4070

**LANDLORD**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**GARDEN LIASON**

Dana Freeman\* 850-9611

**COMMITTEES****COMPLIANCE/PARKING VIOLATIONS**

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

**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).

**Safety Lighting Update**

Darryl Hutton, Jim Wilwerding, and Dana Carlton-Flint met with OPPD to finalize 8 locations for additional lighting in dark alleys and in our park. Those locations have been signed off on and will be hooked up in the next 30 days. This additional lighting has been made possible by an anonymous donor. These 8 locations will be funded for the next 4 years.

OPPD is also going to do a lighting assessment of 33rd Street to determine if there is adequate lighting provided by the city for that area. After the assessment is made it will be decided whether the city or our safety lighting grant will fund additional lighting to that area.

If you know of an area that needs attention from the Lighting Committee, please contact Dana Carlton-Flint, 346-4575 or [designwyim@yahoo.com](mailto:designwyim@yahoo.com) to have us come out to look at it. Thank you all for helping to keep our neighborhood a safe place.

by Dana Carlton-Flint

**Adventure Omaha Stops In Gifford Park**

Omaha's first adventure race, Adventure Omaha, stopped by Gifford Park, the GP Community Garden, and Community Bicycle Shop Omaha on June 6. Over 150 racers rode into the neighborhood from downtown to complete challenges at each location. The teams then advanced to the last leg of the race for a long bike ride and finish at Carter Lake.

Gifford Park was selected by Activate Omaha and the race committee to be included on the route because of our passion for community involvement. The event brought many new faces to the neighborhood and was a success on all accounts.

by Stuart Shell

**Business District Blooming Thanks To Flower Pots**

A big "THANK YOU" goes out to all the businesses that donated money for this year's Business District Flower Pots. After a challenging start this past spring, the flowers have begun to look as though they enjoy the neighborhood. The potato plants are starting to spill over the edges and the cannas are beginning to bloom. If you haven't strolled through the Business District along California Street and 33rd Street to look at the flowers, please do; take advantage of our unseasonably cool summer and enjoy the walk.

Business District Flower Pot Contributors:

Gifford Park LLC  
Urban Village LLC  
Kilgore Law Office  
California Tacos and More  
K n J Grocery Store  
Blue Line Coffee  
Burns and Sons Painting  
Lilly Estes - California Bar

Business District Flower Pot Vandalism Update:

The Omaha Police Department assigned a detective to the case who has been in contact with the neighborhood and business district to follow up on leads. An individual has been identified in connection with the vandalism and as more develops with the case we will keep you informed.

by Martin Janousek

## New Business Opens Door

**Discount Laundry** has come to the Gifford Park business district. Discount Laundry has five stores in the Omaha area, including the newest store at **33rd and California**. The Maytag-equipped store opened in the beginning of July and includes washers that handle up to six loads, 7 1/2 load dryers, and everything in between. The owners, Todd and Toni Santoro, said that customers of the former laundromat were polled as to what improvements they would like to see in the new store. In response to their requests, Todd stated that all brand new equipment has been installed and a new roof added to the building. The laundry will feature fair prices with weekly specials, air conditioning, flat screen TVs, video games, vending machines, and free wifi. According to Todd, his goal is to have the nicest laundry in the area for the people in this neighborhood. Also, as the business grows, he wants to provide a few jobs for people in the neighborhood. Right now there is one person employed part time, but as the store gets busier and drop-off laundry and commercial accounts increase, he wants to add more employees. Todd said that there has been a great mix of customers so far, and he tries to make sure all the signs are in English and Spanish. He anticipates having a variety of customers; neighborhood residents, Creighton students, Dundee & Gold Coast residents, and others. With the neighborhood's diversity, he is hoping that the laundry might in some way help people learn something about each other. "I watched a Spanish woman helping a Sudanese woman understand the new equipment," Todd explained, "neither spoke the other's language, but they worked together to figure it out. There is nothing more basic to every culture than keeping clean, including our clothes, and helping someone else, and both happened here. We also hope we can continue in the tradition of **California Taco** and the **California Bar** in helping the neighborhood grow."

## Community Garden Wish List

The Gifford Park Community Garden has created a "wish list" of items that would be useful to have but cannot be purchased due to budgetary constraints. Contact **Dana (402-850-9611)** or [dana.freeman@gmail.com](mailto:dana.freeman@gmail.com) if you have something you would like to share with us.

### GPCG WISH LIST

mulch  
garden hoses  
garden hose repair kits  
picnic table  
set of carpentry hand tools (e.g., hammer, screwdriver, wrench, tape measure)

## Duchesne Preschool

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## Control Plan Available For Public Comment

On July 2nd, the **City of Omaha** made the final draft of the Long Term Control Plan for the **Omaha Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program** available for public comment. Written comments are requested to be submitted by **Wednesday, August 5, 2009**. A public meeting regarding the Long Term Control Plan will be held at the **Omaha Public Schools TAC Building, 3215 Cuming Street, on Tuesday, August 18th, 2009, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

The draft report is also available to download from the City's CSO website ([www.OmahaCSO.com](http://www.OmahaCSO.com)). Hard copies of the draft report will be available at all **Omaha Public Library** locations, the **Omaha Public Works Department**, 1819 Farnam Street Suite 600, the **Neighborhood Center**, 115 South 49th Street, the **Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce** offices downtown, 1301 Harney Street and the west office, 13206 Grover Street, early next week.

The draft report summarizes the results of a three-year planning process by the City, Program Management team, and more than 40 engineering firms. During that time, more than 100 individuals participated on advisory panels to provide ongoing feedback and suggestions to the City to determine the most cost effective ways to control overflows of raw sewage into the Missouri River and Papillion Creek and to provide community benefits beyond clean water. The estimated capital cost of this unfunded federal mandate is \$1.63 billion in 2009 dollars. Construction must be complete by 2024. Comments should be directed to **Pat Nelson** of the CSO Program Management Team, c/o CH2M HILL, 222 South 15th Street, Suite 1402-S, Omaha, Nebraska 68102 ([pat.nelson@ch2m.com](mailto:pat.nelson@ch2m.com)).

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## Youth Garden Fun Continues

Young gardeners, their families, and volunteers have continued gathering each Saturday morning from 10 to 11:30 AM at Gifford Park Community Garden for more Youth Garden fun. During Week 3's "P Is for Permaculture" lesson on June 6, **Triletty Wade** shared her growing knowledge of basic permaculture principles and keyhole garden design. She encouraged children to use the best tools at their disposal—their eyes. Seeing the present and possible interactions within nature and/or humans in the garden can help us determine best gardening practices. Everyone had a chance to get dirty making seed balls of compressed clay, compost, flower & vegetable seeds, and water. These little “bombs” have everything they need to grow and can be dropped or tossed onto any otherwise inhospitable landscape in need of beautification. Watch out for guerrilla gardeners in your midst!

On June 13, we were busy constructing and planting our "Tepees, Tunnels, and Trellises." Some gardeners lined our two tunnels with a mix of birdhouse and snake gourds while others trellised and planted purple hyacinth beans and love-in-a-puff seeds. Still, others dug big holes in order to plant our canna and elephant ear bulbs and some sowed broomcorn. Stop by and see how our hard work is paying off in vining, twining, and towering beauties. We also planted three rows, or fifteen of our Youth Garden boxes, with vegetable crops that will be harvested and given to Omaha Food Bank, Salvation Army Food Pantry, and Gifford Park neighbors in need. We recognize that many Omahans do not have access to healthy, fresh vegetables, and we are in a position to share with them from our abundant garden. Finally, everyone made a topsy-turvy upside-down tomato container from a green 2-liter bottle to take home. Thanks to **Holly Israel** for sharing that lesson idea with us.

Community gardeners **Brandon & Melissa Geary** are sharing their musical talent at the garden this summer. Brandon & Melissa are in a band called Honeybee and have tutored youth gardeners on several occasions after the program. The children are learning lyrics to a Honeybee song, accompanied by Brandon on accordion and Melissa on guitar. Look for us at a concert venue near you!

On Week 5, June 20, we had an opportunity to lash together, decorate, and plant our bean tepee since we ran out of time the week before, in addition to enjoying a "Hands on Herps" session. Herpetologist **Pam Cheever** from University of Nebraska Extension in Douglas & Sarpy Counties and her husband brought a reptilian sample to the garden for a fun and informative morning. Everyone got to touch a variety of snakes, lizards, and turtles while simultaneously learning factoids about our ectothermic friends.

We had a fantastic time with our photo-famous "These Boots Are Made for Planting" project on June 27. Everyone selected an old boot, shoe, hat, or glove to reuse as a planter for brightly colored annual flowers. In addition, we kicked off our poem memorization contest that will continue through the end of the program. Children can find numerous poems about plants, bugs, and birds posted throughout the garden or bring one from home to recite for a prize. (Our gardeners who have yet to learn to read are able to participate by singing a song or rehearsing a short rhyme.) Everyone has a weekly opportunity to present one poem after restating any poem recited the previous week, thus better ensuring recall. Thanks to **Joy Doll, Sandy Freeman, Laurie Smith Camp, and Tiare Weak** for donating books, kid-sized gardening tools, and other goodies for prizes. They disappear like hot cakes weekly! Later, **Jamie Grayson-Berglund** & her Destination Midtown crew brought balloons, stickers, and ice cream for a neighborhood party to celebrate the Spirit of Midtown award. Destination Midtown is an unprecedented collaborative community development effort working to raise the quality of life and return Midtown to prominence. Dana Freeman & Gifford Park Youth Garden were presented with 2009's second quarter award. The honor has brought a wealth of positive, local media attention to Gifford Park Community Garden and its programs, and we sincerely thank Destination Midtown for the recognition.

Youth gardeners welcomed Independence Day Week 7 by preparing "Hot Tamales!" We celebrated summer's arrival with a cooking project. Everyone had a chance to assemble tamales to be cooked on a campstove. Thanks to **Mary Bamesberger** and **Don Freeman** for letting us borrow your Colemans. There was plenty of time before and after lunch to relax and have fun by playing with water pistols and catching bugs and butterflies. We had a wonderful holiday!

Gourd artist and Youth Garden grandparent and volunteer **Tami Rand** shared her unique talent and love of gourds with adults and children alike on July 11. Week 8's "Gourd Musical Instruments" was a big hit! Everyone had a chance to select and fill a Gifford Park Community Garden-grown gourd with dried rice and beans to create shakers. The instruments were absolutely stunning after decorating with paint and beads. We had a chance to use our shakers following our lesson when we again practiced our Honeybee song with Brandon & Melissa. There are many musicians in the garden.

*continued on page 5*

## Youth Garden . . . continued from page 4

We embarked on an ongoing “**Living Sculptures**” art project Week 9, July 18. Everyone had an opportunity to express themselves creatively as we began to design an **Outdoor Living Sculptures** area inspired by our friends at **Octopuses Garden Art Alliance** (OGAA) in Gifford Park Community Garden’s newest expansion area. **Melynda Walsh** from OGAA acted as our resident artist and expert while we decorated the frame of our flower “bed,” started tiling a clawfoot tub in order to turn it into a rain garden, and deconstructed an old couch to prepare for its renovation into more than just a functional object. Thanks to **Jill Westfall** for letting us dig an old couch from her dumpster, our California Street neighbor **Jared** for donating a perfect, petite tub, and the city’s **Under the Sink Restore** for letting us have all the free grout and paint we wanted. We also organized the items near the new tool shed and planted cannas in that space to separate our garden haven from those necessary by unappealing items. Young gardeners also made a **Chia Pet** from panty hose to take home. Lizards and snakes were very popular animals and are already sprouting wheatgrass hair. We’ll get to use our scissors to keep them trimmed into shape.

Thanks to new gardening parent **Stephanie Duesterbeck**, experienced gardening parent **Sue Freeman**, grandparent extraordinaire **Tami Rand**, home school moms **Shelley Anderson** and **Alyssa Stanley**, and tag-team trio **Jacqueline Flick**, **Judi Lopez**, and **Felicia Webster** for generously bringing treats to share. We love to commune around food. We are also thankful to **Diane Kaye** for donating some new children’s-sized, long-handled gardening tools and to **Bob Hutton** for tightening and repairing some of our existing ones. Donations of prizes for poem recitation and bird feeders & seed (we’ve practically created an aviary in the gourd tunnel!) would be greatly appreciated; contact Dana Freeman (402-850-9611 or [dana.freeman@gmail.com](mailto:dana.freeman@gmail.com)) if you have something to share. Finally, we wouldn’t have nearly as much fun without the help of weekly volunteers like **Mary Bamesburger**, **Mike Caban**, **Dana Carlton** & **Rod Flint**, **Bren Duvall**, **Chris & Sallie Foster**, **Sue Freeman**, **Monica Meeks**, **Lee & Stuart Shell**, and all the parents, grandparents, and young adults who support us each week. There are only six weeks remaining in the program this summer, but we still have lots of learning, working, and playing in the garden to do. You are welcome to stop by and join us on Saturday mornings and are especially invited to our final **Harvest Party** celebration **August 29** from 10 AM to noon. Come grow with us!

by Dana Freeman

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33<sup>rd</sup> & California St  
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## Open House For Melrose Apartment Building

There will be an open house for neighborhood residents to tour the **Melrose Apartments** **Saturday, August 1**, from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** **Gerry Reimer**, **Scott Semrad**, and their development team are currently renting the recently rehabilitated historic building on the northwest corner of 33rd & California St. The Melrose Apartment building was constructed in 1916 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The building was completed during Omaha’s first apartment “boom” period from 1912 to 1917. The original architects were H.D Frankfurt and Alex Beck. Two separate three-story buildings are positioned adjacent to each other in an L-shape with a large courtyard between the buildings. Both buildings are made of brown brick with identical limestone and darker brown brick detailing, with the west building being larger than the north one. There are balconies flanking each building’s entryway with “The Melrose” inscribed above. Come check out the apartments; Gerry, Scott and their team have done a GREAT job with the building and landscaping.

## Charles R. Kilgore Jr.

**Attorney At Law**  
**4913 Underwood Avenue**

**558-5000**



### GPNA Spring Cleanup Report

There was great weather once again for this year's annual **GPNA Spring Cleanup**, held Saturday, June 6, in Gifford Park. The usual trash compactors were filled by neighborhood volunteers. The GPNA collected \$335 in memberships and \$163 in donations. Membership break-down was 15 renewal and 9 new. We collected and hauled away over 40 tires. We recycled a good deal of metal and appliances, and salvaged some bicycles for the Community Bicycle Shop's use. Many thanks to the **City of Omaha** and **Keep Omaha Beautiful** for continuing to support this very important program. There were many fine efforts on this day, too many to list, but special thanks to **Jim Wilwerding** for organizing and leading this year's cleanup. The GPNA appreciates all the volunteers' commitments to make this a very successful event.

*by Chris Foster*

### Summer Concert A Hit

On Wednesday, July 15, Gifford Park was the host site for the "**Music in the Park**" concert series. This year **John Worsham** performed the first hour, and **La Banda** played the second hour. We had great music and great weather. 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. The GPNA provided free ice cream treats. Hope everyone enjoyed the show!

*by Chris Foster*

### Ben's Yard Work & Landscaping

Call Ben Spahn 686-8079

He lives in Gifford Park



### Another Successful Gifford Park Community Potluck

More than seventy Gifford Park community gardeners and friends came together on Saturday, July 19th, to share good food and fellowship. The potluck marked a halfway point in the 2009 growing season and celebrated the time and energies of countless volunteers. **Mike Caban**, Gifford Park Community Garden (GPCG) Membership Chair, recognized gardeners who have already met the eight-hour volunteer requirement for renting a plot at GPCG. Fifteen out of thirty-four plot owners were given their choice of a Gifford Park Neighborhood Association hat or t-shirt or reusable Chico bag in appreciation of their efforts.

These persons included **Daniel & Andrea Lawse, Felicia Webster, Joy & Mike Doll, Neil & Mary Liberty, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Bren Duvall, Luther & Deb Larson, Sandy Freeman, Monica Meeks & Duchesne Locavore Club, Dana Carlton- & Rod Flint, Kate Bodmann, Cynthia Shuck, Chris & Sallie Foster, Dana Freeman & Stuart Shell, and Diane Kaye**. Their volunteer hours were given to GPCG in support of Gifford Park Youth Garden, grant-writing efforts, our tool-lending program, Gifford Park Teen Market Garden, documenting activities and events with the click of a camera, and communal garden bed weeding, watering, and maintenance just to name a few. So much happens behind the scenes to make our garden and its programs a great success year after year, and we are thankful to everyone who helps make it happen.

Special thanks to the **Flint** family, **Mike Caban**, and **Diane Kaye & James Nordaker** for providing our tasty proteins and **Neil Liberty** for once again acting as grill master. Kudos to everyone who brought a super side dish or delicious dessert to share and to all the helpers who set up before and cleaned up after the event. Everyone enjoyed viewing the pictures taken, printed, and posted by **Chris & Sallie Foster**; we wouldn't remember most of what we've done without those visual reminders.

Mark your calendars for these final GPCG events this summer:

- **August 5th** :: Garden Work Party, 6 to 8 PM
- **August 29th** :: Youth Garden Harvest Party, 10 AM to Noon
- **September 2nd** :: Garden Work Party, 6 to 8 PM
- **October 3rd** :: Season Finale Potluck, 5 PM
- **October 7th** :: Final Garden Work Party, 6 to 8 PM and
- **October 15th** :: All gardens put to rest for 2009.

*by Dana Freeman*

## 4th Of July, 2009

There are those who yell from the heights of minarets or tower above legions of standing armies, crying out that Americans are weak, and lazy, and spoiled. They say that our stature in the world is in decline, and that we will soon cease to be a beacon of freedom and democracy in the world. They predict our demise and pray that America will soon fall. Even in our own land the purveyors of gloom and doom give credence to those pessimistic visions, and discredit our own way of life.

I do not subscribe to such nonsense. In my lifetime I have witnessed the promise of our constitution and bill of rights guide this nation from the dark place of racial injustice to the light of equality, from the dominance of a male oriented world to the full participation of women in every facet of society. I've seen America reach for and land on the moon. I've lived to see the Berlin wall fall, and a cold war end with a whimper, and our mortal enemy collapse without a shot fired, and to the great credit of our way of life our enemies were once again allowed to live and find their way, in peace. No invasion, no subjugation of our fallen foes.

So many things confirm my belief that our nation's best days are yet to come. It is the result of my observation of the American spirit. That thing we have in our DNA, that no matter how dark the night gets we know the sun will once again rise in the morning. That quality we possess, that even when we fall, we brush ourselves off and get back up. The genuine optimism of our people, and the willingness to keep working toward a more perfect union; this is what is undeniable about the American people. This is what gives me hope, that America will always be that place where the lamp of freedom is held high, to light our way.

I hope you had a happy 4th of July, neighbors and friends, and because I lived in the shadow of that great lady when I was young, I'd like to share this, my favorite poem, with all of you (see column to the right).

*by Mike Caban*

**EMERICK HUBER**

## Tree Service



**Neighborhood Tree Removal & Trimming**  
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**Tel: 1.307.262.4581**

**Email: emerickhuber@gmail.com**

## California Tacos & More

*Homemade Mexican Food*

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**33rd & California Street**

**Dine In or Carry Out**

**Hours:**

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

**Closed Sunday**



## THE NEW COLOSSUS

**By: Emma Lazarus - 1883**



***Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
 With conquering limbs astride from land to  
 land;***

***Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall  
 stand***

***A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
 Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name***

***Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand***

***Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes  
 command***

***The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.***

***"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!"  
 cries she***

***With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your  
 poor,***

***Your huddled masses yearning to breathe  
 free,***

***The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.***

***Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to  
 me,***

***I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"***

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

The GPNA extends its deepest sympathy to the **Slayden** family. **Greg Slayden** sadly passed away June 2 after a long illness. As you know the Slayden family (wife Betty and their children **Tyffaney, Kayleen, William** and **Jacob**) volunteer for many of our popular annual GPNA events and activities. Betty was recognized as our GPNA "Neighbor of the Year" a few years ago for her many years of volunteering. Betty said she will always remember the great times she and Greg had taking a trip to South Dakota a few weeks before Greg's passing; seeing Mt. Rushmore and the Black Hills was something they really wanted to do. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Slayden family.

Have you noticed the "Identity Garden" blooming in Gifford Park near 33rd & Cass Street? Volunteers **Cynthia Shuck, John Barna,** and **Roger & Sandy Freeman** helped to plant, mulch, water, weed and maintain the 15 ft diameter flower garden, which has a nice cobblestone border. There is an iron sign and lamp post installed in the middle. Many thanks to **Destination Midtown** for donating \$300 for the plants. The purpose of these gardens is to "identify" the dozen neighborhoods within the Destination Midtown boundary with a common link.

Whenever special neighbors move out of our neighborhood, it's never the same. This is the case with my next door neighbors of 12 years, **Eric & Annemarie Noll** and their children **Preston** and **Lucas**. The Nolls were simply the best neighbors anyone could have. They were active members of the GPNA; they volunteered with some of our events and activities, and supported and participated in fighting more off-sale alcohol outlets in our neighborhood (including testifying in Lincoln before the Liquor Control Commission). Eric & Annemarie's attitude and commitment to a safe neighborhood was unwavering. I witnessed this on many occasions when serious problems arose around our immediate area; they would confront the issue (and bad-behaving people) head on - not everyone has the guts to take this direct approach, but their actions (along with help from other good neighbors) set the tone for a safer neighborhood that we experience today. Sallie and I will always be especially grateful for their vision and dedication to the community garden at 35th & Cass (directly behind their old home). I could write much more about these efforts, but I will simply say the community garden would not be anything like it is today without the Noll's vision, dedication and hard work - they were one of the "founding fathers". They will always be a big part of the garden and the neighborhood, and we look forward to seeing them at future garden and GPNA events, and wish them well in their new home in Omaha (not too far away).

*by Chris Foster*



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**

