



Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 2009

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Benson Featured In Historic Tour

The **2009 Historic Restoration Tour** kicks off this breathtaking fall season with a tour of the historic treasures of Benson on **Sunday, October 11**, from **1:00 – 5:00 pm**. The tour, organized by **Landmarks, Inc.**, will showcase examples of great restoration and preservation right in the historic Benson area. According to **Paul Nelson** with Landmarks, Inc., “This tour is not only about historic homes and buildings. It looks deeper into the personalities that made and still make Benson such a unique place. The interesting stories behind each building are the best reasons why Benson’s built environment should be preserved and restored”. This year Landmarks, Inc. chose Benson because of its atmospheric business district and surrounding neighborhoods including the fabulous Aloha House, former Creighton family residences, and other examples of thoughtful, accurate restoration and rehabilitation projects.

Registration will be “drive through” style this year at the classic “mid century modern” 1963 **Texaco Griswold Service Station** located at **5504 North West Radial Highway**. This incredible site was the former home of the late Mayor Howard and is one of the last prefabricated Skelly gas stations standing in the country. Ten Benson properties, both residential and commercial, will be open for tours, as well as over six other great sites highlighted for an accompanying “windshield” tour. Nelson added, “Historic photo collections of Benson will be exhibited inside **Hargiss Stringed Instruments** and the **Benson Grind** coffee shop. This will give people the chance to go inside business storefronts and experience places they would not normally see!”

Tickets are \$10 each or two for \$15 and can be reserved prior to the tour at www.restoreomaha.com and picked by driving through the Griswold Service at 5504 North West Radial Highway the day of the tour or tickets may be purchased at any location on the day of the event. See you all on October 11th! Volunteers receive free admission, so if you are interested in helping, please call **660-9586** or email Alesha.Hauser@gmail.com.



Next General Meeting
Thursday, October 8
7:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker: TBA

Nomination of Officers for 2010

Committee Wrap-ups For Fall

Discussion Of Future Projects

Creighton University
Medical Center
Morrison Seminar Room

Board Meeting
October 22
at the Flint's

Celebrate Midtown Party **October 23, 2009, 6 PM - Midnight**

Go Nuts! Plant New Roots in Midtown!
The **Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA)** is working to replace the many trees that were lost in the area in the 2008 storms. They hope to get 1,000 trees in the ground over the next few years. Show your support at their annual fundraiser, **Celebrate Midtown**, held at **Joslyn Castle (3902 Davenport Street)**.

The evening will feature live music, silent auction, awards ceremony, appetizers and cash bar featuring the signature drink of the event, The Nutty Squirrel. Admission is \$25 per person (tickets are available through GPNA at a reduced rate of \$15 per person - contact **Dana @ 346-4575**). For more information, contact **Deb Knott**, MNA executive director, at **(402)614-7597**.

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* & 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

Hardhat Tour Of Midtown Crossing

A **Midtown Crossing Tour** has been tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, October 8th, at 5:00/5:30 PM.** Please call or email **Dana Carlton-Flint (672-8903** or Designwyim@yahoo.com) if you are interested in the tour. Space is limited to 10 persons per tour time. Individuals who RSVP will be notified if they are one of the first twenty to respond and which time slot they have. These tours have booked up quickly, so if you are interested, please respond right away.

What's Happening In the Neighborhood . . .

Some Creighton University students have selected the Gifford Park neighborhood for two of their projects this semester! They will be collecting data, doing research, and learning more about how our neighborhood works. With this information they will be helping our leadership open lines of communication, be more effective, and continue efforts to grow a great neighborhood. So if you see them walking around asking questions, please welcome these enthusiastic young people!

Many thanks to the **Omaha Tennis Association (OTA) Development Fund** for awarding seven junior scholarships totaling \$770 to participants of the Gifford Park Youth Tennis program. The funds will help pay for 10 weeks of indoor tennis lessons this fall at Hanscom Tennis Center for youth who demonstrated good sportsmanship and a committed interest to improve their tennis skills. Eight Gifford Park Youth Tennis participants are signed up for this fall tennis program - good luck and have fun!

Congratulations to **Dana Freeman**, GPNA Community Garden Youth Program Director, and **Stuart Shell**, GPNA Vice-President, on their recent wedding. The couple was married on September 5th and their reception was held in beautiful Gifford Park! Our neighborhood should be proud that this couple who has volunteered many long hours to making this community such a wonderful place chose to celebrate their marriage together with their family and friends, right here in the park. The GPNA extends its best wishes to Dana and Stuart for a long and wonderful life together!

Just a reminder - there will be no Fall Cleanup this year. Please save your items for the Spring Cleanup. Also, since we have rescheduled the neighborhood-wide garage sale for spring, if anyone has garage/storage space we can use to store garage sale items please contact **Neil (933-1960)** or **Chris (342-6006)**.



Don't Forget - Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 1st!

Restore Omaha Conference - Save The Date!

Restore Omaha Conference planning for 2009-2010 is well underway. Now in its fifth year, the Restore Omaha Conference, with partner **Metropolitan Community College Foundation**, will offer current and potential owners of older properties an opportunity to learn from local and regional experts about how to restore, revive, and preserve their home or business.

Save the date for the Restore Omaha Conference, **Saturday, March 6, 2010**, at **Metropolitan Community College, South Omaha Campus**. Check out www.restoreomaha.com for conference details as they become available. Questions about Restore Omaha? Contact **Nicole Malone 402-968-3349** or email nmalone@thearchitecturaloffices.com or during evening hours contact **Vince Furlong 402-709-2586**.

*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)**.*

Gifford Park Places In Green Neighborhood Scorecard

Our Gifford Park Neighborhood finished in second place in the recent **Green Neighborhood Scorecard** headed up by the **Green Omaha Coalition's Green Neighborhood Council**. The scorecard has been developed as a tool to assess the greenness of neighborhoods while identifying areas of environmental need. The scorecard was a multi-question survey completed by GPNA board members **Luther Larson** and **Martin Janousek**. Survey topics included Energy, Recycling, Food, Water, and Transportation. Congratulations to our good neighbors to the northwest, Orchard Hill Neighborhood, who finished in first place. Winning groups were announced at the Village Pointe Farmers Market on September 19, 2009, prior to the [Green Omaha Coalition's Green Homes Tour](#).

GROW Nebraska To Hold Marketing Workshops For Small Businesses

Do you want to beef up your bottom line? Reach new markets and expand your client base? Grow your business? If you answered yes, you will gain important information by attending a **GROW Nebraska Marketing Workshop**.

Reaching your target market and customer base today has become more challenging! There are so many ways to reach your target market with all the online applications and tools available today - Facebook, Delicious, YouTube, Flickr, Twitter, Friendfeed to just name a few! As part of your online presence, learn how to enhance your chances of effective customer communication with search engine optimization and incorporate these online tools into your marketing strategy. It is all about making sure your website is search engine and customer friendly!

The marketing workshops will be held in Omaha on **October 28** from **3 to 6 PM** at **New Development Corporation**. To register visit grownebraska.org/workshops. Ten participants must be registered to hold the workshop.

GROW Nebraska's mission is to maximize the state's entrepreneurial and small business spirit, create an economically viable and sustainable environment for entrepreneurs, and generate social awareness through promotion, marketing and education.

For questions about GROW Nebraska's marketing workshops, contact GROW at **888-476-9632**, or e-mail info@grownebraska.org

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

Election of 2010 Officers To Be Held At November Meeting

All four of the current GPNA officers have volunteered to remain in their positions for 2010. Therefore, the following slate of candidates will be placed in nomination to be voted on by members at the November General Meeting:

President: Dana Carlton-Flint

Vice-President: Stuart Shell

Secretary: Jill Westfall

Treasurer: Jackie Foster

Only current members of the GPNA are eligible to vote. The officers' terms will run from January 1 to December 31, 2010. The GPNA would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to these officers for their hard work and dedication in making this neighborhood one of the best in the city!

Helping The Community Garden One Dime At A Time!

We are pleased to announce that **Whole Foods Market Omaha** has selected Gifford Park Community Garden as the beneficiary of its **One Dime at a Time** community outreach program for October, November, and December 2009! For each bag reused at checkout, Whole Foods shoppers can choose to receive the \$0.10 refund as cash back on their grocery bill or donate the sum to the Gifford Park Community Garden. We encourage you to grab your reusable grocery bags, visit Whole Foods Market Omaha (**10020 Regency Circle**), and give your \$0.10 refund to the Gifford Park Community Garden over the next three months. Tell all your friends to do the same! Your generous support will help sustain and grow our adult and youth gardening programs for Midtown families. Together, we can make a difference One Dime at a Time!

by Dana Freeman

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

558-5000



Neighborhood Market Closes For The Year

Leeks, cilantro, basil, dill, water melons, squash, garlic, onions, pumpkins, green beans, cucumbers, zucchini, Swiss chard, beets, carrots, peas, flowers, peppers and tomatoes of every variety filled the tables of the **Gifford Park Business District's Second Annual Farmers Market**. This year the market was expanded from a single weekend morning to five continuous Friday evenings and the vendors/gardeners all came from within the neighborhood with one vendor stopping by from the 31st and Nicholas Street area. Some of those who participated included **Sweet Thymes Farm**, **John's Green Thumb Garden**, **The Community Garden**, and the **Teen Market Garden**. Most if not all of the produce came to the market every week by foot, bicycle, wagon, or wheel barrow and all the gardeners practiced organic growing methods over the summer. It was amazing to see such variety and quality of produce being grown in our neighborhood. On the last day of the market, our neighborhood **Community Bicycle Shop** set up a table to sell t-shirts and a young lady sold rare imported rings from Israel all of which added to the variety and atmosphere for the final day. Now, as fall rolls by and winter sets in, keep in mind that spring's around the corner and we would love to have more vendors from the surrounding neighborhoods for next year. So if you're a 5 o'clock gardener or a serious urban farmer please keep us in mind as a place to sell your harvest or socialize with neighbors.

by Martin Janousek

Ben's Yard Work & Landscaping Raking, Snow Shoveling, and More!

Call Ben Spahn 686-8079

He lives in Gifford Park



Now Open!

Coin Laundry
33rd & California St
(behind Sakana's Grocery)

Open daily • 6am – 10pm

- All new equipment!
- **Huge** capacity washers and dryers!
- **\$1 buys 35 minutes** of dry time - almost 2 drying minutes per quarter!
- Vending, A/C, Flat Screen TVs, Video Games & Free Wi-Fi



Enjoy WASH specials all day long!

- **\$1.00** wash dbl loaders
- **\$1.00 OFF** all 35, 40 & 60 lb washers

Ahora Abierto!

Lavandería
33rd & California St
(behind Sakana's Grocery)

Abierto diario • 6am – 10pm

- Todos los **nuevos** equipos!
- **Lavadoras y secadoras** extra grandes
- **\$1 compras 35 minutos** de tiempo de secado - casi 2 minutos de secado por 25¢!
- Bocados, A/C, juegos de video, TVs & Wi-Fi gratis



lavado especiales durante todo el día!

- **\$1.00** máquinas dobles de la carga
- **Ahorras un \$1.00** en las lavadoras grandes

Volunteers Needed For Graffiti Scanning & Cleanup

The Neighborhood Center is currently seeking volunteers interested in community service hours to perform graffiti scans and graffiti cleanups. Graffiti scan is a program in which volunteers are given a map and a GPS camera so that they can record graffiti in a specified geographic area. They take pictures of all the graffiti they can find, everything from bike trails to dumpsters, stop lights to street signs. The information is then compiled by university staff that will upload the information into Google Maps, so that volunteers can go out and remove the graffiti. Graffiti scan can be done from your car and at the time of your choosing; once the areas have been scanned we will be cleaning up the graffiti on **October 10 at 11 AM**. (Don't worry - the Huskers aren't playing that day and all supplies will be donated by the Neighborhood Center and the City of Omaha!) If you would like to help with the graffiti problem, please contact **Crystal Rhoades**, Assistant Executive Director of the Neighborhood Center of Greater Omaha at **402-561-7569** or visit <http://www.unomaha.edu/graffitiscan/index.php> or <http://www.unomaha.edu/ncenter/> for more information. When you take down graffiti, you're not just painting a wall, you're reducing gang activity, preserving property values, and saving taxpayer money so those funds can be spent on things like libraries, pools, snow removal, youth programming, and public safety. It's **your** community and **you** make all the difference. Thank you!

by Crystal Rhoades

Another Successful Garden Season

Young gardeners, their families, and volunteers wrapped up their Saturday morning program at Gifford Park Community Garden after 15 weeks of fun. During Week 10's "Veggie Tales" lesson on July 25, storyteller **Anna Hutchinson** from **The Bookworm** shared several great gardening books relevant to children of all ages. These works of literature impart many of the wonderful life lessons we learn by working together as a community in the garden like understanding responsibility, our connection with nature, and sharing from our bounty. You can hear Ms. Hutchinson each month at Whole Foods Omaha's free Children's Storytime. View their "Store Calendar" at www.wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/omaha/storecalendar.php for details. Thanks to parent extraordinaire **Dana Carlton-Flint** for providing a tasty snack for everyone.

On Week 11, August 1, we learned "All About Bees" with Creighton professor of biology **Carol Fassbinder-Orth**. She shared her extensive knowledge of keeping honey bees learned growing up in Elgin, Iowa where her mother and father owned an apiary featuring 2,000 colonies. That's more than 100 million of our favorite pollinators! Did you know that honey is the only food we eat that insects produce and it is considered a very stable food because it naturally resists fungi, mold, and bacteria without refrigeration? Not only did we watch a colony abuzz in an observation hive but we sampled snacks made by It's All About Bees!, a small mother-daughter business in Ralston, NE. Everyone gathered lots of sweet factoids about bees, especially neighborhood volunteer Mike Caban. Ask him all about bees!

We joined forces with Jumoke Omojola and her gang from City Sprouts for our field trip to "Arbor Day Farm" on Week 12, August 8. Everyone hopped aboard a big yellow school bus for the trip to Nebraska City. Once there, we embarked on a Discovery Ride through the Preservation Orchard on a tractor fueled by soy biodiesel and enjoyed a guided tour of Tree House Trail, Lied Greenhouse, and Woodland Pavilion. We even climbed to the top of a 50-foot treehouse! We ate a picnic lunch provided at a reduced cost by **No Frills** in the shade and spent some free time playing in the Nature Explore Classroom. Special thanks to volunteers **Rod Flint & Sue Freeman** for helping to supervise on the hottest day of the summer!

Local hooping celebrity **Chelsea Taxman** brought her favorite hobby to Gifford Park for Week 13's "Garden Hula" lesson on August 15. She shared her passion for constructing, designing, and dancing with hoops. Everyone decorated a hula hoop to take home and performed freestyle moves to the soundtrack from Grease. Hooping is great exercise and provides a fun work-out for people of all ages. We've got a few extra hoops if you'd like to give it a try!

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



Representatives from three local food pantries, **Omaha Food Bank, Salvation Army Lied Renaissance Center, and Together, Inc.**, paid us a visit for "Sharing Fresh Food" on Week 14 on August 22. We harvested and shared from the three rows we planted for that purpose. We took a peek inside Omaha Food Bank's **Fresh Food Truck**, a traveling means of distributing fresh fruits and vegetables to Omaha neighborhoods, and received a snack from the side of their truck. Also, **Sarah Lewis & Katee Upton** from **Visiting Nurse Association's Operation Frontline** led a veggie wrap and fruit salsa cooking demonstration. Thanks, ladies. It was delicious! We love to commune around food in the garden.

We celebrated with a "Harvest Party" for our final session on August 29, Week 15. Everyone brought food to share and made a butterfly net to take home. Thanks to **Ana Carlson** for sewing those! **Nicholas & Brendan Flick** were the only gardeners to have perfect attendance for the summer and were awarded golden butterfly nets. We recognized our first ever "Volunteer of the Year" and presented a **Golden Cultivator Award** to grandparent **Tami Rand**. She went above and beyond the call of volunteer duty and cultivated a love for gardening in many participants this year. Finally, we passed out "These Boots Are Made for Planting" magnet mementos so that everyone could remember all the fun we had this summer.

We are very thankful for all of the donations we receive for projects and prizes from our neighborhood businesses and friends, especially **Joy Doll, Sandy Freeman, and Laurie Smith Camp**. Finally, we wouldn't have nearly as much fun without the help of weekly volunteers like **Mary Bamesburger, Mike Caban, Chris & Sallie Foster, Sue Freeman, Lee & Stuart Shell**, and all the parents, grandparents, and young adults who support us each week. We did a lot of learning, working, and playing in the garden this summer. You are welcome to join us next summer for another youth gardening adventure. Contact Dana Freeman dana.freeman@gmail.com if you want to be added to our mailing list to keep abreast of our goings-on. See you in 2010!

by Dana Freeman



15th Annual Haunted House

Where:
PKA House
3100 Chicago St.



When:
Friday, October 30th
Ages 10 & under: 6 p.m.
All ages: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

FREE!



hosted by:
Pi Kappa Alpha (PKA) Creighton Fraternity
Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

All Neighborhood Children And Parents
Are Welcome to Stop By For Refreshments
And Trick-or-Treats!



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

