



Gifford Park's Pride

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

March 2010

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Spring Cleanup Scheduled For April 17

Even though looking outside it doesn't seem possible, spring will be here, so mark your calendars now for the **GPNA Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 17th**. That is the day that you can get rid of those large items that the weekly trash pickup will not take. All you need to do is bring your large items to the Gifford Park parking lot between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity to offer to help your neighbor haul off that item in the backyard that has been there since it was rejected by the regular weekly pickup. This is also a good time to pick up all the trash that has accumulated along the street curb throughout the winter. We are looking for volunteers to help direct traffic and provide a hand unloading during the event. Please call **Luther** at **402-330-3286** if you can help out. Thanks in advance to all who work to keep the neighborhood looking clean.

Neighborhood Garage Sale April 24

Plans are in the works for a neighborhood-wide garage sale **Saturday, April 24**. The GPNA will pay for an ad in the **Omaha World-Herald** to promote garage sales in the Gifford Park Neighborhood. If you would like to donate usable garage sale items (no clothes or shoes please) to the GPNA, please call **Neil 933-1960** or **Chris 342-6006**; we will sell items in the business district at **33rd & California** from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, with any of these proceeds going to the GPNA and Community Garden. Also, we will be accepting garage sale items the week before at the Spring Cleanup (April 17) in Gifford Park. This is a great way to get rid of unused items and make some extra money for yourself or the GPNA and at **NO COST** to you!

Community Bicycle Shop Omaha

Open House

Saturday, March 20th

More information available soon at:

www.giffordparkomaha.org



Next General Meeting Thursday, March 11, 2010

Guest Speaker: Brett Becker
Topic: Documenting Personal Property For Fire/Storm Damage/ Burglary Protection

7:00 P.M.
**Creighton University
Medical Center
Morrison Seminar Room**

**Board Meeting
March 25th, 7 P.M.
at the Flint's**

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) is now on **Facebook**. Become a fan by searching **Gifford Park Omaha** from your Facebook account. Facebook will provide a great forum for all of us (fans) who love the neighborhood and want to share pictures, event dates, etc. with others who have similar neighborhood interests.

21th Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 3
Noon (Sharp!)
Rain or Shine
at Gifford Park
Children Ages 12 &
Under

**Bring Your Easter Baskets
& Be Ready To Hunt!**

GPNA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Dana Carlton-Flint* 346-4575

VICE PRESIDENT

Stuart Shell 216-1235

SECRETARY

Jill Westfall* 213-3105

TREASURER

Jackie Foster* 551-3629

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AT LARGE

Justin Brown* 932-5932

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Dana Freeman* 850-9611

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MEMBERSHIP

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NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Chris Foster 342-6006

PARK

Sandy* & Roger Freeman 557-2914

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

WELCOMING

Julie Kalkowski* 342-2103

* denotes new officer, board, or committee member

GPNA - Proposed Budget for 2010; 2009 Budget Overview

Category	Income	Expense	Balance
Membership	2000.00	0	2000.00
Newsletter	1000.00	500.00	500.00
Egg Hunt	400.00	400.00	0
*Park Activities	200.00	600.00	(400.00)
Holiday Banquet	0	400.00	(400.00)
**Board Fund	0	1300.00	(1300.00)
Grants	5000.00	5000.00	0
Flower pots	350.00	350.00	0
Donations	1000.00	0	1000.00
Interest	35.00	0	35.00
Tennis	500.00	500.00	0
Totals	9985.00	(8550.00)	1435.00

* Park Activities: Music in the Park, Spring Clean Up, Show Wagon, NNO, Relationship building activities, and Picnics

** Board Fund: Discretionary fund, operating expenses, Organization Dues, Supporting org. funds, and the website.

2009 Budget Overview

GPNA Checking	2796.85
GPNA Savings	0
CD 1	2663.23
CD 2	2496.39
Total Assets	7956.47
Liabilities	0
Reimbursables	1165.28
Net worth	9121.75

2009 Budget report

	Budget	Actual
Membership	1600.00	1768.00
Newsletter	(600.00)	175.02
Flower Pots	0	(36.10)
Tennis	0	176.49
Egg Hunt	0	291.00
Spring Clean Up	(100.00)	0
Donations	1000.00	283.00
Grants	0	(1673.75)
Holiday Banquet	(300.00)	(311.34)
Operating Expense	(300.00)	(402.92)
Supporting Organizations	(500.00)	(415.00)
Board Disc. Fund	(500.00)	0
Interest	50.00	61.78
Park activities	(300.00)	0
Web Site	(150.00)	0
Total	(100.00)	(83.82)

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).

Free Tax Help Available At Yates School

The site for the annual free tax assistance is **Yates School, 32nd & Davenport St.** Tax help is available every **Wednesday** through **April 7**, from **1 to 3:30 p.m.** Everyone is welcome! AARP representatives will provide free tax help for our neighborhood for the 16th year in a row. Processing of basic tax returns and electronic filing will be available. No appointment is necessary; individuals will be helped on a first come, first serve basis. Please call **Jackie** at **551-3629** for more information. To be able to provide assistance, persons will need to bring the following:

1. Valid Picture I.D.
2. Copy of prior year's tax return, if available
3. Unemployment compensation statements
4. Copies of ALL W-2, 1098, 1099 Forms and the amount of other income received by you and your spouse
5. Tax Identification Number (example: Social Security Number, Individual Tax Identification Number) for you, your spouse and any others shown on the tax return
6. All forms indication federal income tax paid
7. Dependent care provider information (name, employer, ID, Social Security Number)
8. All receipts or canceled checks if itemizing deductions
9. Form 8332 or copy of divorce decree for non-custodial parent claiming child
10. Proof of Account Number and Routing Transit Number of the financial institution for direct deposit into a savings or checking account

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance 2009 In Review

In 2009, MNA engaged the following events and initiatives:

- *Midtown Sparkles* annual fireworks show at Field Club, which raised over \$2700 for the organization
- *Celebrate Midtown* event at Joslyn Castle, which raised \$5000 for the organization
- Re-tree Midtown Initiative, which successfully secured over \$14,000 in grants and planted over 60 trees in five member neighborhoods
- Created a six-month crime prevention task force composed of all players in the city with a vested interest in this topic, for the purpose of education and awareness

Duchesne Preschool

A Foundation For Life

Low student-teacher ratios

Highly qualified teachers

Christian environment includes classes in:

Art • Music • PE • Spanish • Computers

3-5 year old boys and girls

Enrollment begins in February!!

Call 558-6250

www.duchesneacademy.org

- Expanded MNA boundaries to include two new neighborhood associations

- Promoted MNA at the Restore Omaha Conference

This year, a new logo was created, along with a squirrel mascot, for the purpose of branding MNA for public awareness.

In August, an offsite brainstorming meeting was held to determine direction and goals for 2010. As a result of feedback from that session, it was determined that MNA would pursue educational initiatives related to the following topics: Historic Preservation, Crime Prevention, Code Enforcement, and Green Initiatives. Committees were formed and chairpersons identified. These workshops will be offered throughout 2010.

Members of MNA continued to participate and play active roles in community meetings that addressed issues of interest to midtown, such as the Veteran's Administration building project and Business and Community Development in Gifford Park. The organization also sent letters advocating issues that impacted our member neighborhood associations.

MNA also continued its partnership with Destination Midtown on a variety of initiatives, including the Spirit of Midtown Award Committee.

Neighborhood Associations belonging to the MNA include Aksarben-Elmwood Park, Bemis Park, Blackstone, Columbus Park, Dundee Memorial Park, Elmwood Park, Field Club, Ford Birthsite, Gifford Park, Hanscom Park, Leavenworth, Morton Meadows, North Gold Coast, and Park East.

Important Traffic Note

The on-ramp from Cuming St. to south-bound traffic on Highway 75 and I-480 will close on **March 15** and remain closed until sometime later in June 2010. Traffic will still be able to access I-480 east bound from Cuming St. The closing is needed to place concrete paving on the new on-ramp.

Restore Omaha 2010 Draws Older Property Enthusiasts

We estimated that over 250 people attended this year's 5th annual **Restore Omaha Conference** held March 5-6 at Metro Community College South Omaha Campus. The opening reception started Friday night at Frank's Pieces of the Past (814 South 14th St – Frank Horejsi, an architectural salvager since the 1980's displayed his amazing collection of old artifacts from some of the area's most memorable historic buildings). Attendees then had food & drinks at Lucile's in the Old Market (near 10th & Howard).

Saturday's conference included **Tim Reeder's** presentation "From Rags to Riches – The Restoration of a Grand Victorian". Most in the audience could relate to both the hard work and satisfaction of restoring an old house. Tim even showed a picture of a horse and carriage in front of his house taking folks to the Trans-Mississippi Exposition held in Omaha in 1898. **Donovan Rypkema**, a nationally renowned economist, was the keynote speaker. He spoke on commercial revitalization and how it spurs redevelopment in surrounding neighborhoods, and he presented ways to build a sustainable future through historic preservation. Saturday night after the conference, a few of us were lucky enough to have dinner with Donovan; we took the opportunity to absorb more of his great expertise and philosophy on the importance of saving and maintaining our neighborhood's older buildings and homes. You can find out more information at www.placeeconomics.com.

We had excellent breakout sessions to teach people how to fix up their older properties - these included stained glass restoration, hiring a contractor, stucco & plaster repair, window repair, Victorian gardens, Omaha's historic apartment buildings, Omaha's electrical code, and more. The day concluded with the Restoration Jam! where attendees shared pictures and experiences of their home projects and solutions. Many thanks to the volunteers who worked on the conference. And special thanks to GPNA volunteers (**Cynthia Shuck, John Barna, Luther & Deb Larson, Paul Mileris, Martin Janousek, and Chris & Sallie Foster**) who worked our GPNA booth to promote the good things in our neighborhood and community garden.

by Chris Foster



GPNA volunteer Cynthia Shuck and Orchard Hill Neighborhood Association President Jeannie Dickes worked our Restore Omaha booth (our neighborhood associations and community gardens shared a table).

Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law

4913 Underwood Avenue

558-5000



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**Happy
St. Patrick's Day!**

Leaders Are Growing At Gifford Park Community Garden

Gifford Park Community Garden (GPCG) relies upon its gardeners and volunteers to keep our greenspace beautiful, as well as maintain and grow our adult and children's programs. It takes these and so many more behind-the-scenes efforts, and we appreciate those who step forward to assume the extra responsibilities in their limited free time. While most of our board members will remain the same, two fantastic women will assume the leadership of GPCG in 2010. **Diane Kaye**, former Assistant Director, is replacing **Dana Freeman** as GPCG Director, and **Joy Doll** will fill the Assistant Director position. Diane has worked at the garden since its founding, and you can usually find her weeding and tending her roses to relieve the stress from her HR day-job. Joy Doll, and her husband **Mike**, are more recent gardeners at GPCG. You can often spot Joy walking to and from her OT position at Creighton University. She has been diligently applying for grant funding this winter for GPCG, and we really appreciate it. Please take the time to introduce yourself to these ladies and our other board members, and thank them for all their hard work!

2010 Community Garden Board Members

Director	::	Diane Kaye
Assistant Director	::	Joy Doll
Treasurer	::	Jackie Foster
Budget & Finance	::	Rob Parolek
Calling Committee	::	Sue Freeman
Greenhouse Feasibility	::	Mike Caban & Chris Foster
Membership	::	Mike Caban
Signage	::	Dana Carlton-Flint
Teen Market Garden	::	Cynthia Shuck
		Kate Bodmann
Equipment Maintenance	::	Chris Foster
Young Adult Advisors	::	Ana & Elena Carlson
Youth Garden Program	::	Dana Freeman

If you're excited about getting your hands dirty this growing season, consider joining your neighbors at GPCG near 35th & Cass Streets this growing season. The garden is a wonderful setting to meet others in your community while working and learning together, a benefit in addition to enriching your diet with healthy, locally grown produce. There aren't many available spaces, so make haste when contacting GPCG with your interest (GiffordParkGardens@gmail.com). Plot applications will be distributed March 15th and must be returned with all required fees by April 15th. Whether you garden in the neighborhood or not, mark your calendars for our **Season Opening on Saturday, May 8**. It's a free and fun event open to everyone as a way to kick-off another great year

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



growing in Gifford Park. More information on this and our free Youth Garden program in upcoming newsletters.

Your financial and in-kind contributions supplement the garden's income from plot rental fees and ensure that GPCG and its programs are able to continue functioning at the same exceptional level. GPCG has created a "wish list" of items that would be useful to have but cannot be purchased due to budgetary constraints. Send an email to our new account

(GiffordParkGardens@gmail.com) if you have something you would like to share with us.

GPCG WISH LIST by *Dana Freeman*

yard waste bags

mulch

set of carpentry hand tools (e.g., hammer, screwdriver, wrench, tape measure)

Look for these GPCG events coming this spring, and thank you for continuing to support and grow Gifford Park Community Garden.

- **March 9** :: NE Local Foods Network Conference, UNL East Campus Union
- **March 9** :: Omaha Council of Garden Clubs Meeting & Jan Riggensbach on "Fifty Fabulous Finds," 6:30PM @ Douglas/Sarpy Co. Extension Office
- **March 15** :: Garden plot applications distributed
- **March 20** :: Spring begins...
- **March 21** :: Real Food Connection 2010 w/ Slow Food Omaha, 1-4PM @ Douglas/Sarpy Co. Extension Office
- **April 6** :: GPCG meeting, 5:30-6:30PM @ Yates School
- **April 15** :: Garden plot applications & fees due
- **April 24** :: Neighborhood Garage Sale @ 33rd & California to benefit GPNA & GPCG
- **May 1** :: GPCG Spring Cleanup
- **May 8** :: Garden Season Opening Event
- **May 22** :: Youth Garden Week 1

What's Happening In the Neighborhood . . .

The GPNA would like to send its sincere condolences to the family of **Mary Kay Begley**, a longtime Gifford Park neighborhood resident, who died on February 15 at the age of 73. She served 21 years on the board of the Metropolitan Utilities District. Her survivors include husband **Dan**, 4 sons, and 13 grandchildren.

The GPNA also offers its condolences for the loss in November of **Jack Rusmisl** who lived at 36th & Davenport. Jack is survived by his wife **Jane** and son **Jesse**. The family recently donated many nice items for our GPNA garage sale. Jack was an Army Air Force bombardier and flew 75 missions in Japan in World War II.

Please keep longtime GPNA member and former president **Ron Yates** in your thoughts and prayers. Ron has been ill lately and in a tough battle. Most of you know Ron was one of the GPNA's founding fathers. Hang in there, Ron!

Although most of the record snowfall has melted, the GPNA would still like to remind residents that in the event of additional snows, walks need to be shoveled within 24 hours of a snowstorm. We thank those residents who were very prompt in attending to this task, and ask that everyone do so for the safety of folks trying to walk in the neighborhood. Walks left unshoveled may be cleared by city crews at the expense of the property owner.

The 21st annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt will be held at noon on **Saturday, April 3rd**. In order to prepare for the event, a park clean-up will be held at 10:30 a.m. Contact **Darryl 341-2742** or **Chris 342-6006** if you would like to assist with the event or make contributions.

Operation Playground

Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions students are going to re-build the playground located in the Gifford Park neighborhood! With your help, we are going to raise the funds and participate in a supervised build from Crouch Recreation. Students from Creighton would like to work together with neighborhood residents to design the playground, raise money, and help on the building day. Our projected re-build date is early September 2010. If you would like to donate to the project, or have ideas to share, please contact **Katie Mills** (katiemills@creighton.edu) or **Maria Doyle** (mariadoyle@creighton.edu)

Don't Forget: Day-light Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 14th

**For City Services, Information, or Complaints
Call: Mayor's Action Office
444-5555**



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



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE
Chris 342-6006

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

