



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

May 2010

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Neighborhood Survey Ready To Hit The Street

At our next neighborhood meeting on **May 13<sup>th</sup>** at Creighton University Medical Center, the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association along with Destination Midtown will be kicking off a summer long effort to implement a neighborhood wide survey to get feedback from the residents, renters, business owners, neighboring institutions, and neighborhood visitors. This survey is the result of a handful of meetings conducted over the past year with Destination Midtown and various Gifford Park residents and volunteers. It is from these meetings a survey was created and a summer long game plan developed. The goal is to complete the surveying by August in-order to compile the data and by late fall begin the process of looking at the future of the neighborhood based on this information.

Getting your feedback is very important to us so please fill out a survey when you have a chance. The future direction of our neighborhood will depend on what you tell us.

This survey will be available at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, in a future newsletter, distributed door to door, on our website, and at neighborhood events throughout the summer. If you are interested in helping out with this project please contact **Martin Janousek 558-4070** or **Chris Foster 290-8187**.

We encourage you to attend our next Gifford Park Neighborhood Association meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Creighton University Medical Center – Morrison Seminar Room to hear more about what we have planned and be one of the first people to take our survey. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided.

*by Martin Janousek*

## Next General Meeting Thursday, May 13

**Activity: Neighborhood Survey**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Creighton University  
Medical Center  
Morrison Seminar Room**

**Executive Meeting  
Thursday, May 27th  
At the Flint's**



## May Neighborhood Gathering

Take me out to the ball game....the one being played in Gifford Park! After 15 years of being dormant the Gifford Park ball diamond has been graded, the bleachers have been painted, the weeds have been pulled and **two** little league teams are using it for practice each week!

This will be the location for May's Neighborhood Gathering. GPNA will host an adult member softball game. Members 18 and older are encouraged to play ball with us. The gathering will start at **7:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, May 20th**, at the ball diamond and the game will start at **7:30**. Even if you don't play, come on out and cheer on your neighbors.

There will be free hot dogs and lemonade for members (for a fee to non members). As always you may join that night and partake in the fun. Memberships- Single \$10.00, Family \$15.00, and Business \$25.00.

***Don't Forget To  
VOTE!  
Primary Election  
Tuesday, May 11***



**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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Chris Hupp\* 750-3119

**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**

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**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

**WEEDS & LITTER**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**WELCOMING**

Julie Kalkowski\* 342-2103

\* denotes new officer, board, or committee member

**Home Repair Help from Habitat for Humanity**

In 2009, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha introduced the Roof and Repair program, an exciting new initiative that helps existing home owners maintain their property.

The Roof and Repair program offers a no-interest loan to current home owners for exterior repair projects. Along with the loan, Habitat also facilitates competitive bidding from reliable local contractors, to ensure that home owners receive a fair price and responsible, high-quality work.

The program is intended for individuals who make 80% of area median income (AMI) or less. Area median income is a measure of household income and scales according to the number of people in the household. 80% of AMI for a family of four, for instance, is \$53,680. There is no age requirement for home owners, and the program can be especially helpful to retired persons.

This year, Habitat hopes to expand its new program by 50% and is searching out home owners that could benefit from the program. Neighborhood members who could benefit from exterior repairs, or who know someone that could, are encouraged to contact **Ryan Paul Underwood** or **Barry Wingert** at Habitat for Humanity of Omaha (402)457-5657 or email Ryan at [RoofRepair@HabitatOmaha.org](mailto:RoofRepair@HabitatOmaha.org).

**Hábitat para Humanidad Ayuda con Reparaciones de Hogares**

En el 2009, Hábitat para Humanidad de Omaha introdujo el programa de Reparaciones de Techos, una iniciativa excitante que ayuda dueños de hogares mantener sus propiedades.

El programa de Reparaciones de Techos ofrece préstamos donde no se cobra interés para reparaciones al exterior de hogares a los dueños de esos hogares. Además del préstamo, Hábitat también facilita la puja competitiva de contratistas locales confiables, para asegurar que los dueños de hogares reciben un precio justo y trabajo de calidad responsable.

El intento del programa es para ayudar a individuos que ganan 80% o menos del sueldo mediano del área (AMI). *Area Medium Income (AMI) Sueldo Mediano del Área* es una medida del sueldo en el hogar y se mide de acuerdo con el número de personas viviendo en el hogar. 80% del AMI para una familia de cuatro personas, por ejemplo, es \$53,680. No hay requisitos de edad para calificar en el programa, y puede ser de ayuda especial para personas jubiladas.

Este año, Hábitat espera crecer este nuevo programa más de 50% y busca dueños de hogares que pueden beneficiar de este programa. Miembros del vecindario que pueden sacar beneficio para hacer reparaciones exteriores, o que conocen a alguien que el programa puede ayudar, les animamos comunicarse con **Ryan Paul Underwood**, o **Barry Wingert** en Hábitat para Humanidad de Omaha (402) 457-5657 o por email a: [RoofRepair@HabitatOmaha.org](mailto:RoofRepair@HabitatOmaha.org)

*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).*

**Happy Mother's Day!**



**TOOL LENDING HOTLINE**

Chris 342-6006



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

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



## Best Of Midtown Community Open House To Be Held At Turner Park

**Destination Midtown**, in partnership with the **Midtown Business Association** and the **Midtown Neighborhood Alliance** will celebrate the Best of Midtown at a community open house on **Thursday, May 13, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.** at **Midtown Crossing at Turner Park, 3110 Farnam St.** This free, family-friendly event will showcase successes from 2009 and highlight opportunities and projects in 2010.

"The Midtown Business Association is thrilled to co-sponsor the Best of Midtown," said **Chris Kilroy**, vice president of the Midtown Business Association. "Our 120-plus members are businesses of all sizes that have chosen to make Midtown Omaha home."

The Best of Midtown will also feature booths from a variety of Midtown businesses and organizations, along with displays of current and upcoming redevelopment projects in the area. If not just to stay informed, the Best of Midtown is a terrific opportunity for members of the community and surrounding neighborhoods to become more knowledgeable of the services that are provided in Midtown Omaha. A brief presentation and the Best of Midtown Awards ceremony will be held at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by comedy juggler **Jek Kelly**, and this year's Omaha Entertainment Award Artist of the Year, **Brad Hoshaw**. Food and refreshments will be provided.

"The recent additions of great mixed-use developments in Midtown have made living here even better," said **Mike Battershell**, secretary of the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance. "The neighborhoods are continuing to thrive with a diverse mix of opportunities for us to do everything that makes Omaha great. From shopping to trails and dining to the arts, Midtown is the best place to be!"

"The goal of the Best of Midtown Awards is to recognize the outstanding contribution of an individual, an organization, and a business that has made Midtown a premier place to live, work, shop, and play," said **Jamie Grayson-Berglund**, director of community development for the Greater Omaha Chamber. "There are so many committed and generous people, businesses, and organizations who work hard everyday to make Midtown great - we want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank them in a very public way."

## Duchesne Preschool

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## AAARP Sponsors Document Shredding

Do you need help protecting your personal information from identity thieves?

Take advantage of the **Free Document Shredding Event** to be held **Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**, from **9 am to 1 pm** at the **Center Mall, 42<sup>nd</sup> and Center Sts.** Four commercial shredders will be available in the Mall's top level east parking lot.

This free service, sponsored by the **AARP Nebraska Information Center** and **Shred-It**, will allow individuals to drive thru and drop off up to two containers of personal documents at the shredders, with unloading assistance. For more information call the **AARP Information Center, 398-9568.**



**Thanks to those who have served and protected our country**

## Grant Corner

Grant writing season is upon us and boy have the GPNA grant writers (**Joy Doll** and **Chris Hupp**) been busy. With over 10 grants applied for, the the harvest has begun. To date we have received:

\$5000.00 Mayor's Grant for benches, mulch, bike racks, and composters

\$2800.00 from the Peter Kiewit Foundation for a shed, foundation, tools and mulch to help the Teen Market Garden.

\$1000.00 Green America Award given in plant material for the garden. We were awarded 2nd place nationally.

\$2500.00 (Anonymous Donor) For safety measures benefiting the entire neighborhood.

*by Dana-Carlton Flint*

## Gifford Park Community Garden Looks Forward To Planting Season

By the time that this article has been published our annual garden clean-up will be just a memory. This upcoming Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon, the call has gone out to all Community Gardeners to spruce and wake up the garden for our opening on May 8th. **Chris Foster** has tilled the plots that were approved for this, and many eager gardeners have already started cold crop items such as lettuce, onions, and garlic. There are still plots available. Should you wish to rent a plot, please contact **Mike Caban 341-4722**.

We are so excited at the garden as just recently we received three outstanding awards. We were just notified this past weekend that our application for the Mayor's grant for \$5,000 was approved; therefore, look for new and exciting additions at the garden. We also received notification that we were approved for the Green America grant for \$1,000. The Green America grant is for plants, and we are selecting wonderful additions for our permanent beds as well as developing other areas of our space. The third gift is near and dear to me. Star Roses in Texas awarded Gifford Park Community Garden 45 new roses. I just picked up this delivery, which was housed until they were ready at Papio Valley Nursery.

The Gifford Park Community Board and I are working on the perfect spot for development of a new rose bed. Under direction from Destination Midtown, we have changed the vision of our Identity Garden at the corner of 33rd and Cass to being more perennial-based. If you haven't gotten a chance to view the new permanent additions of peony, salvia, baptista, and iris to this bed, please check out the fabulous work that **Sandy Freeman** has accomplished. **Bob Hutton** has gotten the water turned on so that Sandy can water and maintain this bed. **Al Moellenbeck** cut and donated 200 wood garden stakes. The new roses most likely will go into our park close to this updated Identity Garden to be closer to water as roses adore 2 to 3 inches of water weekly during their growing season. All of the roses that we were gifted are hardy shrub roses which once established need very little care and tending.

This past weekend, I was notified of a random gorilla gardening event. One of our new additions to the neighborhood, **Ty Osborne**, crafted a new flower bed in our park in an area which had never been tended before. Please stop by and visit us at our opening on May 8th. Please check out our newly graded baseball field in the park. Please enjoy our newly tended beds. Look for new additions to our garden, and please stop by.

*by Diane Kaye*

## 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**



## Neighborhood Garage Sale Recap

On Saturday, April 24, the Gifford Park Neighborhood held a neighborhood-wide garage sale. We once again managed to dodge rain chances, and the weather turned out very nice. The GPNA paid for an ad in the **Omaha World-Herald** to promote garage sales in the Gifford Park Neighborhood. We appreciate those of you who donated garage sale items to the GPNA for our association and community garden fundraiser held in the business district near 33rd & California St. – we netted just over \$600! Many thanks again to our fearless garage sale leader **Neil Liberty** who organized, priced, and did a GREAT job selling items. Special thanks to **Jill Westfall** who assisted Neil and was a big help. Thanks to other volunteers who helped with a variety of tasks including setting up tables, carrying items, and put out garage sale signs around the neighborhood - **Mary Liberty, Martin Janousek, Luther Larson, Diane Kaye, Max Kaye, Ben Spahn, Derek Peterson, Rod Flint & Dana Carlton-Flint, Darryl Hutton, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Emerick Huber, Billy Dooly, Lloyd Canfield, and Chris & Sallie Foster**. Besides making \$, this event always brings familiar folks and some new faces to our neighborhood, adds positive street life, and we do our part to recycle and reuse. Great effort by everyone!

*by Chris Foster*



## Summer Is All About Having Fun, And So Is The Summer Sun Dawg Playground Program

This program was expanded into a city-wide FREE program in 1994. 2010 marks the 16th **Summer Sun Dawg Playground Program** of the Omaha Parks and Recreation Department.

The program offers a wide variety of recreation activities to children ages 6 – 15 and it's all free! With neighborhood sites throughout the city, Playground Leaders create a fun-filled environment with activities including sports, games, arts and crafts and nature activities.

Once again, Gifford Park will be a full-time site. The program begins **Monday, June 14th**, and ends **Thursday, Aug 5th**. Normal hours of operation are **Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Pre-registration is not required; parents need to register at the site on the child's first day. *The Summer Sun Dawg Playground Program is designed to provide activities for children and is not a substitute for day camp or childcare.*

There is always something going on at a Summer Sun Dawg Playground sites; it may be a hot game of box hockey or a cool water balloon fight. In addition to the activities that happen everyday, the Summer Sun Dawg Playground Program enjoys a rich tradition of annual special events including Omaha Royals baseball game, roller skating, bowling, and the ever popular Henry Doorly Zoo.

The Summer Sun Dawg Playground Program offers even more than a fun time; it fosters self-esteem and friendships and provides participants with positive and caring role models. Also, it lets parents feel good about sending their children to their neighborhood playground, knowing that there will be adult supervision. Kids and parents agree, the Summer Sun Dawg Playground Program is where it's at! Please contact **444-4FUN** for more information.



### COME TO *the* MARKET


**Every Saturday Morning**

May 1 - October 9, 2010

8:00 am - 12:30 pm

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## Report Crime!

There is a great opportunity for us as a neighborhood to help law enforcement and help our own neighborhood, especially this time of year as the weather gets warmer and more people are out. Here are things you can do: Observe and report suspicious activity (it's the right thing to do and it helps to document issues); When calling 911 be willing to meet with officers even if you meet at a nearby location (the call will be given a higher priority); If possible, take pictures and provide as much information as you can. Northeast Police Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Theola Cooper (444-3367, [theola.cooper@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:theola.cooper@ci.omaha.ne.us)) is an excellent resource to contact if you have specific information on problem issues. Remember the old saying "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem."

Visit [www.midtownmonitor.com](http://www.midtownmonitor.com)  
For Midtown News and Events

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) is now on **Facebook**. The Facebook Page has reached 25 fans, so we are able to create a custom address to direct people to rather than telling them to search for the page. Tell your friends they can find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GiffordPark](http://www.facebook.com/GiffordPark). Facebook will provide a great forum for all of us who love the neighborhood and want to share with others who have similar interests.

## Spring Cleanup - Another Success

This year's GPNA spring cleanup held Saturday, April 17, was another success thanks to a beautiful day and many wonderful volunteers. A steady stream of cars, vans, trucks, trailers, and walkers brought 3 dumpster truckloads of trash to the Gifford Park parking lot. The association added \$586 to its coffers during the cleanup: \$340 in memberships, \$24 in tire collections, \$40 in air conditioner collections, and \$182 in donations. Once again we had **Eric McGhee** and his helpers present to help sort out recyclables from the rubbish. Not sure I can mention all who helped, but would like to thank **Jim Wilwerding, Sue Wilwerding, and Dana Carlton-Flint** for their help at the membership table, **Mike Caban** for greeting and directing all the traffic, **Lloyd Canfield, Burt Blum, Terry Wildering Bob Hutton, and Darryl Hutton** for helping with unloading. We also had a group that drove around the neighborhood and picked up trash. This group included **Paul Mileris, Chris Foster, Jim Wilwerding, Jason Morris, Ben Spahn, Jim Kyler, Jerry Reimer, Daniel Lawse, Tom Thompsen, Eric Neutzling, Amy Redfield,** and many students from Creighton. Others who helped were **Neil Liberty** (garage sale items), **Mike Bacome,** and **Roger Freeman.** Also a big thanks to **Bob Trep** for hauling the 2 pickup loads of tires from Gifford Park to the tire dumpsite at St. Vincent DePaul at 22nd and Leavenworth. Thanks to the **City of Omaha** and **Keep Omaha Beautiful** for providing the compactors and other resources. Not to forget anyone, thanks to all of you that participated in making the neighborhood a better place for all who live here.

*by Luther Larson*

Editor's Note: KPTM FOX 42 news did a very nice news story of the cleanup (interviewed **Luther Larson**) and **Creighton Physical Therapy** students working on the baseball diamond (interviewed **Kyla Getz**). Great job Luther; very well organized!



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# GIFFORD PARK TENNIS BLOCK PARTY

Sponsored by the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, Nebraska Tennis Association, Omaha Tennis Association, and the City of Omaha



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 26**

**6-7:30 PM**

**GIFFORD PARK TENNIS COURTS**

**33<sup>rd</sup> & Cass**

(Rain date- Thursday, May 27 6-7:30 pm)

**Join us for a FREE evening of TENNIS.**

**We have the racket and ball.**



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE  
SUMMER TENNIS PROGRAMS AT GIFFORD PARK**

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

Many thanks to AARP volunteers **Jackie Foster, Pat Prochaska, Sharen Rotolo, and Joyce Koenig** who provided free tax help in our neighborhood again for the 16th year in a row for this program. They processed a total of 48 returns this year, 34 electronically filed. Thanks to **Omaha Public Schools** and **Yates School** for hosting this year's site. This was likely the last year for Jackie heading up this program for our Gifford Park neighborhood site; the GPNA thanks her for 16 years of providing this valuable service to neighborhood residents.

The **Joslyn Castle Trust** and the **NE/IA Chapter of ASID** is seeking a **2011 Designer Showhouse**. They are looking for a home with historic significance and 20 – 25 design spaces. Homeowners will receive special pricing on plumbing fixtures, cabinetry, countertops, paint, wall coverings, and flooring. They will also have the opportunity to purchase furniture, window coverings and decorative items at discount from the designers. Proceeds from the ticket will be used for the continuing restoration and preservation of the Joslyn Castle buildings and grounds. If you need more information or are interested in featuring your home as the next exciting Designer Showhouse, call **Nano Little** at the Joslyn Castle, **595-2199**.

The **Community Bike Project** is setting out on a two-year project to establish bike library programs at local campuses. The details of this work are still under formation; however the result will be to increase access to bicycles and safe cycling practices for students. Contact us at **omahabike@gmail.com** if you're interested in support of this project. **Bike Sales - Fridays 6-8 p.m.** - Need a decent second-hand bike and want to help support our programs? Be sure to stop in on Fridays at **Community Bike Shop Omaha** in the business district at 33rd & California and check out the selection of bikes for sale.

## Membership Application

v2009.03.30

### Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)

The GPNA Membership Year runs from January 1 through December 31.

Type of Membership:  Single (\$10.00)  Family (\$15.00)  Business (\$25.00)

Today's Date:

Name (1):  E-Mail (1):

Name (2):  E-Mail (2):

Name (3):  E-Mail (3):

Name (4):  E-Mail (4):

Name (5):  E-Mail (5):

Address:

City:  State:  Zip Code:

Telephone:

### Volunteer Opportunities! I am interested in helping out with...

Please indicate areas of interest:

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup/Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership             | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Captain       | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Garden     | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Cleanup     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities      | <input type="checkbox"/> History             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Cleanup       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Tenant Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch Group         | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Walks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Liaison         | <input type="checkbox"/> Call Committee      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Program   | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Banquet    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Lending           |  |   |   |

Mail check or money order with this completed Membership Application Form to:

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 31462

Omaha, NE 68131-0462

For additional information about GPNA, please visit our website:

[www.GiffordParkOmaha.org](http://www.GiffordParkOmaha.org)

