



Gifford Park's Pride

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

November 2010

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood Survey Response Meeting Promotes Important Discussions

The summer-long Gifford Park Neighborhood Survey came closer to completion a few weeks ago when the results were shared with over 30 people attending the scheduled presentation on Wednesday evening, October 20th, at the Creighton University Medical Center. Many new faces along with a sprinkling of the "tried and true" were in attendance. **Jamie Grayson-Berglund** from Destination Midtown, **Susana Escudero** our Destination Midtown intern along with **Jill Westfall**, **Luther Larson**, **Chris Foster** and **Martin Janousek** took turns presenting and answering questions. There were plenty of good questions and conversations throughout the evening. By the time it was over, it had become a great time to meet some new faces and share in the enthusiasm of the neighborhood. Over the next few weeks the committee will be finalizing the data and deciding on the next steps. There has been a discussion to post the results both on the neighborhood website and in future newsletters. If you were one of the lucky to have attended the meeting and would like to get more involved or talk more about the results please give us a call. A Big Thank You goes out to all the volunteers who helped with the survey and because of it our neighborhood is a better place.

Have a great and happy Thanksgiving.

by Martin Janousek



22nd Annual Holiday Members' Gathering
Thursday, December 9
Watch your mail for details!

Happy Thanksgiving!

From the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association



Next General Meeting
Thursday, November 11

Election Of Officers

7:00 P.M.

**Creighton University
Medical Center
Morrison Seminar Room**

Executive Meeting
Thursday, November 18
At the Flint's

2011 Officers, Board Nominees Ready For Vote

The Nomination Committee will present the following slate of officers and board members for the GPNA in 2011. Voting will take place at the general meeting on November 11. Please plan on attending; a quorum will be necessary for passage of this slate.

OFFICERS

President: **Luther Larson**
Vice President: **Jill Westfall**
Secretary: **Dana Carlton-Flint**
Treasurer: **Diane Kaye**

BOARD

Garden Representative: **Diane Kaye**
Landlord Representative: **Chris Foster**
Business Representative: **Martin Janousek**
Member at large: **Andy Mattews**
Member at large: **Kevin Deese**

Thank you to all of the volunteers listed above for stepping forward to help our neighborhood grow!

by Dana Carlton-Flint

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:**

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

Diane Kaye 341-4146

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

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).

Campaign For LOCAL Control Gains Momentum

On October 2nd, nearly 60 people gathered in Memorial Park for a rally to kick off the **LOCAL** Campaign where neighbors, community groups and others are working to **Let Omaha Control its Alcohol Landscape**.

The campaign emerged from a growing frustration about the increasing number of problem alcohol outlets in Omaha, adding to the decline of our neighborhoods, reducing the economic viability of the community and contributing to the violence in our streets. The state system for monitoring liquor license business operations and responding to our community's needs is broken. The voices of residents are ignored while the economic interests of a powerful industry are protected.

But there is hope. Residents in neighborhoods across Omaha are determined to work with the Omaha City Council, city leaders, community groups, and their neighbors to pass a local zoning ordinance to remedy the problem. Further, the group will partner with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to craft a model land-use ordinance that will be used at a national level to assist other communities fighting similar issues.

Municipalities in Nebraska have the ability to regulate community standards with regard to liquor outlets by using land-use or zoning ordinances. Nebraska statute gives express direction to the state to consider local zoning ordinances when granting liquor licenses.

WE ARE NOT ALONE

In a move that supports the need for a local ordinance, the Planning Board voted for the inclusion of Environment Omaha's strategies to decrease alcohol accessibility in neighborhoods as part of the City's Master Plan. Further, Dr. Robert Muelleman, director of UNMC's emergency department, Omaha developer Jerry Reimer of Urban Village Development and Del Bomberger, CEO of the Stephen Center have all lent their support to the ordinance.

WHAT WILL AN ORDINANCE LOOK LIKE?

It will have conditions in place that align with our community standards. We may choose, for instance, to reinstate a distance restriction from churches to liquor outlets. The state just removed that restriction. We may want expectations that if a business tells the city and the neighbors that it intends to be a grocery store, that it not morph into a liquor store disguised as a grocery store by setting liquor-to-food ratios.

We would also look at implementing nuisance abatement standards to guarantee a safe environment for neighborhoods: appropriate lighting, noise and littering restrictions, for instance.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

We need your help and input for the ordinance to be successful. Our goal is to have the ordinance before the City Council next spring. From now until the beginning of the year, we will hold meetings to craft the ordinance. If you or your organization/association would like to be involved, please send us a note at thelocalcampaign@gmail.com or join our Facebook page at "The **LOCAL** Campaign" to receive important updates.

By phone, you can call **963-9047** (main number),

Chris Foster (290-8187) or **Margie Magnuson (554-0775)**.

by Chris Foster



Community Bike Project Update

Fall is upon us and although the Community Bike Shop's open shop hours have calmed down a bit, we're staying busy with lots of great projects.

First off, for all of you who would like to learn how to work on your own bike—whether that means changing a flat tire or overhauling your wheels—we're running a series of maintenance and repair classes. Our next session, "Derailleurs," is Tuesday evening, November 9th, 6-8pm, and subsequent classes will continue every two weeks on Tuesday nights at 6pm. The class schedule is up on CBPO's website and the cost is \$10/session or \$100 for all twelve.

Secondly, the Community Bike Project has been working to help local universities and colleges to improve bicycling opportunities for students, faculty, and staff, and these efforts are bearing the first fruit. In the next few months, we will be providing Metro Community College with 15 bikes and 23 bike racks for their north campus, after a series of conversations with MCC personnel to determine their needs. Dialogues with Creighton, UNO, and College of Saint Mary are ongoing, and we look forward to helping them achieve their bicycling goals, too. These efforts will improve transportation around campuses, as well as provide more connections between our local campuses and our communities surrounding them—including Gifford Park.

In the months ahead, look for some changes in the look of our shop at 525 North 33rd Street. We're planning some renovations that we hope will make the shop an even friendlier place to stop by. I don't want to give it all away—you'll just have to come see for yourself.

One last note: moving into winter, in November, we will be reducing our open shop hours down to one day a week—Saturday from noon to 4pm. If you're in a jam with a bike during the week, if you have a bike to donate, or if you just want to say hi or ask a question, you can always call or email us (402-957-2453 or info@communitybikeproject.org). Have a great November!

*by Matt Martin, Executive Director
Community Bike Project Omaha*



16th Annual Haunted House Draws Record Number

Lots of volunteers and great fall weather with temperatures in the 60's helped draw a record number of kids and made the **16th Annual PKA Fraternity Halloween Haunted House** a big success. The event, held Friday, October 29, started at 6 pm for 10 years old and under, then got scarier starting at 6:30 pm for any ages who dared enter. Those who made it through got treats in the Coach House at the end. Many thanks to **Armeen Mehrabani** and **Connor O'Neill** with the PKA Fraternity for organizing their members for this event, and also for including the **Delta Zeta** sorority this year. We also had great help from GPNA members who either volunteered and/or donated items and treats: **Lois Baumhover, Jan Franks, Brittany Rubek, Betty Slayden, Tiffaney Slayden, Jim Wilwerding, Bob Hutton, Darryl Hutton, Tyler White, Quannie Nance, Jackie Foster, Steve & Tiare Weak, Stuart Shell & Dana Freeman, Chris & Sallie Foster, and Mike Caban.** Betty was able to get donations from **Oriental Trading Company**, and Lois (as she has done many times in the past) donated a lot of Halloween items for this event - thanks!

by Chris Foster

Fall Gardening

Every spring I have a long “to-do” list. So many things to do in the garden after being cooped up all winter indoors. I have had too many months to research new plants on the Internet and must visit garden centers and nurseries to find all these new, exciting plants I have been reading about in magazines, websites, and catalogs. I need to check them out to see if the “New” and “Improved” version is better than what I have.

The list is endless with: preparing new garden beds, mulching, weeding, planting my vegetable garden, finding where I put my tools last fall.....

Then summer hits. Weeding never ceases. Dead-heading perennials and roses, harvesting vegetables, watering everything, fertilizing everything, and then of course....more mulching. Where this mulch goes...only the shadow knows.

Fall sets in. The temperatures cool, sweaters and sweatshirts come out of tubs in the basement. And what about gardening? Is it over for the season? Not a chance! Dividing spring and blooming perennials, moving plants, re-designing gardens, planting trees, bushes, perennials, and bulbs are all activities that can be accomplished before winter sets in. In fact, you can get rock-bottom low prices on left-over merchandise now, and I have found fall an outstanding time to plant. Your new additions have the entire winter to get settled in prior to spring.

Fall is a time for reflection and changes. Looking back over the growing season, we can contemplate our successes and failures in our gardens – however big or small. This year I learned that I cannot plant annuals near my husband’s smoker as he steps on them. Next year it would be better to mulch and then place a pot in that space so that the plants survive. I will also strive not to purchase so many bulbs. I am still planting with approximately 200 yet to go.

Our fall has been very dry. Please continue to water. Trees, bushes, and perennials should be given 1 inch of water every week until the ground freezes.

Fall is a great time to see your garden’s structure. As leaves turn colors and drop, a plant’s bark and branching becomes dominant. Does your tree have the shape that you want? Are your bushes growing as you desire? Take time to prune now while it is still pleasant outside and they are still picking up yard waste.

Take some time this fall to get your mower and other equipment ready for storage. Ensure that your shovels are cleaned and hung/stored for next year’s use. This really is the only time that my poor shovels are clean. I

am so bad at this. Next year however, I will strive to be better.

Before snow flies and the ground freezes, November is your last chance in Zone 4 to plant your bulbs including garlic bulbs. I really like garlic. It reminds me of a swan as it comes up before blooming. It’s also a time to dig up your Canna, Dahlia, Gladiolus, Calla, Elephant Ear, and another tender bulbs that will not survive the winter. Please place these in a “paper” not plastic bag and store in your basement where they will not get wet. As always, yardwaste collection will continue until the week following Thanksgiving. Your regular collection day, the Week of November 29 to December 3, 2010, will be your final yardwaste collection in 2010.

We have had an outstanding fall this year. Remember, the season may be late, but it’s not over yet! Happy Gardening!

by Diane Kaye

Redesign Project Continues

The **Gifford Park Community Garden (GPCG)** at 35th & Cass has been going through a significant redesign during October and should finish in November. Some site regrading and a new rear retaining wall (replacing the old failing wall) will add additional garden space on the west side of the garden. I want to personally thank the many fine folks who volunteered to do a lot of work needed to prepare for the project, including transplanting perennials, storing fencing and other items off-site and out of the way, final harvesting of vegetables, and overall help. Volunteers included: Creighton Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Brothers (**Marty Althoff, Kevin Cunningham, Thomas Helget, Joe Knauf, Armeen Mehrabani, Collin O’Neill, Connor O’Neill, Vishal Pahel, John Ramsey, Ryan Ricke, Will Thomas**), UNO Goodrich Student Association Members (**Natasha Fields, Tania Finch, Mollie Moberg, Seth Lienemann, Nick Britton**), GPCG’s Membership Chair **Mike Caban**, City Sprouts Co-Director **Jeannie Dickes, Chris Foster**, Youth Garden leaders **Dana & Sue Freeman, Sally Jacobs**, GPCG Director **Diane Kaye & son Max, Roger & Sandy Freeman, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Al Moellenbeck, Amy Redfield, Luther & Deb Larson, Marsha Sullivan, Jane Wilson**, and youth gardeners **Julian Weak and Alicia & Jesse Ramirez**. Thank you to GPNA President **Dana Carlton-Flint**, Dana & Sue, and **James Nordaker** for providing refreshments for our hardworking volunteers. Note: much of the garden will be closed during the redesign since this will be a construction site; we appreciate everyone’s patience and look forward to the additional gardening space.

by Chris Foster

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

558-5000



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



A.V. Sorensen Community Center
4808 Cass Street 444-5596

Come check out your neighborhood Community Center.

We have a wide variety of **fitness classes, weight room** and a **cardio room.**

Everything you need to stay in shape this winter.

Jazzercise Pick-up Basketball Tai Chi Pilates Yoga Stability Ball
 Senior Yoga Kids Yoga Aikido
 Women's Weight Lifting Tae Kwon Do Shinkendo

Don't forget about the little ones.

We have a big variety of classes just for the kids.

Parent & Tot Gym Time Ballet Art Classes Tae Kwon Do Kids Yoga
 Soccer Munchins on the Move Jump-n-Jax Special Events

 **Parks and Recreation**
"Keeping Omaha Active"

Santa is Coming to A.V. Sorensen

Friday, Dec 3rd 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Photo's with Santa! Bring your kids and pets take a picture with Santa. Please bring your own camera.

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

Many thanks to the **Omaha Tennis Association** (Development Fund) for awarding ten junior scholarships this year totaling \$1,100 to participants of the Gifford Park Youth Tennis program. The funds help pay for ten 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.

Again this year thanks to **Bob Hutton** for “winterizing” our water supplies and backflow preventers in the community garden and Gifford Park. This ensures water lines are free of water and pipes won’t break. Thanks Bob.

Have you noticed how nice the Gifford Park playground area looks lately? New resident and GPNA member **Kevin Deese** organized a group of volunteers to dig up and remove all the sand burs that had taken over many parts of the sand. This has been a problem for years for kids playing around the playground (and even pets too). Thanks, Kevin, for making a big difference!

Mark your calendars for the annual **Restore Omaha Conference and Exhibition** scheduled for **Saturday, March 5, 2010**, at Metropolitan Community College, South Omaha Campus. Now in its sixth year, Restore Omaha is an organization that teaches and motivates the public to restore and preserve older properties. Go to www.restoreomaha.org for conference details as they become available. For questions about Restore Omaha, contact **402-968-3349** or nmalone@thearchitecturaloffices.com

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

