



Gifford Park's Pride

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

December 2010

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Holiday Spirit Abounds In Gifford Park Neighborhood

It is very apparent that the holidays aren't too far off when looking around the Gifford Park Neighborhood. Many houses and apartment buildings are decorated to help celebrate this wonderful time of the year. If you're looking for a fun way to celebrate before the holidays, pack the family up in the car or van and take a tour of the neighborhood - there's a beautiful variety of decorations on every street. Some notable addresses from last year are listed below:

152 N 35th	352 N 35th
621 N 36th	3036 Cass
715 N 36th	803 N 35th
3212 California	621 N 33rd
3332 California	3502 Burt
3405 California	3401 Webster
3408 California	3429 Webster
3410 California	3413 Webster
3413 California	3408 Webster
3514 California	3405 Webster
3611 California	3417 Webster
3702 Cass	3416 Cass (community garden)
3317 Cass	

Once again, representatives from the GPNA will travel through the neighborhood one evening before Christmas in search of the best holiday displays. This year, that date will be Thursday, December 23rd. The "winning" addresses will be printed in the January/February edition of the newsletter - so don't forget, make sure your lights are on on the 23rd!



**Holiday Banquet
For GPNA Members
Reservation Required
(Deadline: Dec. 6)**

Thursday, December 9

**No December Executive Meeting
No January General Meeting**

Officers, Board Members In Place For 2011

The following GPNA members were elected to their positions at the November General Meeting held on November 11:

OFFICERS

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

BOARD

Garden Representative: **Joy Doll**
Landlord Representative: **Chris Foster**
Business Representative: **Martin Janousek**
Member at large: **Andy Matthews**
Member at large: **Kevin Deese**

Thank you to all of the members listed above for stepping forward to volunteer your time and talents to make our neighborhood a better place to live!

An especially big thank-you goes to our outgoing officers, especially our president **Dana-Carlton Flint**. (She's so wonderful, she has volunteered to stay on as the secretary! That's dedication!) We appreciate the many hours you **all** have put in over the past year - you **are** making a difference, both in the neighborhood and the city. The GPNA continues to be a leader in neighborhood organizational groups because of the efforts of you all!

by Sue Wilwerding

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

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

President's Column

Holiday Greetings, neighbors!!! I cannot believe how time has flown by. It seems like yesterday that I was approached about leading our neighborhood association on its next adventure and in a few weeks I will be turning the reins over to **Luther Larson**. I will say it has been an exciting journey. One of the things I found most interesting in the last couple years was that when you say Gifford Park....people listen. Everyone wants to know our secret for success....why we have so many members, how we get volunteers, how we are able to host so many events, how our garden grows, how we tackle graffiti - the list goes on and on. My response is simple: our neighbors care about where we live and want to make it the best neighborhood it can be. I am proud to have been in a leadership role for GPNA the last two years and I thank all of you for that opportunity.

We have all really accomplished great things. The list includes safety lighting installed in 14 locations (thanks to an anonymous donor, **Darryl Hutton**, and **Jim Wilwerding**), graffiti being cut down by 80% (thanks to **Chris Foster**, **Sandy Freeman**, and **Chris Jerram** our City Councilman,) less trash on our streets and yards (thanks to **Roger Freeman**, **Rodney** and **Curtis Flint**, **Creighton University OT students**, the **Pike House guys**, and all our neighbors who helped with our annual clean-up), awesome fundraising/grant writing - we received grants/funding from **Mutual of Omaha Foundation**, **Peter Kiewit Foundation**, **City of Omaha**, **Nature Hills**, **Whole Foods**, **Sally Jacobs**, **FDR**, and anonymous donors (thanks to **Chris Hupp**, **Neil Liberty**, **Joy Doll**, **Luther Larson**, **Martin Janousek**, and **Diane Kaye**), neighborhood building with a neighborhood-wide survey (thanks to **Jill Westfall**, **Luther Larson**, and **Martin Janousek**), neighborhood beautification, flower pots in the business district, new shelter roof, and grading of the baseball diamond (thanks to **Chris Foster**, **Brooke Bench Pat Slaven** (Parks Dept), lower crime stats (thanks to watchful neighbors and **OPD**), neighborhood communication (thanks to **Sue Wilwerding**, **Dana Freeman/Stuart Shell**, the **Carlson Family**, **Dan Bodman**, **Chris Foster**, and everyone who submitted articles for the newsletter) and we also hosted a series of events that brought others into our neighborhood such as the Easter Egg Hunt (**Darryl Hutton**, **Jan Franks**, **Slaven's James Nordaker**, and all who donated to the cause) , GPNA Garden kick-off and pot lucks (**Diane Kaye**, **Joy Doll**, **Neil Liberty**, **Chris Foster**, **Mike Caban**, **Sue** and **Don Freeman**, **Dana Freeman**, **Stuart Shell**), GPNA Childrens Garden program (**Dana** and **Sue Freeman** and all parent volunteers), Tennis Program (**Chris Foster**, **Jackie Foster**, **Roger Freeman**, and parent volunteers), National Night Out (**Chris Foster**, **Stuart Shell**, **GPNA Board** and numerous other volunteers), Neighborhood Garage Sale (**Neil Liberty**, **Chris Foster**, **Luther Larson**, **Martin Janousek**, **Rod Flint**, **Jill Westfall** and many other volunteers), GPNA Farmers Market (**Martin Janousek**, **Cynthia Shuck** and the teen farmers), Teen Market Garden (**Cynthia Shuck**, **John Barna**, parent volunteers and teen farmers), and the Pike Haunted House.

Again I say WOW!! Gifford Park is an awesome place to live. Thank you to everyone who helped to make my job easier (the GPNA Board of both the neighborhood and the garden, volunteers both large and small, and donors who believe in what we do). I have tried to thank everyone and I am sure I have missed some great neighborhood volunteers...for that I apologize but know that everything you do for GPNA matters.

Thank you for electing me as your leader, I can't wait to see what 2011 brings!

by Dana Carlton-Flint

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)**.

Cub Scout Pack 17
and Boy Scout Troop
42

Christmas Tree
Collection
Service Project



The Dundee Neighborhood Scouts are again offering to pick up your Christmas tree for recycling. The dates are:

- Monday, December 27, 2010
- Sunday, January 2, 2011
- Saturday, January 8, 2011

Scouts will complete requirements toward their World Conservation Award. This project demonstrates renewable resources, solid waste reduction, and community service in our neighborhood. Cash donations accepted. Thank you!

To have your tree on our schedule:

1. Return form (below)
2. Remove decorations from your tree
3. Place tree on your curb by 9 a.m.

**Cub Scout Pack 17
Christmas Tree Collection**

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation Enclosed: _____

Collection Date: Dec. 27 Jan 2 Jan 8
(circle one)

Size of tree: (circle one) large small

Return by December 23 to:
Pack 17, c/o Marc Anderson, 4914 Chicago St.,
Omaha, NE 68132
or call 558-0727, or email: anderson4914@msn.com
to make a reservation

Please make checks payable to Pack 17

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**Midtown Neighborhood Alliance
Update**

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA) is excited to announce the development of a midtown neighborhood website. We know websites are expensive so it was important that each neighborhood had its own member page to keep one another up-to-date on relevant issues. In addition to each neighborhood page the site will have an interactive map to locate neighborhoods, a communication hub, a resource and links page, & "get involved" and "contact us" features. Content creation and testing are occurring over the next several months. Look for an official launch in January 2011.

MNA is also kicking off the 2011 **ReTree Midtown Initiative**. We have funding and are looking for locations to plant new trees in city rights-of-way or public parks. If you wish to join the ReTree team and bring new, green initiatives branch by branch to the Gifford Park Neighborhood or would simply like a tree in your yard's right-of-way, then contact **Cynthia** by phone **556-2090** or **John** via email at jhr13748@cox.net for details. Last year, MNA planted 82 trees in midtown at a total cost of \$25,000.

A big welcome to the Neighborhood Center which is MNA's newest At-Large board member. **Crystal Rhoades**, Assistant Director, and resident of Morton Meadows, is the new representative. Welcome, Crystal, and a big welcome to all the new businesses investing in Midtown neighborhoods, especially **Ak-Sar-Ben Cinema**, **Crave Restaurant**, **The Afternoon**, **Wohlner's Grocery**, **The Element Hotel**, **Marcus Midtown Cinema** and **Tommy Colina's Kitchen**.

by Cynthia Shuck

Visit www.midtownmonitor.com
For Midtown News and Events

Poinsettias - The Plants Of Christmas

OK....what's red, purple, pink, white, and bi-colored? Give up? Think hard....it's December. What would most individuals have in their houses plant-wise for the holiday season?

Poinsettia is the answer. I know you knew that. In fact, I am sure that you are getting ready on December 12th for National Poinsettia Day, which was established by an Act of Congress to commemorate Joel Poinsett and the plant that has become symbolic with Christmas.

Joel Poinsett was really the first of three people responsible for this plant's popularity. Joel was the Ambassador to Mexico from 1825 to 1829. Joel also founded the Smithsonian Institution. It turns out that Joel Roberts Poinsett was an avid botanist, and sent plants from Mexico to his own greenhouses in South Carolina. From there he propagated the plants, sending them to friends and relatives. The second person responsible for promoting the poinsettia actually was one of the recipients of Joel's plants. Colonel Robert Carr introduced the poinsettia at an exhibition of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society. Colonel Carr was the owner of a very famous nursery in Philadelphia. From there Colonel Carr promoted this plant not only in the U.S. but introduced this "seasonal plant" into Europe.

This plant was shipped around the country during the 1800's, more as an outdoor plant for warm climates.

Around 1920, in southern California, a horticulturist named Paul Ecke became the third person to promote this plant. Paul thought that this shrub growing wild along roadsides in California would make a perfect Christmas flower, so he set about cultivating whole fields of this flower in what is now Hollywood. Paul Ecke and his sons were the individuals responsible for breeding "colors" into this traditional red plant.

Poinsettias were originally cultivated by the Aztecs in Mexico, and this plant is native to an area called Taxo del Alarcon in southern Mexico. In its native area, it grows to about 10 feet high and is considered a woody shrub. It blooms during the shorter days of winter, and because of its brilliant color, the flower is considered a symbol of purity. The Aztecs used this plant not only for decoration, but for practical uses. They made a purplish dye from the "bracts" (the colored stuff that we think of as the flowers), and used the milky sap to treat fevers.

Lastly, this plant is a member of the spurge family, Euphorbiaceae, and was first marketed as Euphorbia poinsettia. A German taxonomist named it Euphorbia pulcherrima (most beautiful) in 1833, and this remains the correct scientific name for this plant. The common name that we use today is believed to have been "coined" around 1836.

So enjoy December 12th, and have a joyous holiday with friends and family.

by Diane Kaye

CBPO Update

Probably like most of the rest of the neighborhood, the Community Bike Project has been busy getting ready for winter and thinking about when warmer weather returns! With help from one of our board members, as well as the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, we've replaced several of our old, leaky windows with much better, new, efficient ones, and we've installed a new basement door to help keep out the draft. James came by and fixed up our front window sill, too, which had certainly seen better days. Thanks to **James Hermsen, Randall Smith, Ananth Kalyan, and Andrew Camp** for all your help! Hopefully, we'll use a bit less energy and be a bit more environmentally (and economically) efficient this cold season.

Operationally, we continue to hold our winter Open Shop hours on Saturdays from noon-4pm. We've been pretty lucky with the weather so far, so it's still a great time to stop by with your bike to get a quick tune up or to learn about fixing that nagging brake that squeals every time you ride. Or just come in to say hi, too. Our bike mechanics classes are continuing, too, every other Tuesday night at 6 pm. Our next class is this Tuesday, Dec. 7th, and the topic is "Hubs & Quick Releases!" We ask everyone for a \$10 donation to attend the class, so that we can give our teachers—who are experienced bike mechanics from bike stores around town—a little something for their time, but if that's a problem, just let us know and we'll probably work something out. RSVP to me at matt@communitybikeproject.org.

On Sunday the 5th, we're helping out the Omaha Police Department with their event "Santa at the SE Precinct", where we'll be handing out helmets to kids and maybe fixing up some bikes on site, too. We love to get out into the larger community and take our motto of "Teaching Skills, Building Community" to the people.

Finally, CBPO volunteers are active in lots of bicycling initiatives around the city, all designed to help make Omaha a friendlier place for slower, human-powered transportation - notably, for bicyclists and pedestrians. We're active participants in Omaha Bikes ("the voice of citizen cyclists"), in the Mayor's Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the new Transportation Master Plan Update, to name a few. Bicycles have the potential to help knit communities together, in addition to the environmental and health benefits that come along with them, and we're excited at the possibilities that 2011 may bring for CBPO, for Gifford Park, and for Omaha.

Happy Holidays!

*by Matt Martin
Executive Director
Community Bicycle Project*

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



558-5000



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Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 11a.m. - 8 p.m.
Closed Sunday



Happy Ho-Ho Holidays!

Every Thursday 10:30 – 12:00 is our Parent / Tot Gym time
Wed., Dec. 22nd 12:45 – 4:30 pm is our first teen field trip.

The cost is only \$3.00, the bus will take us to Montclair Community Center to go swimming for the afternoon.

Dec 20th – Dec 23rd 10:00 – 2:00 pm School's Out Art & Craft Camp The cost is \$15.00 for ages 5 – 10.

Dec 3rd 10:00 am– 12:00 pm Santa is making a special trip to AV Sorensen to visit all the little kids. We will have a special story and craft project.

Art Classes – make sure you check out all our new art classes in our winter brochure. We have a wide variety of classes for youth; soccer, ballet, yoga, Tae Kwon Do, dodge ball, gym time, munchkins on the move. We have classes for all ages.

Registration has begun for all classes so sign up early for your favorite classes.

From everyone here at AVS we wish you a wonderful holiday season!

Kristi Peitzmeier
A.V. Sorensen Community Center
4808 Cass Street
Omaha, NE 68132
402-444-5596

<http://www.cityofomaha.org/parks/recreation>

"Keeping Omaha Active"

Community Garden Redesign Update

The Gifford Park Community Garden (GPCG) redesign project that started early in October is nearly complete as far as the site grading and back retaining wall. These improvements will add additional garden space on the west side of the garden. I again want to 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 – I mentioned your names in last month's GPNA newsletter – thank you! Special thanks to our core GPCG leaders for your help (and patience) - director **Diane Kaye**, youth garden leaders **Dana & Sue Freeman**, and membership chair **Mike Caban**. Our contractors **Al Moellenbeck** and **Keith Mixan** have done an outstanding job completing this project. Next the community gardeners will plan a "visioning" meeting in the next couple months to discuss ideas for the garden moving forward, stay tuned.

by Chris Foster

**Tell our advertisers you saw their
ad in the
Gifford Park's Pride!**

Omaha's Snow Emergency Parking Regulations

Starting in the winter of 2010-2011, Omaha will be enforcing recently enacted snow emergency parking regulations. These regulations impact how and where cars can be parked on residential streets east of 72nd Street. During a declared snow emergency, cars must park on the odd number side of the street on odd calendar dates, and the even number side on even calendar dates. The south and east sides of streets contain odd numbers and the north and west sides of streets have even numbers. No parking zones indicated by the sign "No Parking - This Side of Block" are waived during a snow emergency. The odd/even side parking rules apply (the parking ban will be conditionally lifted during a snow emergency. Parking is permitted on the side of the street that is posted in this manner in accordance with the odd/even side parking rules). For a more detailed explanation of other "No Parking Zone" rules related to snow emergencies, see www.cityofomaha.org - Click on "Snow" and then "Emergency Parking Regulations".

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

Many thanks to the **Nebraska Tennis Association (NTA)** for awarding the GPNA a \$500 grant for the Gifford Park Youth Tennis program. The funds help pay for the May Tennis Block Party, June and July tennis lessons, and the August program. Our sincere thanks to the NTA for their support for youth tennis in and around the Gifford Park neighborhood.

Mark your calendars for the annual **Restore Omaha Conference and Exhibition** scheduled for **Saturday, March 5, 2011** 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. The conference is hosted by Metropolitan Community College with major support provided by **The Reader, Pinnacle Bank** and **The Architectural Offices**.

For City Services, Information, or Complaints

Call: Mayor's Action Office

444-5555



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

