



Gifford Park's Pride

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

January/February 2010

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

RESTORE OMAHA CONFERENCE WILL INVIGORATE OWNERS OF OLDER PROPERTIES

The fifth annual **Restore Omaha Conference** is scheduled for **Friday and Saturday, March 5 and 6, 2010**. The Conference provides a wide-range of learning opportunities to promote the practice of historic restoration to the public and professionals. Focus of the conference is mid-twentieth century and older homes and business properties.

There are several exciting experiences planned for this year's conference. On Friday, March 5, the Conference opening reception will be held at **Frank's Pieces of the Past** at **814 S. 14th St.** Owner Frank Horejs has been an architectural salvager since the 1980's and has a remarkable warehouse of historic salvage that represents Omaha's past. Plan to swap experiences with conference speakers and participants.

On Saturday, March 6, conference keynote and learning sessions are scheduled from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at **Metropolitan Community College, South Omaha Campus, Industrial Training Center**. Concurrent sessions are scheduled on a variety of topics: Stained Glass Restoration; Restoration of a Commercial Building; Historic Gardening; Window Reglazing and Wood Consolidation; Selecting, Bidding and Hiring a Contractor; History of Omaha's Historic Apartments; The Economic Power of Restoration; Omaha's Electrical Codes and many more.

This year's conference also features keynoter, **Donovan Rypkema**, principal of PlaceEconomics, a Washington, D.C.-based real estate and economic development consulting firm. Rypkema specializes in commercial revitalization and its effects on the surrounding neighborhoods. The City of Omaha, Destination Midtown, and the South Omaha Development Project all have neighborhood commercial district revitalization on their near-term agendas.

Vendors who specialize in restoration and preservation will also be available.

For more conference and registration information, go to www.restoreomaha.com.



Next General Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2010

2010 Budget Review
2010 Project/Volunteer Overview

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

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

2009 Holiday Decorating Contest Winners

The GPNA would like to thank everyone for decking the halls this holiday. Whether this is your first year or your fifteenth, the festive lighting is a joy to observe each year. Displays were judged on December 17, and December's record snowfall enhanced the views. And the winners are:

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

GPNA OFFICERS

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Dana Carlton-Flint* 346-4575

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AT LARGE:

Chris Hupp* I want to encourage you to check out the GPNA website – Newsletter Archive section. A BIG THANKS to Ron Abdouch and his staff at the Neighborhood Center for scanning roughly 150+ GPNA newsletters, and our GPNA webmaster Dan Bodmann for organizing and uploading the PDF files to our website. We now have nearly ALL newsletters from the first one in 1989. It was Dan’s idea to ask for help from the Neighborhood Center, and Ron and his staff saved us many hours of labor to complete this project very quickly. As an expression of our gratitude, Dan loaded up a link to the Neighborhood Center on our GPNA home page in our “Featured Local Websites” section.

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

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EDITORIAL - nothing that will cause a violation of our neighborhood website. Interest to our neighborhood website 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. **ADVERTISING** - Send your name with phone number to contact. **MEMBERSHIP** - Send your name with phone number to contact. **NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION** - Send your name with phone number to contact. **EDITORIAL** - nothing that will cause a violation of our neighborhood website. Interest to our neighborhood website 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. **ADVERTISING** - Send your name with phone number to contact. **MEMBERSHIP** - Send your name with phone number to contact. **NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION** - Send your name with phone number to contact.

Inaugural Social Impact Forum Omaha Promises To Engage, Empower, & Energize

The first annual *Social Impact Forum Omaha* will be held on **Friday, Feb. 26**, at **Creighton University’s Harper Center**. This action-oriented conference will engage, empower and energize hundreds of local leaders and change makers to address the increasingly complex and connected challenges facing our community. “Our world can seem complicated and the deeper meaning in everyday life appears to be elusive for many. Social Impact Forum Omaha (SIFO) is geared towards those people who choose to see the world as an opportunity to make the world a better place in multiple different avenues and from many different angles,” said **Taylor Keen**, a forum co-chair and instructor in the Social Entrepreneurship Program at Creighton University’s College of Business.

The theme of the inaugural conference is “Challenge Yourself. Change Your World.” A series of breakout sessions and keynote speakers will:

- Educate attendees about social enterprise and how entrepreneurial principles can affect social change,
- Provide best practices, innovative strategies, tools and information to support current social entrepreneurs,
- Inspire new social entrepreneurs and programs/projects,
- Bring people together to network, find partnership opportunities and develop support systems.

The cost to attend the forum is \$50 or \$35 for nonprofit attendees and \$20 for students. Session topics include: *Creating a Culture of Prosperity, Moving the Mind: How the Arts and Culture Change the Community, Thinking Globally, Eating Locally: Effecting Change One Bite at A Time, and Empowering Youth Organizations Leading the Charge*. Speakers include: **Stephen Vogel**, chief executive officer of Grameen America, and **John Birge**, a principal at RDG Planning & Design. To register online or view the complete forum schedule, visit www.socialimpactomaha.org.

Event sponsors include: **Federal Reserve Bank, Creighton University, Executives without Borders, JM Web Design, Mutual of Omaha, American National Bank, Kent Bellows Foundation and RDG Planning & Design**. For more information about the event or sponsorship opportunities, contact **Taylor Keen**, SIFO Co-chair, at **(402) 960-5689**.

PKA Fraternity - Thanks For Your Help!

The GPNA wishes to thank the **Pi Kappa Alpha (PKA) Fraternity** of Creighton University for their past and current community service efforts and great help to the Gifford Park neighborhood. The PKA Fraternity has been involved in many community projects with the GPNA for more than fifteen years. They have helped with projects and events such as our annual spring and fall neighborhood cleanups, street and park cleanups, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, community garden, neighborhood watch walks, youth baseball, attended GPNA meetings and others.

The PKA Fraternity’s biggest project has been hosting the annual Halloween Haunted House for neighborhood kids - their efforts to put on a fun, safe event for neighborhood children has been a big success each of the last fifteen years.

The above neighborhood projects and events would not be as successful without the PKA’s involvement. The PKA Fraternity partnership with the GPNA creates a sense of community which strengthens our neighborhood. We look forward to working with the PKA Fraternity on these and other future projects.

by Chris Foster

Sandy* & Roger Freeman 557-2914

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

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, February 3** 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

Community Bicycle Shop Omaha Upcoming Event

DATE: Tuesday February 23, 2009 6pm - 9pm

WHERE: CBSO - 525 N. 33rd St.

CLASS: Wheel Lacing/Building

How to build a wheel from a hub, a handful of spokes, and a loose rim.

Enrollment IS REQUIRED - limited to 12

To reserve a space, there is a \$5 fee/donation.

We accept Paypal - which automatically registers you, too. You can bring your own parts to build a wheel that you can keep, or required parts will be provided (but that wheel will be used in CBSO programs - you won't be able to keep it)

INSTRUCTOR: Gary Gebhard

For more information and online registration:

<http://www.communitybicycleshopomaha.org/events/20100223register.htm>

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www.duchesneacademy.org

www.midtownmonitor.com

Visit this website for mid-town Omaha-related news and events!



Omaha Property Protection Home Inventory provides a valuable, bonded service for both you and your Insurance Agent. Everyone agrees that we should all have a documented inventory of our personal property in the event of a loss or claim, but less than 20% of homeowners have one. We will provide this beneficial service, so that at the time of a loss or claim, you will be prepared.

Our service includes **Video-Digital-Cataloging** of the entire home and its contents, to include serial and model numbers. This is provided to you in a professional inventory packet that will provide all the information you will need at the time of loss. Your information will be entered into an **inventory software program** to be given to you and will not degrade or be destroyed over time.

This service will assist area Law Enforcement with the recovery of your property and/or the arrest of the suspect.

Please visit our website, or give us a call and we'll answer any questions you may have.

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Sincerely,

Brett Becker
Founder/Owner
402-490-7224

www.omahapropertyprotection.com



2009 GPNA Holiday Banquet Highlights

Nearly 125 GPNA members, family, and guests attended our **21st Annual Holiday Banquet**. Those in attendance enjoyed an evening of good food, camaraderie among neighbors, and holiday cheer at **Creighton University Medical Center** in the Becic Dining Room. Tremendous thanks are extended to everyone who pitched in, from sending out invitations to clean-up, and made this yet another in our list of successful events!

Emcee and GPNA president **Dana Carlton-Flint** kept the event lively and cheerful. Dana and vice-president **Stuart Shell** presented an entertaining slideshow tour of last year's events and activities. The 2009 Events & Activities Slideshow ran during the first half of the evening – thanks **Sallie Foster** for taking a year's worth of wonderful, award-winning pictures. Incoming Community Garden Director **Diane Kaye** presented outgoing director (and current Youth Garden Director) **Dana Freeman** with a special garden gift. **Senator Gwen Howard** expressed appreciation for the hard work of the GPNA, and PKA Fraternity's **Connor O'Neil** said a few words about the PKA-GPNA partnership. Thanks to **Ben Spahn** for taking pictures.

Rodney Hay's time and culinary expertise in preparing turkey was much appreciated. Rodney, as most of you know, bakes, smokes, and deep-fries the turkeys for us every year. **Sodexo** made it complete with a buffet of traditional holiday fare, including pumpkin pie for dessert! Dana Carlton-Flint hand-crafted the table centerpieces. We again offer our sincere appreciation to **Creighton University Medical Center** for their enormous support by hosting this event.

Chris Foster introduced "Neighbor of the Year," **Darryl Hutton**. It was nice to hear Darryl's comments as he reflected on his volunteer experiences and thanked friends he has volunteered with. He has been involved with many events and activities of the GPNA since the 1990's. The night was brought to a close by drawing of door prizes and distribution of children's gifts all donated by members and VIP's – **Senator Gwen Howard**, **Councilman Chris Jerram**, **Lois Baumhover**, **Subby & Janice Anzaldo**, **Brad Bogard**, **Lilly Estes**, **Dana Carlton-Flint & "Design With You In Mind," Stuart Shell & Dana Freeman**, and **Mike Caban**. Those attending the banquet may recall there were two girls named "Emma" present at the banquet, so in the drawing of names for the sled (donated by Mike Caban) "Emma" was called for the one sled. In typical GPNA fashion, **Jared Schultz** without hesitation decided he would find

continued on page 5

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4808 Cass Street * 444-5596

Facility Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 Friday 8:30 – 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday 8:30 – 12:00 p.m.

A.V. Sorensen Open House

Date: Saturday, February 20th

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Come learn what AVS has to offer. We have something for everyone from 6 months to 99 years old. Weight room, gym, fitness classes, youth classes, pre school, senior classes.

School’s Out Camps

Craft Camp

Tues. Feb 16th 11 am – 3 pm

Wed. Mar 23rd 11 am – 3 pm

Ages 6 – 12

Let your child’s creative side run free during this camp. Creative projects and so much more. Boys and girls welcomed.

Tots & Parents

Gym Time

\$1.00 Drop in fee

Thurs. 10:30 a.m. – Noon

Age 5 & under with a parent

Pick up dodge ball FREE

Tuesday’s 6:45 – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday’s 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Babysitting Workshop

For many young teens, babysitting is their first job and the beginning of habits that will last a lifetime. This workshop is an outstanding introduction to babysitting. 2nd Saturday of each month. 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
 Students must be 11 years old before Sept. 1
 Contact Nisha at 315-3585 for more information.

Adult Pick up Basketball

Every Wednesday

6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Grab your friends and play a game of hoops at AVS.

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



Holiday Banquet . . .continued from page 4

another sled so both girls would have the same sled. A few days later he found one and took it to the family – the sleds sure came in handy this winter, maybe we can blame Mike and Jared for the cold, snowy winter!

As with any event in Gifford Park, the list of people who extend their generosity and support is widespread, and unfortunately, cannot all be listed here. GPNA would like to thank those on the Holiday Banquet Committee: **Dana & Rod, Dana & Stuart, Darryl and Chris & Sallie**. We are always looking for new recruits! Until the 22st Annual Holiday Banquet when we will again share a meal together, we’ll see you around the neighborhood.

by Chris Foster





GPNA

Holiday

Banquet

2009



Growing Season Draws Near At Gifford Park Community Garden

On the midpoint of winter—February 2—Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, and if we rely upon a marmot to predict spring's weather, we can expect six more weeks of cold. I'm sure most Nebraskans, if asked, would have given a similar forecast, since more than three feet of the white stuff has fallen since last October and much of it lingers in the piles we've shoveled off our walks and driveways. Needless to say, we're all counting down the days until spring officially begins on Saturday, March 20. The gardeners among us while away what remains of winter by poring over the innumerable seed catalogs arriving daily in the mail and anticipating the last frost of the season, a date averaging somewhere between April 30th and May 10th for our hardiness zone.

If you can't wait to get your hands in the dirt, consider joining your neighbors at Gifford Park Community Garden (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 Membership Chair **Mike Caban** with your interest (402.341.4722 or caban3321@cox.net). 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 growing in Gifford Park. More information on this and our 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. Contact **Dana** (402-850-9611 or dana.freeman@gmail.com) if you have something you would like to share with us.

GPCG WISH LIST

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 2 Garden Meeting, 5:30 to 7 PM at Yates School
- March 15 Garden plot applications distributed
- April 15 Garden plot applications & fees due
- May 8 Garden Season Opening Event
- May 22 Youth Garden begins

by Dana Freeman



President's Column

Grants and Donations are what it takes!

It is that time of year again and our board is looking forward to what it takes to sustain the projects and programs that Gifford Park elects to hold and/or participate in throughout the year. Many of the projects are helped along by the generosity of our members who donate above and beyond their membership dues each year. Our business members continue to give each year so that we can beautify the business district with flowering planters, add holiday lighting to the park, and even send a gift basket representing Gifford Park to the Mid-Town Neighborhood Alliance silent auction. Donations from our general membership have assisted the GPNA in getting matching grants for Spring Clean-up supplies, candy and toys for the Easter Egg Hunt, Ice Cream for the Music in the Park, and memberships with supporting organizations such as the **Mid-Town Neighborhood Alliance** and the **Nebraska State Arboretum**. Grants from our Mayor have added benches to the Park, a roof on the shelter, and a water hookup in the north part of our park. Additional grants from the **Peter Kewit Foundation** and **Mutual of Omaha Foundation** have allowed us to expand our community garden, continue the Children's Garden Program and install safety lighting throughout our neighborhood. As you see it definitely takes a Village (Friends, Neighborhood, and City) to make our neighborhood outstanding! So when you send in your membership this year think about sending a little extra so that we can continue to keep our existing projects going and expand programs to make Gifford Park even better.

by Dana Carlton-Flint

P.S. Two grants have been written already in 2010 by our newest board member Chris Hupp. If received, these grants will add more safety lighting, permanent signage in the Community Garden, sustain the Children's garden program and provide materials and supplies to the Community Garden.

Upcoming Meetings:

Thursday, March 11th - General Meeting
CUMC

Thursday, March 25th - Executive Board Meeting
@ the Flint's

Darryl Hutton - 2009 GPNA Neighbor Of The Year

The GPNA was proud to honor **Darryl Hutton** as our 2009 Neighbor of the Year. He was recognized at our 21st annual GPNA Holiday Banquet hosted again by Creighton University Medical Center on December 10. The GPNA Board actually tried to keep the award a surprise from Darryl but he is too well known in the neighborhood for this to work. Darryl has been involved with many GPNA events and activities for many years, and he is extremely valuable to the neighborhood because he is a "jack-of-all-trades", and helps local businesses with handyman projects. Darryl's self-sacrifice for our neighborhood goes without saying. Darryl joins his father Bob who received the "Neighbor of the Year" award several years back.

Darryl has lived in the Gifford Park neighborhood most of his life. He attended grade school at Yates School, then Lewis & Clark Junior High School, and graduated from Central High School. Besides his handyman skills, other hobbies and talents include tree-trimming, house painting, drywalling, computers, frisbee and darts.

Darryl's involvement and leadership in neighborhood events and activities is quite impressive and includes Easter egg hunts, National Night Out Block Party, GPNA Holiday Banquet, community garden, neighborhood and park cleanups, painting over graffiti, business district flower pots, Music in the Park, Show Wagon, and others. His work with the Alcohol Impact Coalition (AIC) is very valuable to our neighborhood as well as other similar parts of our city facing problems related to high alcohol outlet density. Darryl has volunteered countless hours helping the Community Bike Shop. He helped coordinate significant funds for additional lighting in Gifford Park and other neighborhood streets. Darryl knows the pulse of the neighborhood as well as anyone, his efforts help make our neighborhood safer.

Darryl helps people when needed. He's dependable, has a can-do attitude, and self-sacrifice to make our neighborhood a better place. A perfect example of Darryl's can-do spirit was the day of the Holiday Banquet when he helped haul items and setup for the banquet...this after helping to fix a furnace at California Tacos earlier that afternoon. Congratulations, from all of us in the Gifford Park neighborhood!

by Chris Foster

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



Happy Valentine's Day!



What's Happening In the Neighborhood . . .

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The GPNA offers our sincerest condolences to longtime GPNA member and resident **Jim Horton** and his family for the loss of Jim's wife **Vera**. Sadly in December Vera passed away after being ill. Vera along with Jim and daughter **Bonnie** have always been great volunteers and supporters of the GPNA. Just this past September Jim & Vera once again let us use their home's water and electricity for a wedding in Gifford Park. Vera was very involved with Yates School for many years, and was always hoping Yates would return to a neighborhood school again... the GPNA will keep working to make this happen.

Welcome to our newest and youngest GPNA Board member (at large) **Chris Hupp**. Chris just graduated from Creighton University with a degree in Interpersonal Communications with a minor in Business Administration. He is currently working at the Cardiac Center, and lives near 33rd & California. He is very active with our community garden and is currently involved with writing grants for our neighborhood. He has been attending neighborhood association meetings and brings new ideas and perspective to the GPNA. Welcome Chris!

Please keep longtime GPNA member and former president **Ron Yates** in your thought 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!

Teen Market Garden - Informational Meeting - February 27, 2010 - 10am - 11am Location: TBD

Year 2 is upon us for of our pilot project: Teen and Young Adult Market Garden. In addition to interested young people we also seek mentors to work one-on-one with teens and young adults to develop and implement a business plan. Dive into the basics of entrepreneurship from product selection, to marketing, to pricing and selling. Interested mentors and young people (between the ages of 14 and 25) please join us to discuss the program concept, possibilities and questions. Parents welcome! Contact **Cynthia Shuck 556-2090** or **Kate Bodmann 496-8419** for more information.



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

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