



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

April 2011

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Neighborhood Garage Sale May 28

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association will hold a neighborhood-wide **Garage Sale** at **33rd & California, Saturday, May 28th**, from **9 AM to 1 PM**. The GPNA will pay for an ad in the Omaha World-Herald to promote garage sales in the Gifford Park Neighborhood. **If you would like to donate usable garage sale items (no clothes or shoes please) to the GPNA, please call Neil 933-1960 or Chris 342-6006; we will sell items in the business district at 33rd & California on Saturday May 28, 9 AM to 1 PM**, with proceeds going to the GPNA and Community Garden. Also, we will be accepting garage sale items the week before at the **Spring Cleanup** (May 21, 9 AM to 2 PM) in Gifford Park. This is a great way to get rid of unused items and make some extra money for yourself or the GPNA and at **NO COST** to you!

## GPNA Tennis Block Party In Gifford Park

**Wednesday, May 25**  
**6 - 7:30 PM**



**More Information In May Newsletter**

## GPNA Spring Cleanup

**Saturday, May 21**  
**9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Gifford Park Parking Lot**



**See The May GPNA Newsletter For More Information**

## Next General Meeting

**Thursday, April 14**

### Guest Speakers:

**Carlos Morales**  
**Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator**  
**Theresa Baker & Melissa Brown**  
**reEnergize Program**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Creighton University**  
**Medical Center**  
**Morrison Seminar Room**

**Executive Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 28**  
**7 P.M. at the Larson's**  
**3565 California St.**

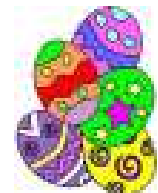
## 22nd Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt



**Saturday, April 23**  
**Noon (Sharp!)**

**Rain Or Shine**  
**At Gifford Park**

**Children Ages 12 & Under**



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

2011

**GPNA OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Luther Larson 330-3286

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Jill Westfall 213-3105

**SECRETARY**

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

**TREASURER**

Diane Kaye 341-4146

**BOARD MEMBERS****AT LARGE:**

Andy Matthews 201-3382

**AT LARGE**

Kevin Deese 216-9373

**BUSINESS**

Martin Janousek 558-4070

**LANDLORD**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**GARDEN LIASON**

Joy Doll 960-8138

**COMMITTEES****COMPLIANCE/PARKING  
VIOLATIONS**

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**HISTORIAN**

Eva Swanson 345-1707

**MEMBERSHIP**

Stuart Shell 216-1235

**NEWSLETTER**

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**PARK**

Sandy &amp; Roger Freeman 557-2914

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

**WEEDS & LITTER**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**WELCOMING**

Julie Kalkowski 342-2103

**From The President . . .**

Spring is here! Yeah! With spring comes a long list of outdoor projects that have been hibernating all winter. If you are like me the nice weather may get me out of the house, but I quickly find excuses to not get started on those outdoor projects. My favorite excuse is I was "talking to the neighbor". I would like to encourage all of you to join me in using this excuse, because spending time with neighbors is what builds a great neighborhood.

I would like to provide a brief update on some of the GPNA activities. GPNA is continuing to work with the Creighton Law School to create the legal documents necessary to file with the IRS to become a 501c(3) organization. We will be meeting on 4/14/2011 to review the filing. If the 501c(3) designation is achieved, it will allow donations to the GPNA to be tax deductible by the donor. During the last GPNA board meeting **Carlos Morales** with the City of Omaha shared plans on what could be done to Burt St. from 24th to 40th to make it a Bike/Walk Street. The board found the proposal interesting enough to invite Carlos to this month's general meeting to get your input. Please come to the meeting to see for yourself what is being proposed. Last summer's survey is still alive as Destination Midtown continues to work with us to get a consultant to put together a plan for Gifford Park that can be used to attract businesses and/or funding to address the neighborhood's concerns. We will provide a more in-depth update next month. Please help with the fund raising for the new playground equipment in Gifford Park if you are able. It will be great to see the transformation that it will create when installed. That's all for this month. See you Thursday at this month's general meeting.

by Luther Larson

**Greetings From The Garden**

Okay, that weather is tricky! We got all excited and had plans to start getting outside and then – SNOW! What a sneaky trick by nature. However, I know many of us are ready to garden and get outside. I know some gardeners have started seedlings and are anxious to get into that dirt. Plus, my tulips and daffodils will be making a showing in no time!

Currently, plot applications for 2010 plot owners have been sent out for gardeners who want to return to the garden. A waiting list has been started already with about 8 people wanting plots with some new gardeners who we are excited to welcome. Plot applications for returning gardeners are due to me by April 15th. After that point, you will lose your reservation and the plots will be open to anyone. If you want the same plot as last year, please submit your application and fee. All 2010 gardeners have received the information. If you need anything or have questions, please contact me. The Garden Board is also excited to welcome **Bren Duvall** as the Board Secretary. Bren has been active in Garden Work Parties for the last several years and always has a beautiful plot! We appreciate her service and leadership to the Garden. Welcome Bren!

Do not forget the Garden Opening on Saturday, May 7th. The day will be a day of fun. Please plan to come out and label your plots and meet fellow gardeners. Festivities will start at 11 am and go until 1 pm. If you would like to volunteer with the Opening, please contact me.

Your Garden Board is working hard for you. Please feel free to contact any of us. See you May 7th!

**Mike Caban** - [Caban3321@cox.net](mailto:Caban3321@cox.net)

**Joy Doll** (Director/Plot Coordinator) – [joyot@juno.com](mailto:joyot@juno.com)

**Bren Duval** (Secretary) - [bren.design@hotmail.com](mailto:bren.design@hotmail.com)

**Chris Foster** (Land Owner) – [foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net)

**Dana Freeman** (Children's Garden) - [dana.freeman@gmail.com](mailto:dana.freeman@gmail.com)

**Sue Freeman** (Children's Garden) - [glenda.freeman65@gmail.com](mailto:glenda.freeman65@gmail.com)

**Diane Kaye** (Treasurer) - [diandmax@aol.com](mailto:diandmax@aol.com)

by Joy Doll

*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).*



Luther and Deb Larson are shown manning the GPNA booth at the Restore Omaha conference held March 4-5. The goal of Restore Omaha is to bring together organizations, businesses, and government entities to provide a "one stop shop" for attendees to gather ideas, products, contacts, and solutions for their older property needs. 98% of attendees felt that the event achieved its goal. 387 people attended the conference and exhibition.

### Operation Playground Update

Currently, the total amount of funds raised for the Gifford Park playground renovation is **\$21,944**. This includes private donations from Creighton community members and Gifford Park neighbors, The Noodles and Company fundraiser, various student fundraisers, and the Peter Kiewit Foundation grant for \$10,000. The City of Omaha's final quote for us for the project (which was provided to me on Thursday, March 31), is about **\$53,600**. This means we still have to raise **\$4,856**. We are currently awaiting a decision from The Hawks Foundation for a \$5,000 grant, but the timeline has not been determined, as the proposal was submitted independent of a typical grant cycle. This contribution would put us over the top! Other financial means are being discussed with Amber Miller of the Omaha Parks Foundation, a new 501(c)3 entity within Omaha Parks and Recreation.

Any donations towards the playground would be greatly appreciated! If anyone wants to donate to Operation Playground, please contact **Dana Carlton-Flint** ([designwym@yahoo.com](mailto:designwym@yahoo.com)) or **Maria Doyle** ([mariadoyle@creighton.edu](mailto:mariadoyle@creighton.edu)). Please make your donation by the end of April! Checks can be made payable to Operation Playground.

I'd personally like to thank everyone for their support. It is so great to see people who are truly passionate about their community, and so supportive of students who want to help their surrounding community. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to this project.

by Maria Doyle

## Duchesne Academy

OF THE SACRED HEART

*Call today to schedule a visit in  
the Academy or Preschool!*

3601 Burt Street • Omaha, NE 68131 • 402-558-3800  
[www.duchesneacademy.org](http://www.duchesneacademy.org)

### Gifford Park's Teen Market Garden (TMG) Starts Neighborhood Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Interested in supporting five entrepreneurial-minded youth in our neighborhood AND receive fresh, organic, vegetables this summer? Our five fearless teens are looking to sell five to ten "shares" of our produce this summer at a cost of \$120 each. Spacing that out over eight weeks is only \$15 a week for organically grown, local produce.

The content of our TMG box varies with the season. A typical TMG box in August includes: a small watermelon, a pound of heirloom tomatoes, a pint of green beans, 2 bell peppers, 2 slicing cucumbers, 1 bunch of basil, 1 head of garlic, and 3 long stem flowers.

While we plan and work hard to grow all the veggies listed below, sometimes crops fail – please understand. Also, if you like certain veggies we're happy to tailor a box to suite your taste. Just let us know.

#### Summer Offering:

Arugula, green beans, beets, cantaloupe, carrots, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, hot and sweet peppers, zucchini and winter squash, cherry and slicing heirloom tomatoes, watermelon and herbs: basil, chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, parsley, sage and thyme.

Specialty items available upon request include: ground cherries, romanesco broccoli, cabbage, daikon, kohlrabi, okra, turnips, rapini, honey dew melon, scallop squash, pumpkin, long beans and greens – chard, collards, and spinach.

Contact TMG coordinator **Cynthia Shuck** to sign up at [dalilabush@cox.net](mailto:dalilabush@cox.net).

by Cynthia Shuck

## CBPO Update

Happy April from the Community Bike Project! Is everyone as happy about the warmer weather as we are? I'll bet the answer is yes.



First off, we would like to invite you to our upcoming **Spring Open House on Sunday April 17th from 11am-3pm** at our Shop at **525 North 33rd Street**. We've been very busy over the winter months and there are a lot of exciting developments, so we'd love it if you could stop by and say hi. If you've never stopped in before, we'll be happy to show you around, tell you about what we do, and offer a variety of ways you can be involved to help us help our community. If you've been in but not for a while, I think you'll be surprised at everything we have going on at the Shop. We'll provide refreshments and maybe even some door prizes, too!

Our Spring Open House on the 17th heralds our return to regular hours and the end of our Saturday-only schedule. That means that not only will we have Open Shop hours on Saturdays noon-4pm, but also Wednesday and Thursday nights 6-8pm. During our Open Shop hours, everyone is welcome at the Shop, to learn how to fix your bike, to get replacement parts for your bike if needed, and to buy or earn a new bike if you don't have one already. We can't run our Open Shop without volunteers, so we're always looking for people to come down and help, too. Bike repair skills are always helpful, but not essential.

And finally, a note about bikes themselves. We always appreciate donations of bikes you're no longer using—we only ask that donated bikes have some life left in them and that they don't get left outside the Shop when we're not around. Once donated bikes are back in tip-top shape, we send them back out into the community. Reconditioned bikes can be bought or earned, and in the process, we live out our motto: Teaching Skills, Building Community.

*Ride Safely!*  
by *Matt Martin*,  
Executive Director  
Community Bicycle Project

Calling all young budding artists—it's April already, and time to start thinking about **AVS Summer Art Camp** and discovering a world of inspiration and creativity! Our weeklong, age-appropriate classes are designed to encourage artistic expression, art appreciation, understanding, and imagination for kids ages 8 to 14. Great for your kids, grandkids, neighbors' kids, or even an unknown child you could sponsor. We also have **summer long art classes** for ages 4 and up (including adult classes too). We have classes from designing and painting a mural to street art. This summer you can let your imagination flow with learning how to draw cartoons and super heroes.

No previous art-making experience is necessary! Classes have limited space so register early so you don't miss out on all the fun. We have a wide variety of classes that we offer here at AVS. Our summer art camp flyer and our spring brochure lists everything that we offer right here at your local Community Center.

**Stop by today at  
A.V. Sorensen Community  
Center  
4808 Cass Street  
or call 402-444-5596.**

**Don't forget about our upcoming special events**

**Thurs., April 20<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. ~ Annual Easter Egg Hunt for ages 5 and under**  
**When School's Out - check out our daily art camps. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

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"



## LOCAL Campaign Update

The **LOCAL** Campaign is gearing up to finalize the zoning ordinance that will provide more opportunity to Let Omaha Control its Alcohol Landscape. As you may know, 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.

Omaha Police Department  
Reported Criminal Incidents - within 1/2 mile radius  
503 N 33 ST

	2007	2009	2010
Robbery	36	33	12
Aggravated Assault	58	39	37
Domestic Violence Assault	11	14	9
Larceny Theft	247	208	155
Criminal Mischief (DOP)	193	163	57
Gun Violence	26	32	13
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>283</b>

Prepared by Omaha Police Department Crime Analysis Unit 1 Feb 08. UCR rules regarding multiple victims and multiple offenses not applied.

We continue to be thankful for those who share their time and energy with us as we work to make this ordinance a reality. We hope by summer to have the ordinance before the Omaha City Council. As we put the finishing touches on the document, we're asking for your help and input.

Two community meetings will be held in the coming weeks, one in South Omaha and one in North Omaha. The meetings serve one purpose, to get your feedback on the ordinance to ensure it's a reflection of our community's needs, concerns and desires. The **LOCAL** Campaign has been community led from the beginning and we want to make certain anyone who has a desire to be involved has the opportunity.

**South Omaha:** Virgil and Rebecca Patlan, longtime South Omaha residents and neighborhood activists, are graciously calling a community meeting and need your participation. The meeting will be on April 25 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Kroc Center (2825 Y St.)

**North Omaha:** Thanks to Pastor Bachus of Salem Baptist Church and Pastor Voner of World Fellowship Christian Center and Enough is Enough, the anti-violence coalition, we will hold another community meeting on May 9 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Location is yet to be determined.

To contact the **LOCAL** Campaign, e-mail [thelocalcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:thelocalcampaign@gmail.com) or join our Facebook page at "The LOCAL Campaign" to receive important updates.

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

According to **Stuart Shell**, within the next couple of months you may notice new bicycle parking installed along 33rd Street. Thanks to the Mayor's Grant, the neighborhood is adding the racks in partnership with the city. The new parking will add places to lock bikes for visitors to the neighborhoods' destinations, while also promoting cycling in the area.

Two representatives of the reEnergize Program will make a presentation at the April 14th GPNA general meeting. The **reEnergize Program** is a collaborative effort between the Cities of Omaha and Lincoln to build energy smart communities. The plan is to provide energy evaluations on a total of 263 commercial and nonprofit buildings and make energy upgrades on 3,193 residences over five stages of the program. The goal is to grow the **reEnergize Program** over time to allow all building types within our community access to the streamlined process, financing opportunities, and a qualified workforce for energy efficient homes and buildings.

The Omaha Public Works Department is pleased to announce that **gable-top** and **aseptic food cartons** are now recyclable in Omaha's curbside and drop-off site recycling program. **Gable-top cartons** are containers that you will find in the refrigerated section of the grocery store and hold products such as milk, cream, fresh juice and egg substitutes. **Aseptic cartons** are containers that are shelf-stable, meaning they have a long shelf life and don't require refrigeration prior to opening, and hold products such as soup, broth, wine, soy milk, juice and milk.

**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**



**New Season For Youth Garden**

The crocuses and daffodils are blooming outside, and the tulips will soon follow. Green onions are spiking, and rosy red rhubarb nubs are emerging from the ground. Spring has finally come to Nebraska! It's time to emerge from hibernation and get back in our yards and gardens. Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) will soon kick off its eighth consecutive season growing young gardeners, and everyone can look forward to another great summer of learning. We'll grow our own vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Plus, we'll be creative with art, music, and poetry; explore our natural environment; and have fun while working together and getting our hands dirty. **Attached you will find this summer's schedule and registration information.**

Our community garden is special in its commitment to children's gardening, and GPYG relies upon parents and community members each and every week to provide snacks, lead lessons, and simply share their time with participating young people. Please consider joining us *Saturday mornings from 10AM to 11:30AM beginning May 14th* and giving to this educational program. Send me an email ([dana.freeman@gmail.com](mailto:dana.freeman@gmail.com)) if you have a gift or skill you would like to share with us. You are always welcome to stop by 35th & Cass Streets and see how much fun we're having, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

*by Dana Freeman*

P.S. See the last two pages of the newsletter for a description and calendar for the Youth Garden and the registration and permission sheet.



*On March 19, the PKA Fraternity (Creighton) was on hand in force to clean up Gifford Park. Maria Doyle, an Occupational Therapy student at Creighton (pictured on the left sitting down in the front row) helped organize this cleanup. Maria is also leading the Operation Playground project for new playground equipment in the park.*

Summer is around the corner and so is the **Neighborhood Market**. In many ways, it is just around the corner. This open air market will again be in the empty lot along 33rd Street between the California Bar and the KNJ Grocery store. The schedule will again be every Friday evening starting on June 3rd from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Similar to last year, the neighborhood association will pay for the peddlers' permit and vendors will set up tables and tents during the designated market hours. There is no cost to the vendor but stall space will be limited. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please call **Martin Janousek (402-558-4070)** for more information.

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



**TOOL  
LENDING  
HOTLINE**

**Mowers - \$5  
Rent for most tools - \$3  
Chris 342-6006**

