



Gifford Park's Pride

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

September 2011

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Park Gets New Equipment

Over a year ago, a group of **Creighton University Occupational Therapy (OT)** students came to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association to see if they could do something that would not only impact the neighborhood but would add to the health of the community. People's health and especially children's health was important to them since they were students from the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. After some setbacks and some real world education of how the fundraising / building process works when dealing with public space, city government, and the community, money was raised for new playground equipment for the neighborhood's namesake Gifford Park. This park and neighborhood is close to campus, home to students and had a desperate need for new equipment. **Maria Doyle** (Creighton OT student), led the group in its efforts to raise money from special fundraising dinners, on-campus events, to local foundations and in-kind donations. After many hours of dedication, the equipment was selected, drawings were completed and the project was sent out to bid by the City of Omaha. Even though some of the original students have since graduated, other students from the **College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions** have continued the effort. If all goes well, there should be new playground equipment in the park for children to enjoy this fall. **Dana Carlton-Flint** (Past GPNA President) has been the neighborhood contact/advisor with the students and has said the city plans to have the equipment ready to use by October. Thank you, Dana, and all the great students from Creighton University.

A **Big Thank You** goes out to the following organizations, foundations, and companies for their donations:

Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions	GPNA Urban Village
Peter Kiewit Foundation	Delta and Jack Lee
Mutual of Omaha Foundation	Sally Jacobs
City of Omaha Mayors Grant	Noodles & Co.
City of Omaha	PKA Fraternity
Leo A Daly Company	Game Time Inc.
The Hawks Foundation	

by Martin Janousek

Note: General Meeting Postponed to September 15

Guest Speakers:
Omaha Police Department Representative & Clarkson College Students On Lead In The Community

7:00 PM
Creighton University Medical Center Morrison Seminar Room

Executive Meeting
Thursday, September 22
7 PM at the Larson's
3565 California St.

What's For Sale?

Well, we've had beans, beets, radishes, kale, rhubarb, cherries, eggplant, tomatoes, cantaloupe, peppers, squash, zucchini, cucumbers, carrots, herbs of all kinds, flowers, jams and jellies. The **Gifford Park Neighborhood Market** is still alive and doing well. We have about four more weeks before the Neighborhood Market closes for the season on October 1st, so please stop on down even if it's just to say hello. We are open every Friday evening from 4-8 p.m. in the business district.



SCHOOL'S BACK IN SESSION . . . PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY!

2011

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From The President . . .

Hope you all have enjoyed summer. Even though it has been hot at times, the moisture has been great for the lawns and gardens. Much of the neighborhood looks great, but all the moisture has also helped many unwanted plants and weeds grow out of control. If you are the proud owner of one of these unique weed pieces of art, please consider removal, specially if it has created a hazard (i.e., blocking drivers vision at intersections, blocking walkways, etc.).

The GPNA has taken a little bit of a summer vacation by canceling the June and July meetings, but the GPNA board has been busy behind the scenes working on grant projects and planning future events. We did hold the August meeting at Duchesne Academy, which provided those who attended a wonderful inside look at a cornerstone of our neighborhood. A big thank you to the folks at Duchesne for opening their facility to our neighborhood group.

Hope to see you all at our next GPNA general meeting.

by Luther Larson

PS As part of a city-wide National Night Out event, the GPNA set up two locations to collect donated items to help flood victims with cleanup of their flood properties. A big thank you goes out to all of you who helped by donating. Gifford Park residents contributed \$32 in cash and two boxes of cleaning supplies to the cause.

Welcome, Students!

We have a large number of university and other students living in the area who have returned for another year of school. The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association has been working very hard with the city and police to improve the appearance and safety of our neighborhood. The goal of the GPNA is to improve the neighborhood and make it a better place for **all** residents, and we ask our new student neighbors to become a part of this effort.

The largest part of being a good neighbor is consideration for others. First we ask students to be considerate in terms of noise, especially after 10 PM. Many families in our neighborhood have children or go to work early. Parties are another problem. Unfortunately, parties always seem to end up bigger and noisier than first planned, and the police have been more active in enforcing noise and underage drinking ordinances. Another difficult problem is parking. Our neighborhood has barely enough parking (like school), so you may not always be able to park directly in front of your residence. Please do not park on lawns, across sidewalks, or on the wrong side of the street (facing traffic). Besides making the neighborhood look bad, all of these are parking violations and are subject to ticketing. Also, please do not litter and help us to keep our neighborhood picked up. Many of us pick up trash that we did not leave and we ask that you would help us by doing the same.

Finally, consider coming to our monthly neighborhood meetings and perhaps joining our Association. A \$10 yearly membership will get this newsletter delivered to you every month, and you will meet your neighbors and many other wonderful people during our activities such as neighborhood cleanups and holiday events. We welcome students for the upcoming year, and we hope that you will help us continue to make the Gifford Park neighborhood a better place to live.

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).

Be A Good Neighbor!

CBPO Update

Happy September from the Community Bike Project!



Please join us Tuesday, September 20th, for a fun event we're calling "Shop to Shoppe," an event-filled evening of art, bikes, food, comedy, music, and community. We're kicking off the night at 6:30pm with a dedication ceremony of new artwork up on the bike shop's walls, painted by students at the Kent Bellows Studios. Following that, we're going to hop on our bikes for a family-friendly bike ride to the Pizza Shoppe Collective in Benson, riding casually along the Benson bike route. If you want a shorter ride, you can start at Metcalfe Park, which is only about a mile from the Pizza Shoppe. Once we arrive, we will enjoy an evening of comedy improv, performed by the SkullProv comedy troupe, and live music, thanks to the Irish Sessions. Bring your own instrument if you want to join with the band! Tickets for the event are \$15 and available on our website (www.communitybikeproject.org), and all proceeds go to help support the work we do in Gifford Park and our larger community. We hope to see you there!

Our fall bike mechanics classes have also begun, organized through Metro Community College. Spaces have been filling up fast—most classes have had a waiting list—so if you're interested in learning how to fix a flat tire or even build a new bike wheel, check out the schedule on our website and sign up! There are 12 classes in all and we'll keep running them through the fall and winter. It's a great time to work on your bike, if you don't want to be out riding in the cold and snow.

Our organization is growing! I'm happy to report that we have hired on a few part-time employees to help run all the activities we have going. Aaron is helping fix up bikes so we can get them back out into the community, Sara is our new volunteer coordinator, and Wyatt is doing the day-to-day maintenance on the B-cycle bike sharing bikes. We're thrilled to have these great people helping us out in new way.

**For City Services, Information,
or Complaints**

**Call: Mayor's Action Office:
444-5555**



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OF THE SACRED HEART

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the Academy or Preschool!*

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www.duchesneacademy.org

Finally, thanks much to all the wonderful volunteers who make the Community Bike Project possible; you are the heart of the organization! In particular, I'd like to give a shout out to: Randy, Bob, Bill, Anna, Luis, James, Fedi, Rich, Woody, Mark, Kristin, Leo, Bill, Emma, Seth, Dave, Carl, Alex, Eddie, John, Jack, Todd, the 1212 House guys, the Creighton Cortina program, our landlords (Chris, Rob, and Martin) and our board: Stuart, Jerry, Amy, Rick, Dave, Michael, and Matt. Thank you! And if you'd like to get involved, we'd love to see you at the shop—come on by!

Ride Safely!

Matt Martin

Community Bike Project Omaha

402-957-2453

matt@communitybikeproject.org



To find out what was hoop-ening during the Youth Garden Program this summer, see page 5.

Please Patronize Our Advertisers!

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Hours:

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

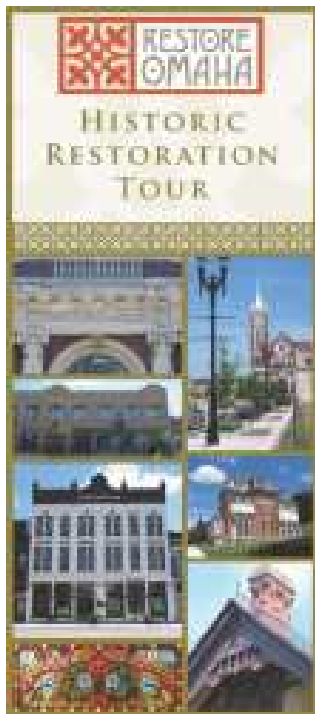
Closed Sunday



Concert To Commemorate Tenth Anniversary of 9/11

The **Omaha Symphony** and the **United States Air Force Heartland of America Band** will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy with a very special event in Midtown Crossing's **Turner Park**, a tribute that will honor our nation's loss and celebrate the American spirit.

The event is scheduled for **6:30 p.m.** on **September 11** and is free and open to the public. Attendees will be treated to a world-class musical performance – the Omaha Symphony partnering with the Heartland of America Band's Brass in Blue. The stirring vocals of special guest artist **Ronan Tynan**, a world-renowned singer and former member of The Irish Tenors, will add another powerful dimension to the event. Known for his ability to simultaneously console and inspire, event organizers said Tynan is uniquely and perfectly suited for the tribute. **Ernest Richardson**, resident conductor, and **Thomas Wilkins**, music director, will lead the Omaha Symphony during the special concert. They'll be joined on stage by **Captain Michael Hoerber**, commander and conductor of the USAF Heartland of America Band. "We cannot imagine a better way to mark the tenth anniversary of 9/11 than to welcome the people of Omaha and the region to join us in Turner Park for a free concert of American music," said both **James Johnson**, new president and CEO of the Omaha Symphony, and Captain Hoerber. "Our hope is to come together to offer tribute to those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom that day and in the years that have followed."



HISTORICAL RESTORATION TOUR
FEATURING VICTORIAN HOMES AND HISTORIC
BUILDINGS IN DOWNTOWN COUNCIL BLUFFS AND
THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011
10 SITES
\$10 TICKETS OR 2/\$15
NOON TO 5 P.M.

FOR TOUR AND TICKET INFORMATION: WWW.RESTOREOMAHA.ORG

Campaign For LOCAL Control September 2011 Update

Good for business. Alcohol Outlet Beverage Sales Ordinance: Safe for families. Safe for neighborhoods.

Supporters of the **LOCAL** Campaign continue efforts to make Omaha a safer and healthier place by working to get an ordinance adopted that addresses negative consequences associated with alcohol outlets.

The Campaign is in the final stages now. A draft of the proposed ordinance has been submitted to the City's Planning Department. In its current form, the drafted proposal will provide guidelines outlining where *new* alcohol outlets may be placed. It also establishes public nuisance abatement standards for both new and existing alcohol outlets to address quality of life issues, crime and violence.

Since the Campaign kickoff in October 2010, supporters have heard from individuals who live, work and shop near alcohol outlets question their safety, expressing concern to walk in their own neighborhoods or visit parts of the city where crime is more prominent. The adoption of an ordinance that addresses problems associated with alcohol outlets has been gaining momentum, winning support from critical leadership throughout the City. Recently, the City's Legal Department gave its nod to move forward with the concept the proposed ordinance hopes to achieve. Deputy City Attorney Tom Mumgaard wrote in a legal opinion, "I recommend that this proposed ordinance be considered; it has good qualities. It can achieve more local control over liquor sales."

Well before this point, however, the idea of controlling the growth of alcohol outlets and their associated harms was put forward by Environment Omaha's recommendations adopted by the Omaha City Council on a 7-0 vote in 2010 and included in the City's Master Plan.

We thank those individuals, neighborhood associations and organizations that have lead in this effort by signing the resolution of support. If your neighborhood association or organization has not yet signed the resolution, we encourage you to contact the **LOCAL** Campaign for a copy and to receive real-time updates. To contact the **LOCAL** Campaign, e-mail thelocalcampaign@gmail.com or join our Facebook page at "The **LOCAL** Campaign" to receive important updates. We can't achieve a safer and better place for families and children without your leadership and backing. Thank you for your support.

Taylor Family Counseling

Individual, Marriage, and Family Counseling

Thyris Taylor, MSW, LICSW, LIMHP

Director/Psychotherapist

Phone: (402) 210-8154

Fax: (402) 344-2861

Email: ttaylor@thyristaylorcounseling.com

105 N 31st Ave. Ste. 215

Omaha, Nebraska 68131

2011 Youth Garden Program Highlights

2011 was another great year for the **Youth Garden Program**, started by **Kate Bodmann** in 2004 and led by **Dana Freeman** and her mom **Sue** for the last five years - we want to give Kate, Dana and Sue a BIG THANKS and recognize **them** for their incredible work that so many neighborhood children, families and volunteers have come to enjoy and grow in so many ways.

This year we had some old and some new volunteer faces including **Frankie Hamburger, Katrina Adams, Sara Stauffer, Becky Stewart, Patrick McAtee, Karen Saavedra, Max Kaye, Francisco & Blanca Manzo, the Stanley family, Evan Johnson, Lee & Stuart Shell, Cynthia Shuck, Rose Carlson, Jackie Foster, Mike Caban, Chris & Sallie Foster**, and others including many parents.

We started out the program May 7 with our "Season Opening" event and ended with the "Garden Chef's" session August 27. In between these dates we had over 60 registered youth participants gardening on 45 raised beds (each 30"x30" plots), which meant some children shared their plots. Amazingly there were no rainouts - Dana and Sue have special powers over the weather! Some of this year's sessions included: "Plant Your Plot" where the kids with help from parents and volunteers planted their chosen vegetable seeds and

continued on page 7

**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE**



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

Chris 342-6006



2011 Tennis Program Highlights

This year we had great weather for all five sessions and had about 35 perfect attendance youth participants for this year's 18th annual free **Youth Tennis Program** in Gifford Park. This year's program averaged over fifty kids and a dozen volunteer instructors for each of the five Wednesdays in August. The kids learned each of the basic tennis and rallying skills, including playing "king of the hill" at the last session where kids played points against each other.

Thanks goes to **Godfather's Pizza** again this year for giving us a deal on 15 pizzas for the event. Neighborhood volunteers provided delicious treats also. Many thanks go to all the wonderful instructors for their support and dedication to this program: **Rick & Jane Hines, Jim Wilson, Buddy Hogan, Vince Emory, Don Gildon, Paul Stultz, Roger Freeman, Kirk & Jean Peck, Jackie Foster, Jenny Waltemath, Chris & Sallie Foster, Ron Goodman, Jim Lang, Jeff Spiehs, Travis Lavender, Jonathan Braden, Becaah Schultz, and Sharon Reefer.** Thanks also to some of our neighborhood youth who helped teach: the **Stanley girls (Dawn, Crystal, Justine, & Whitney), Marcus Anderson, Tyler White, and Matthew White.** Also during June and July, volunteer instructors **Jim Wilson, Lou Harrison, Brian Carmody and Ellie Carmody** taught small group tennis lessons on Wednesday mornings in Gifford Park - this was the fourth year for this free program for kids having a strong interest in tennis. **Dawn Stanley, 18 years old,** was given special recognition for 10 years of perfect attendance with the tennis program – great job Dawn!

Special thanks goes to **Jan Franks, Bette Tanner, Betty Slayden, Tyffaney Slayden, and Kayleen Slayden** for helping with registration – the program could not happen without their help year after year. One of the youth parents **Aleta Stevens** took excellent pictures and was our "photographer" this year. Thanks also to the **Omaha Tennis Association, the Nebraska Tennis Association, the United States Tennis Association, and the City Parks & Recreation Department** for their generous support over the years. We appreciated the kind words during our awards recognition from **Senator Gwen Howard.** If anyone who participated in the tennis lessons is interested in more advanced lessons, please contact **Chris** at **402-342-6006.**

by Chris Foster



Above: Dawn Stanley, 18, receives her 10-year Perfect Attendance Award from Chris Foster



Upper Right: An eager tennis program participant waits to make a return at the net

Right: Jackie Foster demonstrates proper technique to a group of young participants



Omaha Community Garden's Tour Event

Even though we didn't have a lot of visitors, it was a nice day to be at the **Gifford Park Community Garden** for an open house/tour event Sunday, September 4th. Many thanks to volunteers **Cynthia Shuck** (who created and posted interpretive signage around the garden – check it out), **Rose Carlson** and **Jackie Foster** (helped plan and provide refreshments), Teen Market Gardeners (**Anna** and **Elena Carlson**, **Maureen** and **Emma Kalkowski-Ferrand**), **Evan Johnson**, and **Bryce Speed** (setup and breakdown of tents and signage), **Diane Kaye** and **Sandy Freeman** for weeding the front flower beds, and special thanks to **Dr D** (Benson Plant Rescue – event organizer) and **Mike Caban** who helped prepare for the event. Other community gardens on the tour were **City Sprouts**, **Dundee**, **Benson**, **Hands to Harvest**, **Earth Sheltered**, and **NorthStar**.

Special thanks to **Brent Lubbert** (production manager for a soon to be released film about urban farming called "Growing Cities") who videotaped and interviewed some of us at the garden. **Andrew Monbouquette** (co-producer/director of photography) and **Dan Susman** (producer/director) were also featured in Saturday's (September 3) Omaha World-Herald Living section about their adventure visiting many cities in 3 months in making this film. Andrew's parents were one of the visitors and thoroughly enjoyed our garden; in particular the youth garden program and rainwater totes. Check out their web site: www.growingcitiesmovie.com

by *Chris Foster*



Teen Market Gardeners are interviewed and videotaped during the Community Garden Open House earlier this month. The film about urban farming will include Omaha and other cities' experience with community gardening.

Youth Garden Program . . .

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plants; it was a wild but fun time, "The Reading Garden" had our neighborhood storyteller **Mike Caban** read a great story he wrote many years ago, "Cooking Matters" was another fun adventure as Chef **Bob Murnan** and AmeriCorps member **Gretchen Filip** led a hands-on cooking demonstration where everyone made pesto pasta, a fresh, hand-tossed green salad with vinaigrette dressing, and herbal suntea, "Hula Hoop It Up" had Omaha hooper **Chelsea Taxman** sharing her passion for constructing, designing, and dancing with hoops in the garden, "The Sound of Music" included the great talents of **Richard White** and **Clarinda Karpov** introducing us to an incredible assortment of musical instruments, at least one for each participant, parent and volunteer to try out themselves, our "10-Year Dedication of the Community Garden" included a flagpole dedication and a wonderful home-baked cake by the **Stanley** family in which they incorporated many of the garden features, "Trees Are Terrific" was lead by tree expert **Justin Evertson** who took us on a neighborhood tree walk, then **Christine Jacobsen** talked about the GO! Play Adventure program (family treasure hunt) and the rubbing post we have in the front of the garden, "What's That Bug" brought us bug expert **Tom Janousek** bringing various live insect specimens to share and hold, then kids used their bug barns and butterfly nets to catch garden bugs and even a praying mantis, year's 18th annual freeand our finale was "Garden Chef's" where **Eric & Annemarie Noll** mixed up their special vinegary brew so that everyone made their own jar of pickled vegetables to take home; it was a nice way to end this year's scheduled program activities.

We encourage all Youth Gardeners to continue coming to the garden to tend to your plots; there are still more weeks of good growing weather.

Note: For the month of September anyone who has earned "garden bucks" can spend them at the Neighborhood Market at 33rd & California Friday evenings 4-8 PM. They have had beans, beets, radishes, kale, rhubarb, cherries, egg plant, tomatoes, cantaloupe, peppers, squash, zucchini, cucumbers, carrots, herbs of all kind, flowers, salsas, jams and jellies.

Thank you for growing with us, see you next spring!

by *Chris Foster*

Patriot Day
Sunday
September 11





Do You Remember...

When the 33rd Street Business District Looked Like This?

Take A Stroll Along The East Side Of The Street And See How It's Changed!

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:

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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

