



Gifford Park's Pride

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

November 2011

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Holiday Lights, Fireworks To Create One Magical Evening



The magic begins at Midtown Crossing on Thursday, November 17, with a full evening of spectacle. The public is invited to enjoy the seasonal debut of Midtown Crossing's holiday lights followed by the development's first ever fireworks display. At dusk, hundreds of thousands of pure white LED lights will illuminate the grounds at Midtown Crossing.

The fireworks over Turner Park, engineered by J&M Fireworks, are set to begin at 8:00 p.m. J & M's **Matt Darling** said firework fans are in for a unique experience.

"Because of the show's position in the park – within close proximity of the attendees – they can expect to be closer than normal," Darling said.

The trade-off? J&M will have to tone down the size of the fireworks just a bit, but Darling said the public can still expect plenty of dazzle. Every show, he said, is a thrill for him, "just seeing the looks on peoples' faces and hearing all the ooh's and ahhh's as the fireworks are shot off."

"Holiday lights and fireworks complemented by an amazing dinner out – that is a family or date night made easy," said **Molly Skold**, marketing director for East Campus Realty LLC, the Mutual of Omaha subsidiary that owns Midtown Crossing.

The holiday lighting and the fireworks display are being held in conjunction with yet another premiere event – the patron party for and exclusive gala opening of Magic at Midtown: A Tour of Upscale Urban Residences. Presented by Joslyn Castle Trust, Magic at Midtown is a showcase of twelve Midtown Crossing condominiums (divided into 32 professionally-designed spaces). The tour formally opens to the public Friday, November 18 and continues through Sunday, December 4.

Discounted tickets to Magic at Midtown are now on

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**Thursday, November 10
Community Bike Project Omaha
Mural Dedication/General Meeting
(See Page 2 For Details)
Election of Officers/Board
Members For 2012**

7:00 PM

**California Tacos & More
33rd & California St.**

**Executive Meeting
Tuesday, November 22
7 PM at the Larson's
3565 California St.**

2012 Officers, Board Nominees Announced

The Nomination Committee will present the following slate of officers and board members for the GPNA in 2012. Voting will take place at the November 10th general meeting. Please plan to attend since a quorum will be necessary for passage of this slate.

OFFICERS

President: **Luther Larson**
Vice President: **Jeff Spiels**
Secretary: **Jill Westfall**
Treasurer: **Dana Carlton-Flint**

BOARD

Landlord Representative: **Chris Foster**
Business Representative: **Martin Janousek**
Member at Large: **Travis Lavender**
Member at Large: **Eric Purcell**

I would like to thank all the nominees listed above for volunteering their time and leadership to help our neighborhood develop into Omaha's best place to live, work and play. *Luther Larson, GPNA President*

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**

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

From The President . . .

As I walk through the neighborhood I have noticed many changes that have improved the neighborhood. Most of these improvement are simple things that any home owner can undertake like picking up trash, trimming bushes/trees, removing fences, and adding color (by paint or flowers).

To do its part to improve the neighborhood, GPNA has used 2011 grant money for things you will be seeing in the park and around the neighborhood. In addition to the new playground equipment to be installed at the park, grants have helped provide new benches, trash cans, doggie doo bag dispensers and bike racks. You will be seeing some of these this fall with some not being installed until spring. I would like to thank **Dana Carlton-Flint** for all her work on writing grant requests for the GPNA.

The other big initiative in the neighborhood is the Destination Midtown planning effort for the 33rd and California business district. This is the result of numerous efforts starting to come together to put a new face on the business district. The original input to this process was last year's neighborhood survey. Your input continued at last month's meeting where planners presented their findings and asked for members input. Visit <http://nbdfeedback.wordpress.com/> for more information.

At this month's meeting we will be highlighting another neighborhood gem, the Community Bike Project Omaha. Prior to the meeting the bike shop at 525 N 33rd will be open for all to stop by and see the facility and the new art that decorates its walls. The general meeting will follow at 7:00 PM next door at California Taco and More. See you Thursday in the "Business District".

by Luther Larson

Change Of Venue For November's General Meeting

The November 10th general meeting will be held in conjunction with the Community Bike Project and the **6:00-8:00 pm** reception for the Bellows Mentees Bike Mural opening at the Community Bike Project Building at **535 North 33rd St.** We would like to encourage all to attend the mural opening and then the GPNA meeting @ **7:00 pm** at **California Tacos & More (33rd and California)** just north of the Community Bike Project. Snacks and soda will be provided. This month's meeting will include voting for the slate of nominees for the 2012 GPNA Officer and Board positions. We will also have **Weston Thomson**, Education Manager from The Kent Bellows Studio & Center for Visual Arts share insights about our neighbor organization at 33rd and Leavenworth.

by Luther Larson

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).

Happy Thanksgiving!

**From the Gifford Park
Neighborhood Association**



**23rd Annual Holiday
Banquet
Thursday, December 8
Watch your mail for details!**

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



CBPO Update

As I write this, the snow is coming down. While this batch may not stick around, you know that's where we're headed. Maybe you think that means that the Community Bike Project will be winding down for the winter, but think again! While we probably will shift our day-to-day work a bit, we'll still keep plenty busy over the winter months. Let me tell you about a few things going on.



YOU'RE INVITED to our new mural reception, Thursday, November 10th, at 6pm at the Shop. The fantastic Kent Bellows Studio provided some great young artists, and mentored by another community artist, they've created a beautiful mural in our shop. Help us dedicate the mural and thank the artists—and then feel free to head over to the monthly neighborhood meeting next door!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS! Our annual Golden Spokes awards night is coming up in December—our chance to say thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who make the Community Bike Project happen. We're setting the date now, but it'll be at the Pizza Shoppe Collective in Benson, and there will be door prizes, pizza and drinks, and live music, in addition to the giving out of our coveted Golden Spokes awards. Everyone is welcome and it's a great chance to relax and hang out with the CBPO community. Look for more details soon on the CBPO website and in next month's neighborhood newsletter.

OPEN SHOP continues! While the demand for bike repair and shop resources does slow down a bit in the winter, we still have our Open Shop one day a week, while we use other days to work on things internally, Wonka-style. Starting Dec. 1, our Open Shop hours will change to only Saturdays, noon-4pm. We'll still be tinkering away on Wednesday and Thursday nights, so if you want to come by and volunteer, we'd love to have you.

Finally, a shout out to some other great winter biking resources and activities! First, Bicycling magazine has a great online guide on what to wear bicycling when the temperatures drop:

<http://www.bicycling.com/whattowear>. Next, our friends at Activate Omaha are starting a new Winter Bike Commuter Challenge! Ride your bike over the winter, log your miles, and earn your bragging rights! (<http://www.activateomaha.org>). And last but not least, the annual Cranksgiving event is rapidly

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Fax: (402) 344-2861

Email: ttaylor@thyristaylorcounseling.com

105 N 31st Ave. Ste. 215

Omaha, Nebraska 68131

approaching! This great charity bike ride/race happens this year on Saturday, November 12 and is a great way to collect food for the Food Bank (<http://cranksgiving-omaha.blogspot.com/>).

Happy (Winter) Cycling!

Matt Martin

402-957-2453

matt@communitybikeproject.org

Link To Feedback Blog Available

As a follow-up to last month's general meeting, a link to the Feedback Blog for the Neighborhood Business District Project is now available. The preliminary study findings for each of the four districts (Gifford Park, Park Ave, Leavenworth & Vinton St.) are posted on the blog, plus a list of potential catalyst projects — which is what the Project is really hoping to get feedback on. The site will be up for about a month.

The site is: <http://nbdfeedback.wordpress.com/>

**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



Community Garden Fall Cleanup

Great Nebraska fall weather provided a nice day for our fall cleanup day Saturday, October 22, in the community garden. Volunteers cleared plants from their family plots and youth garden plots, weeded, moved dirt, organized plant cages/fencing, completed other tasks in preparation for winter. We filled about 55 yardwaste bags total! Again this year thanks to **Bob Hutton** for “winterizing” our water supplies and backflow preventers in the community garden and Gifford Park - this ensures water lines are free of water and pipes won't break. Thanks to our volunteers: **Mike Caban, Carlson family (Rose, Luci, Maria), the Stanley family (Dawn, Crystal, Justine, Witney, Rachel, Junior), Nancy Gaarder, Jackie Foster, Chris & Sallie Foster, Cheryl Mslonka, Diane Kaye, Max Kaye, Connor Maly and Peter Ganz (PKA Fraternity), Manzo family (Francisco & Blanca, Ari, Emily, Jasmin), Leslie McDougal, Sara Stauffer, Tylina Cookman-Booth, Mark Trampe, Daniel Lawse, Eric Purcell, and Bren Duvall and her parents (and Bren's new baby Indigo Thoma!)** If you have any questions about the community garden or the youth garden program, call **Chris** at **402-342-6006** or e-mail at foster3413@cox.net.

by Chris Foster



PKA Haunted House A Hit

For this year's **17th Annual PKA Fraternity Halloween Haunted House**, the PKA guys enlisted great help from the Creighton **Delta Zeta Sorority**. With all the volunteers, including some from the GPNA, and pleasant fall weather with temperatures in the 50's, we had 161 (different) kids go through the house and survive to tell about it, with many kids going through more than once! The event, held Friday, October 28, started at 6 pm for the 10 year old and under crowd, then got scarier starting at 6:30 pm for any ages who dared enter. Those who made it through got treats in the Coach House at the end. New this year, the Delta Zetas did face-painting outside as kids waited in line. They also guided kids through the house to keep the PKA guys in line! Many thanks to **Connor Maly** with the PKA Fraternity for organizing their fraternity members, and **Nicole Huyhn** leading the Delta Zeta Sorority volunteer effort. We also had great help from GPNA members who either volunteered and/or donated items and treats: **Jan Franks, Brittany Rubek, Bob Hutton, Darryl Hutton, Tyler White, Quannie Nance, Chris & Sallie Foster, Mike Caban, Rose Carlson, Eva Swanson, Jim Wilwerding, Sandy Freeman, and Lois Baumhover**. Unfortunately longtime volunteer **Betty Slayden** was feeling ill and not able to come – we missed you Betty! Thanks again for everyone's help!

by Chris Foster





Midtown Crossing . . .continued from page 1

sale at Wohlner's Neighborhood Grocery & Deli in Midtown Crossing. (The advance ticket price at Wohlner's is \$15 versus \$20 general admission at the door, a 25% savings.)

All tickets to Magic at Midtown include:

- One tour admission to Magic at Midtown at 220 South 31st Avenue in Midtown Crossing.
- One tour admission to the Joslyn Castle at 3902 Davenport Street.
- Special Magic at Midtown offers from Midtown Crossing merchants and restaurants.

Tour proceeds support the Joslyn Castle Trust and its ongoing efforts to restore the Castle property. The Trust expects Magic at Midtown to raise over \$100,000.

Midtown Crossing is urban living redefined, the fastest-selling condominium community in Omaha history and one of ten projects around the world praised for embodying "the synergy of public/private partnerships" (Urban Land Magazine, 2010).

Spanning 15.5 acres in the heart of historic midtown Omaha, Midtown Crossing boasts 225,000-square-feet of unsurpassed dining, diversion and retail as well as nearly 500 condominium and apartment units, ample parking and green space.

For more information about Midtown Crossing, including the latest onresidential and retail offerings, events and development amenities, please visit our newly-designed web site, www.midtowncrossing.com or contact Molly Skold at 402-598-9676 or Molly.Skold@mutualofomaha.com

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

Many thanks to the Omaha Tennis Association (Development Fund) for awarding seven junior scholarships this year totaling \$840 to participants of the Gifford Park Youth Tennis program. The funds help pay for ten weeks of indoor tennis lessons this fall at Hanscom Tennis Center for youth who demonstrated good sportsmanship and a committed interest to improve their tennis skills.

Playground equipment update: the GPNA still hopes to see the new playground equipment and park benches installed in the west end of Gifford Park in November. We are working with the City Parks Department on final details to do the

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City To Open Hanscom Dog Park

Omaha Dog Park Advocates announced that the Hanscom Bark Park, the city's newest off-leash dog park, will officially open on **Saturday, Nov. 19, in Hanscom Park at 32nd Avenue and Woolworth Ave.** in Midtown Omaha. At noon on Saturday, Nov.19, Omaha Mayor **Jim Suttle**, members of Omaha Parks & Recreation, Hanscom Park Neighborhood Association and Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association members, along with other distinguished guests will be in attendance to cut the ribbon on the entrance to Hanscom Bark Park. Other neighboring community members are also encouraged to attend.

"We are really excited to open the city's second official off-leash dog park in Hanscom Park," states Bridget Jansen, president of Omaha Dog Park Advocates. "We've worked collaboratively over the past nine months with the city and surrounding communities, and are thrilled to provide a midtown location where residents can bring their dogs for exercise and socialization in a safe environment." Prior to efforts to open a second park within the city, the only other dog park available to residents is located at Hefflinger Park in West Omaha, a 20-30 minute commute for midtown and downtown residents.

In addition to the ribbon cutting ceremony held at noon on Saturday, Nov. 19, the surrounding neighborhoods will also host a Chili Feed fund raiser at the Hanscom Park Pavilion immediately following the ceremony. Further, various supporters of Omaha Dog Park Advocates will be on hand offering free giveaways and information on pet and dog services in and around midtown Omaha. Proceeds raised from the Chili Feed will directly contribute to the maintenance and upkeep for Hanscom Bark Park.

The Hanscom Bark Park aims to mobilize neighborhoods and surrounding communities in a volunteer effort spearheaded in partnership with the Omaha Dog Park Advocates (ODPA), Hanscom Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA), and Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association (FBNA) to ensure upkeep and maintenance of the park as its popularity and benefit to the community continues to grow and sustain as a vital destination within Hanscom Park. Visit www.omahadogpark.org for more information.

**Last City Yard Waste Collection:
Week of Nov. 28th - Dec. 2nd**

What's Happening . . . continued from page 5

installation. This project is a collaborative effort between the GPNA and Creighton University Occupational Therapy students.

Mark your calendars for the annual Restore Omaha Conference and Exhibition scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 2012, at Metropolitan Community College, South Omaha Campus. Now in its seventh 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 402-679-5854 or info@restoreomaha.org. The conference is hosted by Metropolitan Community College.

Many thanks to the 33rd & California businesses for their generous donations to the Celebrate Midtown Masquerade Party event held October 22 at Joslyn Castle. This fundraising event to support ReTree Midtown and other Midtown projects was presented by **Midtown Neighborhood Alliance, Midtown Business Association, and Indian Creek Nursery**. Businesses donating items included **Marrakech Restaurant, Shelterbelt/SNAP Theaters, California Tacos Restaurant, Robinson's Garage, Selenas Market, Community Bike Shop, GPNA and Gifford Park Community Garden** – thank you!

The GPNA offers its sincere condolences to **Billy Dooly** and his family; Billy's wife **June** passed away October 29th after a long illness. If you have been around the neighborhood for a while you've seen Billy helping out at neighborhood cleanups since the early 1990's when his family first moved into the neighborhood. Our thoughts are with Billy and his family.

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

