



Gifford Park's Pride

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

December 2011

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Gifford Park Neighborhood Lighting Up With Holiday Displays

GPNA volunteers plan to view holiday decorations in our Gifford Park neighborhood the evening of **Thursday, December 22**, so have your decorations up and your lights on! If you would like to help be a "viewer" of addresses, please call **Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net)**. We will publish in the next in GPNA newsletter the addresses of nice displays. Below is last year's address list of exceptional holiday decorating in our neighborhood; we thought it would be good to share these addresses if you have time to take your family/friends on a tour of the neighborhood - I'm sure most of these same addresses will look nice again this year...some of you have already started!

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 3405 California | 621 N 36 th |
| 3408 California | 152 N 35 th |
| 3409 California | 352 N 35 th |
| 3413 California | 803 N 35 th |
| 3514 California | 715 N 36 th |
| 3555 California | 137 N 37 th |
| 3565 California | 3502 Burt |
| 3611 California | 3401 Webster |
| 3702 Cass | 3429 Webster |
| 3317 Cass | 3413 Webster |
| 3036 Cass | 3408 Webster |
| 3209 Cass | 3405 Webster |
| 3210 Cass | 3417 Webster |
| 3411 Cass | 3416 Cass (community garden) |
| 621 N 33rd | Midtown Crossing |



Thursday, December 15

**23rd Annual Holiday Banquet
For GPNA Members
By Invitation
Reservation Required
(Please Respond by December 9)**

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

2012 Officers & Board Members Elected at November Meeting

The following GPNA members were elected to their positions at the November 10th general meeting:

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**

In addition, **Darryl Hutton** was added as a Member at Large to round out the Board. The GPNA thanks the members listed above who take time out of their busy schedules to serve our neighborhood in leadership positions. It's members like these who make our neighborhood such a great place to live, work, and play!



**Happy
Holidays
From
The
GPNA!**



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

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).*

From The President . . .

Hope you all have enjoyed the beautiful fall. It is great to see all the wonderful colors that fall creates in our neighborhood. Sounds like the white of winter will be here soon, so get your snow shovels ready to go. Remember that even if you do not use your sidewalks, others do, so it is important to clear the walks of snow as soon as possible after a snow. The many that walk in the neighborhood (including their K9 friends) will appreciate it.

A big thank you to **California Taco** for allowing us to hold our November meeting at their facility. Also, thanks for providing the soft drinks and chips. During this meeting you elected next year's GPNA officers and board members which I as president am looking forward to working with. Please contact me or any of the officers and/or new board members with your suggestions of what you would like GPNA to accomplish in 2012.

Have a very blessed holiday season and a happy new year.

by Luther Larson

LOCAL Campaign Information

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.

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

CBPO Update

The fall has been a busy one at the bike shop. Heading into December, we are looking forward to our **Golden Spokes Awards Party** at the **Pizza Shoppe** in Benson on **December 15th** from **7-10 p.m.** The Golden Spokes Awards is an annual year-end celebration at which we acknowledge the efforts of our volunteers. We will be presenting our coveted Golden Spokes awards to particularly stand-out individuals and taking some time to relax and socialize. Entertainment will be provided by the Prairie Gators. We realized too late, unfortunately, that this event falls on the same evening of the GPNA Holiday Banquet. But...although you may not be in the mood for any more food after the banquet, we do hope you will stop by the Pizza Shoppe afterwards to enjoy the show.



Just a reminder about our winter hours. Beginning the first week of December, the shop will only be open to the public on Saturdays from 12-4. We are still encouraging volunteers to come work with us on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6-8 pm. On these nights we will be busy repairing donated bikes and taking care of housekeeping tasks around the shop.

We hope you all have a happy holiday season! Please stop by the shop to say hello.

by Sara Adkisson Joyner

It's "Renew Your GPNA Membership" Time Again!

The 2012 Membership Year Starts January 1

**Renew Your Membership
At The Holiday Banquet
Or Mail In The Application
On The Back Page!**

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

What Will The Future Look Like?

The ongoing evolution of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association and its effect on our community is frankly a testament to the term "Grass Roots." This is not the same neighborhood that I moved into, back in 1975. I'm firmly convinced that, as in the past, where one success led to another, the future will be even better for the people who live here.

A cultural shift has occurred since those radical activist days of 1988-1993. The activism in our neighborhood has become a way of life for many long term residents, and newcomers are increasingly attracted to our neighborhood because of that tradition of neighbor helping neighbor, and neighbors helping the neighborhood.

For those of us who saw the "before" picture, we're happy, proud, amazed, thankful, and yes, committed to continue to work for the ultimate "after." That eventual future lies within our collective imagination.

If you're not a member of the GPNA, become one. If you're a member of the GPNA, become an active one. I'm sure you'll find that one or more of our diverse projects and programs will fit your talents and abilities. If you're already an active member of the GPNA... BRAVO!!! ...and thank you.

by Mike Caban

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



**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 Update

Since the community garden has been “put to bed” until next spring, it’s a great time to take a break, and thanks to everyone who volunteered and participated in the community garden and youth garden programs! However please do stop by to view the annual lighted Christmas tree near the front of the garden.

For those of you who had garden plots this past year, a bit of information about next year’s garden: In 2012 we will roll back the plot fees to the 2010 level; \$15 for the large 5’ X 15’ plots, and \$8 for the smaller 5’ X 8’ plots. Since GPNA memberships expire at the end of the year, membership renewals for 2012 will be available at our annual Holiday Banquet on December 15th. And, if you returned the survey we sent you, indicating that you plan to keep your plot next year, and you renew your GPNA membership at the banquet, we will waive the garden plot application process, and all you’ll need to do is pay the plot fee when we send you the 2012 Garden information in early spring. If you have any questions, contact **Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net)**. We hope everyone has a happy and safe Holiday season.

by Chris Foster



Thanks Bob & Darryl Hutton for securing the Community Garden Christmas tree in place!

If You See Crime - Report It!

This is a great opportunity for us as a neighborhood to help law enforcement and help our own neighborhood, especially this time of year with the holiday season upon us (we had a report of a neighborhood resident who had Christmas decorations stolen from their yard). Here’s things you can do: Observe and report suspicious activity (it’s the right thing to do and it helps to document issues); When calling 911 be willing to meet with officers even if you meet at a nearby location (the call will be given a higher priority); If possible, take pictures and provide as much information as you can. Northeast Police Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist **Theola Cooper (402-444-3367, Theola.Cooper@ci.omaha.ne.us)** is an excellent resource to contact if you have specific information on problem issues. Remember the old saying, “If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.”

Yates Community Center Update

Remarkable programs continue at Yates! The neighborhood association met with OPS for an update at Yates Community Center on October 25. The upper floors continue to house programs for newcomers to the states. The main floor classrooms house early Head Start programs. OPS plans to continue this programming, as well as investigate additional options for the facility down the road.

OPS presented an update on the neighborhood demographics and confirmed what we know in Gifford Park: there are lots of kids! Relative to other parts of the city, a small percentage of school children attend the neighborhood school, Kellom Elementary. Only small areas of the neighborhood are served by busses to the neighborhood school. The remaining kids exercise choice in the school of attendance or home school. The neighborhood association continues to work to bring community support around the school. The potential for increasing neighborhood involvement and

continued on page 5



Cub Scout Pack 17 and Boy Scout Troop 42 Christmas Tree Collection Service Project

The Dundee neighborhood Scouts are again offering to pick your Christmas tree and deliver for recycling. Dates are:

- Sunday, December 31, 2011
- Saturday, January 7, 2012

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

To have your tree on our schedule

1. Return sign-up form
2. Remove decorations from your tree
3. Place tree on your curb by 9 a.m.

Cub Scout Pack 17 Christmas Tree Collection

Your Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation enclosed: _____



Collection date (circle one): Dec 31 Jan 7

Return by December 24th to:

Pack 17, c/o Marc Anderson, 4914 Chicago St., Omaha, NE 68132
Or call 558-0727 or email anderson4914@msn.com to make a reservation
Please make checks payable to Pack 17



**OPEN HOUSE/TOYS FOR TOTS
DROP OFF
3636 California St.**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
10 am - 4 pm**

**Bring in a new toy for a needy child
and take a tour
FREE bag of Dog Treats for bringing in
a toy!
Refreshments will be served**

Call For Yarn & Knitting Needles

The refugees at **Yates Community Center** are busy knitting warm socks, mittens, hats, and scarves to get through a Nebraska winter, and they can use your help! If you have yarn left over from another project, or knitting needles or crochet hooks (smaller sizes preferred), please drop off at the **Yates Community Center, 3260 Davenport, Monday-Friday, 9-4.**

Yates . . .continued from page 4

thereby benefiting our community is enormous. For example, there is currently a community garden planned for the school that will extend education opportunities beyond the classroom. There is also discussion of providing a shuttle bus to Kellom for children who would like to walk to the neighborhood school but find the trip to harrowing. OPS has been receptive to both these ideas. We have much to look forward to at Yates!

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

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, call 402-679-5854 or info@restoreomaha.org. The conference is hosted by Metropolitan Community College.

In case you hadn't heard, the Gifford Park neighborhood has been recognized as "**Omaha's Greenest Neighborhood**" by the Green Neighborhood Coalition...for the 2nd year in a row!!

The GPNA thanks our three newest board members **Jeff Spiels, Travis Lavender** and **Eric Purcell** for also taking on some of our newsletter delivery routes – thanks guys!

If anyone has any neighborhood memorabilia or history items (pictures, videos, books, awards, articles, other items) please contact **Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net)**. The GPNA has collected and inherited items over the years and we would like to better organize some of the neighborhood and GPNA history that tells quite a rich, interesting and on-going story. Our GPNA historian **Eva Swanson** did a wonderful job of capturing information into our "History Book" and two large scrapbooks. We would like to build on this good work.

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

