



Gifford Park's Pride

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

Jan/Feb 2014

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

2013 GPNA Holiday Banquet

Highlights

By Chris Foster

Once again we had a great turnout with about 125 GPNA members, family, and guests who attended our 25th Annual Holiday Banquet held Thursday December 5th at Alegent Creighton Health in the Becic Dining Room. It was a special night celebrating our 25th year for the GPNA and for (Alegent) Creighton hosting this banquet. Many thanks to everyone who helped-from sending out invitations and taking RSVP's to helping with clean-up. You made this yet another very nice celebration! Again this year we displayed neighborhood and GPNA memorabilia, including history scrapbooks (created by our historian Eva Swanson), and picture boards of our 2013 events and activities.

Emcee and GPNA president Eric Purcell kept the evening rolling. This year's theme of "silver" (for 25 years) was reflected in the table decorations put together by Dana Carlton-Flint. The 2013 events & activities slideshow ran during the first half of the evening as people enjoyed festive music from Matt Cronin. Brent Lubbert video-taped several neighbors about their experience volunteering with the GPNA.

The GPNA recognized some very special volunteer efforts. Chris Foster announced our "Neighbor of the Year" – the Stanley family. Wendell & Alyssa thanked everyone for the recognition. (see 'Neighbor of the Year' article in this issue). Community Bike Shop Manager Charles Mitchell and Matt Cronin presented Mohamed Ukach with an outstanding youth recognition award for his volunteer work with the Community Bike Shop, community gardens (including managing chickens), neighborhood & park cleanups, and the Friday Night Neighborhood Market. Speaking of the Market, we showed a fantastic three-minute video of the Market produced by Dave Collie – great

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**Next General Meeting
Thursday, February 13**

**Speakers:
State Senator Sara Howard
and Restore Omaha**

**7:00 pm
Morrison Seminar Room
Alegent Creighton Medical Center**



2014 Restore Omaha Conference Aims to Inspire and Teach Attendees to Restore Older Properties

Where can you get ideas on how to make compatible additions and renovations to an older home?

How do you repair an old window to make it more energy efficient?

Where can you tour and hear about restoration projects happening now in Omaha?

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2014 GPNA OFFICERS

President

Eric Purcell
402-719-5108

Vice President

Ricky Green
402-513-6286

Secretary

Jill Westfall
402-213-3105

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402-616-9350

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At Large

Ricky Green 301-3936
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Laura Weiss 609-444-9125

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Martin Janousek 558-4070

Landlord

Chris Foster 290-8187

COMMITTEES

Community Garden

Chris Foster 290-8187

Membership

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Editor's note: If you have news of interest to the Gifford Park Neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for the monthly newsletter. Editorials are subject to approval by the GPNA Executive Board. Please include your contact information. Articles may be submitted by email to jill.lynn.westfall@gmail.com.

From the President

By Eric Purcell

Welcome to 2014 from Gifford Park!

As we step into this new year, I want to re-acquaint us with the mission of our Gifford Park Neighborhood Association.

Our Mission: As members of Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, we are committed to preserving and protecting our neighborhood. In the spirit of volunteerism and teamwork, and through dedication, integrity and communication with neighbors and local government officials, our goal is to help make the Gifford Park Neighborhood a great place to live, work, learn and play.

Our mission is to make Gifford Park a great place to live, work, learn and play! There is so much to celebrate because this is true of our neighborhood. It is a great place to live; and it's the work, learning and playing that happen here that make it a great place to live.

But this hasn't just happened. Over the last 25 years hundreds of people have dedicated countless hours to preserving and protecting this neighborhood, promoting this neighborhood, and developing this neighborhood by creatively investing in it.

That work is still not finished.

As we enter 2014, I wonder what more we can do? I wonder what more you can do?

I continue to believe that the first and most important thing we can do is to be good neighbors. By growing relationships, watching out for each

other and serving each other, we can knit a tighter, safer and more vibrant community.

One very real and practical thing we can do right now is to watch out for each other. There has been an increase in car theft and burglary in many Midtown neighborhoods. Our's has not escaped this reality. It appears that thieves are taking advantage of the colder temperatures and stealing vehicles while they are warming up as well as breaking into homes despite frigid temperatures. They have banked on less vigilance in these colder days and are walking away with a big pay off. A couple of simple solutions:

1. Call the police if you notice anything strange. Or at least call your neighbor (whom you're getting to know). Keeping each other safe IS our business.
2. Be very cautious about leaving your vehicle running without being in it.
3. Continue to be present in the neighborhood. Even though it is cold, get outside and be seen on your street and in the neighborhood.
4. Check in on your neighbors to see how they are doing.
5. Do not let fear keep you from getting involved.

I'm excited for all that this new year has in store for us. Let's keep building this neighborhood together.

See you in the Neighborhood!

Community Garden/Youth Garden

This is the time of year folks start thinking about gardening. We are starting to plan for community garden projects and the youth garden program. Stay tuned for more updates in our March newsletter as spring approaches. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming involved with either the community garden or youth garden program, contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net), or Mike Caban (402-341-4722 or caban3321@cox.net).

Renovated Gifford Park apartment building is now a 'cool property'

On November 9, 2013, Omaha World-Herald reporter Cindy Gonzales wrote an article about Gifford Park's latest major redevelopment. Developers are rehabilitating the Nottingham Apartments at 33rd and Burt. Here are a few excerpts from the story with quotes from GPNA leaders:

"A 1925 English Tudor Revival-style apartment building that had fallen into disrepair and was boarded up and used by squatters and drug dealers now has become a friend again of Omaha's Gifford Park neighborhood.

The Nottingham at 33rd and Burt Streets, vacant for the past three years, has undergone a \$3 million rehabilitation, and its 31 apartments are set to open this weekend for lease at market rates.

'It's great to see it back in operation,' area resident Chris Foster said. 'It was known as an open air drug haven. That's gone.'

The project was boosted by \$535,000 in tax-increment financing, and federal tax credits are expected.

In addition to major renovations inside the three-story, 34,000-square-foot brick complex, the developer razed three rundown houses to add parking and outdoor space..."

"...Martin Janousek, an architect and member of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, said property owners welcome the rehabilitated Nottingham as the neighborhood continues to build momentum in fighting crime and revitalizing its residential streets and business strip.

While under previous ownership, the Nottingham property had been cited for code violations and was closed before the lender foreclosed.

'It's had its bad moments,' said Janousek, adding that he expects it to now anchor that part of the neighborhood.

The expected infusion of pedestrian and bike traffic, Foster said, should enhance the sense of security and community.

'More density is a good thing,' he said. "We celebrate getting more residents."



The Nottingham c. 1925.



2014 Restore Omaha Conference

Continued from page 1

At the ninth annual Restore Omaha Conference, Saturday, March 1, at Metropolitan Community College's South Campus, 27th and Q Streets.

This year's conference opens with a reception from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28 sponsored by Lund-Ross Constructors featuring "Sneak Peek" tours of the KETV restoration of their new home at The Burlington Station. Participants will meet for drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the nearby Durham Museum.

Saturday's conference runs from 8 to 5 p.m. Bernice Radle, a young preservationist who is saving homes from demolition, will open the conference. Keynote lecture sponsored by AIA Omaha features Gordon Bock, editor of Old-House Journal. Attendees choose from three educational sessions, live demonstrations, and a host of exhibitors. Lunch will be provided. Eighteen breakout sessions will happen throughout the day ranging from historic paint colors, recreating historic landscapes, remodeling kitchens in historic homes to the restoration of the Rose Theater and the Burlington Station.

It all ends with the Restore Jam, where all attendees are invited to share before-and-after photos of their own restoration project.

Cost to attend both the reception and conference is \$60 (\$40 for conference only, \$25 reception only). Restoration Exchange members receive a discount.

For more information and to register, visit www.restoreomaha.org or call (402) 679-5854. To see a short video from last year's conference visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYHuAyt3IA>.

2013 GPNA Holiday Banquet Highlights

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work Dave! Roger Freeman said some very kind words about the GPNA, and about his late wife Sandy who passed away last year.

We again offer our sincere appreciation to Alegent Creighton Health, in particular Kevin Nokels, Pattie Dappen, and Tom Miller, for their enormous support by hosting this event complete with a buffet of traditional holiday fare! Darryl Hutton and Eva Swanson were our event "photographers." Mark & Sara Trampe greeted everyone, took memberships and handled the collection of canned food donations for the Food Bank.

Throughout the evening door prizes were given to lucky neighbors, and children also received presents – all donations came from GPNA members and VIP's - Senator Sara Howard and her mother Gwen, Councilman Chris Jerram, Subby & Janice Anzaldo, OPS Board member Marque Snow, Paul Mileris, Lynn Mills, Darryl Hutton, Lois Baumhover, Chris & Sallie Foster, Mike Caban, and Bob Hutton (note: again this year Bob Hutton made hand-carved wooden ornaments for gifts).

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate our neighborhood. We'll see you around the neighborhood!



Check out pages 10 and 11 for more photos from the Holiday Banquet!

The Wendell & Alyssa Stanley Family - 2013 GPNA Neighbor of the Year

The GPNA honored the Stanley family as our 2013 'Neighbor of the Year' at the 25th annual GPNA Holiday Banquet hosted by Alegent Creighton Health on December 5. The Stanley family includes parents Wendell & Alyssa and children Dawn, Crystal, Justine, Witney, Rachel and Wendell Jr. The Stanley family moved from Alabama into the neighborhood in the fall of 2001. Wendell came to Omaha to establish a church and actually picked out (by himself!) their home at 34th & Davenport.

They have been very involved with the community garden including season opening events, spring preparation, fall garden cleanups, and pot luck dinners. The Stanley's have participated and volunteered in the Youth Garden program since the beginning 10 years ago by providing support wherever needed. The family has been part of the Friday Night Neighborhood Market at 33rd & California selling their awesome cupcakes for last several years. The Stanley's volunteer for the Easter Egg Hunt (Justine was last year's Easter bunny), neighborhood & park cleanups, park planting & mulching, the Youth Soccer Program, and monthly newsletter stuffing & mailing.

Of course the children have all participated in the Youth Tennis program since they moved here. Dawn, Crystal, Justine and Witney have not only improved dramatically over the years due to their



talent, hard work and dedication, but they have been helping teach younger kids how to play tennis and good sportsmanship. Dawn, Crystal and Justine have all had 10 years perfect attendance in the tennis program!

The Stanley's help define not only the tennis program, but help define what our Gifford Park neighborhood is all about. The children learn this from their parents who teach the importance of community and being good citizens. The Stanley family has made a huge difference in the Gifford Park neighborhood with their positive attitude, hard work, and can-do attitude. I cannot imagine our youth tennis and youth garden programs without them, they are a joy to be around.

Congratulations Stanley family!

Maud Boutique upcoming event

By Lynn Mills

Maud Boutique is having a big sale with all So Charlotte, Anita Arze and some Mata Trader clothing 30% to 50% off. I'm getting in a new line of Jewelry called Boho Gypsy that I'm excited about. The designer lives part of the year in India where she works with other artisans and finds her materials. On Sunday February 9th, Maud is hosting the Love Bazaar, a local craft fair 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Find more information on Maud's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/maudboutique>



GPNA Membership Renewal

Hey Neighbor!

It's that time of year again to renew your membership to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association! Not a member . . . well then it's a perfect time to become one! For only \$10 per year for individuals, \$15 per year for families, and \$25 for businesses you gain the opportunity to not only learn about the latest things happening in our area through our monthly newsletter and member meeting, but also the ability to become involved in an assortment of activities to help grow and strengthen our neighborhood. Our members are the foundation of the GPNA, and the greater our membership base the more we can do to serve and enhance the Gifford Park neighborhood!

To renew your membership, use the form on the last page of the newsletter and mail your payment to:
Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
PO Box 31462
Omaha, NE 68131

News and Notes

Please keep longtime GPNA member and volunteer Bette Tanner in your thoughts, she has been ill lately. Bette is 93 years young and has lived her whole life in the Gifford Park neighborhood. She helps with our annual summer Gifford Park youth tennis program. Bette has an incredible neighborhood spirit is always willing to help anyone, anytime! Get well soon Bette.

Some residents have complained about the weekly Omaha World Herald (OWH) advertisement circular that gets delivered in people's front yards or driveways throughout the city. The complaint is these litter the neighborhood, especially with some of the very windy days we had in January. Advertisers contract the OWH to deliver these (since it is cheaper than mailings), so if you DO NOT wish to receive them, call the OWH customer service department at 402-346-3363, ask the OWH to take your address off their delivery list.

Report Crime

This is a great opportunity for us as a neighborhood to help law enforcement and help our own neighborhood. Northeast Police Precinct Captain Scott Gray has asked that the GPNA help police get the word out about leaving cars running and unattended. There have been many auto thefts all over the city where people have left cars running to warm up. Often they are in driveways or on the street. These are easily preventable. Regarding other issues, here are 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."

2014 GPNA Budget

	Bank Accts	Fund Allocation
General funds on hand (12/31/2013)		\$7,241.57
Checking	\$8,576.38	
Certification of Deposit 1	\$2,716.31	
Certification of Deposit 2	\$2,507.88	
Specified funds on hand (12/31/2013)		
Garden	\$2,184.27	\$2,184.27
Tennis		\$2,000.00
Soccer (MNA Grant)		\$750.00
Kiewit Grant		\$-
Mutual of Omaha Grant		\$3,809.00
Bank account balance as of 12/31/2013	\$15,984.84	\$15,984.84

Income		
Unspecified		
Memberships	\$1,800.00	
Donations	\$1,000.00	
Garage Sale	\$-	
News Letter Ads	\$-	
<i>Sub-total</i>		\$2,800.00
Specified		
Grants	\$5,000.00	
Donations		
Easter Egg Hunt	\$500.00	
Flower Pots	\$300.00	
Garden	\$100.00	
Garden plot fees	\$600.00	
<i>Sub-total</i>		\$6,500.00
Total		\$9,300.00
Expenses		
General		
Neighborhood Market	\$-	
Banquet	\$500.00	
Newsletter	\$1,000.00	
Cultural Event	\$500.00	
Post Office Box	\$120.00	
Organization memberships	\$200.00	
Website	\$85.00	
Meeting expenses	\$400.00	
GPNA Board discretionary	\$1,000.00	
<i>Sub-total</i>		\$3,805.00
Specific		
Easter Egg Hunt	\$500.00	
Flower Pots	\$300.00	
Soccer	\$750.00	
Garden	\$700.00	
Tennis	\$300.00	
Mutual of Omaha Grant	\$3,809.00	
Grant Projects	\$5,000.00	
<i>Sub-total</i>		\$11,359.00
Total		\$15,164.00
Expected Bank Account Balance as of 12/31/2014		\$10,120.84

Celebrating 25 years of the GPNA



The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association was founded in 1988 during a meeting at the home of Marge and Dave Hawkins at 508 North 32nd Street. Those attending were Jim and Ruth Windorski, Dave and Marge Hawkins, Charles Kilgore, Bernie Sunberg and Ron Yates. Jim Windorski was elected president; Dave Hawkins, vice president; Marge Hawkins, treasurer; and Ruth Windorski, recording secretary.

Below is a list of our on-going annual events, activities and programs organized by GPNA volunteers and how long they have been going:

- Monthly Newsletter – 25 years
- Meetings – 25 years
- Holiday Banquet – 25 years
- Spring Cleanup – 25 years
- Neighborhood Watch Group – 25 years
- Easter Egg Hunt – 24 years
- Tool Lending Program – 23 years
- Youth Tennis Program - 20 years
- Haunted House – 19 years
- Community Garden – 13 years
- Youth Garden Program - 10 years
- Business District Flower Pots – 9 years
- Restore Omaha – 8 years
- Community Bicycle Project – 7 years
- Neighborhood Market – 6 years
- Teen Market Garden – 5 years
- Free Food Drop off at Bike Shop – 5 years
- Youth Soccer Program – 2 years
- Yates Cultural Event – 2 years

Other Efforts:

- Garage Sales
- Park Playground & Improvements
- Music in the Park
- Show Wagon Youth Talent Show
- National Night Out Block Parties
- Free Tax Help
- Youth Baseball
- Bicycle Rodeos
- ...much more

Omaha Seed Share

Saturday, February 8, 2014

12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

Open to anyone who wants to grow their own food in the Omaha metro. Meet and visit with other local gardeners, sharing their excess seeds. You'll find common seeds as well as organic, heritage or heirloom plant varieties.

- Seed Sharing & Swapping (Bring seeds if you have extras)
- Free Seeds
- Food growing advice and local information
- Meet community gardeners & local farmers
- Bring envelopes for seeds

FREE Admission! Invite your friends & neighbors. Children welcome

For more information please contact Patty Falcone, Douglas County Health Department (402) 444-7146 or patty.falcone@douglascounty-ne.gov

Community Bicycle Project

By Charles Mitchell, Shop Manager

Despite the cold, the Community Bike Project's Open Shop and Earn-a-bike programs are still an active hub for year-round cyclists, volunteer mechanics, and Gifford Park youth.

Open Shop is open five days a week throughout the winter. Because we see fewer cyclists needing assistance with repairs, our volunteer mechanics are spending their time refurbishing bikes for resale while learning more about bike maintenance. The slower environment of a winter-time bike shop has also given youth a chance to take on some great projects. In addition to fixing their own bikes and helping to overhaul shop bikes, a few youth volunteers have also helped strip, paint, and rebuild a unique gold BMX.

Earn-a-Bike classes are ongoing on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Class sizes have been smaller, and students have benefited from one-on-one instruction and mentoring while learning how to patch tubes, fix chains, and safely ride their bikes. 10-15 year olds can register at any time to earn a bike, lock, and helmet by attending 6 classes that cover basic bike maintenance and safety! Individuals 16 and up can also earn free bikes by volunteering during our Open Shop



hours. Stop by the shop to sign-up.

The Bike Project is also excitedly making plans for the approaching cycling season. We'll be organizing our first fundraiser ride, Lids for Kids, on Sunday, May 4th, 2014. Check out www.communitybikeproject.org/lids4kids for updated information on the ride. After May's ride, we'll also be hosting monthly family-friendly group rides in June, July, and August.

Whether you want to learn more about bike maintenance, get your bike ready for spring, or help build community, now is the perfect time to get involved at the Bike Project!

Holiday Banquet 2013



Charles Mitchell with Mohamed Ukach, who was recognized as Outstanding Youth Volunteer.



Stanley children and friends from Big Muddy Urban Farm.



Silver decorations by Dana Carlton-Flint celebrated our 25th anniversary.



Eric Purcell shares the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association year-in-review.



The Holiday Banquet is a chance for old friends to connect.



Brent Lubbert capturing neighborhood memories with Mike Caban.



Wendell Stanley, Jr. and Crystal Stanley.



Neighborhood residents and friends enjoy dinner and conversation.



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 PO Box 31462
 Omaha, NE 68131

Place
 Stamp
 Here

**Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 Membership Application**

The GPNA Membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.

Type of Membership: Single (\$10.00) Family (\$15.00) Business (\$25.00)

Today's Date: _____

Name (person 1): _____ Email: _____

Name (person 2): _____ Email: _____

Name (person 3): _____ Email: _____

Name (person 4): _____ Email: _____

Name (person 5): _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Volunteer Opportunities! I'm interested in helping with....

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <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 Liason | <input type="checkbox"/> Call Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Banquet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Lending | | | |