



Gifford Park's Pride

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

May 2006

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

May 6 is GPNA Spring Cleanup Date



The annual **GPNA Spring Cleanup** will be held on **Saturday, May 6**, from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in **Gifford Park**. Trash compactors will be available again this year and will be monitored by neighborhood volunteers (NO commercial hauling!) Also during this time there will be a neighborhood & park cleanup, recycling, a membership & donation drive, a police officer and cruiser for teaching public safety, a Boy Scout demonstration, and food for the volunteers prepared by resident cookout specialist **Rodney Hay**. Items **ACCEPTED** at the cleanup include furniture, appliances, metal, garage sale items, and trash. Items **NOT ACCEPTED** include paint, yardwaste, concrete, hazardous material, and oil. Tree brush vouchers through **River City Recycling** will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Tires may be dropped off for **FREE** at **St Adalbert's Church, 2619 South 31st St.**; tires will be accepted at the Gifford Park site for \$1 each. Appliances may be dropped off for **FREE** at **Holy Name School, 2901 Fontenelle Blvd.** Appliances containing freon (refrigerators, air conditioners) will be accepted at Gifford Park for \$10 each.

A small donation may be requested to pick up large hauls. GPNA members will get highest priority for hauling items. If you can help with the neighborhood cleanup in any way or if you need help with hauling, please call **Chris 342-6006, Jim 551-1344, Terry 342-2795, or Ron 344-0757.**

GPNA Membership Rates Increase

The membership year for the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association officially runs from June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007, and any membership purchased now will be good through May 31, 2007. And if you join now or at the Spring Cleanup, you will pay the current membership cost of \$5 for Single, \$8 for Family and \$25 for Business. The new cost will be \$10 for Single, \$15 for Family and \$25 for Business, effective June 1. This is the first increase in over 15 years and unfortunately the GPNA does not have many ways of generating revenue to offset expenses, which of course have increased. Your membership helps pay for this newsletter, neighborhood cleanups and beautification projects, youth activities, social activities, neighborhood watch equipment, tool lending and many other worthwhile programs.

Next General Meeting
Thursday, May 4
7:00 P.M.

Speaker: Tawanna Black
Executive Director
Destination Midtown

Guest : Jim Esch
Candidate for District 2
U.S. Representative

Creighton University Med Center
Morrison Seminar Room

Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, May 18
7:00 P.M.

Yates Alternative School
32nd & Davenport St.



Community Garden Season-Opening Event Set For May 13

The **Gifford Park Community Garden's** season-opening event will be held on **Saturday, May 13**, from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at **35th & Cass Street**. A variety of activities are planned, including "Ask the Master Gardener", garden & plant information, music & dance, face painting, birdhouse building, free plant seeds, free library card and book sign-up, and refreshments (while supplies last!) **Kate Bodmann** will also be on hand to provide information and registration forms for the third annual **Youth Garden Program**. For more information, call **Chris 342-6006, Kate 496-8419, or Cynthia 556-2090.**

GPNA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Cynthia Shuck 556-2090

VICE PRESIDENT

Dan Bodmann 496-8419

RECORDING SECRETARY

Diane Kaye 341-4146

TREASURER

KateBodmann 496-8419

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Chris Foster 342-6006

COMPLIANCE

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

KELLOM SCHOOL LIAISON

Jean Peck 344-0722

MEMBERSHIP

Kate O'Brien 496-8419

NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Chris Foster 342-6006

PARK

Roger Freeman 557-2914

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chris Foster 342-6006

TOOL LENDING

Chris Foster 342-6006

WATCH GROUP

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

WELCOMING

Vicki Frey 344-0757



Entrepreneurship Classes

Tuesdays, Beginning May 9, 2006

Destination Midtown is hosting a series of entrepreneurship classes to help spur business development in many underserved areas of Midtown. Classes meet weekly on Tuesdays from 6 – 8:30 p.m.

The eight-week course will offer sessions on:

- Business plan development
- Market research
- Products and services
- Marketing and promotion
- Operations
- Finances
- Site selection and evaluation

Courses will be conducted by trainers from the Nebraska Business Development Center. Special presentations from area business owners and service providers will provide students with a real model for building a successful business in Midtown. Course participants will graduate at the end of April with a certificate of completion. Through the indepth training and follow-up assistance, each participant completing the class will also develop financial projections and a comprehensive business plan.

Cost for the class is \$75 per person. Pre-registration is required. Register [online](#), by calling (402) 233-7142 or by e-mailing [Tawanna Black](#). Class fills quickly so register early. Registration deadline is Friday, May 5, 2006. Registrants will receive all class dates and locations.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Nebraska Microenterprise Partnership Fund.

Destination Midtown is an alliance of neighborhood associations, businesses, public and private institutions, Omaha city government and the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. The mission is to create a premier urban environment where people want to live, work, shop and play. The vision is to establish a distinct urban environment that promotes economic development activities and advances neighborhood goals and forges unique partnerships. Destination Midtown is bordered on the north by Cuming Street, the south by Center Street, the east by 24th Street and the west by Saddle Creek Road.

www.destinationmidtown.org

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) for information regarding the newsletter.

Neighborhood Scan Program Receives Award

The City of Omaha Planning Department recently announced that the University of Nebraska at Omaha Neighborhood Scan Program was chosen to receive Omaha's Educational Excellence Award for being strongly committed to the revitalization and preservation of its neighborhood. GPNA members who participated in the scan program were invited to the presentation ceremony held at the Nebraska State Capitol on April 17, during Community Development Week. The City of Omaha also honored the UNO Neighborhood Scan Program at an event celebrating Community Development Week that was held at the UNO Alumni Center on April 20.

Street Tree Cost-Share Program Open To All GPNA Members

The GPNA has received a grant from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) to create more tree-lined streets in our neighborhood as part of our Conceptual Green Master Plan.

The GPNA is developing a cost-share program with property owners throughout Gifford Park in which the Association pays for 80% of the cost to purchase and install a 1-2" caliper tree in the public right-of-way of their property. The right-of-way includes the parkway and varying distances beyond the sidewalk as well. Depending on the tree selected, it is anticipated that the owner's share would range from \$40 - \$80 and the Association's share would range from \$200 - \$400.

The GPNA worked with NSA to create a list of eligible trees specifically for their tough, drought tolerant characteristics and their ability to contribute to neighborhood tree diversification. The grant provisions require one year of maintenance to ensure the tree's health and success. In addition to paying 20% of purchase and installation cost, the GPNA asks that each property owner commit to water the tree weekly for the first year and prune it as necessary.

If you would like to find out more about this program, please contact **Cynthia Shuck**, GPNA President, at **556-2090** by **May 10, 2006**. If you are a renter and wish to participate, please pass this newsletter on to your landlord and have her or him call for more information.

Happy Mother's Day!



Advertising Rates For The Gifford Park's Pride Newsletter

Advertisements appear in six issues a year (newsletters that are hand-delivered to neighborhood residents for the odd-numbered months). The following rates will apply:

Size	One Issue	Six Issues
Business Card	\$20	\$100
Quarter Page	\$30	\$150
Half Page	\$40	\$200

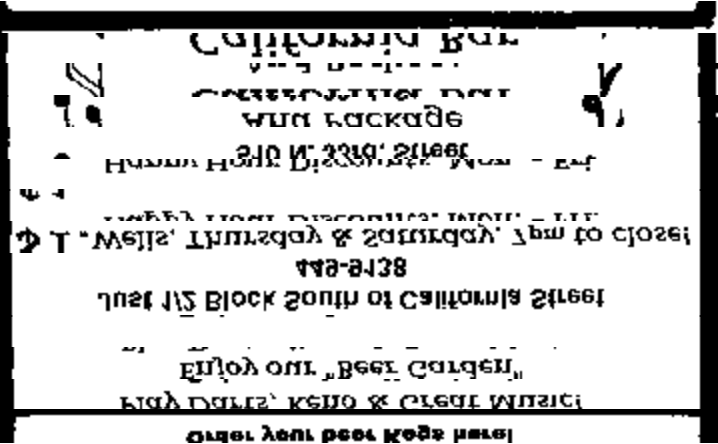
For more information, or if you would like to advertise in the Gifford Park Pride, call **Sue Wilwerding**, **342-2795**.

Are you 50 years or older? Join **Senior Partners**, a free hospital-based program for people 50 and over at **Creighton University Medical Center**. Membership has its privileges, and at Senior Partners, you are privileged! Benefits of joining Senior Partners include:

- * Invitations to monthly Senior Partners events
- * Free weekly indoor walking club at the Creighton Cardiac Center
- * Free coffee/tea/juice at each event
- * Free physician referral
- * 15% discount in Hospital Cafeteria
- * 10% discount on gift items \$10 or more in Gift Shop
- * Free Photocopying (reasonable limit) and Notary Public services
- * Free Living Will information & application
- * Special Senior Partners Account at Greater Omaha Federal Credit Union
- * Special senior rates & enrollment fee waived at the YMCA
- * Invitations to participate in various research studies at Creighton
- * Fellowship with old and new friends
- * Free parking



Please call to join Senior Partners: **402-449-5945**.



Charles R. Kilgore Jr.
Attorney At Law
4913 Underwood Avenue
558-5000

Personal Injury Law
 Worker's Compensation
 Injury
 Auto Accidents
 Insurance Claims



SUN DAWGS 2006 FACT SHEET



Sponsored by the City of Omaha Parks & Recreation Department
"Free Summer Fun 2006"

Recorded program information:
444-FUN (444-4386); all other questions 444-5930

PURPOSE:

To provide a fun summer for Omaha youth (ages 6-15)
Activities include: arts & crafts, games & sports, swimming, special event field trips, music & drama, climbing wall, water tag, hydrant parties

FUN, FUN, FUN

IMPACT:

This will be the 12th year of the Sun Dawgs Playground Program
Just under 3500 youngsters registered in 2005
More than 30,000 visits were recorded in 2005 at our 33 locations
Collaboration between the City Recreation Division and numerous local organizations:

HENRY DOORLY ZOO

WESTERN BOWL

OMAHA ROYALS

MCLEAN ICE ARENA

SKATELAND

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMISSION

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER READING CLUB

DATES:

June 12th through August 3rd

TIMES:

Gifford Park will be a full-day site - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**REGISTER FOR SUN DAWGS AND THE LIBRARY
SUMMER READING CLUB**

MAY 31ST 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ELMWOOD PARK

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

The first 33rd & California Business District meeting of the year was held on Monday April 3. Guests were **Jim Champion** (Destination Midtown Board Chairman), **Tawanna Black** (Destination Midtown Executive Director), **Cynthia Shuck** (GPNA President), and **Police Officer Peterson**. A number of topics were discussed, including getting better organized, developing a physical master plan, and beautification efforts. The group plans to install large flower pots in the business district on **Wednesday, May 10**, in the evening after **5 p.m.** If anyone is interested in helping plant flowers or make a donation to this project, please call **Chris 342-6006**.

The GPNA thanks **State Senator Gwen Howard** for her continued commitment and support of our neighborhood. Gwen has been helping the GPNA approach Omaha Public Schools to look at options to bring back Yates School as a neighborhood school as it once was. In addition, LB 968, legislation which included language from her bill LB967, passed in the Unicameral this past session. This bill repeals the sales tax on home repairs for owner-occupied residences. She also tries to attend many GPNA events, and always has nice things to say about our organization. We appreciate your efforts, Gwen, especially during a very busy legislative session.

Many thanks to IRS volunteers **Jackie Foster, Sheryl Fitzgerald, Dennis Clay, Sharen Rotolo, Joyce Koenig, and Bill Palais** who provided free tax help in our neighborhood again this year. **St. Cecilia's Cathedral** was this year's site. They processed a total of over 225 returns this year, most electronically filed. This is the highest total in the 12 years they have been doing this program.

Restore Omaha, a conference, exhibition, and tour, is planning another great event **November 3-5, 2006** at the University Of Nebraska at Omaha's campus and other Omaha sites. Volunteers are needed to help identify topics and speakers, to recruit exhibitors experienced in preservation and restoration work, to help organize a tour of homes, and to help promote and market the event. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees or just have suggestions for the 2006 conference contact **Kristine Gerber**, conference director, at **614-0056** or eventive.marketing@cox.net. Mark your calendars! More information will be coming soon on Restore Omaha.

Our local business neighbor, **Creighton University Medical Center**, needs our help. CUMC's Volunteer Department has several volunteer openings throughout the hospital, primarily in customer-service-type areas. One area of need is for volunteers at the Information/Concierge Desk, assisting visitors, families, and patients find their way through the hospital. Morning and afternoon shifts are available. Also, the Gift Shop is in need of volunteers for morning and afternoon shifts during the week. Benefits include uniform, meal credit in the cafeteria, and discounts in the Gift Shop. Please call or email **Cheryl Morehouse**, Volunteer Manager, at **449-4260** or cheryl.morehouse@tenethealth.com to have an informational packet (including an application) mailed to you. Minimum age is 14 years old — no maximum age!

SNAP! Productions Presents Dance Comedy/Drama

Part comedy, part drama, part cha-cha-cha, "**Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks**" by Richard Alfieri, heaps the laughs and heart tugs on a silver platter for you, and then delivers them with panache.

What happens when a formidable widow of a Southern Baptist minister hires a former Broadway dancer to give her dance lessons in her Florida condo? You learn to grab a relationship and hold on for dear life. And if you're going to learn to dance, let it be the two-step: love and companionship. Richard Alfieri's "**Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks**," offers feel-good lessons in life. The play is chock full of acerbic, raunchy humor and genuinely witty one-liners. Watch as a friendship melds with the music and dance. Bill Bohannon directs the play with two of Omaha's finest thespians: Elaine Jabenis and Michal Simpson.

"Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks" will run from **June 1 - June 25, 2006** at **3225 California Street**. Curtain times are 8:00 pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 6:00 pm on Sundays, except June 25 which is at 2:00 pm. The theater opens a half hour before curtain time. Reservations may be made by calling **402-341-2757** or on the SNAP! website: www.snapproductions.com. Tickets are \$15.00, general admission; \$12.00, students, senior citizens, and TAG members. The play will be sign language interpreted for the hearing impaired by Gary Beck and Christine Lafinhan on June 4, 2006.

Highlights from the 2006 GPNA Easter Egg Hunt

Once again we had great fun for the 17th annual **GPNA Easter Egg Hunt** held in Gifford Park Saturday, April 15, at noon. Before "hiding" the candy, volunteers helped clean up the park at 10:30 a.m. We got lucky again with the weather as we had just a few sprinkles during the park cleanup. As is always the case, out of the thousands of pieces of candy, it took a matter of a few minutes for the kids to pick the park clean of goodies.

There were many volunteers and donators helping to make this event a success, but we want to recognize a few who put forth a special effort. The **Slayden** and **Foster** families headed up efforts to get candy donations and organize the goodies by age groups, and **Ben Spahn** did the countdown honors. Many thanks to all those who donated time, money, candy, and other items to make this a special event for over 200 children: **GPNA, J'N'J Grocery, California Bar, California Tacos, Oriental Trading, Target, Hy-Vee, Bakers, No Frills, Chuck Kilgore, Mike Caban, State Senator Gwen Howard, and Darryl Hutton.** **Candy Bacome** again played this year's Easter Bunny and gave out treats to youngsters. Thanks also to **Prenisha Barfield** who supervised a cleanup crew of youth picking up litter in the park – great job! We also appreciate **KETV Channel 7** for doing a news story on the event.

by Chris Foster



Easter egg hunt participants are shown anxiously awaiting the countdown that leads to the mad rush for candy



As you can see from this picture, Easter egg hunting is serious business.



Wear Company

MATT MANCUSO

Your neighborhood REALTOR

(402) 740-6929

Cleanup Yields Recreational Space

New public horseshoe pits will be opening soon behind the lot between **J'N'J Grocery** and the **California Bar**. The area was cleaned up on Saturday April 22 (Earth Day). The day before the cleanup, **Darryl Hutton** cut down many out-of-control trees and brush. Other cleanup volunteers included **Larry Bassinger, Rich Exline, Dave Wever, Sherry Sutton, Lloyd Canfield, Melvin, Ron Yates, Candy Marlenee, Roger Oviatt, Greg, Angie, Bill Hughes, DJ Kroulek, Steve Johnston, and Audre Noah.** **Kenny Martins** allowed us to use his truck and wheel barrow to remove rock. **Terry Auspoch** allowed us to use his truck to pick up railroad ties, which were donated by **Tom Rose** and **Roger Oviatt.** Donations from **Loren Johnson** included trash and yard waste bags & sloppy joes (prepared by **Shelly Rose** and served by **Shawn Ryan**). **Lilly Estes** provided pop and chips. **Greg Oviatt** donated horseshoe stakes. We still need concrete, sand, flowers, and volunteers to put the pits together. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact **Dave Wever 208-9344.**

by Sherry Sutton



Volunteers look over the bags of leaves, branches, and other debris that was cleaned up in the business district on Earth Day. A horseshoe pit will be located behind the lot between J'N'J Grocery and the California Bar.

Top Ten Tips On How To Be A Good Neighbor

- 1) Keep your grass mowed in the summer, leaves raked in the fall, and walks shoveled in the winter.
- 2) Maintain the exterior of your house by keeping it painted; fix broken windows as soon as possible.
- 3) Add to the beauty of the neighborhood by planting some flowers; try to keep weeds in your yard to a minimum.
- 4) Keep an eye on your neighbor's property and report any suspicious activity to the police.
- 5) Remove any unlicensed or junk cars from your property.
- 6) Remember not to park on the grass or over sidewalks.
- 7) Watch the noise level from boom boxes, car radios, and other equipment, especially at night
- 8) Clean up after your dog and be aware that excessive barking may disturb neighbors.
- 9) Don't litter yourself; pick up litter when you see it.
- 10) Join and be active in your neighborhood association!

Music In The Park - 2007 Schedule

June 14

July 12

August 9



All concerts will be on the 2nd Wednesday during the summer months, 7 to 8 p.m. in Gifford Park

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

California Tacos & More



J'N'J

GROCERY STORE

Fresh Meats -- Fresh Produce

Friendly Service



3301 California Street -- 422-1058

WE DELIVER!



7:00 AM - 10:00 PM Monday thru Thursday

7:00 AM - 11:00 PM Friday thru Saturday

8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Sunday

www.GiffordParkOmaha.org

Slowly, but surely, the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association website continues to grow. Recent additions include a page for the tennis program, a "Gifford Park Reads" page and, our newest addition, a Neighborhood Feedback Forum area. The Feedback Forum is our first interactive website element. Your responses will be posted on the website in a blog-like format. What is your favorite thing about living in the Gifford Park Neighborhood? Visit the website, share your thoughts, and see what other comments have been posted. Enjoy!

by Dan Bodmann

Glen Burns' New Venture In Business District Set To Open



The Dragon Fire Studio Café, located at 504 North 33rd St., will open on Sunday, April 30, at 7 a.m. Breakfast or lunch can be enjoyed in a unique atmosphere of historic memorabilia, art glass, and artifacts of Omaha's past. In the near future the audio-video project STUDIOS (for original works) will be opening. The studio will also be available for private parties.

Weeds...How Tall Is Too Tall?

City of Omaha code states that weeds (or any vegetation) cannot be over 18" tall. The following steps can be taken if this code is violated:

- **by anyone**
- **A City Inspector will send the property owner a 10 day notice to cut the weeds**
- **If the owner does not respond, the address is put on a mowing list**
- **Property will be mowed and the owner will be charged according to the size of job**



GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 31462 Omaha, NE 68131-0462
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(Please print clearly)

Membership year: _____ *(Membership year runs from June 1 through May 31)*

Type of membership: Single (\$5) _____ Family (\$8) _____ Business (\$25) _____

Name of business _____

Name _____ (Last) _____ (First)

Spouse _____ (Last) _____ (First)

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

Telephone Number: _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

E-mail Address: _____

Can we contact you for help on any of the following items? (please circle areas of interest).

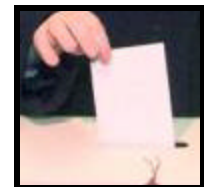
Cleanup/Beautification	Tennis Program	Block Captain	Tool Lending
Membership	Youth Activities	History	Newsletter
Neighborhood Walks	Park	Merchants	Newsletter Distribution
Social Activities	Tree Planting	Watch Group	Meeting Program
Landlord/Tenant Issues	Calling Committee	Public Relations	School Liaison



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE
Chris 342-6006

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

Don't Forget To VOTE!



Primary Election Tuesday, May 9