



Gifford Park's Pride

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

May 2007

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Another Successful Cleanup

Despite some wind, the weather was great for this year's Spring Cleanup, held Saturday April 21, in Gifford Park – dry, sunny, and temperatures near 80. Other highlights - we filled nearly 3 trash compactors, collected 25 tires, recycled roughly 2-3 tons of metal, collected over \$800 in memberships, donations and salvage; **Dana Carlton-Flint, Dana Freeman, Cynthia Shuck** and **John Barna** kept everything well organized at the "cleanup headquarters" area; **California Bar** donated pop and ice; **Orsi's** gave us a good deal on pizza for volunteers; we had great participation from members of the **Creighton University's PKA Fraternity**, who helped pick up litter and mulched around trees in the park and the business district – **Andy Gustafson** organize this effort and Northeast Precinct Police **Officer Rose** came with her police cruiser to provide public safety. Many thanks to the **City of Omaha** and **Keep Omaha Beautiful** for continuing this very important program.

There were many great efforts on this day, too many to list, but the GPNA appreciates all the volunteers' commitments to make this a very successful event. Volunteers included **Paul Mileris, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Darryl Hutton, Diane Kaye, Tom Rose, Leo Wilwerding, Jim Wilwerding, Terry & Sue Wilwerding, Chris & Sallie Foster, Eric McGhee, Lloyd Canfield, Jim O'Brien, Harry Dirgo, Eva Swanson and Melvin Canfield.** This year's Cleanup MVP Award goes to **Dana Freeman** who brought a lot of enthusiasm to the event while collecting memberships and donations. Also **Rod Flint, Brian Sullivan** and **Jose Trego Jr.** worked hard hauling many truckloads of junk; this really kept our cleanup effort on schedule. Great effort by all!

by Cynthia Shuck



Next General Meeting
Thursday, May 3

7:00 P.M.

Speaker: Marian Maas
Papio Watershed Project
Topic: Water Quality Improvement

Creighton University Med Center
Morrison Seminar Room

Executive Meeting
Thursday, May 17

7:00 P.M.

Via Christie
36th & California



Youth Garden Program 2007

Do you have school age children who might enjoy learning and participating in activities with other kids from the neighborhood?

Sign up for the **Youth Garden Program** began at the April 28th Community Garden Spring Kickoff. If you didn't make it that day, bring the enclosed registration form (on the back of the insert in this edition of the newsletter; schedule on the front) on **Saturday, May 19th.** Hope to see you there!

P.S. We are always looking for more adults to help us out. If you enjoy kids and/or gardening, please consider joining us on Saturday mornings!

GPNA OFFICERS

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Cynthia Shuck 556-2090

VICE PRESIDENT

Rodney Flint 346-4575

RECORDING SECRETARY

Open

TREASURER

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

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COMMUNITY GARDEN

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Eva Swanson 345-1707

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Jean Peck 344-0722

MEMBERSHIP

Stuart Shell 216-1235

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

Dana Freeman 850-9611

From The President . . .

I want to encourage everyone who is interested in learning how to speak in front of city councils, judges, zoning boards, liquor commissions, etc. to attend the **Block of Builders Workshop** at the **Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha (115 S. 49th St.)**, on **May 1st** from **5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** **A'Jamal Byndon**, who has over 23 years of effective advocacy and work in the social justice area, will lead a discussion on how to write effective letters and other means to gather support on issues for change and improvement. A light meal will be served. Register with **Ron Abdouch** at rabdouch@mail.unomaha.edu or by phone to **561-7582**. Block of Builder sessions are designed to help neighborhood residents and citizens get the information they need to preserve and improve your community. If you are interested in attending but cannot make it, let Ron know.

Over the past months we solicited grant ideas at general membership meetings and executive board meetings. Here are suggestions to date: dusk-to dawn lighting in the business district, re-roof park shelter, historic lighting (\$4,000 each), youth garden, more flower pots for the business district, water hydrant at 33rd & Cass for watering DM Identity Garden, re-seeding baseball/soccer fields in the park, paint supplies for painting playground equipment in lower park and more Gateway features. And the winner is – dusk to dawn lighting (\$600.00/yr) – which we proceeded to request during this year's Mayor's Neighborhood Improvement Grant. We'll know whether we were awarded the grant next month. If you have ideas for next year or are interested in writing a grant yourself, contact **Cynthia 556-2090** or **Chris 342-6006**.

The **AddressItNow!** team is planning a city wide roll out of AIN! on **May 19th** from **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** at the local **Baker's** supermarkets. We need volunteers to explain what AIN! is all about and to hand out the free numbers provided by the OPD and OFD. Please contact **Crystal Rhoades**, at the **Neighborhood Center of Greater Omaha, 561-7569**, if you can help.

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance and **Destination Midtown** are co-sponsoring a reception for **Tawanna Black** to say thank-you and wish her the best in her new job opportunity at Cox Communications. Tawanna has done a terrific job as executive director of Destination Midtown in changing the perception of Midtown. All are welcome to attend, **Friday, May 4th**, at the **Field Club of Omaha** from **5 - 7pm!** Thanks, Tawanna, from Gifford Park!

by Cynthia Shuck

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.

SUN DAWGS 2007

Sponsored by the City of Omaha
Parks & Recreation Department
444-4FUN (444-4386)



Gifford Park is a full-day site! Fun summer activities for Omaha youth ages 6-15 include arts and crafts, games & sports, swimming, special event field trips, music & drama, climbing wall, water tag, & hydrant parties

Dates: June 11th through August 2nd 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Visit the web page at www.ci.omaha.ne.us/parks

2007 Easter Egg Hunt Enjoyed By Every "bunny"

Once again we had great fun for the 18th annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt held in Gifford Park Saturday, April 7. Before "hiding" the candy, volunteers helped clean up the park at 10:30 a.m. The weather was very cold (record cold in fact), but sunny and dry. 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.

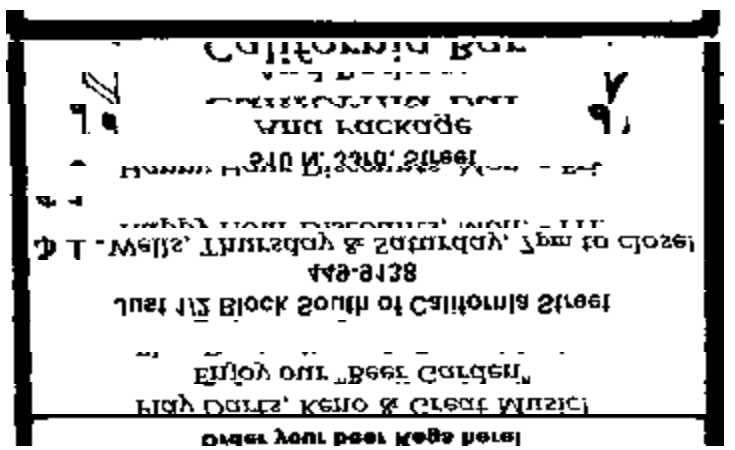
There were many volunteers and donators helping to make this event a success, but we want to recognize those who put forth a special effort - **Jan Franks** and her grandchildren **Brittney** and **Zach Rubek** organized the goodies by age groups and the **Slayden** family got many donations and helped with setup duties. **Ben Spahn** did the countdown honors again this year. Many thanks to all those who donated time, money, candy, and other items to make this a special event for over 150 children: **GPNA, K'N'J Grocery, California Bar, California Tacos, Selenas Market, Oriental Trading Company, Louis Market, Four Aces, No Frills, Chuck Kilgore, Mike Caban, State Senator Gwen Howard, Columbo Candy, Stuart Shell & Dana Freeman, and Darryl Hutton. Candy Bacome** once again played this year's Easter Bunny, giving out treats to youngsters. We also appreciate **WOWT Channel 6** for doing a news story on the event.

by Chris Foster



Thanks For Your Help!

Many thanks to AARP volunteers **Jackie Foster, Pat Prochaska, Sheryl Fitzgerald, Dennis Clay, Sharen Rotolo, Joyce Koenig, and Bill Palais** who provided free tax help in our neighborhood again this year. They processed a total of over 330 returns this year, most electronically filed. This is the highest total in the 13 years they have been helping with this program. Many thanks to **St. Cecilia's Cathedral** for hosting this year's site again.



Gifford Park Tennis Block Party

Sponsored by the GPNA, Nebraska Tennis Association, Omaha Tennis Association, and the City of Omaha

**GAMES
&
SNACKS**



**KIDS
Ages
9-19**

**Wednesday, May 30
6 - 7:30 PM**

**Gifford Park Tennis Courts
33rd & Cass St.**

(Rain date - Thursday, May 31, 6-7:30 PM)

Join us for a FREE evening of TENNIS

We have the rackets and balls

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE NEW
SUMMER TENNIS PROGRAM AT GIFFORD
PARK**

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

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

What's New, Pussycat?



The City Council is deliberating a long-awaited ordinance to legalize TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release), the most humane and effective way to control feral cat populations, while supporting their health and well-being, and reducing the number of cats destroyed in shelters. Feral cats are humanely trapped, sterilized, vaccinated, released, and fed by a caretaker. Homes are found for homeable kittens and adults. A stable colony of ferals results, called a "managed colony." TNR has been successful in communities around the world—including Gifford Park! Basically, the ordinance will make it legal for anyone to practice TNR, with a permit. An antiquated law makes it illegal to feed stray cats, but **The Nebraska Humane Society** now actively promotes TNR. To read about the new ordinance online, go to the Omaha City Council website and click on the agenda for April 17, item 67 on the docket. Concerns about technical aspects of the ordinance have been raised, but The Humane Society has been reassuring, stating that they are there to help, not hinder, and that apparently complex protocols and application procedures will cause colony caretakers no difficulty in practice. And there was good news: TNR will be legal on public land, as well as on private and commercial property. Refining of the ordinance continues.

A recent newspaper article about the ordinance caused misunderstanding and confusion, according to **Judy Varner** of the Humane Society, who explained that the intention is to legalize responsible feeding by caring individuals, not to outlaw or criminalize it. Speakers at the April 24th hearing corrected myths about feral cats. A feral cat, like other urban wildlife (squirrels, rabbits, deer), will flee from you. You will not get close enough to touch a feral, or to be scratched or harmed by one in any way. Also, there is no evidence that ferals pose any public health risk.

by Clarinda Karpov 553-3736

2007-2008 Membership Year Begins

The membership year for the Gifford Park ~~Neighborhood Association~~ **officially runs from June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008**, and any membership purchased now will be good through May 31, 2008. The cost is \$10 for Single, \$15 for Family and \$25 for Business. If you have been a member and supported the GPNA in the past, we appreciate your support and hope you will renew your membership. If you have not been a member, we encourage each of you to consider joining. 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. Please join the GPNA today and be a member of one of the city's most active neighborhood associations.



Every Saturday

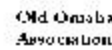
May 5 - October 13 • 8 am - 12:30 pm
11th & Jackson in the Old Market

For Freshness, Flavor & Fun!

www.omahafarmersmarket.org

For more information, please call 315-5701.

Sponsored By



Special thanks to Market Management and Central Parking Systems



Duchesne Preschool

Love God.

Love to Learn.

Help the Needy.

Share and Cooperate.

Learn Right from Wrong.

The Duchesne Preschool bases curriculum on the five goals above and includes specialist teachers in the areas of Spanish, art, music, computers and PE. We're now registering THREE-YEAR-OLD BOYS and GIRLS for the 2007-2008 school year with two, three and five-day options available. Call 558-6250 for more information or to schedule a tour.

www.DuchesneAcademy.org

Generation NExT.net Youth Program

Alegent Health and the **College of Saint Mary** are sponsoring **Generation NExT.net**, an innovative program catering to the body, mind, and spirit of children. The day-long supervised activities are designed to engage, challenge, entertain, and educate each child with age-appropriate curriculum taught by school teachers and other qualified professionals. All classes will take place on the **College of Saint Mary** campus, located at **7000 Mercy Road**, with some classes including field trips to off-site locations.

Generation NExT.net classes will be held **June 11 - August 3, 2007**. Classes are one week in duration everyday from 9 a.m. - noon or 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Children can be registered for two classes each week for an all-day program from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Before, After, and Lunch Care programs are available. A variety of classes are available for children who have completed first grade through those who have completed sixth grade. Scrapbooking, Spanish is Fun, Rainforest Exploration, Readers Theater, The Art of Poetry, Photography, Wide World of Sports, and Math Munchers, are just a sample of the variety of classes that will be offered. Tuition for half day classes (1 class/day) is \$65 /week per student; full day classes (2 classes/day) is \$120/ week for each student. Additional fees will be charged for Before and After Care Services and Lunch Care Services, and some classes may require additional fees. If enrolling in classes for the entire summer, payment plans and discounts are available. For more information or class availability, contact **Suzanne Myers** at **898-8013**. For a complete listing of class dates and times, or to download a registration form, visit **generationNExT.net** on the web.

California Tacos & More

Homemade Mexican Food

342-0212

33rd & California Street

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Hours:

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

Closed Sunday

California **Tacos & More**



K'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

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

Gifford Park will once again be a host site for the popular "Music in the Park" concert series. This year we will host one date (**Wednesday, June 13**) with two bands playing; the first band starting at 6:30 p.m. Many thanks to the **City of Omaha, The Reader**, and the **Recording Industries Music Performance Fund** as administered by the **Omaha Musicians' Association** for sponsoring this event. More details in the June newsletter.

It's great to see longtime GPNA member **Jim Watson** up and walking around after he suffered a very serious fall just before last Thanksgiving. You wouldn't know by seeing and talking with Jim the incredible experience and recovery Jim and his wonderful, loving family went through during this time. Great to have you back Jim!

No, the rumors are not true about **Bob Hutton** joining the mob, despite the dark glasses he's been sporting lately. He recently had surgery on both eyes and is doing very well. However most of us would agree that Bob Hutton is the "Godfather" of the neighborhood.

Our first neighborhood walk this year will be **Friday, May 4, 7 p.m.**; meet at the Gifford Park baseball diamond. This is a great opportunity to meet new neighbors, get some exercise, and show your support for our neighborhood. We usually walk about 45 minutes to an hour and walk various routes to see different parts of our neighborhood. For more information, call **553-4397** or **342-6006**.

Landmarks, Inc. and **ACT!VATE Omaha** are presenting a historic guided walking tour of Little Italy and the Original Gold Coast on **Saturday, May 12, at 10 a.m.** Little Italy is one of Omaha's oldest neighborhoods. Further west on 10th St., many of Omaha's prominent business leaders made their home on a hill overlooking the new city. Over a century later, the neighborhood continues to be a rich ethnic example of Omaha's history. Cost: \$7 per adult, \$2 per child. Check in is at **9:30 a.m.** at **St. Francis Cabrini Church, 1335 South 10th St.**

CSO (Clean Solutions for Omaha) will be conducting 2 public meetings to present proposed solutions to the Burt-Izard basin combined sewer overflow situation. The meetings will be held on **Thursday, May 17th, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** at **Lewis & Clark Middle School (6901 Burt St.)** and **Tuesday, May 22nd, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** at **South High School (4519 South 24th St.)** Questions can be directed to **Ellen Fitzsimmons @ ellenfitzsimmons@hdrinc.com** or call her at **399-1423**.



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)

P.O. Box 91462, Omaha, NE 68131-0462



Membership Application

*Note: The GPNA membership year runs from June 1 through May 31

Today's Date: _____

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

If Business, Name of Business: _____

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES I am interested in helping out with... (Circle interests):

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Chairperson | Newsletter Delivery | Community Garden | Easter Egg Hunt |
| Membership | Book Club | Youth Garden | Boiling Cleanup |
| Social Activities | History | Tree Planting | Tall Cleanup |
| School Liaison | Wash Group | Youth Activities | Neighborhood Walks |
| Tool Lending | Cal. Committee | Lawn Program | Holiday Banquet |



**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE**
Chris 342-6006

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

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