



# Gifford Park's Pride

*Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn and Play*  
[www.giffordparkomaha.org](http://www.giffordparkomaha.org)

May 2008

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Spring Cleanup is May 3rd

The annual GPNA Spring Cleanup will be held on **Saturday, May 3**, from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in **Gifford Park**. This may be the only cleanup for the year, so you may want to take advantage of this city-sponsored opportunity. 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, metal recycling, a membership & donation drive, and other activities. Items **ACCEPTED** at the cleanup include furniture, appliances, metal, garage sale items, and trash. Items **NOT ACCEPTED** include yardwaste, concrete, and oil. New this year: items normally only accepted at Under The Sink will be accepted at the Gifford Park site. This includes aerosol cans, brush killer, compact and fluorescent tubes, fertilizers, fungicide, furniture polish, insect spray, metal polish, mothballs, pesticides, rat poison, rechargeable batteries, rust remover, spot remover, paint, spray paint, thermostats, wallpaper remover, cleaning products, and drain cleaners. Just remember to **keep these items separate** from the other items going to the cleanup. **NO BUSINESS RELATED WASTE!** Tree brush vouchers through **River City Recycling (6030 South 60th St.)** 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., south side parking lot**; tires will be accepted at the Gifford Park site for \$1 each. Appliances may be also be dropped off for **FREE** at **Walnut Hill Elementary School Parking Lot at 4370 Hamilton Street**. 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, Cynthia 556-2090, or Jim 551-1344**.

**Next General Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 1**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Speaker: Keith Bawolek**  
**ECI Investment Advisors, Inc.**  
**Topic: Midtown Crossing**

**Creighton University**  
**Med Center**  
**Morrison Seminar Room**

## 2008 Mayor's Ride To Start At The Community Bicycle Shop Of Omaha

Start your day off right on **Monday, May 12** at **8:00 am** and bring your bicycle down to **33rd and California! Community Bicycle Shop Omaha (CBSO)** is pleased to partner with **Mayor Mike Fahey, Activate Omaha, and Bikeable Communities** to bring the Mayor's Ride to Gifford Park. This event kicks off **National Bike to Work Week** and will include the presentation of Omaha's first commuter bicycle map. The mayor will make a proclamation at 8:30 am and the group will ride to the Pedestrian Bridge downtown and back through Creighton's campus.

Bicycling to work is good exercise and saves money on gas. Cycling instead of driving is also good for air quality and mitigates global warming. Most important to CBSO is the immediate benefit of your presence on the street! Our streets are safer and more enjoyable when we employ human power to get us where we're going. If you are new to bicycle commuting this is a great way to get started! All you need is a bicycle and helmet. The ride will be guided by the police so that traffic at intersections will be monitored. If you'd like to know more about the event call **Stuart** at **216-1235** or visit [www.activateomaha.org](http://www.activateomaha.org).

*Don't Forget To*  
**VOTE!**  
*Primary Election Day*  
**Tuesday, May 13**



## GPNA OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Open

### VICE PRESIDENT

Stuart Shell 216-1235

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Mary Ledbetter 342-4866

### TREASURER

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

## 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

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

## Getting Around Green In The Big O!

Having a green home doesn't just stop at the door. It also matters how much and what type of energy you use to get to and from your home. According to **David Ochsner**, V.P. of the **Green Omaha Coalition**, "Cars and light trucks account for 40% of the nation's oil use, and the total distance traveled by Americans exceeds that of all other industrial nations combined. If we want to get serious about greening our communities, we need to drive less and walk, bike or use public transportation more."

There are many advantages to walking, biking, and taking public transportation. Environmental benefits are noticeable when you consider that burning one gallon of gasoline is equal to the release of 20 lbs of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Health benefits are obvious with every extra step you take or bike ride—even walking to the bus stop provides opportunities for increased activity. In addition to reducing emissions and getting healthy, you can also save money by choosing public transportation. The January report, Public Transportation & Petroleum Savings in the US: Reducing Dependence on Oil, estimated that a two-adult household using public transportation could save \$6,251 per year!

### Walking and Biking

Check out [www.activateomaha.org](http://www.activateomaha.org) for great resources on biking and walking. You can find "Bike Commuting 101" a terrific resource for both the novice and experienced bicyclist. The Activate Omaha website also has the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Bicycle Map which identifies safe bike routes throughout the metro area.

### Take a Bus

For information on the local bus system, check out the four part series, "Diary of A MAT Man" in the Omaha City Weekly, [www.omahacityweekly.com](http://www.omahacityweekly.com). You can find out from a first person experience the quirks and joys of public transportation. Remember to visit the MAT website for bus fare, schedule, and general information; [www.metroareatransit.com](http://www.metroareatransit.com).

### Carpooling

Abandoning the use of personal autos is not an option for many Omaha-area residents. Carpooling is a great way to cut costs, save energy and reduce global warming. Metro! Rideshare, a program sponsored by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, provides a viable alternative to driving to work solo. Check it out at [www.metroridesare.org](http://www.metroridesare.org).

In case you are still wondering why you should use multiple modes of transportation, visit [www.travelmatters.org](http://www.travelmatters.org) and use the emissions calculator resource tool. By entering the make/model of automobile, miles driven per month, and a few other data, you can find out how many pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> are released because of your personal driving choices. Remember, mass transit may not be the sole solution for your lifestyle, but it can benefit your wallet, waistline, and the climate.

### "Getting Around Green" Workshop

For more information on how to green your transportation, please join us for the "Getting Around Green in the Big O!" workshop, to be held **May 24th from 10AM to Noon** at the Neighborhood Center. This practical workshop will help boost the knowledge and willpower of Omaha area residents to use alternative forms of transportation. Unsure of your travel options? Come and learn what you can do to drive less, and more important, avoid buying that second (or third, fourth,...) car! Those present will have the chance to win free bus ticket packets, bicycle gear, and other prizes to get you started on your way to driving less. RSVP to Daniel at [livesimply93@gmail.com](mailto:livesimply93@gmail.com).

Transportation is both a vocation and avocation for speaker **Clyde Anderson**. Retired from Union Pacific after 31 years as a civil engineer and transportation planner, Clyde is now a part-time school bus driver/aide for Omaha

*continued on page 3*

*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.*

### Legislative Update

This year's session of the Nebraska Legislature came to an end on April 18th. It has been a very productive 60 days with some very noteworthy accomplishments. I was able to get my bill, LB 205, passed early in the session which will require school districts to adopt anti-bullying policies. I believe this is a positive step forward in addressing a serious threat to our children. I also got my priority bill, LB 782, passed. This legislation, which I introduced with the Governor, will open up the confidentiality process involving state wards and the Department of Health and Human Services. I strongly believe that transparency about how our state agencies work is in the best interest of state wards and the taxpayers.

As you may know, the Legislature voted to override the Governor's veto of a gas tax increase in order to provide more funds for the Department of Roads. I voted against this gas tax increase because I believe it is absolutely the wrong time to be increasing fuel costs to families when prices are at record levels and expected to go even higher. Our state government, including the Department of Roads, needs to do what every family in Nebraska must do when money gets tight; cut back and prioritize spending.

Finally, I appreciate all of the hard work several neighborhoods have done the past couple of months fighting the liquor licenses for the former Kum & Go locations. I was pleased to testify before the Liquor Control Commission on these licenses and I will continue to do all that I can to assist our neighborhoods in their efforts. Government that works best is a government that listens to its constituents.

As I have come to the end of my first term, I want to thank everyone for giving me the privilege of representing you in the Legislature. I hope that you will continue to let me know your views and concerns so that I can better represent you.

Gwen Howard  
 State Senator  
 District 9  
 State Capitol  
 Lincoln, NE 68509  
 402-471-2723  
[goward@leg.ne.gov](mailto:goward@leg.ne.gov)



### Getting Around . . . continued from page 2

Public Schools. He bikes to work using MAT's #18 bus as a backup. Except for a one-year stint with the California Div. of Highways, Clyde has always utilized public transportation for commuting.

**Tara Ryan**, from Metro! Rideshare will explain how carpooling can work for you. Carpooling is good for business because employees save money, traffic is reduced, and those who carpool arrive at work less stressed and are more productive. Carpooling also reduces the need for parking, and many Omaha businesses provide employee parking.

**The Neighborhood Center, 115 S. 49th Ave.**, is located in the Dundee Neighborhood and is easily reached via public transportation. Just take the #2 bus to 49th Ave. and Dodge and walk south one block. The #2 Bus operates every 30 minutes on Saturdays. Many of MAT's schedules changed March 30th, so check MAT's **web site** <http://www.metroareatransit.com/> for the latest schedules.

The event is free and open to the public. Feel free to forward to anyone who may be interested. Sponsored by the Green Neighborhood Council of the Green Omaha Coalition, [www.greenomahacoalition.org](http://www.greenomahacoalition.org)

*by Clyde Anderson & Triletty Wade*

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**Attorney At Law**

**4913 Underwood Avenue**

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Personal Injury Law  
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**Happy  
 Mother's Day!**





## What's New, Pussycat?



Animals and those who love them have lost a great friend with the recent passing of **Audrey Wright-Anderson**, founder of Omaha's Coalition for Animal Protection (CAP). Audrey was selfless and tireless in her work on behalf of animals. Under her leadership, the Coalition addressed both animal welfare and animal advocacy. They rescued homeless and abused animals, promoted spay-neuter, held low-cost spay-neuter and vaccination clinics, and provided veterinary care to low-income guardians of sick or injured animals. Often, when people would appeal to the Nebraska Humane Society (NHS) for help, the NHS would send them to Audrey! In addition, Audrey and the Coalition campaigned to educate the public about the cruelty to animals inherent in animal circuses, the fur industry, factory farming, and the promotion of cruelty-free alternatives. I myself met Audrey during a successful anti-cruelty campaign in Gifford Park, several years before I moved into the neighborhood.

The workload Audrey took on would have been staggering for a woman younger and in better health. After a long day of organizing assistance to animals, grant-writing, fundraising, planning events, Audrey often spent the night out in all weathers trapping stray and feral cats in need of spay-neuter and medical attention. In the hospital during her last illness, she was doing much of the same! Everyone who knew her continues to ask, how did she do it? My veterinarian, who worked with Audrey, wonders at Audrey's lifelong dedication in a pursuit that takes such an emotional toll, and where burnout sidelines many.

During the week before Audrey passed, the NHS held their first community workshop to teach trap-neuter-release techniques (TNR); and Gifford Park Cats joined Feline Friendz in implementing humane TNR for the feral cats of Randolph, Iowa. Audrey's years of campaigning had laid the groundwork for last year's ordinance that promoted TNR in Omaha, and legalized feeding and working with feral cats. Recognizing that failure to spay and neuter our dogs and cats causes the destruction of millions of dogs and cats in shelters, Audrey also advocated a plan to charge a MUCH higher licensing fee for unneutered pets, but only a low fee for neutered ones (with low-cost spay/neuter available at need). Audrey saw that this dramatically reduced the number of animals destroyed in shelters in other communities. While Omaha has yet to fully adopt this practice, Audrey paved the way. Audrey was a gifted puppeteer, and she always hoped to return to doing puppetry for children in

schools. But she put that dream on hold, because for her, relieving suffering came first. There are few working compassionately for the betterment of animals in Omaha who were not inspired or aided by Audrey (and by her kind and like-minded husband and helpmate, Andy). Like so many others, I would not be involved with animal work without Audrey's example and inspiration. She not only educated people about the need for help, but she awoke people to possibilities by constantly herself achieving the impossible. I am amazed when I reflect on her legacy: putting her compassion to work, she influenced a generation, who reach out to others to build community for two-leggeds and four-leggeds alike! One person can change the world—as Audrey Wright-Anderson changed it for animals and animal-lovers in Omaha. She certainly changed mine. And I find myself learning daily from Audrey's example how we each continue to live beyond our lifetimes in the good we have promoted. (If I ever forget, our tabby, Giles Foxglove, reminds me, because Audrey saved his life.)

Audrey has referred those now in need of help to Feline Friendz, or Town and Country Animal Shelter. Audrey also gave her blessing to a new group, which she herself mentored and christened: HAP (Helping All Animals), directed by Joni Cisney, who has imbibed Audrey's tireless dedication. HAP has been hard at work, and also works in cooperation with Gifford Park Cats. Joni is currently seeking a guide through the process of applying for 501C3 non-profit status. If you can help steer HAP through that process, please give me a call!

\*\*\*\*\*

Springtime is the season to protect our cats and dogs from fleas, ticks, and heartworm. (Heartworm is present in Gifford Park.) Please consult your vet, as over-the-counter flea preventives can do more harm than good. Preventives should be administered now and monthly through October.

\*\*\*\*\*

Low-cost vaccination/microchip clinics for cats and dogs will be held on **Saturday, May 3rd, 1-4 p.m.**, at **Christie Heights Recreation Center, 5105 South 37th St. (37th & P)**; and on **June 7, 1-4 p.m.**, at **Sherman Community Center, 5701 N. 16th St.**; sponsored by **Caring for All Pets**.

by Clarinda Karpov 553-3736

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## Pest Consulting Services

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## Earth Day Weekend In Gifford Park

The Gifford Park Neighborhood got great help again from our good friends from the **University of South Dakota (USD)**. On April 19-20 we celebrated Earth Day along side seven USD students helping us with neighborhood projects including the park (litter pickup, tree planting, weeding, planting, mulching, painting over graffiti and the Sun Dawg shack) and the community garden (digging, planting, trimming, mulching, reorganizing the tool shed, sanding and painting picnic tables). We took the students on a short tour showing off the good things happening in and around our neighborhood. At the end of the day Saturday we had pizza and other snacks at the community garden. Sunday everyone worked a few more hours to finish community garden projects in preparation for our Season Opening event (May 10) and Youth Garden program (Saturdays starting May 17). Before heading back to South Dakota, the USD students spent a little time at the Community Bike Shop to see the many improvements there since last year. This is the fourth time the USD students have made this trip to Gifford Park in the past two and a half years; the GPNA cannot say enough great things about these fine folks – what a way to spend Earth Day weekend! Many thanks to the GPNA volunteers who worked very hard: **Cynthia Shuck, John Barna, Diane Kaye, Max Kaye, James Nordaker, Dana Freeman, Jim Wilwerding, Mike Caban, Chris & Sallie Foster, Ben Spahn, Rod & Dana Carlton-Flint, and Bob & Virginia Hutton**. We got a lot of help also from over a dozen **PKA Fraternity** students Saturday morning. **Julie Kalkowski** made arrangements with **Creighton University** for the students to shower and **Augustana Church** where they slept. A big thanks to **Indian Creek Nursery** for dropping off mulch on a moment's notice.

by *Chris Foster*



**BUY LOCAL. EAT FRESH!**

**Every Saturday Morning  
May 3 - October 11, 2008  
8:00 am - 12:30 pm**

**11th & Jackson Street  
In the Old Market**

**omahafarmersmarket.org**

**Omaha Indoor Swap Meet**

*Manquis, Baratillo, Pulga, o como le quiera llamar*

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Omaha, NE 68108**

*(Entre la Leavenworth St. & 24th St.)*

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Ben's Yard Work & Landscaping

Call Ben Spahn 707-1507

He lives in Gifford Park





## Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Update

**Midtown Neighborhood Alliance** (MNA) is an organization of midtown neighborhood associations whose common mission is to preserve the integrity of and advocate for a vibrant community which is sustainable, secure, diverse, historically rich and economically strong.

Goals set in 2003 included code enforcement, historic preservation, and home ownership.

While the accomplishments in code enforcement are not apparent on the public level, Destination Midtown leads the charge by writing grants to address gaps in city and community services. The main goal in their process is to link various city departmental databases and streamline record-keeping in order to improve accountability to residents (who file complaints via the Mayor's Hotline.) The Alliance is making code enforcement a priority again this year and needs ideas, strategies, and volunteers to take on this task.

Historic preservation progress took the form of education and support for Amendment 1, down-zoning, the Urban Design Element, and opposition to several group home applications. While the mission of group home operators is worthy and the price per square foot of midtown building stock is affordable, unfortunately neighborhood infrastructure is overburdened (parking is typically the point of contention.) MNA also voted to expand the boundaries beyond Destination Midtown to include Dundee-Memorial Park and Bemis Park.

Home ownership interest waned this year. Unfortunately no projects took off due to lack of interest and community volunteer support.

In closing, 2007 was a good year. MNA held its annual meeting in March and asked participants to identify top neighborhood issues and rank them in importance for 2008. The top 6 priorities to surface (in order of importance): Historic Preservation, Code Enforcement, Support for Small Business/Retail, Liquor Licenses, Crime Prevention, and Development of Area of Civic Importance/Neighborhood Conservation Easement Overlay Zoning Districts.

The next meeting is **May 21, 2008 6:30 p.m.** at the **Field Club of Omaha (3615 Woolworth Ave)**. We invite you to bring your ideas and enthusiasm to the next meeting where we'll break into small groups to formulate projects and goals.

*by Cynthia Shuck  
MNA Secretary and  
Gifford Park Representative*

## California Bar And Package

510 North 33rd Street  
402-449-9138

Happy Hour Discounts - Mon thru Fri - 5 to 6 pm

Nightly Specials - 7 till Close

Package Liquor, Beer and Wine

*Welcome to your Friendly Neighborhood Bar!*

## Worried about the housing crises?

In 2007, Nebraska mortgage foreclosures increased 31%, and our state ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation for foreclosures (according to the Nebraska Attorney General). *There is help available for those facing possible foreclosure.* People living throughout the state of Nebraska and in Council Bluffs can call 2-1-1 to get connected to a FREE HUD Certified housing counselor.

### Advice from the Nebraska Attorney General for those facing possible foreclosure:

- **Do not wait.** Act now. Your bank does not want your home and they have options to help borrowers through difficult financial times.
- Don't ignore the problem—the longer you wait to get help with your mortgage problem, the harder the problem will be to fix.
- Open letters from your mortgage lenders/servicers.
- Call your lender and/or work with a HUD approved counseling agency.
- Know your rights (find, read and understand your loan documents).
- Research and understand foreclosure prevention options.
- Beware of scams. Don't sign anything unless you know exactly what it is—you may be signing away all the equity in your home and NEVER agree to give anyone the deed to your house in return for their assistance.

**Call 2-1-1 to get connected to a FREE HUD approved counseling agency today!**



# Duchesne Preschool

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- 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. Two, three and five-day options are available for BOYS and GIRLS. Call 558-6250 for more information or to schedule a tour.

[www.DuchesneAcademy.org](http://www.DuchesneAcademy.org)

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

**8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Sunday**

## Community Garden 2008 Season Opening Event

Come kick-off the start of the 2008 gardening season with your Gifford Park friends and neighbors! The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is sponsoring **this spring affair** **on Saturday, May 10th from 11 AM to 1 PM** at the **Community Garden on 35th & Cass Street**. **EVERYONE** is invited to this **free** event! There will be fun and activities for the whole family. Kids can make a garden stepping stone or a special gift for their mom, have their faces painted, and register for a card with the Omaha Public Library and receive free books to take home. There will be birdhouse building with Gifford Park's very own **Bob Hutton**. Adults can "Ask a Master Gardener" from our local extension office their toughest lawn and garden questions and swap their extra seeds with other green thumbs. Community gardeners can sign-up for available plots and paint their name stakes so all know which garden is theirs. Parents can enroll their children in the **free** summer **Youth Garden** program beginning **Saturday, May 17th, from 10 to 11 AM**. All visitors can take free wildflower seeds and a white pine tree to plant in their own backyard, offered by the **Papio-Missouri River Resources District**. As always, music and snacks will be provided at no cost. Mark your calendars and see what's growing in Gifford Park! For more information, contact **Dana (850-9611)** or **Chris (342-6006)**.

## Meeting Proves To Be Fruitful

On April 24, several GPNA board members met with **Captain Alexis Hayes**, the new captain of the Northeast Precinct. We felt it was a very positive meeting as we discussed ways for both our neighborhood and police to be proactive regarding public safety. Some specific areas of concern that police plan to address are graffiti, nuisance crime in the business district, public drunkenness (and associated problems), drug dealing, more police visibility, bike patrol officers, and more on-going crime prevention.

This is a great opportunity for us as a neighborhood to help law enforcement and help our own neighborhood, especially this time of year as the weather gets warmer and more people are out. Here are a few 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. Crime Prevention Specialist **Stacy Henry (444-3367, [shenry@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:shenry@ci.omaha.ne.us))** also attended the meeting and is an excellent resource to contact if you have specific information on problem issues.

*by Chris Foster*

## Liquor License Applications Update

Currently our 33rd & California business district has two separate businesses applying for liquor licenses: K-N-J Grocery (upgrade from beer to full liquor sales), and the former Kum & Go now One-Stop (reapplying for current beer license). In addition, on February 20th, the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (NLCC) approved Selena's Market liquor license application for a full liquor license; the vote was 2-1 (Commissioners **Rhonda Flower** and **Bob Logsdon** voted to approve, **Pat Thomas** voted to deny). For the record, the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) opposed these three applications, the main reason being the GPNA believes additional alcohol outlets will have a negative impact on our neighborhood, and the neighborhood already has enough alcohol outlets. GPNA members have written opposition letters and testified at City Council and NLCC hearings (those efforts are appreciated!)

You may remember on October 19, 2007, in Lincoln, the NLCC denied the K-N-J liquor license upgrade application; the vote was 2-1. The owner is appealing the decision, and arguments were heard in Lancaster District Court on April 23. **Steve Virgil** is defending the GPNA and the NLCC's October decision, and we expect the judge's order and decision within 2-3 weeks. We greatly appreciate Steve's help in this matter. (Steve was the attorney who successfully represented the Orchard Hill Neighborhood Association Supreme Court case last year to deny an applicant's liquor license).

Regarding the former Kum & Go license, on April 8, the owner reapplied before the City Council for his application (along with the three other locations which were also originally denied their license at the Jan. 8th City Council hearing). The 33rd & Cass Street location was denied by a 5-2 vote. This time, however, despite opposition testimony from the GPNA and others, the City Council voted 4-2 to approve their license. Councilmen **Jim Vokal** and **Frank Brown** voted to deny their application, while **Jim Suttle, Garry Gernandt, Dan Welch, and Chuck Sigerson** voted to approve. Councilman Vokal was the only one to vote to deny all four former Kum & Go liquor license applications at the hearing. The application now goes to the NLCC in May. We will keep you updated.

*by Chris Foster*

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Action Office  
444-5555**



## What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

**Brush Up Nebraska** is once again sponsoring its annual **Paint-A-Thon**. The Paint-A-Thon mission is "to paint the homes of low-income elderly and low-income permanently disabled homeowners, and restore pride in their homes and neighborhoods".

- Paint-A-Thon is a corporate sponsored volunteer program
- Homes are painted by volunteers
- Paint-A-Thon is a FREE service!

**Applications must be received by June 6, 2008.** Homes will be painted on **Saturday, August 16, 2008.** For information or applications contact **First Call for Help** at **444-6666**.

Many thanks to AARP volunteers **Jackie Foster, Pat Prochaska, Sheryl Fitzgerald, Dennis Clay, and Joyce Koenig**, who provided free tax help in our neighborhood again this year. They processed a total of over 350 returns this year, most electronically filed. This is the highest total in the 14 years they have been offering this program. Many thanks to **St. Cecilia's Cathedral** for hosting this year's site again.

The 33rd & California Street business district is getting a nice boost this spring with the addition of four large flower pots donated by **Mulhall's Nursery** (thanks, **Ann Wickenhauser!**) This effort actually started in 2006 when GPNA member **Jay Genoa** helped us get four flower pots donated through Mulhall's Nursery. This beautification project is a cooperative effort between the business owners and the GPNA to take steps toward improving the area.

The membership year for the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association officially runs from **June 1, 2008** through **May 31, 2009**, and any membership purchased now will be good through May 31, 2009. The cost is \$10 for Single, \$15 for Family and \$25 for Business. Your membership helps pay for this newsletter and a wide variety of neighborhood programs. Please join today!

## Wouldn't It Be Nice If . . .

EVERYONE would take their trash cans, yard waste receptacles, and recycle bins back off the curb after the Tuesday pick-up **ON THE SAME DAY?** Also, if EVERYONE would take a little time to sweep the street, pick up blown trash, and rake the curb area, it would may our neighborhood look so much better! As the old saying goes, every litter-bit helps!

P.S. It would also be nice if EVERYONE who has a dog would clean up the doggy-do when taking their pet for a walk - be a responsible pet owner, pick up the waste, and help keep our neighborhood clean!

**Glimpse Gallery**, located at **4225 Cumings St.**, is an elegant arts and cultural space available to the public for private parties and company events. Decorated with one-of-a-kind artwork, this Mid-town space provides a unique experience for the meeting participant and art aficionado. The facility is equipped with a kitchen that is open to any catering service in town. If you're looking for "someplace different" for your next offsite meeting or social event, consider Glimpse. Glimpse is open by appointment only. For more information, call **614-7597**.



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     | oliday Banquet     |



**TOOL  
LENDING  
HOTLINE**  
*Chris 342-6006*

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

