



Gifford Park's Pride

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

September 2006

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Second Annual Restore Omaha Conference Set For Nov. 3 - 5

What's the best way to refinish wood floors, repair plaster and re-mortar brick? Where can you go to research the history of your house? How about color - would your classic Victorian still look classy in a muted shade of lavender? Answers to these questions and many more will be provided at the **Restore Omaha** conference, exhibition and tour **November 3-5, 2006**.

Now in its second year, Restore Omaha is a weekend event designed for anyone who appreciates the splendor of yesteryears homes and businesses. A full agenda of programs, historic Omaha neighborhood tours, hands-on workshops and question/answer sessions is planned for participants.

Noted preservation consultant **Bob Yapp** will return as Restore Omaha's keynote speaker. With enthusiasm and wit, Yapp will walk the audience through a step by step process to help them make their neighborhood a diverse, friendly, rewarding and safe place to live.

For further event details visit www.restoreomaha.com. A complete conference schedule, neighborhood tour listings and registration information will be available in late September.

Want to volunteer or exhibit at the event? Contact **Kristine Gerber**, Conference Director, at (402) 614-0056.



CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION, AND TOUR
November 3 - 5, 2006



**Please Drive
Carefully!**

**Next General Meeting
Thursday, September 7**

7:00 P.M.

**Discussion of Future
GPNA Activities/ Events**

Facilitator: Vince Furlong

**Creighton University Med Center
Morrison Seminar Room**

**Executive Meeting
Thursday, September 21**

7:00 P.M.

**Yates Alternative School
32nd & Davenport St.**

Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale September 23rd

Back by popular demand, we are having a neighborhood-wide garage sale on **Saturday, September 23**. The GPNA will pay for an ad in the Omaha World-Herald to promote private garage sales in the Gifford Park Neighborhood. The Association will sell items in the business district at **33rd & California** from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, with any of these proceeds going to the GPNA. If you would like to donate usable garage sale items (no clothes or shoes please) to the GPNA's garage sale, please call **Neil 933-1960** or **Chris 342-6006**. We plan to put up signs around the neighborhood to draw more attention to this event. This is a great way to get rid of unused items and make some extra money for yourself or the GPNA at **NO COST** to you!

GPNA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Cynthia Shuck 556-2090

VICE PRESIDENT

Rodney Flint 346-4575

RECORDING SECRETARY

Open

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

Chris Foster 342-6006

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 . . .

As with any organization, participation and activities increase and decrease over time. We find ourselves in the situation of decreased funds and decreased participation at the present time. In order to address these problems we are asking that residents interested in Gifford Park's future activities and neighborhood priorities attend the September General Membership Meeting and take part in a visioning session. We will ask you how important each event is to you or your family, whether you participate, and finally, whether you would be willing to volunteer to keep it going. We also want to know if there are any activities you'd like to see that the Association does not offer residents. Lastly, we'd like to know how you feel about moving general meetings to a quarterly basis instead of monthly. A follow-up survey will come out next month. Please take one hour out of your Thursday evening and share your thoughts on the subject.

Destination Midtown & Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA) have formed the **Home Ownership Committee** in order to develop and implement strategies for increasing home ownership in Midtown. Each MNA association is requested to appoint one person from its neighborhood to the committee. Representatives can be a renter or an owner, and does not have to be a neighborhood's current representative. Any member with a heart for Midtown furthers the cause. The committee also includes bankers, realtors, and community advocates. If you're interested in participating, please join **Dana Freeman** (Gifford Park's new Welcoming Committee Chair) and get involved. For more information call **Shane Kouba** at **850-1451** or **Tawanna Black** at **233-7142**.

The **Address It Now (AIN)** campaign received wide media attention over the past month and it is time now to get those house numbers up and turn those porch lights on at night! Keeping your porch light on helps deter crime and keeps streets safer for everyone. Free address numbers are available to any property in Gifford Park without a visible address. If you need assistance with installation due to a physical challenge, our local fire department can help. Please call **Cynthia** at **556-2090** to make arrangements and let's Address It Now! then Light It Up!

ALSO, did you know that the City Council passed an ordinance requiring property owners to post street numbers at the rear – only if your business or other property sits on an alley? The deadline is August 31 for residents city-wide to get rear addresses installed. If your property qualifies, the Address It Now! committee will be in touch with you soon. Don't wait until it's too late! Address the issue now!

An enormous project to improve Omaha's sewer and storm water system is getting underway. This program has been referred to as the city's **Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)** program study. The study program is an opportunity for Omaha to improve its infrastructure and to enhance neighborhoods. Now is an opportunity for you to participate neighborhood briefings on this matter. Members of the planning team will provide information and background and are seeking input and participation from neighborhoods. Persons interested in becoming a liaison between Omaha Public Works, the basins planning teams, and the affected neighborhoods (East of 72nd Street) should contact **Cynthia** at **556-2090** for more information.

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.



GPNA Fall Cleanup
Saturday, October 14
9:00am - 1:00 pm
Look For More Details In The
October GPNA Newsletter

Another Year Of Growing In The Garden

The third year of the **Gifford Park Youth Garden** came to an end this past month. This year we opted to meet every Saturday morning from late May thru mid-August. We had a great year full of learning with enthusiastic, energetic, fun kids thanks to help from neighbors and parents. We planted a gourd tunnel, a flower "bed," and a potato patch plus the kids' individual plots. We had a good time identifying and squashing bad bugs, doing plant surgery (thanks to plant surgeon Cynthia!), and playing in and learning about the garden. If you haven't ever taken the opportunity to check out the youth garden, please consider this an invitation to do so.

There are many people who contribute to this program who I would like to thank. Thanks to the donors of the **Omaha Community Foundation** for providing \$500 of funding for supplies and teaching materials this year. Thanks to **Diane Kaye** for teaching us about flowers and how to make arrangements. How sweet it is to have kids asking for cut flowers to bring home to their parents! Thanks to **Eric, Anne Marie**, and **Preston Noll** for our outdoor garden cooking class. Salsa, outdoor ovens, pizza, pickles...you really outdid yourself. Thanks to **Chris Foster** for teaching us how exciting weather can be and the role it plays in nature. Most of all thanks to **Cynthia Shuck, Chris** and **Sallie Foster** and **Tim Becker** for helping out week after week even though they do not have children in the program. A huge thank you to all the parents for their help with activities and snacks throughout the summer and for having GREAT KIDS! Without your support this program would not be possible.

by Kate Bodmann



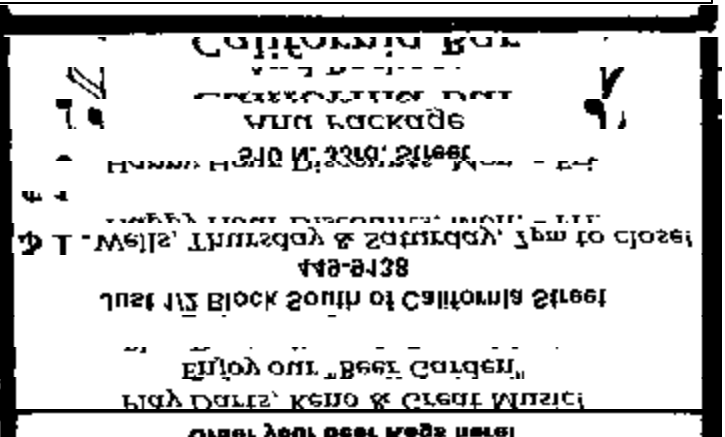
The Gifford Park Community Garden was buzzing with activity on July 22. Projects undertaken that day included making salsa, pickling vegetables, and baking "solar" veggie pizzas.

Block Party Fun For Everyone

The Gifford Park neighborhood celebrated its fifth annual **National Night Out Block Party** on Tuesday evening, **August 1**. We closed 33 Street from California to Cass Street to host a variety of activities that included something for everyone. The GPNA worked with a number of organizations to provide an event focused on safety, health, neighborhood and local business promotion, and a lot of fun!

Briefly, here are just a some of the many highlights of the evening: Local Gifford Park resident **Pablo Saavedra** and his family and friends played great live music and drew a big crowd, the rock-climbing wall was awesome (thanks **City of Omaha**), **Big Air Bros** provided two inflatable rides – a moonwalk and an obstacle course, **Dear Heart Clown (Judy Quest)** was again a huge hit, **Omaha Public Schools** provided the tables and chairs, **Loren Johnson (J'N'J Grocery)** arranged the hot dog wagon and all proceeds were donated to the GPNA, several **Kum & Go** employees did a great job of picking up litter prior to the event and handed out free items, **AddressItNow** provided free helium balloons, **Dana**

continued on page 4



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

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

Block Party . . . continued from page 3

Carlton-Flint and **Jarred Randone** did face-painting, **OPPD** brought in its RESPECT trailer to demonstrate the dangers of electricity, the **Omaha Public Library** signed up 20 new library card members and gave away (with lots of help from **Diane Kaye**) several boxes of free books to neighborhood residents, **ADT Security** had an information booth, **Justin Brown** provided his homemade "Prize Explosion" balloon-popping dart game, **Jim Wilwerding** took care of the water balloons, **Creighton U. Medical Center** again provided health screenings for the neighborhood and made a significant donation toward the event. Thanks to the **Omaha Public Works Department** for use of traffic cones to help secure the street.

We wish to thank the following organizations and individuals for their help and support – **Police Department (Chief Thomas Warren, Captain Denise Cousin, Crime Prevention Specialist Stacy Henry)**, Fire Department, and **Judy Johns** with the **Community Resource Center** – they were responsible for lining up the Mobile Command Unit and firetruck.

And finally, because there are so many volunteers before, during and after the event, we don't have room in this article to name everyone. However, we would like to recognize the extra efforts of those who went above and beyond the call of duty – **Cynthia Shuck, John Barna, Darryl Hutton, Clarinda Karpov, Christine Pane, Martin Watson, Lloyd Canfield, Bob Hutton, the Slayden family (Betty, Tyffaney, Kayleen, Jacob, Billy), Chris & Sallie Foster, Jackie Foster, Tom Lebeda, Ross Windorski, Lilly Estes, Jack Sutton, Martin Watson, Rich Exline, Ben Spahn, and Jim Wilwerding**. Our event MVP award goes to **John Barna** who helped with a variety of tasks – before, during and after. The weather was very hot, but rain-free!

by Chris Foster



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13th Annual Tennis Program 2006 Highlights

This year's **GPNA Tennis Program**, held in Gifford Park, was the 13th annual and first year we decided to have two age groups to better handle the number of kids on the limited court space. We had at least 12 instructors for each of the five sessions in August and averaged over 75 kids per session. The kids were divided into two age groups (6 to 6:45 p.m. for ages under 10, and 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. for ages 10 and over, so they could learn each of the basic tennis skills. With the number of participants, we again used the basketball court and set up mini-nets for the younger kids. The last day featured awards and a tennis party. Special recognition went to 35 kids who had perfect attendance and demonstrated good sportsmanship – each received a free tennis racquet and a certificate. **California Tacos (Brad Bogard)** donated meal coupons for the instructors. A BIG thanks go to **Godfather's Pizza** again this year donating 20 pizzas for the event! Neighborhood volunteers provided delicious treats also. Many thanks go to all the wonderful instructors for their support and dedication to this program, especially on those hot days: **Rick & Jane Hines, Ane Tillotson, Roger Freeman, Dan Sloboth, Kari Sloboth, Kirk Peck, Sharon Reefer, Susan Mayberger, Ben Thomas, Ike Thomas, Jacob Slayden, Laurie Bolte, Jackie Foster, Chris Foster, Ed Hogan, Dan Bratetic, Bill Roach, Ron Goodman, Amanda Mueller, Don Gildon, Buddy Hogan, Stuart Shell, Paul Johaneck, Tyler Johaneck, Scott Veitzer and Chris Raymond**. Special thanks go to **Jan Franks, Brittney Rubek, Betty Slayden, Tyffaney Slayden, and Kayleen Slayden** for helping with registration – the program could not happen without your help year after year. Thanks also to the **Omaha Tennis Association, the Nebraska Tennis Association, the United States Tennis Association, and the City**

continued on page 5

Tennis Program . . .continued from page 4

Parks & Recreation Department for their generous support over the years. GPNA members **Jim Wilwerding** and **Mike Caban** helped out in a variety of ways on the final day. My wife **Sallie** worked very hard behind the scenes to help prepare before each session – thank you! We are offering to some of the older youth the opportunity to continue on playing tennis with a few instructors on Wednesdays in September, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Gifford Park. If anyone who participated in the tennis lessons is interested in more advanced lessons this fall, please contact **Chris** at **342-6006**.

by Chris Foster



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

8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Sunday

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

The GPNA thanks **Omaha Brassworks** who performed classical music Wednesday evening, August 16, in Gifford Park. The GPNA wishes to thank the **City of Omaha, The Reader,** and the **Recording Industries Music Performance Fund** as administered by the **Omaha Musicians Association** for the great opportunity for Gifford Park to host three music events this summer. Thanks to **Roberts Dairy** who gave us a good deal on the ice cream treats. Thanks also to **Darryl Hutton, John Barna,** and **Ben Spahn** for helping hand out ice cream and other refreshments.

Please keep longtime GPNA member **Bob Ford** in your thoughts and prayers, Bob has been ill recently. You may know Bob is brother to **Jan Franks**. You have probably seen him helping with GPNA events as well as picking up litter and cans in the park and surrounding streets. Hang in there Bob!

Please keep the **Tanner** family in your thoughts. **Jack Tanner** passed away Wednesday morning August 23 after being ill this summer. Bette and Jack have been longtime GPNA members and make regular donations at cleanups. You may have seen Bette helping out at the Tennis Program the last several years. They and have lived in the Gifford Park neighborhood for many years and are great neighbors. Bette, we are thinking of you.

Many thanks to very dedicated volunteers who have kept the Identity Garden and Gifford Park sign area looking great this summer. You can thank GPNA President **Cynthia Shuck, John Barna, Roger & Sandy Freeman** and **Darryl Hutton** for their time and effort – the flowers and grasses look great as you walk or drive by!

The Princess and the Pee or *Yolanda's Outstanding Plan* is a fable for anyone who thinks growing up is highly overrated. Who says fairy tales are just for kids? **SNAP! Productions** dispels that myth once and for all when they host the "World-Premiere" of this high-energy romp through a very unique-kingdom *The Princess and the Pee* runs from now thru **September 17** at **3225 California St.** Curtain times are 8:00 pm, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; 6:00 pm on Sundays, except Sept. 17, which is at 2:00 pm. Reservations may be made by calling 341-2757 or on the SNAP! website: www.snapproductions.com Tickets are \$15.00 for general admission; \$12.00 for students, senior citizens, and TAG members; \$5.00 for children 12 and under. *The Princess and the Pee* is sure to vanquish the end-of-summer doldrums and awaken the inner child in everyone.



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 | Fall Cleanup |
| School Liaison | Wash Group | Youth Activities | Neighborhood Walks |
| Tool Lending | Cal. Committee | Tennis Program | Holiday Banquet |

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Chris 342-6006

**Mowers - \$5
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