



Gifford Park's Pride

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

December 2009

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Trees Omaha Workshop Provides Valuable Planting Information

42 degrees turned out to be perfect weather for a fall planting. The morning's work consisted of planting seven trees - one scarlet oak, two hills oak and 4 burr oaks. Friends and neighbors learned proper planting and mulching techniques from local expert **Jack Phillips** and Gifford Park's favorite authority on all things tree-related **Justin Evertson** of **Nebraska Statewide Arboretum**.

Things we learned: ask nurseries for trees grown with root control methods such as grow-bags, remember to "crack" the sides of your hole with a pitchfork, keep mulch eight inches from the trunk and only 2-3 inches deep; if you need to reapply mulch never increase the depth. But most importantly, the key to good tree care is simply monitoring. Our new trees need people to pay attention and look out for them while they grow.

Many thanks to our guest experts and supporters **Martin Janousek**, **Chris Combs**, **Chris Foster**, **John Barna**, **Amanda Pearson** (and daughter **Amore**) and **Ben Spahn**.

Next spring GPNA anticipates an 'edible' part-two of our Trees Omaha grant in partnership with Midtown Neighborhood Alliance's Re-Tree Midtown effort.

by Cynthia Shuck



Note: No January General Meeting

**Next General Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2010**

**Board Meeting
January 28th, 2010
at the Flint's**



www.midtownmonitor.com

**Visit this website for midtown
Omaha-related news and events!**



**21st Annual
GPNA Holiday
Banquet**

**Thursday, December
10th 6:30 PM**

**Creighton University Medical
Center - Betic Dining Room**

**You must be a current member to
attend - memberships taken at the
door. Please bring canned food for
the Food Bank**

**RSVP: To Dana Carlton-Flint at:
Designwym@yahoo.com or 346-4575**

GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Dana Carlton-Flint* 346-4575

VICE PRESIDENT

Stuart Shell 216-1235

SECRETARY

Jill Westfall* 213-3105

TREASURER

Jackie Foster* 551-3629

BOARD MEMBERS**AT LARGE**

Justin Brown* 932-5932

AT LARGE

Luther Larson* 330-3286

BUSINESS

Martin Janousek* 558-4070

LANDLORD

Chris Foster 342-6006

GARDEN LIASON

Dana Freeman* 850-9611

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HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

HOLIDAY BANQUET

Jean Peck 344-0722

MEMBERSHIP

Stuart Shell 216-1235

NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Chris Foster 342-6006

PARK

Sandy* & Roger Freeman 557-2914

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

WATCH GROUP

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

WELCOMING

Julie Kalkowski* 342-2103

* denotes new officer, board, or committee member

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).

President's Column

It's beginning to look a lot like _____ (fill in your holiday of choice!) in Gifford Park. My husband and I were driving around the neighborhood the other night and noticed that more and more neighbors were decorating for the holidays this year. Kudos to all of you! Taking pride in our homes is what makes our neighborhood great. So if you have not taken the GPNA tour of late you may want to take an evening and give it a whirl....some have gone all out, some are modest, but most importantly it is a welcome sight to see.

Speaking of Gifford Park (I'm always speaking of Gifford Park!) I was at a function out west (192nd/Dodge to be exact) and ran into someone who could not say enough about our neighborhood garden and **Dana Freeman-Shell**, our garden director. Way to go Dana and **Diane Kaye** for making the garden a success not just in our neighborhood but to the outskirts of our city as well.

As the year is wrapping up I also want to thank my neighbors for their support this past year. There may only be one individual as president of this fine neighborhood but none of this was accomplished alone and I appreciate everyone who has helped to make each event happen, each rose grow, each tree get planted, each sewer labeled, and each newsletter get compiled, printed, stuffed, and delivered.

Look forward to more exciting changes next year and hopefully more publicity showing the city of Omaha why we love living in Gifford Park! Happy Holidays to all of you and your families.

by Dana-Carlton Flint

**Community Bike Project
Holiday 2009**

Community Bike Shop Omaha is putting bows on bikes for the holiday season! CBSO is partnering with community agencies that need bikes for holiday presents for kids. Many of these kids are currently homeless and living in shelters. In our first year we are targeting 10 refurbished bikes and need your help to repair them and make them shine. We have reserved two Sunday afternoons specifically for this project – **December 6th** and **13th** from **2-5pm**. Please RSVP if you are able to attend either workshop session. In keeping with our mission of teaching bicycle safety, each bicycle will be delivered with a new safety-approved bicycle helmet. Join the team of CBSO supporters of this exciting Holiday Gifts 2009 project by donating \$5 to help CBSO with the purchase of new helmets for Holiday Gifts 2009. For details visit www.omahabike.org and view our newsletter or call **Stuart Shell** at **216-1235**.

**Notes from the CBSO Board**

The CBSO has had its most amazing year ever this past season. New volunteers, new energy and a building community of bike enthusiasts. While we're maintaining our full hours over the winter (for the first time ever), the slower winter months provide an opportunity for the shop to regroup a bit and look to what we want to accomplish in 2010. In the works is a more structured earn-a-bike program for teenagers and more volunteer training on bicycle mechanics. We're also leveraging our volunteer power to partner with community service organizations in the area.

by Stuart Shell

2010 Officers Elected

The following individuals were elected as officers of the GPNA at the November general meeting:

President: Dana Carlton-Flint
Vice-President: Stuart Shell
Secretary: Jill Westfall
Treasurer: Jackie Foster

The GPNA offers its sincere gratitude to these members who have "answered the call" to do what they can in a leadership role to help our neighborhood be the best it can be. We thank them and all the many volunteers who dedicate their talents and many hours of hard work with the goal of bettering our community. We also invite other neighbors to become a part of this wonderful organization and volunteer to help with at least one of the dozens of activities this association is involved in. You will meet wonderful people while working toward a common goal - that's what community is all about!



Darryl Hutton and Chris Foster pose with the 2009 Community Garden Christmas Tree. The tree has been decorated and is a beautiful addition to the winter setting in the garden.

Duchesne Preschool

A Foundation For Life
 Low student-teacher ratios
 Highly qualified teachers

Christian environment includes classes in:
 Art • Music • PE • Spanish • Computers
 3-5 year old boys and girls
 Enrollment begins in February!!
 Call 558-6250
www.duchesneacademy.org

Patrol Needs New Volunteers

You may have noticed signs on 33rd Street mentioning that the neighborhood has a citizen's patrol, along with the OCCP logo, which stands for **Omaha Coalition of Citizens Patrols**. This is an organization of trained local people who patrol their neighborhoods looking for suspicious activity. Gifford Park had one of the earliest citizens patrol groups in Omaha (perhaps the first), and originally we would have as many as twenty people walking the neighborhood at night. Over time, the number of patrollers declined and we drove around the neighborhood in shifts. This decline continued, and lately we have only two patrollers who go out infrequently. The OCCP is an active umbrella organization which trains patrollers and coordinates activities. If you are interested in being trained as a patroller and perhaps revitalizing our neighborhood patrol, please call me at **342-2795**.

by Terry Wilwerding

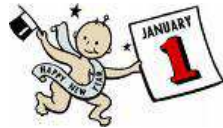
Helping The Community Garden One Dime At A Time!

We are pleased to announce that **Whole Foods Market Omaha** has selected Gifford Park Community Garden as the beneficiary of its **One Dime at a Time** community outreach program for December 2009! For each bag reused at checkout, Whole Foods shoppers can choose to receive the \$0.10 refund as cash back on their grocery bill or donate the sum to the Gifford Park Community Garden. We encourage you to grab your reusable grocery bags, visit Whole Foods Market Omaha (**10020 Regency Circle**), and give your \$0.10 refund to the Gifford Park Community Garden this month. Tell all your friends to do the same! Your generous support will help sustain and grow our adult and youth gardening programs for Midtown families. Together, we can make a difference One Dime at a Time!

by Dana Freeman



**Happy
 Holidays
 From The
 GPNA**





**Cub Scout Pack 17, Dundee
Elementary School
2009 Christmas Tree Collection**

Cub Scout Pack 17 is once again offering Christmas Tree Collection. Collection dates are:

- Monday, December 28, 2009
- Saturday, January 2, 2010
- Sunday, January 3, 2010

Scouts will complete requirements toward their World Conservation Award. This project demonstrates renewable resources, solid waste reduction, and community service in our neighborhoods.

Neighborhood residents can participate by signing up in advance to have Scouts from Pack 17 pick up their tree, placed on the curb, for a modest donation of \$5. It is anticipated the City will not offer Christmas tree pickup service. For a small cost and profits that contribute directly to Cub Scout Pack 17, residents can have their trees collected and properly disposed of at a City collection site.

Contact Cub Master Marc Anderson by phone 558-0727, or email anderson4914@msn.com for more information and to request tree collection at your home, or mail the following form with payment.

Cub Scout Pack 17 Christmas Tree Collection

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Collection date (circle one): Dec 28 Jan 2 Jan 3

Return to:

Pack 17, c/o Marc Anderson, 4914 Chicago St.,
Omaha, NE 68132
please make checks payable to Pack 17

Now Open!

Coin Laundry
33rd & California St
(behind Selena's Grocery)

Open daily • 6am – 10pm

- All new equipment!
- **Huge** capacity washers and **dryers!**
- **\$1 buys 35 minutes** of dry time - almost **3** drying minutes per quarter!
- Vending, A/C, Flat Screen TVs, Video Games & Free Wi-Fi



Enjoy WASH specials all day long!

- **\$1.00** wash dbl loaders
- **\$1.00 OFF** all 35, 40 & 60 lb washers

Ahora Abierto!

Lavandería
33rd & California St
(behind Selena's Grocery)

Abierto diario • 6am – 10pm

- Todos los **nuevos** equipos!
- **Lavadoras y secadoras extra grandes**
- **\$1 compras 35 minutos** de tiempo de secado - casi **3** minutos de secado por 25¢!
- Bocados, A/C, juegos de video, TVs & Wi-Fi gratis



lavado especiales durante todo el día!

- **\$1.00** máquinas dobles de la carga
- **Ahorras un \$1.00** en las lavadoras grandes

**Charles R. Kilgore Jr.
Attorney At Law**

4913 Underwood Avenue

558-5000



**Please Patronize
Our Advertisers**



Ben's Yard Work & Landscaping
Raking, Snow Shoveling, and More!

Call Ben Spahn 686-8079

He lives in Gifford Park



**“Look what’s happening at”
A.V. Sorensen Community Center
4808 Cass Street * 444-5596**

Facility Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Friday 8:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:30 – 12:00 p.m.

**Spend your Holiday Break at
A.V. Sorensen Community Center**
We have something **fun** planned everyday to keep the kids busy and **active** through the **holidays** and it’s all **FREE!** Stop by and pick up our schedule of events.

Tots & Parents Gym Time

\$1.00 Drop in fee
Thurs. 10:30 a.m. – Noon
Age 5 & under with a parent let the Little ones play with other kids and burn That excess energy.

Adult Pick up Basketball

Wednesday’s 6:45 – 8:15 p.m.
Drop-in fee of only \$3.00 per person

Pre-School Now Available

Mon/Wed/Fri 9am – 12 pm
Contact Nisha at 315-3585 for more information.

Santa Paws is Coming to Town

Saturday, December 5th
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Ho! Ho! Ho! Pet photo’s with Santa! Bring Your paws or claws and take a picture with “Santa Paws” This is a great photo opportunity for you and your pet.
What a memorable Christmas card. Please bring your Own camera.

Adult Jazzercise

M/T/W/F	9:15 - 10:15 a.m.
Child care available for the above class	
M/T/W/Th	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
M/T/TH	4:20 - 5:20 p.m.
Sat.	8:30 a.m
Sun.	4 – 5 p.m.
Contact Sally at 333-9844 to register	

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**



Neighborhood Builders To Be Held In February

Neighborhood Builders is a community effort led by **The Neighborhood Center, The University of Nebraska at Omaha, the City of Omaha, the City of Council Bluffs, Omaha By Design,** neighborhood associations, businesses, foundations, and private citizens. The goal of Neighborhood Builders is to help build stronger, healthier neighborhoods in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties by assisting in developing positive leadership.

Anyone interested in making neighborhoods safe places in which to live, work and raise families should participate. **Anyone may participate.** It is highly recommended that new association board members and/or leaders attend. Whether your association is new, just a thought or well established, there is useful information presented at Neighborhood Builders to share with your membership. You may choose to attend as an individual or as part of a team.

Community leaders, educators, business persons, and your neighbors will facilitate the session blocks. We promise sessions will be interesting and interactive. Our goal is to make these topics useful to you in everyday life. Your newly acquired skills will help at work, home and in your neighborhood community.

Topic Blocks will include:

- .. **Leadership Development (2/6/10)**
- .. **Neighborhood 101 (2/13/10)**
- .. **Neighborhood Advocacy (2/20/10)**
- .. **Neighborhood Mediation/Open House/Graduation (2/27/10)**

Neighborhood Builders will have different workshops each Saturday..

February 6,13, 20, and 27

Continental Breakfast/Networking: 8:00 a.m.

Topic/s of the day: 8:30 a.m.

All sessions will end by 12 noon.

For more information and/or an application, please call the **Neighborhood Center @ 561-7582.** All sessions will be held at the **Neighborhood Center, 115 South 49th Ave., Omaha, NE.**

What's Happening In the Neighborhood . . .

As **Dana Carlton-Flint** mentioned in her President's Column, the neighborhood is aglow with plenty of holiday lights and displays, which is a wonderful thing to see. One **Thursday, December 17**, several members of the GPNA will take a tour within the Association's boundaries in search of the most outstanding displays. Those addresses will be recognized in the January-February edition of the newsletter. If you haven't already, it's time to decorate, and take your own tour, too!

The GPNA would like to offer its congratulations and best wishes to **Dan and Kate Bodmann** on the arrival of their newborn twins. **Liam Daniel Bodmann** (5 lbs 2 oz) and **Annette "Annie" Catherine Bodmann** (5 lbs 5 oz) were born on 11/23/09. According to Dad, Mom and the babies are doing great!

The GPNA would like to send its sincere condolences to **Mike and Candy Bacome** on the loss of Mike's mother, **Dora Etta Bacome**, last month.

Taekwondo classes will be held every **Tuesday evening** from **6:30 - 8:00** at the **Yates Educational Community Partnership Building (3260 Davenport St.)**. Any person between the ages of 3 and 103 is welcome. The instructors have over 30 years of experience. Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing (sweats, shorts, t-shirts, or martial arts gi). For information, contact **Tami-Maldonado-Mancebo** at **Tami.Maldonado-Mancebo@ops.org**

Neighbor **Roger Freeman** has been playing handball at the Downtown YMCA for awhile now and has started working on a program for youth with **Dale Bergren**. You can learn the game, practice your skills, get some exercise and hang out with some masters of the game. This program is free to any youth ages 7-16. Instruction and games are currently going on now and will be running through the first of the year. Space is limited so call Dale Bergren today to get the rest of the details and reserve your spot (**758-0634**).

SNAP! Productions is proud to announce that they are extending the run of the musical "RENT". Due to the overwhelming initial sellout run, SNAP! Productions added three performances. Those tickets sold out within 24 hours of their release. SNAP! has decided to add an additional five performances to the schedule. The added performances will be **December 21-22 and 28-30, 2009**. All shows will be at 8:00 pm for the extension. The theater will open approximately 1/2 hour before show time. Tickets are on sale at www.snapproductions.com. Ticket price for all shows is \$20.



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)

P.O. Box 31462, Omaha, NE 68131-0462



Membership Application

*Note: The GPNA membership year runs from June 1 through May 30.

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)

Cleanups	Newsletter Delivery	Community Garden	Easter Egg Hunt
Membership	Block Captain	Youth Garden	Spring Cleanup
Social Activities	History	Tree Planting	Fall Cleanup
School Liaison	Watch Group	Youth Activities	Neighborhood Walks
Tool Lending	Call Committee	Tennis Program	Holiday Banquet

**For City Services,
Information, or
Complaints
Call: Mayor's Action
Office
444-5555**



**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE
Chris 342-6006**

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

