



Gifford Park's Pride

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

September 2010

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood Survey Responses Ready For Review

Summer ends and so does the Neighborhood Survey. As of this newsletter printing, we have received over **170** survey responses. Over the summer the volunteer committee sent out surveys in two newsletters; one hand delivered door to door and one as an insert in the mailed newsletter. The neighborhood website had 67 survey responses. Our survey drop box in the business district and the neighborhood P.O. box received many completed surveys both in English and Spanish. One Friday afternoon volunteers stopped by all the businesses in the business district and talked to the owners encouraging them to fill out surveys, and our scrappy group of volunteers even set up a table outside the bike shop over the lunch hour to get people on the street to fill out a survey. So for those who gave us their opinions and time, thank you very much. Thank you to all the many volunteers from the neighborhood, **Destination Midtown, UNO, and the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Board.**

Now the fun begins - these responses will be compiled by **UNO's School of Public Administration** and the results will be shared at **6:00 pm, October 20th**, in one of the **Creighton University Medical Center** conference rooms. Everyone and anyone is invited to attend. As more develops about this next meeting, it will be posted in the next newsletter. This meeting will be a time to see what people have been saying and thinking. It will start to show us what we as a neighborhood need to be looking at for the future.

Thanks again everyone and we look forward to seeing you at our meeting in October.....yes, for those motivated by food, we're already planning what to serve.

Have a great fall and remember to look after your neighbor.

by Martin Janousek

**Next General Meeting
Thursday, September 9**

**Speakers From:
Big Brothers/Big Sisters Of The
Midlands
&
LOCAL
(Let Omaha Control its Alcohol
Landscape)**

**7:00 P.M.
Creighton University
Medical Center
Morrison Seminar Room**

**Executive Meeting
Thursday, September 23
At the Flint's**

Campaign For LOCAL Control

As most of you know our 33rd & California Street business district has four locations with off-sale alcohol licenses within a short one block area. In June, despite strong opposition again from the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA), the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (LCC) approved the latest liquor license application to the Cass Gas N Shop at 33rd & Cass St. The GPNA is currently appealing this decision to the District Court.

Across Omaha the number of alcohol outlets has steadily increased the past few years. You may remember the Walgreens case earlier this year when the Omaha City Council voted against 13 of the 20 Walgreens' liquor license applications. Two months later the LCC ignored the City's recommendation of denial and citizens' protest, granting Walgreens' liquor license applications. Other neighborhoods similar to

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**It's Back To School
Time . . . Please Drive
Carefully!**

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Jill Westfall* 213-3105

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WELCOMING

Julie Kalkowski* 342-2103

* denotes new officer, board, or committee member

LOCAL Control . . . continued from page 1

Gifford Park are frustrated as well. Another example occurred in late August; the Miller Park-Minne Lusa Neighborhood Association opposed the Howell's BP's liquor license at 7166 N. 30th St. The City Council recommended denial based on documented violence and crime, including a December homicide where a store clerk was shot dead. The LCC granted the liquor license, despite the City's recommendation of denial and citizens' protest.

Many Omaha citizens, especially in neighborhoods east of 72nd Street, have had similar experiences of feeling powerless with no effective means to protect our neighborhoods against the negative impact of too many and poorly managed off-sale alcohol locations. The state system for issuing alcohol licenses and monitoring their operations is broken. All decisions are currently made by the State LCC, which largely ignores input from Omaha residents while protecting the economic interest of the alcohol industry.

The Campaign for LOCAL (Let Omaha Control its Alcohol Landscape) Control is an effort by neighborhood & community organizations and citizens concerned about changing the licensing process. We propose a new ordinance to give Omaha the authority to make its own alcohol licensing decisions through zoning restrictions to protect the quality of life throughout the city.

What can you do to help? Attend the next GPNA meeting (see date and location on page 1). Also come to a kick-off event to support the **Campaign for LOCAL Control - Saturday, October 2nd, at 10 am, at Memorial Park, 57th & Dodge St.** For more information, call **957-1160** or e-mail the LOCALcampaign@gmail.com.

by Chris Foster

P.S. On June 6th there was an incident at our 33rd & California St. business district in which two men were caught on video surveillance pushing over 3 large flower pots. I filed a report with Police Officers, and sent this information to various officials, including the mayor and governor. On August 23rd, myself (as a witness) and Omaha Police Detective Robert Hutton appeared in Douglas County Court (case: State of Nebraska vs William J. Lieb) and provided pictures, damage estimates and testimony. (Note: Bob and Darryl Hutton also attended the hearing). At the time of the flower pot incident Lieb was **very drunk**, which is common when we see him around 33rd & California.

Long story short, Lieb pleaded no contest and was sentenced to 120 days in jail (he is already in jail for a July shoplifting incident). He asked the judge if he could do community service for the neighborhood association - the Judge said NO after counting up **253 entries on his rap sheet**, including murder, sexual assault of a juvenile, possession of stolen property, (and this list goes on). I believe Lieb is only 37 years old. Think of all the times he did NOT get caught, and what more we can expect when he is released soon and likely heads back to 33rd & California.

We all know there are too many cases like Lieb's of individuals with long criminal records, and it is a waste of resources for all of us in the neighborhood, business district, law enforcement, social services, local and state government, etc.

Quite honestly as bad as Lieb's record is, I'm more concerned about the bigger picture (policy and enforcement) of having **4 off-sale alcohol outlets within our small neighborhood business district and the burden on law enforcement and our Gifford Park neighborhood, not to mention the added challenges of attracting good economic development (developers have expressed this same alcohol density concern)**. Obviously the alcohol situation is not the only issue, but it is very significant to our problems, it is costly, and it keeps us from reaching our potential.

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).

GPNA Offers Leadership Opportunities

Do you have great ideas that could make our neighborhood a better place? Have you considered being a bigger part of what's happening in Gifford Park? Now is your chance. All of our officer positions will be open as of December 31st. We are currently taking volunteers to be on our slate of officers for 2011. You need to be GPNA member in good standing and have a desire to be a part of the ever changing landscape of Gifford Park. If you meet these qualifications please contact our current President, **Dana Carlton-Flint @ 346-4575** or designwyim@yahoo.com. Positions available are President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The slate of officers must be printed in the October newsletter so that a vote can be held at our November meeting. Thank you in advance for your dedication to Gifford Park.

Safe Routes To School

How many kids in Gifford Park walk to school? No one really knows. However, of the 300+ children ages six through twelve, there are over eighty who attend Kellom Elementary, the area's neighborhood school. For most kids in the neighborhood (Dodge to Cumming, 27th to 37th) OPS does not offer bussing to Kellom since the walk is less than one mile. The majority of parents choose to send their children to a school where bussing is provided or drive them to other area schools.

To combat childhood obesity, the federal government has awarded Omaha money to encourage childhood activity and nutrition. Some of this money is supporting a closer look at Gifford Park and just how we can create a safe route for kids to walk and bike to school. **Activate Omaha**, a partner in the **Communities Putting Prevention To Work** grant, has been working with Kellom Elementary and Gifford Park to find opportunities for kids to walk to school. Priorities include identifying and signing safe sidewalks, working to add or adjust traffic signals, and organizing parents and neighbors to support kids on their way. For more information or to assist in this effort, contact **Stuart Shell** at **216-1235** or sshell@rdgusa.com.

by Stuart Shell

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Chris 342-6006



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GPNA Hosts Pot Luck For National Night Out

This year's community event for participating in the **National Night Out** on August 3rd was a pot luck picnic sponsored by the GPNA. Thanks to event organizers: GPNA President (and our fearless leader) **Dana Carlton-Flint, Jill Westfall, Diane Kaye & James Nordaker** (the pulled pork hit the spot!) Special thanks to **Caitie Caughey** for doing face-painting – very nice job!

Thanks also to our special guests who stopped by: **State Senator Gwen Howard, Mayor Jim Suttle, Police Chief Alex Hayes, Deputy Chief Dave Baker** and several police officers.

Thanks to everyone who attended and made it a fun event for all.

by Chris Foster



**Patriot Day
Saturday,
September 11**



Youth Garden: Summer 2010 - Part II

by Dana Freeman

Keep reading for more Youth Garden goings-on since last month's newsletter...Entomologist **Tom Janousek** and his lovely wife and assistant **Traci** helped us identify "What's That Bug?" for Week 5, Saturday, June 19th. The temperatures were in the 90s, but Tom and a few of his friends, including silk worms, Madagascar hissing cockroaches, and predaceous diving beetles, showed up for an interactive lesson.

Everyone made an aspirator, aka pooter, to take home for hands-free bug collection. (This is done by sucking up desired critters through plastic tubing into a jar for holding.) **Chris Foster** & Tom led the children throughout the garden on a merry hunt for insects! Special thanks to community gardener, park picker-upper, and all-around great neighbor **Sandy Freeman** for giving us canning jars to use for pooters and baking us an assortment of cookies and cupcakes for snacks.

Also of note, our poem memorization project kicked off this week. One can find poems posted on yellow paper spread throughout the garden, and our young participants have an opportunity each week to recite a poem for a prize. It is amazing how quickly gardeners are able to do so! The challenge comes in following weeks because, in order to pick another prize from our selection, they have to perform the poem from the previous week again before delivering a new one. *We are always looking for donations of new or gently used small prizes to encourage and reward our young gardeners for their efforts.*

We began preparing for "Garden Art, Part I" on Wednesday, June 23rd, with help from community gardeners. **Don Freeman & Chris Foster** took down the peeling and faded "Gifford Park Community Garden" sign constructed two summers ago with help from our friends at **Octopuses Garden Art Alliance** (www.octopusesgarden.org). **Mike Caban, Dana & Sue Freeman**, and **Naomi Solomon** sanded, primed, and painted a green base coat on the sign in preparation for YG artists. On Week 6, Saturday, June 26th, GPNA President **Dana Carlton-Flint** mixed up a variety of paint colors, and artists of all ages redecorated our "Gifford Park Community Garden" sign. Thanks especially to YG mom **Katrina Adams**, YG big brother **Marcus Anderson**, community gardener **Bren Duvall**, Duchesne Locavore **Frankie Hamburger**, & YG mom **Jenny Waltemath** for supporting our artists as they worked, and veteran YG grandma **Jackie Foster & Stuart Shell** for afterward adding a highlight of yellow around the edges to make the letters "pop" from a distance. **Don** hung the signs up for all to see, so make sure to stop by and check out the design-work up close. Finally, everyone constructed a simple hollyhock doll (or two) to take home for some imaginary play. Thanks to **The Weaks**, involved in both Youth Garden and Teen Market Garden, for bringing a tasty watermelon snack that kept us hydrated and energized!

Our friends from **Octopuses Garden Art Alliance** (OGAA) helped us continue exploring "Garden Art, Part II" for Week 7, Saturday, July 3rd. **Melynda Walsh**, Gifford Park neighbor and OGAA Programs Coordinator, led our interactive art session. Everyone crafted clay octopus sculptures that will be hidden later throughout our Gifford Park and Midtown Omaha a la guerrilla marketing to generate buzz about an upcoming OGAA gigantic octopus public art project and planter. Melynda then gave a demonstration on how to make yummy smelling play dough that everyone was able to take home for personal sculpting projects. We appreciate, too, OGAA Executive Director **David Shreffler** and Communications Coordinator **Darian Stout** for adding their creative energies to the mix and having fun with us in the garden. Finally, we would like to thank Youth Garden mom **Alyssa Stanley** for bringing us a smorgasbord of items for lunch. Taking time to share food and eat together is an important component of our program.

Youth Garden dug into vermiculture for "Worms Eat My Garbage" on Week 8, Saturday, July 10th. **Dana Freeman & Stuart Shell** led the lesson on worms and how they are good garden helpers and excellent composters. We played a matching game that helped us learn interesting factoids about our wriggling friends. Everyone got dirty constructing their very own wormery to take home some *Eisenia fetida* in order to make black gold for their garden. Thanks to community gardener **Sandy Freeman** for donating a gross of plastic water bottles we were able to re-use for this project, and YG mom **Felicia Webster** for bringing a strawberry shortcake snack to share.

We greatly appreciate **Don Freeman** for donating his expertise and materials to put gutters and downspouts on the community garden tool shed so we could hook up and collect water in two rain barrels. More than 15 ½ inches of rain fell this year during the months of June and July, and it does not even take an inch of rain to fill these barrels with water collected on this small structure. Youth and adult gardeners alike fill cans and water their plots from these sources as Gifford Park Community Garden tries to use sustainable practices. With great luck, it rained the evening of July 10th and filled both barrels.

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Think Spring In The Fall *by Diane Kaye, Community Garden Director*

Autumn is almost here, and it is a turning point. The past few mornings have held a chill in the air, and it will soon be the time that we have glorious weather but without the harshness of the summer heat. This is the trigger for seasonal planting of many great plants. It is now time to plan and plant for glorious color in the spring. There is nothing so spectacular after a long winter as the first “pop” of a tulip, hyacinth, or daffodil that breaks through the ground. I know that my poor family get daily updates in the spring of just how far up today the flowering bulbs are from yesterday.

Please note that spring flowering bulbs should be planted in the late fall. I have personally been receiving bulb catalogs for the last 2 months, which my husband has been hiding from me. I have also spied these lovely vibrant bulb packages in one of my favorite stores this past weekend. Planting bulbs in our Zone 4 gardening area needs to be done when the ground is cold enough so that the bulb will not sprout. If you plant them too early they will send up leaves too soon and they will not survive the winter – sad but true.

So while you will want to purchase your bulbs in August or September, please wait to plant them until October and/or November. The Friday after Thanksgiving I am usually planting the last of my bulbs for the season.

The bulbs that you purchase – on-line, via catalog, or at the store already have an embryo flower tucked away inside. This embryo is just waiting to begin growing in the spring. You will want to ensure that your bulbs are nice, fat, and firm. Avoid any that are flabby, moldy, or whose papery cover is missing. Keep your bulbs really dry until you are ready to plant them. Also keep them ventilated as well.

While you are waiting to plant your pretties, please keep in mind that you should pick a sunny site that has good drainage. Bulbs will rot in wet soil. Pick a sunny site because most bulbs won't grow well in shade. Under a large shade tree is fine if this tree doesn't sprout leaves immediately in the spring.

When it is time to plant dig the area and loosen the soil about a foot deep. An old rule of thumb is to plant a bulb twice the height of the bulb, so if a bulb is 3 inches tall, then plant it so the base of the bulb is 6 inches deep (that puts the top of the bulb 3 inches from the surface). Please remember this isn't rocket science. A few inches here or there isn't going to make too much of a problem for most bulbs though. Please remember however this critical step – set the bulb so the pointy end is facing up. Your bulb will still flower if you don't, but it will take the bulb longer to come through the ground in the spring and they may not be as tall as they should be. I am an advocate of putting compost, dried manure, and/or fertilizer in with your bulbs to help them grow. Planting in groups will make your showing more impressive than planting just one or two together. The standard is planting in groups of ten with a spacing of a couple of inches between each one.

Two of my spring favorites are daffodils and tulips. Daffodils bloom in our area in April. I enjoy standard daffodils as they multiply each year (one becomes two), and they live a long life. They last approximately 25 years, so once planted you enjoy your efforts for years to come. I so enjoy the masses of yellow in my yard after I am firmly convinced that spring will never come again. Daffodils have about 25 different species with several natural hybrids. Currently there are over 13,000 hybrids, which are then divided among the twelve divisions of official classification. Daffodils were brought to Britain by the Romans who thought that the sap from daffodils had healing powers. Actually the sap contains crystals that can irritate the skin. Please wear gloves when planting your daffodils or wash your hands thoroughly.

Tulips are originally a wild flower native to Central Asia. The original species have a limited color of mostly reds and yellows and tend to have smaller flowers than modern varieties and hybrids. These flowers were first cultivated by the Turks as early as 1000AD. The flower was introduced in Western Europe and the Netherlands in the 17th century by Carolus Clusius, a biologist from Vienna. “Tulipmania” took over Holland, and in 1637, twelve acres of land was exchanged for one tulip! The price of rare tulip varieties got to ridiculous levels. Traders made huge amounts of money every month. People started selling their businesses, family homes, farm animals, furnishings, and dowries to participate in the tulip trade. The government of Holland could do nothing to stop this, and the trade was all about access and demand. When the tulip did not appear to be quite so rare as to justify such high prices, over-supply led to lower prices. Dealers and investors went bankrupt because of the tulip trade. The tulip crash made the government introduce special trading restrictions on the flower, which believe it or not are still in place. Kind of reminds one of our present housing market crisis in a way. Tulips as a rule bloom in May. They are not as long-lived as daffodils, but they are eye candy to me so I plant them each year regardless. Our Omaha weather tends to have a very warm snap which has burned my tulips for the last three years. Tulips don't weather well when the weather gets too hot.

Once your spring bulbs have bloomed, please allow the foliage to yellow and wither. This allows the bulb to gain energy for next year's show. Please plan to plant annuals around bulbs to shelter and hide them while they gather up energy and lose their foliage.

The main thing about spring bulbs is to simply go out and do it. What you plant in fall, you will more than enjoy in spring. Happy Gardening!

Interesting Season For Business District Flower Pots

As Labor Day unofficially marks the end of summer, it tells us we possibly have 6 more weeks to enjoy the flower pots in the Business District. This year's mix of flowers included, a dark leaf canna, red geraniums, petunias (Wave variety), green potato vines, coleus (sun loving variety) and tall blue salvia. What looks like a great end to summer didn't start off that way. Looking back, our flower pots had a tough growing season starting with the vandalism we had the week the flower pots were planted to the extreme hot weather. Our first wave of vandalism occurred when we had a couple of local drunks decide to tip over our pots. If you haven't seen these pots they're 4 feet tall by 3 feet wide and filled to the top with dirt. It takes a lot of effort and in this case some uninhibited alcohol consumption to tip these over. However, luckily some of our local heroes were able to save some of the plants and replant the flower pots. The second wave came early one morning when a woman decided to trim our flowers down to their roots. Throw in some long hot summer days and we could have had some sad looking plants. With all of this, it's still amazing how Mother Nature can do her thing. Most of the flower pots made it through the summer with some better than others. If we had to give an award out this year for the best looking flower pot it would go to the one outside **Robinson's Garage**. Thanks to the effort of Dale and Terry the flower pot outside their business turned out great. We also need to thank **Lilly Estes** for brining some of her own plants from her garden to replenish those that were lost to vandalism. Though most of all, a **Big Thanks** needs to go out to those businesses that contributed money for the plants, and if you have a chance please let them know we appreciate their donations: **Blueline Coffee, California Bar, Cass Street Gas & Shop, Charles R. Kilgore Attorney at Law, Gifford Park LLC, K N J Grocery Store, Robinson's Garage, Selena's Market, Urban Village, Sue Freeman** (Dana Freeman's mom), & **Glenn Burns**.

For those who are wondering, yes, we did catch our flower pot tipper on the business district cameras. Thanks to more neighborhood residents who took time to press charges, use vacation time, and put off personal projects, as of last week, our flower pot tipper will be spending 120 days in jail for his poor choices. As a side note, I often wonder how many more good things could be accomplished in Gifford Park if we didn't have to spend so much valuable volunteer time dealing with situations like this vandalism.....think about it and have a great autumn.



by Martin Janousek

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



17th Annual Tennis Program Highlights

Despite a heat index of 112 degrees during one of our sessions, we still had 35 perfect attendance youth participants for this year's 17th annual **Youth Tennis Program** in Gifford Park. This year's program averaged about sixty kids and a dozen volunteer instructors for each of the four Wednesdays in August. The kids learned each of the basic tennis and rallying skills, including the always popular "king of the hill" where the kids played points against each other.

Thanks goes to **Godfather's Pizza** again this year for giving us a deal on 16 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: **Rick & Jane Hines, Jim Wilson, Calvin Webster, Don Gildon, Russ Kirkpatrick, Roger Freeman, Laurie Bolte, Kirk Peck, Michaela Peck, Vince Emory, Jackie Foster, Chris & Sallie Foster, Schelble family (Jim, Claire, Alex), Carmody family (Margie, Brian, Ellie), Emma Knapp, Nancy Gaarder, Ron Goodman, Buddy Hogan, Kathryn Rose, Julie Rose and Jim Lang**. Thanks also to several of our neighborhood youth who helped teach: **Marcus Anderson, Quannie Nance, Max Kaye, Tyler White, & the Stanley girls (Dawn, Crystal, Justine)**. Also during June and July, volunteer

continued on page 7

Ben's Yard Work & Landscaping

Call Ben Spahn 686-8079

He lives in Gifford Park



Tennis Program . . . continued from page 6

instructors **Jim Wilson, Lou Harrison, Cathy Schuele, and Kara Schuele** and provided tennis lessons on Wednesday mornings in Gifford Park; this was the third year for this free program.

Special thanks go to **Jan Franks, Bette Tanner, 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 Parks & Recreation Department** for their generous support over the years. Volunteers **Mike Caban, Ellen Price, Brittney Rubek and Jim Wilwerding** also helped out in a variety of ways. We appreciated the kind words during our awards recognition from **State Senator Gwen Howard** and Northeast Police Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist **Theola Cooper**. 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



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



Community Bike Project Nearing Milestone

As the weather turns cool, 2011 is creeping around the corner. The spring of 2011 will mark the fifth anniversary of Community Bike Project – the group of volunteers at 525 N. 33rd Street who want to help you fix your bike. Resulting from the generosity of landlords **Chris Foster and Rob & Martin Janousek**, the project has been nurtured by the community around Gifford Park. As we near the 60-month mark, it's clear that much has changed and much has remained the same. What has changed: we have our sights on all of Omaha! We want to see the success we've found in Gifford Park spread across our community. We want to serve more neighbors in more neighborhoods and are tooling up to do just that. What has remained the same? We are neighborhood-based and volunteer-run. We believe in our mission of empowering residents with skills to make bicycle transportation viable, reliable, and fun. And most important: our heart is in Gifford Park. Stop down and see what's new: Saturday 12-4pm and Wednesday & Thursday 6-8pm.

by Stuart Shell



Don't Forget!

The third annual fundraiser for the **Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA)** will feature a masquerade ball theme with live music and food & drink from Midtown businesses. It will be held on **Friday, September 10th, 6 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.** at **Joslyn Castle**. Tickets are \$15. All proceeds go toward MNA's Re-Tree Initiative. Last year, over \$14,000 from various sources, including the Celebrate Midtown function, was generated, which resulted in the purchase and planting of over 60 trees in five midtown neighborhoods. The proceeds from this year's event will also be used for trees. Our primary sponsors for this event are **Indian Creek Nursery** and **Mutual of Omaha**.

To help with the event or to purchase tickets contact **Tom Craig** at **612-1444**



New playground equipment was installed at Yates School earlier this summer and is open to everyone. What a great addition for neighborhood children!



Youth Garden . . . continued from page 4

Neighborhood forecaster **Chris Foster** and WOWT Weather Authority Team member **Caitlin Roth** once again joined forces to lead “Wild about Weather” on Week 9, Saturday, July 17th. The exciting lesson thrilled audiences of all ages despite the heat wave. We walked around our growing spaces to examine the role weather plays in gardening and tried some hands-on science experiments with the assistance of community gardener **Bob Hutton** to learn about variables like temperature, moisture, wind, and pressure. **Caitlin** gave a live professional weather broadcast and shared information about her education and meteorological profession. Everyone received a cloud poster and activity book from our friends at the **National Weather Service Forecast Office** in Valley and a rain gauge to create their own home weather station. Thanks to YG mom **Rose Carlson** for bringing snacks on that scorching hot day!

Gifford Park Youth Garden was featured in two local media following Chris Foster’s amazing weather lesson. One article in the *Omaha World-Herald* was called “Hot, But Not Stinky Rotten!” (<http://www.omaha.com/article/20100730/NEWS11/707309981>) by community gardener **Nancy Gaarder**. The other was a post called “Gifford Park Garden Talk” on **Caitlin Roth**’s blog (<http://www.wowt.com/blogs/caitlinroth/99063549.html>). We love to share with Omaha what we’re growing in Gifford Park!

Gifford Park Youth Garden periodically shares its lessons with neighbors and young gardeners. On the evening of July 21st, **Stuart Shell** led a lesson on cooperation at Virtues Camp in Bemis Park sponsored by members of Omaha’s Bahá’í Faith Community (<http://omahabahai.org/>). He passed out a brochure (available at www.douglascountyhealth.com) highlighting access sites for local foods that were literally added to the students’ spiritual toolboxes and talked about what happens at our community garden. Stuart then hosted a seed-bomb making activity, provided a healthy watermelon snack, and distributed flower and vegetable seeds for everyone to take home.

Then, on the afternoon of July 23rd, sixteen participants ages 8- to 12-years from Durham Museum’s Community Builder’s Academy visited Gifford Park to learn about volunteerism and how neighborhood organizations make a difference. **Chris Foster** organized the event, and **Roger & Sandy Freeman** and **Matt Martin** also offered inspirational words of wisdom to the children about community activism. The youngsters volunteered to lend a hand with some weeding before touring the **Identity Garden** in Gifford Park and the **Community Bike Project** (<http://communitybicycleshopomaha.org/>) and learning how they can contribute to make a difference in Omaha.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make our program a success each and every week. Check back next newsletter for the third and final installment of our adventures from Youth Garden 2010!

Coming Soon to the Community Garden near You

- September 1 : Work Night, 6 to 8PM @ GPCG
- September 7 : Board Meeting, 5:30 to 6:30PM @ GPCG
- September 8 : “Types of Gardens” w/ Kathleen Cue, 9:30 to 11AM at City Sprouts (4002 Seward)
- September 18 : Potluck, 5 to 8PM @ GPCG
- September 26 : Harvest Party & Potluck, 3 to 5PM at Dundee Community Garden (50th & Underwood)





Kellom Elementary Open House,



“Family Nature Night” & Community Wellness Fair **Thursday, September 16, 2010** **6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.**

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What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

Omaha Police Lt. **Kerry Neumann** will be the next captain of the Northeast Precinct. Neumann is replacing **Tim Carmody**, who recently retired and next month will become the police chief in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Neumann's promotion is one of five that took place on Aug. 20th. He has been with the department since 1996. For the last 15 months, Neumann, 39, has headed the department's gang unit. He previously oversaw the homicide unit.

The Sun Dawgs program had another great summer in Gifford Park. Special thanks go to **Tom Lebeda** (Parks & Recreation Supervisor) and Supervisors **Ally Tegral**, **John Petto**, and **Paula Garcia** for paying close attention to our Gifford Park site for this year's Sun Dawgs summer youth program. The GPNA wishes to thank the **City of Omaha** and other private donors who helped keep the Sun Dawgs program running this year and for making it possible for Gifford Park to be a full-time site.

Come to **U-Pick-A-Pepper Day** at the Teen Market Garden on **Saturday, September 25th**, from **9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (3028 Cottage Grove Avenue.)** Prices vary between 10 cents and 1 dollar per pepper according to size and variety. Get great deals on peppers and support the Pepper People.

Gifford Park's **Stanley Family** was featured in an article in the Fall 2010 edition of the Missouri Valley United States Tennis Association's quarterly magazine "**CrossCourt**". All six of **Wendall & Alyssa Stanley's** children have participated in Gifford Park's Youth Tennis Program over the years.

Membership Application v2009.03.30

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)

The GPNA Membership Year runs from January 1 through December 31.

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

Today's Date:

Name (1): E-Mail (1):

Name (2): E-Mail (2):

Name (3): E-Mail (3):

Name (4): E-Mail (4):

Name (5): E-Mail (5):

Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Telephone:

Volunteer Opportunities! I am interested in helping out with...

Please indicate areas of interest:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup/Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Captain | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Cleanup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Cleanup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Tenant Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Walks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Call Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Banquet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Lending | | | |

Mail check or money order with this completed Membership Application Form to:

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 31462

Omaha, NE 68131-0462

For additional information about GPNA, please visit our website:

www.GiffordParkOmaha.org

