



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

May 2009

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Annual Spring Cleanup June 6

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association will be having the annual **Spring Cleanup** on **Saturday June 6, 2009**, from **9:00AM to 2:00 PM**. As in the past, the compactor trucks will be located in the park parking lot on 34th Street just north of Davenport. We will be accepting scrap metal, tires, appliances, and the usual trash. In a change from past years, we can not accept tires on rims. We will have vouchers for free disposal of tree limbs and brush, but will not accept them at the cleanup site. We will **not** be accepting used oil, other liquids, paint, chemicals, or concrete, but will have information at the site about Under the Sink, an organization that will accept fluids, paints and chemicals.

If you would be interested in volunteering to help at the cleanup, please contact **Jim Wilwerding** at **551-1344**. We will need volunteers to help clean up the park, help unload trucks and cars, accept donations and membership applications, and hand out literature. If you have a truck and some muscle, we always need volunteers to go around the neighborhood to pick up loads for residents without transportation.

If you are bringing your trash to the cleanup site, please observe the hours shown above. We do not anticipate having the compactor trucks much before 9:00, and they will leave promptly at 2:00. If you expect to have a very large load (large trailer, box truck, etc.), please contact Jim Wilwerding in advance. The City will designate a special site for large loads to facilitate traffic flow at the neighborhood sites and we will be able to direct those loads to the special site.

If you will be unable to transport your trash, please contact **Jim Wilwerding** at **551-1344**, so we can schedule a pick-up. If there is no answer, please leave your name, address, type of trash to be picked up, approximate load size ( one pickup load, two pickup loads, etc.) and a call-back number. If at all possible, we would appreciate it if you could locate your trash at the curb to facilitate pickup.

Please help clean up our neighborhood by participating.

*by Jim Wilwerding*

**Next General Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 14**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Speaker: Jim Farho**  
**Topic: Midtown Neighborhood**  
**Alliance Crime Task Force**

**Creighton University**  
**Medical Center**  
**Becic Dining Room**

**Executive Meeting:**  
**Thursday, May 21**  
**At The Flint's**  
**152 North 35th St.**

*Don't Forget To*  
**VOTE!**  
*City Election*  
**Tuesday, May 12**



## Water In The Park

In April, **Backlund Plumbing** finished installing the flush-mount water hydrant on 33rd St. near the park sign. Our crafty neighborhood volunteers **Bob** and **Darryl Hutton** poured a small concrete pad around the water supply and backflow preventer, and "boxed" over the backflow preventer with braced durock. Many thanks to **Pat Slaven** and **Brook Bench** with the **City Parks Department**, **Tom Ostrand** with **Backlund Plumbing**, **Mayor Mike Fahey** for the Mayor's grant, and **Bob & Darryl Hutton** for completing the concrete work. This has been a long time coming and will give us the opportunity to maintain our Identity Garden, park sign plantings, and potentially add more plantings nearby in the park. Also completed was the new roof to the park shelter. The cost of both projects was covered by grant money.

**GPNA OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Dana Carlton-Flint\* 346-4575

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Stuart Shell 216-1235

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Dana Freeman\* 850-9611

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**HISTORIAN**

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**MEMBERSHIP**

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**NEWSLETTER**

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**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**PARK**

Sandy\* &amp; 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**

For the last month I have been attending the North East Precinct Citizen Mini Police Academy. I joined because I felt it would help me to be more effective as Gifford Park's representative to the MNA (Midtown Neighborhood Alliance) Crime Task Force. I wasn't completely right. It has helped me to be more effective on the Crime Task Force, but it has also helped me to be a better citizen. Each month I'm going to include what I learned at the academy so that you can benefit from this experience also.

**Week 1 at the Academy: How To Be A Better Witness**

Are you a good witness? If you were involved in an altercation or a victim of a crime would you be a good witness? That was the question posed to the Academy attendees. Of course we thought we were...until they tested us. What can you remember about the last person that checked you out at the grocery store? How tall was the person that crossed in front of your car at the intersection? How old was the person getting gas at the pump next to yours at the gas station? If you can answer those questions with accuracy then you are probably a better witness than most. Truth be told most of us don't pay much attention to those around us or what the person looked like that just waited on us or walked by.

You are the Police Department's best source for information when it comes to catching a suspect. No one really has time to think about what is happening before or when it happens but it is very important to capture as much as you can remember as quickly as possible so that the police can better do their job. If you are a witness write down as many things as you can remember about the suspect, the location, and the incident.

What you should include:

When-Day of the week, date, and time

Where- Address of incident, inside or outside, where in the building, where on the premises, city or town

What- What type of incident: Assault, theft, personal property damage, nuisance, shots fired etc.

How did the incident happen, how many persons were involved, how long did it last, was there a vehicle involved, what is the description of that?

Description of suspect(s)- Race, height, approximate weight, hair color, hair type (example-curly, straight, short, long, bald or balding), facial hair, tattoos, piercings, what were they wearing- shirt/jacket, shorts/pants, shoes/sandals (keep in mind suspect may change their clothes but they may still be wearing the same shoes), what color were those items, birth marks, how they spoke....stutter, accent, lisp. Were there weapons involved, what kind of weapon, what did it look like?

This seems like a lot to remember after a traumatic experience but as I mentioned earlier the more you remember the better witness you will be. So next time you are out take a better look at those around you - you never know when you will be a witness. Until next month.....Be Safe!

by Dana Carlton-Flint

**Music In The Park Returning This Summer**

Gifford Park will once again be a host site for the popular "Music in the Park" concert series. This year we will host one date on Wednesday evening, **July 15**. Many thanks to the **City of Omaha, The Reader**, and the **Recording Industries Music Performance Fund** as administered by the **Omaha Musicians' Association** for sponsoring this event. We plan to have free ice cream treats, so bring a blanket and enjoy the show.

## Neighbors Remember Tom Rose

*Editor's Note: Tom Rose, a long time resident of the Gifford Park neighborhood, passed away on April 4th, 2009. He was 55 years old.*

I remember Tom Rose was one of the early dedicated volunteers who got me interested in the GPNA with his passion for the neighborhood. Tom was involved, especially in the early years, with cleanups, garage sales, tool lending, encouraging neighbors to form Neighborhood Watch programs, and numerous other activities. He always had nice things to say to Sallie and me when seeing him on the streets. I will miss Tom's great sense of humor, innovative ideas for neighborhood improvement, and his love for our neighborhood.

*Chris Foster*

Tom Rose loved this neighborhood, and he was an early contributor to the GPNA's success. On a personal note, he was a good loyal friend, and the thing about Tom that impressed me the most was his intellect and witty sense of humor. His banner quote exemplifies, to many of us who knew him, the spirit of the man. It was a quote by the writer, Margo Kaufman: "The only thing worse than a man you can't control is a man you can." My sincere condolences to his children, Katy and Charlie.

*Mike Caban*

Tom Rose is not with us in person today, but rest assured he is in memory. Tom was the kind of person I knew that said what he thought and really didn't care if you agreed with him or not. That's just the way he was and I used to disagree with him just to see what he would come back with; sometimes he would really get upset that I did not agree with him and then a short time later he would in his own way look at me and come back with some flowery remark to the effect that I was messing with him. I am very thankful Tom and I never had any bad feelings between us. Several years ago I was looking for work and Tom was at one of our local business places having his share of beer when he looked at me and said, "Hey, why don't you go talk to a friend of mine at Metro Tech, they are going to need a person to teach some classes and I know you can do it." Then he managed to help me rid my fears of computers. Yes I did transport my friend Tom home a couple of times, and his comment would be I owe you. Tom, I have to believe whatever debts you thought you owed were repaid many fold. Rest in peace my friend.

*Robert Hutton*

## GPNA Calendar Of Events

- May 9th** Community Garden Opening
- May 14th** General Meeting - Jim Farho to speak on the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Crime Task Force
- May 21st** No May Board Meeting
- May 23rd** Gifford Park Youth Program begins
- May 27th** Gifford Park Block Party @ the Gifford Park tennis courts
- June 6th** Neighborhood Cleanup - Gifford Park
- June 11th** General Meeting Topic TBA
- June 25th** Board Meeting @ The Flint's
- July 9th** General Meeting - Creighton Update on its master plan
- July 15th** "Music in the Park" in Gifford Park



**Thanks to those who have served and protected our country**

## Rebuilding Together Omaha 2009 Helps Jan Franks

On April 25th, there were 25 **ServiceOne** employees and a few spouses who converged on **Jan Franks'** home on North 35th Avenue. We updated the main bathroom with a shower surround, vanity, mirror, toilet, linen closet, and new flooring. The kitchen will be finished this week with new cabinets, counter top, sink and faucet, flooring and paint. New ceiling tiles were installed in the living and dining rooms. The hallway paneling was installed and the ceiling was fixed. Jan's home was cleaned including the windows and the front door painted a royal blue. We are planning to finish all the painting in the bathroom and front porch by next week. On the outside, we cleaned up the lawn and jack hammered the sidewalks by the house and poured new ones. Flowers were planted compliments of **Chris & Sallie Foster**. **HyVee** on **96th & L** furnished sandwiches for the group! Yum!

Many donations were received by the team, including the shower surround from **ServiceOne** and kitchen cabinets from **Consolidated Kitchens**; even the cleaning supplies were donated. We hope the Jan enjoys her new "digs" as we thoroughly enjoyed working for her!

*by Brenda Stuart*

Note: Project Leader **Brenda Stuart** and her crew did an amazing job for Jan Franks - former GPNA "Neighbor of the Year" and a wonderful, very deserving recipient of this program. Jan said "I have never seen so many people with such large hearts in my life. These people have surely made a difference in my life."

## Sewer Overflow Study Makes A Few Changes

After three years of engineering study, refinement to assure the viability of solutions and community feedback regarding the unfunded federal mandate to reduce the number of combined sewer overflows in the Omaha metro area, the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) is due to be submitted to state regulators by October 1, 2009.

More than 125 Omahans – business owners, neighborhood leaders, educators and community volunteers – have given their time and provided input and feedback to our consultants to select controls to reduce the problem of raw sewage being released into the Missouri River or Papillion Creek during wet weather events.

Recently the Community Basin Panel and the Basin Advisory Panels who represent the neighborhoods who make up the ten basins directly impacted by the solutions were briefed on the updated plan. New areas have been added for proposed sewer separation since the fall of 2008. Among those areas are the removal of creeks from the sewer system at Westlawn–Hillcrest/Bohemian cemeteries in the Saddle Creek basin and Forest Lawn Creek in the Minne Lusa basin. Upon completion of all of the sewer separation projects for the CSO Program, there will be an estimated 16 miles of new sanitary sewers, 61 miles of new storm sewers and 85 miles of existing sewers which will have been rehabilitated.

The proposed deep tunnel was modified from the original plan. The length of the tunnel has been reduced by nearly half a mile while the diameter of the tunnel increased from 12.5 feet to 17 feet. The number of drop shafts into the tunnel was reduced from six to five by consolidating facilities near the Leavenworth CSO outfall.

Originally, the City envisioned there would be a need to construct three high-rate treatment plants as part of the control strategy. The City has reduced that number to two; one located at the Saddle Creek outfall discharging into the Papillion Creek and the other to be located adjacent to the existing Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Plant south of Veteran's Memorial Bridge. The third high-rate treatment facility, located near the North Omaha Power Plant was replaced with an underground storage tank by increasing the level of sewer separation in the Minne Lusa Basin. A second underground tank may be needed near Benson Park.

In addition to the “gray” solutions – or concrete and steel solutions – several green solutions are part of the project. Over a dozen projects located on public land are being considered for potential green solutions. There are three criteria for development of green solutions: it must be developed on public land; it must have a quantifiable

impact on reducing the of flow into the sewer system – in other words contribute to the solution, and lastly it must be cost effective.

**This improvement to the water quality in the Missouri River and Papillion Creek does not come cheap. City officials estimated the average amount homeowners would pay by the year 2017 would be approximately \$50. In fact, a study conducted by Red Oak Consulting, who specializes in utilities' fees and who has consistently worked with the City, confirmed the rates city officials have projected.**

**Currently, the average residential customer pays about \$14 per month for sewer service. That amount is set to increase by about \$1.25 per month next year under the current rate plan. Under a new rate structure, to be considered by the Omaha City Council, those average residential rates would rise incrementally to \$37.23 by 2014.**

**While much of the work on these infrastructure projects won't be seen by the general population, there are community enhancements that may result from the work, such as educational exhibits, green space, playgrounds and sport courts and fields – funded not as part of the CSO program but through matching funds or grants.**

**Public meetings will be held during the summer to obtain additional public input prior to the submission of the final long term control plan on October 1, 2009. For more information visit [www.omahacso.com](http://www.omahacso.com) or call the CSO Hotline at 402-341-0235.**

## Rediscovering Creative Play (Aka De-Commercializing Play) Workshop

A workshop to help rediscover creative and un-commercialized play. A screening of Consuming Kids will inspire us to take back our children's right to creative play.

A wealth of informational resources will be available as well as a hands-on toy petting zoo of homemade and recycled-material toys that will awaken the inner child in us all and guide us in finding creative alternatives to commercialized play.

**May 16th - 10:30 – 12:00**

**Yates Educational Community Center**

**3260 Davenport St**

Please RSVP to **Kate Bodmann** by emailing

[katrinaob@yahoo.com](mailto:katrinaob@yahoo.com)

\*There is a parent/child room available if you need to bring your child but need to step out with them briefly.

Watch the trailer at <http://>

[www.consumingkidsthemovie.com/](http://www.consumingkidsthemovie.com/)

## Legislative Update



I want to thank all of you who have expressed well wishes to my family and myself after the sudden loss of my daughter Carrie. I cannot tell you how much your concern and generosity has meant to me in this very difficult time. Sara and I have been overwhelmed by how much Carrie was loved. We will always have our memories of our times with Carrie. All those who were touched by Carrie are better people for having known her. While we will miss her greatly, we will never forget the joy that she brought into our lives.

I especially want to thank the neighborhood associations of the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance for the generous donation of \$500 to the Carrie A. Howard Scholarship Fund at the Central High School Foundation.

The legislative session continues to move quickly as we are 2/3 of the way through this session. After the 60th day, we will turn our focus to addressing the serious budget situation facing this state. The economic downturn has dramatically reduced revenue coming into the State treasury requiring the Legislature to make some very difficult decisions in the coming weeks.

I also want to update you on LB 605 which I introduced to give neighborhoods a louder voice when it comes to liquor licenses. The bill is currently before the General Affairs Committee and the chairman of the committee has promised to work with me and neighborhood leaders over the summer and fall to come up with language that we can get through the Legislature next year. I am very optimistic that we will be able to get something passed that gives neighborhoods a louder voice on this very important issue.

As always, it is a privilege to represent you so please do not hesitate to let me know when I can be of any assistance or to let me know your views on an issue. Thank you always for your support.

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

**BUY LOCAL. EAT FRESH!**

**Every Saturday Morning**  
8:00 am - 12:30 pm  
May 2 - October 10, 2009

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

[omahafarmersmarket.org](http://omahafarmersmarket.org)

Check us out on Facebook - search "Omaha Farmers Market"

PRESENTED BY:



*Members of the PKA Fraternity from Creighton University helped mulch flower beds and prepare 55 youth garden plots at the Community Garden on April 18th - even in the rain!*

**Happy  
Mother's Day!**



## Thanks, Tax Volunteers!

Many thanks to AARP volunteers **Jackie Foster, Pat Prochaska, Sharen Rotolo** and **Joyce Koenig** who provided free tax help in our neighborhood again for the 15th year in a row for this program. They processed a total of 76 returns this year, 61 electronically filed. Many thanks to **Omaha Public Schools** and **Yates School** for hosting this year's site.

**EMERICK HUBER****Tree Service****Neighborhood Tree Removal & Trimming**- - - **"Quality and Safety Assured"** - - -**525 North 33rd St. - - Omaha, NE 68131****Tel: 1.307.262.4581****Email: emerickhuber@gmail.com****Midtown Neighborhood Alliance  
Re-Tree Initiative**

In late July of 2008, the **Midtown Neighborhood Alliance** formed a Re-tree Task Force. The task force was created to develop a plan for replacing trees in mid-town parks and public spaces that were damaged or destroyed during the 2008 summer storms, as well as those damaged or destroyed in prior years' storms. In addition, the task force was challenged with recommending ways to plant appropriate trees in areas where tree cover is desirable whether or not trees had ever been planted in those spots. A further goal of the task force was to allocate resources to treating diseased trees that are identified in the Mid-town area. The task force was focused on seeking funds for tree replacement and coordinating the implementation of the plan.

In the course of the planning, the Re-tree Task Force consulted with **OPPD**, the **Nebraska Statewide Arboretum** and a nursery expert. A three part initiative was identified:

- Phase I – gain funding and secure trees to replace those damaged or destroyed in the 2008 summer storms, in parks and public spaces
- Phase II – gain funding and secure trees to replace trees damaged or destroyed over the years through storms or by disease, in parks and public spaces, as well as to treat diseased trees that can be saved
- Phase III – gain funding and secure trees to plant in areas where tree cover is appropriate regardless of whether trees originally occupied those spots or not, in parks and public spaces

During Phase I, the task force applied for grants from the **Kiewit Foundation**, **Mutual of Omaha**, the **Mayor's Neighborhood Grant Program** and **OPPD**. The areas that will be re-treed using this grant money are Bemis Park (the park

*continued on page 7***Easter Egg Hunt Recap**

Over 300 children, parents and neighborhood volunteers participated in probably the largest GPNA Easter Egg Hunt in the 20 years of the event on Saturday, April 11, in Gifford Park. Beautiful weather made for a great time. This year's event received a wonderful donation of 300 Dental Care Packages (each included toothbrush, toothpaste, & sugarless gum). Volunteers gave one to each child just moments before the countdown; this was something special we have talked about doing in recent years to promote dental care. Before "hiding" the candy and prizes, volunteers cleaned up the park at 10:30a.m.– we got help from the **PKA House Fraternity** guys again this year. Thanks to **Roger & Sandy Freeman** for regularly picking up litter. As always, out of the thousands of pieces of candy, it took a matter of a few minutes for the kids to pick the park clean of goodies and prizes. There were many volunteers and donors who helped put forth extra effort – once again **Darryl Hutton** did a great job getting MANY donations from a variety of people and businesses; **Jan Franks**, her grandchildren **Brittany** and **Zach Rubek**, and **Robin Hansen**, who organized the candy by age groups. **Jaquin "Quannie" Nance** did the countdown honors this year. Many thanks to all those who donated time, money, candy, and other items to make this a special event: **Mick Whelan (Whelan Law Office)**, **Chuck Kilgore (Attorney at Law)**, **Brad Bogard (California Tacos & More)**, **Lilly Estes (Lilly's California Bar)**, **Donna Praitus**, **Brian Joyce**, **Dale Robinson (Robinson's Garage)**, **Selena's Market**, **Panera Bread**, **CiCi's Pizza**, **David Matschiner (Louis Market)**, **Dale Walls (Ideal Hardware & Paint)**, **No Frills Supermarket**, **Walgreens Drug Stores**, **Oriental Trading Company**, **Robert's Dairy**, **Nebraska Liquor Distributors Assoc.**, **Tom Seyles**, **Hy-Vee**, **Mike Caban**, **Chris & Sallie Foster**, **Betty Slayden**, **Four Aces**, and **James Nordaker** (James picked up most of the candy!). **Candy Bacome** again played this year's Easter bunny and gave out treats to youngsters. Also thanks again to **Senator Gwen Howard** for donating some very special Easter prizes. **WOWT Channel 6** news did a nice story of the event.

*by Chris Foster***New Ad Policy This Issue**

With this issue, the **Gifford Park's Pride** new advertising policies are now in effect. Advertisements will now appear in every issue (10 times a year). For more information, an explanation of the new rate structure, or to place an advertisement in the newsletter, please call **Sue Wilwerding** at **342-2795**.

## Volunteering To Protect Our Water Supply

Following Gifford Park Neighborhood Association's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11th, Gifford Park neighbors were joined by volunteers from **Sierra Club** and **PKA Fraternity** for an environmental awareness campaign. The group met at the Sun Dawg Shack in the park for a **storm drain labeling project** sponsored by **Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc.** Fifteen folks hoped to clean out all the storm drains in Gifford Park and label them with adhesive circular discs that say "Don't Dump—Drains to Waterways." The job turned out to be a bigger endeavor than the allotted two hours, but approximately one hundred labels were applied and informative fliers distributed!

The project raises awareness about the connection between storm drains and local bodies of water. Citizens are reminded that marine life is directly affected by wastes dumped down storm drains. Neighbors need to understand how seemingly straightforward activities like fertilizing their front lawn or careless disposal of motor oil, antifreeze, and paint can contaminate everyone's water supply. Rainwater runoff also picks up litter, yard waste, pet waste, and other pollutants that enter waterways by way of storm drain sewers.

**How can you help?** Don't be a part of the source; practice responsible behavior and never litter or pollute. Especially refrain from pouring anything in a gutter or down a storm drain sewer and keep Gifford Park free of litter and yard wastes. Thanks again to everyone who volunteered their sunny spring Saturday afternoon. Look for another scheduled date and time to finish labeling Gifford Park's storm drains.

*by Dana Freeman*

PS: KOB has a **Helping Hands** program for a one time yard clean up for elderly and disabled in our community. We have the names of 50 people who need our help, but not that many people who have called willing to help. Anyone who can help please call the KOB office at **444-7774**.

## Ben's Yard Work & Landscaping

Call Ben Spahn 686-8079

He lives in Gifford Park



## Duchesne Preschool

*Low student-teacher ratios*

*Highly qualified teachers*

**Christian environment includes classes in**

**•Art •Music •PE •Spanish •Computers**

3-5 year old boys and girls

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Call 558-6250 [www.duchesneacademy.org](http://www.duchesneacademy.org)

## Gifford Park is a Full-Day Sun Dawg Site Again This Year

This program offers youth ages 6-15 a fun summer by providing a wide variety of playground programs... crafts, games, sport events, swimming, special events, field trips and evening family events. The program runs from **June 8 – July 30**. Activities are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is **FREE!** The GPNA wishes to thank the **City of Omaha** and all of the private contributors for keeping this valuable youth program in our parks and community centers. Parents are always welcome to assist with supervision during activities. The purple and yellow Sun Dawg shack is located in the west end of Gifford Park.

## Re-Tree Initiative . . . continued from page 6

itself), designated streets in Dundee-Memorial Park, Morton Meadows and the North Gold Coast. Additionally grant money has been solicited to replace trees in sections of Gifford Park, Joslyn Castle neighborhood and Blackstone. Tree species were identified, and planting plans developed for these areas.

At this time, the Re-tree Task Force is seeking additional input from Midtown neighborhoods in order to identify additional areas that may be funded by future grants through the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

This is a very ambitious undertaking. The task force welcomes not only input on trees needing to be replaced in various neighborhoods, but also additional volunteers who are willing to serve on this committee.

Please contact your neighborhood president if you would like to help with this endeavor or to offer suggestions for areas that are in need of tree replacement.

Questions can be directed to task force members **John Ransom** at [jhransom@up.com](mailto:jhransom@up.com), **Dave Schinzel** at [dschinzel@unicam.state.ne.us](mailto:dschinzel@unicam.state.ne.us), **Judy Alderman** at [jalderman@cox.net](mailto:jalderman@cox.net) or **Jennifer Jerram** at [jennifer.jerram@cox.net](mailto:jennifer.jerram@cox.net).

*by Cynthia Shuck*

# Spring In Gifford Park



Easter Egg Hunt



Sewer Labeling Project



Water In The Park

Park Shelter Project





## SNAP! Productions Announces Its 2009-2010 Season

We are very excited about our season this year. SNAP! has compiled two comedies, one historical drama and a blockbuster of a musical. All of these shows will be Midwest or Omaha Premieres. SNAP! will open its season with a comedy written by Stephen Karam entitled "Speech & Debate". SNAP! follows that play with the Tony Award winning musical "RENT". Then SNAP! will do a historical piece called "Execution Of Justice" by Emily Mann. SNAP! will end its season with a comedy called "Sordid Lives" by Del Shores.

"Speech & Debate", by Stephen Karam, is a savvy comedy bristles with vitality, wicked humor, terrific dialogue and a direct pipeline into the zeitgeist of contemporary youth. The story centers around three teenage misfits in Salem, Oregon, who discover they are linked by a sex scandal that's rocked their town. When one of them sets out to expose the truth, secrets become currency, the stakes get higher, and the trio's connection grows deeper in this searching, fiercely funny dark comedy with music.

"Rent" by Jonathan Larson is a Tony Award and Pulitzer-prize winning Broadway musical based loosely on Puccini's opera La Boheme. It follows a year in the lives of seven friends living the disappearing Bohemian lifestyle in New York's East Village. AIDS and both its physical and emotional complications pervade their lives. "Execution of Justice" by Emily Mann recounts the turbulent '70s when Harvey Milk became the first openly gay city official ever elected to office. This sensational study of the killing of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay activist, takes place during the trial and uses the actual words of participants in the controversial case. Focus is on why Dan White committed the crimes and why the jury chose to convict him of voluntary manslaughter, not murder.

"Sordid Lives" by Del Shores is a comedy of cult proportions. It was made into a movie starring Olivia Newton-John, Delta Burke, and Beau Bridges. The story starts when Peggy, a good Christian woman, hits her head on the sink and bleeds to death after tripping over her lover's wooden legs in a motel room; chaos erupts in Winters, Texas.

"Speech & Debate" will be performed in August. "Rent" will run from November 19, 2009, to December 13, 2009. "Execution of Justice" will play in March 2010. "Sordid Lives" will run in June of 2010. Watch our web site ([www.snapproductions.com](http://www.snapproductions.com)) for more details about audition dates and show times.



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 30

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:  Single (\$10.00)  Family (\$15.00)  Business (\$26.00)

If Business, Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** I am interested in helping out with... (Circle Interests)

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson       | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership        | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Club           | <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"/> School Liaison    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wash Group          | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Walks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Lending      | <input type="checkbox"/> Cal. Committee      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Program   | <input type="checkbox"/> 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**

