



Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 2006

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association



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

The **Restore Omaha Conference, Exhibition and Tour** is back **November 3-5** with new topics, familiar faces, intensive hands-on workshops and a great new tour.

Preservation Consultant **Bob Yapp** will return as the keynote speaker November 4 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Strauss Performing Arts Center.

This year Yapp will speak on restoring entire neighborhoods, not just individual homes. "Diversity in a neighborhood is key according," said Yapp. "It is important to have families of all income levels living together in a neighborhood." With his wit and humor Yapp promises to motivate attendees to take action to make their neighborhoods a diverse, friendly, rewarding and safe place to live.

Following Yapp's 9 a.m. presentation, attendees can visit up to 50 exhibitor booths in UNO's Milo Bail Student Center from 10:30 to 12:30 as well as a bookstore and tool area to gather ideas, products, contacts and solutions that address older property needs. In the afternoon attendees can choose from 19 different breakout sessions. Sessions include Rejuvenation's **Bo Sullivan** speaking on period lighting, Virginia Tech University's **Dr. Marilyn Casto** addressing early kitchens and bathroom styles and panels of local experts sharing lessons learned in both residential restorations and commercial restorations. Conference prices is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

Sunday morning, November 5, Metropolitan Community College South Omaha campus will host intensive hands-on workshops at their Industrial Training Center. Attendees can choose one two-to-four hour workshop to attend. Topics include window repair, plaster repair,

continued on page 3

Next General Meeting
Thursday, October 5
7:00 P.M.

Topic: Mutual of Omaha
Redevelopment Project

Speakers: John McClelland,
Senior VP of Administration
Mutual of Omaha
Keith Bawolek, representative
ECI Investment Advisors, Inc.

Creighton University Med Center
Morrison Seminar Room

GPNA Fall Cleanup Set For October 14



This year's annual **GPNA Fall Cleanup** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 14th**, from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in **Gifford Park**. The fall cleanup is for **GPNA MEMBERS ONLY**, or people who donate their time or money to the cleanup. There will be dumpsters and a compactor for hauling trash, a membership and donation drive, scrap metal recycling, a Halloween pumpkin patch, and lunch for the volunteer workers prepared by **Rodney Hay**. Volunteers are needed to provide pickup trucks for hauling, assist in packing and monitoring dumpsters, and help in making pickups. **PLEASE NOTE:** It is very important for you to call the phone numbers listed below **BEFORE** the day of the cleanup if you are unable to bring your trash to the park yourself and need a volunteer to help. Tree brush **WILL NOT** be accepted. There will be a \$10 charge for appliances containing refrigerant (freon). Tires **WILL** be taken at the fall cleanup this year for \$1.00 apiece. Please call **Chris (342-6006)**, **Cynthia (556-2090)**, **Jim (551-1344)** or **Terry (342-2795)** for more information or if you can assist with the cleanup.

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 . . .

Midtown Candidate Forum

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA) is offering a candidate “**Meet and Greet**” on **October 11, 2006** from **6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Field Club of Omaha (3615 Woolworth Avenue.)** All candidates running for an election in our area are invited to have a table and answer one-on-one questions from area residents. The GPNA will not have a candidate forum this year so get the answers to your questions about the candidates’ issues and position!

Community Benefits Agreement (CBA)

Residents will hear this term more in the coming years. A CBA is a legally enforceable contract signed by community groups (non-profits, neighborhood and business associations, churches, unions, public entities, etc) and by a developer, setting forth a range of community benefits that the developer agrees to provide as part of a development. MNA voted to move forward with a potential CBA and pursue a dialog with Mutual of Omaha regarding their new retail/residential development west of Turner Park between Dodge and Harney. MNA will focus specifically on public spaces including streets and Turner Park amenities but will also explore other CBA's possibilities to address public safety.

Gifford Park Welcomes New Leadership

GPNA offers a tremendous thank you to **Vince Furlong**, Omaha Mainstreets, for facilitating our surveying session at last months general meeting. An even more tremendous thank you to everyone who offered to continue chairing a committee as well as to all our new leaders who volunteered to take on running various events and activities throughout the year: **Martin Janousek** (Business District Liason), **Chris Foster** (Community Garden + National Night Out + Tennis), **Eva Swanson** (Historian), **Rod Flint** (Housing Code Compliance + National Night Out), **Darryl Hutton** (Music In the Park & Show Wagon), **Tom Rose** (Neighborhood Clean-ups), **Paul Mileris** (Neighborhood Walks), **Sue Wilwerding** (Newsletter), **Leo Wilwerding** (Parking Compliance), **Stuart Shell** (Park Masterplan + Haunted House), **Dana Carlton-Flint** (Park Masterplan + Beautification), **Jim Wilwerding** (Weeds and Litter), and **Dana Freeman** (Welcoming). There are a few families who could not attend but we hope will continue to take on a leadership role: **Roger & Sandy Freeman** (Park Maintenance), **Steve, Rose, Anna, Elena, Luci, and Maria Carlson** (Newsletter Distribution) and finally **Terry Wilwerding** (Neighborhood Watch). Many thanks also to the mysterious newsletter distribution team which includes everyone who volunteers to deliver newsletters every other month door-to-door! Great work everyone! We still need volunteers who can lead our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Holiday Banquet, and someone to serve as our School Liason to Kellom & Yates.

If you have not already filled out the attached survey yet, please do so; bring it to the October general meeting, mail it to **GPNA, PO Box 31462, Omaha NE 68131**, or drop it off at **California Tacos** or **J-N-J Grocery**. Family memberships may fill out the survey twice while single memberships please fill out the survey only once. Your opinion will help the Executive Board determine which events are important to neighborhood association members.

Home Ownership

Please join **Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA) Home Ownership Committee** as they develop and implement strategies for increasing home ownership in Midtown. Interested participants are can plan on attending a meeting **Thursday, October 19, 2006** from **6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** at **Creighton University**

continued on page 3

Editor's note: If you have something that would be of interest to our neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for our monthly newsletter. Editorials must be approved by the GPNA Executive Board. Articles can be mailed to P.O. Box 31462 Omaha, NE 68131; please include your name and phone number. Contact Sue Wilwerding (342-2795) or Chris Foster (342-6006) for information regarding the newsletter.

Restore Omaha . . . *continued from page 1*

woodturning basics and electrical basics. Workshops costs range from \$20 to \$30.

Also on Sunday from 1 - 5 p.m. 12 properties in the historic Joslyn Castle, Bemis Park and Gifford Park will be open for tours. Tour cost is \$5.

The conference will kick-off Friday, November 3 at 7 ~~pm.~~ with an opening reception at the Joslyn Castle. Cost is \$15. Attendees will have a chance to meet the speakers and exhibitors as well as tour the Joslyn Castle and enjoy refreshments. The year Restore Omaha is partnering with **Friends of Joslyn Castle** to produce the event. Proceeds from the event will help fund Joslyn Castle's restoration efforts.

Visit www.restoreomaha.com for further Restore Omaha details and registration information or contact **Kristine Gerber**, conference director, at (402) 614-0056 or eventive.marketing@cox.net.

The conference is made possible with support from the **American Institute of Architects, Nebraska Chapter, Metropolitan Community College, Mutual of Omaha Foundation, University of Nebraska at Omaha, the Bemis Park and Joslyn Castle** Neighborhoods through grants they received from the Omaha Community Foundation's Neighborhood Grant Program provided by the William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation and grants from the Charles Evan Hughes Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Nebraska Humanities Council.



*On Saturday, September 23, the Gifford Park Neighborhood held a neighborhood-wide garage sale, which netted about \$200 in proceeds. Many thanks to **Neil Liberty** who organized, priced, and did a great job selling items; he made this a fun event for everyone involved. Also thanks to **Sallie Foster** who helped out at the garage sale the whole day.*

From The President . . .

continued from page 2

Medical Center (601 N. 30th St). Please RSVP by **October 16**, to info@destinationmidtown.org. For more information call **Shane Kouba** at **850-1451** or **Tawanna Black** at **233-7142**.

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)

Residents interested in being a liaison between the neighborhood and project engineers for the combined sewer overflow project should contact **Cynthia** at **556-2090**. Be prepared serve in the following capacity:

- Attend three planned workshops to gain greater insight into the magnitude of the project
- Represent the Burt-Izard Basin neighborhoods, businesses, churches, schools, and citizens in communicating their thoughts, ideas and concerns to the project consultants and the City of Omaha through a series of meetings between October 2006 and September 2009
- Assist the public involvement advisor, engineering consultants, and Mayor's office in educating those who live within the Burt-Izard Basin
- Serve as a neighborhood leader, helping to identify the best public participation methods for keeping the lines of communication open as the project progresses
- Assist with the planning and logistics of neighborhood meetings within the basin
- Provide leadership for solution-based projects within the Burt-Izard Basin and at additional community meetings between September 2007 and September of 2009
- Be an ambassador for this ambitious community project.

Mutual of Omaha Retail/Residential Development

Join us this month to hear **Mutual of Omaha** and **ECI Investment Advisors Inc.** describe the new redevelopment plan for Mutual of Omaha. Here are the stats on the new development: a one million square foot development, up to 600 residential units of various prices and sizes with ground level retail development, 2000 new parking spaces, urban grocer, cinema, fitness center, and Turner Park expansion of 1.2 acres. Come to this month's meeting to find out more!

by Cynthia Shuck

GPNA Member Chosen For Destination Midtown Board

Congratulations to GPNA member **Martin Janousek**; he was selected to serve as one of the **Midtown Neighborhood Alliance's** (MNA) representatives on the **Destination Midtown** (DM) board. He has been very active in the GPNA and 33rd & California St. business district, in addition to being president of this year's Restore Omaha Conference. Martin brings a lot of community service experience to the DM board.



12th Annual Haunted House

Where:
PKA House
3100 Chicago St.



When:
Saturday, October 28th
Ages 10 & under: 6 p.m.
All ages: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

FREE!



hosted by:
Pi Kappa Alpha (PKA) Creighton Fraternity
Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

All Neighborhood Children And Parents
Are Welcome to Stop By For Refreshments
And Trick-or-Treats!



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 | Lawn 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

