



Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 2008

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Landmarks Tour Set For Oct. 19

Plans for **Restore Omaha** activities for 2008-2009 are well underway. Now in its fourth year, Restore Omaha, with **Metropolitan Community College Foundation**, offers current and potential owners of older properties an opportunity to learn from local and regional experts about how to restore, revive and preserve their home or business.

The **Historic Restoration Tour** organized by Landmarks, Inc. kicks off the year with a tour on **Sunday, October 19, from 1:00 – 5:00 pm.** According to **Jennifer Honebrink** with Landmarks, Inc, "Restoration tours are a great way to learn the difference between remodeling, restoration, and preservation. Many still believe that newer is better. We aim to show people how older can be better yet."

This year Landmarks, Inc. chose to focus on North Omaha because of its rich history. It has been the site of Fort Omaha, the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, some of Omaha's earliest homes and apartments and was in the path of the 1913 tornado. Over time, the area developed a wide variety of housing styles from Queen Anne and Spanish Colonial Revival to Bungalows and 1950s Ranch homes. Today it is a wonderful architectural treasure. **Dave Lawrence**, from the **Miller Park-Minne-Lusa Neighborhood Association**, owns a home in the area. He stated, "The area is one of Omaha's best kept secrets. The neighborhoods have a vast inventory of architecturally significant properties for those interested in restoration and preservation and the location is convenient to downtown Omaha, the airport and services."

Landmarks, Inc. and the Miller Park-Minne Lusa Neighborhood Association are proud to showcase historic homes and businesses within the Miller Park-Minne Lusa neighborhoods at the October 19 Home Restoration Tour. Seven properties will be open for tours as well as several other unique neighborhood sites highlighted for the "windshield" tour. Honebrink added, "This tour will be uniquely guided by the homeowners themselves. Most of them are not in the construction industry, but are simply people with a passion for preservation. At each site, patrons will hear

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Next General Meeting
Thursday, October 9*
7:00 P.M.

Speaker: Daniel Lawse
Topic: How Green Is Gifford Park?

Creighton University
Med Center
Morrison Seminar Room

***Note: GPNA General Meetings will now be scheduled for the second Thursday of the month**

Executive Meeting:
Thursday, October 23
At The Flint's
152 North 35th St.

University of South Dakota Students Coming To Gifford Park

Our great friends from the **University of South Dakota** plan to come to our neighborhood the weekend of **October 4 & 5** to help us with a variety of duties in Gifford Park, the Community Garden, and the Community Bicycle Shop. The students have done great work helping the GPNA over the past two years. We encourage neighborhood folks to help out – we plan to work (litter pickup, weeding, mulching) in the park Saturday morning, and work in the community garden Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. **Please note: save your cleanup items for the Spring Cleanup as there will be NO Fall cleanup.** If you have questions or would like to help, please contact **Chris 342-6006** or **Dana 346-4575.**

Join The GPNA Today!



GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Dana Carlton-Flint* 346-4575

VICE PRESIDENT

Stuart Shell 216-1235

SECRETARY

Jill Westfall* 213-3105

TREASURER

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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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Eva Swanson 345-1707

HOLIDAY BANQUET

Jean Peck 344-0722

Marlene Wilwerding 345-1433

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Stuart Shell 216-1235

NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

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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

The year is flying by and as usual we have many activities going on here in Gifford Park. We just finished up a neighborhood **Garage Sale** and are preparing for the **University of South Dakota** student's bi-annual trip to help us work on our neighborhood. Our last general meeting included information about the newly established **Learning Community** and the **Real Estate** market in Midtown among other things.

I am very pleased to say that our new board is in place. We have 5 board members that are entering leadership for the first time and are excited about being a bigger part of what happens in Gifford Park. Please thank them for their dedication to our Neighborhood when you see them... **Martin Janousek, Jill Westfall, Justin Brown, and Luther Larsen.**

Last month I spoke about **volunteerism** and how more of us need to share the load. Well that is happening! With this new direction our neighborhood will become the neighborhood to watch, learn from, and most importantly live in! My thanks go to everyone who has jumped on board and has given of their time, themselves, and their resources.

Our new approach to grants has been implemented. Forms were passed out at last month's general meeting asking for ideas, projects, and comments from our members on what was needed/wanted in our neighborhood. The responses varied from a large decorative fountain to replacing the shelter roof. No idea is too big or too small, so if you have one please forward it a board member and it will be considered for future implementation.

GPNA- Great People, Neighborhood, and Area

Thank you!

by Dana Carlton-Flint

Grant Update

Thanks to everyone who has put hours of time and energy into the **GPNA Gateway Feature** project. As many of you know our neighborhood received \$5,000 from **Mutual of Omaha**, \$5,000 from the **Mayor of Omaha**, and a matching grant of \$10,000 from the **Peter Kewit Company** to build a gateway into our neighborhood in 2004/2005. Many attempts were made to complete this project by numerous members but road blocks hit us at every turn, each requiring more time to overcome. As we continued to work towards the goal we were informed by Kiewit that they were withdrawing the matching grant due to the project taking so long to materialize. The Mayor's grant and the Mutual grant are still available for our use. I am asking for members to submit ideas for projects that cost under \$10,000, will improve our neighborhood, can be completed by June 1, 2009, and are built/completed on city property. These will be put before the Executive Board; three ideas will be selected and brought to the membership for a vote. If you have any ideas for projects, please contact **Dana Carlton-Flint: 346-4575** or **designwyim@yahoo.com**.

Unlawful Activity Report

Compliance/Code Violations: 11 properties turned in
Weeds & Litter: 31 properties turned in.
Parking/Vehicle violations: 45 car reported for illegal parking, expired plates, or out of state plates.

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

Landmarks Tour . . .continued from page 1

homeowners explain how they learned about restoration and preservation, what worked and what didn't, and you can see their fabulous results."

Tickets are \$10 each or two for \$15. Tickets may be reserved prior to the tour at www.restoreomaha.com and picked up at **Mount Olive Church, 7301 N 28th Ave.** the day of the tour or tickets may be purchased at any location on the day of the event.

Save the date for the **Restore Omaha Conference** scheduled for **Saturday, February 28, 2009** at **Metropolitan Community College, South Omaha Campus.** Check out www.restoreomaha.com for conference details as they become available.

For questions about Restore Omaha, contact **402-457-2241** or email hkruse@mccneb.edu.

GPNA Garage Sale Recap

On Saturday, September 13, the Gifford Park Neighborhood held a neighborhood-wide garage sale. The weather started off with fog and drizzle but after about an hour the sun came out and it got quite warm. The GPNA paid for an ad in the Omaha World-Herald to promote garage sales in the Gifford Park Neighborhood. We appreciate those of you who donated garage sale items to the GPNA for our association fundraiser held in the business district near 33^d & California St. – we netted about \$650 and had very few items left over! Many thanks again to our **fearless garage sale leader Neil Liberty** who organized, priced and did a great job selling items, he made this a fun event for everyone involved. Special thanks to **Jill Westfall** who assisted Neil and was a big help. Volunteers **Martin Janousek, Rob Janousek** and **Lloyd Canfield** were up early setting up tables and carrying items (light and heavy). **Stuart Shell** and **Dana Freeman** helped with the GPNA information table, and **Rod Flint** and **Dana Carlton-Flint** put out garage sale signs around the neighborhood. And last but not least, **Darryl Hutton** and **Ben Spahn** were there helping most of the day until the bitter end (after 5 p.m.). Job well done by everyone!

by Chris Foster



**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE**
Chris 342-6006



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

2008 Calendar Of Events

OCTOBER

- 4 & 5th: USD Students
- 9th: General Meeting @ CUMC - Speaker, Daniel Lawse: "How Green is Gifford Park?"
- 19th: Landmarks' Restore Omaha Tour
- 23rd: Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 13th: General Meeting @ CUMC - Speaker, Captain James Gentile: Fire Safety and Resonse Times (sign up for free smoke detectors/installation)
- 20th: Board Meeting (Note change of date due to Thanksgiving holiday

DECEMBER

- 11th: Holiday Banquet @ CUMC
No Board Meeting....Happy Holidays!

Celebrate
MIDTOWN

Spend an evening exploring the heart of Omaha
Friday, October 17th, 6pm - 11pm, at Joslyn Castle
www.CelebrateMidtown.com

FEATURING Live music & Joslyn Castle Storyteller
Historic Treasure Hunt thru the Castle
Great Silent Auction
Awards Ceremony
Great Appetizers
Cash Bar
Adults 21 & over please

TICKETS At the door: \$25
Non member group rate: 8 tickets/\$150
Member of any Midtown Neighborhood Association: 8 tickets/\$100
Call 616.7557 or email MissKnot@cox.net

MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE MNA is an alliance of Midtown neighborhood associations whose common mission is to preserve the integrity of and advocate for a vibrant community which is sustainable, secure, diverse, historically rich and economically strong.

Browning A Little Of Your Green Life

Composting. I did this throughout most of my childhood and early teenage years without every realizing I was "composting". To me I was throwing away scraps and piling all our yard waste into one area so that we didn't have to bag it and haul it out to the curb to get picked up. On top of that, we were able to put what came out the bottom of our pile into our garden and flowerbeds and not have to spend lots of time and money on fertilizers. This was just how we did things; it wasn't to make the garbage man's job easier, make the landfills less crowded, or be as "green" as possible. It just made sense, because with as little effort as we put into it, we received huge returns on it.

Simply stated, composting is the decomposition of organic matter. It is a pretty straight forward process and project that you can undertake to reduce your environmental impact. When getting started with implementing a composting program of your own, follow some basic steps to help organize yourself and make the most of your resources.

1. Where you live makes a pretty big impact on what style of composting you can do. There are two types of composting that we can look at, "normal" composting and vermicomposting.
 - **"Normal"** composting is what most people are familiar with, and includes grass clippings, leaves, food scraps, etc. Normal composting is perfect for those with larger yards and who have yard waste and food scraps to compost.
 - **Vermicomposting** utilizes a bin (sizes and material it is made of can vary) and "red worms" which speed up decomposition of food scraps. These "red worms" and bins don't take up a lot of room, so they can be placed almost anywhere and are perfect for those with small homes or apartments.
2. After you decide what type of composting you are going to use, now it's time to look at the structure you want to use to compost.
 - **Heaps** are as the name implies a large heap of yard waste and scraps. It is important to realize that this can attract animals and insects if food scraps are not mixed in and covered when placed into the heap. This will help keep pests away and speed up the process.
 - **Hoops** are more structured than a heap. You can utilize fencing or chicken wire, or buy a pre-made plastic enclosure. This helps keep your compost pile contained and can be fitted with a door towards the bottom to make getting at the compost itself easy to harvest. This setup can be easily moved around the yard as needed and can provide a certain level of protection from animals, even though most hoops typically are not animal-proof.
 - **Rollers** or tumblers are manufactured containers that help aid in mixing and speeding up the decomposition. These systems are typically more expensive than other composting bins, but they are fairly compact in size, so they would be great in a small yard.
 - **Worm bins** are used for vermicomposting. Using a plastic storage bin is great for a worm bin as it will last for a long time, keeps rodents out, and with the lid on, it keeps things dark for the worms.
3. Now that you've made it this far, what should you put into your new compost pile? There are four major components to compost bins that you want ensure you have.
 - **Green material** – This includes new grass clippings, pruned plants, and kitchen scraps. These materials are high in nitrogen, so when they start the decomposition process, they release heat, which in turn helps keep the process going. Before putting this material into the pile, make sure you can get it as chopped up as possible; this will help to speed up the process.
 - **Brown material** – This is leaves you rake up in the fall time, dried out shrub prunnings and weeds. Just as with the green material, chop up the browns as much as possible to help speed things along.
 - **Air** – We've talked about mixing up our compost piles here, and this is the reason why. The process needs good air flow for oxygen to work its magic on the materials and the microorganisms that feed on this material need air as well to keep it going.
 - **Water** – The compost bid shouldn't be soaking wet, but a damp rag consistency is ideal for the bin.

Composting is a great way to brown your green life up a little bit. Growing up, this was just how life was. I had lots of fun throwing stale bread with my sister into the pile and see who could get the most pieces inside the bin. Bottom line, have fun with it and reap the rewards from it.

Join us for the Green Neighborhood Council's monthly **Green Living Workshop on Composting, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, October 25, 2008** at **Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, 1111 Bellevue Blvd N, Bellevue, NE**. Local composters will share their experience using worms and traditional methods to compost in our community. Learn which method of composting is best for you and how to do it from demonstrations of vermicomposting and other methods. Join us for a chance to win a Worm-Factory™ vermicomposting system. RSVP to **Andy** at grlandscaping@hotmail.com

by Andy Szatko

Community Meeting to Discuss Unfunded Federal Mandate

Omaha sewer ratepayers responsible for \$1.5 billion price tag.

The last two public meetings scheduled for this fall will be held on **Tuesday, October 7th**, and **Thursday, October 23rd**, to discuss the unfunded federal mandate requiring the city to reduce the sewage overflows into the Missouri River and Papillion Creek during wet weather. The impact of these requirements is both long-term and financially challenging and affects all sewer ratepayers in the metro-area.

WHO: All sewer ratepayers in the Omaha metro-area

WHAT: Community Meeting

WHEN & WHERE: Tuesday, October 7

6:30 p.m.

Metro Community College

Ft. Omaha Campus, Building 7, Room 107

Omaha

Thursday, October 23

6:30 p.m.

Metro Community College

South Campus, Room 534A, Mahoney Building

Omaha

WHY: To learn how Omaha plans to solve its sewer overflow program by 2024.

Note: The financial impact of this project affects the communities of Omaha, Bellevue, Papillion,

LaVista, Gretna, Bennington, Ralston and Carter Lake.

Yates School Update

To address the opportunity that exists for the Yates School building as an educational and community resource, GPNA has lent support to the formation of a Yates School Task Force. This group has now met twice with OPS to discuss possibilities for the school, and to our delight, OPS has made impressive progress towards opening the school on a limited basis.

~~With support from~~ **Senator Gwen Howard**, the task force includes **Mike Caban, Kate Bodman, Stuart Shell, Margie Magnuson, and Chris Foster**. Initial plans for the school include early childhood education, an English as a second language program, and an area set aside for use by GPNA and other community organizations. OPS is working with the task force to respond to needs in the community and accordingly provide wrap-around services that will support youth in the surrounding neighborhood.

The task force will work to spread the word about upcoming programs, as well as organize volunteers from the community that would be interested in spending time at the school to support safety and reception in the building. Contact **Stuart** at **216-1235** if you're interested in getting involved.

by Stuart Shell

Can You Dig It? Gifford Park Garden News

The "**Growing Up Green**" workshop hosted by the Green Living Workshop group of the Green Neighborhood Council was held the morning of July 12, 2008, at the Omaha Children's Museum. Representing Gifford Park Community Garden were **Mauren & Emma Farrand** and their super-mom **Julie Kalkowski**. These lovely ladies wo-manned a table that showed attendees how easy it is to get started gardening by planting vegetable seeds in recycled pots to take home.

The **City Sprouts 6th Annual Gala** was held the afternoon of Sunday, August 24, 2008, at Lauritzen Gardens. The event was co-chaired by our very own **Diane Kaye**. Gifford Park Neighborhood Association bought a table for ten to the fundraising affair to support our neighboring community garden. Attendees included President **Dana Carlton-Flint** & her treasuring husband **Rod**, Vice President **Stuart Shell** & Garden Liaison **Dana Freeman**, neighborhood organizer **Chris Foster** & photographer wife **Sallie**, handy **Bob Hutton** & wife **Virginia**, park patroller **Sandy Freeman**, and smiling **Mike Caban**. The gala was a success with great gardening friends, tasty food, fun dancing music, and awesome auction items. (I know that Stuart & I brought home two of them!) Gifford Park Community Garden had a table display showing pictures of our beautiful green space and good garden programs. Again, my apologies for not submitting a wrap-up of this event for the newsletter last month. To view pictures of the event, visit omahasprouts.org and click on "Gala Photo Gallery."

No Gifford Park Community Garden Work Night October 1st, the first Wednesday of the month.

Please plan instead to join the University of South Dakota student volunteers on **Saturday, October 4th**. They will be working all day to get our garden ready for winter. Come down to the garden to work as long or as little as you can. With a variety of chores to be completed, there is surely something fun for everyone to do.

Don't forget the last **Community Garden Potluck** of 2008 on **Saturday, October 4th** at **5 PM**, following a hard day's work with the USD students. All gardeners & garden friends are invited and encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share. **Neil Liberty** will be grill master and cook up a variety of meaty main dishes. Come see what's been growing this summer and share some good food with great neighbors!

by Dana Freeman



14th Annual Haunted House

Where:
PKA House
3100 Chicago St.



When:
Saturday, October 25th
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 (\$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):

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |

35th Annual Cathedralfest To Be Held Oct. 4-5

Join your friends and neighbors at the 35th annual Cathedralfest held at **St. Cecilia's Cathedral, 40th & Webster, on Oct. 4 & 5th**. Events throughout the day on **Saturday, Oct. 4**, include the Cathedral Cup Run, 3-on-3 Hoopfest, Blessing of the Animals, Chili Cookoff, and spaghetti dinner, street dance, & big-screen Nebraska football in the evening. The annual festival will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 5th**, from noon to 6 pm. Rides, booths, and many other activities, including a raffle with a \$2500 first place prize, will be part of a fun-filled day. For more information, visit the following website: <http://stcecilia.omaha.org/content/view/49/93/>