



Gifford Park's Pride

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

November 2008

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

USD Students Back In Gifford Park

The Gifford Park Neighborhood got great help again from our good friends from the **University of South Dakota (USD)**. On October 4&5, GPNA volunteers worked alongside four USD students helping with neighborhood projects including Gifford Park (playground cleanup, litter pickup, weeding, planting, mulching) and the community garden (digging, weeding, trimming, mulching, painting picnic tables, preserving fences). We took the students on a short tour showing off the good things happening in and around our neighborhood. At the end of the day Saturday we had pot luck dinner at the community garden. This is the fifth time the USD students have made this trip to Gifford Park in the past three years; the GPNA cannot say enough great things about these fine folks. Many thanks to the GPNA volunteers who worked very hard: **Diane Kaye, Max Kaye, James Nordaker, Chris & Sallie Foster, Ben Spahn, Juquan Nance, Rod & Dana (and Curtis) Carlton-Flint, Cynthia Shuck and John Barna.** Julie Kalkowski made accommodations for the USD students at her home for Saturday night. We got a lot of help also from a good group of **PKA Fraternity** students Saturday morning (October 4) in Gifford Park.

Special thanks go to **Diane Kaye** for leading the Community Garden work effort Saturday and Sunday - as you can tell from **Tina Shantz's** (leader of the USD student volunteer effort) notes, the students got a great workout and a lot accomplished! Tina wrote: "I just wanted to thank you for your helping to teach myself and the three USD students with me all about Gifford Park and the community garden. All the students had a wonderful time, even though they weren't sure about the trip when they first signed up. They thought that, 'everyone was so nice' and agreed with one student who said 'this is the hardest I've have worked in a long time, but it was really awesome'. All of us found the work tiring but agreed that it was helping make the neighborhood a much better place and we were all impressed with the caliber of your work."

by Chris Foster

For pictures of the USD students in the GPNA Community Garden, see page 6.

Next General Meeting
Thursday, November 13th
7:00 P.M.

Speaker: Captain James Gentile
Topic: Fire Safety and
Response Times
Sign up for free smoke detectors/
installation

Creighton University
Med Center
Morrison Seminar Room

Executive Meeting:
Thursday, November 20th
At The Flint's
152 North 35th St.

Neighborhood Walk Sunday Nov. 9

We need people, male or female, young or old, who care about the Gifford Park Neighborhood to join us for a neighborhood walk **Sunday November 9 at 6 p.m.** We will meet at the **Community Bicycle Shop** at **525 N 33rd St.** (near 33rd & California). The purpose is to walk, observe and learn about our neighborhood streets in a non-confrontational manner. It's a great way to meet others in the Gifford Park neighborhood. For more information call **Chris 342-6006** or **Bob 341-2742.**

It's Coming In December!

GPNA Holiday Banquet For Members
Thursday, December 11
Watch For More Details In the Next
Edition Of the GPNA Newsletter!

GPNA OFFICERS

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Dana Carlton-Flint* 346-4575

VICE PRESIDENT

Stuart Shell 216-1235

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TREASURER

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NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Chris Foster 342-6006

PARK

Sandy* & Roger Freeman 557-2914

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

WATCH GROUP

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

WELCOMING

Julie Kalkowski* 342-2103

* denotes new officer, board, or committee member

President's Column

Crime...Crime...Crime...it seems that everywhere we look there is crime. That's right EVERYWHERE...not just in Gifford Park. Although we have had our share of crime including graffiti, break-ins, robbery, and unfortunately shootings, beatings, and stabbings, we are not alone in this problem. Just last night (10/27) a convenience store was robbed at gun point on 120th/Q along with the McDonalds at 40th/Dodge. Crime is not singling out our neighborhood to make its home.

So what can you do to make yourself and our neighborhood safer? I'm glad you asked.

1. Be aware of your surroundings, have your keys ready when you are getting in your car or going to your door.
2. Have good exterior lighting, including motion lighting, floodlights, pathway lights, and use your porch light. (Many forms of lighting are available using solar power and do not need electricity, nice for our older homes)
3. Clear lines of vision, cut down those large bushes, cut back trees, and remove debris; this will reduce areas for potential criminals to lurk.
4. Know your neighbors, if you are familiar with who comes and goes at that property you will be able to identify someone who doesn't belong there. (Many break-ins happen during the day)
5. Be active, join the neighborhood association (membership form available in this issue), participate in neighborhood activities - this gives you an opportunity to meet more neighbors, you will have more people looking out for your property, and you may just make a great friend!
6. Call it in - if you see suspicious activity, report it (see numbers to call later in this issue). We need to be there for each other. We don't just want to send this problem to another neighborhood - we want the police to have all the information they need to pick up and lock up the individuals that are committing crimes in our area.

Remember our neighborhood is what we make it!

GPNA- Great People, Neighborhood, and Area

by Dana Carlton-Flint

Community Bike Shop To Remain Open

Community Bicycle Shop Omaha kids and volunteers alike are pleased that the shop will remain open over the cold months ahead! During this time volunteers will be cleaning house - meaning sorting through all the great bike donations we've received this year. Regular hours are **Saturdays 12-4pm**. Neighbors are welcome to stop in to learn about bicycle mechanics or earn one of our donated bicycles. We also have tools and supplies to help you get your ride in shape for spring. Email omahabike@gmail.com with any questions, or call **Stuart at 216-1235**.

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).

Restore Omaha Save The Date

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.



Happy Thanksgiving!

From the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Permaculture: A New Way Of Seeing

When it comes to permaculture I am a late, or rather autumnal, bloomer. Surely I had heard the term before – over raised beds and Harvest dinners. I had also read the term, but had not processed its meaning. It wasn't until attending a meeting on local foods, held late in the winter of 2008, that I listened to a stranger (now friend) tell of her passion for a concept and lifestyle known as permaculture. "Permaculture," she began in the voice my Mother uses in the forest – quiet, ephemeral, strong – "is permanent culture and permanent agriculture and includes good practices from many disciplines and systems, and offers them as an integrated whole, a sustainable earth care system." Attentively, I finally listened and as she continued, her face and mine as well, freshened by the possibilities of permaculture.

Originally begun in the 1970's, as a reply to the first oil crisis, permaculture has continued to be championed by leaders, activists, and general folk. Two of the leaders in the movement, David Holmgren and Bill Mollison, define permaculture, respectively, as: "a design system based on ecological principles which provides the organizing framework for implementing a permanent or sustainable culture. It . . . draws together the diverse skills and ways of living which need to be rediscovered and developed to empower us to move from being dependent consumers to becoming responsible producers". Mollison defines Permaculture as "a philosophy of working with, rather than against nature; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than protracted and thoughtless labour; and of looking at plants and animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single-product system."

Permaculture, as an integrated concept, calls out for concrete examples for those of us with black-and-white ways of thinking. Here are a few examples to clarify some of the principles of permaculture.

One example of a permaculture principle is the planting of productive (fruit- or nut-bearing) trees and edible

annuals and perennials instead of non-productive, ornamentals.

Implementation of Permaculture principles is clarified by Rob Hopkins in The Transition Handbook: From oil dependency to local resilience. Hopkins tells of the Ark Permaculture project near Clones, Co. Monaghan, Ireland – which is "a wonderful example of permaculture principles in practice. Note how intelligent siting of the pond allows it to reflect winter light into the house, warm the vegetable garden, provide water and nutrients for irrigation, as well as passive cooling for the house. Siting the vegetable garden just outside the back door makes for easier maintenance and optimizes the microclimate created by the house. Without permaculture design these three elements - pond, house and garden – would have been assembled randomly and these beneficial relationships lost."

To learn more, join us for the Green Neighborhood Council's monthly **Green Living Workshop: An Introduction to Permaculture**, 10:00 a.m. to 12noon on Saturday, November 22, 2008, at the Neighborhood Center, 115 S. 49th Ave. Two of Omaha's certified permaculturists, **Abby Queal** and **Chris Combs**, will welcome you to the lifestyle of permaculture.

by Trilety Wade

Ben's Yard Work & Landscaping



Call Ben Spahn 686-8079

He lives in Gifford Park

He shovels snow, too!

Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law

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Investigate before you invest in pest control

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- Termite & household pests
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- Ph.D. Entomologist

402-561-9260

Can You Dig It? Gifford Park Garden News

Attention Community Gardeners: Let's face it—our growing season has drawn to a close. Please put your garden to bed by **November 15!** You may add a small portion of disease-free waste from your plot to the compost pile. Otherwise, use a brown yard waste bag that can be found under a brick on the sheltered picnic table. If you haven't already done so, it's never too late to contribute your **8 hours** of required service for general garden upkeep. Thanks to those who have done a tremendous amount of clean-up this fall, especially **Diane Kaye** and **Bob Hutton!**

Gifford Park Community Garden recently received both local and national recognition. The Youth Garden participated in the **"Home for the Holidays"** fundraising event sponsored by the **Omaha Council of Garden Clubs (OCGC)** and the **Joslyn Castle Trust**. Held the weekend of September 26-28 at the Castle, attendees viewed creative special occasion table settings and floral arrangements arranged by area garden groups and florists. The Gifford Park harvest-themed table was judged worthy of second place! The table's centerpiece was comprised of items grown in Gifford Park, including broom corn and warty gourds. Way to go, children and adult gardeners!

Fabulous pictures taken by **Chris & Sallie Foster** at the garden were included in the Summer 2008 issue of the **American Community Gardening Association's (ACGA)** newsletter. Two of the five pictures included a lovely view of the Butterfly Garden and a shot of **Madelin Larson & Summer Anderson** with really dirty hands from digging for worms. If you're interested in seeing this publication, you may ask and view Dana Freeman's copy or request one of your own from **Vicki Garret** at ACGA (vgarrett@communitygarden.org). Tell her Dana sent you!

We're already looking forward to gardening in 2009. A strategic planning meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, January 17**. Core community garden leaders and participants will be invited to attend and help structure our garden's future. Your suggestions and comments regarding issues to be discussed are most welcome. If you're interested in gardening with us next year or have input about the garden's operation, contact your Garden Liaison **Dana Freeman (402.850.9611; dana.freeman@gmail.com)**.

Upcoming Events:

Cristina Hoyt, Landscape Design Associate with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, will present **"Sustainable Landscapes"** on Tuesday, **November 11** at 6:30 p.m. in the Douglas/Sarpy **County Extension Office (80 & W. Center Rds.)**. Come learn how and why we need to change the way we think about the landscape in order to make it more sustainable in light of environmental and economic issues faced today. The program hosted by OCGC (www.omahagardenclubs.com) will include treats and drinks and will be free for club members. (Note-Gifford Park Community Garden is a member club.) Contact

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

California **Tacos & More**



OCGC President **Ron Crampton (402.397.2714)** with questions.

Visit **Lauritzen Gardens** from **November 28 through January 4** for their **"Holiday Poinsettia Show."** See more than 5,000 poinsettia plants grown in on-site greenhouses starting as early as July for this annual event. Enjoy a 20-foot-tall poinsettia tree, beautifully decorated holiday trees, antique sleighs, and a model train that travels through the display. Free for Lauritzen members to attend; visitors subject to garden admission rates. Check out www.omahabotanicalgardens.org for more information about other holiday happenings at the garden.

by Dana Freeman



GPNA Loses One Of Its Finest

Sunday, October 26th, was an incredibly sad day for a husband, a family, a neighborhood, and an entire community, because on that morning **Marlene Wilwerding** passed away at the age of 77.

A resident of the neighborhood for most of her life, Marlene and her husband **Leo** raised ten children in their home on California Street. They were charter members of the GPNA, and have been very active in the organization since its inception. This is where the editor's impartial report ends, because Marlene had been my dear mother-in-law for 33 years.

Her unexpected death has been a profound shock to those who knew and loved her. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, an excellent homemaker, an accomplished seamstress, an artistic talent, and a warm hostess. She always knew what needed to be done, and she did so efficiently and cheerfully. She was a tireless worker, preferring to do so "behind the scenes". As a matter of fact, she probably wouldn't be happy about me writing this article, because she wouldn't want the attention. Marlene participated in many GPNA activities, but she will probably best be remembered for the beautiful table decorations she used to make, along with her daughter Jean Peck, for the annual Holiday Banquet. Her centerpieces were always highly coveted as door prizes.

I could fill this newsletter with many examples of what a wonderful person she was, but again, she would not want that. I would like to say that I feel Marlene's greatest legacy is her family. She and Leo raised children who are good citizens, hard workers, and responsible adults. Four of her children still live in the Gifford Park neighborhood and are active members of the GPNA.

How can we, as GPNA members, honor Marlene's memory? A good way is by each of us trying to be the very best neighbor we can be.

by Sue Wilwerding



California Bar And Package

510 North 33rd Street
402-449-9138

Happy Hour Discounts - Mon thru Fri - 5 to 6 pm

Nightly Specials - 7 till Close

Package Liquor, Beer and Wine

Welcome to your Friendly Neighborhood Bar!

Alcohol Impact Coalition

Many of you may have seen in the news that the Infinite Oil stores (including 33rd & Cass St location) were recently denied a liquor license for many of their stores in the Midtown area. These stores were being opposed by many other neighborhood associations and by the **Alcohol Impact Coalition** (AIC) of which GPNA is a member. AIC is a coalition made up of twelve associations looking to develop a strategy that will minimize the impact of alcohol density, abuse, crime and negative impact in our neighborhoods and establish accountability in the licensing of alcohol outlets.

Residents opposed Infinite Oil stores back in January based on the fact that there were already too many alcohol outlets in many of these neighborhoods and that national research indicates that too many off sale liquor outlets increase crime and violence in neighborhoods. The reason for the opposition was not based on a need to rid our community of all alcohol outlets by a bunch of tea drinkers but a cry to our city and state officials to take into account how many outlets we already have and what additional outlets do to a struggling neighborhood. After a nine month battle of hearings, withdraws, and re-hearings, the Nebraska Liquor Commission ruled to deny a liquor license to four of the stores and many of the associations are pleased with the final vote.

AIC will continue to ensure that the residents in Omaha, especially in the older neighborhoods facing urban decline, are given an equal voice in the issuing of new or renewed liquor licenses as they pertain to their struggle to preserve and enhance their neighborhoods. In the next month we will be publishing a Neighborhood Checklist which is an educational piece for neighborhood associations or individuals on the liquor licensing process. This Checklist will also give people valuable links to local and state officials and organizations involved in the license process and policies. AIC is also working with UNO to hire graduate students to do research into the how we can

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Haunted House Another Frightening Success

The majority agree that the masked chainsaw man was the scariest monster in this year's **Pi Kappa Alpha Haunted House!** On Monday, October 27, about 85 costumed kids and parents took their chances walking through the historical mansion that serves as PKA's home. Those making it out of the house had a nice treat, thanks to the generosity of **Jan Franks, Brittney Rubek, Zach Rubek, Jaquan Nance, Eva Swanson, Dana Freeman, Chris & Sallie Foster, Bob & Virginia Hutton** and other neighbors.

Gifford Park Thanks USD Students For Their Help



Alcohol Coalition . . .

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make changes on a local level to address the negative affects of the density of alcohol outlets.

To help fund this research and educate the public, AIC is having a fundraiser during the month of November. They are selling raffle tickets for a Wii and a Wii Fit for just \$2.00 a ticket. The drawing for the raffle will be held **on Monday, December 8th at 11:30** at the **Neighborhood Center**. Anyone interested in buying a raffle ticket can contact **Margie at 554-0775, Chris 342-6006, Darryl 341-2742** or attend the GPNA November 13th meeting at Creighton Medical Center at 7:00 pm.

by Margie Magnuson

**Don't Forget!
Yard Waste Collection
ends the week of
November 24th!**

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



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 | Boring Cleanup |
| Social Activities | History | Tree Planting | Fall Cleanup |
| School Liaison | Wash Group | Youth Activities | Neighborhood Walks |
| Tool Lending | Cal. Committee | Lawn Program | Holiday Banquet |



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