

Gifford Park's Pride

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

January/February 2011

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

2011 Restore Omaha Conference Goal: Responsible Stewardship Of Older Properties

Inspiring and teaching attendees to become responsible stewards of older properties is the theme for the sixth annual **Restore Omaha Conference, Saturday, March 5, 2011, at Metro's South Campus at 27th and Q Streets**.

Keynote speaker is **Rudy Christian**, executive director of the Preservation Trades Network in Burbank, Ohio. Christian will expand on the theme by speaking on the importance of building for permanence and sustainability by valuing restoration and honoring the place of the trades in our culture.

"People who are stewards of historic properties care, if they realize that maintaining them requires the same skills as building them in the first place," said Christian.

While in town, Christian will visit area community colleges to explain the importance of training the next generation of craftsmen.

"The world we live in has, for the most part, become like living in one giant big-box store. We have become accustomed to our manufactured world and have lost our memory of what the world was like when everything we saw or came in contact with was handmade," Christian wrote in a Dec. 14, 2010, blog post.

An opening reception at the **Ambassador Apartments**, a 1928 building designed in a Spanish Colonial Revival style at **111 S. 49th Ave**., will take place **Friday**, **March 4**, from **7 to 10 p.m.** The building's owners are working to bring the historic property back to its original glory. Attendees will view one of the two-story, 2,800 sq ft. penthouse suites and tour several of the planned apartments during the evening. Reception cost is \$15. Go to www.amabassadordundee.com and visit the gallery page under amenities for a sneak peek inside the building.

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Next General Meeting

Thursday, February 10

Guest Speaker: Susan Mayberger Coordinator, ESL & Migrant Education, Omaha Public Schools

Topic: Current Programs at Yates Tour of the Building (See Article on Page 3)

7:00 P.M.

*Location: Yates Educational Community Center, 32nd & Davenport

*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THE MEETING

Executive Meeting *Tuesday, February 22 7 P.M. at the Larson's 3565 California St.

*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND LOCATION FOR THE MEETING



CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION MARCH 4-5

Spend a weekend with national and local experts to learn how to restore and preserve older structures. If you care about preservation, this is the event for you! For more information and to register, call Nicole Malone at 402-968-3349 or visit **WWW.restoreomaha.org** Hosted by Metropolitan Community College Media sponsor: The Reader

2011

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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).

From The President ...

Happy New Year, GPNA! With the New Year comes new responsibilities for me to keep the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association the best neighborhood association in Omaha. What attracted me to get involved 2 years ago were the neighborhood people I met and their commitment to make Gifford Park a better place. I too wanted to be part of making the neighborhood a better place to live. As President of GPNA, I would encourage each of you to get involved. We will have numerous events throughout 2011 for you to volunteer to help with and/or just socialize with neighbors. Events include: Spring Clean-up, Easter Egg Hunt, Membership Social Get Together @ Cal Taco, Tennis Block Party, Membership Potluck, Haunted House, and Membership Holiday Banquet. Dates of events will be published in future newsletters. New this year: I am planning on implementing a program that would help bring neighbors together to improve the walkways in the neighborhood. This would include sidewalk improvements, front yard beautification, and removal of sidewalk obstructions. More information on the program will be included in the March newsletter. In the meantime, I would encourage you to complete the membership form (on the back cover) and become an active part of the best neighborhood association in Omaha!

by Luther Larson

And From The Past President . . .

Operation Playground Update

Although the playground is covered in snow, the Occupational Therapy students from Creighton have been hard at work to get a new playground installed in Gifford Park in the spring. In December a deposit of \$10,000 (funds raised by the students) was given to GameTime to secure the 2010 pricing for the equipment. At the Holiday Banquet the color scheme of the playground was decided on by the members, both young in age and at heart. The voting was close and the winning color scheme only won by two votes. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this effort thus far!

Random Act of Kindness = Snow Shoveling

I don't know who it was but a big thank you goes out to the young men who shoveled my walk and others on our block (N 100 block of 35th St.) January 11th. They came and went before I could catch them but I wanted to make sure that someone said "THANK YOU". It was a great gesture and did not go unnoticed.

by Dana Carlton-Flint

Getting To Know A New GPNA Board Member ...

Greetings from your new Garden Director! My name is **Joy Doll** and I am the Director of the Gifford Park Community Garden for 2011. I am excited about this role and gardening for 2011. For those of you who do not know me, I am an occupational therapist and I teach at Creighton University. I live with my husband and cat in Gifford Park. I love to grow sweet potatoes and I love canning sauces and soups and making pesto. This year I even froze strawberries grown in our yard. I am certainly not a master gardener by any means but I will do my best!

The Garden Board is getting ready to meet to plan our 2011 garden season. We will be putting forth announcements soon about plot rentals, plot fees, and such. We will hold our first meeting on Thursday, January 24th, at 5:30 pm at California Taco. All are welcome to attend. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Gifford Park Community Garden, you can e-mail me at joyot@juno.com. I look forward to working with you in 2011!

by Joy Doll

Restore Omaha 2011 . . .

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At the Conference, attendees can select from 16 sessions to attend. Topics include historic hardware, lead removal, Bradbury and Bradbury wallpapers, researching the history of your house, rehabilitating historic storefronts, roof restoration, and high velocity systems for older buildings along with opportunity to hear about the transformation of a 1901 Colonial Revival home overlooking Omaha's Hanscom Park and the Opera House in Fremont. Morning and afternoon breaks, live demonstrations by craftsmen, along with a Restoration Jam at the end of the day will allow opportunities to network and to gather ideas and solutions from other restoration-minded property owners and from the 25 businesses and organizations exhibiting at the event.

Cost to attend the March 5 conference is **\$35**. Admission includes the keynote lecture, three educational sessions, lunch, demonstrations, and the Restoration Jam reception. **Save \$10 by registering before February 18**. Visit **www.restoreomaha.org** for full details and registration information. For questions call **402-968-3349** or e-mail **Nicole Malone** at **nmalone@thearchitecturaloffices.com**

The conference is made possible with support from Metropolitan Community College, the Omaha Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, B.G. Peterson Co., the City of Omaha Planning Department, The Reader, The Architectural Offices and a grant from the Charles Evans Hughes Memorial Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Duchesne Academy

Call today to schedule a visit in the Academy or Preschool!

3601 Burt Street • Omaha, NE 68131 • 402-558-3800 www.duchesneacademy.org

Yates Educational Community Partnership

It's amazing what can happen in a few short years. The Yates school building has been transformed into a fantastic place, filled with pre-k children, adult learners and refugee/migrant adult students. The first floor houses our 5 pre-k programs, with over 80 children daily. The second floor now boasts a sewing lab, computer lab, conversational English classes and adult GED courses. The number of learners upstairs totals over 250. We also have a brand new playground that was built for our pre-k students and the neighborhood children. Overall, we have a safer, more energetic building that continues to grow and serve our local community and ensure that all of our diverse individuals have the same chances as everyone else. We are so proud of our school, that everyone is invited to stop by and see what exciting things are happening.

> by Eric Nelson Principal, Kellom Elementary and Yates Educational Community Partnership

2010 Holiday Decorating Winners

The GPNA would like to thank everyone for decking the halls this holiday. Whether this is your first year or your fifteenth, the festive lighting is a joy to observe each year. Displays were judged on December 23rd, and the most notable addresses chosen were:

3405 California 3408 California 3419 California 3514 California 3555 California 3565 California 3611 California 3702 Cass 3317 Cass 3036 Cass 3209 Cass 3210 Cass 3411 Cass 621 N 36th 621 N 33rd 152 N 35th 352 N 35th 803 N 35th 715 N 36th 137 N 37th
3502 Burt
3401 Webster
3429 Webster
3413 Webster
3408 Webster
3405 Webster
3417 Webster
3416 Cass (community garden)
Midtown Crossing

2010 GPNA Holiday Banquet Highlights

About 125 GPNA members, family, and guests attended our **22nd Annual Holiday Banquet** held Thursday, December 9th. Those in attendance enjoyed an evening of good food, camaraderie among neighbors, and holiday cheer at **Creighton University Medical Center** in the Becic Dining Room. Tremendous thanks are extended to everyone who pitched in, from sending out invitations to clean-up, and made this yet another in our list of successful events!

Emcee and GPNA president **Dana Carlton-Flint** kept the event lively and cheerful. This year's theme was "**Snowflakes**". Dana and vice-president **Stuart Shell** presented an entertaining slideshow tour of last year's events and activities; they were joined by the neighborhood volunteers who lead these efforts. The 2010 Events & Activities Slideshow ran during the first half of the evening – thanks **Sallie Foster** for taking a year's worth of wonderful, award-winning pictures.

Chris Foster introduced "**Neighbor of the Year,**" **Dana Carlton-Flint**. Dana reflected on her wide range of volunteer efforts since moving into the neighborhood 12 years ago and thanked friends she has volunteered with. Prior to Dana's award, Chris recognized **Ron Yates** who sadly passed away in 2010. Ron was one our GPNA's founding fathers and served as president for 4 years in the early and mid-1990's. Chris also recognized **Sue Wilwerding** for 13 years (and counting!) of newsletter editor duties. **Diane Kaye** was recognized for her efforts as Community Garden director for 2010. Community Bike Shop founder **Emerick Huber** presented special recognition to American Printing owner **Ed Osterhaus** (next month's newsletter will feature an article about Ed). Ed had kind words to say about his many years in the neighborhood. Of note, **Bob Hutton** made hand-carved wooden ornaments as gifts for Dana and Ed's recognition; thanks Bob! **Maria Doyle**, a student in Creighton's Occupational Therapy Program, presented the 3 options for new playground equipment in Gifford Park, and she announced the winning selection from attendees' voting.

Rodney Hay's time and culinary expertise in preparing turkey was much appreciated. Rodney, as most of you know, bakes, smokes, and deep-fries the turkeys for us every year. **Sodexho** made it complete with a buffet of traditional holiday fare, including pumpkin pie for dessert! **Dana Freeman** and her mom **Sue** made the blue snowflakes for table decorations. **Terry Wilwerding** and **Ben Spahn** were our event "photographers". We again offer our sincere appreciation to **Creighton University Medical Center** for their enormous support by hosting this event.

Throughout the evening door prizes were given to lucky neighbors, and children also received special presents – all donations came from GPNA members and VIP's - Senator Gwen Howard, Councilman Chris Jerram, Subby & Janice Anzaldo, Lois Baumhover, Brad Bogard, Lilly Estes, Stuart Shell & Dana Freeman, Chris & Sallie Foster, Sally Jacobs, and Mike Caban. As with any event in Gifford Park, the list of people who extend their generosity and support is widespread and unfortunately, cannot all be listed here. We are always looking for new recruits! Until the 23st Annual Holiday Banquet when we will again share a meal together, we'll see you around the neighborhood.

by Chris Foster



GPNA members enjoy the delicious meal provided by CUMC and Sodexho. Special thanks to all the employees who helped prepare, serve, and clean up after the banquet.



State Senator Gwen Howard, assisted by Curtis Flint, distributes gifts to all of the children who attended the banquet.

2011 GPNA Neighbor Of The Year: Dana Carlton-Flint

The GPNA honored **Dana Carlton-Flint** as our 2010 "Neighbor of the Year" at the 22nd annual GPNA Holiday Banquet hosted again by Creighton University Medical Center on December 9th, 2010. The recognition was very fitting for our fearless GPNA president for the past two and a half years. Dana's leadership and hands-on involvement really started about 12 years ago when she first moved into her home at 35th & Davenport. I remember getting a call from Dana asking to volunteer with the GPNA. She is someone who has "community service" as part of her DNA. Her simple mission is, "I want to make my neighborhood better". Dana has volunteered at practically every level for our neighborhood, from face-painting at events to creating (back in 2000) the winning design for our current GPNA logo.

Dana was born in New Jersey and grew up in Arizona. She was the first girl at her high school to get a varsity letter for academics. Dana played varsity volleyball and was editor of her high school newspaper. In 1993 she graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a degree in Interior Design. As mentioned she bought her house at 35th & Davenport in 1998, and actually joined the GPNA before closing on the home sale (she said the realtor said good things about the GPNA!). Dana met her husband **Rod** in 1999. Since Rod had a house in Bellevue, Dana told him, "I'm not leaving my home in Gifford Park"...so Rod moved! Rod & Dana married in 2001, and had their son **Curtis** in 2002.

Dana has her own "award-winning" interior design business "Design With You In Mind". She has clients in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, New Mexico and Arizona. Her work has even been featured on HGTV (Home & Garden channel). Dana's involvement in other organization is impressive – ASID (American Society of Interior Designers), Designer Show House, Street of Dreams, Douglas County Historical Society, Med Center Merchants Association, Dundee School PTA, Cub Scouts, baseball coach, Sunday School teacher...and most impressive, she taught Curtis how to catch snakes!

Dana's dedication to our neighborhood is even more impressive. Events and activities she has been involved with include (but not limited to) neighborhood and park cleanups, police precinct advisory committee, Kellom School penpal letter-writing, graffiti issues, Easter egg hunts, National Night Out Block Party, Neighborhood Scan Program, Restore Omaha Conference, GPNA Holiday Banquet, Storm Sewer Cleaning & Labeling, Midtown Neighborhood Alliance crime task force, grant writing and implementation, neighborhood lighting project, community garden, youth garden program, GPNA Treasurer (twice), Operation Playground, hosting GPNA board meetings at her home, and other projects. Dana's involvement with other partnering organizations keeps GPNA connected to make our neighborhood better. Dana's husband Rod is obviously involved and very supportive of Dana and the GPNA – Rod served as GPNA vice president several years ago and loves helping with cleanups – thanks Rod for all you do!

Dana's strong leadership skills as president have further enhanced GPNA's reputation and created new opportunities for our neighborhood. Lucky for us she will continue to serve as Secretary. Gifford Park is lucky to have her. Congratulations Dana, from all of us in the Gifford Park neighborhood!

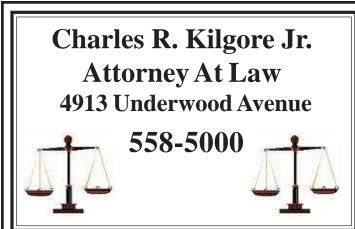
by Chris Foster



AV Sorensen Community Center and Library February 19th 9 AM-12 PM Stop by and explore all the available activities at your neighborhood community center!

Men for Duchesne Pancake Breakfast

"Pancakes for Our Girls" When: **Sunday, February 13**th, **2011** Time: **8:30 am – 11:30 am** Where: **Duchesne Academy, 3601 Burt Street** School Cafeteria: use south rear entrance off the courtyard (follow the signs) (Portry on Burt St. will not be opened for access) Parking: Student Lot – south side of the building Cost: Adult - \$6.00 Children/Student with ID - \$4.00 Family - \$25.00 Raffles and prizes and lots of fun



What's Happening In the Neighborhood

Tired of winter? For a taste of springtime, plan on visiting the Cathedral Flower Festival at St. Cecilia's Cathedral, 701 North 40th St. on Saturday & Sunday, January 29th & 30th. This year's theme is Xalapa- City of Flowers. Xalapa is one of Omaha's sister cities. Hours are Saturday, Jan. 29th from 10 AM - 4 PM and 7 PM - 9 PM and Sunday, Jan. 30th from 1 PM to 4 PM. Admission is free.

Ugly white paint, black marker, whatever. The green utility boxes spread throughout the neighborhood seem easy targets for graffiti vandals. According to **Jim Thompson** of the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association, OPPD contracts out the maintenance of these utility boxes and will handle the problem. When you see a box covered with graffiti, call **Steve Fanslau** at **OPPD**, (**402**) **636-3330**, or send him an e-mail at **sfanslau@oppd.com** with the particular location.

Unfortunately there will no longer be a local neighborhood site for the free tax help program lead by GPNA member and volunteer **Jackie Foster**. Many thanks to Jackie for organizing volunteers for the past 16 years to provide this service, however there are many sites in Omaha providing free tax help. AARP lists site information on their website (**www.nebraskataxaide.org** then select "Omaha Area Tax Preparation Sites") or call (402) **398-9568**.

Many thanks again to the **Omaha Tennis Association** (**OTA**) **Development Fund** for awarding 8 junior

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California Tacos & More

Homemade Mexican Food 342-0212

33rd & California Street Dine In or Carry Out Hours:

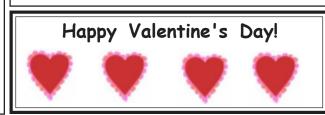
Monday - Saturday: 11a.m. - 8 p.m. Closed Sunday



Neighborhood School Receives Green Award

St. Cecilia's Grade School has been selected as one of only three schools in the metro Omaha area to receive a Green Schools Flag. The Green Schools Program, sponsored by the Green Omaha Coalition, begins with the premise that water and energy conservation, indoor air quality, and environmental stewardship are all part of today's educational mission. It aims to acknowledge schools that engage their students and staff in achievable economical improvements that individual schools can make in the daily operations that will reduce energy consumption, minimize or stop potential health environmental problems before they start, and reduce the impact of generated waste. St. Cecilia's environmental club, Roots & Shoots, began two years ago when a student asked himself, "What are we doing to our Earth?" It is honors like these that empower our youth to make changes that benefit people, animals, and the environment. If you would like to learn about the Green Omaha Coalition's efforts see greenomahacoaliton.org.

by Tiare Weak



Omaha's Snow Emergency Parking Regulations

Starting in the winter of 2010-2011, Omaha will be enforcing recently enacted snow emergency parking regulations. These regulations impact how and where cars can be parked on residential streets east of 72nd Street. During a declared snow emergency, cars must park on the odd number side of the street on odd calendar dates, and the even number side on even calendar dates. The south and east sides of streets contain odd numbers and the north and west sides of streets have even numbers. No parking zones indicated by the sign "No Parking - This Side of Block" are waived during a snow emergency. The odd/even side parking rules apply (the parking ban will be conditionally lifted during a snow emergency. Parking is permitted on the side of the street that is posted in this manner in accordance with the odd/even side parking rules). For a more detailed explanation of other "No Parking Zone" rules related to snow emergencies, see **www.cityofomaha.org** - Click on "Snow" and then "Emergency Parking Regulations".

Campaign For LOCAL Control

The **LOCAL** Campaign would like to extend a big thank you to all those who came to the January 6th neighborhood meeting. The stories we gathered and the experiences we heard in relation to alcohol's impact on neighborhoods will be used to shape a zoning ordinance that reflects our community's needs and Let Omaha Control its Alcohol Landscape.

As you may know, the campaign emerged from a growing frustration about the increasing number of problem alcohol outlets in Omaha, adding to the decline of our neighborhoods, reducing the economic viability of the community and contributing to the violence in our streets. But there is hope. Municipalities in Nebraska have the ability to regulate community standards with regard to liquor outlets by using land-use, or zoning, ordinances. Nebraska statute gives express direction to the state to consider local zoning ordinances when granting liquor licenses. The ordinance will have conditions in place that align with our community standards. We may choose, for instance, to reinstate a distance restriction from churches to liquor outlets. The state just removed this restriction.

We continue to be thankful for those who share their time and energy with us as we work to make this ordinance a reality. We hope by spring to have the ordinance before the Omaha City Council. Although, we're getting closer to crafting the ordinance, there's still work to be done. Bottom line, the ordinance will not be successful without the help of all of you. If you or your organization/ association would like to be involved, please send us a note at **thelocalcampaign@gmail.com** or join our Facebook page at "The **LOCAL** Campaign" to receive important updates.

GPNA Membership Social

Tuesday, March 1st 6:30 PM California Taco 33rd & California Chips & Pop Provided



Visit with your neighbors and if you haven't already, pay your membership dues for 2011!

CBPO Update

Happy 2011! Neither wind, nor rain, nor cold, nor snow will stop the Community Bike Project. We've been busy giving away bikes, teaching classes, and helping out kids and adults in the shop. We're also planning for lots of activities in the upcoming months.

At the end of 2010, CBPO worked with the Omaha City Planning Department to coordinate getting bicycles to kids from families in need. A group of volunteers fixed up 8 bikes to donate and helped distribute them to the families. We've already seen some pictures of the kids with bikes and there's nothing better than to see the smiles on their faces.

Also, as part of CBPO's effort to help our local colleges and universities become more bike-friendly, we have prepared 15 adult bikes for use in Metro Community College's new "yellow bike" program, set to start this spring at their north Omaha campus. In this "yellow bike" program, bicycles are distributed around the campus and left unlocked for people to use, with the understanding that when they're done, they in turn will leave the bikes for others to use. We hope this will encourage bicycle use in north Omaha and raise the visibility of bicycling on the MCC campus. As an added bonus, MCC is having their auto body students paint the bicycle frames, which will give them additional practice honing their skills. As we have stripped the bikes of components to help with the painting, we're hoping that MCC will be able to send some people to the shop to help reassemble the bikes, so that they also gain some important bike repair skills.

Our mechanics classes are going well, with a new class offered every other week on Tuesday nights. The next class will be on February 1st and will cover "Trail Shooting." It's good to know how to fix all those different things you want to work on when you're at home and you can leisurely work on your bike, but what about when you're out on the road and disaster strikes? We'll teach you the tricks to get out of most situations and keep you rolling down the trail. This class will cover everything from basic things, like fixing a flat tire, to fancier fixes, like what to do if you break a spoke during your ride. As always, classes are 6-8pm, and we ask for a \$10 donation so we can support the classes. RSVP to: info@communitybikeproject.org.

Finally, our Open Shop hours continue on Saturdays noon-4pm, so stop in if your bike needs a little TLC, if you're looking for a new bike for 2011, or if you want to help out or just hang out. We're already looking a little ahead to April, when we'll resume our regular Open Shop hours. As always, we're always looking for volunteers, so if you have a little time and want to help us out, just let us know! In the coming months, look for more announcements from CBPO. We've got some exciting things percolating that we're not quite ready to unveil but hope to soon. Until then, stay warm and ride safely! *by Matt Martin, Executive Director Community Bicycle Project* 2

What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . . continued from page 6

scholarships totaling \$1,056 to participants of the Gifford Park Youth Tennis program. The funds will help pay for 12 weeks of indoor tennis lessons this winter at Hanscom Tennis Center for youth who demonstrated good sportsmanship and a committed interest to improve their tennis skills. Our sincere thanks to the OTA for their support for youth tennis in and around the Gifford Park neighborhood.

Are you interested in walking several times a week? **Dina White** would like to start a walking group beginning in March with other interested neighbors (adults and children). Dina is working on the details but would like to hear from anyone interested. This is a great way to get exercise, fresh air, meet friends and neighbors, and see our neighborhood on foot. Dina's husband **Roy** has been a longtime marathon runner who recently completed his 60th marathon when he finished the Omaha Marathon this past fall. Roy & Dina and their three children (Tyler, Matthew, and Nicole) live near 33rd & Webster and participate in many of our neighborhood events. For more information about joining this walking group, please contact Dina at **964-2497** or **activemom@cox.net**.

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





Membership Application "2009.05.00 Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) The GPNA Membership Year runs from January 1 through December 31. Single (\$10.00) Family (\$15.00) Type of Membership: Business (\$25.00) Today's Date: Name (1) E-Mail (1) Name (2) E-Mail (2) E-Mail (3) Name (3) E-Mail (4): Name (4) Name (5) E-Mail (5): Address: City: State Zip Code: Telephone Volunteer Opportunities! I am interested in helping out with... Please indicate areas of interest: Cleanup/Beautification Easter Egg Hunt Newsletter Delivery Community Garden Membership Block Captain Youth Garden Spring Cleanup Social Activities History Tree Planting Fall Cleanup Landlord/Tenant Issues Watch Group Youth Activities Neighborhood Walks School Liaison Call Committee Tennis Program Ioliday Banquet Tool Lending Mail check or money order with this completed Membership Application Form to: Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 31462

Omaha, NE 68131-0462

For additional information about GPNA, please visit our website:

www.GiffordParkOmaha.org