



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 2013

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Neighborhood Market

Summer has officially come to an end or at least that's how it feels now that the **Gifford Park Neighborhood Market** has ended for the season. The Market took place in the empty lot where the Circle Theatre once stood at 33<sup>rd</sup> and California Street in the business district. The last day was Friday, September 27 and it was a great night to complete our full season without a rainy day. Years ago we decided to name the market a "Neighborhood Market" instead of the traditional "Farmer's Market," and this year it truly lived up to the name. Every Friday evening, people from the neighborhood, surrounding businesses and other midtown neighborhoods stopped by to shop, talk, meet and mingle. We had a great variety of vendors from all types of vegetables and fruits to jams, cheeses, smoked meats, honey, pickled and canned goods. There were baked goods, vintage goods and handmade items. The music provided by our local talent was amazing. The Community Bicycle Shop had a booth and the Kent Bellows Studio worked on a mural that evolved throughout the summer. We had some of our favorite special guests stop by like the Truck Farm, Padmini, and a talented local stamp maker led t-shirt printing during our "Kids in the Market Friday" once a month. There was a Chili Cook off and a Community Pot Luck as the weather got cooler. Best of all it was fun and a **BIG Thank You** goes out to all the vendors and customers that made this a success. Everyone have a beautiful fall, a cozy winter and we'll see you next year at the **Gifford Park Neighborhood Market**.

*Check out Page 7 for photos of the Neighborhood Market.*

**Next General Meeting  
Thursday, October 10**

**Topic  
TBD**

**7:00 pm  
Alegent Creighton Medical Center  
Morrison Seminar Room**

## Mural Project Dedication

On Friday evening, September 27 our neighborhood celebrated the completion of our Gifford Park Community Mural project at 33<sup>rd</sup> & California with a dedication and ribbon cutting at our final evening of the Neighborhood Market. The mural project started in April when the GPNA applied for and received a \$5,000 Mayor's Neighborhood grant to partner with Kent Bellows Art Studios to do a large mural project on the south wall of the KNJ Grocery Store. During May and June, artists from Kent Bellows interviewed local residents, businesses, and organizations to come up with a conceptual design to enhance the business district and Neighborhood Market.

In June, neighborhood volunteers prepared the wall by scrapping, chiseling, and wire-brushing the loose concrete. Then the Kent Bellows artists, which included executive director Weston

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**2013 GPNA OFFICERS**

**President**

Eric Purcell  
719-5108

**Vice President**

Open

**Secretary**

Jill Westfall  
213-3105

**Treasurer**

Dana Carlton-Flint  
346-4575

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**At Large**

Ricky Green 301-3936  
Darryl Hutton 706-7597  
Mark Trampe 332-6188

**Business**

Martin Janousek 558-4070

**Landlord**

Chris Foster 290-8187

**COMMITTEES**

**Community Garden**

Chris Foster 290-8187

**Membership**

Mark Trampe 332-6188

**Neighborhood Market**

Martin Janousek 558-4070

**Newsletter**

Jill Westfall 213-3105

**Newsletter Distribution**

Chris Foster 290-8187

**Park**

Roger Freeman  
345-2668

**Pubic Relations**

Eric Purcell 719-5108

**From the President**

*By Eric Purcell*

What a great finale to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market! It is hard to believe, but another growing season is coming to an end and another great year of the market has been put in the books. Last Friday was the last market of the season and what a last market it was! I didn't bother trying to count how many friends and neighbors were there, but I know I haven't seen the market that full all season! Great job Martin Janousek and Big Muddy Urban for your dedication to planning and organizing the market. Thanks to all who participated this summer, including the vendors and friends who came to sing, do yoga, stamp t-shirts, and learn about growing food from the Truck Farm!

We also dedicated our new mural on Friday night. If you haven't had a chance to take a closer look at the newly painted mural on the south side of the KNJ, I invite you to do so. The brightly painted wall captures our history, diversity, activity and future well. The colorful backdrop represents the diversity and future of our neighborhood. The "skyline" represents our past. And the many activities are represented in the figures and silhouettes. Thank you once again to Kent Bellows Studio for their hard work and the Mayor's office for funding this project through the Mayor's Grant.

And just as we celebrate so much of the great things going on here and the people who work tirelessly to make it all happen, we continue to be reminded that there is more to do. With another

shooting in our neighborhood and an armed robbery in the last few weeks, our work to make this a safer neighborhood continues. Some really great ideas came out of our last general meeting. As a board, we are thinking about ways to implement some the things we talked about and how to continue building on what we already have going on.

One idea that seems simple enough to pull off without a whole lot of extra planning is to encourage folks to walk more of our neighborhood with the intention to meet more neighbors. Just last Friday I was able to meet a new friend and neighbor named Sylvia on a street that I don't know very many people. It was great to hear a little bit of her story and about her family. I encourage each of us to take the initiative to do this simple activity. We are also looking at creating some more formal "neighborhood walking tours" to coincide with some of our other events. And, as always, if there is something you would like to do to invest in our neighborhood, please get involved or talk to one of the board members about your idea.

See you in the neighborhood!

Correction:

In my last article I mentioned that it was Chief Schmaderer who was advising folks to be suspicious of everyone they do not know. It was actually Sheriff Tim Dunning who had said this.

**Upcoming Officer and Board Elections**

The GPNA Board is currently working to line up a slate of Board Officers and Members for 2014. The slate of board members will be voted on at the November General Meeting.

If you are interested in serving on the board and sharing your talents with the GPNA in a new way, please contact Board President, Eric Purcell at eric.purcell@crmladers.org or (402) 719-5108.

Editor's note: If you have news of interest to the Gifford Park Neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for the monthly newsletter. Editorials are subject to approval by the GPNA Executive Board. Please include your contact information. Articles may be submitted by email to jill.lynn.westfall@gmail.com.

## Mural Dedication

*Continued from page 1*

Thomson, mentor Renee Ledesma, and teenage students Beth Davis, Ryan Elder, Niara Williams, and Nicole Henderson, spent the rest of the summer using their talents to paint the mural reflective of the Gifford Park community and their own artistic vision.

The mural showcases our neighborhood's rich past and active present and future including gardening, sports, biking, music, and volunteerism. Many people have commented on how much they like the vibrant colors which add interest to the business district. We wish to



thank the City of Omaha Mayor's Office, Kent Bellows Art Studios, KNJ Grocery, and the GPNA for supporting this project. We appreciate the valuable input from folks (adults and children) involved with the Community Bicycle Project, Gifford Park Community Garden & Youth Garden program, Teen Market Garden, youth sports programs (soccer and tennis), Big Muddy Urban Farm, Neighborhood Market vendors and participants, GPNA board, local business district and residents. Be sure to stop down and check it out.



## Super Heroes Among Us

*By Rose Janousek*

It is not every day one can witness random acts of kindness between strangers. I had the opportunity on Friday September 20th after the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market on 33rd street. At approximately 7:45 a car with 4 women pulled up looking for Lo Sole Mio restaurant located at 32nd and Oak Street. The passenger of the car stated they had been driving around for an hour and had been given bad directions. I tried to explain that they were on the wrong side of Dodge Street and needed to be south of Center Street, they look confused. The driver said they didn't know where that street was and the woman in the passenger seat begins to cry and says she is late to a rehearsal dinner and her phone with navigation is dead. The driver says "why can't someone just show us." I glanced in the

back seat and saw two small elderly women and thought about how can I help them.

Just then Ryan Klaus (who lives in Midtown Crossing) pulls up to pick up Renier Navas at his home near the Gifford Park business district to go out to meet friends for dinner. I ask the woman to wait just a moment and I go and ask Ryan and Reiner to see if they could escort the ladies to at least Center Street. After I told them the situation, they insisted on having the ladies follow them to the restaurant.

Later, I asked Renier how the drive went he said the woman were very grateful! They even wanted to pay them for their trouble (they declined). To the family and friends waiting for them at the restaurant it was more than just an act of kindness – in that moment they became real-life superheroes! They really went above and beyond to help people in need.



19 th Annual

Gifford Park

# haunted house

Delta Zeta  
Sigma Phi Epsilon  
Theta Phi Alpha  
Chicago House

Monday October 28 5-8pm  
at 32nd & Davenport  
and 31st & Chicago

Come one, come all!

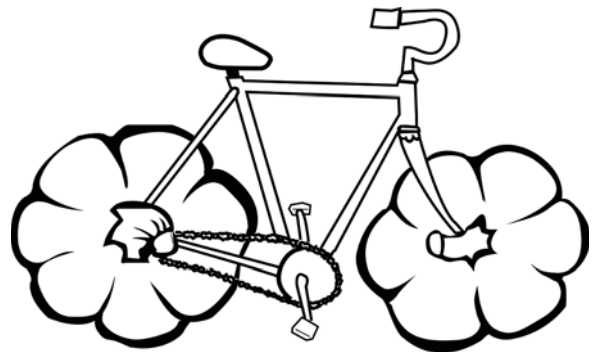
Free sweet treats,  
face painting, and a trip through  
the Gifford Park haunted houses...

**BLOCK PARTY**  
Enter at your own risk...



The Community Bike Project Omaha, with support from The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, is hosting a **Pumpkin Carving EXTRAVAGANZA!** Omaha area bike shops will submit bike-themed pumpkin carvings for kids age 6 to 16 to judge! There will also be pumpkin painting and carving for kids of all ages.

Join us for a night of carving on Friday, October 25th from 4-7 pm at the 33rd St. Neighborhood Market lot, across the street from the Community Bike Project. We'll have a limited number of pumpkins available for carving, so bring one down if you can.



The completed Jack O' Lanterns will be on display in Gifford Park from 7-8PM.

## Community Garden Update

Thanks to everyone who attended our fall harvest potluck dinner for our community gardeners, youth gardeners, volunteers and their families on September 14 at the community garden. Great, warm fall weather made it an enjoyable event. We had nearly 70 adults and children sharing good food among friends and neighbors. Thanks again to our grilling guru Neil Liberty, the burgers and hot dogs hit the spot!

As the garden season winds down we have scheduled a fall garden cleanup for Saturday, October 19 from 10 AM to 1 PM at the community garden. Everyone is invited to help as we plan to cleanup both family and youth plots, mulch flower

beds, and complete some other tasks depending on volunteer's time. We ask plot owners to bring yard waste bags, but we will also have bags on hand if needed. Note for plot owners: if you clean out your plot before or after Oct. 19, please leave the yard waste bag in your plot and we'll put out for yard waste pickup. Please have all plots cleaned out by November 1.

Contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722, [caban3321@cox.net](mailto:caban3321@cox.net)) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster (402-290-8187, [foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net)) for any other community garden questions.

## History Books For Sale

We have just printed another batch of our history "books," *History of 33rd & California plus History of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (1988-2000)*, written by our GPNA Historian Eva Swanson. The books are about 35 pages of interesting facts and stories including color and black & white photos. We are selling them for \$10 each - a bargain! All money goes toward the GPNA.

If anyone has any neighborhood memorabilia or history items (pictures, videos, books, awards, articles, other items) please contact Chris Foster ([402-290-8187](tel:402-290-8187) or [foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net)). The GPNA has collected and inherited items over the years and we would like to better organize some of the neighborhood and GPNA history that tells quite a rich, interesting and on-going story. Our GPNA historian Eva Swanson did a wonderful job of capturing information into our "History Book" and two large scrapbooks and we would like to build on this good work.

## 2nd Annual Kickball Tournament!

Once again, Gifford Park will be participating in a neighborhood Kickball Tournament. Each team plays for a charity of their choice and entry fee monies are then donated to that charity. Gifford Park



will be playing for the Community Bike Project once again this year. Last year we lost in the final. This year we hope to bring home the goods for our neighborhood bike shop. If you would like to play, please contact Eric. [eric.purcell@crrmleaders.org](mailto:eric.purcell@crrmleaders.org) or (402) 719-5108

What: Kickball Tournament

Where: Hanscom Park

When: Saturday, October 12 starting at 9:00am

Who: Anyone who wants to play! (You will need to purchase a grey bike shop shirt for \$10 to wear during the games)

Why: For fun and to win some money for the Community Bike Project

## Yates Hosts 64-Year Reunion of 8th Grade Class

On Saturday September 28th at Yates School (32nd & Davenport St.) about 30 people (many from out of town) returned for the 64-year reunion of the Yates School 8th grade class. There was a tour of the building, luncheon and slideshow presentation by reunion organizer Frank Tirro. The current Pre-K students made placemats with a welcome message for the tables and they prepared a "Welcome Back" song that was played for the attendees. Veronica Hill, who oversees the Yates Parent Education program, found and displayed some old school albums and plaques from when the attendees were in school in the 1930s and 1940s. GPNA Historian Eva Swanson and Chris Foster were invited to join the event, and many of the attendees purchased our history books. After the luncheon, Chris gave a tour of

the 33rd & California business district to some of the attendees. And many thanks to Susan Mayberger, Coordinator of ESL, Migrant and Refugee Education / Building Administrator for Yates - she also helped organize this fine event.



## Gifford Park Cleanup and Playground Celebration

Thanks everyone who helped on Saturday, September 21 sprucing up Gifford Park and celebrate 1½ years of the new playground equipment. Maria Devlin (who lead the Operation Playground fund-raising efforts) and her mother Patricia had the idea and lead the efforts on this beautiful fall morning. They also provided a great spread of healthy treats for everyone who came to the park!

Volunteers picked up litter, weeded & mulched flower beds and bushes, removed graffiti from benches, and removed cockleburs from around the playground area. Thanks to the other

volunteers: Rory Devlin, Luther & Deb Larson, Mike Caban, Roger Freeman, Cynthia Shuck, Rod Flint, Witney Stanley, Junior Stanley, Nancy Gaarder, Alex Goswami, Michael Bornhoft, Rebecca Cashman, Lloyd Canfield, Matt Cronin, Brent Lubbert, Mary Ellen Petrescu, Joy Doll, Chris Foster, several former PKA Fraternity guys, and some of our neighborhood youth. Special thanks to our City Parks Department for providing a load of mulch and their continued support of Gifford Park, the park looks better and better every year!





# Friday Night Neighborhood Market





Gifford Park Neighborhood Association  
 PO Box 31462  
 Omaha, NE 68131



## Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Membership Application

*The GPNA Membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.*

Type of Membership:     Single (\$10.00)                       Family (\$15.00)                       Business (\$25.00)

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

Name (person 1): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (person 2): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (person 3): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (person 4): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (person 5): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Volunteer Opportunities! I'm interested in helping with....**

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup/Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership             | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Captain       | <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"/> Landlord/Tenant Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch Group         | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Walks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Liason          | <input type="checkbox"/> Call Committee      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Program   | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Banquet    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Lending           |  |   |   |