



Gifford Park's Pride

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

December 2013

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Join the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association for the

25th Annual Holiday Banquet

Thursday, December 5, 2013 6:00 pm
(Dinner served at 6:30pm)
Alegent Creighton Health
Becic Dining Room

Join us for a GPNA Year-in-Review,
Neighbor of the Year award,
door prizes and time with your neighbors!

A traditional holiday meal will be served
compliments of Alegent Creighton Health.

Space is limited - RSVP by 11/29/2013
GPNA Voicemail 402-881-0610 or email
giffordparkneighborhood@gmail.com

Please bring canned food for the Food Bank.

**It's Membership time
in the GPNA.**

**The 2014 Membership year
starts January 1.**

**Renew your membership or
join at the Holiday Banquet
or mail in the "application"
found on the back page!**

2014 Board Elected

New board members were elected at the
November meeting:

President:	Eric Purcell
Vice President:	Ricky Green
Treasurer:	Luther Larson
Secretary:	Jill Westfall
At-Large:	Laura Weiss
At-Large:	Mark Trampe
Business Rep:	Martin Janousek
Landlord Rep:	Chris Foster

2013 GPNA OFFICERS

President

Eric Purcell
719-5108

Vice President

Open

Secretary

Jill Westfall
213-3105

Treasurer

Dana Carlton-Flint
346-4575

Board Members

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

Eleven months ago I sat down to write my first article for the Gifford Park neighborhood newsletter Gifford Park's Pride. At the time I didn't realize that it was the 25th Anniversary for Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. Twenty-five years! That's a big deal! Like the 24 years before it, this has been a year full of hope and challenges, laughter and sadness. We've seen big steps forward in our neighborhood this year as well as some setbacks. But mostly we have seen people coming together around meals and gardens, the neighborhood market and youth sports, a cultural celebration and Easter egg hunt, meetings and planning sessions. I'm proud to be a part of this neighborhood!

Something that I love about our Neighborhood Association is that it is a Neighborhood Association. It's not a home-owners association. It's not a private club for a select few. It is, at its heart, a movement of people working together to make life in their community better. Our mission statement says it well:

As members of Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, we are committed to preserving and protecting our neighborhood. In the

spirit of volunteerism and teamwork, and through dedication, integrity and communication with neighbors and local government officials, our goal is to help make the Gifford Park Neighborhood a great place to live, work, learn and play.

I'd say we do this well and we are fortunate to have a great number of folks who are deeply committed to continuing our 25 year tradition of making Gifford Park a better place to live.

So what would make Gifford Park a better place to live than it already is? Each one of us could probably come up with at least one or two ideas. Personally, I continue to be drawn to the question of how we can invite more of our neighbors to a deeper involvement in our community. Particularly, I am thinking about the large number of immigrant and refugee neighbors and friends that we have. How can we give a bigger voice and place to them in our neighborhood? Twenty-five years from now, what might this neighborhood look like if we do?

Just like the men and women who started this neighborhood association 25 years ago, let us begin to dream about a future in our neighborhood where it will be an even better place to live, work, learn and play!

See you in the neighborhood.

Shop Small November 30th - National Shop Small Business Day is Saturday, November 30th. Maud Botique will be decorating the shop and filling it with unique gift ideas. They specialize in vintage, handmade, items as well as new clothing from Fair Trade and US companies. Also Soul Kitsch and Gallery will have an art show featuring Tana Quincy. Go to facebook/maudboutique for more details.

Thanks to Northeast Police Precinct Lt Mark Matuza for sharing at our November GPNA general meeting excellent information and tips on Personal Safety and Residential Burglary Prevention. Neighbors also shared current concerns and goings-on and how best to address issues. Related to public safety matters, a big thanks to Mike Caban for his donation and Justin Brown for his efforts to produce eight new "Gifford Park Neighborhood Watch Group" magnetic signs for our Watch Group vehicles... the old signs were in poor shape. The mission of the Watch Group is to observe and report suspicious activity to help make our neighborhood safe. For more information on our Watch Group, contact Chris Foster at (402) 290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net.



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.

Gifford Park Neighborhood School Effort

Here's an update on the effort by the Gifford Park and surrounding neighborhoods to bring back a neighborhood school to the Gifford Park Community. With new OPS Board members and new Superintendent Mark Evans developing a strategic plan for the first time in years, there is a great opportunity for OPS leadership to look at several options for making this happen. As many of you know, in 1999 our neighborhood school Yates Elementary at 32nd & Davenport Street was closed by OPS because the building was too small to handle the number of children in our neighborhood. Currently of the 353 Yates attendance area children in grades K-6, 165 are assigned to Kellom School, and 188 of our children are bused to 39 different schools in the district.

Letters of support to bring back a neighborhood school have been sent to OPS from the Gifford Park NA, Joslyn Castle NA, Dundee Memorial Park NA, Bemis Park NA, Leavenworth NA, Midtown Neighborhood Alliance, Councilman Chris Jerram and residents. On October 30, the Omaha World-Herald ran two articles on the issue: "Gifford Park: Neighborhood keeps school spirit alive" and "School backers want

continued role for community center, too." We recently met with OPS Superintendent Mark Evans and OPS Board members to educate them about our effort and the neighborhood. We also appreciate everyone who participated in the OPS Community Forums in late October, we had a good showing!

Next steps for our effort are to continue talking with OPS Board members, OPS administration and the community to discuss the challenges and opportunities for returning a quality neighborhood school to the Gifford Park neighborhood. We plan to organize a community meeting in the near future to more thoroughly educate and update people on this effort, and have open discussion and feedback – we will keep everyone posted on this. We also plan to speak and present information at future OPS Board meeting(s). Thanks for everyone's support so far, stay tuned!

For more information on this effort, please contact:
Chris Foster (GPNA Board member): 402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net
Marque Snow (OPS Board member): 605-675-9251, marque.snow@ops.org
Sara Howard (Nebraska State Senator): 402-699-5514; saraehoward@gmail.com

Restore Omaha Conference Save the Date

Mark your calendars for the annual Restore Omaha Conference and Exhibition Saturday, March 1, 2014 at Metropolitan Community College, South Omaha Campus. The opening reception will be Friday evening February 28. Restoration Exchange Omaha is organizing the event with its mission to educate, advocate and invigorate the public to restore and preserve older properties. Go to www.restorationexchange.org for conference details as they become available. For questions Phone: 402-578-5618 or Email: info@restorationexchange.org

Cub Scout Pack 17 and Boy Scout Troop 42 Christmas Tree Collection Service Project

The Dundee neighborhood Scouts are again offering to pick up your Christmas tree and deliver for recycling on Saturday, December 28, 2013 or Saturday, January 4, 2014.

Scouts will complete requirements toward their World Conservation Award. This project demonstrates renewable resources, solid waste reduction, and community service in our neighborhood. Cash donations accepted. Thank you!



To have your tree on our schedule:

1. Contact the Scouts c/o Marc Anderson (402) 558-0727 or anderson4914@msn.com to make a reservation.
2. Remove decorations from your tree
3. Place tree on your curb by 9 a.m.

The warm weather has come to an end, so we hope our neighbors took advantage of the good weather earlier in the month to put up holiday lights and other decorations. GPNA volunteers plan to view holiday decorations in our Gifford Park neighborhood the evening of Thursday, December 19. If your decorations are up and your lights are on you may get honorable mention in the next GPNA newsletter.

Happy Holidays!



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 PO Box 31462
 Omaha, NE 68131

Place
 Stamp
 Here

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 | | | |