



Gifford Park's Pride

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

June 2017

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

The Neighborhood Gets a Stage

By: Martin Janousek

The Omaha area has plenty of arenas and a wonderful Holland Performing Arts Center but nothing can compare to our new outdoor stage at the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market. The market takes place Friday nights on the empty lot between the California Bar and the K-n-J Grocery Store on 33rd Street in the business district from 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

For many years, our Friday night entertainment at the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market had to navigate a spot between the vendor stalls, either on the gravel lot or in the grassy area towards the back of the market. If it had rained the night before, finding a dry spot for the musicians became difficult.

Last year Eliza Perry, a GPNA Board Member, along with Matt Cronin a GPNA Volunteer, saw the need for a stage. Something that would give the musicians cover from the elements and elevate them visually for the audience without losing the coziness that the market is known for. Eliza and Matt, both big supporters of our local musicians, had a conversation with Cynthia Shuck, our neighborhood Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA) Representative, at the time about applying for the annual MNA Grant. With Cynthia's encouraged, they applied for the grant and months later received notice that they got the MNA Grant. The grant covered the cost of the stage, signage, and lighting. Working with FJC Builders, the stage was completed this spring in time for the opening night of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market. It's been a wonderful addition to the Gifford Park community and the Friday night market.

Where a neighborhood theatre once stood, one could say we came *full circle* and entertainment has returned to the lot where once stood the *Circle Theatre*. Thank you Eliza, Matt, Francisco – FJC Builders, MNA, and the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association.

GENERAL MEETING

Next General Meeting:
Thursday, August 10, 7:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Youth Garden Programs
- Soccer Camp
- Full Cycle Supper
- Neighborhood Market
- Tennis Lessons

Event dates and details in articles of newsletter

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALES

Dodge to Cuming
30th to 37th St.

Thursday-Saturday // June 22-24

Your opportunity to showcase wares and make \$.
GPNA is promoting these dates
in the Omaha World Herald



2017 GPNA Officers

Marie Hélène André, President

402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

Eric Purcell, Vice President

402-719-5108 | eric.purcell@crmlleaders.org

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Chris Foster, Landlord Rep

402-290-8187 | foster3413@cox.net

Opportunities – Contacts

GPNA General Meetings

Marie Hélène André 402-769-9183

Community Bike Project

Adams Blowers 423-307-4136

adam@communitybikeproject.org

Community Garden/Youth Garden

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Adventure Playground

Jasmine Frierson 402-213-0223

Teen Market Garden

Cynthia Shuck 402-556-2090

dalilabush@cox.net

Gifford Park Market

Martin Janousek 402-558-4070

Yates Community Center

Susan Mayberger 402-557-2431

susan.mayberger@ops.org

Youth Soccer

Eric Purcell 402-719-5108

Youth Tennis

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Spring Cleanup

Luther Larson 402-616-9350

From the President

Enjoy the summer in Gifford Park Neighborhood, a neighborhood that has ‘un je ne sais quoi’ which makes it so special and so different from other neighborhoods!

Enjoy the reading!

Marie Hélène

Yates Update

By: Susan Mayberger

The OPS school year ended on Friday, May 26th with song and the presentation of certificates to 70 Yates Pre-K students or the future High School graduating class of 2030. That same night saw a community dinner for Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference held in the Yates gym. There were approximately 50 people that enjoyed a Middle Eastern dinner prepared by one of the Syrian parents who attended ESL classes at Yates. It was a treat to showcase Yates to our guests from all over the US who were attending the NUSA conference. They were very impressed with the collaboration and connection between our school and the Gifford Park Neighborhood.



Yates will again have ESL classes and Pre-K classes from June 5 - 30. The ESL Classes for Parents are held from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Many of the Pre- K students will come back for the June session as well.

As always, the community is always welcome to visit our school or to drop off donations of gently used clothing or household items for our immigrant and refugee families. If you have any questions about programming at Yates or about using the building for neighborhood activities, please contact Susan Mayberger at 531-299-9571 or susan.mayberger@ops.org.

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 gpnewseditor@gmail.com.



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE
Call Chris 402-290-8187
Mowers - \$5
Rent for most tools - \$3



The Trial of the Century -- Remembering About the Future 2017

By: *Adrian Petrescu*

We are seemingly in a Court of Law, at the Federal Courthouse building... or, are we? Let us listen in...

Attorney: "Every good closing argument shall start with 'Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury' so let me also start that way.

'Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury,
We are here in this distinguished court of law of the United States District Court, District of Nebraska, and as you heard me say it several times before, I've been speaking to you during the last six month of this long trial representing all the children of Gifford Park Neighborhood who were born starting earlier--by up to five years--than twenty years ago—, in 2017, and ever since.

Ah, we can't really start the same way because we don't have a real jury to speak of. We don't have a jury because we don't have an actual case in a court of law. We don't have an actual case in a court of law because the children whom I represent in front of this court of public opinion don't have standing in front of a real court within the justice system of the United States. The children whom I represent, all too many of whom are now adults, don't have standing in a court of law, and hence we couldn't really bring a law suit. You see, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, to have standing a group or class of plaintiffs need to show three things.

First, they need to have suffered an actual injury in fact, which means that something wrong has happened to them in real life.

Second, they need causation, which means that the particularized something wrong that has happened to them was the direct result of the behavior of the defendant--or defendants--who is, or are, being sued. In other words the group of children who I represent need to show that this behavior that the defendants had caused the children the injury in fact, the something wrong that I just mentioned, that has happened to them.

And third, they need to show something called

redressability. This means just that a court can decide to give the plaintiffs something that would somehow make them whole and would thus make the injury suffered 'be paid for' or so to say to go away.

Without these three things I just mentioned--namely injury in fact, causation, and redressability, no court in this great country would listen to our case at all, so this closing argument you're hearing right now would only happen in our collective neighborhood dreams, as we are imagining a court of public opinion.

We have to do this because for the children whom I represented in front of you during this long lasting trial the injuries in fact that I showed you during the last six months didn't actually happen. The witnesses I brought in front of you whom you've heard speak to you and who showed you all the pictures of the hundreds of broken knees and scratches that the children incurred playing soccer during the last twenty and more years didn't actually come in front of you, because they haven't actually seen any knee injuries. Furthermore, the children never broke any arm playing tennis and none of all the showing of fights and friendships resulting from those childish fights among the youth that the witnesses spoke about ever happened. It was all for pretend. Remember, the medals that some of the children when on to get at national and international competitions? Particularly, do you remember the lady who spoke about her daughter, Maria Duarte, the reputed international tennis player who just returned last year, in 2036, from the global Olympics in Mumbai, India, with the golden medal for US ladies tennis that she brought to Gifford Park?

Or, do you remember the gentleman, single dad, whose spouse had died at birth, but who spoke to you about how proud he was of their son, Alberto Riveira, of here in Omaha from Gifford Park neighborhood, who had been selected for the US national soccer team competing in the world cup at soccer for next year in 2038 to be held in Belgium?

You heard the older gentleman who flew in from Los Angeles California and who mentioned how impressed he was twenty years ago when he visited Omaha and he picked the Gifford Park neighborhood tour when he came for the Neighborhood USA annual conference

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Youth Garden Program Update

By Chris Foster

The first three weeks of the Youth Garden (GPYG) program at the community garden at 35th & Cass Streets has seen lots of activities including children getting familiar with the garden, learning about seeds & plants and how to plan what to plant in their plots, and actually preparing the soil and planting their plots. Even some rain on the first two sessions didn't dampen any spirits of children or volunteers. The program is each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30am through August 26th. Below you will find the remaining schedule. This free program teaches youth of all ages how to grow our vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Many thanks to the parents and wonderful volunteers, especially Big Muddy Urban Farm, who make this program work! Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net) if you have any questions about GPYG program.
2017 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

- June 10 Art in the Garden
 - June 17 Fungus Amungus
 - June 24 Sound of Music
 - July 1 Bees & Chickens
 - July 8 Wildlife & Animal Care
 - July 15 Garden Movement
 - July 22 Tree Walk
 - July 29 Herbs & Health Remedies
 - August 5 Cooking Matters
 - August 12 Canning & Preservation
 - August 19 Field Trip
 - August 26 Pizza Garden Harvest PARTY! (Big Muddy Urban Farm)
- Rest of growing season - tend your plot



Adventure Playground Update

By Jasmine Frierson

The 2017 season of Adventure Playground is finally up and running full steam ahead. We've made progress on some of this year's major projects and had a couple of great play days so far. I'm sure there will be plenty more to come!

A couple of weeks ago, the zip line poles were installed by Francisco Jimenez Crisostomo and FJC Builders. Fortunately for me, I happened to come and see them working just as they were preparing to somehow get these gigantic telephone poles into 7' deep caverns. This was a dangerous endeavor due to the weight, size and unpredictability of situation. They worked with all their might, muscle and creative ingenuity to angle the poles down into the holes inch by inch until it was at just the right angle to slide right in. I was impressed and could see their adventure playground spirit shining through as they used the materials around them in a resourceful way to achieve their goal. Way to go, guys!

Also, we are so excited to announce that we have two new volunteers, Paige Reitz and Kate Humphreys. They are friends of Teal Gardener from The Union for Contemporary Art. Thanks to them, the adventure playground will be open on Sundays from 12-2pm. So make sure to stop by on Sunday to welcome our new volunteers and most of all, come to play and unleash your imagination!

As always, the tree house and playground area is open and free to use at anytime. Volunteers and access to the materials in the shed are on Saturdays from 12-4pm and Sundays from 12-2pm. If you have any question or would like to volunteer please contact us at sfadventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook. Also, stay connected and attend movie night at Adventure Playground. The movie, "The Goonies" will play just before dusk on Saturday, July 8th.



Community Garden Update

Everyone is encouraged to check out the community garden including the chickens located in their coop on the upper-north part of the garden, and bee hives behind the "garden house" (next to the community garden on the west). Also check out the Adventure Playground on the west part of the garden. Work nights continue each Wednesday 6 to 8pm through the growing season. During these times water and garden tools will be available for plot renters and anyone else interested in helping maintain the community garden – we always need weeding of the flower beds! It's a good time to stop by the garden to see neighborhood friends or check out what's growing. Contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) for other questions.

New Creighton University Medical Center Opens Its Doors

By Todd DeFreece

Creighton University Medical Center University Campus near 24th and Cuming Street is a new, 80,000-square-foot community health center that reaffirms CHI Health's commitment to serve the health care needs of east Omaha.

Planned and designed in collaboration with the neighborhoods we will serve and our academic partner Creighton University, a full complement of health professionals are ready to care for patient needs, ranging from routine doctor visits to life-threatening chest pain. Care teams work together to provide the right kind of care, at the right time, to every patient.



Services

Primary Care

- » Family Medicine
- » Internal Medicine
- » Pediatrics

Specialty Care

- » Cardiology
- » OB/GYN
- » Dermatology
- » Endocrinology
- » General surgery
- » Neurology
- » Rheumatology
- » Lab
- » Pharmacy
- » Diagnostic imaging, including ultrasound, X-ray and CT scanner

Emergency Care – Opens June 9:

Our licensed, accredited, full-service Community Emergency Department with board-certified emergency physicians provides all levels of emergency care. Patients that come to the 19-bed Emergency Department are assessed and, depending on the severity of the condition, are treated on-site or transferred to the Level 1 Trauma Center and hospital at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center - Bergan Mercy.

Your Medical Home: An Innovative Care Model

We have created care teams comprised of multiple professions to create a medical “home” to help you manage all aspects of your care in one location—including doctor visits, pharmacy, occupational/physical therapy, and behavioral health. In addition, this new model enables your care team to address multiple needs with multiple providers— in one visit. Any medications can also be picked up at the pharmacy on your way out. This added convenience leads to better relationships and better outcomes.

In support of the program's focus on prevention, education and building healthy communities, conference space is available for community meetings and health and wellness education meetings.

If you would like to schedule an appointment or would like more information, please call (402) 449-4000 or go to <http://www.chihealth.com/creighton-university-medical-center-university-campus>.

The Trial of the Century -- Remembering About the Future 2017

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that Omaha hosted in 2017. You would remember his words about how he decided after that visit to bring about community gardens in his native town in California, and how he mentioned that in the last fifteen years the initiative took a life of its own and so many other California towns started community gardens that the movement became a strong national trend.

You all were very impressed by our witness, the lady and gentleman who spoke one after the other, who were nearly crying when they showed you the pictures from last years Nobel Prize in economics celebration at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences where their daughter Sithúkathiⁿ Míⁿzhiⁿga, Barefoot Girl, born here in Omaha in Gifford Park neighborhood, won the prize for her work on the application of constructal law of flows to economics and assessing the expanded role of the rise of the global network of community gardens in reducing food shortages among the global population, and she was the youngest lady winner of the prize in the history of the prize since its inception in 1968, almost seventy years ago.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,

You all heard Mohamed, the bicycle trainer, who as he pointed out twenty years ago used to be a teenager and young leader in the community here in Gifford Park, who spoke about his trainee who was not available to come to this trial because he is currently biking in the renowned global biking competition Tour de France for the third time in his life, and that in the first two times he won the third and the second prize.

You also heard from Mr. Andrew French--the youngest chef who is known globally—reputed on every TV set and tablet and connected phone in the world for his fresh from farm dishes—a modern Gordon Ramsey, I am certain you may remember him from his TV shows back in the years 2015 or so, of the so now well known urban farm to fork movement.

I am sorry to disappoint you right now, after all these great testimonies of witnesses. As I just said, we aren't really in an actual court of law, as there were no real injuries in fact--particularized as they need to be--to any of our children plaintiffs whom I represent here in front of you. You see, because there is no standing there is not actual case. And because there is no actual case this isn't really a closing argument in a jury trial. As a result, none of those testimonies of witnesses that you just heard and were impressed by actually happened.

We, my colleagues sitting here at the plaintiff's table and I, just managed to plant those happenings in your mind through a clever process of collective hypnosis.

Instead, ...”

Judge: “Counsel, it is now 4:25 pm, and this jury has been up in this courtroom since 8:30 am this morning, for the fiftieth day of jury duty in a row. I think this is a good time to take a break. Let's reconvene tomorrow morning with the continuation of closing statement. Alright? Any objections from anyone?”

Attorney (for Plaintiffs): “No, Your Honor.”

Attorneys for Defendants (in unison): “No, Your Honor.”

Judge: Then, this court is in recess until tomorrow morning at 8:30 am. Gavel. ...

To be continued in the next newsletter.

NOTE: The theme in the title and the style is borrowed from the genius work of Erich von Däniken, famous for his many books, among which *Erinnerungen an die Zukunft* (1968) (“Memories about the Future”)

Spring Cleanup 2017 Highlights

Light rain and drizzle greeted Gifford Park neighborhood volunteers on Saturday, May 20 for our annual Spring Cleanup. Again this year volunteers helped neighbors with hauling large items, and also cleaned alleys, streets and Gifford Park. Our metal recycler Eric McGhee was on hand again to help us with metal salvage. Cleanup traffic was a bit lighter this year, partly due to the weather and probably because the neighborhood is a little cleaner each year! We filled trash compactors, recycled tires & metal, salvaged a few interesting items, and collected donations & GPNA memberships. Thanks to all of the volunteers: Luther Larson, Alex Goswami, Eliza Perry, Paul Mileris, Shawn Whelan, Eric Whelan, Terry Wilwerding, Jim Wilwerding, Jim Kyler, Brent Lubbert, Chris Foster. One note, we missed the “Neighborhood Godfather” Bob Hutton at this year’s cleanup, Bob had a bad back, he is doing much better now! Special thanks to the City of Omaha and Keep Omaha Beautiful for sponsoring these valuable neighborhood cleanups year after year!



Cutting Grass and Weeds

Seems like at this time of year the weeds start taking over. While the vast majority of properties in our neighborhood are well-maintained, there are always some who don’t seem to mow as often as they should. And our many alleys often seem to get overgrown with volunteer vegetation.

The Omaha City Ordinance reads, in part:

It shall be the duty... to cut and clear such lot or ground, together with one-half of the streets and alleys abutting thereon, of all weeds, grass, and worthless vegetation which have reached a height of 12 inches or more. Such weeds, grass and worthless vegetation shall be cut as close to the ground level as possible and shall be maintained so that at any time the same does not extend 12 inches or more above the ground. Please note that properties that abut an alley are required to trim vegetation along the alley. Your cooperation is much appreciated.



Together, we raised
\$670
 for the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 during Omaha Gives!
Thank You!

Gifford Park
Neighborhood Market
Friday's 5-8pm // 33rd & California St.



Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Photos from May 26th



Community Bike Shop News

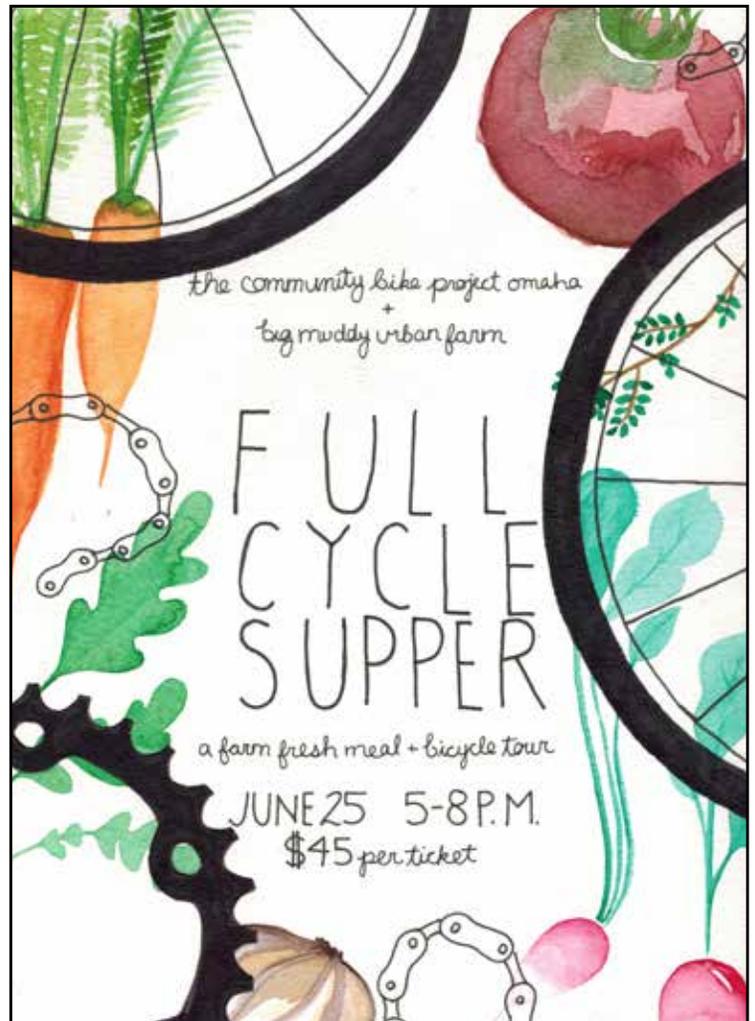
By Adam Blowers

We've had a busy summer so far. In May we partnered with ABIDE to give away 130 kids bikes in a single day! We also just hosted our annual Lids for Kids ride which benefits our Youth Earn-a-Bike programming. We're not done yet though, we've got yet another awesome event coming up at the end of June. Full Cycle Supper! Spend the evening with us and the fine folks at Big Muddy Urban Farm riding to each of their plots and enjoying a unique course prepared by talented local chefs at each one. The ride starts at the Big Muddy's 33rd and California Street plot on June 25th at 5 P.M. This event is limited to 30 riders, just bring your bike and be ready to have some awesome food!

Buy your tickets at communitybicycleshopomaha.org/full-cycle/

Along with Full Cycle Supper, mark your calendars for the Bike Shop Birthday Bash. This is the big one folks, the shop is turning ten years old! We'll be having a celebration on Saturday July 15th in the Gifford Park tennis courts from 5pm to 8pm. Free food, free music, and free games are on the menu, so join us!

As always, we are looking for great volunteers to get involved. Stop by the shop or email me at adam@communitybikeproject.org to get involved.



Neighborhoods USA Attendees Tour Gifford Park on May 26th



Attendees tour Big Muddy Urban Farm's plot at 33rd and California St. guided by Taylor Jespersen.



Emma Erickson talks and shows her home renovation at 32nd and Davenport St.

Gifford Park Free Soccer Camp

For: Youth (3 to 11 years old)

Dates: June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19

Where: Gifford Park (33rd & Cass St.)

Time: 6:30-7:30 PM

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is offering a FREE summer soccer camp and will provide goals, balls and instructors. Parents and others are welcome to help.

To be enrolled, YOU MUST complete the form shown below and return it to Eric Purcell 3152 Chicago St, Omaha, NE 68131. **Special prize for those who attend every session and demonstrate good sportsmanship.** There is limited space available so please be on time. Call (402) 719-5108 for more information.

YOUTH SUMMER TENNIS FREE INSTRUCTION AND DOUBLES PLAY

Sponsored by the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, Nebraska Tennis Association, Omaha Tennis Association, and the City of Omaha

WEDNESDAYS

June 7-July 19

10-10:50 am: Ages 9-11

11-11:50 am: Ages 12 & Over



25 Minutes of Stroke Development + 25 Minutes of Doubles Play.

GIFFORD PARK TENNIS COURTS

33rd & Cass

Rackets and balls provided.

For more information, call Chris at 402-290-8187



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) ___ Family (\$15) ___ Business (\$25)
 Today's Date: _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Business Phone (if applicable): _____

Name (1): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (2): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (3): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (4): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (5): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Banquet | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup/Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Tenant Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Lending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Memberships | <input type="checkbox"/> School Liason | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Market | <input type="checkbox"/> School Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Walks | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer | |

Return completed form along with check or money order to:
 Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, PO Box 31462, Omaha, NE 68131.