



Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 2018

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEETING

Tuesday, October 16 // 6 - 8 PM
Teacher Administration Center
Second Floor Auditorium
3215 Burt Street

updates on the new school, including building construction, student placement, teacher hiring & selection, and discuss the exciting topics of naming the school and the school colors & mascot

Kim Jones is Named Principal of New School

by Susan Mayberger

Experienced educator, Kim Jones, was named as the principal of the new school in the Gifford Park neighborhood. The announcement came a few days after the community meeting held on September 10th at Yates.

Ms. Jones was born in Olathe, Kansas. She was one of four children and her parents, while they didn't go to college, always stressed the importance of education. Her 93 year old mother still lives in the house, where she grew up. She graduated from Kansas State in 1984 and then went to work for the Olathe school district. She taught 3rd grade and sixth grade. She then moved to Billings, Montana and took the next six years off to stay at home with her four children. The family later moved to the Washington DC area and she worked in a nearby school district. In 2001, the family moved to Omaha and she started her career with the Omaha Public Schools. She taught at both Fullerton Elementary and Buffett Middle schools before moving to an Elementary Supervisor position based at the TAC building. As an Elementary Supervisor, she worked with principals in 14 different schools, trained teachers and worked on curriculum in the areas of social studies and math.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Thursday, November 8 // 6:30 PM
Yates Community Center
3260 Davenport Street

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Porchfest**
- **Special Neighborhood School Meeting**
- **Neighborhood Tree Planting**
- **Fall Park Cleanup**
- **Basketball Camp**
- **Let's Grow Here Gala**

Event dates and details in articles of newsletter

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2018 GPNA Officers

Eliza Perry, President

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Marie H el ne Andr e, Vice President

402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

Brent Lubbert, Secretary

402-213-9646 | brent.lubbert@gmail.com

Alexandra Goswami, Treasurer

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Tyler Magnuson, At-Large

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402-916-5030 | ajwessel13@yahoo.com

Eric Purcell, At-Large

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

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402-558-4070 | mjjanousek@leoadaly.com

Chris Foster, Landlord Rep

402-290-8187 | foster3413@cox.net

Susan Mayberger, Yates Rep

402-342-6606 | susanmayberger77@gmail.com

Opportunities – Contacts

GPNA General Meetings

Eliza Perry 207-590-9880

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

sfadventureplayground@gmail.com

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Rep

Adrian Petrescu, 402-769-9070

aspetrescu@alumni.pitt.edu

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

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Newsletter Editor

Brent Lubbert 402-213-9646

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 brent.lubbert@gmail.com.

A Nation and a World of Neighbors

by Adrian S. Petrescu

This last week on Friday, September 28th, the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market closed for the season. The weather was a bit gray, and the darkness of the evening was already coming much earlier than over summer. We could barely see anything anymore. Luckily we had a flashlight on us. We could use it to see what we were buying.

This particular market was special for us. Every neighborhood market is special, but this one was a little bit more special for us than the others. This past weekend we celebrated five years since the day when we have actually moved into our home in Gifford Park. It feels as if we've always lived in our house, so thanks goes to social media for reminding us how five years ago we were mudding and painting the living room and scrubbing and cleaning everything, and carrying water from neighbors in a pail and using the toilet at the gas station, while we set up a camping table in the dining room and had an "elaborate" breakfast anyway, with a table cloth on the table and our camping plates. Odd... the house doesn't seem to have been ready yet, but we moved in anyway... We thus bought some celebratory things at this last market.

This past weekend a neighbor called my phone. My Dear Bride and I were just parking the car in front of the house so I saw the call on the screen. A fine neighbor was asking for me by name. As I answered it turns out she had called Chris Foster first and since there was no answer she was calling me next. Being on speakerphone in the car my Dear Bride Marie H el ne and I listened to her together. Marie H el ne had her own input, much more important and useful than mine. Our neighbor mentioned that

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SUNDAY, OCT. 7 **1PM-6PM**

*Rain Date:
Sunday, Oct. 14

GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD | 33RD & CALIFORNIA



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



Kim Jones is Named Principal of New School

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In 2012, Ms. Jones was named principal at Sherman Elementary School. While at Sherman, she worked to create many community partnerships. The school started an after school program and raised achievement significantly in all content areas. Sherman had a large number of English Language Learners and this was something that she loved about that school. In 2016, she moved to Minne Lusa Elementary School. While at Minne Lusa, she also worked to develop community partnerships, on establishing procedures and routines and increasing student engagement. Student achievement has also increased under her tenure at Minne Lusa.

This year when the posting came for the new school in the Gifford Park neighborhood, Ms. Jones applied immediately because she said, “how exciting is it to open a new school and I had heard so much about the community”. She is excited about working with the diversity and with such an active neighborhood association.

Ms. Jones describes herself as a “people person, with a strong work ethic.” She is excited about coming to work every Monday and she will do anything for the students. She said that her students “in many ways, are like her family.” She is knowledgeable about best instructional practices and will work to hire a teaching staff that will put students first.



Her goals for the new school are to have the school be a place where all of the students and teachers want to be. A school that has high achievement, a high level of community involvement and a reputation of doing whatever it takes to meet the needs of the students. In five years, she will know that she has been successful if the school grows in size and diversity, by the amount of community partnerships and involvement, if the school has a high level of achievement and strong procedures and routines in place. She hopes that her legacy is that she will be remembered by her students.

Her greatest professional achievement has been her work as a principal. It had never even crossed her mind in earlier years that this would be her path but she loves her work. On personal level, she talked about the achievement of raising her family. She has three sons and a daughter and three granddaughters. One son and his family live in Phoenix but the rest of the family lives in Omaha.

Ms. Jones said that a letter is going out to all of the families with school age children that live in the attendance area inviting them to attend a meeting on Tuesday, October 16 from 6-8 p.m. in the TAC auditorium (3215 Coming Street). There will be representatives from the OPS Placement and Research offices. It will be the start of the discussion on the name of the school, the school colors and mascot. She hopes that people will come out to be part of the discussion.

Gifford Park's Newest Member

Wyatt and Brittany Stebbins are welcoming a baby girl to their family - Wylie Anne Stebbins was born Friday, September 28 at 12:16 am at 8lbs 6oz. Wyatt regularly volunteers at community bike shop and Brittany served as community outreach coordinator for Big Muddy Urban Farm this past summer. A big congratulations from Gifford Park!

Community Garden/Adventure Playground Update

Thanks to everyone who attended our annual fall potluck dinner Sunday evening September 16 at the community garden at 35th & Cass St. for our community gardeners, youth gardeners, Adventure Playgrounders, volunteers, neighbors and their families. A light breeze took a little bite off the warm weather in the 80's which made for a very nice evening for children (and adults!) playing frisbee, chickens wandering, delicious food, and neighbors gathering to celebrate. Besides our normal grilling of burgers and hot dogs by Mike Doll, our special guest Chef Wilson Calixte (chef at Le Voltaire French Restaurant) treated us again to some entertaining food preparation of a healthy vegetable & chicken dish that was awesome! As the garden season winds down we have scheduled a fall garden cleanup for Saturday October 20 starting at 10:00am. Everyone is invited to help as we cleanup both family and youth plots. Contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) for any other questions.



Adventure Playground update: As always, the tree house and Adventure Playground area (located next to the community garden at 35th & Cass St.) is open and free to use at any time. Volunteers and access to the materials in the shed are on Saturdays (weather permitting) 11:00am-1:30pm. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact us at sfadventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook.

You're Invited!

Let's Grow Here Gala

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2018

6PM @ CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY HARPER CENTER

Dishes by Local Chefs

Inspiring Speeches

Original Short Film

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY: www.bigmuddyurbanfarm.org/lgh

Individual Tickets - \$50 • Under 40 - \$40 • Table of 10 - \$500

Funds raised benefit Big Muddy Urban Farm's accessible educational programming.

Thanks to our sponsors: Mutual of Omaha • Alley Poyner Macchietto Architects • Waste Management • Dundee Bank • Alvine Engineering • Dohrmann-Miller Farm • Crazy Gringa Hot Sauce • Benson Brewery • Creighton Dining Services • Monarch Prime + Bar • Kitchen Table • event sponsorships available on our website

A Nation and a World of Neighbors

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as soon as she moved into the neighborhood she paid the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association membership. She was explaining this with much pride. It reminded me of how I went to my first GPNA meeting in September of 2013 and how we paid the neighborhood association membership right away as well, even before we had even moved into our house five years ago. I liked the pride in our neighbor's voice. She exuded happiness and responsibility to be here and a lot of care to make things better around herself for herself and for everyone else's benefit as well. I was very glad she called and was pleasantly surprised that somehow she chose me right after our neighborhood cowboy, Chris. I don't have any formal position so I still wonder why. We're glad we could help at least a little. It's what neighbors are always for. Here, there, and everywhere. During our travels to Saint Louis MO in the last few years we learned that in 1835 in a small village in Missouri named Florida MO a child was born. In his own words expressed later, "Missouri was a new state at that time and it needed attractions. This is why my parents postponed me until we got to Missouri." He grew up mostly in another small village on the Mississippi named Hannibal MO. Some 40+ years later he published a book written in part about his days as a teenager in that small town of Hannibal MO on the Mississippi in the early 1850s. Half a world away and a century and more later, in 1975, a young boy jumped through a window to enter from the outside his fourth grade classroom in Bucharest Romania. It wouldn't be the first or the last window he'd jump through. To get in or to get out, with all of those instances not exactly in accordance to the rules. But this one time was special. His teacher saw him and asked the boy's best friend to make a cartoon of the boy jumping the window. The friend did so. Maybe it helped that the friend's mother was a respected English teacher at a reputed high school nearby. Who knows. Between the friend, the friend's mother, the boy's parents and the teacher they all shamed the young boy by displaying the cartoon for an entire month on the school's notice board.

Another forty years later, in 2015, that same young boy, now a father living in Gifford Park in Omaha Nebraska, visited Hannibal MO with his teenage daughter. And they all whitewashed the fence Tom Sawyer's aunt apparently asked young Tom to whitewash and he decided to make it into a small business asking everyone to pay him for the pleasure of being allowed to whitewash a portion of the fence.

This father was very proud that his teenage girl had read the book starting as early as at four years of age. Silly father. Little did he know that he was planting the window-jumping microbe into the little girl's mind, just as he had learned it from the book and then applied it himself, whether at home or at school.

This summer the now half of a life aged father went to the waterslides in Gifford Park out of curiosity, hand in hand with the Vice-President of the GPNA, his Dear Bride Marie H el ene. Seeing all the children slide down over and over again, and encouraged by Brittney Rubek and others who were manning the water station, to say nothing about Chris's own hints, it didn't take long

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Gifford Park's neighborhood bar for 80 Years

ESTD. 1937

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OMAHA, NE

**Craft Beer on Tap
Friday Night Karaoke
Beer Garden
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**Stop in and watch your Creighton University &
Nebraska games**

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www.calibaromaha.com



Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Season Recap

by Matt Wettengel

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Market wrapped up it's 11th season on Friday, Sept. 28. On what was an otherwise dreary and chilly fall day, the clouds miraculously parted to grace the final market and open mic night with a bit of sunlight. Armed with jackets and hot drinks, those who came down were treated to a fantastic assortment of vendors and local musicians, a poetry performance and the premiere screening of a new documentary "Love Letters from the Resistance" by Karalee Padilla and Lynn Sanchez! The film "follows 8 dynamic women on their path to strengthen the local food system" and features some familiar faces from the market - find a link to the trailer on the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Facebook page. It was a lovely way to cap off an awesome season and we thank all the new and old faces who joined us in supporting and celebrating community!!

The market management team would like to give special shouts out to:

- All of the awesome vendors whose talents and creativity kept the market flush with locally-made goods, food & produce all season!!
- Any volunteers who ever helped set up or tear down, but especially Jasmine Eggert, Chris Foster, Tom Janousek, Josh Wilcox, Robbie Morales, Matt Cronin & Obed Sanchez for their continued assistance this season!
- Spazzy Jazzy Hoops for providing so much joy and inclusive entertainment to each week's market and to The Nature Nook for their activities for younger market goers!!
- Everyone who helped make this year's Chicken Show so ridiculously cute and fun!! Especially Margaret Johnson and Shayna Sterling, Kate Humphreys and Anna for helping with costume creation and judges Jess Dooley, Shannon Gennardo and Bob Hutton!
- Jane Skinner and Omaha Public Library for hosting a monthly Out & About Storytime at the market this season!
- California Bar and employees Darryl, Shelly and Shawn for helping supply water and restrooms each week, storing the market currency and opening up the patio into a beer garden four times this season—it was a blast!!
- 33rd Friday volunteers — this year's was a jam-packed celebration to remember!
- Alex Goswami, for keeping our market's financial system running smoothly!
- Alex O'Hanlon, management team member, for attending EVERY SINGLE MARKET of the season—kudos to your dedication!!!
- Ameen Wahba, manager of market entertainment, for lining up such a wide variety of entertainment at the stage each week through the season!!
- Each person and business that sponsored the market this season—we appreciate your support in making this market happen!

We always hear about how adorable, fun and wholesome our market is and none of that would be possible without our awesome community that came together each week. If anyone would like to offer any advice, critiques or suggestions to the market for future improvements, please do so by email at gpnmarket@gmail.com. We'd love to hear how your market experience could be improved or what you think we got right this year!!

For those who are interested, we're looking at hosting the Holiday Market on Saturday, Dec. 8! More details will be announced through social media as they're available or make sure to read next month's newsletter.

Photos From Neighborhood Market



A Nation and a World of Neighbors

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before we were also sliding down and running back up hill and sliding down again full of mud, and again, and again...

Where else than in Gifford Park can someone have so much fun? At the market we bought two elephants made in support of wildlife and lemurs in particular in Madagascar. Marie H el ene loves elephants. She was born among them after all. We have a houseful of elephants but these two ones will always be special. To get them we used a coupon my Dear Bride got as a gift for her service as President of the GPNA last year and the year before that. Thank you, Gifford Park neighbors! Yet, they support wildlife in Madagascar... Ideas and values don't ever have borders. Just as the book Mark Twain wrote could not be blocked by the regime in communist Romania from getting into the hearts and minds of the young in Romania, no matter how hard the regime was trying in the 1970s and 1980s to block the West from influencing the minds of free thinking Romanian children. Seemingly culture and books in general and about childhood in particular cross over the harshest borders under the hardest conditions.

This last Friday at the market we saw the trailer of the documentary "Love Letters from the Resistance" about joining forces to grow food in neighborhoods, just as we were asked to have a garden of our own back during the First World War by (later President) Herbert Hoover when he was heading the U.S. Food Administration some 100 years ago. Sitting together around food anywhere in the world has always gotten us closer together as people, as late and so much regretted Anthony Bourdain so nicely showed us all. Just as being a child or having children and playing with them or like them has always gotten us closer together. When we recognize how many things we all have in common, and that those are always more things than the things that keep us apart, we can be happy. Altogether now. This is a nation and a world of neighbors! Let's keep it that way!

New Venue for Imaginative Possibilities at 515 N. 33rd Street

by Jessie Fisher and Amanda Huckins

Some of our neighbors in the Gifford Park Neighborhood have been curious about what's going on in the house just south of Myrtle & Cypress, diagonal from the park. From June this year until last month, a lot of love, sweat, and elbow grease went into transforming the first floor of 515 N. 33rd into an informal mixed-use creative space called Media Corp. Feel free to chuckle at the name; it's meant to be a little funny. But it's also meant to serve a function, by adding to the variety of spaces in the Gifford Park Neighborhood where folks can be creative, share skills, and connect with one another. So far, we've printed letterpress posters and hosted a life drawing class at Media Corp. Going forward, we want the mostly-empty dining room/living room- as well as the art-making tools, movie-showing equipment, and books throughout the other rooms- to be available to our neighbors. What's next? Poetry readings? Postcard drives? Community forums? How-to demonstrations? Pop-up mini-markets? Something else we haven't thought of? Let's figure that out together!

Check out our website <https://mediacorpgiffordpark.wixsite.com/mediacorp> to find our events calendar and an Event Request Form to plan your own event, or contact us at mediacorpgiffordpark@gmail.com to schedule a visit and chat.

Spruce Staffing Scholarship

Beginning with the 2019 Graduating Class, Spruce Staffing LLC will award a deserving graduating high school senior from the Greater Omaha Area \$1000.00 to assist with secondary education and/or training.

Applications open November 1, 2018 to February 15, 2019 at www.sprucestaffing.com



The Keys Foundation is offering a **FREE Basketball Camp** and will provide the basketball balls and instructors for each lesson. Parents and others are welcome to assist. Space is LIMITED so please be on time. **To be enrolled, YOU MUST complete the form below and bring with you to the basketball camp or email form to: thekeysfoundation@yahoo.com**

Call or email for more information. Email: thekeysfoundation@yahoo.com | Phone: 402-452-0552

Location: Yates Community Center at 32nd Davenport

For: Youth Ages 5-13 (some flexibility)

When: Wednesdays October 3, 10, 17, 24

Time: 6:00-7:00pm for Beginners, 7:00-8:00pm for Advanced

Note: If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food item as a donation to families in need.

REGISTRATION FORM

Participant's Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ Age _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Parent/Legal Guardian's Name _____
Phone Number _____
Email Address _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Contact Name #1 _____ Contact Name #2 _____
Phone Number _____ Phone Number _____

WAIVER OF LIABILITY RELEASE FORM

I am aware of the nature of this activity and I hereby assume responsibility for _____ to participate to be photographed for publicity purposes. I will not hold THE KEYS FOUNDATION/YATES COMMUNITY CENTER and/or its employees responsible in the case of an accident or injury as a result of this participation. I understand that this completed form must be in possession of The Keys Foundation prior to participation in this program.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



Bemis Park

NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR

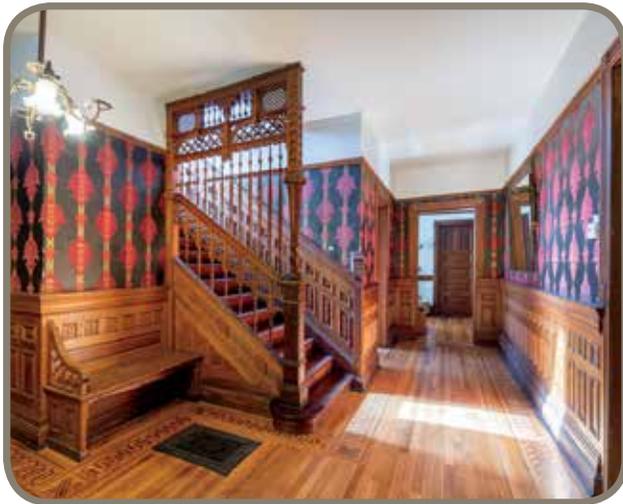
2
DAYS

10
HOMES

Tour Booklet with a history of the sites and neighborhood.

Oct. 13-14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SPONSORED BY



Free Shuttle to stops along the route or 2.5 mile walk to see all 10 homes. Bike valet provided courtesy of Mode Shift Omaha.

Parking and Tickets available on the day of the tour at Augustana Lutheran Church, 3647 Lafayette Ave. or online at www.restorationexchange.org.

\$10 members, \$15 non-members



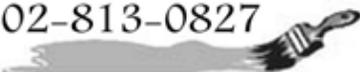
For information and to purchase tickets visit www.restorationexchange.org

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GIFFORD PARK FALL CLEANUP

- What:** Gifford Park & Playground Cleanup
- Where:** Gifford Park, 33rd & Cass St.
- Who:** Creighton Occupational Therapy Students and Anyone who can join us
- Date:** Friday October 26, 2-4pm
- Activities:** Park & Playground Cleanup, pickup litter, weeding, mulching (tools & gloves provided)



TREE PLANTING IN GIFFORD PARK SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

To volunteer email Alex:
alexandra.goswami@gmail.com

Photos From Slip'n'Slide on August 30th



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

24th Annual Halloween Festival

Where:
Gifford Park
Playground Area
35th & Davenport St.



When:
Sunday
October 28th
5:00 to 8:00pm



*hosted by the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity,
Delta Zeta Sorority & Gifford Park Neighborhood Association*

All Neighborhood Children and Parents are Welcome
Halloween Activities, Pumpkin-Carving, Face-Painting,
Games, Treats, and other Fun Festivities!



FREE!



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.