



Gifford Park's Pride

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

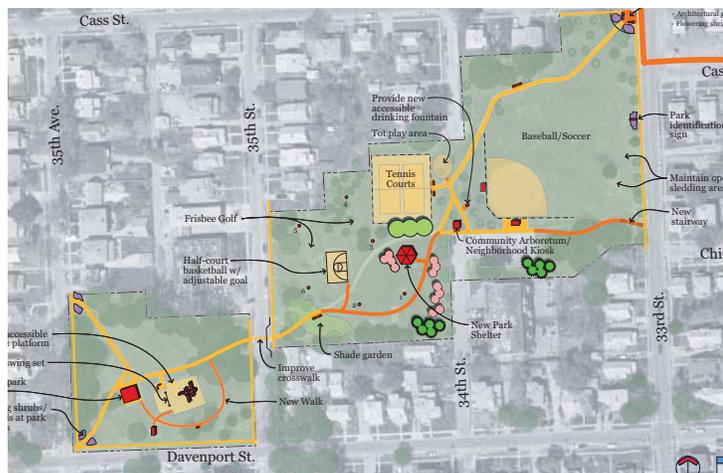
May 2013

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Tells Us What You Like About Our Parks

Come to our next neighborhood meeting with your ideas. On May 9th at 7:00 pm in the Morrison Room at the Alegent Creighton Medical Center, the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association will have volunteers from the Leo A Daly company at our monthly neighborhood association meeting to help conduct a SWOT analysis of our parks. This will be a good time to talk, listen, and share ideas about our neighborhood parks. The city of Omaha is in the process of evaluating Turner Park North or as most residents know it as the "Big Pile of Dirt" at the end of Davenport Street and the information from our meeting will be shared with them. The GPNA Board also thinks this would be a good time to dust off a Master Plan from a few years ago that showed ideas for the parks and other green-scape ideas that were generated for the neighborhood.

Please bring your ideas or thoughts to the next GPNA meeting and we will discuss them along with other aspects of our neighborhood green spaces.



Next General Meeting
Thursday, May 9

Topic
Park Master Plan &
Kent Bellows Mural Project

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Opening
May 11
10:00 am-12:00 noon
Community Garden (35th and Cass)

Youth Garden
Starts May 18
10:00 am-11:30 am
Community Garden

Tennis Block Party
May 22
6:00 pm-7:30 pm
Gifford Park Tennis Courts

City Council, Mayoral and OPS Board
elections are **May 14.**

Don't forget to vote!

2013 GPNA OFFICERS

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Eric Purcell
719-5108

Vice President

Travis Lavender
605-321-8142

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Jill Westfall
213-3105

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Landlord

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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.

From the President

By Eric Purcell

What an active month of April we have had!

April 13 was our annual neighborhood clean up day. The weather was great and a lot of neighbors pitched in to clean up our streets, alleys and park. Several folks drove their pickups around collecting abandoned couches and picking up trash from neighbors who are unable to bring it down themselves. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help make our neighborhood a cleaner place to live.

April 20 was our second annual Cultural Celebration at Yates Community Center. The sights and sounds that filled the little gym brought many smiles to everyone's faces. We enjoyed several dances, songs, children singing their goodbye song and meeting this year's citizenship class. After the performances everyone ate a yummy meal together and then headed outside for cricket, soccer or tennis. Inside the younger kids enjoyed face painting,

balloons and bowling. All together over 220 people joined in the celebration. If you missed it this year, be sure to check it out next year!

On a personal note, this month we signed a contract to buy our house! For the last two years we have been renting "the big yellow house on the corner" of 33rd and Chicago. As long as everything goes smoothly we should be closing on May 30th! Needless to say, we are very excited.

As we head into summer, there is going to be plenty to do to stay involved. Community Garden and Youth Garden activities kick off May 11 and 18, respectively. The Tennis block party is May 22 and will kick off a summer of tennis. We'll start our summer "bunch ball" soccer program in June. Soon the Friday night Neighborhood Market will be starting as well. With everything going on, there should be something for everyone in Gifford Park!

See you in the Neighborhood!

GIFFORD PARK TENNIS BLOCK PARTY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

6-7:30 PM

GIFFORD PARK TENNIS COURTS - 33rd & Cass

(Rain date- Thursday, May 23 6-7:30 pm)



**KIDS Ages 5-19 WELCOME
GAMES & SNACKS**



Join us for a FREE evening of TENNIS.
We have the rackets and balls.

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SUMMER TENNIS
PROGRAMS AT GIFFORD PARK**

Community Garden Update

We hope you plan to attend our Community Garden Season Opening, Saturday May 11th, 10 AM to noon at the community garden (35th & Cass Street) – it's open to everyone. We plan to have a variety of family activities including Youth Garden program registration; information on community garden, Teen Market Garden and Big Muddy Urban Farm; free library cards and books; Mother's Day take home project; face-painting; music; garden items sale; free seeds, plants and refreshments (while supplies last); and meet the baby chicks (for the soon-to-be-built chicken coop). With the cooler and wetter than normal spring weather, plants and trees are about a week or so behind schedule, but that's alright, we will take this weather over last year's heat and drought. In April we started our Wednesday work nights and will continue each Wednesday 6 to 8 PM 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 – there is never a shortage of weeding! It's a good time to stop by the garden to see neighborhood friends or check out what's growing – things are changing fast! Contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) for other community garden questions.



Youth Garden Program Plans for 10th Year

The Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program will be kicking off its 10th year at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass) growing young gardeners. The 2013 program will be each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 AM May 18th through August 24th. Attached in this newsletter you will find the schedule and registration information. We will be accepting registrations at our Community Garden Season Opening Saturday May 11th, 10 AM to Noon at the community garden. This free program teaches youth of all ages how to grow our vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Plus, we'll be creative with art, music, and poetry; explore our natural environment; and have fun while working together and getting our hands dirty. GPYG relies upon parents and volunteers each and every week to provide snacks, lead lessons, and simply share their time with participating young people. Stay tuned for more information. Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) or Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) if you have any questions about GPYG program.



Late April daffodils in full bloom in among bushes, roses, and other perennials in the newly planted flower beds at 33rd & Cass. Volunteers Diane Kaye, Max Kaye, Chris Foster, Eric Purcell (and his children), and Dave Collie (and his children) helped mulch the planting beds in Gifford Park.

Community Garden Season Opening - Everyone Welcome!
Saturday May 11th, 10 a.m. to noon
at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass Street)

Variety of family activities including:

Youth Garden Program registration
Free Library Cards and Books; Ask the Master Gardener
Mother's Day take home project; Face-Painting; Music
Information on community garden, Teen Market Garden, Big Muddy Urban Farm
Free Seeds, Plants and Refreshments (while supplies last)

Gifford Park Youth Garden Program

2013 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

May 11	Garden Season Opening Event: 10 a.m. to Noon)
May 18	Get to Know Your Garden
May 25	Plant Your Plot (prepare plot for planting)
June 1	Plant Your Plot (picking the right seeds & paint stakes)
June 8	Plant Your Plot (and stake your plot)
June 15	All about compost & water conservation
June 22	Art in the Garden
June 29	What's the Buzz About Busy Little Bees?
July 6	Sound of Music
July 13	Truck Farm and Garden Movement
July 20	Snakes and Reptiles
July 27	Family Show & Tell
August 3	Cooking Matters
August 10	Seed Saving
August 17	Canning & Preservation
August 24	Pizza Garden Harvest PARTY! (Big Muddy Farm)
Rest of growing season - tend your plot	



The Gifford Park Youth Garden is a fun, educational program for school age youth. Volunteers, parents, and children meet **Saturdays from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.** at Gifford Park Community Garden on 35th & Cass Streets.

Ways parents can get involved:

- Post this schedule of activities in your home
- Ask your child what they have been learning at the garden
- Accompany your child to any or all sessions
- Pick a date to bring snacks

To register, complete the attached sign-up sheet and bring to the Season Opening Event on May 11. You can reach Chris Foster with questions or suggestions at 402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net.

Youth Garden Sign-up Sheet

All school-age youth are invited to participate in this free program at the Gifford Park Community Garden on 35th & Cass Street. We will meet Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. beginning May 18th through August 24th to work, learn, & play in the garden.

Child's Name: _____

School: _____

Age: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

We would like to bring treats for one of the Saturday's: yes no

My parent/I would like to volunteer sometime: yes no

Waiver and Release of All Claims and Assumptions of Risk

Please read this form carefully and be aware that in signing up and participating in the Gifford Park Youth Community Garden program, you will be expressly assuming the risk and legal liability and waiving and releasing all claims for injuries, damages, or loss which you or your minor child/ward might sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with and associated with this program.

I recognize and acknowledge that there are limited risks of physical injury to participants in this gardening/nature program, and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, damages, or loss, regardless of severity that my minor child/ward or I may sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with this program. Further, I permit the taking of photos during Gifford Park Youth Community Garden activities for publication and use as the program deems.

I have read and fully understand the above important information, warning of risk, assumption of risk, and waiver and release of all claims.

Participant's Name (please print)

Guardian's Signature

Date

Creighton Community Garden Project

Dear Neighbors,

We are a class of Creighton University students who are planning to develop a community garden on the vacant lot at 32nd Street and Webster Street. We would like to share that project with the community and provide opportunities for you to participate in the process. Our tentative ideas include the following;

- a demonstration plot showing how to rebuild vacant lot soils with composting and earth worms.
- a bird feeder and bird bath.
- a demonstration plot showing how to grow perennial flowers in the shade.
- a demonstration plot showing how to grow drought resistant perennial flowers in the sun.
- a few fruit trees and a raspberry bush patch.
- an herb garden plot.
- several salsa vegetable garden plots (tomatoes, onions, peppers, cilantro).
- several open plots for neighborhood participants to choose what to grow.

- a hoop trellis for climbing flowers and beans.
- a picnic and reflection area.

In the process of developing the garden, we would like to interact with members of the neighborhood who would help us with the project and who would enjoy eating some of the food and appreciate the beauty of the garden as a place to relax and enjoy nature. We are planning to attract more birds and butterflies to the lot. We will greatly value your ideas, knowledge, and skills.

We hope to become your new neighbors and friends and look forward to sharing stories about interacting with nature, gardening, fresh foods, and community projects. You can remain anonymous in this process or you can become a community leader. If you have any questions about our project, please contact our professor, Barbara Dilly, at 402-968-3654. We will be inviting you soon to one of our work days to get to know you. You will see some activity on the space as soon as the weather allows.

The Blue Jay Garden Group

Pet Reminders

By Jim Wilwerding

Now, with the weather warming, more folks are opening their windows and getting out and around the neighborhood. So it seems a good time to review some of the rules of pet ownership.

Pets must be licensed and vaccinated. In the city of Omaha, a resident may keep no more than 3 dogs or 5 cats unless a special license is obtained. Cats and dogs must have tags on collars, unless the pets are microchipped. Dogs must be confined to a yard (fenced) or on a leash when outdoors. Dogs may not be tied out for more than 15 minutes unless there is an adult present. Dogs must have access to water and shelter when outdoors.

When walking a dog on public or private property, droppings must be cleaned up. Droppings must also be picked up in the owner's yard. The dog must be on a leash when being walked in public. Barking dogs may constitute a nuisance under city law. If the dog is out barking for more than 20 minutes, the owner may be cited for disturbing the peace, and the dog may be impounded. The owner will then need to pay fees to reclaim the dog.

If you have problems with a neighbor's pet, or believe that a pet is being neglected, you should contact the Nebraska Humane Society at (402) 444-7800. The Humane Society also offers pet training classes, and has a Behavior Helpline for owners seeking assistance with their pets.



Second Annual Cultural Event



Dear Eric and Chris,

Thanks so much for all your work on the Gifford Park Yates Cultural event! Please extend my thanks to the rest of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association team that worked at the event also. We really appreciated your help in making this such a fun day for everyone.

Veronica Hill
ESL/Migrant Teacher Trainer
Yates Community Center

Dear Gifford Park Neighborhood Association,

On behalf of the students and families who attend classes at the Yates Community Center, I would like to thank the Neighborhood Association for supporting the wonderful community event at the school on Saturday, April 20th. There were over 220 people that participated in the cultural program, the luncheon, the cricket game and the activities in the gym. It was a wonderful way of bringing the whole community together.

A special thank you to the GPNA volunteers who helped with the organization, the games and the food.

I would also like to thank my colleague Veronica Hill who oversaw the programming and organization for the school. Bhim Gurung who worked with the Bhutanesse students and all of the teachers from the school who were in attendance.

Sincerely,
Susan Mayberger
Coordinator of ESL & Migrant Education, OPS

Gifford Park Free Soccer Program

For: Youth (3 to 8 years old)

Dates: June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17

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

Time: 6:30-7:30 PM

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is offering a FREE summer soccer league 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 lesson and demonstrate good sportsmanship.** There is limited space available so please be on time. Call (402) 719-5108 for more information.

Registration/Permission Form - Bring this form (completely filled out) with you to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association summer soccer league.

Youth's Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Name _____
Street: _____ Street: _____
City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip _____
Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Cell Phone: _____
School: _____ Email: _____

As the parent or legal guardian of the child named above, I hereby give my full consent and approval for my child to participate as a member of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Youth Program.

I understand that there are certain risks of injury inherent in the practice and play of this sport, as well as related activities incidental to my child's participation, and I am willing to assume these risks on behalf of my child. I hereby certify that my child is fully capable of participating in this sport and that my child is healthy and has no physical or mental disabilities or infirmities that would restrict full participation in these activities, except as listed below.

I hereby waive, release and hold harmless the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Youth Program, and the City of Omaha, Nebraska, its Officers, coaches, sponsors, supervisors and representatives for any injury that may be suffered by my child in the normal course of participation in this sport and the activities incidental thereto, whether the result of negligence or any other cause. Further- more, I give consent to any necessary medical treatment in case of emergency. I permit the taking of photos during Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Youth Program activities for publication and use as the program deems.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE



Call Chris 290-8187

Mowers - \$5
Rent for most tools - \$3

She loves me.... She loves me not.... The art of Kurt Johnson will open Friday May 3, 2013 6-9pm at the Soul Kitschn Gallery and will run through the month of May. Maud Boutique and Soul Kitschn Gallery will host a stop on the annual Joslyn's Young Art Patrons (YAP) Art Crawl, Friday May 17, 2013. The annual YAP Art Crawl will expose approximately 250 YAP members and young professionals to local artists, art spaces, studios and galleries, and provide an in-depth learning opportunity for YAP members to become familiar with local arts organizations, studio artists and gallery owners. Visit joslyn.org for more info. Go to facebook/[maudboutiqueomaha](https://www.facebook.com/maudboutiqueomaha) to find out what's new in the shop. You can also check out what resident artist, Cheryll Wallace is working on at www.soulkitschn.com



What's Happening

The GPNA offers its sincere condolences to the Susan Brink family, Susan passed away in late April, she was 67. Susan and her husband of 39 years, Robert, have been longtime Gifford Park residents. Susan was the founder and owner of her beloved business, Second Chance Antiques & Collectibles, which was operated in the Old Market for over 42 years. Back in the summer of 2001 Susan was one of the original volunteers to start cleaning up trash and broken glass at the current community garden property at 35th & Cass St. Susan had an amazing flower garden in front of her home.

The GPNA offers its sincere condolences to the Roy White family, Roy passed away in early April, he was 85. Roy was a devoted husband, father and grandfather who served in the U.S. Army, retired from the U.S. Postal Service, and served his church as a lead usher/greeter for over 25 years. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Norma Jane, they have lived in the Gifford Park neighborhood for over 40 years. Their son Roy and his wife Dina and their three children have been longtime Gifford Park residents and volunteer at some of our GPNA youth activities. Roy said of his dad, "He donated to many charities, he was a good guy."



GPNA Receives Mayor's Grant for Mural Project

The GPNA is excited to announce we 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 at 33rd & California. The project will involve getting input from the neighborhood for design ideas to enhance our business district

and Neighborhood Market. During May and June artists from Kent Bellows will facilitate interviews with local residents, businesses, and organizations to come up with a mural design for our review. Once approved by the GPNA and others, the wall be prepared, primed, and painted in July. We wish to thank the City of Omaha, Kent Bellows Art Studios, and KNJ Grocery for supporting this project. Stay tuned for more details of upcoming opportunities to provide your ideas - including at our May 9th General meeting.

Sandy Freeman Passes

By Chris Foster

The Gifford Park neighborhood lost a great friend on April 5, 2013 when Sandy Freeman passed away. Last month the Omaha World Herald wrote a nice article about Sandy, but I wanted to share a few additional thoughts about her. Sandy's attention to details and beauty was exceptional. She meticulously planted and cared for the moss roses in the community garden in a place where only weeds used to grow between the sidewalk and front wall. Neighbors were amazed at how anyone could make these flowers look so beautifully brilliant in the heat of summer – it was all Sandy's efforts. She put forth this same effort in other areas of the community garden, especially the flower beds in front. Her hard work didn't stop there.



She helped plant, weed and water the flower beds in Gifford Park along 33rd Street because it was important to her for the park to be safe, clean and beautiful for all to enjoy. Of course husband (and volunteer partner) Roger helped with these duties, he plans to keep her legacy going by continuing these efforts. Sandy enjoyed having her house and garage decorated with Christmas lights, and she liked when some of us neighbors used to hang lights in the park (before we lost a couple trees a few years ago). I remember Sandy as being "old school" and very direct about getting things done – I liked that. And at the same time she was also very complimentary and appreciative to my wife Sallie and me and many other Gifford Park neighbors. Sandy never wanted recognition for all her volunteer efforts, instead she paid attention to her family and friend's accomplishments and important dates in their lives. I had the privilege to get to know Sandy's family better and see how much she loved her children and grandchildren. We miss you Sandy!



Sandy's Famous Lemon Squares

1 cup all-purpose flour
 6 Tbsp (3/4 stick) butter, softened
 1/4 cup confectioners' cream cheese, softened
 1 cup sugar
 2 Tbsp flour
 2 eggs, lightly beaten
 3 Tbsp lemon juice
 1 Tbsp finely minced lemon rind
 1/2 tsp baking powder
 garnish: powdered sugar

1. Preheat oven to 350°F and generously butter an 8" square baking pan and lightly dust with flour.
2. In large mixing bowl with an electric mixer, combine 1 cup flour, butter, 1/4 cup powdered sugar and cream cheese and beat until crumbly.
3. Press dough into prepared baking pan and bake for 20 min
4. In the meantime, combine sugar, flour and eggs and lemon juice and lemon rind and baking powder, and beat until smooth.
5. Spread mixture over baked layer, bake for additional 25 min.
6. Remove from oven, cool in prepared pan for 10 min while still warm, run a knife around other edge, cut into bars, and sprinkle with powdered sugar

Spring Clean Up



On April 13, neighborhood volunteers pitched in for the 31st annual Spring Clean Up. Thanks to volunteers Mark Trampe, Eric Purcell, Dave Collie, Paul Mileris, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Terry Wilwerding, Lloyd Canfield, Chris Foster, Bryant & Angie Pasho, Mike Caban, Jim Kyler, Luther Larson, Jim Wilwerding and Rod Flint the Gifford Park Neighborhood's alleys, streets, and park are all a little cleaner. Neighbors collected a few items for the annual garage sale, sorted out scrap metal and filled dumpsters with the neighborhood's trash. Over \$600 in memberships, donations and salvage were raised as part of the event. Thank you to the City of Omaha for their continued sponsorship of the Spring Clean Up!



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 | | | |