



# GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A great place to live, work, learn, and play.

[www.giffordparkomaha.org](http://www.giffordparkomaha.org)

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## WELCOMING FALL



### HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT GIFFORD PARK?

Ever have a question about Gifford Park that can't be answered by a Google search? If so, send in your questions here and find answers in the next issue!

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## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

In an effort to acknowledge and appreciate the wonderful businesses in our neighborhood, the upcoming Newsletters will include spotlights on one business per issue.



# BOARD MEMBER COLUMN

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## BY MC Raterman

I wish that our eponymous park—Gifford Park—was open twenty-four hours a day. Further, I wish that there were more things to do in the park at night, and that there was actually enough light to do them. This desire of mine is not just personal, i.e., that I would like to hang out in the park and, but also communal, that I would like to see Gifford Park reap the shared benefits of a nocturnal park. These shared benefits range from the small and pleasant, like passing a neighbor on a late-night walk, to the transformative, like making Gifford Park a safer and more vibrant place to live.

Let me provide some examples of the pleasant; currently, the most common uses for parks in the evening are movie screenings and fireworks shows—though it is necessary that these activities be done after dark. Given the right conditions, however, many activities one may do during the day in the park are just as doable in the evening; an intimate picnic, a communal game, sketching or painting, et cetera. In fact, many of these activities could embody a new character unique to being done in the evening, changed and enhanced in a variety of ways. Imagine the low voices of an intimate picnic chorused by crickets, basketballers stargazing while they catch their breath, or an artist rendering a shrouded evening landscape; these descriptions could compose a new and rousing picture of life in our park. Nightlife in our neighborhood need not be confined to bars, or have anything to do with consuming alcohol for that matter. Instead, tennis clinics and book clubs could bring us together on weekend evenings.

I imagine that our teenagers, in particular, would socially benefit from a nocturnal park. Teenagers have very few places to independently socialize, particularly in the evening. School is closed, hanging out in restaurants costs money that they don't always have, and hanging out in bars is prohibited to them. Providing teenagers with the social alternative of spending their evenings in a park has also been demonstrated, within the city of Los Angeles, to abate violence.

LA's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) was created in 2007 to decrease incidents of gang-related violent crime; GRYD determined that youth were compelled to stay out of their homes due to crowded and potentially traumatic conditions within, but then lacked safe and accessible public spaces to serve as respite. In response, they designed the Summer Night Lights (SNL) program, which consists of myriad activities, from communal meals and food festivals, to games of basketball and kickball, to art workshops, to dance competitions and dance fitness classes.

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A second program run by the county's Department of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles' Parks After Dark (PAD) program, works towards the same ends. The program began in 2010 at three parks, and as of 2019, has expanded to thirty-three locations. The Parks After Dark consist of similar activities to SNL, but in addition, also houses healthcare and social service programs. A study conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research estimated that through PAD's operation, eighty-one violent crimes, and ninety-one nonviolent crimes were avoided. They also estimated that, though the program's 2016 budget was \$2.3 million, it saved the county \$5.87 million in law enforcement costs that year. These results should signal to us that we could make Gifford Park a safer and more welcoming place for our youth by having our park open at night.

Even a small amount of social and material investment towards nightlife in our park, however, could bring large returns. And, conversely, if we shun or fear our park as soon as the sun goes down, we could harm our neighborhood. In her classic work *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Jane Jacobs writes that "parks are not automatically anything." And, as much as I love our park, I am inclined to agree.



# BOARD MEMBER COLUMN continued

BY MC Raterman

Parks are what a neighborhood and its' residents make of them; if they are left without care, to decline, then they will of course decline. If there is no material or social input for a park, then one cannot conceivably expect material or social output. On the other hand, if they are cared for and occupied, if they are set to flourish, then they will flourish.

Parks are just as much an inherent improvement for a neighborhood as they are inherent habitats for debauchery and crime after dark; that is to say, not at all. Jacobs also writes that under-occupied "...parks are troubling not only because of the waste and missed opportunities they imply, but also because of their frequent negative effects. They have the same problems as streets without eyes, and their dangers spill over into the areas surrounding, so that streets along such parks become known as dangerous places too and are avoided." It is when parks are 'without eyes', as Jacobs puts it, that they become undesirable places to be. Jacob's concept of having 'eyes on the street' refers to both the literal act of looking, as well as social involvement on a street. These eyes belong to the 'natural proprietors of the street'—those who work, reside, and socialize within the orbit of a street or park. In other words, and in the case of Gifford Park, us. The bearers of these eyes on the street or park are also the natural participants of the space, and are invested through spatial and social proximity. These participants not only surveil their environments, which discourages anti-social behavior, but their active involvements also foster social cohesion. When parks go under-supervised at night due to the lack of involvement therein, they may indeed become problematic. But if our park were to 'have eyes' at night, it would have the potential to be safe and socially productive.

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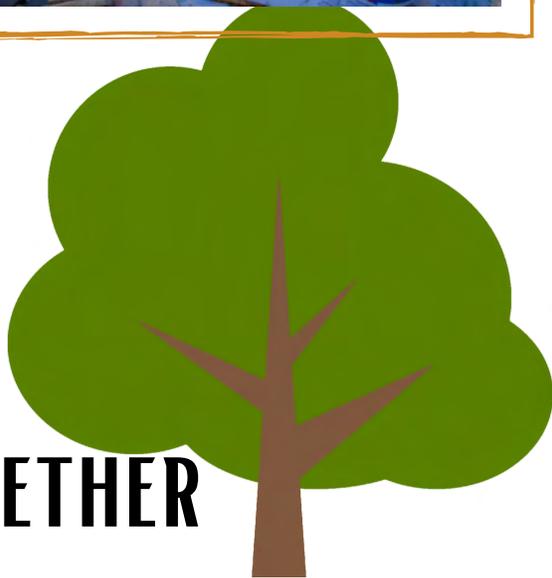
These participants not only surveil their environments, which discourages anti-social behavior, but their active involvements also foster social cohesion. When parks go under-supervised at night due to the lack of involvement therein, they may indeed become problematic. But if our park were to 'have eyes' at night, it would have the potential to be safe and socially productive.

If our park were to be occupied and attended to at night, it would naturally ward off anti-social behaviors. Jacobs also writes that to think 'unwanted elements of parks drive out appropriate usage' puts the cart before the horse; more than anything else, anti-social behaviors are "...a manifestation of [a neighborhood's] behavior, in microcosm. They did not kill off a vital and appreciated park. They did not drive out respectable users. They moved into an abandoned place and entrenched themselves." Our park being closed after dark, or being open after dark, invites respective self-fulfilling prophecies; the more desolate our park is, the less watchful eyes there are to deter and intervene in undesirable social behavior. The presence of anti-social behavior deters park attendance, and the park remains desolate, 'without eyes.' Conversely, the more occupied Gifford Park is by virtue of a nocturnalizing process, the safer it will become. A park with evening amenities becomes more desirable to spend time in, attendees 'give eyes' to the park and encourage social vibrancy, and so on and so forth. Therefore, the process of 'nocturnalizing' our park begins with material and social investment.

The social investment, like increased park programming, I have already mentioned. The material investment could be things like new and improved lighting. Instead of the current sodium lights, perhaps more efficient and less polluting targeted lighting. Additionally, lights could be added to our tennis court and shelter and be put on timers accessible to park goers. Lighting can be added deliberately, without detracting from the beauty of the park, and without disturbing park neighbors (both human and animal). There are also a number of landscaping and geographical elements that could be added—like hedges and berms—or removed, in order to balance privacy with public view, and in order to isolate sound (from those who want to sleep through our evening activities). These are just a few, but possibilities are manifold, and I'm sure many of you have great ideas you're willing to contribute. Though a step in an unfamiliar direction, I feel that making our park habitable—regardless of the hour—would make our neighborhood an even better place to live.



# PORCH FEST



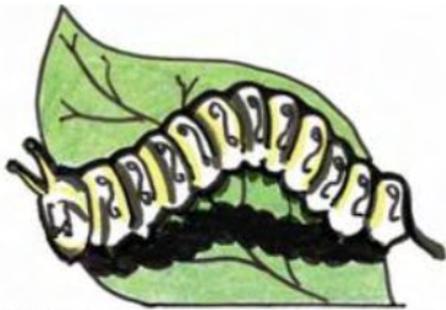
# COMMUNITIES GROWING TOGETHER

November 2021

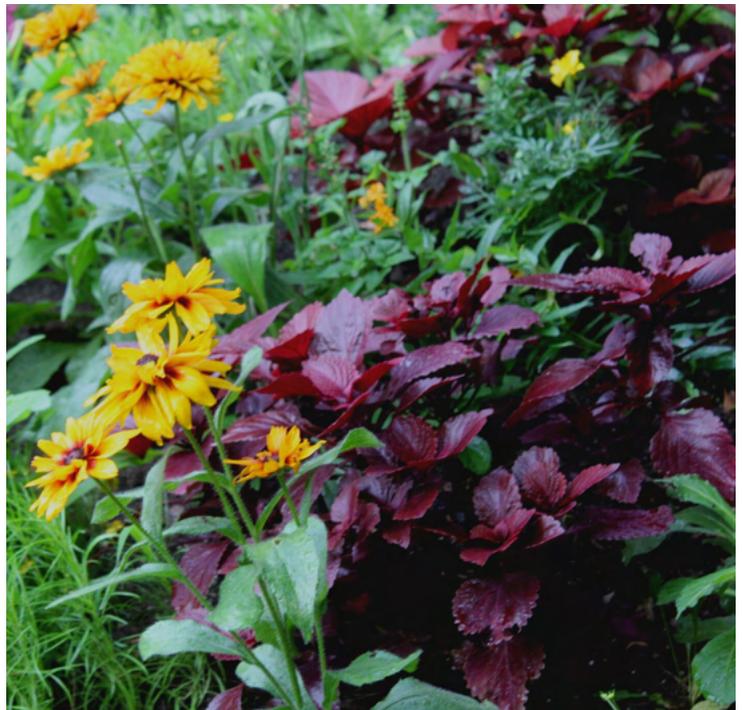
# GIFFORD'S GARDENS

## YOUTH GARDEN

LEARN  
WORK  
PLAY  
LIVE



GIFFORD PARK  
Youth Garden



November 2021

# COMMUNITY GARDEN

It was an exceptional year for beauty at the Gifford Park Community Garden! We had more flowers, bees and butterflies than usual, and while organized events are still not back to what they were pre-Covid, each day the garden facilitated community among gardeners and non-gardeners alike, providing a peaceful, beautiful place for recreation, rest, creating and conversing.

Thanks to the generous help of the Iowa Western Softball Team and their coach Ben Greer, we were able to clean up a lot of the garden and sow some cover crops in the space of just a few hours. We are very grateful for the time and energy this team has volunteered for the past several years now.

In our last newsletter, the Joseph Garvey and Karynn Kucera family were noted for their son August being our youngest "gardener." This newsletter, we get to congratulate Joseph on his first-place win at the St. Cecilia Cathedralfest Chili Cookoff, using peppers and tomatoes from their community garden plot! Congratulations, Joseph and family!



PLAY  
LEARN  
LIVE  
WORK

And although Chris Stubenrauch's tomatoes did not place at the Grand Island County Fair, we are pleased and proud to hear that Gifford Park tomatoes traveled all the way across Nebraska!

Many other gardeners shared their produce in various ways this growing season! For me, it was especially fun to pick a large bowl of cherry tomatoes for sharing nearly every day, and to come back the next day to find them gone! Several times I was told by parents that their kids sat at the picnic table and ate them "like candy." Now there's a healthy "dessert"!

To find out more about our garden, call, text or email Chris Foster at 402-290-8187 ([foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net)) or Rose Carlson at 402-639-5952 ([rhcarlson4@yahoo.com](mailto:rhcarlson4@yahoo.com)).

# MOVIE NIGHT AT HOME

## BY PASSIVE PESSIMIST

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Should I leave some meaningful signs on the paper with the tip of a pen; push the buttons of the keyboard where the cursor is; hit furiously the letters of a typewriter till they bump into the black band in order? Should I vibrate the cords embedded in throat; stretch them roughly with all air in lungs until feeling hoarse? Or just content with electrical transmissions between neurons but not deliver any to the muscle ones? Beep!

How long to wait? Until feeling so full that nothing more fit into? Till the water-well inside overflows? How come one knows self-matured enough? Matured enough to counsel, to criticize, to judge, to punish... As if, always on the right side; no, correction: as if, the right is always on their side. Or in the depths of sophomoric fallacy, pretending to be wise.

Why do I feel so empty? Things are so unorganized in my head. Faces, names, dates, places, events... Emptiness surrounds me. As if I am ten feet apart from my body. Looking at the world as a theatric stage. A stage, full of supernumeraries, but lack of leading characters. Pop!

I'm under a single streetlight, elsewhere is utter darkness. Air is so damp almost wet and cold wind whips. I feel all alone. Where did everybody go? Why is this place deserted? Running around in circles in panic. I don't even know what to look for. I can't leave the dim light though. Now I understand why the bugs flying around the light want to go inside of the bulb even though they know that they will burn. It is the -darkness and cold- they are trying to escape, not that they are attracted to the light or heat! If only I found a stray cat at least. Would it let me follow him? Maybe he could take me to his family. Look at that tiny weed sprouting between sidewalks. It seems like it knows exactly what it is supposed to do. I wish I could be it. Small, insignificant but determined on the designated task. Pop-pop!

How did I get here? Oh, I remember. I was going to be an important man! Maybe not big enough to change the course of human history but in my own kinda way I could make a contribution. I was motivated, believed. Worse than that, I was told or made to have faith that I would succeed.



WORK  
LEARN  
LIVE  
PLAY

Everything was going well on its path from my perspective. I played my part, not as best as I could but relatively better. It was my exertion of twenty years. Then all of a sudden, as if the timeline cracked and an alternative future started. And I had no intention to buy or use the Grays Sports Almanac at all. I didn't even know that such a thing existed. It was horrible and devastating to remove my past just like taking off an old jacket. Then I realized that it was all power and wealth that mattered. I felt extremely disgusted and disappointed about people who sold themselves. Pop-pop, pop, pop-pop!

Then again, who am I to judge others? Even, who am I here to tell you things, wasting your time? I can't prove that I was right, or I am right. I am not here to claim anything, yet to convince you. I will try to play the second half of my life, hoping not to get substituted. Beep!

Ah, the microwave is finished...  
Now I can continue to watch Back to the Future 2...

# A NEW LIFE IN THE U.S.

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Hi neighbors from Gifford Park! I'm David, a Spanish exchange student who ended up in this city in the middle of the United States.

The truth is that being here is a spectacular experience, a completely different country with a different culture. First of all, I have to congratulate you on the great community and neighborhood you have, the activities you do here are unimaginable for a Spanish neighborhood.

For now, America is looking incredible to me. From Europe, we always see it from movies and cities like New York or Los Angeles, but for me Omaha is also a movie city. I fell in love with Downtown and the Old Market!

Besides, there is a lot of diversity in this city, there are people of many nationalities and I like that because I can learn from other cultures at the same time as the American culture.

I sincerely believe that for a European, coming to America is a rather strong cultural shock: schedules, food and people are different, the high school is like in films with an educational system very different from the Spanish one. Finally, I must say that even if the United States seems to me to be a great country, it will never outweigh Spain in gastronomy! Haha!

I hope to continue enjoying my experience in Omaha and in this neighborhood now that winter begins and I will have to face the winter of Nebraska. I would love to meet you and I will be glad to answer questions you may have about Spain.

I also have a YouTube channel where I'm posting everything about my experience, the name is David.P

A greeting,  
David



WORK  
LEARN  
PLAY



November 2021

# GPNA ANNUAL HOLIDAY BANQUET

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WHEN

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Doors open- 5:30

Dinner & program- 6pm

WHERE

Duchesne Academy  
Enter on the south side  
3601 Burt Street

CONTACT

Susan Mayberger  
susan.mayberger@gmail.com  
Email by: November 18th

RSVP with full name and  
GPNA membership status  
(member or non member)

happy  
holidays!

We are in for a treat as dinner will be prepared by the wonderful Stanley Family.

This event will be limited to 100 participants this year as a COVID precaution.

Thank you for being part of the wonderful Gifford Park Neighborhood!

# GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Note: the GPNA board has been calling these "editorials" instead of "letters to the editor." This is not technically correct because editorials are written by the editorial staff of the newsletter. Most of our editorials aka letters to the editor are from neighbors.

What is a letter to the editor compared to a regular old article? Letters to the editor are mostly opinion as compared to articles which are mostly fact.

Newsletter review committee: The newsletter review committee shall be the person(s) who create the newsletter and at least one member of the board. Lately, the full board has been reviewing editorials, but this review can be done by a smaller group of people. The newsletter review committee can decide its process of communicating with neighbors who submit letters to the editor about edits to their submission, etc.

Values: The Gifford Park newsletter letter to the editor section is a forum available to all who live in the neighborhood. It is the goal of the newsletter review committee to allow anyone who wants to submit an editorial to have that editorial published if that letter is in line within the guidelines below.

Guidelines: (some items below are adapted and borrowed from HereToHelp 2019)

GPNA will only print letters that address a specific issue, theme, or article.

Letters may not be more than a single page of the newsletter. The letter can be words, pictures, or other images as the author decides to express themselves.

GPNA will not print more than one letter per issue per writer.

Letters do not necessarily need to be edited for style, clarity, or grammar. This is to preserve the author's intent. To provide clarity to readers, the newsletter review committee may suggest edits to the author.

Letters do not necessarily need to be in any particular language. The newsletter review committee will work with the author and others to translate the letter to English as well. Both versions of the letter will be printed and each version can have the allotted single page per letter.

Final determination of whether a letter is published is made by the newsletter review committee.

GPNA will not print:

Letters that incite physical violence.

Letters that are threatening. This includes personal attacks, intimidation, bullying or threat of harm against a person or organization.

Letters that make false statements of fact about other people. These letters would be potentially libelous. You can disagree with someone, but you can't claim they did something damaging unless you can prove it.

Discriminatory on any grounds. This includes discrimination based on age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, religion or culture.

Letter that are obscene. This includes any statement that is vulgar, profane or offensive.

Letters that are promotional. Letters cannot promote products or services. Letters may discuss resources that have helped the author if it is specific to the neighborhood or if it refers to another newsletter article. Promotion of products or services is advertising, and the newsletter provides other routes for advertising.

Letters that discuss any candidate for public office. This is because GPNA is a 501(c)3.

Personal Information:

The author must provide their full name or alias. The name is printed alongside your letter.

Anonymous letters will not be published.

If the letter identifies another person, the GPNA prefers that person is asked for their permission before the author sends their letter to the GPNA. For example, if you the author shares a personal experience and mentions a family member, GPNA hopes that family members was asked permission to identify them in the letter. When you submit a letter to GPNA, we assume that the author received consent from other people. GPNA reserves the right to edit any letter to protect personal identity.

Any letter containing matters of personal or financial interest to the author must be disclosed by the author.

Editorial due date: The deadline for submission of editorials is the first of the month.

# DRAFT BUDGET FOR APPROVAL

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association  
 Budget for approval by membership  
 For the calendar year 2022  
 Submitted November 2021

**Cash balances as of October 2021**

Checking	\$31,313	
Certificate of Deposit 1	2,769	
Certificate of Deposit 2	2,522	
Donor restricted funds on hand		
Yates Illuminates		\$6,450
OCF Grants		5,182
Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Grant 2021		1,500
Tennis Camp		2,781
Bank account balance		
General funds on hand		\$20,691

	2022 Budget	2021 Budget
<b>Donations &amp; revenue</b>		
<b>Unspecified</b>		
Memberships	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,500
<b>Donations</b>		
Banquet (donation stimulated by banquet)	5,000	5,000
Other unrestricted donations	6,300	4,600
Misc. other	50	50
Newsletter ads	600	600
<b>Specified</b>		
Neighborhood Market	-	-
Cultural Event/33rd Friday	200	200
Porchfest	2,500	
Easter Egg Hunt (matched)	500	500
Yates Illuminates	-	5,000
Tennis (matched)	400	400
Soccer camp	250	250
Garden & Adventure Playground	300	300
Garden plot fees	420	420
Membership outreach and development	100	100
Holiday Market	100	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 18,420</b>	<b>\$ 19,020</b>

<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>General</b>		
Banquet	3,000	3,000
Newsletter printing and other flyer printing	3,000	1,200
Postage	500	300
Cultural Event/33rd Friday	500	500
Post office box & bank fees	200	200
Organization memberships & sponsorships	300	300
Email subscription service	150	250
Meeting expenses	120	120
Digital promotion	-	-
Insurance	1,000	1,000
GPNA Board discretionary	1,000	600
<b>Specific</b>		
Facilitation for vision, diversity, and inclusion	-	1,750
Neighborhood Market	150	-
Easter Egg Hunt (matched)	500	500
OCF Grant 2020	-	-
OCF Grant 2021	-	-
MNA Mini-Grant 2021 (Yates tables & Chairs)	-	-
Yates Illuminates (Speaker System, etc.)	1,500	5,000
MCC Scholarship	500	-
Facility rental fees for neighborhood meetings	100	100
Flower pots	100	-
Soccer camp	500	500
Garden & Adventure Playground	1,200	1,200
Basketball	100	100
Porchfest music festival	3,500	500
Translation services for events	1,500	-
Park events (Halloween, park cleanup, portapotty)	1,500	400
Tree care	1,000	1,000
Membership outreach and development	100	100
Tennis (matched)	400	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,420</b>	<b>\$19,020</b>
<b>Total change in net assets</b>	<b>\$ (4,000)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Additional items contingent on sale of Yates for Yates Illuminates</b>		
Pledge to Yates Illuminates, LLC (as coordinated by Weit	(5,200)	(5,200)
CD's held by GPNA	5,200	5,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP FUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD FUN!**

FOR THOSE ABLE AND INSPIRED TO GIVE, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN GPNA BY FILLING OUT THE FORM ON THE BACK PAGE AND SEND TO PO BOX 31462

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-BUILDING IN GIFFORD PARK!

**\$10 SINGLE**  
**\$15 FAMILY**  
**\$25 BUSINESS**

Vision: To make Gifford Park Neighborhood a great place for everyone to live, work, learn, and play.

**GPNA Goals 2022**

1. To have greater inclusion in all neighborhood activities.
2. To continually improve the relationships between Creighton students and the neighborhood.
3. To organize with the neighborhood and developers to keep GP a great place to live, work, and play.
4. To maintain green spaces: Turner Park North, Gifford Park, New and old trees, Boys Town's Green Space.
5. To improve GPNA digital presence: upgrade website with a 'donate now' button.
6. To increase GPNA Membership and 'Meet your Street events.'
7. To support 'Yates Illuminates' as a community space.
8. To create a program, event, and meeting calendar for the year! Shareable online!
9. To collaborate on skate park project, roller skating, and other community amenities in Gifford Park.
10. To send a neighborhood wide bulk mailing once per year.

**Board Roster 2022 for approval of membership:**

President

Alex Goswami

Vice President

Wendell Stanley

Treasurer

Marie H el ene Andr e

Secretary

Susan Mayberger

At-large

Rose Carlson

Cynthia Frasier

Martin Janousek

Brent Lubbert

Zedeka Poindexter

MC Raterman



Photograph submitted by Allison O'Brien



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)            \_\_\_ 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.