

# **Gifford Park's Pride**

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

March 2011

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

#### Spring Cleanup Planned For May

The GPNA will be holding the annual spring clean-up on Saturday May 21, 2011, in the Gifford Park parking lot north of 34<sup>th</sup> and Davenport, from 9:00AM to 2:00 PM. We will have vouchers available for tree limbs and brush. We will be accepting appliances, although there will be a nominal charge for appliances containing Freon. We will also be accepting tires for a small charge, but they must be dismounted from the rims. We will also have information available about a refrigerator recycling program sponsored by OPPD. If you have a working refrigerator, 10-32 cu. foot capacity that you no longer need, OPPD will have the refrigerator removed, free of charge, and send you a \$35 rebate check. Further information will be available in the May newsletter.

by Jim Wilwerding



OPERATION PLAYGROUND BENEFIT

Friday, March 18th

4 pm - 10 pm ad this organization is our community. Date in or To Co

**GPNA** Spring Cleanup Saturday, May 21 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

For more

information

about this

benefit for

the play-

renovation

project in

Gifford

Park, see

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ground

**Next General Meeting** 

Thursday, March 10

**Guest Speaker: Jim Suttle** Mayor of Omaha

7:00 P.M.

**Creighton University Medical Center** Morrison Seminar Room

**Executive Meeting** Thursday, March 24 7 P.M. at the Larson's 3565 California St.

Mark Your Calendars!

22nd Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 23, Noon At Gifford Park See The April GPNA



Newsletter For More Information

Don't Forget! Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 13th



#### 2011

#### **GPNA OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT Luther Larson 330-3286 VICE PRESIDENT Jill Westfall 213-3105 SECRETARY Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575 TREASURER Diane Kaye 341-4146

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

AT LARGE: Andy Matthews 201-3382 AT LARGE Kevin Deese 216-9373 BUSINESS Martin Janousek 558-4070 LANDLORD Chris Foster 342-6006 GARDEN LIASON Joy Doll 960-8138

#### COMMITTEES

COMPLIANCE/PARKING VIOLATIONS Leo Wilwerding 345-1433 **HISTORIAN** Eva Swanson 345-1707 **MEMBERSHIP** Stuart Shell 216-1235 **NEWSLETTER** Sue Wilwerding 342-2795 NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION Chris Foster 342-6006 PARK Sandy & Roger Freeman 557-2914 **PUBLIC RELATIONS** Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575 WEEDS & LITTER Jim Wilwerding 551-1344 **WELCOMING** Julie Kalkowski 342-2103

Editor's note: If you have something that would be of interest to our neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for our monthly newsletter. Editorials must be approved by the GPNA Executive Board. Articles can be mailed to P.O. Box 31462 Omaha, NE 68131; please include your name and phone number. Contact Sue Wilwerding (342-2795) or Chris Foster (342-6006).

### From The President . . .

Walking through the neighborhood everyday provides me with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the neighborhood along with a stress-free commute. For those of you who don't know, I work at Mutual of Omaha and walk to and from work daily, taking different routes through the neighborhood. I know that I am not alone as I have met many neighbors that also walk and/or ride their bike to their place of employment. Being close to the ground and moving at a slow rate of speed, I also have the opportunity to notice some things that could be improved. The simple thing would be for every resident to pitch in and pick up trash that is left on sidewalks and the street curb. The more difficult improvement will be getting property owners to replace and/or repair broken and deteriorated sidewalks. This is where I believe we can come together as a neighborhood association to leverage our resources and buying power to improve sidewalks. I am currently working to identify reasonably priced resources that could help if you are a do-it-yourselfer. If you are one who likes to have someone else do the work, we are looking to coordinate contractors that would provide discounts for the neighborhood, since they would have multiple jobs within a short distance of each other. If you are interested in being part the neighborhood sidewalk improvement program, please indicate so on the membership form on the back of this newsletter or email me at <u>lutherlar@cox.net</u>. Please continue to provide me input as to what you would like to see the neighborhood association do for Gifford Park and remember to complete your membership form (if you have not already done so).

by Luther Larson

### **Greetings From The Garden**

Welcome to the impending spring! All of us gardeners are chomping at the bit to begin gardening and get out there, but in **Diane Kaye's** wisdom, she reminds us that it is not wise to plant until May. Fear not; you can begin signing up for your garden plots soon. We hope to release the garden plot information to last year's plot owners by March 15th. A waiting list will be started for others interested in a plot. The garden has been through a remodel and we will be releasing this information at our garden opening. Some plot owners will need a new plot due to the remodel.

Due to an increase in fees by MUD, plot fees will be going up \$10. The small plots will be \$15 and the large plots will be \$25. You also have to be a GPNA member to have a plot as the garden is a program of the GPNA. We also are exploring partnerships with some local restaurants including The Daily Grub and The Grey Plume to bring in some more revenue to the garden.

Please plan to attend our **Gifford Park Garden Opening** on **Saturday, May 7th**. More details to come. We also will have monthly Garden Parties. Your Gifford Park Community Garden Advisory Board is working hard for you. Who is on your Board? **Joy Doll** - Director, **Diane Kaye** - Treasurer, **Chris Foster** -Property Manager, Plot Coordinator - open, Children's Garden Coordinators -**Dana Freeman** and **Sue Freeman**.

Want to help? We always need volunteers! Please email Joy at joyot@Juno.com

by Joy Doll

For City Services, Information, or Complaints Call: Mayor's Action Office 444-5555



# What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

Congratulations to GPNA member and resident **Daniel Lawse** for being selected as one of this year's Ten Outstanding Young Omahans. Daniel was honored by the Omaha Jaycees at a dinner January 26 at Qwest Center Omaha. The award, given since 1933, honors people between the ages of 21 and 40 who strive for excellence and have a strong commitment to community service and personal and professional development. Daniel is the coordinator of sustainable practices at Metropolitan Community College. He also is the founder of Omaha's first sustainability consulting firm, the Verdis Group, which helps organizations make true green decisions. His civic and professional affiliations include: Environment Omaha, Activate Omaha's Leadership Team, Omaha By Design's Livability Roundtable and the City of Omaha Transportation Master Planning Committee. He is a founding member of the Green Neighborhood Council and the Green Omaha Coalition. Daniel, along with his wife Andrea and daughter Adarin, are active with the GPNA and community garden. Thanks Daniel for helping our Gifford Park neighborhood be selected as this year's Omaha's "Greenest Neighborhood". Congratulations, Daniel!

Unfortunately there is no longer a local neighborhood site for free tax help formerly lead by GPNA member and volunteer **Jackie Foster**. Many thanks to Jackie for organizing volunteers for the past 16 years to provide this service. However, there are many sites in Omaha providing free tax help. AARP lists site

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## **Outdoor Market Returns**

The Gifford Park Business District will again be the place for this summer's open air market. Last summer we had people selling fruits and vegetables, t-shirts, jewelry, and flea market items. One individual who attended many of last summer's Friday evening markets referred to it as "Gifford Park's own French Street Market". We hope we can live up to those worldly standards again. Since we decided to continue it this summer, we've received interest from a variety of entrepreneurs along with a handful of local gardeners who want to sell their wares and produce. Similar to last year, the Neighborhood Association will pay for the peddler's permit and invited people to set up a table and tent during the designated market hours. There is no cost to the vendor but stall space will be limited. If you or someone you know is interested in participating please call Martin Janousek (402-558-4070) for more information.



Call today to schedule a visit in the Academy or Preschool!

3601 Burt Street • Omaha, NE 68131 • 402-558-3800 www.duchesneacademy.org

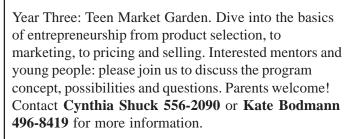
#### Yates Community Center A Busy Place This Winter

Through the cold weather, Yates has remained busy with learning of all types! In addition to the five pre-K classrooms on the first floor, many adult refugees are active in programs ranging from life skills like sewing and reading to GED courses and citizenship education. Of note is a series of books published with support by **Susan Mayberger** in the native language of refugees. Being authored by refugees, the books are culturally relevant to newcomers. These books originating at Yates have been useful for the entire city, with several copies at library branches.

At the recent GPNA General Meeting, Susan described many of the programs at the school and led a tour of the building. Thanks, Susan, for your work at Yates which has filled a building with life and the excitement of learning!

by Stuart Shell

## Teen Market Garden Informational Meeting March 12, 2011 1:30pm – 2:00pm Location: Benson Library, 6015 Binney Street





#### Gifford Park Is Omaha's "Greenest" Neighborhood

After coming in second two years in a row, Gifford Park is officially Omaha's "Greenest" Neighborhood as selected by the Green Omaha Coalition. A resource list has been developed to further help residents green their neighborhoods:

1. To organize a cleanup contact Keep Omaha Beautiful: www.keepomahabeautiful.org or 444-7774

2. For a guide to get you started in back/front yard composting, visit University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension: www.extension.unl.edu. Go to the top right corner of the page, click on "UNL Extension Publications" and search *compost*. Guide No. G810. Share it with your neighbors.

3. To get a free recycling bin (or more than one), contact City of Omaha Solid Waste Management at 444-5238 or visit: www.wasteline.org

4. Find the nearest recycling drop-off center at www.wasteline.org 5. To find resources for buying locally grown/produced food check out the Buy Fresh Buy Local directory at www.buylocalnebraska.org. Also visit www.localharvest.org.

6. To learn more about growing your own food, visit Kitchen Gardeners International at www.kitchengardeners.org and the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society at www.nebsusag.org

7. For help starting a community garden contact American Community Gardening Association www.communitygarden.org, City Sprouts www.omahasprouts.org / 402-502-5902 or the Big Garden Project: www.gardenbig.org / 402-898-9862

8. To get free plastic discs to install on your storm water drains, contact Keep Omaha Beautiful: www.keepomahabeautiful.org or 444-7774.
9. Sweeping up any granules from your sidewalk or driveway will keep chemicals from entering your local waterways. For more information on keeping your streams healthy by managing storm water, visit: www.omahacso.com and www.papiopartnership.org.

10. To buy a rain barrel check your local garden/hardware store or make your own. To find rain barrel instructions visit the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District website at www.papionrd.org. Click on the "Water Quality" tab on the left - go to the bottom of the page and open "Build Your Own Rain Barrel"

11. To learn how to make your own rain garden, visit UNL Extension: www.extension.unl.edu. Go to the top right corner of the page, click on "UNL Extension Publications" and search *rain gardens*. A series of three documents are posted; G1758, G1759, and G1760.

12. Remember to visit the Walk Score website: www.walkscore.com 13. To reduce your reliance on cars, check out Metro Area RideShare to coordinate carpooling to and from your office. www.metrorideshare.org 14. To see bus schedules, routes, and bus fares, visit: www.metroareatransit.com

15. Check out Omaha's most up-to-date bike map from Activate Omaha: www.activateomaha.org or 934-5923 and visit www.omahatrails.com.

16. Conduct your own home energy assessment, go to www.hes.lbl.gov. For more information about how to be energy efficient check out www.energystar.gov and www.energysavers.gov

17. Visit the websites of these local organizations/agencies to learn more about healthy living: Douglas County Health Department www.douglascountyhealth.com, Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance www.omahahealthykids.org, and Live Well Omaha Kids: www.livewellomahakids.org

#### Spring Is In The Air At A.V. Sorensen Community Center 4808 Cass St. 402-444-5596

• Below is a list of some of our special events

Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> is our annual senior brunch potluck 10:30 – 12:30 pm.

Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2:30 pm March Madness Basketball Shoot-out. Easter Egg Hunt Thursday, April 20th 11:00 am for ages 5 and under • Monday nights is Youth Dodgeball 6:45 - 8:00 pm FREE

• Thursday's Tots & Parents Gym Time 10:30 – 12:00 pm Kids are free adults are only \$1.00

• School's Out Art & Craft Camp Thurs., March 10<sup>th</sup>

Fri., March 11<sup>th</sup>

Mon., March 21<sup>st</sup> Thurs., March 24<sup>th</sup>

Fri., March 25<sup>th</sup>

Time: 10:00 - 2:00 pm Limited spots available - call your friends and sign up together.

• Beginners Belly Dance Every Wednesday 7:15 - 8:15 pm

• Senior Yoga Class Every Saturday 10:00 am (new class starts this Saturday)

• Jazzercise - full schedule everyday of the week. New hours on Sunday's 8:30 - 9:30 am

• Tae Kwon Do - Next session begins March 17<sup>th</sup> - Thursday evenings Don't forget about our weight room daily drop in fee is only \$3.00 or you can buy 10 visit punch card for \$15.00 and 20 visits for \$25.00. Must have a current registration card on file with a picture id.

Kristi Peitzmeier

A.V. Sorensen Community Center 4808 Cass Street Omaha, NE 68132 402-444-5596 http://www.cityofomaha.org/parks/ recreation "Keeping Omaha Active"

# Ed Osterhaus Honored At Holiday Banguet

Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, the following article was unable to be included in last month's newletter with the other Holiday Banquet stories.

This year's Holiday Banquet was host to holiday revely, fellowship, and affirmation of all things positive in our neighborhood. During the banquet Ed Osterhaus was recognized for his countless contributions to our neighborhood! Only a brief detail of Ed is noted below, but his smiles, stories, and personality shined even brighter when he addressed the Holiday Banquet crowd!

#### Ed's Bio:

- Ed Osterhaus, owned & operated American Printing located at 3229 California St. from 1968-2010.

- As a child Ed lived at 27th St. and Burt St. and at 28th St. and Capitol Avenue. He fondly remembers visiting the Circle Theater for Saturday morning serials, where he enjoyed western short films.

- Ed graduated from Technical High School in 1952, where he studied vocational printing, was involved in danceband, golf, and was part of the Tech High news staff.

- Ed and his wife Sheila have 6 children and 20 grandchildren.

My connection to Ed: I met Ed one afternoon while walking home from Creighton. I knocked on his door and introduced myself. My curiosity had been growing ever since the first time I peeked through his windows. What I saw was a **mechanical jungle** and often times a gentleman with white hair diligently at work. Ed's vibe was encouraging and happy; smiles come easily to Ed. There in the jungle, I learned about furniture (not the type for your home), typeface, the old Linotype machine, and even how the molten reservoir of lead is kept at 540 °F. But most of all, I noticed Ed's mechanical competency and his work ethic. Ed's Jungle shop/ occupation/ career/ and income base ended in December 2009.

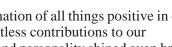
American Printing: The building was located in between California Tacos and the Shelterbelt Theatre. The building had operated as the Grass Shack Cafe up until the late 1960's, later purchased by Ed to become American Printing. Regarding business in our neighborhood, Ed mentioned that he found the location very convenient. He only experienced 2 minor incidents, both regarding panhandlers, but overall found there to be no challenges regarding location. At the Holiday Banquet, Ed's wife Sheila enjoyed a laugh while recalling stories of Ed telling stories to their children about a **pet alligator** in American Printing's basement!

Ed's contribution to our neighborhood: Honesty and ethical business practices were so important to Ed, always giving scrutiny to what he printed, never to promote libel or negativity. Also, in the early days of the GPNA, Ed printed our neighborhood newsletter and membership cards. He mentioned he never made much money, but in spite of this, his experience and contribution certainly affected our neighborhood.

**On a lighter note**: A post-it note above Ed's desk read, "An empty desk is the sign of an empty mind." I asked Ed if his kids enjoyed spending time at the shop...he said with a smile, "the kids would come down to get butter cookies from the bakery next door".

During the Holiday Banquet, Ed received a Christmas ornament in the shape of his printer's mark from American Printing longtime neighbor and master ornament maker Bob Hutton!

by Emerick Huber







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#### Last Summer's Visit of Tibetan **Monks to Gifford Park**

Gaden Shartse Monastery was founded in 1409 C.E. It is one of the three most renowned Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, with a deep emphasis on education. After the Chinese invasion of Tibet in the 1950's, the monks confronted great hardship to reestablish the monastery in a refugee community in India, where it now flourishes. For the past 20 years, Gaden Shartse monks have visited Omaha, where they have made many friends, as part of The Sacred Earth Healing Arts Tour, an international mission blessed by His Holiness The Fourteenth Dalai Lama, to promote peace, compassion, and tolerance, to preserve and share Tibet's cultural heritage through cultural exchange, and to raise funds to help support educational and medical needs of the monastery itself and the surrounding refugee community. And on August 7 of last summer, the monks visited Gifford Park!

Anyone passing the Green Space at 30th Street between Cass and Cottage Grove on that hot, dusty Saturday morning, would have seen a beautiful. refreshing vision! To the lovely sound of tinkling bells, and peaceful, deep-throated chanting, the monks-their maroon and saffron robes jewel-like upon the emerald grass-were seated cross-legged beneath the trees that swayed and whispered to delicious, cool breezes. The monks invoked the 21 Emanations of the female Buddha Green Tara to bless and protect the Green Space, the Neighborhood, the Earth, and all beings. It was lovely. Everyone who stopped by noticed that as soon as the monks were gone, the welcome breezes vanished with them, and the oppressive heat of the day resumed its sway!

The monks' visit was impromptu, and so unfortunately, there was no time to invite everyone. Next time, we'll plan in advance, so that the whole neighborhood can come! Thanks to friends **Roxanne** and **Dan Wach**, we do have wonderful photographs and even some video of the occasion.

The monks' tour has been hosted for many years by the Omaha Healing Arts Center in the Old Market. The monks are also scheduled to visit Creighton University's Asian World Center in September 2011, where, as always, they will present a variety of fascinating programs and colorful events giving Omahans an opportunity to experience Tibetan culture! To learn more about these summer visitors to Gifford Park, visit www.gadenshartsetour.org and www.gadenshartse.net

by Richard White and Clarinda Karpov

I'm sure like a lot of people around Gifford Park right now, we here at the Community Bike Project are gearing up for spring—which can't come soon enough, as far as we're are concerned! We've been busy renovating the shop on 33rd and are also active around town, planning and running a variety of programs. Soon, we'll even be back on our regular schedule, with our "winter hours" behind us!

We've spent a lot of time cleaning up and organizing our shop at 525 North 33rd Street, getting ready for the busy season with the tremendous help of our terrific volunteers, old and new. Bike parts are sorted, piles are put away, lights have been added, some new energy-efficient windows have been installed, and a set of refurbished bikes are ready to get out the door. On top of all that, our generous landlords have allowed us to expand our operations to include half of the 2nd floor of the building, which we are quickly converting into a classroom/conference room and even an office. One of the things we'll use the upstairs for is to hold adult classes on bike safety and urban riding-which we're organizing through Metropolitan Community College, and in cooperation with Omaha Bikes. There'll be more details soon: check out the next MCC mailer when you get it! We're also continuing our bike repair and mechanics classes at the shop, held every other Tuesday, where you can learn everything from changing a flat tire to rebuilding a bottom bracket. Check out the CBPO website for details.

Outside the shop, we've started teaching kids about bike safety, too, in a pilot project at Western Hills magnet school, in cooperation with Omaha Bikes. We've got 10 students from grades 4-6, and after 2 classes, I can say they seem to be enjoying it! We hope to expand this program in the future, so that more kids can learn about bike safety—whether they can come to classes at our shop or we go to them in the schools. And of course, we'll make sure that they all have access to bikes and helmets, too.

Lots more is in the works, too, but for now, I'll just finish by inviting you to our Spring Open House, Sunday, April 17th, from 11am-3pm. We hope you'll stop by, see what we've been doing with our shop, check out our fancy upstairs expansion, enjoy some refreshments, and hopefully a beautiful spring day, too!

> by Matt Martin, *Executive Director* Community Bicycle Project

Happy

St. Patrick's Day!

# **CBPO Update**





# California Tacos & More

Homemade Mexican Food 342-0212 33rd & California Street Dine In or Carry Out <u>Hours:</u>

Monday - Saturday: 11a.m. - 8 p.m. Closed Sunday

Hello Neighbors!

Please mark your calendars for this fundraising event! On **Friday March 18** Noodles & Company and Creighton University are hosting a fundraiser for YOUR new playground, coming soon! Creighton students have been working very hard on a project to replace the old structure at 35<sup>th</sup> and Davenport. The project that we named Operation Playground started last January, with a few Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Pharmacy students who wanted to do community service for the surrounding Omaha area. Operation Playground aims to create a positive partnership between Creighton and our Omaha neighbors, and to also promote service, community involvement, and healthy lifestyles for families and generations to come. For more information on this project, please contact Maria Doyle (<u>mariadoyle@creighton.edu</u>) to make a donation or to learn about upcoming events!

The delicious Noodles & Co. wants to help Gifford Park and Creighton to make Operation Playground possible. We will receive 25% of the profits! Please read the details below, and come out and support this project!

**What?** Operation Playground fundraiser...to raise money for the new playground **Where**? Noodles & Company, located at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge

When? Friday March 18 4:00pm-10:00pm

**How**? All you have to do is eat dinner\* or place a carry-out order at Noodles & Co. between the above hours. Just mention "Operation Playground" to the cashier, and they will donate 25% of each purchase to the cause! Make SURE you say that you want your purchase to go towards OP...don't forget!

\*There are plenty of vegetarian and fish options for those who will be observing Lent.

Thank you for your support! We hope to see you at Noodles on the 18<sup>th</sup>! Sincerely,

The Operation Playground Team at Creighton

# What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . . continued from page 3

information on their website (www.nebraskataxaide.org then select "Omaha Area Tax Preparation Sites") or call (402) 398-9568.

Beginning this spring **Dina White** would like to start a walking group with other interested neighbors. Dina is working on the details but would like to hear from anyone interested. This is a great way to get exercise, fresh air, meet friends and neighbors, and see our neighborhood on foot. For more information about joining this walking group, please contact Dina at **402-964-2497** or **activemom@cox.net** 

There were a couple of address errors regarding December's Holiday Decorating that I wanted to correct: **624 N 33rd** should have been listed instead of 622 N 33rd. And 3413 Webster was inadvertently listed, but regardless is still a beautiful home! Sorry for the confusion. Chris Foster

Congratulations to first-time grandparents **Terry & Sue Wilwerding** (our GPNA newsletter editor) and parents **Josh & Julie Wilwerding Gortemaker** on the birth of baby **Jacob John**. He was born on Feb. 4th in Grand Island, Nebraska. Congratulations also to GPNA members **Brian & Millie Smith** for their new baby **Elgin** born in January. Their other young son **Abram** is now a big brother!

Special thanks to **Brad Bogard** (**California Tacos**) for providing the chips and fountain drinks for the Membership Social Gathering on March 1st.

	lembership Application 4200908.00
Gifford F	Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)
The GPNA M	embership Year runs from January 1 through December 31.
Type of Membership: Sin	ngle (\$10.00) Family (\$15.00) Business (\$25.00)
Today's Date:	
Name (1):	E-Mail (1):
Name (2):	E-Mail (2):
Name (3):	E-Mail (3):
Name (4):	E-Mail (4):
Name (5):	E-Mail (5):
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City:	State: Zip Code:
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Volunteer Opportuni	ities! I am interested in helping out with
Cleanup/Beautification N Membership B Social Activities H Landlord/Tenant Issues V	ities! I am interested in helping out with  Please indicate areas of interest:  Newsletter Delivery Community Garden Easter Egg Hunt  Nock Captain Youth Garden Spring Cleanup  Natch Group Tree Planting Fall Cleanup  Vatch Group Youth Activities Neighborhood Walks Call Committee Tennis Program Holiday Banquet
Cleanup/Beautification N Membership B Social Activities H Landlord/Tenant Issues V School Liaison C Tool Lending Mail check or money order with this	Please indicate areas of interest:         Newsletter Delivery       Community Garden       Easter Egg Hunt         Block Captain       Youth Garden       Spring Cleanup         History       Tree Planting       Fall Cleanup         Watch Group       Youth Activities       Neighborhood Walks
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Cleanup/Beautification	Please indicate areas of interest:         Newsletter Delivery       Community Garden         Slock Captain       Youth Garden         distory       Tree Planting         Natch Group       Youth Activities         Call Committee       Tennis Program         completed Membership Application Form to:       Gibborhood Association