



Gifford Park's Pride

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

July/August 2012

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Community Garden Update

Anyone with vegetable or flower gardens has experienced the challenges of this summer's very hot & dry weather and our Gifford Park Community Garden at 35th & Cass shares this pain. We periodically fill the 275 gallon rainwater collection totes we installed last year with city water and we have been using this method since June. This lets gardeners water their plots anytime as long as there is water in the totes. Relatively speaking, most of our vegetable and flower gardens are doing ok. Hopefully we will receive decent rain soon.

Saturday, July 21 we had the first of two pot luck dinners on the community garden. Over 70 adults and children attended to celebrate efforts involving the community garden, youth garden program and "friends" of the garden. Kudos to our garden cook Neil Liberty for again grilling the burgers and hot dogs.

We continue to have work nights each Wednesday 6 to 8 PM through the growing season. During these times water and garden tools are 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 what's growing or see neighborhood friends. At this time we have all 32 family plots filled. Contact Mike Caban ([402-341-4722](tel:402-341-4722), caban3321@cox.net) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster ([402-290-8187](tel:402-290-8187), foster3413@cox.net) for any other community garden questions.



Next General Meeting
Tuesday, August 7
National Night Out

7:00 pm
California Taco - 33rd and California



Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale

On Saturday, June 9 the Gifford Park Neighborhood held a neighborhood-wide garage sale. Very hot weather and fewer donations seemed to slow sales. The GPNA paid for an ad in the Omaha World Herald to promote garage sales in the Gifford Park Neighborhood. This year's garage sale raised about \$300 for the GPNA and community garden. Thank you to everyone who donated garage sale items

Many thanks again to our fearless garage sale leader Neil Liberty who organized, priced and did another great job selling items. Jill Westfall was a huge help assisting Neil. Thanks to other volunteers who helped with a variety of tasks including setting up tables, carrying items, and putting out garage sale signs around the neighborhood - Mary Liberty, Luther Larson, Martin Janousek, Rob Janousek, Billy Dooly, Lloyd Canfield, Chris & Sallie Foster. Besides making money, this event always brings familiar folks and some new faces to our neighborhood, adds positive street life, and helps our neighborhood do its part to recycle and reuse.

2012 GPNA OFFICERS

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Luther Larson
330-3286

Vice President

Jeff Spiehs
457-9979

Secretary

Jill Westfall
213-3105

Treasurer

Dana Carlton-Flint
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Travis Lavender 605-321-8142
Eric Purcell 719-5108

Business

Martin Janousek 558-4070

Landlord

Chris Foster 290-8187

COMMITTEES

Community Garden

Chris Foster 290-8187

Membership

Travis Lavender 605-321-8142

Neighborhood Market

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Newsletter

Jill Westfall 213-3105

Newsletter Distribution

Chris Foster 290-8187

Park

Sandy & Roger Freeman
345-2668

Pubic Relations

Dana Carlton-Flint 346-4575

Spring Clean-up

Jeff Spiehs 457-9979

Neighborhood Watch

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

From the President

By Luther Larson

Hope you are all making it through the hot days we have had during July. Seems like I am already looking forward to winter to cool off. Not only has the air temperature been hot during July, but the neighborhood has been hot with activity. I was recently asked to attend the Bemis Park Neighborhood Association (our neighbor to the North) meeting to observe and provide input on how they are approaching neighborhood single family rental properties that are housing more than 3 unrelated persons. By ordinance a single family is defined as no more than 3 unrelated persons,

meaning that if more than 3 unrelated persons reside in a house designated as a single family dwelling, they can be reported to the city and the inspector can enforce the city code by requiring land owners to reduce the number of unrelated residents. I would like to say “beware” to all that might be on the wrong side of this equation. Landlords need to work toward compliance and tenants need to be cautious so they aren’t caught without a place to live. I feel the city has the zoning and ordinances in place to help Gifford Park be the place where families want to live. Let’s all continue to do what we can to help Gifford Park be the “Neighborhood” for all.

GPNA Goes Digital

If you only get your neighborhood news in this print newsletter, you are missing out. Here are four great ways to get connected online:



Email Newsletter

Get the Gifford Park Pride before it reaches your front door. Sign up today for the email version of the newsletter. Just send an email to giffordparkneighborhood@gmail.com and we will take care of the rest!



Nextdoor Gifford Park

Join Nextdoor Gifford Park, a private social network for our neighborhood. Share local recommendations. Lend, borrow or give away. Keep the neighborhood safe. Stay informed.

Go to <https://giffordpark.nextdoor.com> to sign up.



Facebook

Find all your neighborhood friends at <http://facebook.com/GiffordPark>



Twitter

We’re back on Twitter! Follow us? [@gifford_park](https://twitter.com/gifford_park)

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.

Gifford Park 1st Annual “Bunch Ball” Soccer

For six Wednesdays in June and July, 12-21 little runners, ages 4-7 year old, and their parents gathered in the space behind the tennis courts in Gifford Park for an hour of warm ups, practice, games and, of course, snacks! A total of 25 youth participated throughout the six weeks of soccer. Despite the extreme weather this summer, (including a cancellation due to a huge thunderstorm) each week there were a group of kids, coaches and parents who braved the high temperatures to kick a soccer ball! Eight youngsters received soccer medals for perfect attendance. Thank you to all who participated, brought snacks and coached. Our coaches made all the difference!

We’re already thinking about next year and beginning to make a few changes including expanding the ages to include 3 and 8 year olds! See you on the field!



Grand Opening August 9

Exciting things are happening at 521 N 33rd Street. Maud Boutique is about to open its doors for business. Grand opening is August 9, with ribbon cutting at 4:00 pm. Drive by to see the new sign in the window. Peak in to see the new things being added. We hope to see you there!



Gifford Park Neighborhood Market

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Market takes place in the empty lot across from the Community Bike Shop from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm every Friday evening from until September 28th. It’s a great time to meet some of neighbors, see what’s for sale that week and make it an evening by having dinner in one of our local restaurants – Marrakesh Restaurant or California Taco.

If you’re interested in being a vendor or know someone who would please have them contact Martin at 402-558-4070.





Neighborhoods to benefit from new alcohol ordinance

We're excited to announce that a draft proposal of an ordinance created to address alcohol outlet-related problems has emerged. Through a partnership with the city and the leadership of Councilmen Ben Gray and Chris Jerram, the proposal is likely to be introduced this fall and your support has never been more critical. *Please call your City Council representative to share your support.*

After years of meetings, countless presentations and phone calls, supporters of the **LOCAL** Campaign feel confident that the draft proposal provides the foundation for necessary movement to more effectively control alcohol sales activities at a local level.

The draft proposal has three main components:

- Adopts citywide operational standards for the prevention of public nuisances
- Imposes an Alcohol Impact Fee on all businesses selling alcohol within the city
- Allows for the establishment of Alcohol Impact Overlay Districts

Public Nuisance Prevention Standards

The ordinance requires all alcohol selling establishments within Omaha to adhere to public nuisance prevention standards outlined in the proposal. These standards simply encourage a business to be a good neighbor by not adversely effecting or jeopardizing the public health, peace or safety of persons residing, working or using the surrounding area.

Alcohol Impact Fee

An annual fee of \$75 (approximately 20 cents per day) will be collected from all businesses operating with a liquor license in the city limits. Annual fees may be enhanced to \$300 if the property is in violation of

the nuisance standards and fails to abate the problem. An impact fee was necessary to ensure the ordinance could be implemented and enforced properly.

Collecting a fee from those businesses that directly benefit from the sale of alcohol within the city is justified. Currently, the city's revenue does not generate sufficient funds to respond to the unique economic demands that alcohol outlets place on city resources. The impact fee provides a more equitable distribution of cost recovery where alcohol selling establishments share the expense for the unique demands they place on city resources, particularly law enforcement resources. The fee provides relief for taxpayers who have been disproportionately paying for these industry-specific demands for far too long. The revenue collected will be directed to enforcement, inspections, investigations and auditing efforts.

Supporters of the LOCAL Campaign fought hard to maintain the inclusion of the citywide public nuisance standards and the impact fee for all alcohol selling establishments.

"Without the citywide impact fee, the ordinance would've been nearly impossible to enforce with current city resources," said Margie Magnuson, member of the LOCAL Campaign and spokesperson for the Alcohol Impact Coalition. "We knew this ordinance had to pay for itself to help fund adequate enforcement."

Alcohol Impact Overlay Districts

For areas within the city where alcohol-related problems exist or are likely to exist, community members who live within the district and/or City Council members can apply for an Alcohol Impact Overlay District designation whereby special conditions could be imposed on new alcohol outlets within the district. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, the prohibition of single can sales.

As we move into the next phase of the campaign, we want to extend our gratitude for the continued support and patience from all those who have supported the effort. It has been a long journey to get to this point. There has never been a more critical time in the effort than now to show your support.

continued on page 5

continued from page 4

Neighborhoods to benefit from new alcohol ordinance

As the effort enters the home stretch, please call your City Council representative to express your support.



Use your QR Code reader to scan the code above to go directly to <http://www.thelocalcampaign.com/> to read the full proposal.

Meet Your Neighborhood NP Dodge

By: Allen Berglund & Patti Rocha

We are thrilled to be a part of Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) and we look forward to being your partner to build a stronger more vibrant neighborhood that will continue to lead the way in neighborhood development and community involvement.

We have over 150 years of full service real estate experience. Our agents are devoted to establishing and maintaining relationships to benefit our clients before, during and long after the transactions are completed. Our goal is to meet and exceed your expectations so that you tell your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to use our services.

As a team we function in the following capacity: buyer's agent, seller's agent, short sale agents, foreclosures agents, bilingual agents, property management services, title services, information/researcher, contractor referral, open communication, and government assistance programs.

We have experience in teaming our clients up with the right lender who can offer them a full line of special financing options. Additionally, we host community education home buying seminars and community education classes which include: "The Home Owners Rights & Responsibilities", and "How To Find & Hire the Right Realtor".

Next month's article will touch on the current market trends for Gifford Park and how to find out the current value of your home. Please feel free to stop by or contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We here at 35 Dodge are committed to you and GPNA.

NP Dodge IX LLC
3552 Dodge Street
402-731-5008



Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law 4913 Underwood Avenue



558-5000



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Community Bike Project Omaha

By Sara Adkisson Joyner

It's mid-summer and Community Bike Shop has been humming with activity. Our Open Shop times have changed slightly. We are now open on Wednesday and Thursday from 6-8 pm. We hope to offer Saturdays again in the future, but we are getting a great amount of work done during the week!



We attended the Northeast Precinct's Night of Fun in the Park in Miller Park at the beginning of July. The police department raffled many bikes, children were

fitted with free helmets and we provided a bike stand to do safety checks and make minor adjustments. The night ended with swimming at the Miller Park pool - a much needed break from the heat.

Beginning this month through September 4, CBPO is teaming up with the Pizza Shoppe in Benson for a "Spokes for Jokes" comedy night. Every Tuesday from 8-9 pm, the Pizza Shoppe will host everything from improv groups to stand-up comics. The New Belgium Brewery has donated a cruiser to the cause which will be raffled off at the September 4 show. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit CBPO. If you would like to purchase tickets for the raffle, but can't make it to the comedy night, you may purchase tickets through our website or you can stop by the bike shop and talk to Sara.

That's all for now! Ride safe!

sara@communitybikeproject.org

Neighborhood Zoning

by Martin Janousek

On July 24, members of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Board attended a City Council meeting to oppose the rezoning of a home at 324 North 35th Ave. from R-3 to R-5. Besides having illegal structures consisting of a duplex and a single family residence on one property, there are many other code violations on the city's records. Weeks prior to this, members of the GPNA board also attended a meeting in the Bemis Park neighborhood (our neighbors to the north) with a landlord that plans to transform one of their neighborhood's big homes into an illegal Boarding House. The Bemis Park meeting was well attended by not only Bemis Park residents but also Joslyn Castle, Walnut Hill, and Gifford Park Neighborhood Association members all concerned about this home and the precedence it could create for neighborhoods if allowed to continue.

Both meetings have resurrected a problem many older neighborhoods, including ours, have when landlords want to convert homes into more than what they were originally intended to be. First of all, it is illegal for more than three unrelated individuals to live in one home. This excessive use or overcrowding of a property adds parking problems on residential streets,

hazardous living conditions, and in some cases, an increase in crime, especially when the landlord is absent from the picture and doesn't take the time to know their tenants.

So what's the solution? Well, besides contacting the city of Omaha (Code Enforcement – 402-444-5371) to report a problem property we need to continue talking with the city planning department. However, in the meantime, we as a neighborhood need to do our best to set by example good home ownership by maintaining our yards, keeping up with repairs and being good neighbors. We need to encourage family and friends to buy homes in our neighborhood when they come on the market. Also, remind neighbors especially the landlords that the residents of Gifford Park are watching how they do business in our neighborhood. A quality of life starts at all of our front doors.

Getting back to the City Council vote on the home at 324 North 35th Ave., they did vote unanimously to deny the rezoning request. No proponents were present for the landlord. As for the opponents, besides the Gifford Park Board members, an attorney representing a neighbor was there to oppose the rezoning as well.

Bob Hutton Celebrates a Birthday

By Chris Foster

Bob Hutton, affectionately known as “The Godfather” of the neighborhood, celebrated his 80th birthday July 25. Anyone who has lived in the Gifford Park neighborhood for even a short time probably knows Bob because he is always helping someone. To me and many other folks, Bob is a mentor, leader, neighbor, and most of all, a great friend. Back in 2001 at the Holiday Banquet I had the privilege to present Bob with the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association’s ‘Neighbor of the Year’ award – knowing his great sense of humor, we kept the award a secret from him until the night of the banquet, he was quite surprised! I wanted to share in this newsletter some cool things about Bob that touch this neighborhood and the people who live here. (Some of this information was originally printed in the January 2002 newsletter highlighting his award, but it’s worth repeating).

Bob is well known in the neighborhood as humble, unselfish, spirited, crafty, hard-working and a man of great integrity. Bob and his wife Virginia have lived near 33rd and California for 50 years. They have four children and eight grandchildren. Bob taught heating and air conditioning for 34 years and automotive repair and refrigeration for 18 years at Universal Technical Institute in Omaha. Starting in 1994 he taught small engine repair and plumbing for Metro Community College for the Correctional Center, and in 1998 Bob received the Teaching Excellence Award from the College. Bob has been a volunteer with the Boy Scouts since 1968 and received the Award of Merit from the Boy Scouts of America in 1980, which is the highest award for a District volunteer.

Bob’s work with the GPNA is also quite impressive. He spends a lot of time fixing lawnmowers for the neighborhood tool lending program which started in 1991; this program simply would not be without Bob. He always helps out with annual neighborhood cleanups, usually he is one of the first to arrive and the last to leave. Bob attends nearly all GPNA meetings and is not afraid to ask our guest speakers the tough questions. He has been hugely involved with our community garden ever since it was started in 2001.

He participated on nearly all of our neighborhood walks when we used to walk. Bob and his son Darrel also put up the Christmas lights in Gifford Park and the business district when we used to do this effort, now they help put up the Christmas tree in the community garden every year. Bob is a real solutions man, seeming to find a way to make things work when others give up (he has bailed me and many others out when a repair project has gone horribly wrong!). He has many friends inside and outside of the neighborhood. His wife Virginia says the quality that stands out the most is that “he likes helping others”. There is not room to mention all the neighborhood project and events Bob has helped with, but the list continues to grow.

With all of Bob’s accomplishments, we are particularly proud of Bob’s service to our country. Bob recently received a Korean War Service Medal with 5 stars and also the Republic of Korea War Service Medal in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. At the time of the war these servicemen did not receive much recognition when they returned to the States or came out of the service.

Congratulations on all of your accomplishments, Bob, and thanks for serving your country and your neighborhood! And Happy 80th Birthday!



Gifford Park Youth Garden

by Chris Foster

At the time of this newsletter we have completed 10 weeks of the Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass St.). The 2012 program is each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 AM with 5 weeks left ending with our pizza garden harvest party finale August 25th hosted by Big Muddy Urban Farm. This year we have 44 raised garden beds that each young gardener planted and has tended since late May.

To get you caught up with what's been going on, we started May 12 with our Garden Season Opening followed by the next four weeks of learning about plants, selecting which vegetables to grow, then planting their own garden plot and painting name stakes. There is always a flurry of activity during these weeks, but a lot of important work gets done. During week 5 Jeannie Dickes taught us about vermicomposting (worm composting) and the how worms make our soil richer for growing plants. We also learned how the right ingredients make for good composting, and the heat this process generates to break down these ingredients to "black gold" - a few families brought their own vegetable scraps to add the compost pile at the community garden. For week 6, bee keepers Mike and Denise Terneus and their four boys gave us a great presentation about bees, and even brought live bee hives (one of our community garden neighbors now has bee hives and is raising bees). Week 7 we had two National Weather Service meteorologists, Becky Kern and Barb Mayes, who taught us all about the weather, including demonstrating their tornado simulation machine. We also measured the temperature in the compost pile - over 140 degrees and too hot to touch! (note: WOWT Channel 6 news did a nice story of Becky and Barb teaching our young gardeners). During week 8, snake and reptile experts, Pam & Lee Cheever from the County Extension Office taught us all about these interesting creatures. We also went on a short snake hunt around the community garden but did not find any snakes that time. Big Muddy Urban Farm presented Week 9's "Sound of Music" program, they shared their great music talents with our youth gardeners. For week 10, our Nebraska tree expert Justin Evertson took us on a neighborhood "Tree Walk."



Along the way we collected leaves from different local tree species, and volunteers Cynthia Shuck and Rose Carlson are in the process of making a couple of leaf booklets of "Trees of Gifford Park" for our reference. Upcoming sessions include: Cooking Matters, Hula Hoops, Canning & Preserving, Bugs & Insects, and Pizza Garden Harvest PARTY with Big Muddy Urban Farm.

The program teaches young gardeners of all ages how to grow our vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Plus, the youth are creative with art, music, and poetry; explore our natural environment; have fun while working together; and get our hands dirty. GPYG relies upon parents and volunteers each week to provide snacks, lead lessons, and simply share their time with participating young people. Tremendous thanks to all our volunteers including but not limited to: Rose Carlson, Jackie Foster, Sallie Foster, Sara Stauffer, Ricky Green, Katrina Adams, Frankie Hamburger, Rachel Barnett, the Stanley family, Evan Johnson, Eric & Lisa Purcell, Betsy Goodman, Tim Beck, Big Muddy Urban Farm and the dedicated parents and family members who participate with their young gardeners. Special thanks to Mike Caban for his dedication to this program and the community garden project, neither would be the same without his leadership - thanks Mike! Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net) or Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) if you would like to volunteer or have questions about GPYG program.

Youth Garden 2012



(left) Week 6 - Beekeeping



(left) Week 8 - Reptiles



(left) Week 9 - Sound of Music



Spotted around the neighborhood

A new business getting ready to open, a neighbor taking care of a garden, improvements in the park - its the little things that make a neighborhood great. Here are few scenes from around the neighborhood.



New bike racks installed at Gifford Park playground with new benches to be installed nearby soon.



Roger & Sandy Freeman and Diane Kaye and her son Max maintain the beautiful flower gardens along 33rd Street in Gifford Park. Here is Roger Freeman, doing a little weeding.



Yates Community Center Garden mostly surviving the heat. GPNA volunteers helped build, install and fill the 18 raised beds with dirt. The neighborhood's newest community garden was lead by Dana Freeman with help from Mary Green (Director of the Dundee Community Garden).



Business district flower pot in front of new business Maud Boutique, opening soon at 521 N 33rd Street. Owner Lynn Mills and family have lived in the neighborhood for 25 years.



19th Annual Gifford Park Free Tennis Program

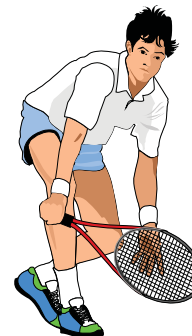


For: Youth (4 to 18 years old)

Dates: August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
(each Wednesday in August)

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

Time: Ages 4 to 9 (6 - 6:45 p.m.)
Ages 10 to 18 (6:45 to 7:30 p.m.)



The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is offering **FREE Tennis Lessons** and will provide tennis racquets, balls and instructors for each lesson. Parents and others are welcome to help.

To be enrolled, YOU MUST complete the form shown below and bring with you to the tennis lessons. Special prize for those who attend every lesson and demonstrate good sportsmanship. Space is limited so please **be on time.** Call **402-342-6006** or **402-290-8187** for more information.

Registration/Permission Form - Bring this form (completely filled out) with you to the tennis lessons to be enrolled.

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

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. Furthermore, I give consent to any necessary medical treatment in case of emergency.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____



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 | | | |