



# Gifford Park's Pride

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn, and Play  
[www.giffordparkomaha.org](http://www.giffordparkomaha.org)

May 2014

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## 25th Annual Easter Egg Hunt Highlights

Unseasonably warm weather greeted us for our 25th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, held Saturday, April 19 in Gifford Park. An estimated 400 neighborhood children participated. This was the sixth year in a row an anonymous dentist made a wonderful donation of 300 toothbrushes - volunteers gave one to each child just moments before the actual hunt. Volunteers picked up litter and raked portions of the park before putting out candy, treats, and other prizes in the four age groups (0-4, 5-6, 7-9, 10-12). The park was in pretty good shape since we had the Spring Cleanup the week before. As always, out of the thousands of pieces of candy, it took a matter of a few minutes for the kids to pick the park clean of goodies and prizes. There were many volunteers and donors who helped put forth extra effort – once again Darryl Hutton did a great job getting MANY donations from a variety of people and businesses; Jan Franks, her grandchildren Brittany, and great granddaughter Arianna, organized the candy. The Slayden family (Betty, Tiffaney, Kayleen and their families) were a huge help as well. Justine Stanley did a great job as our enthusiastic Easter bunny giving out treats to youngsters (thanks to Sharon Olson and the Miller Park-Minne Lusa Neighborhood Association for donating the Easter Bunny costume). Senator Sara Howard and her mom Gwen donated cute stuffed bunnies. Many thanks to all those who donated time, money, candy, and other items for the event: Whelan Law Office, Kilgore Law Office, Discount Laundry, Urban Village, California Tacos, California Bar, Ishmail Mohammed, Delice @

*Continued on page 3*

## Next General Meeting Thursday, May 8

### Theme Grow in Gifford Park

with speakers from  
Indian Creek Nursery, Big Muddy Urban Farm, Gifford Park Community & Youth Gardens, Root Down Garden, and Brandon Sperry on the chicken permit process

**AND, we'll have yummy baked goods provided by Kirsten's Delights.**

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

## Upcoming Events

May 10 – 10 am-12 noon - Community Garden Season Opening (Community Garden)

May 14 - 6:00-7:30 pm - Tennis Block Party (in Gifford Park)

May 17 – 10-11:30 am - Youth Garden Program (each Saturday morning 10-11:30am, May 17 through August 23)

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**From the President**

*By Eric Purcell*

On Tuesday, April 22, two soccer goals were dropped off in Gifford Park by the City of Omaha Parks and Rec Department. It was an exciting day for me...and for many others in Gifford Park.

For many years, Gifford Park residents have been asking for soccer goals in our park. So, last fall, I wrote two grants for money to buy soccer goals. As part of the process I needed to get permission from the city to place goals in our park. The permission we got was a provisional one: we could place goals in the park as long as they are not permanent and can be removed. Unfortunately, we only got one of the grants and that was not enough to buy two soccer goals. However, in the process I was made aware that the Parks and Rec department had some older goals that they were no longer using. I quickly contacted them and they said they would be happy to deliver two goals to Gifford Park in the Spring. And here they are!

The evening they arrived Pablo Saavedra and his boys dug the goals into the ground to secure them and in less than an hour there were over twenty people playing a game of soccer. Our house overlooks the baseball/ soccer field in the park and I have been tickled to see that there has been a group of soccer players gathering to play EVERY night since the goals went in!

The goals do need a little bit of love,

though. In the next several weeks we'll be using the grant money we did win to buy new nets and a new paint job for the goals. We'll also be buying some field paint to mark off the playing field.

With the addition of these goals in the park, two bigger projects are moving forward. The first is a dream to start an official Futbol Club in Gifford Park. Currently we have our free summer soccer program for 3-8 years olds. (See the flyer in this newsletter for more info on that!) But Pablo is also beginning to organize the older kids to play as well. With enough momentum, we're not far from having a team that could compete across the city!

The other project is one that Martin Janousek, I and several others have been plugging away at for some time now: an official youth-size soccer field in Turner Park North. Though this project requires quite a bit more money, as well as cooperation with the city and the state, it is slowly moving forward. We believe that our neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods could use a space dedicated to the game of soccer. And if a Gifford Park FC does take shape under Pablo's leadership, they're going to need a dedicated space to practice and play! I think the amount of activity happening with the new goals in Gifford Park is a testament to the need for a dedicated space for soccer in Gifford Park Neighborhood!

So, join in the fun, grab your soccer ball and cleats and go enjoy the newest addition to our park!

See you in the Neighborhood!

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](mailto:jill.lynn.westfall@gmail.com).

**TOOL LENDING HOTLINE**

**Call Chris 290-8187**




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

# 25th Annual Easter Egg Hunt Highlights

*Continued from page 1*

Midtown Crossing, Ideal Hardware, Mark Bostick, Mike Caban, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Ricky Green, the Sheldon family, Mohamed Ukach, Rod & Dana Carlton-Flint, Luther Larson, Eric Purcell, Shelly Rose, Chris & Sallie Foster, the 31st & Chicago House guys, and Michael Whealy. Please support the above businesses to show your thanks for their contributions. One last thanks to our dedicated newsletter distributors who hand-delivered about 1,300 flyers throughout the neighborhood!



**Community Garden Season Opening - Everyone Welcome!**  
**Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. to noon**  
**at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35<sup>th</sup> & 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; Chickens**  
**Information on community garden, Teen Market Garden, Big Muddy Urban Farm**  
**Free Seeds, Plants and Refreshments (while supplies last)**

**Gifford Park Youth Garden Program**

**2014 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

May 10	Garden Season Opening Event: 10 a.m. to Noon)
May 17	Get to Know Your Garden (prepare plot for planting & paint stakes)
May 24	Plant Your Plot (select seeds & plants, plant your plot)
May 31	Plant Your Plot (select seeds & plants, plant your plot)
June 7	Plant Your Plot (select seeds & plants, plant your plot)
June 14	All about compost
June 21	Sound of Music
June 28	Art in the Garden
July 5	Wildlife
July 12	Truck Farm and Garden Movement
July 19	Bugs & Insects
July 26	Family Show & Tell
August 2	Cooking Matters
August 9	Canning & Preservation
August 16	Seed Saving
August 23	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 35<sup>th</sup> & 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 10. You can reach Chris Foster with questions or suggestions at 402-290-8187 or [foster3413@cox.net](mailto: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 35<sup>th</sup> & Cass Street. We will meet Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. beginning May 17 through August 23 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

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## 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

## Good Neighbors

By Rose Carlson

It was a Friday morning and a tree-cutting crew was setting up directly across the street from our house to cut down a very old, large, dead tree. It was lying in pieces by the time the crew broke for lunch. It was a beautiful day, so my daughter Maria and I brought our lunch out to the front porch to eat and admire the wreckage in the street.

No sooner had we taken a bite when Chris Foster's big yellow pick-up came barreling up Webster Street. Eric Purcell was at the wheel, his two young children beside him. He parked directly in front of our house, got out, slammed the truck door, and yelled in our direction, "I need muscles!" Who? Us? I looked around the porch, wondering if I'd missed someone with considerably more testosterone and upper-body strength hanging around the potted geraniums. Eric's kids hopped out, confident they were up for whatever Daddy had in mind.

As we walked out to the curb, Eric explained that he had asked the work crew if he could take one of the logs to use as terracing in his backyard. The log was heavy and solid, nine feet long and a foot in diameter. "Two on each side," Eric instructed as he positioned himself at the end. There we were, a guy lifting a large log, assisted by three little kids and an ectomorphic lady in a dress and sandals. He got one end up into the truck bed, then shoved the rest in despite our being in the way.

"Thanks!" he said, and the three of them hopped back in the truck and drove away. Maria and I resumed our lunch on the porch.

In how many neighborhoods could this happen? Did Eric hit us up for "help" because we looked like we would actually be any? Or was this about teaching our kids something about neighbors and community that they could never learn in a social studies book?

Muscles is not on the top of the list of things Maria and I have to offer. But Maria has a million-dollar smile and I have a pen. With which I can tell you that it's people and events like this that make Gifford Park the only place in Omaha I ever want to live.

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## GIFFORD PARK TENNIS BLOCK PARTY



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 14**

**6:00-7:30 PM**

**GIFFORD PARK TENNIS COURTS**

**33rd & Cass**

**(Rain date - Thursday, May 15, 6:00-7:30 pm)**

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

# Gifford Park Free Soccer Program

For: Youth (3 to 8 years old)

Dates: June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16

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:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Cultural Event at Yates Community Center, April 19, 2014

Dear Gifford Park Neighborhood Association,

On behalf of all of the students and parents that attend the Yates School, I would like to thank you for the sponsorship of the Yates Cultural Celebration held on Saturday, April 19th. The funding that you provided enabled us to provide a community luncheon and activities for the children including face painting, planting flowers and cricket. Everyone that attended the event truly enjoyed the wonderful diversity of our school and our neighborhood. It was wonderful to see the dance presentations by our Latino, Somali, Nepali and Native American communities. I am hoping that we can again partner in the future to bring such celebrations to our neighborhood.

Sincerely,  
Susan Mayberger, Building Administrator  
susan.mayberger@ops.org







## Spring Cleanup 2014 highlights

On Saturday, April 12, Gifford Park neighbors joined together for our annual Spring Clean Up. This year we cleaned alleys, streets, and park – making a special effort to clean playground area. Metal recycling earned \$146 (thanks to recycler Eric McGhee) and we collected \$145 in donations and 28 new members.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who made this year's spring clean up a success: Mark Trampe, Mike Caban, Eric Purcell, Paul Mileris, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Terry Wilwerding, Lloyd Canfield, Chris Foster, Bryant Pasho, Jim Kyler, Luther Larson, Jim Wilwerding, Andy & Leslie Wessel, Rod & Dana & Cuttis Carlton-Flint, Diane Kaye, Max Kaye, Roger Freeman, Brent Lubbert, Billy Dooly, and everyone who distributed event flyers to spread the word. Special thanks to Maria Devlin, for not only traveling the farthest to volunteer (500 miles!), but also bringing along bagels for our volunteers.



## Neighborhood Market Starts May 23

*By Martin Janousek*

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Market is back for another summer and popular as ever. The opening date will be Friday, May 23 which will be the earliest the market has ever opened since it started with one table back in the summer of 2006. Now, 8 years later, we're getting ready to start a new season. The market will run from May 23 to September 26 between the hours of 5:00pm to 8:00pm. The location will be the same as in past years, in the empty parking lot between the K n J Grocery Store and the California Bar.

Many of our vendors will be back again this year selling items such as vegetables, fruits, jellies & jams, cheeses, handmade soaps, vintage items, honey, eggs, handmade stationary and the list goes on. Music by some of our local talented musicians will entertain. On the last Friday of each month we will have our Kids in the Market activities.

A Big Thank You goes out to the Mutual of Omaha Grant and the Mayors Grant for awarding the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association funds for signage and other needed supplies. As you know, there is no cost to be a vendor at our market so receiving these grants is a big help for this volunteer effort.

If you're interested in being a vendor or know of someone please contact us at [gpnmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gpnmarket@gmail.com) or "Like" us on our Facebook page [facebook.com/giffordparkneighborhoodmarket](https://www.facebook.com/giffordparkneighborhoodmarket)

## New Addition to Neighborhood Market

*By Laura Weiss*

We will be adding new additions to this summer's Friday Market! Bhutanese refugee women have been sewing, stitching, and bead making all winter long to share their skills and talents with the greater Omaha community. These women come together five days a week in Souther Sudan Community Association's Job Club to practice their English, socialize, create, and become part of a diverse and inclusive community. You can expect to find hand-made bracelets, aprons, rugs, and tote bags, so if you forget your grocery bag at home, it's ok! You can help support this initiative, grab a bag, and carry all your veggies home!

Additionally, members of the Kachin refugee community, originally from Burma, are growing food this summer down at Root Down Community Garden, on 32nd & Webster. Later on in the summer, they will be selling cabbage, tomatoes, and chili peppers at the market as well!

## OLD HOUSE Restoration & Repair

### EXTERIOR

Paint & Paint Removal  
Window Sills  
Trim & Siding  
Sagging Porches  
Soffit & Gutter Repair

### INTERIOR

Paint & Plaster Repair

LAWRENCE PAINT CO.  
David Lawrence  
402-813-0827



## Community Garden Season Opening May 10

*By Chris Foster*

We hope you plan to attend our Community Garden Season Opening, Saturday, May 10, 10:00 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, "Ask the Master Gardener" from the County Extension Office, 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 see the 16 chickens (now one year old).

Recent rains and warmer weather have helped to green up our yards, gardens and trees after a cold and dry winter. In mid-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](mailto:caban3321@cox.net)) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster (402-290-8187, [foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net)) for other community garden questions.

We hope everyone pitches in to help with ideas, projects, maintenance, and overall participation with the community garden in whatever capacity they feel comfortable. Here is a list of some known and potential projects/events/activities that we plan to do:

- Build 45 youth garden raised beds to replace old beds (Saturday, May 3, 10 am)
- Garden Season Opening event (Saturday, May 10, 10 am - Noon)
- Youth Garden Program (Saturdays 10-11:30am,

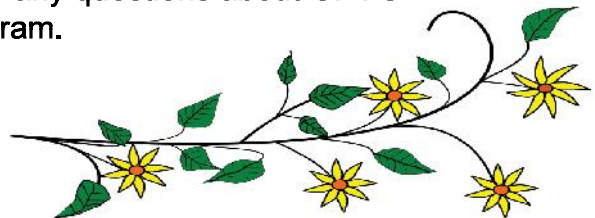
May 17-August 23)

- Pot Luck dinners
- Wednesday evening work parties (6-8 pm during the growing season)
- Garden tours (get folks familiar with different parts of the garden)
- Theme garden maintenance (rose, butterfly, senses, perennial, front wall & parkway, herb, berry bushes, etc.)
- Compost bins – turn over compost pile
- Various planting projects

Let us know if any of the above interests you, and if you have any questions or ideas with the community garden, contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or [foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net)).

## Youth Garden Program Plans Starts Soon

The Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program will be kicking off its 11th year at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass) growing young gardeners. The 2014 program will be each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 AM May 17 through August 23. Inside this newsletter you will find the schedule and registration information. We will be accepting registrations at our Community Garden Season Opening Saturday May 10, 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. Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or [foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net)) or Mike Caban (402-341-4722, [caban3321@cox.net](mailto:caban3321@cox.net)) if you have any questions about GPYG program.



## Mural Takes Shape at 33rd and Cass

UNO Public Art Project students and youth volunteers painted the beautiful mural on the south facing wall on the northwest corner of 33rd and Cass Street. The mural project was led and coordinated by UNO art student, Maggie Weber. The mural was painted by volunteers during UNO's Seven Days of Service in late March. The art project serves as a way to enliven the scenery and to include an encouraging message within a public space in Omaha.



## Community Bicycle Project Update

*By Charles Mitchell*

Longer days and warmer weather are bringing vibrant activity to the Gifford Park neighborhood and the Community Bike Project. We're excited to be expanding our hours and programming to keep up with the summertime energy.

Our Open Shop program is now running five days a week for 3-6 hours each day. In addition to helping bicyclists repair and maintain their bikes, our Open Shop program has been well-utilized by adult Earn-a-Bike participants and youth volunteers. With all the activity, we're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help facilitate Open Shop sessions. During Open Shop, we always need volunteers to help teach bike maintenance and coordinate shop use. Email me at [charles@communitybikeproject.org](mailto:charles@communitybikeproject.org) if you'd like to help out.

Through Kids' Bike Club, we are also expanding our Youth Earn-a-Bike program. Starting in late May, the Bike Club will give 6-9 year olds the opportunity to earn a bike by attending four one-hour classes on introductory bike mechanics, riding skills, and community service. Registration for Kids' Bike Club is available at [www.communitybikeproject.org/programs](http://www.communitybikeproject.org/programs) or at the shop. Kids' Bike Club is also a great opportunity to volunteer in a setting more focused on riding than wrenching.

Youth Earn-a-Bike also continues to grow. In April, we had four brothers complete Youth Earn-a-Bike together and a young man participated in Youth Earn-a-Bike for a second time to build a bike for his older sister. In May, we will begin including a water bottle, helmet, and lock with each bike earned.

In addition to getting bikes back out to the community through our Earn-a-Bike and Open Shop programs, we are looking forward to organizing some summer rides to help encourage biking as a fun, healthy, and family-friendly activity. Starting in June, we will be hosting group rides on the last Sunday of the month.

If you're passionate about bike maintenance, riding, or building community, the Community Bike Project has programs to fit your interests. Email [charles@communitybikeproject.org](mailto:charles@communitybikeproject.org) or stop by the shop to get involved!

### Spring/Summer Hours:

Sunday: 2-6pm – Open Shop

Wednesday: 2-5pm – Youth Shop; 5-7pm – Youth Earn-a-Bike Class

Thursday: 2-5pm – Open Shop (16+ year olds); 5-7pm Youth Earn-a-Bike Class

Friday: 4-8pm – Open Shop

Saturday: 12-6pm – Open Shop





## Membership Application

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)

The GPNA Membership Year runs from January 1 through December 31

Type of Membership:     Single (\$10)         Family (\$15)         Business (\$25)

Today's Date:

Business Name (if applicable):

Business Phone (if applicable):

Name (1):	<input type="text"/>	Phone:	<input type="text"/>	Email:	<input type="text"/>
Name (2):	<input type="text"/>	Phone:	<input type="text"/>	Email:	<input type="text"/>
Name (3):	<input type="text"/>	Phone:	<input type="text"/>	Email:	<input type="text"/>
Name (4):	<input type="text"/>	Phone:	<input type="text"/>	Email:	<input type="text"/>
Name (5):	<input type="text"/>	Phone:	<input type="text"/>	Email:	<input type="text"/>

Address:

City:  State:  Zip:

### Volunteer Opportunitites! I'm interested in helping with...

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call Committee         | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Banquet        | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup/Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Tenant Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> School Liaison          | <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Lending  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden       | <input type="checkbox"/> Memberships            | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities       | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt        | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Walks     | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Garden  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History                | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch     | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Garden             |  |

Mail check or money order with this completed Membership Application Form to:

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 31462  
Omaha, NE 68131

For additional information about GPNA, please visit [www.giffordparkomaha.org](http://www.giffordparkomaha.org)



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 31462  
Omaha, NE 68131

Place  
Stamp  
Here

### **Gifford Park Neighborhood School Effort**

As of this newsletter our Gifford Park and surrounding neighborhoods are still in the hunt to bring back a neighborhood school. As you probably know in 1999 our neighborhood school Yates Elementary at 32nd & Davenport Street was closed by OPS because the building was too small to handle the number of children in our neighborhood. Currently of the 353 Yates attendance area children in grades K-6, 165 are assigned to Kellom School, and 188 of our children are bused to 39 different schools in the district. Letters of support to bring back a neighborhood school have been sent to OPS from the Gifford Park NA, Joslyn Castle NA, Dundee Memorial Park NA, Bemis Park NA, Leavenworth NA, Midtown Neighborhood Alliance, Councilman Chris Jerram, First Presbyterian Church, and residents.

OPS will hold three community meetings in early May to get feedback on options for building upgrades. The meetings are designed to help the district collect input from parents, staff, students and residents as it moves forward with a facilities master plan and weighs a potential bond issue for

school construction. The new master plan will try to balance enrollment and demographic trends with school space and determine the effect that school configurations can have on programming.

The community meetings are broken up into three geographical areas:

May 6, 6-9pm at South High School  
May 7, 6-9pm at Burke High School  
May 8, 6-9pm at Benson High School

The meeting format is similar to the strategic plan sessions held last October. They will begin with a 30-minute presentation detailing conditions of schools, and attendees will then break up into small groups for discussion and a survey.

We expect to have more details soon from OPS officials. For more information on this effort, please contact:

Chris Foster (GPNA Board member):  
402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net  
Marque Snow (OPS Board member):  
605-675-9251, marque.snow@ops.org  
Sara Howard (Nebraska State Senator):  
402-699-5514, saraehoward@gmail.com