



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

September 2012

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennis Program

### Highlights

*by Chris Foster*

Hot weather dominated this year's 19<sup>th</sup> annual August Youth Tennis Program in Gifford Park. We did have quite a heavy thunderstorm that shortened our August 8<sup>th</sup> session, but we desperately needed the rain, so no complaints. This year we had 80 youth participants and 27 with perfect attendance. We had tremendous help from our volunteer instructors for each of the five Wednesdays in August for this free program. The kids learned basic groundstrokes, volleys and rallying skills. Thanks to the City Parks Department we were able to use our new tennis backboard as one of our teaching stations.

Thanks go to Big Muddy Urban Farm for making 18 homemade pizzas for our program "finale" on the last day. Neighborhood volunteers provided delicious treats too. Many thanks go to all the wonderful instructors for their support and dedication to this program: Rick & Jane Hines, Jim Wilson, Buddy Hogan, Vince Emory, Don Gildon, Roger Freeman, Kirk Peck (and his Creighton Physical Therapy students), Jackie Foster, Jenny Waltemath, Jeff Spiehs, Travis Lavender, Jonathan Braden, Bob, Jane & Brett Slezak, Calvin Webster, Ricky Green, Laurie Bolte, and Chris & Sallie Foster. Thanks also to our neighborhood youth who helped teach: the Stanley girls (Dawn, Crystal, Justine & Whitney), Marcus Anderson, and Yusuf Abdirahman. Also during June and July, volunteer instructors Jim Wilson and the Stanley girls taught small group tennis lessons on Wednesday mornings in Gifford Park - this was the fifth year for this free program for kids with a strong interest in tennis. Crystal Stanley, 18, was given special recognition for 11 years of perfect attendance with the August tennis program. Great job Crystal!

**Next General Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 13**  
**Dodge Street "S-Curve" Update**

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

Special thanks go to Jan Franks, Bette Tanner, Betty Slayden, Tyffaney Slayden, and Kayleen Slayden for help with registration and lots of other administration duties – the program could not happen without your help year after year. One of the youth parents Aleta Stevens took excellent pictures and was our "photographer" again this year. Thanks also to the Omaha Tennis Association, the Nebraska Tennis Association, the United States Tennis Association, and the City Parks & Recreation Department for their generous support over the years. We appreciated the kind words during our awards recognition from Senator Gwen Howard and her daughter Sara. If anyone who participated in the tennis lessons is interested in more advanced lessons, please contact Chris Foster at [402-290-8187](tel:402-290-8187).



*see page 11 for more tennis photos*

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Editor's note: If you have news of interest to the Gifford Park Neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for the monthly newsletter. Editorials are subject to approval by the GPNA Executive Board. Please include your contact information. Articles may be submitted by email to [jill.lynn.westfall@gmail.com](mailto:jill.lynn.westfall@gmail.com).

**From the President**

*By Luther Larson*

Since moving into Gifford Park more than six years ago I have seen many improvements that have made Gifford Park a desirable place for young families and professionals to live. Noted improvements have been house paint, landscaping, front yard fence removal, and sidewalk/step upgrading. While all these seem to be taking the neighborhood in the right direction, there is still one problem that seems to have not changed much over the years--trash. Being a person that walks through the neighborhood daily I see it every day. There seems to be an endless supply of trash to be picked up from plastic bottles in the park to beer cans in front lawns. Recently, I have

found myself running late for work due to the extra time I am taking to pickup all the litter. What amazes me is that no matter how much I pickup, there is more of the same the next day. My take is that very little of the trash is brought in from outside the neighborhood, therefore this is an appeal for all of Gifford Park residents to do their part. If you are passing out treats in the park, please ensure the wrappers and/or containers are disposed of properly. If you have a beer or two with your college housemates, toss the empties in the trash and not the lawn. If your guests insist on tossing the empties in the lawn, please be a responsible host and pickup after the event. Every resident needs to do their part and help Gifford Park not only be the Greenest neighborhood in Omaha, but also the Cleanest.

**Neighborhood Market**

*by Martin Janousek*

We have 4 more weeks before the 2012 **Gifford Park Neighborhood Market** comes to an end. It's been a tough summer with the drought and heat but it is still turning out to be a fun time for all the vendors, customers and neighborhood residents. This year again we have the pleasure and company of our good friends from the north, Minne Lusa. The ladies from that neighborhood have sold their jams, jellies and pickles to what is becoming a strong following of local customers. If you have a chance to pick up the summer issue of Edible Omaha, these ladies along with our neighborhood's own Teen Market Gardeners are featured. They've been our celebrities this summer at the market. Along with our regular returning vendors from last year, Big Muddy Urban Farm has joined



as a regular vendor. They're the group of urban farmers growing some of their produce east of the Shelterbelt Theatre. This is the space that once contained 3 of the neighborhood's worst properties.

We hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. If not, there's a good chance it's because you haven't been down to the Business District on Friday evenings to stop by the Neighborhood Market. You still have a chance and the conversations are free. The market starts Friday evenings at 4:00pm with most of the vendors present by 5:30pm and closes down by 8:00 pm.

## Gifford Park Welcomes New Business

by Lynn Mills

The newest business in the Gifford Park neighborhood is the culmination of years of dreaming and many months of hard work. Maud Boutique, at 521 N. 33rd, celebrated its grand opening Aug. 9. Its owner is Lynn Mills, who has lived in the neighborhood for 24 years.

“I’m excited to be open,” Mills said. “I’m getting new and different things in all the time, and I hope people from the neighborhood keep coming in to check it out.”

The beautifully renovated space, which had been an eyesore and a trouble spot for years is now a bright, classy shop. The boutique offers quality vintage dresses, some from as far back as the 1920s, and stylish new women’s clothing and accessories from small U.S. labels. (And some yummy chocolate, too!)

The scores of people on hand for the opening ceremony were treated to wonderful falafel, hummus and mint tea provided by Moussa Drissi and Mohamed Ismael from Marrakech Gourmet, one of 33rd Street’s newest gems.

Among the honored guests were Gifford Park mainstays and the owners of the building, Chris Foster and the Janousek brothers, Martin, Rob and John, as well as Rob’s wife, Rose. Maud Boutique would not exist without their tireless work to renovate the space, as well as their constant efforts to revitalize the Gifford Park Business District. Also present was

another man who plays a part in making Beautiful Downtown Gifford a better place: Rich Callahan of Bank of the West and the Midtown Business Association.



International woman of intrigue Lily Estes, owner of California Bar, graced the gathering, as did bar manager Darryl Hutton. And of course Darryl’s parents, Bob and Virginia Hutton. Other guests included two First National Bank executives, Deborah Keating and Amy Brown, whose support and friendship were invaluable to Mills as she struggled to surmount the many hurdles that sprang up as she created her business. Brown, who lives in the Joslyn Castle Neighborhood, is also the co-founder of Edible Omaha magazine. Keating went beyond the call of duty to help with financing for Maud Boutique.

The ribbon-cutting was preceded by remarks from Mills, Chamber of Commerce President David Brown and Karen Mavropoulous, the Chamber’s community development manager.

Mills heaped praise on Mavropoulous for providing startup advice and enthusiastic support, calling her the enterprise’s “silent partner.” Brown laughed at that description and noted that Mavropoulous twice stepped in front of the gathering to share her thoughts. Mayor Suttle was recovering from his health scare, but he sent two representatives from his office.



Sunday, October 28th – 3:00 – 8:00 pm

“Kids at the Castle” – \$15/family

Face painting, haunted tour, pumpkin decorating, apple biting, costume contest, scavenger hunt, trick or treating, fire pit, witches cauldron, food for purchase. All kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday, October 29th – 7:00 – 10:00 pm

“Monster Mash” – Adults only -- \$15/person

Costume contest, tarot card and palm readers, food, music, cash bar. Reservations and pre-payment required at [www.joslyncastle.com](http://www.joslyncastle.com) or call 402-595-2199.



## 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.

*Editor's note: The Planning Board voted to approve the ordinance Sept. 5. It now goes before the City Council in the next few weeks.*

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



**558-5000**



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**LEGISLATURE**

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402-699-5514  
[sara@sarafornebraska.com](mailto:sara@sarafornebraska.com)  
Neighbors for Sara Howard  
132 North 40th Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

*Please Vote on  
**November 6th!***

**Neighborhood lights are going out**  
*by Martin Janousek*

Three years ago the Gifford Park Neighborhood received a generous anonymous donation from a woman who was very familiar with our neighborhood and all the good things we do. She knew how important it was to have a safe neighborhood that she requested the money to be used for public safety and crime prevention. Dana Carlton-Flint, GPNA president at the time, and Darryl Hutton worked with the donor and OPPD to put together a plan to install lights in some of the neighborhood's dark spots. They went from one end of the neighborhood to the other, identifying areas most prone to mischief and vandalism and those in need of additional light for safety. Most of the new lights were installed on existing light poles, but in a few new poles were also added. All the lights were installed in public areas with the approval of OPPD. The park, other public streets and alleys around the neighborhood received additional lighting. The donation covered the installation and the electric bills for the new lights. If you ask most people who are familiar with these areas prior to the installation, they would tell you the lights have made a big difference in making the neighborhood better. A big **THANK YOU** needs to go out to this donor for her generous gift to the neighborhood. We've all benefitted these last 3 years from her help in keeping the neighborhood safe.

Knowing this donation wasn't limitless, the GPNA Board proactively worked to secure additional funding through grants. However, we're sad to report Gifford Park Neighborhood Association's luck ran out this year when grants were awarded. In about 3 months, the funds to pay for the electric bills will be exhausted and we, the GPNA Board, will be turning off these lights.

We are asking everyone to be observant and watch these locations for any signs of problems. We're also asking that if anyone would like to take over the electric bill for any of these lights to please let us know. In some cases, a neighboring property owner may have indirectly benefited from the spillover of the light and would like to continue the service. In any case, please let us know if you would like help continue this effort.

# Tales of Poe

Selected short stories and poems  
by Edgar Allan Poe performed  
throughout Joslyn Castle

**Joslyn Castle**  
3902 Davenport St.  
Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.joslyncastle.com](http://www.joslyncastle.com)

All shows are at 7 p.m.

**Tickets:**  
Joslyn Castle members and students: \$15  
All others: \$20

Reservations required:  
[www.joslyncastle.com](http://www.joslyncastle.com) or 402-595-2199  
Stand-by seating may be available.

October						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



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## New Park Benches Installed

Check out the five new park benches installed around our new playground equipment near 35<sup>th</sup> & Davenport. GPNA volunteers Luther Larson, Justin & Sandy Brown, Rod Flint and Chris Foster installed them September 1. Thanks to a local neighborhood contractor Heartland Outdoor Services for pouring the concrete pads, and the Community Bicycle Project for assembling the benches. GPNA received grants last year from the Mayor's Grant and Mutual of Omaha Foundation for the park benches – thank you!



## Gifford Park Tennis Courts Get New Backboard

The GPNA extends a big thanks to the City Parks Department for reconstructing the tennis backboard just in time for our 19<sup>th</sup> annual August Youth Tennis Program in Gifford Park. The backboard had been down since June last year when a severe thunderstorm

blew down the old backboard that had been up for about 15 years. Brian Hartley with City Parks led the project which included replacing five steel posts and new footings. The project was a cooperative effort with the GPNA paying for lumber (thanks Micklin Lumber for giving us a good deal) and the City Parks Department constructing the new backboard. It is much better than the old one, so go check it out!

## Community Garden update

by Chris Foster

The hot dry weather of this summer has made for extra challenges with anyone trying to maintain a healthy garden, the Gifford Park Community Garden at 35th & Cass is in the same boat. Relatively speaking we have benefited from having our own water supply to occasionally run sprinklers to water most of the garden areas including family plots, youth garden plots and flower beds – this was done mainly in July during the worst of the weather. At the time of this article, we are still in need of descent rain.

Our garden will be part of an Omaha Community Garden Tour event being finalized for Sunday September 30th from 9AM-12 Noon. This tour will include a bike tour as well. The list of participating community gardens on this tour include: City Sprouts, Farnam Farm Garden, Dundee Community Garden, Benson Community Garden, Gifford Park Community Garden, The Big Garden, and Hands to Harvest Community Garden. Host gardens plan to have refreshments, information, garden tours, items/produce for sale, activities, and a chance to see other community gardens. We are also planning another pot luck dinner for our community gardeners, youth

gardeners, volunteers and their families...we haven't decided a date yet, but should be late September or early October. Stay tuned for more details on both these upcoming events.

Special thanks to Sandy Freeman for her tireless work and special attention to the front flower gardens with weeding, watering and maintenance. In particular, the moss roses (located between the sidewalk and keystone wall) have been brilliant this year thanks to Sandy. Next small project we are looking at is improving the parkway strip with plantings. Please share any ideas you may have.

We continue to have work nights 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 what's growing or see neighborhood friends. At this time we have all 32 family plots filled. 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 any other community garden questions.



Youth Garden Volunteer Evan Johnson and youth gardener Charlie Wood.



## Gifford Park Youth Garden

by Chris Foster

The Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program began its 9<sup>th</sup> year on May 12 with our “Season Opening” event and ended August 25 our “Pizza Garden Harvest Party.” In between, nearly 60 registered youth participants gardened on 44 raised beds (each 30”x30” plots), a few children shared their plots. Amazingly there were no rainouts again this year.

Last newsletter I gave an update through week 10, here are some brief highlights of the last five weeks of activities: For week 11 the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) presented their famous “Cooking Matters” session. They included different recipes with samples for everyone, including watermelon salsa with chips, and quesadillas. The VNA always does an outstanding educational and entertaining hands-on presentation teaching our young gardeners about the food we grow, and have fun doing it! Week 12 had presenter Chelsea Taxman for another great “Hula Hoop” session of first decorating then doing hula hooping in the garden. For week 13 Wildlife Rehabilitation expert Laura Stafstny taught a lesson about bats and how important they are to our gardens. Laura brought a couple live bats for us to see close up. Week 14 brought us Entomologist Tom Janousek and his wife Tracy. They brought live insect specimens for us to see, hear, and hold (including huge cockroaches!). Dr Janousek helped us identify insects we collected from our garden insect hunt. Also that week Big Muddy Urban Farm helped us harvest vegetables from our gardens and show us how pizza dough is made and rises in preparation for week 15’s pizza party. And for week 15, Big Muddy Urban Farm baked 18 delicious homemade pizzas from ingredients

harvested from their gardens and our community garden for our Pizza Garden Harvest Party Finale. Mike Caban organized the Team Scavenger Hunt, which was great fun and a big hit. Even though the “formal” program is over, we encourage all of our young gardeners and their families to continue tending and harvesting your plots during the rest of the growing season. Also, for the month of September, anyone who has earned “garden bucks” can spend them at the Neighborhood Market at 33rd & California Friday evenings 4-8 PM.

The program teaches youth of all ages how to grow vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Plus the youth are 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 week to provide snacks, lead lessons, and simply share their time with participating young people. Many THANKS to our amazing dedicated volunteers this year including Frankie Hamburger, Katrina Adams, Sara Stauffer, Evan Johnson, Ricky Green, Betsy Goodman, Rachel Barnett, Eric & Lisa Purcell, the Stanley family, Big Muddy Urban Farm, Rose Carlson, Jackie Foster, Mike Caban, Chris & Sallie Foster, and others. Also thanks to all our young gardeners, parents, friends, and program presenters who helped with this year’s learning and fun and making this another great year. 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](tel:402-290-8187) or [foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net)) or Mike Caban ([402-341-4722](tel:402-341-4722), [caban3321@cox.net](mailto:caban3321@cox.net)) if you would like to volunteer or have questions about GPYG program.





Restore Omaha and 2020 Omaha present the  
**Mid-Century Modern  
Restoration & Preservation Tour**

Featuring 1960 era homes and businesses in Omaha's Indian Hills neighborhood 84th to 90th between Dodge and Pacific streets.  
October 7th, 2012- Noon to 5PM  
Tickets- \$10 or 2 for \$15

Visit <http://restoreomaha.org/> for more information.

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## **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](mailto: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



# Gifford Park Tennis Program 2012





Gifford Park Neighborhood Association  
 PO Box 31462  
 Omaha, NE 68131

Place  
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 Here

## 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           |                                              |                                           |                                             |