



Gifford Park's Pride

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

April 2015

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

26th Annual Easter Egg Hunt Highlights

By Chris Foster

Beautiful sunny, mild weather greeted us for our 26th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, held Saturday, April 4 in Gifford Park. An estimated 350 neighborhood children participated. This was the seventh year in a row an anonymous dentist made a wonderful donation of 300 toothbrush & toothpaste care bags - 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 four age groups (0-4, 5-6, 7-9, 10-12). 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, William and their families) were a huge help as always. Justine Stanley did an awesome job as our enthusiastic Easter Bunny giving out treats to youngsters, and she was joined by her sister Witney who decorated herself as the Easter Egg, this really added to the festivities and enjoyment of the event. In keeping with tradition, 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,

**Next General Meeting
Thursday, May 14**

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



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2015 GPNA Officers

Luther Larson, President

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Eric Purcell, Vice President

402-719-5108 | eric.purcell@crmladers.org

Jill Westfall, Secretary

402-213-3105 | jill.lynn.westfall@gmail.com

Alexandra Goswami, Treasurer

847-477-2156 | omaha_beef@hotmail.com

Board

Mark Trampe, At-Large

402-332-6188 | supertrampe@gmail.com

Andy Wessel, At-Large

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Charles Mitchell, At-Large

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402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

Martin Janousek, Business Rep

402-558-4070 | mjjanousek@leoadaly.com

Chris Foster, Landlord Rep

402-290-8187 | foster3413@cox.net

Opportunities – Contacts

GPNA General Meetings

Luther Larson, 616-9350

Community Bike Project

Charles Mitchell 309-0777

Community Garden/Youth Garden

Chris Foster 290-8187

Adventure Playground

Teal Gardner 402-875-1896

teal.gardner@gmail.com

Teen Market Garden

Cynthia Shuck 556-2090

dalilabush@cox.net

Gifford Park Market

Martin Janousek 558-4070

Yates Community Center

Susan Mayberger 557-2431

susan.mayberger@ops.org

Youth Soccer

Eric Purcell 719-5108

Youth Tennis

Chris Foster 290-8187

Spring Cleanup

Luther Larson 616-9350

Gifford Park Neighborhood Market

By Martin Janousek

The sun is shining and the days are getting warmer and this only means one thing..... it's time to be thinking of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market. Now in its 8th summer, this small grass-roots market has the makings of being even better than last summer. Opening on May 29, the Friday night market will take place in the business district starting at 5:00 p.m. and lasting until 8:00 p.m. every Friday. Last year, we had vendors selling all types of vegetables and fruits, jellies, canned goods, handmade items, vintage clothing, honey, cheeses, smoked meats, bicycles and the list goes on. We had musicians and kid's activities as well. The best part of the market is the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association purchases the Vendors Permit from the city of Omaha and the cost for vendors to have a stall is ZERO. Yes, you heard that right. All proceeds go right back into the pocket of the vendor. However, vendors must remember with no cost to be a vendor all marketing and advertising is up to each vendor. What the neighborhood association hopes to encourage is the cultivation of an entrepreneurial spirit and the building of community.



If you don't want to be a vendor but would still like to be involved, please contact us. We need volunteers to help with a variety of efforts from setting up tents to lining up musicians.

For more information keep reading the newsletter over the next few months, follow us and "Like Us" on Facebook - Gifford Park Neighborhood Market. E-mail us at : gpnmarket@gmail.com



Gifford Park Cleanup
and
Playground Celebration



What: Gifford Park Cleanup and Playground Celebration

Who: EVERYONE (adults & children)!

Date: Saturday, April 25, 9:00am to 1:00pm

Activities: Playground & Park Cleanup, Pickup Litter, Weeding, Mulching, Raking, and Refreshments (tools & gloves provided)

Where: Meet at Gifford Park Playground at 35th Ave & Davenport

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.

Bike Project Hosts ExhiBIKEtion

By Charles Mitchell

On Friday, March 20, the Bike Project hosted ExhiBIKEtion, a bike themed art show at the shop. The event was splendid, with volunteers and local artists displaying sculptures, painting, and drawings made of and depicting bikes. An impressive number of artists from across Omaha contributed a great diversity of artwork celebrating bicycles and transformed the Bike Project into an inspired gallery for the night. Thanks to everyone who contributed art and made ExhiBIKEtion a success! Drawings and paintings took the place of tools on the tool boards and sculptures were displayed on our repair stands using pedestals made from bike parts! Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped deep clean the shop prior to the event, installed art work, and cleaned up afterwards so that we could be back up and running as a bike shop on Saturday morning. Thanks, as well, to everyone who came down to check out the show and supported the shop by purchasing some art.

If you missed out on ExhiBIKEtion, we've got another great event coming up soon! Lids for Kids, our fundraiser ride to support Youth Earn-a-Bike and Kids' Bike Club, will be on Sunday, May 3 at 11 a.m. Join the Bike Project for a fun and invigorating 25 or 50 mile ride that starts in Gifford Park, travels up to Neale Woods, and visits Fort Calhoun before returning to the Bike Project. Registration is \$35 and helps purchase the helmets, locks, and water bottles that youth earn along with their bikes and the materials



and parts needed to refurbish bikes. The ride is a lot of fun and a great way to discover the joys of longer distance rides. Lids for Kids is also a fantastic way to experience the Bike Project's impact first hand. Every year, a couple of Youth Earn-a-Bike graduates and dedicated youth volunteers tackle their first 50 miler. It's incredibly inspiring to see youth expand their riding capabilities on bikes they built and earned at the Bike Project! Register soon at www.communitybikeproject.org/lids4kids.

Of course, you don't have to wait for a special event to get involved. With warmer weather here to stay and summer break on the horizon, we especially need volunteer mechanics, shop coordinators, and Youth Earn-a-Bike mentors. Email me at charles@communitybikeproject.org if you'd like to get involved.

Free Paper Shredding

For the public—a free Personal Document Shredding Event, Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., sponsored by the AARP Information Center and the Shred-It Company. At the Center Mall, 42nd and Center St. Enter at 40th and Center Streets. Come to the top level, east parking lot. Unloading assistance is available and shredding is done immediately by Shred-It employees. Keep your personal identity safe—shred now! Call 402-398-9568 for more information.

Creighton Print Center
<http://printcenter.creighton.edu>

Xerox Corporation
Murphy Building
701 North 20th Street
Omaha, NE 68178

creightonprintcenter@xerox.com
tel 402.280.2515
fax 402.280.2370



Adventure Playground

By Teal Gardner

Hi everyone! I am thrilled to be getting organized for a summer full of free and open play at Gifford Park's own Adventure Playground! Please consider coming to an informational meeting at 9 a.m. on April 11, at Yates Community Center, room 9. We will discuss the origins of the Adventure Playground concept, our local approach, logistics of our space, volunteer opportunities, and answer any questions that you bring along. From 10-11 a.m. there will be a volunteer orientation, where we'll talk about working with kids at the playground.

There are a lot of ways to help the playground along! Get involved by donating materials, which can be a part of your own spring cleaning. The materials we are looking for include hay bales, pallets, hammers and nails, saws, sticks, paint for mural, paint for kids projects (acrylic paint, not housepaint), wood (lumber as well as tree chunks), logs, buckets, tires, milk crates, chalk, pool noodles, rope, chains, stones, tarps, and bungee cords. There are also many things that could be useful and exciting to have at the playground that aren't on the list. Please get in touch if you would like to donate any of these, or other, materials. teal.gardner@gmail.com

We are very happy to announce that the playground will be officially known as the Sallie Foster Adventure Playground. We are pleased that there is an opportunity to dedicate an active space for children to Sallie, who enjoyed and supported them so much.

We are also very excited to reveal that the entrance to the Sallie Foster Adventure Playground will be one of the original entrances to the Clarinda-Page which was demolished last year. Gifford Park's own Clarinda Karpov and her husband Richard White were able to save the entrance, and have offered it to the Community Garden. We will gladly take this wonderful piece of Omaha history! It will serve as a whimsical



entrance to the playground space. Thanks Clarinda and Richard!

Finally, we will be hosting a work party at the space April 18 at 10 a.m. This will ensure that we will be ready for the grand opening on May 16!

Thanks everyone for your support so far. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, donations, or would like to volunteer! teal.gardner@gmail.com

Easter Egg Hunt

continued from page 1

California Bar, Mike Caban, Paul Mileris, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Paul Farrand, Emma Kalkowski-Farrand, Jean Peck, Jim Wilwerding, Terry & Sue Wilwerding, the Sheldon family, Mohamed Ukach, Adrian Petrescu, Ben Spahn, Gennifer Goode, Elijah Walsh, Emmanuel Frierson, Ethan McNeal, Shelly Rose, Brent Lubbert, Tyronda Pierce,

Chris Foster, and the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. Please support the above businesses for their contributions. One last thanks to our dedicated newsletter distributors who hand-delivered about 1,300 flyers throughout the neighborhood!



Community Garden Update

By Chris Foster

This is the 15th year of the Gifford Park Community Garden, located at 35th & Cass, and we are getting ready for the new planting season. We are hoping this year we will see our first fruit from the blackberry bushes and espalier (apple and pear) fruit trees. At the present time we have a waiting list for new requests for renting garden plots, please contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) for more information on plots.

Mark your calendars for our annual Season Opening Event on Saturday May 9, 10 a.m. to Noon. We plan to have a variety of family activities including youth garden program registration, "ask the master gardener," Mother's Day take-home project, face-painting, digging, music, refreshments, free library books and library card sign-up, see the chickens, and more. 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, and activities:

- Garden Season Opening event (Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. - Noon)
- Youth Garden Program (Saturdays 10-11:30 a.m., May 16-August 29)
- Adventure Playground Grand Opening event (Saturday May 16, noon after youth garden session)
- Adventure Playground (Saturday afternoons starting May 16, noon after youth garden session)
- Pot Luck dinners
- Wednesday evening work parties (6-8 p.m. 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
- Planting & weeding (on-going)
- Chickens care

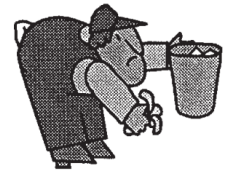
Let me know if any of the above interests you, and if you have any questions or ideas with the community garden, contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net).



SPRING CLEANUP - Saturday, April 11, 9am to 2pm



Neighborhood & Park Cleanup Trash Compactors in Gifford Park Membership & Donation Drive



- * Neighborhood volunteers will monitor the dumpsters (NO commercial hauling!)
- * Items **ACCEPTED**: furniture, bulky items, appliances, metal
- * Items **NOT ACCEPTED**: paint, yardwaste, concrete, hazardous material
- * **Tree brush** vouchers will be available
- * **Tires** may be dropped off for **FREE** at St. Vincent DePaul (southeast corner 22nd & Leavenworth)
- * **Tires** will be accepted at Gifford Park site at \$1 each
- * **Appliances** containing freon (refrigerators, A.C.) will be accepted at Gifford Park site at \$10 each
- * Gifford Park Neighborhood Association members will get highest priority for hauling items
- * If you can help with our neighborhood cleanup or if you need help hauling, please call:

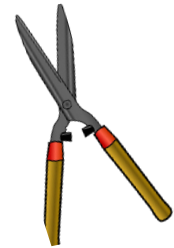
Eric 402-719-5108 Luther 402-330-3286 Chris 402-290-8187



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

Call Chris 290-8187

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



Maud Boutique Closing

By Lynn Mills

On April 25, Maud Boutique will be closing its doors. It has been nearly three years since we opened, and while I've thoroughly enjoyed curating the special pieces that have been featured in the shop, I feel especially grateful for all the associations the shop has allowed me to make. Customers and business connections alike have truly enriched the experience of owning this shop, and many have become my good friends. I loved being apart of the neighborhood market in the summer and seeing a community gather together. I loved hosting events in our space and seeing talented, creative people come together.

Now that the brick and mortar is closing, I'll be liquidating furniture and merchandise. While store hours will be mostly consistent, I would suggest calling in to make sure we're open, or watching for updates on facebook. We still have amazing pieces and fixtures to part with, so it's definitely worth checking out!

For three years, this shop has been a labor of love. I would love for you to come in and help me celebrate this transition, so stop by and say hello! Thank you for all your support and patronage.



Shelterbelt Welcomes “In the Jungle You Must Wait”

The Shelterbelt Theatre is pleased to announce their upcoming world premiere production, *In the Jungle You Must Wait* by Omaha playwright, Jeremy Johnson. The production runs April 17 - May 10, 2015. Performances are Thursday at 8pm (\$10), Friday/Saturday at 8pm (\$15 general public, \$12 students/seniors/TAG) and Sunday at 2pm (\$10). RESERVATIONS: boxoffice@shelterbelt.org, www.shelterbelt.org OR 402-341-2757.

Directed by Elizabeth Thompson, the cast features Ed Cutler, Sherry Josand Fletcher, Monica Ghali, Nichole Hawkins, Caitlin Mabon, Kaitlin Maher, Chris Riley, Christopher Scott, and Shannon Smay. The show is produced by Cristina Byrne and Noah Diaz, with set/lighting design by Josh Mullady, costumes by Lora Kaup, props by Cristina Byrne and sound by Shannon Smay. Roxanne Wach, Cristina Byrne and Dan Wach are providing projections. Jayma Smay is assistant director and stage manager. Employees at an insurance company are forced to find meaning in their lives when they suddenly find they must try to save one of their own. It's about you, everyone you know and the jungles where we find each other. Slam poetry, satire, and a searing truth all find their places in this fast-paced new comedy. This play contains adult content. Mature audiences only.

“I was inspired to write this play working in the underbelly of the janitorial industry. Most of it was written while sitting on a box of toilet paper in one dark janitor’s closet or another,” says Johnson, a poet himself.

On April 18, the theatre will host a post-show talk back and reception with the playwright. Shelterbelt is working with Nebraska Writers Collective and Louder Than a Bomb coaches as our educational partners. Sunday, April 26 at 6pm, the theatre will host Louder Than a Bomb Coach Showcase I with Nicholas Bell, Katie F-S, Dan Leamen and Brittany Young. On Sunday, May 3 at 6pm, they will present Louder Than A Bomb Coach Showcase II with Ryler Dustin, Greg Harries, Katharen Hedges and Stacie Waite. (Line-ups subject to change.) Both events have a suggested donation of \$5 at the door.

Eddith Buis will be showing ink drawings “From the Office” during the run of show. Eddith is known throughout the theatre community for her gestural drawings rendered during performances of plays around town. “She will be attending dress rehearsals to create her pencil drawings, taking them home to ink them and we’ll hang them before the production opens,” said Roxanne Wach, Shelterbelt’s artistic director and gallery manager. “It’ll be a unique show for Shelterbelt.”

Summer is just around the corner, and so is our 4th year of youth soccer in Gifford Park! If you have a child 3-8 years of age, be sure to sign them up for our FREE kids soccer program. Turn in registrations to Eric Purcell.

Gifford Park Free Soccer Program

For: Youth (3 to 8 years old)

Dates: June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15

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:

City Solutions



Animal Bites	444-7578
Barking Dogs (sick, injured, or stray animals)	444-7800
Cars (abandoned or junked)	444-5782
Cars/Trailers parked on front lawn	444-5350
City Services (complaints or information)	444-5555
Crime or Vandalism	444-5600
Empty buildings, Houses (vacant or dilapidated)	444-5371
Gang Hotline (Youth intervention)	444-6920
Garbage not picked up	444-5238
Garbage/Litter violations	444-5910
Gas leaks, waterline breaks, fire hydrants	554-7777
Handicap Parking Stickers	444-6080
Hedges, tree limbs blocking view/traffic	444-5592
Neighborhood Watch Program	444-5772
Rats, raw garbage, etc.	444-7481
Street Construction (problems or complaints)	444-5220
Tenant/landlord discrimination issues	444-5055
Zoning Enforcement	444-5364

Youth Garden Program Plans for 12th Year

The Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program will be kicking off its 12th year at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass) growing young gardeners. 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. On March 21 our GPYG volunteers met at Yates Community Center to begin planning for this year's program which is scheduled for each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. May 16 through August 29. A big thanks to all the past volunteers for supporting this program year after year! We look forward to working with Big Muddy Urban Farm again this year, our young gardeners learned a lot from these young farmers. And starting this year is an exciting new program at the community garden called Adventure Playground. Teal Gardner is the director and you have and will see more information in our newsletters. We will have GPYG sign-up at our Garden Season Opening event Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. – Noon. Stay tuned for more information in May newsletter. Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) or Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) if you have any questions about GPYG program.



**Happy
Spring!**

GPNA Events

Ongoing:

GPNA general meetings (2nd Thursday 7pm Feb/May/Aug/Nov at CHI-Creighton)
 GPNA board meetings (4th Thursday 7pm each month at GPNA president's home)

May

Community Garden Season Opening
 (Saturday May 9, 10am-noon)
 Community Garden Work Parties
 (Wed evenings 6-8pm during growing season April-Sept)
 Youth Garden Program
 (each Saturday morning 10-11:30am, May 16-August 29)
 Adventure Playground at Community Garden
 (Saturday afternoons during spring/summer/fall)
 Gifford Park Neighborhood Market
 (Friday evenings May-September, 5-8pm)
 Youth Tennis Block Party
 (Wednesday May 13, 6-7:30pm at Gifford Park)



June/July/August

Youth Tennis Program
 (Wednesday mornings 10am-noon June-July at Gifford Park)
 Youth Soccer Program
 (Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:30pm June-July at Gifford Park)
 Youth Tennis Program
 (Wednesdays in August, 6-7:30pm at Gifford Park)



Good Neighbors

By Rose Carlson

Susan Brink, who passed away a couple years ago, had a beautiful perennial garden that encompassed the whole of the front yard of the house she and her husband, Larry, shared on 34th and Webster. Susan spent many hours working outside. It was a gift to us, their across-the-street neighbors, to look out the living room window and see those flowers and plants every day. Since her passing and Larry's hospital stay, neighbors have been over a few times to clean out dead foliage, we can't keep up. If anyone can spare thirty minutes or so on Saturday morning, April 11th, we would like to bag some of last year's leaves, etc. so that her flowers have room to breathe and perhaps bloom yet another summer. We'll be out from 9:00 to noon at 3413 Webster St. Please wear gloves and long sleeves. Yard waste bags will be provided. Thanks for helping neighbors in need!



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 PO Box 31462
 Omaha, NE 68131

Place
 Stamp
 Here

**Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 Membership Application**

The GPNA membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.

Type of membership: ___ Single (\$10) ___ Family (\$15) ___ Business (\$25)
 Today's Date: _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Business Phone (if applicable): _____

Name (1): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (2): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (3): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (4): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (5): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Volunteer Opportunities! I'm interested in helping with...

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

Return completed form along with check or money order to:
 Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, PO Box 31462, Omaha, NE 68131.