



Gifford Park's Pride

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

May 2016

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Support NonProfits during Omaha Gives!

The GPNA is excited to be participating in Omaha Gives again this year. Omaha Gives! is a 24 hour, online giving event organized by the Omaha Community Foundation to grow philanthropy by inspiring the community to come together for 24 hours to contribute as many charitable dollars as possible to support the work of local nonprofit organizations. Omaha Gives begins at midnight on Wednesday, May 25. For 24 hours on May 25, you will have the opportunity to support the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association with donations of \$10 or more through the Omaha Gives website. Participating nonprofits have the opportunity to receive extra funding through hourly drawings, prizes, and bonus dollars.

Support the GPNA's efforts to continue to make the Gifford Park neighborhood a great place to live, work, learn and play. Donations will support ongoing programs and events like the Gifford Park community garden, neighborhood market, youth soccer program, youth tennis program, Sallie Foster Adventure Playground, and 33rd Friday Block Party and Multicultural Event. Donations will also help grow our neighborhood through initiatives such as the Turner Park North soccer field and Gifford Park neighborhood school/Save Yates effort.

Get ready to give on May 25th! Donations can be scheduled anytime between now and May 25 by visiting www.omahagives24.org. Follow the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GiffordPark for more reasons to give and to help spread the word about our great neighborhood!

**Next General Meeting
May 12th, 2016**

**Presenter:
Curtis Flint,
Monarch Butterfly Project**

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

This year, you'll also have the opportunity to champion the GPNA by making a personalized fundraising page. Fundraising pages are a way for you to raise money on behalf of the GPNA by creating a custom web page with pictures, video, and a personal appeal that you can share with friends and family. Create a donor profile at www.omahagives24.org to get started. Fundraising pages must be approved by the GPNA on May 13, make yours today!

Don't forget to support all of the other nonprofits that call Gifford Park home, like the Shelterbelt Theatre, Refugee Empowerment Center, the Community Bike Project Omaha, and Big Muddy Urban Farm!



OMAHA GIVES!
powered by the Omaha Community Foundation

2016 GPNA Officers

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Opportunities – Contacts

GPNA General Meetings

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Community Bike Project

Charles Mitchell 402-309-0777

Community Garden/Youth Garden

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Adventure Playground

Teal Gardner 402-875-1896

teal.gardner@gmail.com

Teen Market Garden

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Gifford Park Market

Martin Janousek 402-558-4070

Yates Community Center

Susan Mayberger 402-557-2431

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Youth Soccer

Eric Purcell 402-719-5108

Youth Tennis

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Spring Cleanup

Luther Larson 402-616-9350

From the President

By Marie H el ene Andr e

April is already over, but it seems like the last winter storm was last week, and the Easter Egg Hunt yesterday... Time flies and we have had a busy month in Gifford Park Neighborhood! Every weekend offered a different opportunity to be out of our homes and meet the neighbors.

We started the month with the park cleanup. Not the ‘annual spring cleanup’ as advertised in the last newsletter, no... an extra one, one that was not on our original calendar. As we did not have anything planned that Saturday :), we could not refuse the offer from Creighton Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. Sixty students offered to clean up and trim the park, and collect the trash from side alleys (April newsletter). Two weeks later, the Creighton Pi Beta Phi Sorority and the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity hosted the dedication of the Little Free Library (LFL) in the community garden (see article further). Promoting exchanges and literacy, these are the goals of the LFL. The LFL in the community garden is not ready yet, but I am sure you will soon enjoy it. Indeed, what better place than our community garden to grab a book, relax and read? Many Creighton students live in our neighborhood and I am glad to see them around, and see how involved they are. Thank you for your help!

In April, we also had the annual spring cleanup and its uninterrupted parade of trucks and volunteers collecting bulky items and broken chairs around the neighborhood. Three compactors literally ‘swallowed’ all those couches, mattresses, broken chairs, no-longer-wanted toys, etc. The neighborhood looks ‘cleaner’, lighter... But oh what a disappointment a few days later, when I walked around the block and noticed illegal dumping in an alley that had just been cleaned! Not the usual bags and papers that fly away with the wind... no... tires, wood, and other bulky stuff thrown there, without respect for the work done previously, without consideration for the neighbors! Isn’t that sad? We put such effort in cleaning and there you go, more trash around! My reaction? File a report for illegal dumping. It is as simple as that: use the Omaha Mobile App, take a picture and click ‘send’. Just do the same whenever you see something that needs to be fixed in our neighborhood!

But let’s get back to all these activities and events that make our neighborhood a great place to live.

May was off to a flying start with the ‘Lids for Kids’ fundraiser. I didn’t participate, but I am sure it was a success (see article further). The Community Bike Project has such a positive impact

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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 brent.lubbert@gmail.com.

Adventure Playground Update

By: Teal Gardner

This May marks the first anniversary of the Sallie Foster Adventure Playground. We'll be opening for the year at 2 PM on May 21st and will be open until 6 PM that day, and every Saturday through the Fall! Last summer's core youth, along with old and new volunteers are excited to share the newly expanded area, the finished treehouse, and the newly re-built & organized tool shed!



Although last summer almost feels like a distant dream, when I look out over the playground I can feel the excitement of another summer's worth of adventuresome play is just around the corner. We've been extremely lucky to have been the recipient of gifts and grants in the past year, not to mention the thoughtful and generous donations of time and energy from individuals and families alike. The community support of the playground has consistently shown me that it is a desired, valuable asset to our city, and I look forward to another summer of expanding our local understanding of the necessity for quality space for children's play.

Please get in touch if you have any interest in volunteering, donating materials, or would like to know more about our members policy, which allows community members to use the playground during non-open hours. (402)875-1896, teal.gardner@gmail.com. See you on the playground!

Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Starts Friday, June 3rd

By: Eliza Perry



Get ready for an INCREDIBLE season at the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market! We are a free, weekly event where local vendors sell homegrown produce, fresh and preserved foods, and crafts, and where neighbors and friends gather to enjoy food, art, music, and conversation. We will be starting up June 3rd with more vendors than ever before selling a big variety of foods and crafts!

We are so excited to share that we received a challenge grant from the Peter Kiewit Foundation to expand our infrastructure and reach out to more folks in the neighborhood in partnership with Yates Community Center and Refugee Empowerment Center. Please support these efforts at our benefit night Friday, June 17th!

This year, enjoy live music each week on our new stage provided by a grant from the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance. We will have other events throughout the season, stay tuned for dates in upcoming newsletters.

We always need volunteers and musicians - should you have any recommendations or would like to participate, get in touch with us at gpnmarket@gmail.com!

From the President

Continued from page 2

on our neighborhood... You make a real difference, Charles and the volunteers! Thank you!

Then, by the time you read this newsletter, we will have had the opening of the community garden season, which also announces the start of the youth garden (May 14th) and its weekly activities. Welcome new gardeners! We hope to meet you there!

What about the Adventure Playground? The grand opening is scheduled on May 21st. Remember... stop by the Community Garden and walk through the magic gate!... :)

I know, your calendar is already quite full but, wait... there is more! Yet another project will be implemented soon in our beautiful neighborhood, one focusing on preserving Monarch Butterflies. Are you curious? Do you want to know more? Come and join us at the next General Meeting, on Thursday, May 12th ... Curtis Flint, a very active teenager from our neighborhood, will present his Eagle Scout Project: the creation of specific habitats in Gifford Park Neighborhood to help protect the Monarch Butterflies! Isn't that exciting? Gifford Park Neighborhood will become a sanctuary for Monarch butterflies!

Not only will Curtis give a presentation, he will create the habitats! And... he needs help! We invite you to join us on May 21st at 9 am in the park to start creating that special habitat.

All these activities and events announce even more during the summer: Friday neighborhood market, soccer, tennis, etc. They are possible thanks to all the neighbors who invest time and effort to make Gifford Park Neighborhood an even better place. Thank you all for your help and commitment! And for those who haven't done it yet, please complete the form at the end of the newsletter, tell us about your talents and let us know how and when you want to use them in our community! We are always looking for volunteers...

Happy Spring!

Get to Know Danny Dressie and KNJ Grocery

By Chris Foster

When KNJ Grocery Store Manager Danny Dressie isn't inside his store helping customers you usually will see him right outside the store entrance on the corner of 33rd & California Street greeting customers, neighbors, walkers, bikers, and drivers passing through the intersection. Since January 2012 Danny, along with his wife Elizabeth and teenage daughters Jerusalem and Bethlehem, have managed the corner grocery store.

Danny has initiated positive changes both inside and outside the store. As many of you remember the store had a bad reputation under previous management. Danny has run off bad behaving people who used to openly commit crimes in and around the store. Instead he has created a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. There were many times before Danny took

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Get to Know Danny Dressie and KNJ Grocery

Continued from page 4

over that people avoided this corner altogether because they felt very unsafe, quite a different story today.

Inside Danny keeps shelves stocked with grocery items needed by his customers, most of whom walk to his store. You may have noticed the “Your Healthy Neighborhood Store” signs in the windows which are from the Douglas County Health Department’s Healthy Neighborhood Store program. Its goal is to increase the availability and affordability of healthy food options by enhancing the offerings at neighborhood stores. Danny has tried to offer very competitive pricing while providing the convenience of walkability to many local residence in a small corner store. He encourages customers to let him know if there is a product they would like to see, he will do his best to stock it. In the near future Danny would like to remodel parts of the store.

More about the Dressie family. Danny and Elizabeth are from Ethiopia, and more recently lived and worked in Denver. Danny was part owner and driver of a cab and limousine service for hotels including Marriott, Starwood, and Hyatt. Their daughters are honor students at Lewis & Clark Junior High School and desire to be engineers! The family likes playing soccer. They currently live in Dundee but are planning to move into the Gifford Park neighborhood in the next few weeks.

As someone who has lived for 30 years in Gifford Park a block away from KNJ Grocery, I have seen and appreciate the positive changes Danny and his family have brought. I know running a small corner grocery store in our neighborhood is very challenging. Having a proactive, hands-on, energetic, friendly manager is great to have in our 33rd & California business district. Danny was very helpful few years ago during the process of preparing and painting the large colorful mural on the south side of the building. And he has always been supportive of neighborhood events when we have asked for help. I know Danny and his family would appreciate our local neighborhood residents to stop down and check out KNJ Grocery!

Parking Violations



As warmer weather is finally here perhaps it is a good time to remind neighbors that vehicles should not be parked on sidewalks. It is, of course, illegal. In addition it is inconsiderate to pedestrians. As a neighborhood, we try to be pedestrian friendly. Parking violations continue to be a big problem. In many cases, legal on-street parking is available close by. In some cases, as in that shown in the photo, there is sufficient room to pull forward off the sidewalk and onto the driveway. Obviously, enforcement is lacking. So we would appeal to drivers to please make the effort to keep sidewalks clear.



Get fresh and local vegetables, herbs and fruit every week of the summer from the Loess

Hills Collaborative CSA! We’ve partnered with Omaha Whole Living to provide a convenient pickup location in the Gifford Park neighborhood so your weekly bag of healthy food is only a short walk away.

For more details on how to join please visit our website

loesshillscsa.com
or pick up a flyer at
Omaha Whole
Living (521 N. 33rd
St). Spring is
coming!



Community Bike Project Update

By Charles Mitchell

The Community Bike Project Omaha is geared up and ready for summer! After refurbishing and distributing over 500 bikes in 2015, we are eager to get even more individuals on bicycles in 2016.

If you need a refurbished bike to take advantage of the warming weather, there are still a number of ways to get yourself rolling. Kids' Bike Club gives kids aged 5 - 9 the opportunity to earn a free bike and helmet by attending 4 classes on Saturday mornings. Youth Earn-a-Bike, for youth aged 10-15, shows young cyclists how to completely overhaul and safely ride a bike and provides a free bike, lock, and helmet. Adult Earn-a-Bike, for individuals 16 and over, requires 5-10 hours of shop volunteering in exchange for a free bike. Adult Earn-a-Bike provides low-income individuals with a free light set, helmet, and U-lock to complement their bike. We also have some fantastic refurbished bikes for sale for affordable prices. These refurbished sale bikes help us teach bicycle mechanics to new volunteers and support our Earn-a-Bike programs.

If you already have a bike but need to tune it up for the bicycling season, our Open Shop hours are for you! Volunteer mechanics can walk you through any repair/maintenance process and the shop is equipped with 5 repair stations complete with all of the necessary tools.

After earning, purchasing, or maintaining a bike, you'll be ready to join our Sunday Funday Ride, a monthly family-friendly and all-ages "slow roll" group ride. Join Bike Project volunteers, Earn-a-Bike graduates, and friends for a casual ride on streets and trails the last Sunday of every month. We meet at the shop at 6PM and roll out at 6:30PM. Sunday Funday rides are a blast!

We also have several great events returning this year for you to support our mission. On May 25th, we will be participating in Omaha Gives (for more info on this 24 hour online giving event, see the GPNA article in this newsletter). On Sunday, June 12 we will be hosting a 25 and 50 mile fundraiser ride through Nebraska and Iowa to support our youth programs. And on Sunday, June 26th we will be partnering with Big Muddy Urban Farm to host Full Cycle Supper, a bike to farm to table event.

All of the Bike Project's great programs and events are supported by an amazing team of volunteers. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer, email charles@communitybikeproject.org or complete our online volunteer application at communitybikeproject.org/volunteer.



CERTIFIED ORIGINAL

SHELTERBELT THEATRE

3225 California St. • www.shelterbelt.org

Omaha's Home
For New Plays
OMAHA GIVES!
May 25

Final weekend for **THE FEAST** by Celine Song
May 5, 6, 7 at 8pm • May 8 at 2pm

Featuring: Mary Kelly, Leanne Hill Carlson, Beau Fisher, Noah Diaz
with original cello by Hannah Mayer

When all meat mysteriously turns to rot, ours becomes a world populated with reluctant vegetarians. Four hungry dinner guests impatiently await a latecomer. As stomachs begin to howl, the traces of civilization turn to decay. Sensual as it is grotesque, foul as it is funny, *The Feast* is a biting satire that serves up a heady repast straight from the kitchens of our darkest desires.

Coming July 8-31

Shattering The Glass:

A Celebration of Omaha Women in Theatre

A new collaborative project featuring female playwrights, directors and protagonists + all the originality you expect from Shelterbelt. Featuring new plays by Laura Leininger-Campbell, Moira Mangiameli, Kaitlyn McClincy, Marie Schuett, and Daena Schweiger. Directed by Sonia Keffer, Moira Mangiameli and Jayma Smay. Organized by Elizabeth Thompson.

Mr. Malloy's House

By Mike Caban

This is the story of Mr. Malloy's house. Mr. Malloy lived in that house when we bought our house across the street, in 1978.

He was a quiet, retired gentleman. We didn't have many conversations, just the normal greetings and salutations that good neighbors have. As far as I know he wasn't married or had any children. No one ever came to visit as far as I could tell.

He had a beautiful purple flowered clematis growing up a lattice, on the front porch facing the street. Daffodils and tulips adorned the area below it, in a long narrow flower bed. In the two car garage behind the house, aside from his every day car, he had a metallic blue, 1964 Ford Thunderbird convertible that he drove with the top down, maybe three or four times every summer. Mr. Malloy passed away in the early 1990s, and an absentee landlord purchased the house and practically neglected it while multiple renters abused the house for its remaining years. It looked sad to me after he died. Mr. Malloy had taken such good care of it while he was alive. The lattice was gone, the clematis had been dug up, and some daffodils and an occasional tulip or two would come up in scattered years.

In 2010 the landlord put a for sale sign on the front lawn. I know a few people who buy properties in the neighborhood and restore them to either rent, or for resale. None of them were interested. It seemed to me a shame that this beautiful white house with a wraparound corner porch should sit empty for so long. I always thought a young family with kids would love the place. The thought had crossed my mind to buy it myself, but

I'm retired and I have no experience with restorations, and I didn't want to deplete my retirement savings, on a venture I know nothing about.

In late 2013 a tall thin man came to our neighborhood association meeting to let us know that he had purchased the property, and that he planned to tear down Mr. Malloy's house and build a 4-plex and sell three of the units. He and his family would live in the corner unit. He made it all sound so simple. I asked him how much each of the 3 other units would sell for. When he said, "about \$225,000. each," I started to laugh... "In this neighborhood?" I asked. He proceeded to explain to me that our neighborhood was prime for upscale development and that those prices were reasonable for this area. "So, what if in two, three, four years from now you haven't sold one unit at that price, what will you do then?" I asked. He tried to assure me that the units would sell. That, right there told me he didn't have a contingency plan, or his plan all along was to rent these units from the get-go. I had a bad feeling about this enterprise. I just didn't trust him.

As I watched the house get torn down, an uneasy feeling came over me. This is just not right, but there was nothing I could do but watch and mourn this beautiful old house's demolition. That night, at about three in the morning I was awakened by a persistent sound. It was a beeping sound somewhere... Mr. Malloy's house across the street.

Somewhere inside the tons of rubble the throbbing high pitched sound of a broken home, a house torn to shreds cried out. A light drizzle fell that morning as I called the new owner about the beeping that kept me up all night. He had already received a number of calls from other neighbors, and had someone coming out to find the

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February 2014



May 2014



Gifford Park Free Soccer Camp

For: Youth (3 to 11 years old)

Dates: June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 July 6, 13

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

Time: 6:30-7:30 PM

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is offering a FREE summer soccer camp 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 session and demonstrate good sportsmanship.** There is limited space available so please be on time. Call (402) 719-5108 for more information.

Registration/Permission Form - Mail to the address listed above or bring this form (completely filled out) with you to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association summer soccer camp.

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:

Community Garden Update

We hope you plan to attend our Community Garden Season Opening Event, Saturday May 7th, 10am to Noon at the community garden (35th & Cass Street) to celebrate the start of our 16th year – it's free and open to everyone. We plan to have a variety of family activities including Youth Garden program registration; information on the community garden, Adventure Playground; Big Muddy Urban Farm; "Ask the Master Gardener"; free library books; Mother's Day take home project; face-painting; music; digging; free seeds, plants and refreshments (while supplies last); and meet our new batch of chickens!

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:

- Garden Season Opening event (Saturday, May 7, 10am - Noon)
- Youth Garden Program (Saturdays 10-11:30am, May 14-August 27)
- Adventure Playground (Saturday afternoons starting May 21, 2-6pm)
- Pot Luck dinners
- Wednesday evening work nights (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
- Planting & weeding (on-going)
- Chickens care

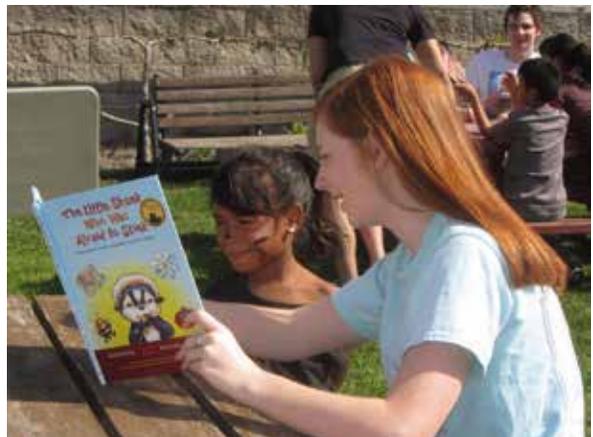
Let me know if any of the above interests you, and if you have any questions or ideas with the community garden, contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net).

Little Free Library Coming Soon

On Saturday April 23, Creighton Sorority Pi Beta Phi and Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity helped dedicate a Little Free Library at the community garden with kids' reading stations, face-painting, snacks, and other activities.

The purpose of Little Free Libraries is to promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide and to build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations. There are over 36,000 Little Free Library book exchanges around the world, bringing curbside literacy home and sharing millions of books annually.

In 2014, Dana Freeman and Stuart Shell built and installed the first Little Free Library (LFL) in the Gifford Park neighborhood in front of their home at 3435 Webster Street – be sure to check it out! Check out the LFL story at www.littlefreelibrary.org to look at examples of little libraries and for more ideas on how you can support the project.





GIFFORD PARK TENNIS BLOCK PARTY

Sponsored by the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, USTA Nebraska, Omaha Tennis Association, and the City of Omaha

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

6:00-7:30 PM

GIFFORD PARK TENNIS COURTS

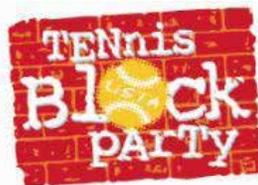
33rd & Cass

Join us for a FREE evening of TENNIS.

We have the rackets and balls.

**KIDS
Ages 5-19
WELCOME**

**GAMES
&
SNACKS**



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE
SUMMER TENNIS PROGRAMS AT GIFFORD PARK**

Call 402-290-8187 for information



Many thanks to City of Omaha Parks Department for dropping off mulch by our Gifford Park flower beds along 33rd Street, and thanks to neighborhood volunteers for weeding & mulching on two Saturday's April 9 & 16.

Youth Garden Update

The Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program will be kicking off its 13th year at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass) growing young gardeners. The 2016 program will be each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 AM May 14 through August 27 (except no program July 2). Attached in this newsletter you will find the schedule and registration information. We will be accepting registrations at our Community Garden Season Opening Saturday May 7, 10am 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 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) or Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) if you have any questions about GPYG program or the community garden in general.

Where did we meet?

By: *Rose Carlson*

Yesterday afternoon I was walking Lady, our puppy, on Cass Street when Bob Hutton pulled up on the other side of the street, parked, and walked around to the trunk, pulling out a set of very large wind chimes. We met each other at a perpendicular angle as he crossed the street to Diane Kay's house, clanking chimes in hand.

"Whatcha got there?" I asked.

"Did you hear about Diane's fire?"

"Yes."

"Well, it burned the ropes and she asked me if I could fix them. It was harder than it looks!" New white ropes held the chimes at intervals in a circular pattern around the metal frame.

"Yes, it reminds me of those macrame plant hangers we used to make in 4-H." He nodded and continued on to Diane's backyard, while I continued up Cass with Lady.

What made this brief encounter possible? How do I know Bob? How do I know Diane? How did someone discover the fire? How do Bob and Diane know each other? Why was I walking on Cass rather than on the street where I live? The answer to all these questions is "The community garden." Without this neighborhood landmark, none of these things would have happened. Bob, Diane and I might not even know each other. Chris Foster would not have discovered the backyard fire. I would have no reason to take that route when walking my dogs.

It's an outdoor community center where I've met so many people. Puppies meet babies. Asian refugees meet lifelong Omahans. Kids plant tiny gardens that grow better, despite neglect, than the best-tended plants in my own yard. Neighbors mow, weed, mulch, turn compost, bring food and try to get the roots of those darn dandelions. Come play in the dirt, sit in the shade or climb in the treehouse. So many of us have found that we are neighbors for more reasons than proximity, that we are all so alike in this enchanted place, and closer together than we knew.

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

creightonprintcenter@xerox.com
 tel 402.280.2515
 fax 402.280.2370

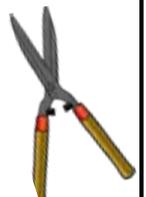
Xerox Corporation
 Murphy Building
 701 North 20th Street
 Omaha, NE 68178



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

Call Chris 290-8187

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



Community Garden Season Opening - Everyone Welcome!

Saturday May 7th, 10 a.m. to noon
at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass Street)

Variety of family activities including:

Youth Garden Program registration
Free Library Books; Ask the Master Gardener
Mother's Day take home project; Face-Painting; Music; Digging; Chickens
Information on community garden, Adventure Playground, Big Muddy Urban Farm
Free Seeds, Plants and Refreshments (while supplies last)

Gifford Park Youth Garden Program

2016 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

May 7	Garden Season Opening Event: 10 a.m. to Noon)
May 14	Get to Know Your Garden (prepare plot for planting & paint stakes)
May 21	Plant Your Plot (select seeds & plants, plant your plot)
May 28	Plant Your Plot (select seeds & plants, plant your plot)
June 4	Wildlife and Animal Care
June 11	Nebraska Watershed & Water Quality
June 18	Surprise!
June 25	Art in the Garden I
July 2	Fourth of July (*no program)
July 9	Herbs & Health Remedies
July 16	Garden Movement
July 23	Art in the Garden II
July 30	Canning & Preservation
August 6	Cooking Matters
August 13	Sound of Music
August 20	Making Bread & Butter
August 27	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 35th & 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 7. You can reach Chris Foster with questions or suggestions at 402-290-8187 or 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 35th & Cass Street. We will meet Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. beginning May 14 through August 27 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

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

Mr. Malloy's House

Continued from page 7

source of the crying, deep within the demolished house's heart.

It took the man many hours of searching and moving rubble to find the smoke alarm. The noise suddenly stopped. The man left. That night the beeping started up again, but different this time. It was a longer, weaker, deeper undulating beeping rather than the steady timed intervals of the night before. The agonizing last throes...

Once again I made the call, and again the man came back out for the second time... it was another alarm unit, somewhat damaged, he found it in the basement. Deep down in the soul of this home. She was finally silenced, dead quiet, lying there in a huge heap of no one's memories.

It seemed like forever before they removed the remains of Mr. Malloy's house... And then dump trucks backing down the hill, starting at 8 o'clock AM sharp, were my alarm clock for weeks. Beeping as they backed down the hill. Always beeping.

Digging out the foundation for the new structure that would replace Mr. Malloy's house was slow going, but finally a basement and three walls were erected by September of 2014. Then... then it all came to a screeching halt. The sidewalk had been blocked by a makeshift temporary orange plastic fence and a black tarp-like material. Three walls, a basement, and mounds of dirt on the 34th street side of the downhill slope towards the Park Terrace apartments, and Gifford Park at the bottom of the hill. Since then, nothing. Nothing except, in the spring of 2015 the owner put up a second big sign facing Davenport street. The first sign erected months earlier, was a Mutual of Omaha Bank sign, letting me and the world know that they loaned this guy the money to do this... Now he put up another sign with an artist rendition of what this project of his will someday look like. FALL 2015 the sign read in big bold red letters...

The fall of 2015 came and went... It's now the spring of 2016, and every time it rains, ever since 2014, mud washes down the 34th street hill, clogging the sewer by the park and creating a muddy mess for the people who live in the Park Terrace apartments. Random people in the neighborhood keep asking me about that hole, where the pretty big white house used to be. And I keep telling them that somebody thought he was going to make a killing with TIF money (a tax incentive), but he didn't do his due diligence and assumed the city would approve it, but they didn't, so now he's searching for a partner to help finish the project.

In the meantime, this sight haunts me. It's a reminder of the end of a quiet man's life, and the neglect and ultimate demolition of his home, and all that's left now is this ugly hole... this scar on the earth where a beautiful big old white house once stood.

...to be continued, someday, perhaps, who knows.

April 2015



June 2015



Spring Cleanup 2016 Highlights

Almost perfect weather greeted Gifford Park neighborhood volunteers on Saturday, April 16 for our annual Spring Cleanup. Again this year volunteers helped neighbors with hauling large items, and also cleaned alleys, streets and Gifford Park, including weeding & mulching the flower beds along 33rd Street. Our metal recycler Eric McGhee was on hand again to help us with metal salvage. We filled three trash compactors, recycled tires, collected interesting items for the Adventure Playground program, and collected donations & GPNA memberships. Thanks to all of the volunteers who made this year's spring cleanup a success: Alex Goswami, Eliza Perry, Mike Caban, Luther Larson, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Nancy Gaarder, Elder Chamberlain, Elder Connolly, Jamie Schumacher, Hunter Schumacher, Payton Schumacher, Milan Kohrell, Jim Wilwerding, Terry Wilwerding, Mike Wilwerding, Jim Kyler, Roger Freeman, Brent Lubbert, Paul Mileris, Wendell Stanley, Chris Foster. Special thanks to the City of Omaha and Keep Omaha Beautiful for sponsoring these valuable neighborhood cleanups year after year!



Monarch Butterfly Project for Eagle Scout Curtis Flint

Hello, my name is Curtis Flint, I have been a resident of Gifford Park my whole life and I am happy to announce that I will be doing my Eagle project in my neighborhood. For my eagle project, I will be creating and installing three Monarch butterfly habitats. I chose to create these habitats because of the shocking decline in the monarch butterfly population. The decline has been caused mostly by increased use of pesticides and destruction of their natural habitats from: logging, industrialization, and agriculture. By completing this specific project, I will also earn the SOAR (Save Our Natural Resources) badge in addition to my Eagle Badge. I will be carrying out this project on Saturday, May 21 from 9-12. I need as many volunteers as possible, because we will be cleaning up the park as well. Please meet me under the blue tent near the tennis courts if you can help.





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) ___ 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.