



Gifford Park's Pride

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

June 2016

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood Projects Update

By: *Chris Foster*

By now you have probably heard the exciting news about the Creighton University Medical Center (CUMC) building and property being sold to NuStyle Development. As part of the sale Creighton has accepted a letter of intent from Omaha Public Schools (OPS) to buy nearly 4 acres of parking lot property near 32nd & Webster to build our new neighborhood elementary school. OPS officials said OPS and Creighton are in negotiations, once the two entities agree on final terms, a contract would be presented to the OPS board for its approval. OPS expects board action on that contract within a few months. OPS says based on the contract negotiations with Creighton and successes at Yates Community Center (at 32nd & Davenport), OPS does not anticipate changes to the community center.

On behalf of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) and our Gifford Park Neighborhood School/Save Yates Community Center effort, we want say how excited we are to hear the announcement and the plans for the CUMC Hospital property and OPS letter of intent to buy Creighton property for our new school. We look forward to working with everyone on next steps to make these projects successful for everyone involved for many years to come. We also know there is much hard work and hurdles ahead with these projects, but the opportunities for Creighton, OPS, NuStyle Development, Gifford Park & surrounding neighborhoods, and the City of Omaha are tremendous! We appreciate the efforts of all involved stakeholders to work out the details of land acquisitions and initial development ideas, especially in urban areas like Gifford Park where

Next General Meeting
Thursday, August 11th; 7:00PM

Presenter: TBD

CHI Health-Creighton University
Medical Center
Morrison Seminar Room

issues are complex. Our neighborhoods are very passionate about being involved and providing valuable input as we move forward hitting the ground running.

Moving forward this summer, our neighborhood residents will have opportunities to be engaged in hearing about and providing input for NuStyle's development design plans for the CUMC Hospital property. The GPNA and NuStyle has been in communication since the announcement and we will announce meeting information once established. Our neighborhood appreciates NuStyle 's effort to engage our neighborhood for our involvement and ideas.

Regarding design plans for our school, our neighborhood leadership and community members (Gifford Park, Joslyn Castle, Bemis Park neighborhoods) are looking forward to providing input on plans. We expect to partner with OPS to plan and design the best school possible from all angles – physical design (building footprint and urban design & architecture to fit in with our neighborhood); safety; walk/bicycle routes; car/bus/ transportation traffic routes & parking; curriculum/ programming (i.e. magnet for dual language,

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2016 GPNA Officers

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Eric Purcell, Vice President

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Eliza Perry, Secretary

207-590-9880 | yrrepazile@gmail.com

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847-477-2156 | omaha_beef@hotmail.com

Board

Jason Feldman, At-Large

402-429-7646 | jason@yearofthestartup.com

Andy Wessel, At-Large

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Charles Mitchell, At-Large

402-309-0777 | charlesalexandermitchell@gmail.com

Luther Larson, At-Large

402-616-9350 | lutherlar@cox.net

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

Marie Hélène André 402-769-9183

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

Cynthia Shuck 402-556-2090

dalilabush@cox.net

Gifford Park Market

Martin Janousek 402-558-4070

Yates Community Center

Susan Mayberger 402-557-2431

susan.mayberger@ops.org

Youth Soccer

Eric Purcell 402-719-5108

Youth Tennis

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Spring Cleanup

Luther Larson 402-616-9350

Youth Garden Update

By: Chris Foster

The first four weeks of the Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program has seen lots of activities including children getting familiar with the garden, learning about seeds & plants and how to plan what to plant in their plots, and actually preparing the soil and planting their plots. The program is each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30am through August 27th (except NO session July 2). Below you will find the remaining schedule. This free program teaches youth of all ages how to grow our vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Many thanks to the parents and wonderful volunteers who make this program work! 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.

Gifford Park Youth Garden Program

2016 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30am

- 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

Neighborhood Projects Update

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STEM, STEAM, agriculture, economics, other magnet focus?); student assignment plan for the new school attendance boundaries; PTA/PTO; principal selection; state of the art technology & properly resources; etc. Obviously the capacity/size of our new school will be affected by curriculum/programming and student assignment plans. We will inform everyone as soon as we know of opportunities to provide community input – stay tuned!

Current OPS planned schedule for new Gifford Park neighborhood elementary school is:

- Jan. 2017-Sept. 2017 – building design
- Oct. 2017-Dec. 2017 – construction procurement
- Jan. 2018-July 2019 – construction
- Aug. 2019 – move in

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.lubbart@gmail.com.

Youth Soccer Program

By Eric Purcell

Year five of the Gifford Park Soccer Camp is off to a decidedly BRISK start!! Our first week kicked off with a bang as FORTY 3-11 year olds and TWENTY coaches took to the field, with parents cheering them on and watching from the sidelines. Our second week of camp saw FIFTY-FOUR youth and 16 coaches—a new Gifford Park Soccer Camp record! And we're just getting started!! We have painted five small soccer fields onto every piece of grass we can find around the Tennis Courts and next to the big soccer field in Gifford Park and with all of those kids and parents buzzing about, it is quite the site to behold! If you get a chance, come on down and check it out. Better yet, if you know any would be 3-11 year old soccer players, bring them out for a fun night of soccer, friends and, of course, SNACKS!! Soccer Camp runs every Wednesday night from 6:30-7:30 from June 1-July 13.



Big Muddy Urban Farm Update

By Brent Lubbert

Over the past four years, this neighborhood has supported our endeavours in growing a great deal of crops and farmers. Under direct pounding of summer rays, through the maddening rush of planting before heavy rains, to the ceaseless cycling of planting seeds to their fruiting and harvests taken to market, you have been there with us. We were never alone and we have tremendous gratitude for all the encouragement and support over these past five years.

You may notice that some of the plots this year are growing lots of things, not many of which are vegetables. This does not mean we have vacated the land. In contrast, there is a lot of activity going on now, especially if you think about it from a microbiological level. We are allowing the soil to take a rest from all of our taking and taking by giving it a healthy dose of cover crops. These crops are planted for soil fertility, rebuilding organic matter and to discourage weeds from moving in.

This cover crop idea can also be adapted to the organizational side of the farm. This year as we work with nature to bring the health of our soils, we are taking the time, organizationally, to plant for the fertility of the organization, to rebuild the matter of what matters to our organization and to discourage any bad movements going forward. In a real sense, this means we are working with dedicated focus on a residency program that will house 5 aspiring farmers to develop their own understanding of sustainable agriculture management and a taste of business creation. The other premise, which is not of lesser value or ignored, is an education in neighborhood well-being. To go back to the sentiments made at the beginning of this article. A barn is not built by one person and an urban farm too, is not established by one single individual, but by a great many. For this and for what is to come, Thank You!

Gifford Park Youth Garden Photos



Community Garden Update

By: Chris Foster

Everyone is encouraged to check out the community garden including the chickens located in their coop on the upper-north part of the garden. Also check out the Adventure Playground on the west part of the garden. Wednesday work nights will continue each Wednesday 6 to 8 PM through the growing season. During these times water and garden tools will be available for plot renters and anyone else interested in helping maintain the community garden – we always need weeding of the flower beds! It's a good time to stop by the garden to see neighborhood friends or check out what's growing. Contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) for other questions.

Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Photos



GIFFORD PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD

MARKET

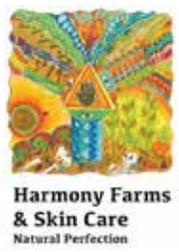
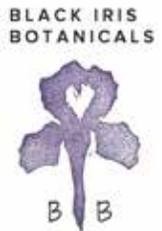
EVERY FRIDAY
JUNE-SEPTEMBER 5-8 PM

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We accept Cash, Credit, Debit + EBT

Special thanks to our sponsoring vendors:



Sawdust Creations
"You should see ... what I saw"

Find these vendors and more at the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market!
contact: gpnmarket@gmail.com

Adventure Playground is Nationally Recognized at NUSA Conference

Congratulations to director Teal Gardner and Adventure Playground volunteers for bringing home the 'Neighborhood of the Year Physical Project' 2nd place award from this year's Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference in Memphis this past month. The vast amounts of creativity and energy that flow from Adventure Playground make the neighborhood a more joyful place to live. The award also came with a \$250 dollar prize to go towards the program. NUSA highlighting Adventure Playground gives way for neighborhoods across the country to glean ideas of how this project might take shape in their neighborhood. Next year, Omaha will host this national conference, which includes neighborhood tours. I have a feeling people might be stopping by to see Adventure Playground. Congratulations!



Adventure Playground open hours are: Saturdays, 2-6pm at the community garden (35th and Cass St.) For more information contact Teal Gardner at teal.gardner@gmail.com or 402-875-1896



CERTIFIED ORIGINAL
SHELTERBELT THEATRE

3225 California St. • www.shelterbelt.org

Omaha's Home
For New Plays

July 8-31, 2016

SHATTERING THE GLASS: A CELEBRATION OF OMAHA WOMEN IN THEATRE

This new, collaborative project has female playwrights, directors and protagonists + all the originality you expect from Shelterbelt with three new one-act plays: *CLINK* by Moira Mangiameli, directed by Sonia Keffer; *LADIES ROOM CONFIDENTIAL* by Daena Schweiger and Kaitlyn McClincy, directed by Jayma Smay; and *L'CHAIM* by Laura Leininger-Campbell and Marie Amthor Schuett, directed by Moira Mangiameli. Featuring: MaryBeth Adams, Shanae Adams, Eli Ami, Pamela Chase, Nichole Hawkins, Heather Holmes, Sarah LaCount, Kathy Longe, Bridget Mueting, Jon Roberson, and organized by Elizabeth Thompson. In our gallery: Randi Hunter, acrylic; Kris Kahn, fabric; Dori Settles, mixed media; Roxanne Wach, mixed media.

Tennis Block Party 2016 Highlights

By Chris Foster

We had great weather for our annual Tennis Block Party Wednesday May 18 in Gifford Park with about 55 youth participants and over a dozen volunteers. Our young players learned the basic tennis skills along with rally courts, and we finished up with four watermelon and other snacks for everyone. Two Omaha Police Officers provided some great advice and answered kid's questions. Many thanks go to our dedicated tennis instructors and volunteers – Stanley girls (Dawn, Crystal, Justine, Witney), Jim Wilson, Buddy Hogan, Vince Emery, Laurie Bolte (and her nephew Tyler), Ari Manzo, Yusuf Abdi, Leif Bade, Jennessa Runia, Roger Freeman, Monica Lehn, Donnie Gildon, Mike Higgins, Paul Pellerito, Tyffaney Reichert, Kayleen Tran, Jenny Waltemath, Jackie Foster, Chris Foster, Jan Franks, Brittney Rubek, Betty Slayden. Thanks to Ric & Jane Hines for supplying equipment and always great support. And a couple more special thanks: the Omaha Tennis Association for many years of generous support; and the City Parks Department for maintaining the tennis courts and the park in general.

We are offering to the older youth the opportunity to continue on playing tennis with several instructors each Wednesday (10:00am to Noon for ages 9 & over) June 8 – July 20 at Gifford Park. Anyone interested, please contact Chris at 402-290-8187 for a registration form, or you can show up at the Gifford Park tennis courts.



FULL CYCLE SUPPER

A FARM-FRESH MEAL + BICYCLE TOUR PRESENTED BY
THE COMMUNITY BIKE PROJECT OMAHA
AND BIG MUDDY URBAN FARM

June 26th, 2016
5PM - 8PM

\$35 Meal Ticket
\$50 Donor + Meal Ticket

FOR MORE DETAILS + TO REGISTER VISIT
COMMUNITYBIKEPROJECT.ORG/FULL-CYCLE



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.