



Gifford Park's Pride

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

May 2017

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

New Tools for New Challenges (Home Sales & Increased Development)

By: Andy Wessel

Over the past few years, the GPNA Board has been wrestling with how to address some of the mixed blessings that come from Gifford Park (and Midtown in general) being seen more and more as a place worth investing in. We're now working on two tools that we think will help. The first is using Nextdoor to help people who want to buy a home to live in Gifford Park. The second is creating what we're calling a "code of conduct" to help real estate developers (and property managers too) understand how they can be a good neighbor.

Here's a little background on why we're taking these steps. For home sales, more and more we've been hearing stories about people (including some Board members) who have been looking to buy a home in Gifford Park because they love the neighborhood and want to live here, but they've been unable to do so because investors keep buying the properties as soon as they go on the market. As a neighborhood association, we want Gifford Park to be a place where families who want to live in the neighborhood can find a way to buy a home here.

If you are considering selling your home (or you know someone else who is), please use Nextdoor Gifford Park to connect with people who want to live in Gifford Park before putting it on the market.

On the code of conduct side, the Board has frequently been involved with trying to ensure that new real estate development projects are compatible with our neighborhood. Unfortunately, this is often done on an ad hoc basis. What we're proposing is to develop written guidelines to help developers understand the identity and values of this Gifford Park. Our goal is to be less reactive to new development and instead have

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 11, 7:00 pm

Topics:

1. Neighborhood Development Guidelines
2. Creighton Student Film: Neighborhood Farm to Table
3. Aspiring Farmer Residency Introductions

CHI Health-Creighton University
Medical Center
Morrison Seminar Room

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Community Garden Season Opening
- Tennis Block Party
- Big Muddy Urban Farm Pot Luck
- Neighborhood Clean-up
- Neighborhoods USA Conference
- Neighborhood Market Opens
- Soccer Camp

Event dates and details in articles of newsletter

clear and transparent expectations for how a developer (or property manager) can be a good neighbor.

If you are interested in learning more or weighing in with your ideas, please come to the GPNA General Meeting on May 11th or strike up a conversation with Eric Purcell, Chris Foster, or me (Andy Wessel).

2017 GPNA Officers

Marie Hélène André, President

402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

Eric Purcell, Vice President

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

Eliza Perry, Secretary

207-590-9880 | yrrepazile@gmail.com

Alexandra Goswami, Treasurer

847-477-2156 | omaha_beef@hotmail.com

Board

Tyler Magnuson, At-Large

402-706-7496 | tyler.magnuson@gmail.com

Curtis Flint, Youth Liaison

402-672-6683 | curtis.flint@outlook.com

Andy Wessel, At-Large

402-916-5030 | ajwessel13@yahoo.com

Brent Lubbert, At-Large

402-213-9646 | brent.lubbert@gmail.com

Scott Larsen, At-Large

402-690-7469 | scottlarsen.ne@gmail.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

Marie Hélène André 402-769-9183

Community Bike Project

Adams Blowers 423-307-4136

adam@communitybikeproject.org

Community Garden/Youth Garden

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Adventure Playground

Jasmine Frierson 402-213-0223

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

From the President

What makes a neighborhood great? Some criteria that define a great neighborhood are: its walkability, its access to public transportation, shopping and entertainment, the quality of its schools, its outdoor activities, and its low crime rate.

But there is something else that makes a neighborhood great. It is the sense of community: when people care about their neighborhood, when they organize and participate in activities that bring neighbors together. And Gifford Park Neighborhood is known for its sense of community: look at all the activities we organize, especially during the summer. Well, have you ever thought about what it takes to organize all these activities? I hadn't really... until a couple of weeks ago, when I answered a survey about neighborhoods. I was asked to describe the activities we organize, and the time we dedicate to each of them. That means I had to calculate how many people volunteer how many hours for each activity (and I probably forgot to mention some of them)... And guess what? The total came to several thousand volunteer hours each year! Yes, several thousand hours are invested each year in our neighborhood to make it such a great place to live! This is the real meaning of the sense of community, when people take ownership of their neighborhood, when they dedicate time to make it a better place to live, when they gather and discuss and share ideas about their vision of the neighborhood.

So... THANK YOU wholeheartedly for all you do for our neighborhood each year!

Happy reading!

Marie Hélène

Youth Garden Starting Soon

The Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program will be kicking off its 14th year at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass) growing young gardeners. The 2017 program will be each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30am May 20 through August 26. Attached in this newsletter you will find the schedule and registration information on page 14 and 15. We will be accepting registrations at our Community Garden & Adventure Playground Season Opening Saturday May 13, 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; 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.

See Youth Garden schedule and registration on page 14 and 15

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 gpnewseditor@gmail.com.

Gifford Park Community Garden Update

By Chris Foster

We hope you plan to attend our Community Garden & Adventure Playground Season Opening Event, Saturday May 13th, 10am to Noon at the community garden (35th & Cass Street) to celebrate the start of our 17th 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 play with the 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 & Adventure Playground Season Opening event (Saturday, May 13, 10am - Noon)
- Youth Garden Program (Saturdays 10-11:30am, May 20 to August 26)
- Adventure Playground (Saturday afternoons noon-4pm, May 20 to October)
- Pot Luck dinners
- Wednesday evening work nights (6-8 pm during the growing season through September)
- Garden tours (get people familiar with different parts of the garden)
- Theme garden maintenance (roses, butterfly, senses, perennial, front wall & parkway, herb, berry bushes, etc.)
- Compost bins – turn over compost pile (good exercise!)
- 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).

Adventure Playground Update

By Jasmine Frierson

I am so excited for the next season of Adventure Playground and you should be too! Not only am I excited to see familiar faces but also to make new friends in our community. This year will be special because we have some major projects in the works.

When the adventure playground opened, we asked the kids "What would you like to do with this space? How would you like to make it your own?" At the top of the list was a treehouse. I'd say we accomplished that one quite beautifully. Next on the list: a zipline! Once



again with the professional help of Francisco Jimenez Crisostomo and his crew, we plan to set up a zipline that is thrilling and safe. Matt Cronin will be donating his time and effort to build a xylophone that is larger than life. There will also be a movie night in June featuring "The Goonies".

So come join us for the Youth Garden and Adventure Playground season opening on May 13 from 10-12pm. The playground will be staffed every Saturday from noon-4pm through October beginning May 20th. We would like to extend those hours to other days but volunteers are needed. Volunteers are there to keep the area free of hazards, lend out tools/materials and most importantly, play and engage with the kids. If you are interested or have questions, you can contact us via email at sfadventureplayground@gmail.com.

Yates Education Community Partnership (ECP) Update

By Susan Mayberger

The programming at Yates ECP programming continues to meet the needs of our newly arriving families and our youngest children. During the 2016-17 school year, Yates provided conversational English classes and parenting classes to over 600 parents. Classes are offered every day that the Omaha Public Schools' elementary schools are in session. Classes are from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. One of the most popular classes are for migrant and refugee parents with young children. Sometimes, there are more 40 moms and their children learning their ABCs and 1-2-3 in English. The families are from Burma, Bhutan, Nepal, the Congo, Syria, Somalia, Mexico and other countries. Learning English is critical for our newly arriving families that live in our neighborhood.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, sewing classes are provided. The parents have learned to sew hats, gloves and scarves to give the newly arriving families. There are cultural orientation classes on Fridays. On Saturdays, students from Creighton University are providing free citizenship classes at Yates.

In addition to the programs for immigrants and refugees, there are four classes for Early Childhood. Their end of the year program will be on Friday, May 26th at 2:30 p.m. All of the Gifford Park Neighborhood is invited to wish our 4 year olds well as they move on to kindergarten in the new school year.

If you have any questions regarding the programming, a desire to volunteer, or host an event at Yates, please contact Susan Mayberger at susan.mayberger@ops.org or Veronica Hill at veronica.hill@ops.org.





SHELTERBELT THEATRE
3225 California Street



NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL



NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT
ARTS • RECREATION • LITERATURE

CATHERLAND

book & lyrics by Becky Boesen
music by David von Kampen
directed by Roxanne Wach
music direction by Peggy Holloway

April 21- May 14, 2017

Thursday/Friday/Saturday at 8pm
Sunday at 6pm (May 14 at 2pm)

• Sat., Apr. 22 - post-show talkback with the playwright and composer

A Nebraska Ghost Musical

FEATURING:
Ben Adams • Craig Bond • Jennifer Gilg
Sara Planck • Laurel Rothamel • Randy Vest

www.shelterbelt.org

- Thurs., May 4 • Post-show Cather Scholar Panel
- Sat., May 6, 2pm • Emerging Composer Workshop with David von Kampen
- Thurs. May 11 • 7pm: Pre-show Book Discussion
- Mon., May 8 • 7pm *THOSE TWO ARE DEFINITELY GETTING MURDERED* by Kaitlyn McClincy, • \$5 + free drink

Susan made a deal with her husband: Once her first book is done, they'll start a family. As the ink dries on the final page, the couple heads to Red Cloud, NE, hoping to begin a simpler life, but a slew of mysterious guests prove that there's nothing simple about small town living. Dreams shatter, plans change, and the trajectory of Susan's future takes new shape in the looming shadow of American novelist, Willa Cather. "There are some things you learn best in calm, and some in storm." Susan just hopes to make it out alive.

28th Annual Easter Egg Hunt Highlights

We received a much-needed break in the weather just in time for our 28th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, held Saturday, April 15 in Gifford Park. We estimated about 275 anxious neighborhood children participated. This was the ninth year in a row an anonymous dentist donated dental care bags for all the children. Volunteers picked up litter and in the park before putting out candy, treats, and other prizes in the grass. As traditional, we had four age groups: 0-4, 5-6, 7-9, and 10-12 year-olds. There were many volunteers and donors who helped put forth extra effort – once again Darryl Hutton did a great job getting donations from a variety of people and businesses; Jan Franks, her grandchildren Brittany Rubek, and great granddaughter Arianna, organized the candy. The Slayden family (Betty, Tiffaney, Kayleen, and their families) were tremendous help as always. Justine Stanley did another wonderful job as our charismatic Easter bunny giving out treats to youngsters, and she was joined by her sisters Dawn, Crystal, Witney, Rachel and brother Wendell Junior. In keeping with tradition Senator Sara Howard and her mom Gwen came again and donated cute stuffed bunnies. Many thanks to all those who donated time, money, candy, and other items for the event: Fremont Machine, Whelan Law Office, Kilgore Law Office, Discount Laundry, Urban Village, California Tacos, California Bar, KNJ Grocery, Selenas Market, Ideal Hardware, Paul Mileris, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Jim Kyler, Terry & Sue Wilwerding, Jessyka Sheldon, Adrian Petrescu & Marie Hélène Andre, Mike Caban, Ellen Price, Jim Wilwerding, Paul Pellerito & family, Curtis Flint, Matt Cronin, Eliza Perry, Nancy Gaarder, Jackie Foster, Chris Foster, and the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. Please support the above businesses for their contributions. I'd like to give special thanks to Jim Kyler for volunteering his truck (and himself) since my yellow pickup truck was (and still is) in the repair shop. And finally, special recognition to our Easter bunny Justine Stanley for once again coming early and staying late to delight the kids – Justine's enthusiasm for a tough job (it gets hot in that suit!) is outstanding!



Bottom photo highlights neighborhood volunteers // The Stanley Family (from Left to Right): Crystal, Justine (Easter Bunny), Witney, Dawn, Rachel.

2017 - A Year Dreams Come True

continued from page 3

believe and we will defend what we know is right, from trees over parking lots to a safe and walking friendly neighborhood, and even to organizing help to take the dirt hill away from over the children's park that rests underneath, left behind by higher ups from Lincoln to Washington D.C.

We are happy to have helped Gifford Park neighborhood become an attraction point to young new neighbors coming here from everywhere because they love it here. We are happy to dream on at what will we build together next to help our community become even stronger and to make our neighborhood even more enjoyable.

What do you dream about?

Let us all keep dreaming big and bigger. Let us imagine what else can we build anew every day of every month of every year, towards a bold vision of community. Let's keep working together even harder, staying inspired by our national neighbors who so graciously chose to visit and to teach us new things and to help us celebrate our modest successes. As we wrote before, there are some 90,000 local government organizations in these United States, all constituting the strength of our mutual innovation and creativity in community building and strengthening. This is a force of ideas and dreams to come true through perseverance that everybody must reckon with. After all, we are whom we helped achieve their fullest potential. Let's keep our can do spirit, amplify our optimism and perseverance, and keep our focus and our attention on the nurturing of our youth. We shall see how far we can dream and how far we will get in the next 16 years. How far we will help bring Omaha and Nebraska in the next 150 years. Neighbors of America, let's all dream on. And let's all make those great bold dreams of community come true.

5-year Operation Playground Celebration

On Saturday April 15 (immediately following the Easter Egg Hunt) the Gifford Park neighborhood celebrated the 5-year anniversary of our playground equipment because of the great efforts of the Operation Playground project lead by Maria Devlin. It was our (the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association) privilege to honor Maria and her family at the playground for their tremendous efforts!

A bit of history, back in about 2010, a group of Creighton University Occupational Therapy (OT) students came to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association to see if they could do something that would impact the neighborhood. As students in the College of Pharmacy and Health Professions, the health of people in the community, especially children, was important to them. Maria lead the group in its efforts to raise over \$50,000 from special fundraising dinners, on-campus events, local foundations and in-kind donations.

Since the playground equipment installation 5 years ago, Maria's family meet back to Omaha each spring and fall to organize a playground & park cleanup celebration (complete with healthy food for volunteers!). Maria and husband Rory live in Denver, CO and Maria's parents George & Patty Doyle live in Columbus, OH. The Gifford Park neighborhood is sincerely grateful for Maria and her family's dedication, commitment and special relationship with our Gifford Park neighborhood! What a wonderful occasion to bring the neighborhood together!

FYI – The GPNA is nominating Maria Devlin for Creighton's Young Alumni Achievement Award, she is very deserving of this prestigious honor, we will let you know if she receives the award.



Maria Devlin, right, with her mother, Patty Doyle

Gifford Park Free Soccer Camp

For: Youth (3 to 11 years old)

Dates: June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19

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.

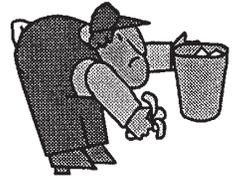
I hereby waive, release and hold harmless the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Youth Program, and the City of Omaha, Nebraska, its Officers, coaches, sponsors, supervisors and representatives for any injury that may be suffered by my child in the normal course of participation in this sport and 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:

SPRING CLEANUP - Saturday, May 20, 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**: yardwaste, rocks, concrete, paint, hazardous & toxic material
- * **Toxic materials** (paint, oil, pesticides, chemicals) can be taken to the *Under the Sink* facility near 120th & I Streets
- * **Tree brush** vouchers will be available
- * **Tires** may be dropped off for **FREE** at Walnut Hill Elementary School (4370 Hamilton St)
- * **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:

Luther 402-616-9350 Chris 402-290-8187 Eric 402-719-5108

Membership Drive: Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) annual membership dues are only: **\$10 for Single, \$15 for Family, \$25 for Business**. Your membership helps support **neighborhood cleanups, newsletters, youth activities, watch group equipment, tool lending** and many other worthwhile programs. The Spring Cleanup is a great time to join! You can also find our membership form on our GPNA website: www.giffordparkomaha.org

The Legend that is Whistle Pig

This brave creature that cohabitates in our neighborhood is often seen at the Community Garden compost pile. There he enjoys the company of his fellow neighbors, the chicken flock. Other times, Whistle Pig is seen 'whistling' across one of the busiest streets in the Gifford Park Neighborhood, California Street. He sure knows how to hustle. Sometimes groundhogs are accustomed to messing up gardens, but Gifford Park's Whistle Pig keeps to his own. To honor this friendly creature, neighborhood artist Maranda Allbritten created a beautiful stamp for t-shirts and hats, available at the neighborhood market (pictured right). If you see him around the neighborhood, you can ask this legendary figure if the upcoming season will be early or later this year.



The Collaborative Spirit

By Brent Lubbert

Neighborhoods find greater strength and resiliency when its members and organizations work together in collaboration. Thanks to the many active neighbors in The Gifford Park Neighborhood, who have worked together throughout the years, the neighborhood's culture flourishes with a collaborative spirit. One example of this spirit is the Full Cycle Supper, a collaborative fundraiser hosted by Big Muddy Urban Farm and Community Bike Project Omaha.

The Full Cycle Supper is a progressive five-course, farm fresh meal. The meal consists of riding your bike to the various Big Muddy Urban Farm plots enjoying a unique course at each plot. The 3-mile bike ride will take place on Sunday, June 25th at 5 p.m. Talented local chefs from the area will prepare the courses to feature ingredients grown where their course is served.

The ride will start with the first course at Big Muddy's 33rd and California St. plot. Tickets are \$45 for the meal and tour assistance. Funds raised from the Full Cycle Supper will go to support the neighborhood-based, community-building work of The Community Bike Project Omaha and Big Muddy Urban Farm, and further the neighborhood's culture of collaboratively supporting each other.

The Full Cycle Supper is limited to 30 riders. Riders are asked to bring their own well-adjusted bike and water bottle. To purchase tickets and to find out more, look for the event on Facebook.



Big Muddy Season Opening Pot Luck

Big Muddy Urban Farm and the 2017 Residents would like to open our doors and invite you to a Pot Luck at the 33rd and California Street farm plot.

Come celebrate the season ahead on Wednesday May 17th from 6-8pm! The farm will whip up some food at the house and please, feel free to bring a small dish or refreshment to share. We'd love to talk with our community about our hopes and plans for the farm and the residency going forward, as well as hear what you'd like from us and hear what's going on in your worlds. Kick back, enjoy great food, kind company and rich conversation with us at Big Muddy Urban Farm!



We will also be giving thanks as Omaha Gives! enters its concluding week of giving. Please consider donating to your neighborhood urban farm during Omaha Gives! and the many amazing organizations in Omaha, including the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association.

Gifford Park



Neighborhood Market

Season Opens on May 26!



CELEBRATING
5 YEARS!

Let's Give
Together

OmahaGives.org

AMERICAN
NATIONAL BANK PRESENTS

OMAHA GIVES!

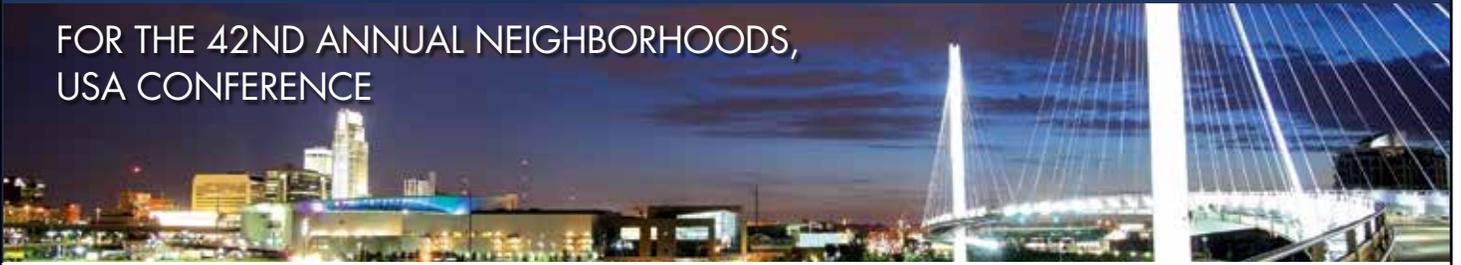
powered by the Omaha Community Foundation

Omaha Gives! is coming up on May 24th

On May 24th, our community will come together for Omaha Gives! and we need YOU to join us. It's the 5th year of a full 24 hours dedicated to giving—and it's your chance to make a real difference, right here in our own community. Last year, almost 19,000 people gave nearly \$9 million for 789 nonprofits. One very special thing about this day is that nonprofits have the opportunity to win prizes. Your donations gives them more chances to create more good for our community! Join in the fun by donating to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, Community Bike Project Omaha, Big Muddy Urban Farm, and more, online at OmahaGives.org on May 24th.

REGISTER TODAY

FOR THE 42ND ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOODS,
USA CONFERENCE



May 24 – 27, 2017

Downtown Hilton Omaha
& CenturyLink Center in Omaha, NE

Register today and join hundreds of people who are passionate about improving neighborhoods and building stronger communities. Gather together to share information with one another, attend and actively participate in educational workshops, tour neighborhoods and recognize achievements of neighborhoods across the nation.

Bike Shop Update

By Adam Blowers

Omari, Brayan, and Miguel were our first 3 Youth Earn-a-Bike graduates of 2017! Each earned a bicycle, lock, and a helmet and learned valuable skills along the way. Youth Earn-a-Bike and Kids Bike club are in full swing as is everything else in the shop, located at 525 N 33rd Street.

A couple of our awesome volunteers have organized a weekly distance ride series that is designed to help beginners build up to riding longer distances and get them comfortable riding in groups. If you've ever wanted to ride some of the summer charity rides but are worried if you can keep up or not, then these rides are for you. They are no drop casual rides. The first one has already happened and was 10 miles, but the next ride is Saturday May 13th at 9 a.m. and the rest will happen every Saturday after. Meet at the shop by 8:45am and leave at 9am.

These rides are designed to build up to our next big event which is Lids for Kids. Lids for Kids will be on June 4th this year. Lids for Kids is our annual fundraising ride for Earn-a-Bike. There will be a 25 mile route and a 50 mile route with slow and fast versions of each so everyone can ride a pace that suits them. This ride will be supported and there will be snack and water stops along the way. All proceeds from Lids for Kids go to support our Earn-a-Bike program so that we can continue to provide helmets and locks to all of our graduates.



from left to right: Omari, Brayan, and Miguel

More information can be found here: <http://communitybicycleshopomaha.org/lids4kids/>

As always, if you need help with your bike or want to volunteer let me know. adam@communitybikeproject.org

GIFFORD PARK TENNIS BLOCK PARTY

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

GAMES
&
SNACKS



KIDS
Ages 5-19
WELCOME

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17
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.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SUMMER TENNIS PROGRAMS AT
GIFFORD PARK

Call 402-290-8187 for information

YOUTH SUMMER TENNIS FREE INSTRUCTION AND DOUBLES PLAY

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

WEDNESDAYS
June 7-July 19

10-10:50 am: Ages 9-11
11-11:50 am: Ages 12 & Over

25 Minutes of Stroke Development + 25 Minutes of Doubles Play

GIFFORD PARK TENNIS COURTS
33rd & Cass

Rackets and balls provided.

For more information, call Chris at 402-290-8187

Community Garden & Adventure Playground Season Opening Everyone Welcome!

Saturday May 13th, 10 a.m. to noon
at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass Street)

Variety of family activities including:

Youth Garden Program & Adventure Playground 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 13	Garden Season Opening Event (*10:00am-noon)
May 20	Get to Know Your Garden (prepare plot for planting & paint stakes)
May 27	Plant Your Plot (select seeds & plants, plant your plot)
June 3	Plant Your Plot (select seeds & plants, plant your plot)
June 10	Art in the Garden
June 17	Food & Plants
June 24	Sound of Music
July 1	Bees & Chickens
July 8	Wildlife & Animal Care
July 15	Garden Movement
July 22	Tree Walk
July 29	Herbs & Health Remedies
August 5	Cooking Matters
August 12	Canning & Preservation
August 19	Field Trip
August 26	Pizza Garden Harvest PARTY! (Big Muddy Urban 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 13. You can reach Chris Foster with questions or suggestions at 402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net.



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.