



Gifford Park's Pride

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

July/August 2018

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood School Update

by Leslie Wessel & Jeramie Cobb

If you have been by the school site lately, you've noticed quite a transformation since work on the building began this past spring. The exterior shell of the school is really taking shape. The exterior masonry walls for the gym, kitchen and cafeteria are nearing completion, and concrete will soon be poured for the floor of the first floor classrooms/storm shelter area (the south side that first took shape). On-going work includes plumbing and electrical rough-in and structural steel and metal decking installation. Interior stud framing and duct work installation is set to begin at the end of July. No information yet on whether there will be a topping-out ceremony for the district and community, but we'll keep you posted.

On a related note, the search for a principal for the new school has begun. OPS posted the position on its website at the end of June and hopes are that a new principal will be selected by the end of the summer or early fall, although the role will not officially begin until January 2019. Once a principal is in place many other pieces can come together, including a name for the school! We'll keep you posted with more updates as we get them.



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Thursday, August 9 // 6:30 PM
Yates Community Center
3260 Davenport Street

Presentation:
Chris Wayne - Neighborhood Planning
+
Cuming Street Bridge Design/Plan

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Slip'n'Slide at the Park
- Youth Garden
- Neighborhood Market
- Tennis Lessons
- Soccer Camp
- Tibetan Monks Visit Green Space
- 33rd Block Party!

Event dates and details in articles of newsletter



2018 GPNA Officers

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Andy Wessel, At-Large

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402-558-4070 | mjjanousek@leoadaly.com

Chris Foster, Landlord Rep

402-290-8187 | foster3413@cox.net

Susan Mayberger, Yates Rep

402-342-6606 | susanmayberger77@gmail.com

Opportunities – Contacts

GPNA General Meetings

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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

sfadventureplayground@gmail.com

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Rep

Adrian Petrescu, 402-769-9070

aspetrescu@alumni.pitt.edu

Gifford Park Market

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Yates Community Center

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Youth Soccer

Eric Purcell 402-719-5108

Youth Tennis

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Spring Cleanup

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

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Brent Lubbert 402-213-9646

From The President

by Eliza Perry

I feel my heart swell with joy and gratitude and pride at the thought of all the people who are braving the heat this summer to make Gifford Park neighborhood so fun and accepting for all. I want to give a few HUGE shout-outs this month. Well, maybe more than a few...

First, to Matt Wettengel, Alex O'Hanlon, Ameen Wahba, Emily Hefeli, and of course, perennial market manager and co-founder, Martin Janousek. This group undertakes an enormous amount of coordination throughout the winter and each week during the summertime to put on our beloved Gifford Park Neighborhood Market, aka "the living room of Gifford Park."

Speaking of beloved, I can't go any further without thanking the new and longtime volunteers that put on our free youth garden programming, which ranges from music-making to art-making to yoga in the garden to learning how to make bread and butter together to insect identification and wildlife education - and beyond! There are so many of you I can't possibly list you all (I'll leave that to Chris Foster's summer recap coming up in the September issue). These volunteers give their Saturday mornings to teaching the kids of our community new skills and awareness of nature while playing outdoors and getting dirty!

I also want to recognize the many neighbors involved in planning our giant 33rd Friday Block Party on our 30th anniversary - the biggest and best yet! Danny's Corner Store owner Danny Dessie, Marie H el ene Andr e, Amy Lanspa, Crystal & Wendell Stanley, new neighbors Amanda Huckins and Jessie Fisher, Chris Foster, Martin Janousek, Burnzzz owner Tasha Burns, and Ameen Wahba.

And then!!! And then there are the neighbors who put on the MOST AWESOME free summer soccer camp - ready? Brandon Sperry, Eric Purcell, Anna Deal, Virginia Roode, Patrick Roode, Lisa Purcell, Cesar Tadeo, Jose, Matt Cronin, Megan Sperry, Witney Stanley, Crystal Stanley, Dawn Stanley, Andrew Pellerito, Josie Pellerito, Brittany Stebbins, Gema Ramirez, Tyler Magnuson, Ian Patrick, Norah Purcell, and Aderyn Lawse!!!

Finally, and certainly not least, thank you to the volunteers running our Adventure Playground, which bursts with joyous laughter and creativity Saturday afternoons, our Community Garden, and our youth tennis program. Each of these programs take equally giant doses of commitment and coordination from neighbors to put on. I salute you all!

As you can see, it takes a village. In my humble opinion, we have the most dedicated, passionate, generous, supportive village in this town. I thank each and every one of you who contributes time, talent, funds or otherwise to making Gifford Park a great place to live, work, learn, and play.

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.

Community Bike Project Update

by Adam Blowers

The shop is 11 years old! Come celebrate with us! On Saturday August 11th from 5 to 8pm we will be throwing the shop a birthday party at the Gifford Park tennis courts. Everyone is welcome. There will be food, drinks, games, cake, brownies (probably), and cool people. Possibly even some music. So come down and help us celebrate 11 great years of the Bike Project.

We also have something fun planned for the Gifford Park block party on August 17th. We'll be stamping t-shirts so bring a t-shirt or two and you can create your very own Community Bike Project shirt! There will also be some volunteer mechanics on duty to look over bikes so ride to the block party, get a shirt, and get your bike looked over all at once. Can't beat that.

Check us out on facebook for all the latest bike shop news and events.



COME TO THE GREEN SPACE BLESSING!

Join us for a beautiful Green Space blessing by Tibetan monks from the Gaden Shartse Monastery in India. The monks have been visiting Omaha for more than 25 years, emissaries from The Dalai Lama on a mission of spreading compassion and sharing Tibetan culture.

Sun., July 22, 2018 • 7 p.m. • rain or shine
Between Cass St. and Cottage Grove, from 30th St.

Come relax on the grass under the trees, and enjoy the peaceful chanting of the monks, the tinkling of bells, and the singing of birds in the Green Space! Bring blankets or lawn chairs, if you wish. You don't have to understand the ceremony to receive the blessings it bestows.

The Green Space, which belongs to Boys Town Hospital, is a beautiful park-like green, home to urban wildlife, songbirds, and mature trees – including rare American Elms.

More about the Tibetan monks' visit and events:
www.CompassionOmaha.org/happening-now

The Gifford Park Community Arboretum is an Affiliate Site of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

**First Friday comes once a month, but there's only one 33rd Friday
Celebrate it the right way – on 33rd Street in Gifford Park!**

33rd Friday **BLOCK PARTY!**

August 17th
5-8pm

FREE AND OPEN TO **ALL**

Free Kids Games
Dance Performances
Live Music
Friday Night Market
Bounce House
Tractor Rides
Craft Fair
Face-Painting
and
SO MUCH MORE!



CELEBRATING
Gifford Park Neighborhood Association's
30TH ANNIVERSARY



Volunteers and Items Needed for 33rd Block Party

by Amanda Huckins

Volunteers needed! Sign up for a 90 minute carnival game or craft facilitator shift by emailing huckins.amanda.24@gmail.com or leaving a message at 402-312-3158. Shifts are 5-6:30pm and 6:30-8pm. An additional 1 hour training meeting will be held in the weeks before the event so you can get to know your game/craft!

We're also looking for the following recyclables and materials. Drop them off in the box on the porch of 515 N 33rd (white house next to the soon-to-be coffee house) anytime between now and July 29th!

- rinsed out plastic milk jugs (gallon, half gallon, or quart)
- plastic bottle caps from soda, water, or juice containers (any size)
- whole pine cones of any shape or size
- empty 12-pack soda boxes (taped closed, unsmashed)
- an old tarp that you want to get rid of

Big Muddy Urban Farm Update

by Brent Lubbert

With any update about the farm, taking that moment to look at all that is growing, I'm flush with enduring gratitude of all the community support that make seeds meet soil. In July, a 1975 Chevrolet C10 Pickup was donated to the farm thanks to City Sprouts, Dan Susman, and Andrew Momboquette. Disc brakes and no electronics, this truck is a major improvement in getting things around the neighborhood. Another large infrastructure improvement came when Consolidated Water Solution gave a very generous donation of a 15' x 9' walk-in cooler! FJC Builders helped connect us with the fridge and now we will be able to harvest and store things appropriately in a much larger way. The farm's infrastructure is getting a boost.

Residents - Kaya Baker, Jess Dooley, Gavin Johnston, Shatice Jones, and Laura Simpson - are gearing up for their collaboratively-developed, six-week Summer Community Supported Agriculture program to begin. Tomatoes and peppers are here! Although Summer CSA is just starting, their minds are also looking toward a successful fall planting schedule.

ASPIRING FARMER RESIDENCY

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

July 8 - October 5, 2018



BigMuddyUrbanFarm.org/afr

Gifford Park's neighborhood bar for 80 Years

ESTD. 1937

CALIFORNIA BAR

OMAHA, NE

Craft Beer on Tap
Friday Night Karaoke
Beer Garden
KENO

Stop in and watch your Creighton University & Nebraska games

510 North 33rd Street

www.calibaromaha.com



Announcing Omaha NeighborFest

by Mike McGuire

Earlier this year, One Omaha brought together a group of passionate community leaders from all around Omaha to form the steering committee for a third annual local neighborhoods conference. The committee, a group with diverse backgrounds, interests, and experiences, wanted to do something that was different, fun, and not necessarily confined to the norms of a standard conference. Their ideas have taken form in the creation of Omaha NeighborFest: Activating People, Places, and Spaces.

Omaha NeighborFest is a day long outdoor festival that includes live music, educational workshops, demonstration projects, interactive public art, voter registration, vendors, and mini-grant project pitches. The festival will be Sunday, September 2nd from 12pm-9pm along the North 24th Street Corridor, with the intersection of 24th and Burdette Street as a center point. North 24th Street Corridor Alliance is excited to host NeighborFest in partnership with the Omaha Economic Development Corporation, the Long School Neighborhood Association, Rabble Mill, Black Votes Matter, and Hear Nebraska, with possible partner additions in the works.

One Omaha is now accepting NeighborFest sponsorships and vendor applications. If you or your organization would like to sponsor, set up table space, or be involved in any other way, please contact Julie Smith at julie.smith@oneomaha.org.

Checkout oneomaha.org or search for “Omaha NeighborFest” on facebook for more information.



Adventure Playground Update - Movie Night August 4th

Mark your calendars for our next pot luck and “Movie Night” at Adventure Playground on Saturday August 4, pot luck will start around 6pm (including roasting hot dogs and marshmallows), and the movie (“The Princess Bride”) will start just before dusk. We have a few projects going on to enhance the space for kids and adults. With the help of Francisco Jimenez Crisostomo and FJC Builders, we built wood shelving for better material storage capacity, we created a “ladder” (notched out steps in an old telephone pole) to get to the zip line, we stained & sealed the tree house, and we are in the process of building a large pergola to help with shade in the southwest corner. Then we will install a brick patio and firepit under the pergola – this will help us with movie nights, pot lucks, and doing other projects in this soon-to-be improved area. As always, the tree house and playground area is open and free to use at any time. Volunteers and access to the materials in the shed are on Saturdays from 12-3pm. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact us at sfadventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook.



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE
Call Chris 402-290-8187
Mowers - \$5



25th Annual Gifford Park Free Tennis Program

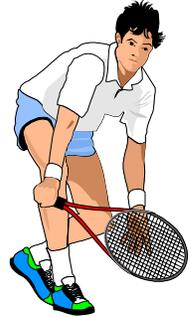


For: Youth (4 to 18 years old)

Dates: August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
(each Wednesday in August)

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

Time: Ages 4 to 9 (6:00 - 6:45 p.m.)
Ages 10 to 18 (6:45 to 7:30 p.m.)



The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is offering **FREE Tennis Lessons** and will provide tennis racquets, balls and instructors for each lesson. Parents and others are welcome to help.

To be enrolled, YOU MUST complete the form shown below and bring with you to the tennis lessons. Special prize for those who attend every lesson and demonstrate good sportsmanship. Space is limited so please **be on time.** Call **402-290-8187** for more information.

Registration/Permission Form - Bring this form (completely filled out) with you to the tennis lessons to be enrolled.

Youth's Name: _____ Parent's Name: _____
 Street: _____ Street: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
 Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ School: _____
 Parent/Guardian Phone: _____ 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. Furthermore, I give consent to any necessary medical treatment in case of emergency.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Update

by Alex O'Hanlon

Well, it's official, folks, the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market is bigger and better than ever! The market started the season with a bang and is showing no signs of slowing down. Thanks to an amazing management team, enthusiastic customers, loyal vendors old and new, and awesome free activities provided by creative, talented neighbors, the market has continued to be a fun and unique gathering place every Friday evening throughout the summer from 5- 8 PM.

The Nature Nook has delighted kids and adults each week with new educational crafts and activities such as making clouds and a market wide scavenger hunt. Spazzy Jazzy Hoops brings folks from all walks of life together to hula hoop to some of the best live music sets in town. Market attendees looking to relax can enjoy a free massage from Big Open Hearts. In addition to all the wonderful free activities, local produce, handmade items and bacon(!) this year there are also two new salsa vendors and expanded prepared food options, including bbq and vegan options.

Friday July 20th the market will put on its second Extended Show. After the market closes at 8 PM, live music sets will continue until 9 PM. The extended shows can also be enjoyed from the beer garden of the California Bar which will be opened up to the market lot so that folks can enjoy a beer while watching the music. "The market has really grown a lot thanks to a bunch of different people from the community, i'm just glad more people are turning out to participate and enjoy it every year." said market founder Martin Janousek. So are we, Martin, so are we.



Gifford Park

Neighborhood Market

Friday's 5-8pm // 33rd & California St.



Yates Pre-K Benefits from Community Garden

by Susan Mayberger

GPNA Yates Representative

The Yates June programming finished June 29th but not before the 32 Pre-K students were able to visit the Gifford Park Community Garden. The Pre-K students are all students who are part of the Migrant Education and ESL Program and are learning English and developing the skills to be successful in kindergarten. According to the Pre-K teachers, the students had a wonderful day at the garden learning about how to take care of plants from Chris Foster. The students came back to the school happy and tired.

The programming at Yates provides support to our youngest learners and to their parents who are learning English. According to the OPS report on ESL and Refugee Students, there were 8,590 students in the ESL program during the 2017-18 school year. 25% of the elementary school population are coming from homes where English is not the only language. OPS serves students from 119 different languages. There are 2,772 students who are refugees coming from 15 different countries. This is 5.5% of the schools' enrollments.

Gifford Park is home to many families who speak a variety of languages. In fact, Gifford Park is the most diverse legislative district in Nebraska. While we are diverse, we can always come together whether it is enjoying the Friday Night Market, the Adventure Playground or sharing our love of gardens as the 32 Pre-K students did last month.

The Yates programming will start on Monday, August 20th.



Yates Pre-K students learning about the peace pole while on a field trip at the community garden. The peace pole says "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in six different languages, representing the diversity of our neighborhood.

Coffee

With:



MARQUE SNOW

9:00 A.M. *Howlin' Hounds*
712 SOUTH 16TH St.

Dates: April 21// May 19 // June 16 // July 21

Youth Garden Update

by Chris Foster

At the time of this newsletter we have completed 9 weeks of the Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass St.). The 2018 program is each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30am. This year we again have 44 each 30"x30" raised garden beds that each youth planted and tended since May. To get you caught up with what's been going on, we started May 12 with our Garden Season Opening followed by the next three weeks of learning about plants, selecting which vegetables to grow, then planting their own garden plot and painting name stakes. During week 4, our neighborhood animal expert Matt Cronin taught us about Wildlife & Animal Care by showing us a possum and a bat. Week 5 featured insect expert and entomologist Tom Janousek who taught us about insects and worms, including bringing his famous large hissing cockroaches! Week 6 Dr. Cynthia Frasier and her husband Chad Lebo did an amazing class on pollinators and making vanilla ice cream shakes! Week 7 Big Muddy Urban Farm residents taught us about our garden chickens. We also had two fun Garden Scavenger Hunts with American flags for everyone to celebrate Fourth of July – thank you Mike Caban! Week 8 Monica Lehn and Anna Deal did their fantastic hands-on presentation on "Making Bread & Butter". Week 9 Jasmine Eggert with help from Monica Lehn led us in building, decorating, and doing Hula Hooping! Jasmine is owner of Spazzy Jazzy Hoops and has her booth at our Market on Friday nights. Our young gardeners have been growing and harvesting ripening vegetables including squash, cucumbers, radishes, carrots, peas, lettuce, tomatoes, watermelons and more. We cannot thank enough our dedicated volunteers, parents and family members who help and participate with our young gardeners. Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) if you have questions about GPYG program.



Remaining 2018 Schedule~all Saturdays 10–11:30 a.m.

- July 21 Art in the Garden
- July 28 Tree Walk
- August 4 Cooking Matters
- August 11 Canning & Preservation
- August 18 Tea
- August 25 Pizza Garden Harvest PARTY!
(Big Muddy Urban Farm)

Rest of growing season - tend your plot



Photos From Around the Neighborhood





Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 PO Box 31462
 Omaha, NE 68131

Place
 Stamp
 Here

**Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 Membership Application**

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

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

Business Name (if applicable): _____
 Business Phone (if applicable): _____

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

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

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

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

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