



Gifford Park's Pride

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

May 2019

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Volunteers needed to plant trees on June 1

by Alex Goswami

Join us to plant trees and sustain the urban forest in Gifford Park. We are a certified community arboretum and our neighborhood is full of beautiful tree-lined streets. Let's add more and fill in some gaps. The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is working with The Urban Bird and Nature Alliance and the City of Omaha Parks Department to honor the Hubbard Community Forestry award by planting over 100 trees in our neighborhood on Saturday June 1 from 8:30am-noon. Meet in the park. Gifford Park that is. Join us! This will be one of the easiest tree plantings you've ever done, and if you have never planted a tree, you'll see how easy it is. We're fortunate that Great Plains nursery is providing the trees and they will pre-dig the holes and do the first watering. Amazing! We'll plant a wide variety of fruit trees and shade trees likely including such stunners as quaking aspen, autumn blaze maples, swamp white oaks, and more. We are going to plant all around the neighborhood including in the city right-of-way that may connect to your yard. If you want to opt out reach out to the phone number below and tell them no thanks. But, if you are into it and want to help out too, please reach out to us to volunteer. Please call Diana Failla at 402-651-5779. See you on Saturday, June 1.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tennis Block Party
- Soccer Camp
- Neighborhood Market
- Tree Planting
- Omaha Gives!
- Spring Cleanup
- Youth Garden

Event dates and details in articles of newsletter

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

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

Topics:
Neighborhood Tree Planting,
Summer Projects, and more!



2018 GPNA Officers

Eliza Perry, President

207-590-9880 | yrrepazile@gmail.com

Marie H el ene Andr e, Vice President

402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

Brent Lubbert, Secretary

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

Alexandra Goswami, Treasurer

847-477-2156 | omaha_beef@hotmail.com

Board

Tyler Magnuson, At-Large

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

Anna Deal, At-Large

206-276-5952 | annadevindeal@gmail.com

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402-401-0554 | grainolia@gmail.com

Martin Janousek, Business Rep

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

Eliza Perry 207-590-9880

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

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

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Newsletter Editor

Brent Lubbert 402-213-9646

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.

A Note from the President

by Eliza Perry

All I can say this month is HAPPIEST SPRINGTIME - get out and about in your neighborhood, find ways to learn the stories of the people who make their homes near yours, and share in the experience of being part of our little corner of this planet together.

Omaha Gives! is May 22nd

We are so looking forward to 2019's OmahaGives - our city's annual day-long rally event to raise funds for all the amazing nonprofits that make our community amazing!

Do your kids come out to learn, play and grow their own vegetables during Saturday morning youth garden programming? Do they learn teamwork

and soccer skills at youth soccer or tennis camps? Does your family attend the holiday banquet each year or wander our neighborhood market every summertime Friday evening? Funds from Omaha Gives support these and our many other free, accessible-to-all initiatives. Please consider including Gifford Park Neighborhood Association in your list of nonprofits to support on Wednesday, May 22nd. Thank you for all you already do for Gifford Park Neighborhood as a member!



Seeking Volunteer Hosts for "Meet Your Street" Events

GPNA is looking for new ways to spread the word about all the amazing things happening in our neighborhood! We are seeking households willing to host a small, front yard gathering for their immediate neighbors, on a Sunday afternoon in June or July. We hope these events will provide an opportunity for neighbors to connect with one another and learn about Gifford Park's many programs and events. GPNA will assist with event promotion and supplies, and will have a representative on hand to talk about all things Gifford Park. If you are interested in hosting a gathering for your surrounding streets, please contact Anna Deal at anna@immigrantlc.org for more information.



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE
Call Chris 402-290-8187
Mowers - \$5
Rent for most tools - \$3



Neighborhood Market Update

by Matt Wettengel

The market season is fast approaching!! The inaugural 2019 market will take place on Friday, May 31 from 5-8 p.m.!!! We hosted a great second vendor meeting on Saturday, April 27, at Big Muddy Urban Farm. It was great seeing many market regulars, as well as several new vendors in attendance for this meeting that featured a presentation and Q&A with Joseph Gaube, Supervisor of Food and Drink for the Douglas County Health Department. Mr. Gaube explained what requirements there are for selling produce and prepared foods and drinks at the market, what types of foods are approved to sell and which require permits along with answering plenty of questions from vendors in attendance. We were able to record his presentation, please email us at gpnmarket@gmail.com if you'd like to view the video of his presentation. Thanks to Mr. Gaube for spending his afternoon with us!

GPNM's organizers are so excited for the upcoming market season that we're starting the party a couple weeks early, with the introduction of "3rd Fridays on 33rd" on Friday, May 17, presented in partnership with Media Corp. This monthly series will kick off this month with a pay-what-you-can dinner fundraiser for the market; a poetry reading by Amanda Huckins and live music from local bands Artichoke Hearts and Bokr Tov in the market lot; and a visual art exhibition at Media Corp., featuring the work of Mari Dailey and Leslie Collins! Dinner will be served from 6–8 p.m. and music and art will run until 9, we hope to see plenty of new and familiar faces there, getting in the mood for the market season!

Future events will be structured similarly, but run in conjunction with the market. While the market will still end at 8pm, people are encouraged to hang around the neighborhood and check out the art at Media Corp or grab a drink at California Bar while tents and tables are taken down ahead of a late-night performance on the market stage! There will be exhibitions at Media Corp. each month and any other spaces are welcome to get involved. If you're interested in hosting art exhibitions or performances at your location on 33rd Street on 3rd Fridays, please email us at gpnmarket@gmail.com.

One huge request that GPNM organizers have for the season ahead is for help setting up and tearing down the market. Anyone who is able, is encouraged to come help set up tables and tents for the market each week around 3 p.m. Tear down begins once the market ends at 8 p.m. Any and all help is always appreciated.

With that ask out of the way, we cannot wait for the 2019 season to get underway! As always, the market will be a family-friendly environment with activities like monthly Out & About Storytimes with the Omaha Public Library on the first Friday of each month, crafts, and other activities. Please make a plan to join us to enjoy local produce, goods, foods, entertainment & more on Friday nights, May 31-Sept. 27!



Gifford Park Free Soccer Camp

For: Youth (3 to 11 years old)

Dates: June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24

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/Adventure Playground Update

We hope you plan to attend our Community Garden & Adventure Playground Season Opening Event, Saturday May 11th, 10am to Noon at the community garden (35th & Cass Street) to celebrate the start of our 19th 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 the new young chickens! We hope everyone pitches in to help with ideas, projects, maintenance, and overall participation with the community garden in whatever capacity you 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 11, 10am - Noon)
- Youth Garden Program (Saturdays 10-11:30am, May 18 to August 24)
- Adventure Playground (Saturday afternoons noon-3pm, May 18 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 us 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); for garden plot information, contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722 or caban3321@cox.net); for Adventure Playground, contact Chris Foster, or text Monica Lehn 402-660-9046, or email us at sfadventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook.



**Community Garden & Adventure Playground Season Opening
Everyone Welcome!**

**Saturday May 11th, 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



2019 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

- May 11 Garden Season Opening Event (*10:00am-noon)
- May 18 Get to Know Your Garden (prepare plot for planting & paint stakes)
- May 25 Plant Your Plot (select seeds & plants, plant your plot)
- June 1 Plant Your Plot (select seeds & plants, plant your plot)
- June 8 Cob Oven
- June 15 Bat Houses/Chicken Care
- June 22 Exploring the World through Ice Cream Toppings
- June 29 Fun Fungus
- July 6 Herbs/Soap Making
- July 13 Cooking with Obed Sanchez
- July 20 Neighborhood Tree Walking Tour
- July 27 Garden Surprise!
- August 3 Plant Mandalas
- August 10 Field Trip to Iowa Farms in Crescent, IA
- August 17 Canning and Preserving
- August 24 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 11. 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 18 through August 24 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

Big Muddy Urban Farm Update

by *Matt Wettengel*

Greetings from Big Muddy! Lately we've been busy building raised beds at our California plot, repairing our chicken coop on the corner of Webster and 33rd Streets, raising 24 chicks in our garage and planting both seeds and seedlings on our plots across the neighborhood. If you ever want to help out around the farm, please reach out to us via our Facebook page or email — residents@bigmuddyurbanfarm.org.



Residents are hosting a May the 4th be with Your Garden: Plant Sale at our California plot (3215 California St.) Saturday, May 4, from 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

If you're in the market for plants for your own garden, there will be tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, kale, cabbages and more available for purchase at \$3/plant! These plants were grown using organic practices in Creighton's greenhouse and will be great additions to any garden!

There are still a handful of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares waiting to be claimed for the 2019 season! If you're interested in picking up a share of fresh produce from the farm weekly from late May through September, visit bigmuddyurbanfarm.org/CSA. Hurry, before all the shares are spoken for!

Did you know that Big Muddy offers tours to the public?! Sign up for one today to come learn more about the organization, residency program, urban farming, our chickens or more at www.bigmuddyurbanfarm.org/groupstours. We love hosting any and all guests and showing off what we're up to here in Gifford Park!

30th Annual Easter Egg Hunt Highlights

It was a very warm day with temperatures in the 70's for our 30th annual Easter Egg Hunt held Saturday, April 20 in Gifford Park – a welcome change from last year's weather in the upper 30's. We estimated more than 300 neighborhood children participated in probably the warmest hunt we can remember. This was the eleventh year in a row an anonymous dentist donated dental care bags for all the children. Volunteers picked up litter 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 – Darryl Hutton worked hard to secure donations from a variety of people and businesses; Brittney Rubek did a GREAT job leading the event with help from her daughter Arianna and grandmother Jan Franks. The Slayden family (Betty, Kayleen, and their families) were tremendous help as always. Justine Stanley did another brilliant job as our Easter bunny giving out treats to youngsters, she was joined by her sisters Dawn, Crystal, Witney, Rachel and brother Wendell Junior. Senator Sara Howard, husband Doug, and her mom Gwen volunteered again and donated cute stuffed bunnies. Many thanks to all those who donated time, money, candy, and other items for the event: Fremont Machine, Urban Village, John Caniglia, Mike Caban, Paul Mileris, Ideal Hardware, Nick Nealy, Nat Sweeney, Danny's Corner Grocery, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Jim Kyler, Eliza Perry, Anna Deal, Adrian Petrescu, Marie Helene Andre, Julie Smith, Kim Jones, Terry & Sue Wilwerding, Paul Pellerito & family, Eric Purcell & family, Chris Foster, and the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. Please support the above businesses for their contributions.



GIFFORD PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OPENS AUGUST 2019 – 717 N 32nd ST

Gifford Park Elementary is currently being built as part of the original bond issue passed by voters, and will open its doors in August of 2019 as an Early Childhood-6 building with approximately 300 students with the capacity to grow to three classrooms per grade level by year 2.

Gifford Park Elementary is located in a strong, diverse, inviting and a united community and has engaging local businesses, associations, organizations, and institutions, with an abundance of neighborhood amenities and a community that has a well rooted interest in preserving nature.

Gifford Park Elementary's goals for 2019-2020 include: Using existing developments and associations as a resource to the school, provide a walkable, nature conscious community destination, embrace the diversity of the neighborhood to create a community meeting and event place., and to create a warm, safe learning environment where every child is excited to be every day!

The Gifford Park mascot will be the groundhog, with school colors of black, green and gold.

Kimberly J. Jones, Principal

Gifford Park Elementary | 717 N 32nd St | Omaha, NE 68131

Email: Kimberly.Jones@ops.org

Cell: 531-299-6255



@Gifford-Park-Elementary-School-170805677160217



@OPS_GIFFORDPARK

[WWW.GIFFORDPARK.OPS.ORG](http://www.GIFFORDPARK.OPS.ORG)

ENROLL YOUR CHILD

CONTACT INFO HERE

What details do you want to include here?

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

8/12 5-6:30 PM

Practice your safe route to Gifford Park Elementary, and meet the staff and teachers to help us celebrate a wonderful start to the 2019-2020 school year!

JOIN THE PTO

WHO CAN JOIN

Students, Teachers, Parents, Grandparents, & Community Members

WHY JOIN?

Join the GPE **Parent Teacher Organization** to support our children, connect with families and teachers, help with events and fundraising.

SIGN UP NOW

Send an email to: giffordparkpto@gmail.com



(c) M.H. André 2019



(c) MH André 2019

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 4-18
WELCOME

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

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

GIFFORD PARK YOUTH SUMMER TENNIS FREE INSTRUCTION AND DOUBLES PLAY

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



WEDNESDAYS

June 5 - July 17

10-10:50 am: Ages 9-11

11-11:50 am: Ages 12 & Over

**GIFFORD PARK
TENNIS COURTS
33rd & Cass**

Rackets and balls provided

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

SLIP-N-SLIDE 2019 DATES

At Gifford Park (33rd and Cass St.)

- Thursday June 13, 6-8pm
- Thursday July 18, 6-8pm
- Thursday August 22, 6-8pm



A Person's a Person, no Matter how Small. Or Where From.

by Adrian Petrescu

Spring is finally here. Another reason why we are in Omaha, of all places. Nicer weather. Cleaning the porch. Putting the winter tools back into the shed. Getting out the bicycles. Flowers blooming and birds singing. The tradition of the Easter Egg Hunt.

A friend of ours from Chicago stopped by one early Saturday morning the other month and asked us about our journey. Marie H el ene and I answered in unison that our respective journeys, no matter how complex, must have all been meant for us to get here to Gifford Park in Omaha. I was attracted by The Empire State Building in New York City since I was four years old and by the US Constitution since I was eleven years old. But we had to get to Omaha, and to Gifford Park. We had to learn about Tom Mangelsen's genius work, and about Standing Bear v Crook, and about Meyer v Nebraska, and about Omaha's role in Promontory Point of 1869, and about the inventor of conductive plastic, and many other things. And just be here and live here and learn to know everyone and everything we learned here. No, we don't suffer from any "fly over country inferiority complex," even though I heard last month that many folks here could do so. Just don't. Please. Just remember there'd be no rest of the country without Omaha's role, or nothing else would be the same. It was, after all, Native American Mohawk mostly, but not only, who built tall bridges and a lot of sky scrapers in New York City, from 1880s onwards. We are sure it had something to do with Chief Standing Bear of the Ponca of Nebraska being granted personhood under the US Constitution in a US Court here in Omaha in 1879.

We ran into a nice couple the other day and we asked them where they were born. He was born in Bulgaria, so he and I are actually neighbors by birth country, and she said "in Queens." We knew Queens, of course—it is a borough in New York City, and Marie H el ene and I both visited there a few times. We hope that when the nice couple will go back to Queens, or anywhere in the world, they'll tell their friends, and all of their 8.6 million New York City neighbors "we visited Nebraska, and we got to know Gifford Park. It was fantastic." We know they will. Even if they don't, we will tell everyone we run into, here, there, everywhere, "We are from Gifford Park. It is fantastic."

The Easter Egg Hunt just happened, as it did every Spring for three decades now. This one was special. Every Easter Egg Hunt is special. But this one was even more special than other times. As it turns out, Chris Foster was out of town. Senator Sara Howard ran the show once the entire show was organized by Brittney, and Darryl, and Mike, and Anna, and Bob, and Eliza. *continued on page 17*

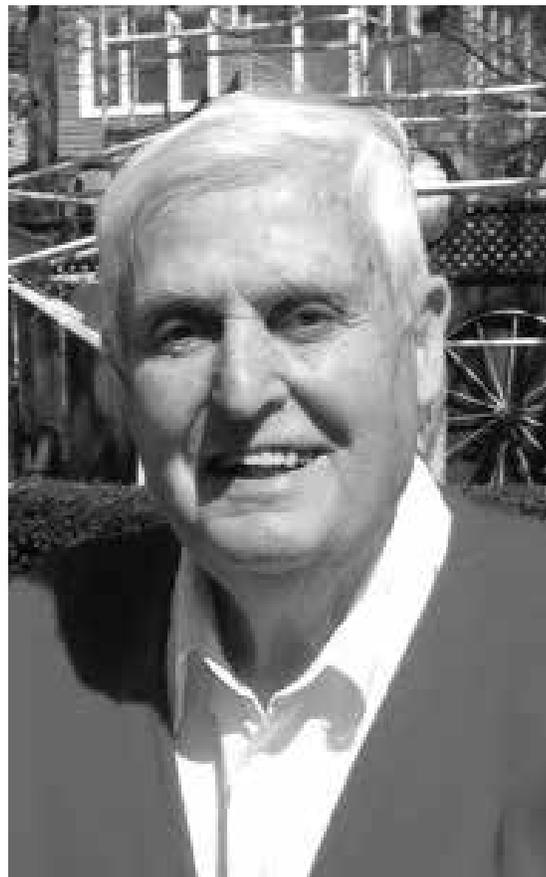
Leo Wilwerding, 1930-2019

by Terry Wilwerding

Few families have as much history in the neighborhood as the Wilwerdings. Marlene Schreck grew up at 35th & Cass, and the Wilwerdings moved to 34th & Webster in 1940. Leo and Marlene attended St. Cecilians, and later often met at Bogard's Drug at 33rd & California, where he worked as a soda jerk. They were married in 1951, and in 1954, with two young children (8 more to come!) bought a very rundown house at 35th & California. Leo worked at MUD for over 40 years, and with scrap pipe built an incredible playground which was a magnet for local children.

In the 1980s the neighborhood was in decline. Law enforcement was lax, many families were moving away and 33rd and California was a rough place. Neighborhood leaders began meeting and later formed the GPNA to provide advocacy and activities. Leo and son Jim were both presidents in the early years as the turnaround began. Presently, six children and grandchildren still live in the GPNA.

Though in declining health, Leo attended the 2018 GPNA Christmas banquet gathering and was delighted at the growth and vitality of the GPNA. We salute the vision and hard work of these early leaders who laid the foundation.



Community Bike Project Omaha

by Adam Blowers

It's warming up and we've been busy having some awesome Earn-a-Bike classes at the Bike Project. Veteran Earn-a-Bike graduate Milan (pictured) was one of our early graduates this year. Milan has learned valuable mechanical skills by participating in Earn-a-Bike and always has a bike to ride. By completing Earn-a-Bike, Milan got a bicycle, helmet, and lock. All for free as part of our amazing EAB programming.

Youth Earn-a-Bike classes (ages 10 to 15) are on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5pm to 7pm and on Sundays from 11am til 1pm. Kids Bike Club (ages 5 to 9) are on Saturdays from 11am til noon. Come join us!

We're also gearing up for Omaha Gives! on May 22nd. Omaha Gives! is the annual day of giving in the Omaha Community. This is a big day for us at the Bike Project and we would love your support. We also plan to refurbish as many kids bikes as possible for Omaha Gives! so that we can give them away at the Ralston Bike Rodeo the very next day! Check out our website www.communitybicycleshopomaha.org for more info on how you can help out!



Leo Wilwerding Remembered

by Chris Foster and Eva Swanson

I wanted to add some additional comments about Leo from myself and Eva Swanson, a great longtime friend of the Wilwerding family and our GPNA historian. Eva and I reminisced about Leo's amazing accomplishments. He was never too busy to help someone, and he could repair almost anything. Leo taught his whole family how to do and fix things, including teaching his daughters and grandchildren. Leo used to plan projects for his grandchildren where they would build and take apart things to teach them how things work.

Leo did a tremendous amount for the Gifford Park neighborhood. He served as GPNA president 1996-1997 and on neighborhood beautification efforts. I especially remember his involvement with our neighborhood cleanups. Back in the 1990's and early 2000's the GPNA had both a spring and fall cleanup (GPNA paid for the fall dumpsters). With Leo and most of his family volunteering, we did some serious damage and put a big dent in cleaning up the neighborhood. I'll never forget a "spring" cleanup in I believe April late 1990's where we got a heavy snowstorm the night before the cleanup. Not much stopped Leo's vigor for "taking the bull by the horns"...or should I say his "snowblower by the handle" and cleared the entire Gifford Park parking lot in no time so dumpsters could be brought in and us volunteers do our job...the cleanup must go on! By late morning, Leo was grilling hot dogs for everyone on the family grill in the same parking lot! (see photot to left)

Many of you know Leo & Marlene's children live in and around our neighborhood, they loved to have family around. Their backyard was a wonderland of a homemade playground, you had to see it to believe it, and many lucky children experienced it. The Wilwerding family have volunteered for practically all

our GPNA events and activities over the years since the GPNA started 30 years ago. Leo and his family have always been very supportive of anything I have been involved with. I was very grateful and touched that Leo attended our 30th annual GPNA Holiday Banquet this past December. On behalf of the GPNA, thank you Leo!



TREE PLANTING IN GIFFORD PARK SATURDAY, JUNE 1

To volunteer email Alex:
alexandra.goswami@gmail.com

Gifford Park cleanup & trimming with Creighton Phi Delta Theta

Thanks Phi Delta Theta On behalf of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, THANK YOU again this year to the Creighton Phi Delta Theta Fraternity for having about 60 guys volunteer Sunday, April 13 to do a variety of duties in Gifford Park, and a nearby alley. Special thanks to Noah Harrahill for organizing his Phi Delta Theta Fraternity guys. Also, a big thanks to the City Parks Department (Director Brook Bench) for dropping off the piles of mulch prior near the park flower beds – this worked out great. We trimmed, weeded and mulched the identity, flower & rose gardens and around some of the park trees, picked up litter, and cleaned up nearby alleys and Turner Park North. The timing worked out perfect with the weather and the Easter egg hunt, which occurred the following Saturday.



Join us for the unveiling of
Duchesne Academy's Little Free Library

TUESDAY, MAY 7
3:30 P.M.
CIRCLE DRIVE

We will have a short 15-minute ceremony & blessing.
Feel free to bring a book to start our collection!

TAKE BOOKS

SHARE BOOKS

LEAVE BOOKS

SAVE THE WINDOWS OLD HOUSE Restoration

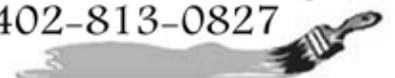
- * EXTERIOR SIDING & TRIM
- * WOOD STORM WINDOWS
- * WINDOW RESTORATION
- * WINDOW SILLS
- * HISTORIC PAINT WORK
- * PORCH & COLUMN REPAIR

LAWRENCE PAINT CO.

Call or Text David @

402-813-0827

email: lawrencepaintco@gmail.com



A Person's a Person, no Matter how Small. Or Where From.

continued from page 13

Before the actual event even started two other things happened, at least that we know of. Marie Hélène crossed the street and visited Ponca land, right across the street from our house. She knocked at the door and introduced herself to the new neighbor lady. We have noticed the neighbors had children and Marie Hélène just wanted to make certain that the new family who had recently moved into the house knew about the Easter Egg Hunt. The same with the house next door from us, where again there are children and the neighbors are new. We are glad she did, because neither neighbors knew and the neighbor lady across the street brought her daughter to the first ever Easter Egg Hunt she experienced.

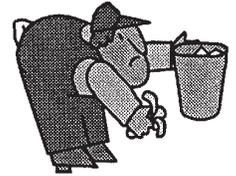
The other thing that happened before the Egg Hunt had even started was that Professor Barbara Dilly of Creighton University, specializing in Cultural Anthropology, Sustainability Studies, and the Environment, had asked students of hers to address in a class project the combatting of food injustices in Omaha, and one student in the class had contacted Marie Hélène to ask her about any GPNA work on the matter.

continued on page 18

SPRING CLEANUP - Saturday, May 18, 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** - take directly to the City of Omaha Sewer Facility at 6880 Q Street without a voucher.
- * **Tires** may be dropped off for FREE at Baxter Arena, parking lot 26, (2425 South 67th St.)
- * **Tires** will be accepted at Gifford Park site at \$3 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:

Eliza // 207-590-9880 // yrrepazile@gmail.com

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

A Person's a Person, no Matter how Small. Or Where From.

continued from page 17

As always the event was a great success. The weather was very nice and everyone was happy to be there. The little girl from across the street from us, who is one year old, had a lot of fun looking for candy, under the watchful eyes of her mother. It reminded me of my little girl, many years ago, dressed as a lady bug—her own choice of a costume—, going around the offices of everyone at her parents' school at her first ever Halloween trick or treat event, back when she was about eighteen month old. And it reminded me of all the Easter Egg Hunts across almost the entire country that grandparents and parents facilitated or organized across an entire decade or more. I remembered this because, well, we spoke about it the other day at the Myrtle and Cypress Coffee Shop with a neighbor. There was one time when our daughter, by then a teenager, didn't want to go to help organize the Gifford Park neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt. It was a rainy day and she had homework for her school. What needed to be said was said: "You must go, because of all the years when someone else organized an Easter Egg Hunt for you. It is now your turn to do it for others." She did come, and she enjoyed helping out. Even in the rain a lot of children showed up, as every year. Rain or shine.

We stayed long after everyone had finished cleaning up and everyone else had left. Nicole and Marie H el ene were still chatting about things the GPNA has been doing aside from the Easter Egg Hunt, surrounding the neighborhood market and the winter indoors market, and community garden plots, and children plots and refugee programming including gardening at the Yates Center, and of course the food bank. We had just gotten to talk about Big Muddy Urban Farm's community educational role and to negotiating curriculum and school design with Omaha Public Schools when addressing the new Gifford Park Elementary back in its design stages, and how startups in meat processing or vegetables or cookies, or the Coffee Shop itself, have grown out of their founders early participation in the neighborhood market, and how the market attracts vendors from all across the country, when we heard the rolling disturbance coming down 34th Street.

"Aaoogha... Aaoogha..." It was a Model A Ford, of all things. The rolling thunder took a quick turn and stopped right next to us. At first sight a fine lady with a young queen look was riding in the back, being chauffeured around to inspect the neighborhood. Before we knew it, the door opened and Jim Kyler, the owner, was asking "Do y'all want a ride?"

Who can refuse a ride in a Model A Ford?

"What about the mannequin in the back?," asked Nicole, once we all figured out who the queen looking lady was. "Just sit next to her, she'll be alright."

continued on page 19

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



A Person's a Person, no Matter how Small. Or Where From.

continued from page 18

Jim drove the three of us and the queen around, from 34th, East on Davenport, North across 33rd Street, under Cuming, and into neighboring Bemis Park, driving through the Mercer mansion, and back again, honking at passers by along the way. We all just waived at a puzzled Glen Burns. The entire thing was a blast. Only in Gifford Park! It reminded me of the Model T Ford rides my daughter and I used to get at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn Michigan when we lived there, and when we got to meet a young Thomas Edison [actor]



demonstrating to the press and visitors the first ever working Wolfram based incandescent light bulb.

We parted with Jim happy, Nicole impressed with what Gifford Park neighbors do, even outside the topic of food, and me thinking of what I'm going to write, if anything, in the next newsletter. As I said 'thank you' to Jim, he said to me "I liked your intervention in the TOD [Transit Oriented Development] neighborhood forum the other day." I had even forgotten, but in the forum Mike and Chris and I and others insisted that the city take seriously our maps we drew the first time around—which now at the second meeting it seemed there were shoved under the rug—of the overlay being mostly four—single family homes—, and two by exception and that only South of the Alley parallel with Dodge, basically on Dodge itself. We had said we didn't want all too dense development to take over and replace the very character of our neighborhood. Now, let's think for a minute at the little girl who just moved into Gifford Park, and who experienced her first ever Easter Egg Hunt in her new home with her family. Would her neighbor across the street even knock at the door of a seven-floor apartment complex where she—if it was even her—would have moved in a small matchbox apartment with no backyard to play in with her brothers and sisters, and with no green grass or flowers or trees to help her grow healthy and strong? Let the folks in Queens or Manhattan live in Queens and Manhattan. We live here in Gifford Park for a reason. We like it how it is and how everyone knows and gets to know one another, and we want to keep things this way, Model A Ford rides and all. Yes, we asked Jim if he would give rides in his Model A at the 33rd Friday Cultural Event this year. We'll see. Maybe he will. He's very nice and we all like him.

We truly hope the little girl from across the street will one day be the Senator who would facilitate the Easter Egg Hunt in this or another neighborhood of friends. And we know that one day for sure when any one of us will travel anywhere in the world, the answer "I'm from Gifford Park in Omaha, home of the famous Whistle Pig" will make perfect sense to anyone everywhere in the entire world. Because everyone everywhere in the world would have heard of our friendly nature and impressive community achievements. Slowly but surely our neighborhood will get famous for its friendliness—all across the country and across the world. The little girl will make sure of it, and we will certainly help her along.



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.