



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A great place to live, work, learn, and play.

www.giffordparkomaha.org

SOON TO BE SPRING



Pictured: Gifford Park Residents Haley Hoyle and Katie Donaldson

Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, May 5th

6:30-8:00 PM

Yates Building
3260 Davenport St.

Agenda:
Omaha Public
Schools subdistrict 2
candidates forum

Candidates:
Marque Snow (incumbent),
Bri Full, Shar Shelton,
and Melvin Muhammad

2022 GPNA BOARD

President
Alex Goswami
Omaha_beef@hotmail.com
847-477-2156

Vice President
Wendell Stanley
wvstanley@gmail.com
402-306-8454

Treasurer
Marie Hélène André
marie.helene.andre@gmail.com
402-769-9183

Secretary
Susan Mayberger
Susan.mayberger@gmail.com
402-342-6606

Rose Carlson
rhcarnson4@yahoo.com
402-639-5952

Tyronda Pierce
olympusbojangle2@gmail.com
402-598-0919

Cynthia Frasier
cfrasier77@gmail.com
609-975-2431

Martin Janousek
mjanousek14@icloud.com
402-558-4070

Brent Lubbert
brent.lubbert@gmail.com
402-213-9646

CONTACTS

Community Garden/Youth Garden
Chris Foster
foster3413@cox.net
402-290-8187

Adventure Playground
Monica Lehn
sfadventureplayground@gmail.com
402-660-9046

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance
Adrian Petrescu
aspetrescu@alumni.pitt.edu
402-769-9070

Youth Soccer
Eric Purcell
eric@thresholdcommunity.org
402-719-5108

Gifford Park Market
Martin Janousek
gpnmarket@gmail.com
402-558-4070

Youth Tennis
Chris Foster
foster3413@cox.net
402-290-8187

Newsletter Editor
Abby Rick
abbyaeer@gmail.com

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Upcoming...

Omaha Spring Cleanup

This is a joint effort between the city and volunteers from the Gifford Park and Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Associations.

At this event, Omaha residents will have the opportunity to recycle or dispose of large or bulky items such as old furniture, appliances, and mattresses for free.

Location:

Duchesne Academy parking lot at the corner of California and 36th Streets

Time:
9am - 2pm

Date:

Saturday,
May 21st

If you're in the neighborhood and need help getting your items to the drop-off site,

Please email cfrasier77@gmail.com or call/text 609-975-2431
(please leave a message)

Want to volunteer? Of course you do! Just send a message to the same email or phone number. We're looking for help with unloading, membership recruitment, directing traffic, and friendly conversation.

Phi Delta Theta & GPNA park cleanup

Everyone is welcome to join us on Sunday April 10, 10am-Noon for a park cleanup, including mulching around trees and planting beds.

The GPNA is coordinating with the Creighton Phi Delta Theta Fraternity on this event.

We will have some yard tools, gloves, wheelbarrows, buckets, etc. on hand for volunteers. We will meet near the tennis courts.

The GPNA would like to welcome our newest neighborhood residents!

Congratulations to Aaron French and Leigh Ellis on the birth of Cato Ellis French, 6 lbs. 2 oz., on January 20th!

Congratulations to Logan and Justine Neese on the birth of Jesse Evan Neese, 7 lbs. 11 oz., on March 23rd! Jesse is our GPNA vice president's first grandchild!

Welcome to the world, Cato and Jesse!

Board member column



Regarding the black history month article printed in the January/February 2022 edition of our beloved newsletter I took a moment to tally the following stats. Anthony Rogers-Wright is to be commended for making some provocative points on the fork in the road about how today we can either celebrate a culturally appropriated MLK or commemorate the historically accurate one. And often times what is said is not as important as how it's said. Tact matters. Today I wish to share a bit of how the heart of his message may have gotten lost in translation.

The article spread across page 14 and 15 would have been better captioned as a 'letter to the editor' on the printed page as it was denoted on the table of contents on page two. Going forward the editor and review committee has agreed to ensure letters to the editor are clearly marked for clarity of who is exercising their American right of freedom of speech.

The article was approximately 1,200 words, 7 paragraphs long. As one who some have referred to as well spoken, I humbly submit that my secret sauce is in a healthy interest in others' love language. I intentionally practice the platinum rule, which is to speak to and treat people the way they like to be addressed and treated. There were 9 words I circled that required me to look up in order to grasp their meaning and usage in the article. Good luck translating it word for word to the other language groups in the hood.

The phrase "w s" was utilized 7 times; twice in the first paragraph, once in the 2nd, thrice in the 3rd, and once in the climaxing 7th. Might we ponder here why an article placed to celebrate black history revolves around the very antithesis of the occasion.

Seven uses of the term "b" was printed on the two page spread. And 3 of them were clipart. So the article only mentions "b" four times. The first sentence of the 2nd paragraph references "b" leaders who were snatched (assassinated). The second sentence of the 5th paragraph references "b" sandwiched between Indigenous and Brown with the conjunction 'or' in front of Brown as if the two are interchangeable. The last two references were describing Dr. Cornel West and part of his quote in paragraph 6 respectively.

In closing let's review just one more seemingly petty but significant stat. The term "w" was used 10 times as a demographic classification and / or part of a descriptive phrase. The other 5 classifications denoting social caste other than "w" were all capitalized as proper nouns. All but one time "w" was used without capitalization. And that one instance of capitalization was at the beginning of the first sentence of the third paragraph.

I am confident that you get the idea and are perfectly capable of drawing your own conclusions. I won't bore you further with mine here. My hope with this article is to meekly restore community objectivity so that emotions don't prevent us from sustaining and building on the common ground we equally share in Gifford Park. As we forge into our strategic expansion to the ocean of multiversity of our community, its unique cross-cultural populations, and our exciting opportunity to blend them all; let's not forget that black and white are but two ingredients in a huge mess of delicious peoples' gumbo. Let the good times roll!

GPNA Vice President Wendell Stanley



Omaha Mobile Stage comes to Gifford Park



Jessica Scheuerman w/Omaha Mobile Stage (OMS) and Partners for Livable Omaha are transforming a repurposed 18-foot box truck into an accessible, adaptable and easily transportable stage. OMS is currently under construction and will be in dozens of communities in 2022 to provide free neighborhood-driven entertainment, arts enrichment, and a venue with sensory and audio accommodations that meet the needs of our greater community. OMS is a prototype for a new model of outdoor venue—providing a fun and flexible, but safe and serene, place for Omahans to re-engage with each other, reactivate public spaces, and reanimate social, creative and economic life in the city. Public gardens, parks and green spaces are positioned as resources for improving public health.

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association will host OMS on June 3rd & June 10th during our weekly Gifford Park Neighborhood Market every Friday. OMS will feature new work from Great Plains Theatre Commons (puppet show and international karaoke). Joslyn Castle, located 3902 Davenport Street, will host OMS during its annual Castlepalooza neighborhood festival on Saturday, June 25, 2022, and feature new work from tbd. dance collective. These events are free!

Jessica has also applied for grants to basically bring back the old "Show Wagon Youth Talent Competition" event that happened in Omaha Parks for almost 60 years... Gifford Park was host for a few years back 15+ years ago. This new event series will be called "Neighborhood Nights" Youth Talent Show + Community Concert. Each event will include an outdoor live concert that features a performing artist, chosen by the community where the event is located, and an amateur talent competition for ages 3 through graduating seniors. If the grant is successful, Gifford Park would host 2 or 3 "Neighborhood Nights" events in Gifford Park later this summer. For more information on OMS, contact Jessica Scheuerman (402-980-0427 / jscheuerman@livable.org / www.omahamobilestage.org). Stay tuned!



Yates Illuminates Update



As of the time of writing in late March, great progress is being made at Yates Illuminates on the construction front and governance. Last newsletter I wrote about the community effort to purchase the old Henry W. Yates Elementary School building at 32nd & Davenport from Omaha Public Schools. My previous article detailed the plans to develop the building into an educational community center, called Yates Illuminates, with offerings including:

Visual and performing arts, immigrant, refugee, and new American programs, STEM/STEAM learning, robotics, senior programs, financial literacy, garden classes, meeting spaces, kitchen facilities, shared workspaces for nonprofits and community groups, and more... accessible and affordable for ALL.

Our Gifford Park neighborhood and broader Omaha community are incredibly grateful to Katie Weitz and her Weitz Family Foundation team for their community-minded vision, hard work, and dedication to creating a successful place where everyone feels welcome for generations to come!

Since acquiring the building we have been working with our great anchor tenants on a governance structure, and doing major building renovations, restoration, and accessibility upgrades... we are very excited about the possibilities around accessibility to make Yates a model for other future building upgrades in Omaha.



Of course, these construction costs are significant, but needed to meet current building codes and our mission. To raise capital funds, we have created a 501c3 non-profit called 'Yates Fund' to accept donations.

We continue to do fundraising for remaining building renovation costs as we plan to open around July 2022.

We have already completed many construction items including a large retaining wall, interior window restoration, exterior window painting, HVAC, and new roof, with work in progress on other upgrades including a new elevator. Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187) if you have interest in donating to Yates Fund, or if you have any questions.



Interior conceptual design renderings

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT GIFFORD PARK?

Ever have a question about Gifford Park that can't be answered by a Google search? If so, send in your questions here and find answers in the next issue!

iwanttoknowgifford@gmail.com



31st Annual **Gifford Park Neighborhood - EASTER EGG HUNT**



Where: Gifford Park (33rd & Cass)

When: **Saturday, April 16**
Noon (Rain or Shine!)

Who: Children Ages 12 & Under
Bring Your Easter Baskets!



Volunteers needed to help pickup litter in Gifford Park at 10:30am



Join us for healthy snacks & refreshments, games & activities right after the Easter Egg Hunt at the Gifford Park Playground (35th & Davenport) for 10-year Operation Playground Celebration!



EVERYONE WELCOME!

Community Bike Project

Article by Adam Sundberg

It's very nearly spring and that means people are dusting off their bikes. No doubt you've seen activity around the Community Bike Project's shop on 525 N 33rd street picking up. The shop is central to our mission to provide safe and equitable transportation options to everyone in our community by providing bikes at no or low cost. We've been honored to be a part of your community since 2007 and look forward to providing this service for years to come. If you haven't stopped by the shop recently (or ever!) pop in and say hi to our volunteers and staff. Our shop manager, Jacob Stacy, and our shop assistant, Jack Hinsley, are eager to see you.

The Bike Project is also excited to announce we restarted in-person events. We just held one of our favorite events last week, a fundraiser we call "Beers and Gears." We filled up Farnam House Brewing Company (nearly to capacity) with our supporters. It was a sold out event! We also raffled off two bikes, one built from the ground up by Jacob and Jack, and the other a bike donated by our friends at the Trek Store. Many thanks to Farnam House, the Trek Store, and to all our supporters who attended!



WORK

LIVE
PLAY

LEARN

We're also excited to announce another long-delayed event, this one in April. Exhi-bike-tion will once again take place! For one night, we turn the Shop into a pop-up art gallery. Area artists donate their skills (and artwork) to the Bike Project, which we auction off. All art is bike themed. So mark your calendars for April 29th, from 5-8pm and join us at the shop. Browse the art, purchase it, or simply hang out with other bike/art/Gifford Park enthusiasts. It promises to be an exciting evening.

Lastly, we want to note that programming has been ongoing, even while in-person events have been delayed. We had our best year ever for adult earn-a-bike graduates in 2021. We've already graduated dozens in 2021. There are still plenty of opportunities to participate in Kids Bike Club (aged 5-10) and Youth Earn-A-Bike (ages 11-16) as well.

Kids Bike Club takes place from 11-noon on Saturdays.

Youth Earn-A-Bike takes place from 5-7pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays and 11-1pm on Sundays.

After several hours of donated time and maintenance classes, your kids will leave with a free bike, helmet, lock, and the skills to maintain it. If you're interested, simply shoot us an email (info@communitybikeproject.org), message us on our facebook page, or just pop in during our regular shop hours. (Wed-Sun 2-5pm)

We hope to see you soon!

Spring 2022



2022
Dates:

Monday
June 6
6-8pm

PLAY

Monday
July 11
6-8pm

Gifford Park
Slip'n'Slide!

A graphic with a brown textured background. At the top left are various icons: a person, a speech bubble, a gear, a dollar sign, a star, and a double arrow. Below these, on the left, is the text "#YLM" with a large hash symbol, "521 N 33RD ST", and "TUESDAY 7-8 PM". To the right of this is a large, bold "YLM". Below "YLM" is the tagline "Your Life Matters". On the right side, there is a vertical column of text: "#GIFFORDPARKOMAHA", "Privacy Save", and "Share" with a small "f" icon. The entire graphic is partially obscured by a cluster of green leaves and branches on the right side.

SALLIE FOSTER ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

**OPEN SATURDAYS 12-2
MAY 14 THROUGH OCTOBER
35TH & CASS IN THE
GIFFORD PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN**

WHAT IS AN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND?

The Sallie Foster Adventure Playground is a space for kids to play, make, and dream. We are a junk playground, with ever-changing supplies and materials for use by kids however they might imagine. Our space and permanent structures are designed and shaped by the imaginations of the children who play here, a place of unrestricted play with tools for digging, building, and creative play.

WANT TO BE A PLAYWORKER?

Believe children's play should be freely chosen, child-directed and intrinsically motivated? Want to foster open play? Get in on the fun yourself?

We welcome older teens and adults as volunteers.

Join us during our open hours to find out more.

WANT TO DONATE?

Our most wanted list includes duct tape, rope, nails and screws, wood scraps, paint (small cans or art paint), zip ties, markers, balls, padding for weapons (think bubble wrap, egg carton padding, batting), and tools, especially a hand drill, drill bits, scissors, screwdrivers, and paintbrushes. This is a guideline...one can never predict just what will spark a fantastic creation!

Please no glass or styrofoam.

CONNECT WITH US

Text or email Monica Lehn at 402-660-9046/mmlehn@gmail.com
or Chris Foster at 402-290-8187/foster3413@cox.net

OPENING

JUNE 3rd, 2022



Gifford Park Neighborhood Market

12 things to know about the **Gifford Park Neighborhood Market**

1. We're a market run by volunteers
2. We charge **No Vending Fees**
3. GPNM supplies a tent and table while supplies last
4. GPNM purchases a Farmers Market Permit & City of Omaha Permits
5. Products need to be personally grown or handmade
6. Vendors need to have their own credit card system such as Square
7. Wi Fi is available at the market
8. Vendors need to fill out an application
9. Vendors need to help promote the market - social media, tell friends, customers and family
10. Vendors are asked to either help set up or dismantle the market
11. Open every Friday evening 5:00 to 8:00 pm - June thru September
12. Located at **520 N. 33rd Street - Gifford Park Business District**

**Help Support Omaha's small businesses and local farmers
by visiting the market this summer**



Like us on
Facebook

contact:
gpnmarket@gmail.com

Ten Summers of Gifford Park Soccer Camp



Ten summers ago a couple dozen 4-7 year olds, their parents and a few somewhat soccer literate adults met for six weeks in Gifford Park near the tennis courts for the first Gifford Park Soccer Camp. It was a loosely organized jumble of soccer balls, small children and snacks. The idea was to introduce kids to the sport of soccer in a FREE, fun, low pressure environment and bring the diverse neighbors in Gifford Park together.

Each year until 2020 the camp grew in popularity until around 100 youth ages 3-12 were participating in a seven week camp held on Wednesday nights. It never became more than “loosely organized”, though we did add more equipment, some structure around skills and drills we were teaching and our annual highlight—a big community cookout and potluck!

Like all neighborhood programing, we took a pause in 2020, but we were back at it in 2021 with a small but dedicated crew. All along, the mission never changed. Bring our community together around soccer and introduce kids to the game.

For many youth and parents in Gifford Park, this program has become a staple, looked-forward to summer activity. Faithful volunteers have offered their time and energy to coach and lead each age group. Parents have provided snacks. Kids have laughed when sprayed by the “hydration station”, cried when they crashed into each other and cheered when they scored a goal. Many community partners have contributed to the program’s success—including GPNA, Scheels Sporting Goods, Sports Authority, Creighton Soccer, UNO Soccer, Rooted Way, Thrivent Financial, Lutheran Family Services and Omaha City Parks and Rec.

It is surprising to think that I have been leading this camp for 10 years and it has always been my hope that the program would serve this community for many years to come. But, here at ten years, I think it may have served it’s life-cycle. For several years I have been hoping to find a way to pass this program off to a new camp director. There have been several promising conversations with different individuals and organizations. But at the end of each summer, I have found myself still the one leading the charge. I love Gifford Park Soccer Camp!

And it is time for me to step aside as camp director.

I still believe the program can continue! If you would like to take on this beautiful little program as a way to love your neighbors, please reach out to me! Perhaps there is another season... or two... for Gifford Park Soccer Camp?

Eric Purcell
402-7195-108 or mrhenric@gmail.com

Gifford Park Youth Tennis



For: Youth All Ages

Dates: Wednesdays June 8 to July 20

Time: 10am to Noon

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

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is offering FREE summer tennis lessons to youth and will provide racquets, balls, and instructors.

For more information, contact Chris at 402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net

Registration/Permission Form - Please bring this form (filled out) with you to the Gifford Park tennis lessons.

Youth's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Street: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

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: _____



Big Muddy CSA

This year we welcome a stellar cohort embarking on a growing journey ahead! The aspiring farmer fellowship team consist of Kelly Asulp as Lead Farm Fellow and Tricey Chea, Peter David, and Sydney Simpson as Farm Fellows. Check out the team's bios on our website and welcome them to the neighborhood as we start to plant the plots this spring.

Fellows are preparing for a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program and registrations will open on our website on March 25! A CSA is a wonderful way to get to know your farmer and enjoy a box of fresh veggies every week throughout the growing season. Check out our website for more details and to register for your share in our CSA. We accept SNAP as a payment option for our CSA. Happy planting season ahead!

2022 COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE OVERVIEW



Pick Up Location and Time

Weekly on Friday's from 5 – 7pm at the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market (520 N 33rd St.).



Season Length

18 weeks from June 3 – September 30, 2022



Share Price

A share is \$324 for the full 18-week season, SNAP/EBT shares are \$272. That's \$18 worth of delicious, naturally grown produce from us to you each week!



THE TRUTH BEHIND SYSTEMIC RACISM

Submitted by: Mike Caban, excerpts from a piece by Rev. Kenny Sharpton Glasgow with Jack Hendricks; June 27, 2020

In 1866, one year after the Lincoln assassination, and the 13th Amendment, the amendment that ended slavery, was ratified; Alabama, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, and South Carolina started leasing out convicts for labor (peonage). This made the business of arresting Blacks very lucrative, which is why hundreds of White men were hired by these states as police officers. Their primary responsibility was to search out and arrest Blacks who were in violation of Black Codes. Once arrested, these men, women and children would be leased to plantations where they would harvest cotton, tobacco, sugar cane. Or they would be leased to work at coal mines, or for railroad companies. The owners of these businesses would pay "the state" for every prisoner who worked for them; thus, prison labor. It is believed that after the passing of the 13th Amendment, more than 800,000 Blacks were part of the system of peonage, or re-enslavement through the prison system. Peonage didn't end until after World War II began, around 1940.

This is how it happened:

The 13th Amendment declared that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." (Ratified in 1865)

Did you catch that? It says, "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude could occur except as a punishment for a crime". Lawmakers used this phrase to make petty offenses crimes. When Blacks were found guilty of committing these crimes, they were imprisoned and then leased out to the same businesses that lost slaves after the passing of the 13th Amendment. This system of convict labor is called peonage.

The majority of White Southern farmers and business owners hated the 13th Amendment because it took away slave labor. As a way to appease them, the federal government turned a blind eye when southern states used this clause in the 13th Amendment to establish laws called Black Codes. Here are some examples of Black Codes:



In Louisiana, it was illegal for a Black man to preach to Black congregations without special permission in writing from the president of the police. If caught, he could be arrested and fined. If he could not pay the fines, which were unbelievably high, he would be forced to work for an individual, or go to jail or prison where he would work until his debt was paid off.

If a Black person did not have a job, he or she could be arrested and imprisoned on the charge of vagrancy or loitering.

This next Black Code will make you cringe. In South Carolina, if the parent of a Black child was considered vagrant, the judicial system allowed the police and/or other government agencies to "apprentice" the child to an "employer". Males could be held until the age of 21, and females could be held until they were 18. Their owner had the legal right to inflict punishment on the child for disobedience, and to recapture them if they ran away.

This (peonage) is an example of systemic racism - Racism established and perpetuated by government systems. Slavery was made legal by the U.S. Government. Segregation, Black Codes, Jim Crow and peonage were all made legal by the government, and upheld by the judicial system. These acts of racism were built into the system, which is where the term "Systemic Racism" is derived.

This is only, one page, in a much larger story of American History, that most of us were never told.

Got future inventors at home?

Come to Yates Illuminates from July 1 to nurture them to grow more curious, creative, innovative, and entrepreneurial.

By Dr. Adrian S Petrescu



As you may remember if you read this newsletter regularly, and if you take part in Gifford Park events, last summer we had the chance to start a new program named Science and Arts in Parks (SAP), whereby future young inventors 7 to 15 y.o. got to build small robots and to build and race solar-powered fuel cell hydrogen model cars, and even to build in teams life sized solar parabolic concentrators to heat water. Omaha Community Foundation and Yates Illuminates were our partners in the summer Camp.

Later on we partnered with Metropolitan Community College's College4Kids program and we used the fuel cell car kits to help sixty young scholars in third grade at Nelson Mandela Elementary to also learn more about and to build fuel cell hydrogen powered model cars.

We like the impact we see in the young inventors' smiles and want to make more of those great happy smiles happen more often. We came up with an enhanced plan, and we put in a new request for grant funding with Omaha Community Foundation for this year. Yates Illuminates, that will open its gates officially July 1 this year, is already on board to let Gifford Park Neighborhood Association host our workshops there again this summer and beyond into autumn.

We are excited that this summer we will likely be continuing and expanding the SAP summer Saturday workshops project of last year. We invite you to register your youth future inventors early to our new Science, Engineering and Teamwork (SEaT) weekend camp for summer-autumn 2022. We plan on having twice the fun this year on ten weekends building even more fun projects than last year.

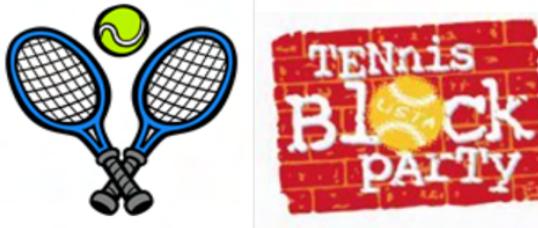
We will be designing mouse trap cars and we will be building Stirling engines powered by sun. We will be building programmable robots and running more experiments and competitions with the solar powered model fuel cell cars. We anticipate that the workshops will take place during the Summer on Saturdays, most likely in the afternoon, following the community garden and/or Adventure Playground events, and during the Autumn also on Saturdays afternoons.



Start of the program will coincide with the opening of the Yates Illuminates community center after July 1. We will not know if we got the Omaha Community Foundation grant to fund this before May, but we already secured Yates Illuminates hosting for the youth workshops to be held July–October. There will be prizes for participants and winners of the contests we'll run at the workshops.

If you have 7–16 years old future inventors at home, please email Adrian S Petrescu at aspetrescu@alumni.pitt.edu, with “SEaT youth early registration” or “SEaT volunteer” or both, as the case may be, in the subject line, for expressions of interest. Also, please spread the word to other parents who may have 7–16 years old future inventors at home as well. We ask that 7–11 years old youth future inventors come assisted by a parent/adult guardian volunteer as well. Let's all nurture curiosity in all our youth. See you there.

Gifford Park Youth Tennis Block Party



For: Youth All Ages

Date: Wednesday May 18

Time: 6:00-7:30pm

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

Join us for a FREE evening of TENNIS to youth
We provide racquets, balls, and instructors.

For more information, contact Chris at 402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net

Community Garden & Adventure Playground Season Opening Everyone Welcome!

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

Variety of family activities including:

Youth Garden Program & 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

2022 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

- May 7 Garden Kick-Off Season Opening Event (*10:00am-noon)
- May 14 Get to Know Your Garden (prepare plot for planting & paint stakes)
- May 21 Plant Your Plot/Paint Your Stake
- May 28 Plant Your Plot/Paint Your Stake
- June 4 Soil & Compost
- June 11 Magic in the Garden: Fairyhouse Building
- June 18 Nebraska Adventures in Archeology
- June 25 All About Bugs
- July 2 No Program - Fourth of July Holiday Weekend
- July 9 Watering & Hydration
- July 16 Tai Chi in the Garden
- July 23 Critter Camo Competition
- July 30 Sound of Music
- Aug 6 Nutrition & Cooking Matters
- Aug 13 Medicinal Herb Walk
- Aug 20 Poetry & the Senses
- Aug 27 Big Muddy Garden Harvest PARTY!
- Rest of Season (tend your plot)



The Gifford Park Youth Garden is a fun, free educational program for school age youth. Volunteers, parents, and children meet **Saturdays from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.** at Gifford Park Community Garden at 35th & Cass Streets.

Ways parents can get involved:

- Post this schedule of activities in your home
- Ask your child what they have been learning at the garden
- Accompany your child to any or all sessions
- Pick a date to bring snacks

To register, complete the attached sign-up sheet and bring to the Season Opening Event on May 7. For more information, contact: Monica Lehn 402-660-9046/ mmlehn@gmail.com or Chris Foster 402-290-8187/foster3413@cox.net

Youth Garden Sign-up Sheet

All school-age youth are invited to participate in this free program at the Gifford Park Community Garden on 35th & Cass Street. We will meet Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. beginning May 14 through August 27 to work, learn, & play in the garden.

Child's Name: _____

School: _____

Age: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

We would like to bring treats for one of the Saturdays: 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

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Gifford Park newsletter letter to the editor section is a forum available to all who live in the neighborhood. It is the goal of the newsletter review committee (NRC) to allow anyone who wants to submit an editorial to have that editorial published if that letter is in line with the guidelines below.

ONE

GPNA will only print letters that address a specific issue, theme, or article



TWO

Letters may not be more than a single page of the newsletter. The letter can be words, pictures, or other images.



THREE

GPNA will not print more than one letter per issue per writer



FOUR

To preserve the author's intent letters do not need to be edited for style, clarity, or grammar. The NRC may suggest edits to the author to provide clarity to readers



FIVE

Letters do not need to be in any particular language. The NRC will work with the author and others to translate the letter to English. Both versions of the letter will be printed.



Community Garden & Adventure Playground Update

We hope you plan to attend our Community Garden & Adventure Playground Season Opening Event, Saturday May 7th, 10am to Noon at the community garden (35th & Cass Street) to celebrate the start of our 22nd 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 baby chicks!



Tulips and Hyacinth breaking through the ground at the community garden.

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 7, 10am - Noon)

-Youth Garden Program (Saturdays 10-11:30am, May 14 to August 27)

-Adventure Playground (Saturday afternoons noon-2pm, May 14 to October)

-Pot Luck dinners (first one is Saturday evening June 18 including movie night at Adventure Playground)

-Wednesday evening work nights (6-8 pm during the growing season through September)

-Garden tours (get people familiar with different parts of the garden area)

-Theme garden maintenance (roses, butterfly, senses, perennial, front wall, herb, berry bushes, etc.)

-Compost bins - turn over compost pile (good exercise!)

-Planting & weeding (on-going)

-Chicken care

**For more information on
renting a garden plot,
contact Rose Carlson
(402-639-5952 or rhcarnson4@yahoo.com)**

**For other questions contact Chris Foster
(402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net)**

**For Adventure Playground, text Monica Lehn
402-660-9046, or email us at
sfadventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook.**

GPNA WILL NOT PRINT

Guidelines for letters to the editor continued

ONE

Letters that incite physical violence.

Letters that are obscene. This includes any statement that is vulgar, profane, or offensive.

TWO

Letters that are threatening. This includes personal attacks, intimidation, bullying or threat of harm against a person or organization.

THREE

Letters making false statements of fact about other people. These letters are potentially libelous. You can disagree with someone, but you cannot claim they did something damaging without proof.

FOUR

Discriminatory on any grounds. This includes discrimination based on age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, religion or culture.

FIVE

Letters that are promoting products or services. Letters may discuss resources if they are neighborhood specific, or if it refers to another newsletter article. The newsletter provides other routes for advertising.

SIX

Letters that discuss any candidate for political office. This is because the GPNA is a 501(c)3



Adventure Playground has added a brick patio and will add bench seating and a firepit for additional arts & crafts activities.



Youth garden raised beds show some of the fall cover crop greening up from recent beneficial rains in late March.

Name:
Address:
E-mail:
Cell Phone:

How many years have you been a GPNA member?

Why would you like to be a Board Member?

How have you been involved in GPNA activities?

- Attending quarterly neighborhood meetings Helping with Holiday Banquet
- Helping with gardening program Halloween Event
- Friday markets Easter Egg Hunt
- Neighborhood clean-up events 33rd Friday Cultural Event
- Helping with youth activities (ie tennis/soccer/Adventure playground/etc.,)
- GPNA Newsletter Other areas (please be specific):

What skills would you be able to offer to the GPNA Board?

- Accounting Legal Public Relations Putting out a Newsletter

- Social Media/Communication Membership Drives Other skills:

Have you been a Board Member for other organizations? Yes No
If yes, please list the Boards and when you served.

What is your vision for our neighborhood?

The Board meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month (except for December) and twice in January.
Meeting times are 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Neighborhood meetings are once a quarter.
Would you be able to commit to participating in 75% of the meetings (at least 12/16)?

The objectives of GPNA are:

- To raise the standard and quality of life in the community;
- To bring into closer relationship the persons and the community, so that persons and institutions may cooperate intelligently in the redevelopment and preservation of our community;
- To develop between public officials and the community such united efforts as will secure for all a better environment in which to live, learn, work and play; and
- To promote the unique assets of the Gifford Park area as an inner-city blend of residential, educational, commercial and recreational opportunities.

I support the GPNA objectives and I would like to be considered for the GPNA Board. I understand that the term is for a minimum of 2 years starting on January 1 of each year and membership on the Board can be extended.

Signature: Date:

Want to join the GPNA Board?

Board Member elections will be held in November for the upcoming term (beginning in January.)



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
PO Box 31462
Omaha, NE 68131

Place
Stamp
Here

Venmo: @MHA-GPNA



venmo

If choosing to Venmo, please include your email, phone number, and address in the payment description section. Please do not categorize payment as a "good" or a "service."

**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.