



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

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

www.giffordparkomaha.org

SUMMER IS HERE



Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, August 4th

6:30-8:00 PM

Location: California Tacos
3235 California Street

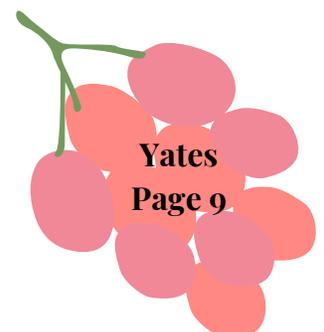
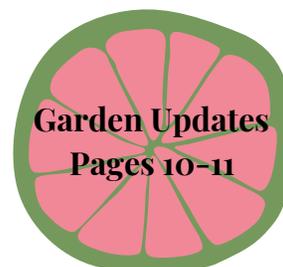
Zoom Meeting ID:

879 9701 1440

Passcode: GPNA

Agenda:

Yates Illuminates Vision
Vote on revised by-laws
New construction & parking



2022 GPNA Board

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Slip'n'Slide at Gifford Park sledding hill near 33rd & Cass Street on the evening of Monday July 11.



BOARD MEMBER COLUMN

By Rose Carlson

NINETY

Every year at the end of July
A birthday comes for this wonderful guy
He's been called "The Godfather" of Gifford Park;
Their home is a neighborhood landmark
Since 1961, sixty-one years nigh.

His wife, Virginia, will tell one and all
The many stories she can recall
She says he's clever, tried and true
And that there's nothing he can't do.
From making pies, to a furnace install.

He says he can't believe he's here
That nothing seems to interfere
With time that marches on so fast
And a life that's proportionately in the past
But still brings joy from year to year.

By now you maybe have an inkle
Of who he is, whose brown eyes twinkle
Of who has been here nine decades
Of who has fooled the Ace of Spades
With a wink, a smile and hardly a wrinkle.

A birthday party has been planned
We hope to have you all on hand
July 30th, twenty twenty-two
Where Bob Hutton will make his debut
As a nonagenarian.*

If you recognize this rhyme scheme
You may notice that it might seem
Like stanza one of another long rhyme
About a fellow from another time
Revere them both, this dauntless team.

One more thing; have you renewed
Your membership? In gratitude
and thanks for joining GPNA
That is all I have to say
And at that I will conclude.

*Party at the community garden



By Brent Lubbert

In the heat of the summer, I try to trick my mind to cool down. I think about cold things like ice cubes, that time my car broke down last winter, and frost. Then I realize it's a great time to think about frost, first frost that is. The first frost is an important date for gardening because gardens slow down considerably or even die back depending on the plant. The average first frost in the Omaha area is around October 16th. By the time this newsletter is published, we will likely be around 14 weeks, or 98 days, from a first frost date. Considering that beets take 70 days to grow and cabbage can take up to 90 days to grow, it is definitely the time to find your fall seeds and get them planted for a wonderful fall harvest. Kale, carrots, leeks, turnips, and broccoli are a few great fall crops to grow too! Stop by any local nursery for seeds or check out the seed library at the Omaha Public Library to gather your fall planting supplies. If you don't grow a garden, but still need your veggies, come by the Big Muddy Urban Farm booth at the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market on Fridays from 5pm - 8pm! Eating veggies is important and having read the recent Douglas County Health Department Community Health Assessment it became even more evident. The report shows a significant increase in heart disease and Northeast Omaha is highest in prevalence out of any part of town. There's a lot behind the condition, but one factor in mitigating its prevalence is eating vegetables! We hope you are enjoying your fair share of fresh fruits and vegetables this summer.

As this summer turns into fall, there will be another transition taking place at Big Muddy. This will be my last year as Executive Director at Big Muddy Urban Farm and members of the Big Muddy Urban Farm board are currently interviewing candidates for the position. Please spread the word to anyone you think would be a great candidate for the position. The job description is located on our website and we ask that candidates email a cover letter and resume to the board at board@bigmuddyurbanfarm.org by August 13th. Additionally, you may have noticed that the 33rd and Webster St. chicken coop is empty. We won't have a flock there this year as we rebuild our flocks and focus on a leadership transition. Though there won't be hens at Webster, please go say hello to the newest flock at the Gifford Park Community Garden. They're almost five months and will begin laying any day now! Please reach out to us at info@bigmuddyurbanfarm.org if you have any questions. Happy growing!

Easter Egg Hunt & Playground Celebration

After a two-year absence due to COVID, cool but sunny and dry weather greeted us for our 31st annual Easter Egg Hunt held Saturday, April 16 in Gifford Park. We had enthusiastic neighborhood children and families participate. This was the twelfth year in a row our anonymous dentist friend donated dental care bags for all children. Volunteers picked up litter in the park before putting out candy, treats, and other prizes in the grass. A big thanks to the Phi Delta Theta Creighton Fraternity who had a big crew the week before picking up litter, cleaning the playground area, weeding, and mulching to get the park in good shape! Per tradition, we had four age groups: 0-4, 5-6, 7-9, 10-12 year-olds.

This event was made possible by our many volunteers and donors – Darryl Hutton secured donations from a variety of people and businesses; Brittney Rubek and Tyronda Pierce helped lead the event along with the Slayden family (Betty, Tyffaney, Kayleen, and their families). Justine Stanley did another brilliant job as our Easter bunny giving out treats to youngsters, she was joined by her dad Wendell, 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.

Immediately after the hunt, we gathered at the playground where Patty Doyle and daughter Maria provided great healthy food for our 10-year Operation Playground celebration – THANK YOU!

Thanks to all those who donated time, money, candy, and other items for the event: Stacey Benson, Hannah Wyble, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Paul Mileris, Jim Kyler, Adrian Petrescu, Marie Helene Andre, David Perez Romero, Terrie Lynn, Brent Lubbert, Rose Carlson, Terry Wilwerding, Paul Pellerito & family, Jenny Waltemath, Jackie Foster, Chris Foster, Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, and City Parks Department.



Article by Chris Foster

Around the neighborhood

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

Wolf Tattenbach and Julie Smith have a son, Wolfgang Jr., born July 9th. Wolfgang joins his parents and older brothers, Driver and Zeke in their big, brown house on California St. Welcome to the world, Wolfgang!



Photos 1 & 2 from Gifford Park Neighborhood Market on Fridays 5-8 on 33rd and Cass

Photo 3 from this summer's Youth Soccer Camp

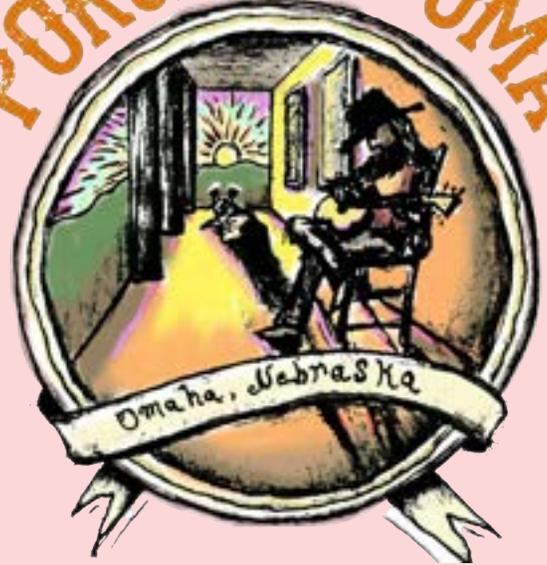
Coming Up!

Omaha Mobile Stage



Omaha Mobile Stage (OMS) is a mobile, community venue for performing artists of all ages, and a teaching venue to train the next generation of creative workers. OMS will be in Gifford Park on 3 dates this summer and fall. If you're interested in volunteering or signing up for the youth talent show, visit the "Get Involved" page on www.omahamobilestage.org.

PORCHFEST OMA



Save the Date!

Sunday October 2, 2022

Porchfest OMA is a free community music festival held annually in the Gifford Park neighborhood of Omaha, Nebraska.

Love this newsletter?

We do too!

If you'd like to sponsor printing this newsletter, let us know at giffordparkomaha@gmail.com

This newsletter is hand-delivered to every home in the neighborhood 4 times per year or more! We also email it to almost 1000 people around the city!

August 19
33rd Friday
Block Party
5-8 pm

Sept 17
Omaha Mobile Stage
Youth Talent Show
at Gifford Park

October 2
Porch Fest in
Gifford Park

Summer 2022

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

33RD FRIDAY BLOCK PARTY

A free community event with games,
live music, food trucks, and the
Gifford Park Neighborhood Market

AUGUST 19TH

5 to 8 pm

33rd Street, between Cass and
California

Parade begins at 4:45pm.
Meet up at the Gifford Park
Tennis Courts to join in!





29th Annual Gifford Park Free Tennis Program



For: Youth (4 to 18 years old)

Dates: August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
(each Wednesday in August)

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

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm



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 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.**

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

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

Youth's Name: _____ Parent/Guardian 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. 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: _____



Witney and Wendell Stanley, Jr. lead youth tennis camp this June & July

Yates Illuminates Update

Please attend the GPNA neighborhood meeting Thursday August 4, 6:30pm at California Tacos for an update on Yates.



As of the time of writing in late July, good progress continues at Yates on building construction and governance as we are in the homestretch with an anticipated opening of late August or September. This has been a community effort to purchase the old Henry W. Yates Elementary School building at 32nd & Davenport from Omaha Public Schools 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 ALLFor GPNA, we will have access to use some of the common spaces for community meetings, programming, and activities that meet the Yates Illuminates mission. This will provide incredible opportunities that our community has dreamed about for a very long time!

Currently construction items include elevator installation, lighting, bathroom upgrades, exterior window restoration (interior restoration completed), flooring, Wi-Fi, security & access, outside freight farm delivered, and front landscaping of paths/seating/stations/plantings. Our governance group is working hard on building operations and policy and will soon be selecting an executive director and facilities manager.

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 create a place where everyone feels welcome for generations to come! There have been 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 nonprofit called 'Yates Fund' to accept donations. We continue to do fundraising for remaining building renovation and operational costs as well as programming. Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net) if you have any questions

Community Garden

Everyone is welcome to tour the garden and experience the changes on a weekly (if not daily) basis...there is a variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers in the family and youth plots. It's been nice to see many neighbors and families coming through the garden and Adventure Playground... to garden, weed, tend youth garden plots, pick serviceberries and blackberries, adding to and turning over the compost, checking out the bees and chickens, the vegetable plants in the Big Muddy Urban Farm plot, exploring the Adventure Playground space and tree house, having small gatherings and conversations, seeing the hollyhocks/lilies/zinnias/purple clematis in bloom, the pollinators behind Ellen's house, Mike's heart garden in front near the Peace Pole, and other forms of nature like garter snakes, birds...and rabbits and groundhogs too! Check out the sights around the community garden, Adventure Playground and Ellen's "garden" house backyard with the pollinator plants and beehives.

A huge thanks to Rose Carlson for weeding and being around the garden to help gardeners; Monica Lehn for directing our youth garden and Adventure Playground programs; Cynthia Shuck for managing our beehives; Big Muddy Urban Farm for caring for the chickens; Mike Caban for constant encouragement of all things 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:

- Youth Garden Program (Saturdays 10-11:30am, through August 27)
- Adventure Playground (Saturday afternoons noon-2pm, through October)
- Pot Luck dinner (Saturday evening July 30 from 6-8 pm)
- Wednesday evening work nights (5-8 pm during the growing season through September)
- Garden tours
- 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 rcarlson4@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.



Youth Garden

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 2022 program is each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30am. We have 44 each 30"x30" raised garden beds that each youth planted and has tended since May. To get you caught up with what's been going on, we started May 7 with our Garden Season Opening followed by three weeks of kids learning about plants, selecting which vegetables to grow, then planting their own garden plot and painting name stakes.

During week 4, local soil and compost experts Adam Sagert (founder of Omaha Worm and Compost) and Sydney Simpson (Big Muddy Urban Farm) taught us about healthy soil, composting, and worms. Week 5 Amy Lanspa led us in building little dwellings out of natural materials we found around the garden and materials Amy supplied. Week 6 Mike Caban did a show & tell of his collection of fossils he has gathered on his many adventures, then he led us on our own hands-on archeological dig to see what treasures we could find. Week 7 Tom Janousek, our local insect expert and entomologist, taught us all about insects and let us handle large hissing cockroaches! We then searched the garden and compost areas for insects. Frankie Hamburger brought edible bugs for us to eat! Week 8 Big Muddy Urban Farm fellow Peter David taught us about "Watering & Hydration" including the water cycle, photosynthesis, and effect on our plants and environment. Peter surprised us with a water balloon fight to cool off at the end! Week 9 Sarah Brandt led us in Tai Chi in the garden.



Our young gardeners have been growing and harvesting ripening vegetables including squash, cucumbers, radishes, carrots, peas, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, watermelons, flowers, and more. We cannot thank enough our dedicated volunteers, parents and family members who help and participate with our young gardeners. This free program teaches youth of all ages how to grow our vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Special thanks to this year's program director Monica Lehn (402-660-9046 / mmlehn@gmail.com). You can contact Monica or Chris Foster (402-290-8187 / foster3413@cox.net) if you have any questions.

2022 (Remaining) Schedule Saturdays 10-11:30am

July 23 Critter Camo Competition & Rope-Making

July 30 Sound of Music

August 6 Nutrition & Cooking Matters

August 13 Medicinal Herb Walk

August 20 Poetry & the Senses

August 27 Big Muddy Pizza Garden Harvest PARTY!

Community Bike Project

Article submitted by Adam Sundberg

We're now deep into summer, which means we're halfway through our high season at the Bike Project. Our season informally began in April with Exhi-BIKE-tion, our annual community art event. More than a dozen artists and makers donated their time and skill to make the event a success, including many first-time participants.



We weren't able to host Exhi-BIKE-tion these past two years, so it was doubly gratifying to see such an impressive turnout by community members and supporters in 2022. If you were able to make it, thank you for helping to make Exhi-bike-tion a success! If you couldn't fit it into your schedule, check out the Bike Project facebook page where we recently posted a video produced by our board member Joshua Labure. It certainly gives you a sense of the flavor of the evening. Regardless, we hope to see everyone again next year!

The Bike Project was also recently on hand to assist with the opening of the new pump track in Upland Park in South Omaha. The track is sponsored by Omaha's chapter of IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association) and is part of their effort to bring bike infrastructure and activities to communities of color. The event was coordinated by CBPO board member Abraham Mora who is also the group's Trail Equity Ambassador. We were thrilled to participate in this important work too!

If you've wandered by the shop recently, you've no doubt noticed how busy we are. Adult Earn-A-Bike is running almost nonstop, and we've also had quite a few Youth and Kids Bike Club graduates. Perhaps most importantly, we've been serving a unique need as well. Refugees from Afghanistan, assisted by Lutheran Family Services, have been seeking our services over the last few months. Bikes may seem like a small thing to some, but access is crucial for mobility for many in our community.

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!

What in the trash is going on?

Things have been getting a bit...trashy... in Gifford Park lately. Pop bottles strewn around the tennis court, fast food bags loitering in the soccer field, and miscellaneous garbage lurking around corners.



Today's Problem

What used to be a safe and enjoyable place for our kids and pets to run around in, has become a landmine of unwanted junk.

Here in Gifford Park, we believe that the local citizens make this community what it is.

When we want something, we build it. When we get an idea, we put it into action. When we have a problem, we solve it.

Today's problem is one that Oscar the Grouch might love, but it's not one that we have to tolerate. As a neighborhood, we must rise up and fight our trash problem. How do we do this? Through collective community action.



We are calling on every Gifford Park resident to participate. If we all come together and decide to eliminate our trash fiasco, we can bring our neighborhood back to its glory!

We are partnering with Keep Omaha Beautiful, and they will provide us with free gloves, garbage bags and trash picker sticks.

Meet at the tennis courts in the park on August 14th at 2pm and the second Sunday of the month thereafter.

Contact Hannah Wyble 402-305-8139 hannah.alynn.vlach@gmail.com with any questions.

Article by Hannah Wyble

Current By-laws and Proposed Changes

GPNA BY-LAWS

At the request of membership at our November 2021 neighborhood meeting, the GPNA board is proposing updates to the by-laws of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. The updates are submitted for the approval of the GPNA members at our next neighborhood meeting on August 4th. In order to give you at least 30 days notice before the August 4th meeting, here are the proposed updates:

Current	Proposed Change
<p>Section 1F Membership is due annually on the first of the year and expires on the first of the year</p>	<p>Section 1F Membership is due annually and is valid 12 months after dues are paid. This means that membership no longer expires on the first of the year, but instead is valid for 12 months after paid.</p>
<p>Section I Annual Meetings Annual meeting to elect officers shall be held in June</p>	<p>Section I Annual Meetings Annual meeting to elect members shall be held in November.</p>
<p>Section II Regular Meetings Regular meetings of the Association shall be held monthly on the first Thursday of every month. Regular meetings refers to our neighborhood meetings.</p>	<p>Section II Regular Meetings The board needs to decide. We did not come to consensus about meeting every other month or quarterly. Currently, regular meetings are quarterly</p>
<p>Section III Special Meetings 5 days notice of special meetings sent to members by U.S. mail.</p>	<p>Section III Special Meetings 7 days notice of special meetings sent to members by email, or by U.S. mail, or delivered personally.</p>

Current	Proposed Change
<p>Section V Notice of Meetings Notice by U.S. mail or delivered personally not less than 5 days and not more than 50 days in advance of meeting.</p>	<p>Section V Notice of Meetings Notice by U.S. mail, email, or delivered personally not less than 5 days and not more than 60 days in advance of meeting.</p>
<p>Section VI Quorum Fifteen (15) members, including at least 4 officers</p>	<p>Section VI Quorum Fifteen (15) members, including at least two (2) elected officers and two (2) Board members</p>
<p>Article IV Board Section I Includes garden liaison. Total number of board members is 9.</p>	<p>Article IV Board Section I Remove garden liaison and add membership liaison. Total number of board members can be up to 13. A maximum of nine (9) members of the membership including two (2) At-Large members, one (1) Business member, one (1) Landlord member, and one (1) Membership Liaison.</p>
<p>Term Limits for Board Members No term limits for board members other than officers.</p>	<p>Term Limits for Board Members No proposed change to this. No term limits for board members other than officers. There is suggestion that the board could include term limits with staggered terms of service, so that the board is not turning over completely at one time. This is for consideration of the membership.</p>
<p>Article V Officers No member shall hold more than one (1) office at a time, and no member shall be eligible to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office.</p>	<p>Article V Officers NO CHANGE</p>

Current

Proposed Change

**Article V
Section 6**

Qualifications for nominations to be an officer are:

1. The nominee must be a member in good standing of the Association;
2. The nominee must signify prior consent to serve if elected;
3. The nominee must have attended at least four (4) meetings of the Association in the preceding year.

**Article V
Section 6**

Add that the nominee, in the preceding year, has volunteered at any GPNA sponsored event or activity or attended meetings of the Association.



Creighton Phi Delta Theta fraternity clean up Gifford Park

**Section 3
Duties of Secretary**

The Secretary shall have custody of official documents.

**Section 3
Duties of Secretary**

Documents are to be uploaded onto the GPNA's cloud drive.



Crystal and Ebo at the Tennis Block Party on May 18

**Section 4
Duties of Treasurer**

Various typical duties

**Section 4
Duties of Treasurer**

Same typical duties with addition of :

1. Prepare the IRS Information Return Form 990-N or Form 990 annually.
2. Prepare the bi-annual filing and submit to the State of Nebraska.

**Article XI
Parliamentary
Authority**

Roberts Rules of Order are used.

**Article XI
Parliamentary
Authority**

No Change



Archaeological dig led by Mike Caban at the Gifford Park Youth Garden

Little known American History... but oh, what a story to share...

Written by: Emory Price

Submitted by: Mike Caban

I'm about to blow your mind by telling you about a historical figure you never learned about in school. If you have heard of him, then you probably already know who I'm about to say. If you haven't, you're not going to believe that nobody ever told you about this guy. I'm talking about Robert Smalls.

Robert Smalls was born into slavery on a South Carolina plantation. As a youth, he was permitted to go to Charleston and work, though he was forced to send most of his wages back to his master. He began taking jobs at the docks in Charleston Harbor, and later on some of the ships that came and went from the port. By the time the Civil War came around, Smalls had become an experienced seaman, so he was assigned to steer a Confederate Navy vessel called the Planter, based out of Charleston. The crew consisted of a few white officers and a number of slaves.

Smalls went to great lengths to show the Confederates that he was trustworthy and content; they never knew that he was hatching an elaborate plan to escape from slavery and deal a blow to the Confederacy, and that he had secretly recruited most of the enslaved crew in his plot. Then one night, when the Planter had docked in Charleston with a shipment of heavy guns aboard, Smalls put his plan into action. When the officers went ashore for the evening and left the ship in the care of the enslaved crew, Smalls led them in hijacking the vessel. They made one stop at another set of docks to pick up the families of Smalls and other crew members, who waited in hiding after having been notified of the scheme in advance.

They weren't in the clear yet, though, because they still had to sail past a number of Confederate checkpoints on their way to freedom. But Smalls had a plan for that, too: he had been watching the captain and learning the hand signals he used at the checkpoints. Donning the captain's uniform and trademark straw hat, he guided the Planter past five Confederate harbor forts by impersonating the captain and displaying the correct signals. By the time anyone realized the Planter had gone missing, it was too far gone to catch. He had his crew replace the Confederate flags aboard the ship with white ones, and they were intercepted by a Union vessel who saw the white flags just before they were about to fire. The Union sailors were perplexed by the sight of an all-black crew, until Robert Smalls came forward and shouted, "Good morning, sir! I've brought you some of the old United States guns, sir!" He then asked the Union sailors to give him a United States flag to raise on the Planter.

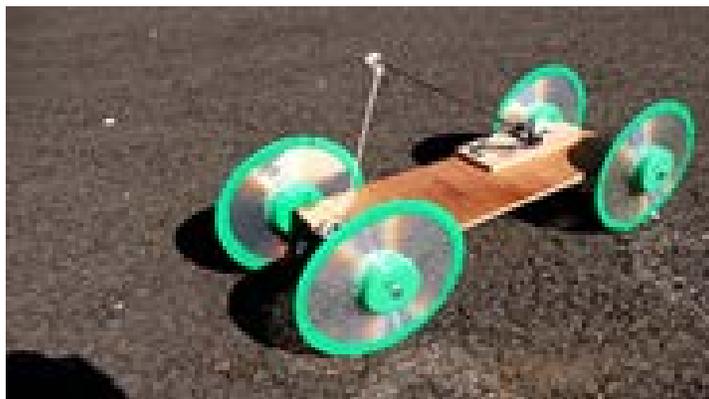
Robert Smalls' story would be amazing if it ended there, but it doesn't. After receiving a large sum of prize money for his delivery, he entered service in the Union Navy as a pilot on several vessels, including the repurposed Planter. In this role, he removed mines that he had helped lay as a slave, and participated in a number of sea battles.

During one battle, the fighting grew so intense that the captain of the Planter hid in the interior of the ship and ordered the crew to surrender. Fearing that the black crewmen would be enslaved or killed if captured, Smalls refused to surrender; instead, he took command of the ship and navigated the Planter through the Confederate onslaught to safety. Because of his bravery, Smalls was promoted to captain himself, becoming one of the highest ranking and highest paid black officers in the Civil War. Smalls leveraged his resulting fame into social activism, throwing his support into an initiative to educate former slaves, and becoming literate himself (in most Confederate states, it was illegal to teach a black person to read). While riding a streetcar in Philadelphia, he was ordered to give up his seat to a white passenger; Smalls left the car, rather than suffer the indignity of being forced to ride on the overflow platform. When word got out that a decorated hero of the Civil War had been humiliated thusly, it prompted a backlash that led to the integration of public transportation in Pennsylvania.

But Robert Smalls STILL wasn't finished. He entered politics, serving in the South Carolina legislature before becoming one of the first black people elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1874. And he remained active in public life into the 20th century; in 1913, he prevented the lynching of two black men accused of murder in his town by warning the mayor that the local black population would burn the city to the ground if the mob was not stopped.

And the plantation where Smalls had grown up a slave? He purchased it after the war, and lived there until his death in 1915. The monument at his grave is inscribed with this quote: "My race needs no special defense, for the past history of them in this country proves them to be the equal of any people anywhere. All they need is an equal chance in the battle of life." And that is the story of the great American hero Robert Smalls, known by too few people today.





**RETURNING BY POPULAR DEMAND FOR
Science and Arts in Parks
Gifford Park Neighborhood Association and
Yates Illuminates
PRESENT**

**Science, Engineering, and Teamwork
(young future inventors 7-16 y.o.)**

**HAVE FUN, PLAY, INTERACT
and learn about physics and the energy of the
future, build and race solar powered fuel cell
model cars,
learn to build solar concentrators—heat water
and power a Stirling Engine, design, build and
race mouse trap cars and programmable robots.
Compete in teams for great prizes.**

**Youth 7-11 will learn to design mouse-trap based
cars based on mechanical advantage, will build
functional Lego-like machines and electric
circuits. We ask that parents accompany this age
group.**

**Youth 12-16 will learn uses of solar energy, will
build and race solar fuel cell powered model cars,
will build large functioning household solar
concentrators, will build programmable robots,
and will imagine a business.**

**Program dates: Saturday, July 23, 30,
August 6, 13, September 10, 17, 24,
October 8, 2-6 pm**

**Sign up your youth by emailing Adrian at
aspetrescu@alumni.pitt.edu, Subject line
“SEaT Sign up” including full name and email
of parent, and names and ages of youth
participants. Spots are limited.**

Project funded with a grant from
the Omaha Community Foundation

GOOD BOOKS, GOOD COFFEE, GOOD CONVERSATION

**THE LAST
SUMMER OF
REASON**

TAHAR DJAOUT

Translated by Marjorie Hooper
Foreword by Mike Flores
Introduction by Mark Bouldin Smith

NEIGHBORHOOD

**BOOK
CLUB**

Saturday, Aug. 20, 4-5 PM
Discuss *The Last Summer of Reason* by Tahar Djaout

Myrtle & Cypress
Coffeehouse
517 N 33 St

Emily Sawyer

WANT TO JOIN?
EMAIL:
EMILY.SAWYER@CUNY.ORG
OR SEND A WHATSAPP
MESSAGE

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.



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

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
Application to be a Board Member

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:



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 PO Box 31462
 Omaha, NE 68131



Venmo: @MHA-GPNA



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...

___ Call committee	___ Holiday Banquet	___ Neighborhood Watch	___ Tennis
___ Cleanup/Beautification	___ Landlord/Tenant Issues	___ Newsletter Distribution	___ Tool Lending
___ Community Garden	___ Memberships	___ School Liason	___ Tree Planting
___ Easter Egg Hunt	___ Neighborhood Market	___ School Activities	___ Youth Garden
___ History	___ Neighborhood Walks	___ Soccer	

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