

Spring 2023



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

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

www.giffordparkomaha.org



Neighborhood Meeting Announcement

When:

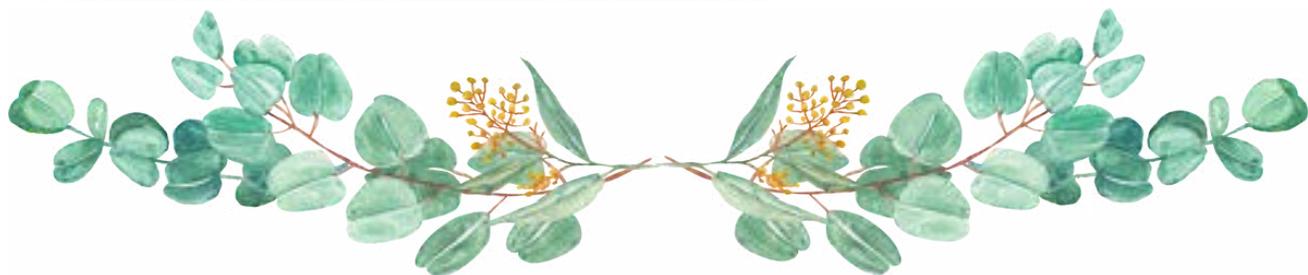
May 4th, 2023

6:30 p.m

Where:

Yates Illuminates
3260 Davenport St.

We will have local organizations share information about their programs, what services they have to offer, and the work they do to help people in our community. Homeless/unhoused resources, youth emergency services, crisis intervention, and more are topics that will be covered. Expand your knowledge about Omaha and attend this free event! Snacks provided!





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

Vice President - Zedeka Poindexter
znpoindexter@gmail.com
402-212-5869

Treasurer - Paul Pellerito
pellpa7116@live.com
402-709-0229

Secretary - Rose Carlson
rhcarlson4@yahoo.com
402-639-5952

Anthony Stepka
anthonystepka85@gmail.com
540-820-5299

Dr. Adrian Petrescu
asprescu@alumni.pitt.edu
402-769-9070

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

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

John Pappan
whitebison777@yahoo.com
402-315-7471

Lauren Alston
l_e_alston@icloud.com
402-885-5177

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

Tyronda Pierce
maypierce82@gmail.com
402-598-0919

Wolf Tattenbach
thebigbadwolfgang@gmail.com
612-281-3974

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

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

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

Youth Soccer
Jeff Spurlock
jeffspurlock@icloud.com
714-315-2272

Magpie
402-706-7496

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
abbyaer@gmail.com

Page 3: Presidents Column

Page 4: 2023 events calendar

Page 5: The Time When I Stepped on Glass

Page 6: Easter Egg Huny

Page 7: John L. Pappan Bio

Page 8: Judy Quest Tribute

Page 9: Neighborhood News - MUDD Update

Page 10: Neighborhood News- Got Lead

Page 11: Neighborhood News - PAC Report

Page 12: Neighborhood Market

Pages 13-14: Youth Tennis

Page 15: Omaha Mobile Stage

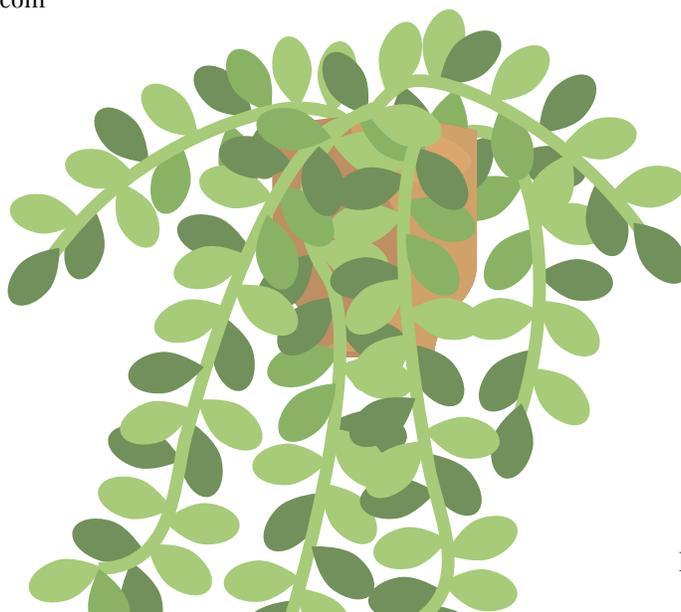
Page 16: Community Garden & Adventure
{layground

Page 17: Youth Garden Signup

Page 18: The Science Club

Page 19: Buisness QR codes

Page 20: GPNA membership form



President's Column

Spring Time is New Growth Time

Let's grow greater 360 hospitality together in 2023 and beyond!

Spring is here! With the chirping birds and warmer temperatures come increased opportunity to engage with neighbors. A neighbor simply is one who lives near another. Another indicates an integral part of a valid whole. In our case the whole is the cross cultural village of Gifford Park and adjacent communities. Each additional neighbor and potential member of our collective efforts adds exponentially more to our positive impact for today and future generations of Gifford Park residents. As neighbors we share relative interests, boundaries, values, and collaborative concerns. In GP we share a business district, a garden, wonderful annual family activities woven in, and a public park. And now Gifford Park Neighborhood Association shares the stewardship of a community room at Yates Illuminates as a multimillion dollar acquisition and renovation by the Weitz Family Foundation comes in for a landing this year. Because of the diversities we enjoy; peoples, groups, organization, cultures, and languages, we also share the growth pains of mutual inclusion and equity concerns as well.

If you are reading this and you think of any neighbor as 'other' rather than 'another', I ask you today to reconsider your pessimist position. It is natural to view the environment through the lenses of one's tribal background and preferred experience; the proverbial 'like me'. While opportunists among us survey the landscape in terms of future goals and aspired bottom line margins; the proverbial competitive disposition. A third and optimal option is that we all tune in on the beauty and potential of where and how we best dwell together thereby submitting to a collaborative paradigm. We can do ourselves an unconditional favor and take deep breaths while enjoying the net value of living in a very active community of incremental difference makers. We should lock arms and gently probe for common ground and build on the synergies leading up to our next mutual milestones. Instead of restricting resources to past redundant laps around the same sacred cows, we must embrace grateful attitudes to define the future together.

I for one envision Gifford Park Neighborhood Association in the budgetable future perhaps facilitating paid internships, partial and full scholarships, and even micro business loans and grants for new entrepreneurs to a 78% tenancy population many of which are in one of the local colleges or universities inside and adjacent our borders. I hope the next few years set new standards in the innovation of and birth of writing and funding guilds, engineering field camps, math clubs, and professional certification programs. I hope to see advocacy support groups, book clubs, lecture series, lifestyle recovery programming, hands on peer mentoring, apprenticeships, digital marketing forums, and 360 neighbors helping neighbors raise the entire Gifford Park quality of life benchmarks.

We don't need more non-profits or institutional partners as much as we need mutual investments into one another. Why settle for additional layers of bureaucracy when we can maximize relationships already in play. And hopefully the day has passed of local leaders misuse of the 'separation of church and state' precedents in the anti-American color of law.

The first amendment of the US Constitution allows for zero governmental official establishment or prohibition of religion. A neighborhood association is the grassroots level of that government. It's the foundational level of the constitutional federal republic that is our nation's political design. People of faith in the original charters of society as well as today enjoy the same rights as every other taxpayer and should not be discriminated against as has been unfairly the case in prior years here locally. I don't mention these discriminations in protest but to open negotiations with an active ear and a watchful eye so we don't repeat past mistakes.

We are on a journey today to a better tomorrow. If one of us arrive there without the other, let's make sure it's not because either of us were indifferent of another neighbor, friend and / or perceived foe who may be a neighbor you just don't know.

I leave you with a tag line I hope evolves into a common mindset when we all greet one another with optimal hospitality 2023 and beyond. Your life matters. If we say and mean it selflessly to one another, no one's best interest gets left out. #YLM "Honor your father and your mother,'and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 19:19

Wendell Stanley, President GPNA 2023, Faith Based Organizer 33 years and counting.

Gifford Park Neighborhood - 2023 Calendar of Events, Programs, Activities (updated 4-24-23)

- GPNA general meetings (1st Thursday 6:30 Feb/May/Aug/Nov at Yates)
- GPNA board meetings (3rd Thursday 6:30pm meeting each month at Yates) Park Litter Cleanups (2nd Sunday each month at 2pm, meet at tennis courts...weather permitting)
- Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday April 8, 10:30am-1pm at Gifford Park)
- Playground & Park Cleanup (Saturday or Sunday March/April ?, 10:00am-noon at Gifford Park)
- Community Bike Project Open Shop Hours (open various hours, check online)
- Big Muddy Urban Farm events (plant sales, work parties, open house, farm tours, etc.)
- Earth Day event (Saturday April 22, 10am-1pm at Yates & Gifford Park neighborhood)
- Science Club (Sundays April 23, May 7, May 21, June 4, 11am-2pm at Yates)
- Community Garden work parties (Wed evenings 6-8pm during growing season May-September)
- Community Garden Season Opening (Saturday May 13, 10am-noon)
- Spring Cleanup (Saturday May 20, 9am-2pm at Duchesne)
- Community Garden potluck dinners (June, September dates?), workshops, garden tours, etc.
- Youth Garden Program (each Saturday morning 10-11:30am, May 20-August 26)
- Adventure Playground at community garden (Saturdays noon-2pm May 13-October)
- Youth Tennis Block Party (Wednesday May 17, 6-7:30pm at Gifford Park)
- Gifford Park Neighborhood Market (Friday evenings June-September, 5-8pm)
- Omaha Mobile Stage Youth Talent Show (Friday June 16 at the Market)
- Youth Tennis Program (Wednesday mornings 10am-noon June 7-July 26 at Gifford Park)
- Youth Soccer Program (Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:30pm June-July at Gifford Park)
- Slip'N'Slide at Gifford Park (Thursday June 8, 6-8pm, and more summer dates TBA)
- Youth Tennis Program (Wednesdays in August, 6-7:30pm at Gifford Park)
- 33rd Friday Block Party & Multi-Cultural Event (Friday August 18, 5-8pm)
- Playground & Park Cleanup (Saturday September ?, 10:00am-noon at Gifford Park)
- Porchfest (Sunday noon-6pm October 1)
- Youth Basketball (October evenings TBA 6:00-7:30pm at Gifford Park Elementary)
- Community Garden fall cleanup (mid-October)
- Halloween Festival at Gifford Park playground area (Sunday October 29, 4-7pm)
- Fall Cleanup (Saturday, November ??, 9am-2pm at Duchesne)
- Holiday Makers Market (early December ?, Saturday ? at Yates)
- Holiday Banquet (Thursday December 7, 6-8:30pm at Yates)

The Time When I Stepped on Glass

By Abram Cashman Bornhoft (age 10)

I had just got to the slip and slide at Gifford Park. It was a beautiful summer day and it was as hot as the core of the sun. I had just soared down the slide my first time, and had gotten a ton of soap in my mouth, but I think it was worth it. After a trillion more slides I was back up again. My mouth tasted like I took a bath in the dishwasher, but I couldn't close my mouth. I had run up the hill so many times my legs felt like I had just run a marathon.

When I went down again, I felt a stinging feeling in my right heel, so I thought I had just stepped on a tiny twig. I walked back up the hill like nothing happened. Then my heel started to hurt a lot, and when I looked at the bottom of my foot my heel was bleeding like crazy! It hurt so much I had to limp up the hill to my Mom. I told her that my heel hurt and I thought I stepped on something, and I thought we should leave. She went to get the car.

A man put a white towel around my foot. When my Mom pulled back up the towel was blood red, and my foot still hurt almost as much as the start! I was limping, and it was hard to walk. My Mom called an Urgent Care to see if they were still open. They were not. So we went home, and I laid on the couch while my Mom tried to find an urgent care that was open. It felt like it took 200 hours but it only took about 10 minutes. Then I started to think about if I'd have to get stitches. I really didn't want to, but if I didn't it might not heal and it could get infected. I guess we would have to see.

My mom put rubbing alcohol on my heel. The alcohol stung like one million needles in my foot! Finally we went to get it looked at. While we were at Urgent Care the doctor put medical glue on it, not stitches. When we finally got home at 10 o'clock I just needed some rest from the long day. It still hurt a lot but I thought it was getting better.

When I stepped on that piece of glass I thought that I might have to get stitches and I really didn't want those so I just watched something to get my mind off it. When we got to Urgent Care I had been really scared but the doctor said, "We don't put stitches on feet because they fall off easily," and I was so relieved! When we finally got home I was still limping super badly, and I didn't want to summer camp because it would be hard to walk. But I still had to.



Abram is pictured building on the slip'n'slide in July 2022. Our next one is scheduled for Thursday June 8, 6-8pm. Footwear required for all participants.

Abram's article highlights the need for everyone to be aware of our broken glass and litter issues in Gifford Park. Please do not litter because glass bottles and metal cans are easily converted to smaller dangerous pieces when the City mows. Several kids suffered cuts from stepping on glass during this slip'n'slide event. Our next one is scheduled for Thursday June 8, 6-8pm. For safety we plan to put down carpet strips to walk back up the sliding hill and the launching area. We encourage kids and adults to wear protective footwear.

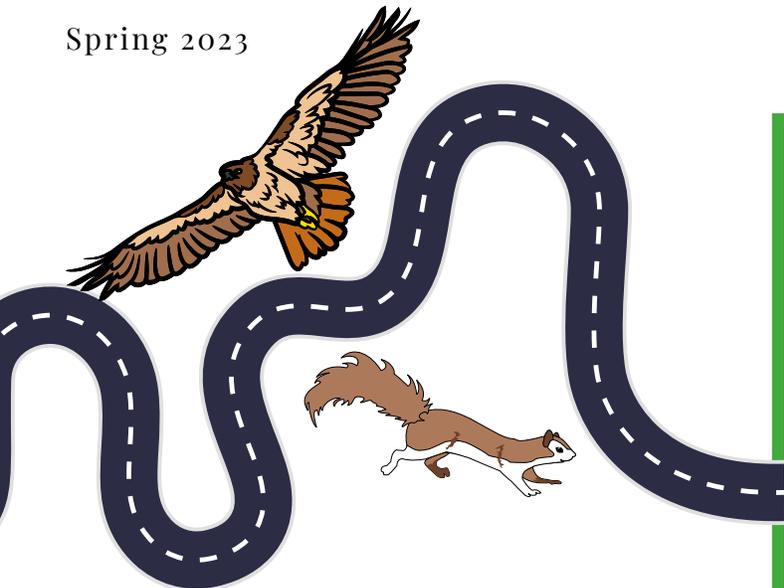
Spring Cleanup

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association will be partnering with Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association for the annual **spring cleanup from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 20th** in the Duchesne parking lot (3601 Burt Street).

The Furniture Project will be picking up nicer furniture the Saturday before the cleanup, May 13th.

If you would like to volunteer, or if you have furniture, appliances or other items you would like to have picked up, please call Rose Carlson at 402-639-5952 or email rhcarrson4@yahoo.com.

There is no charge to bring items to the cleanup or to have them picked up, but please consider joining GPNA and/or making a donation.



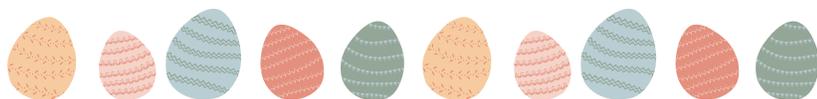
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN

By Mike Caban

Driving west on Cass Street at noon the other day,
 When, at about 77th street I spot a pretty good-size
 Redtail hawk snatch up a squirrel and fly away.
 In one fell swoop and off it went.
 It happened so fast as the raptor flew
 Past my field of vision with its prey...
 Right in the middle of town, traffic all around
 And it didn't seem to faze the bird one darn bit.
 Now that, is something you don't see every day.

Easter Egg Hunt

Brittney Rubek



Spring brings in the true new year with sunny skies, warmer weather, green grass and Gifford Parks Easter Egg Hunt. The start of a new year filled with many community events. What a spectacular sight it is to stand at the top of the Gifford Park Hill and watch 200+ children and parents dash for the Easter candy with huge smiles, bags in hand, and the determination to walk away with the most candy.

I've had the privilege over the past 15-20 years of volunteering alongside my grandmother, Jan Franks, for the Gifford Park Easter Egg Hunt. We have had the pleasure emptying out bags of candy and sorting them into the different age groups, while ensuring we stash a couple pieces of chocolate aside for our hard work. I couldn't have sorted all the candy this year without the help of my daughter Ari'anna.

As the years have gone by it seems that the Easter Egg Hunt has been rather given to me to run, but the funny thing is I've never truly realized how much really goes into what I thought was a rather quick event. I am so very thankful for the many different volunteers from many different walks of life that came to help clean up the park, hang signs, assist in crowd control and communication. Without them, it simply wouldn't have gone as smoothly as it did.

It is important that we honor our volunteers and truly recognize their selflessness. Thanks to all those who donated time, money, candy, and other items for the event: Darryl Hutton, Stacey Benson, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Jim Kyler, Hannah Vlach, Adrian Petrescu, Marie Helene Andre, Terry Wilwerding, Lauren Alston, Jackie Foster, Pastor Bruce Williams, Hope of Glory Church, City Parks Department, California Tacos, Urban Village, Ideal Hardware, Danny's Corner Store, Whelan family, Fremont Machines and Beau at Evoluxion Barber. Justine Stanley did another great job as our Easter bunny and was joined by her family: dad Wendell, mother Alyssa, sisters Dawn, Crystal, Witney, Rachel and brother Wendell Junior. This was the 13th year in a row our anonymous dentist friend donated dental care bags for children and families. Sara Howard, husband Doug, and Sara's mom Gwen volunteered again and donated stuffed bunnies.



I ask that we continue to reach out into our own separate communities and recruit more volunteers and family participants to keep this finely-oiled machinery functional and full of purpose.



John L. Pappan Bio

I was born/grew up in Omaha, Nebraska as member of the Umonha nation. The State of Ni blas Ka means flat water or refers to Platte River. I have been involved with the Native community since 1979 as staff media specialist for the American Indian Center of Omaha, NE-Standing Bear Project. Following in the footsteps of my relatives who were healers and spiritual leaders, I continued to deepen in learning of various tribal traditions not only Omaha but others along the red road. I volunteered with my Mother and Father in various community groups among them Native Parent committee, Orphan Aides, Cultural Club, Warrior Society, and Dream of Eagles.

In 1989, I received certificates in Data Processing and Entrepreneurship from SW Indian Polytechnic Institute of Albuquerque, New Mexico and in May of 1990 received associate degree in Business Administration from Deganawida-Queztalcoatl University of Davis California. I served as Dorm Advisor and Student Store Manager.

In the fall of 1992, I served on the Quincentennial Committee of University of Nebraska-Omaha which educated public on Columbus discovery of 1492. Later thru my efforts and Dr. Stover at National Indian Education Conference, we started the movement to establish the Native American Studies department at UNO. I served as President of UNO Intertribal Student Club.

I continued to serve the Native community on child welfare issues as a member of Big Elk Nonprofit. I served on the Fort Omaha Powwow committee. I served on the Native American Achievement Council for the Omaha Public Schools and later received Community Advocate Award in 2006. My father taught the first Omaha Indian language class at Metro Community college and later he was speaker at Macy campus of Nebraska Indian Community College.

In April 2009, I attended a Gathering of Ancestors in Northern Arizona as representative for Tree of Life Nonprofit where native indigenous elders from the world came to share and confer on our Mother Earth.

I worked as a Paraprofessional at Marrs Magnet School in the Special Education classroom for two years.



In 2010 I went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land Israel. The shrines of Bahá'u'lláh and Bab are located in/near Haifa area. I was told in dream to apply to work at Bahá'í World Center and pray with pipe at Cave of Elijah. Kelly good friend witnessed as we entered Cave on men's side to fill pipe for ceremony. He was concerned to be respectful but I told him my dream to do this. Soon the place was empty. We offered our prayers then when done the place filled with people again.

My grandmother Madeline Lovejoy and Great grandparent Paul/Amelia Lovejoy declared with a total of 13 Umonhas their belief in Bahá'u'lláh the Glory of God. The year was 1947 October. This was the nine pointed star way spoken of by Dine Navajo where on their lands I declared my faith Aug 18, 1985 as Bahá'í.

I continue to attend the Dhegiha Language conference where the Omaha tribe is one of five cognate tribes with similar related language for preservation. I have been a community advocate for Omaha native community. In 2009, I and the former chairman of the Omaha tribe started friendship with the Mayan community from Guatemala.

Now the Mayan and Omaha have a mutual cultural bi-lateral relationship with exchange of Ambassadors. This has borne great cooperative projects such as Garden projects, dance exchanges, ceremonies of prayer at Mayan and Omaha tribal sites.

I am ceremonial leader to Wildlife Sanctuary called Rainbow Ridge located in Florence former town now part of north Omaha city. Many meditations and prayers along with ceremonies have blessed the sacred land.

Judy Quest - In Memoriam

On behalf of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, we are very sorry to hear the passing in February of our longtime friend and neighbor Judy Quest, known to many of us as 'Dear Heart Clown', she was 74. Judy was so very generous with sharing her great talents, enthusiasm, and time volunteering for our neighborhood events including from the early and mid-2000's at our 33rd Street block parties and the community garden...she brought much joy and smiles to so many children and families!

Judy was a lifelong educator and counselor, who spent most of her career inspiring students at Duchesne Academy to realize their dreams. She was passionate about the goals of the Sacred Heart and lived its mission for intellectual values and social justice to its fullest. The mentors, classmates, colleagues and students that she built relationships with built the foundation of her life. A true 'daughter of the 60's', she loved nature and was politically active until the very end. As a young mother, she translated the challenge of having a daughter with Cerebral Palsy to a job working for the State of Nebraska during the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. She worked in living rooms, conference rooms, and legislative chambers, always telling her stories in personal, yet innovative ways.

In some of the most challenging years of her life, Judy pursued a lifelong goal of becoming a professional clown. 'Dear Heart' brought joy to people of all ages, abilities, and socioeconomic standing for over 40 years. Judy brought a counselor's spirit to clowning and educated generations of new clowns. Dear Heart was also a 'boss clown', holding positions like President of Clowns of America International and winning international awards such as 'Clown of the Year' and 'Lifetime Achievement'.

Judy was an extraordinary mother and grandmother and shared not only her values and passions with her children, but supported them regardless of the direction of their journeys. Her battle with breast cancer lasted over 10 years, thanks to the amazing guidance of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, in particular, Dr. Kenneth Cowan and Dr. Melissa Teply. Judy is survived by husband Tom Quest; brother Mark Enenbach and sister Carol Haller; children Daniel (wife Laura), Melanie and Laura Quest (husband AJ Glueckert); grandchildren Lilly and Maggie Quest, and Helene and Eva Glueckert; many nieces and nephews. The family requested attendees of both services to wear bright colors (no black), and she had a 24 clown honor guard at her funeral, which was held at Cathedral, that was something to see!



Neighborhood News

Metropolitan Utilities District Gas Infrastructure Replacement Update

Part of MUD's Infrastructure Replacement Program, MUD is replacing supply mains throughout the neighborhood. We wanted to give the neighborhood an update on this project, so we contacted MUD and they quickly responded. Here is the info:

This project may require moving any inside gas meters to the outside of the homes or businesses - all at no cost to you.

WHEN AND HOW LONG

38th Street, Cass Street, N. 30th Street (Feb. – Aug. 2023)

Install and abandon gas main and replace any necessary services. Customers will see excavations and may experience a temporary, brief gas service interruption. Affected customers will be notified prior to any planned gas service interruption. The crew is currently working on Davenport Street. Started at 38th and working toward 33rd. Customers should have minimal gas service interruptions if any. After gas main is installed in Davenport, the crew will start installing in the side streets off Davenport.

N. 38th Street to N. 30th Street and Cuming Street to Dodge Street

After the previous project is complete, upgrade service area to 45 psig and isolate Davenport Street gas main. An M.U.D. construction crew will make seven cutoffs to isolate the main which will include excavations at these locations: • 38th and Davenport • 38th and Chicago • 38th and Cass • 36th and Cass • 33rd and Cass (x2) • 30th and Lincoln Blvd

DURING THE PROJECT gas main installation / reconnects

- Temporary traffic lane restrictions—for the safety of you and our crews, please slow down when driving in the area.
- Streets, sidewalks, lawns, and landscaping may be affected; however, all will be restored at the end of the projects and/or as weather permits.

- A series of small and large excavation pits to access the existing gas mains will be necessary. Generally, the larger holes on street corners will remain open for the duration of the project to make final connections at the end of the project.
- Trucks and equipment, gas pipe, safety fence and cones.
- After gas mains have been installed, work will begin to reconnect all homes and businesses to the new mains. This work will result in a hole near the street in front of each home or business to make the connection

WHAT YOU MAY EXPERIENCE PRELIMINARY WORK

marking gas services in the area Technicians will be marking underground utility lines in your neighborhood. For your safety, please do not remove the flags or cover up paint markings.

APPOINTMENTS requiring access to your home or business

- May require up to three (3) appointments—the first to coordinate the location of the new gas service and meter, and the others to: - reconnect your gas meter (M.U.D.) - relight gas pilots in your home or business (M.U.D.) - inspect sewer lateral service (Backlund Plumbing or Zoom Drain will contact you—the required inspection work is no cost to you)
- You will be contacted in the upcoming future to schedule these appointments. We strive to work with your schedule and do what we can to find a time that is convenient for you.
- This work may result in a brief planned temporary interruption of your gas service. A typical interruption could be 4 hours or less. Any appliance in your home or business that uses gas will not be available during the interruption (i.e., stove, water heater, furnace/boiler, etc.). Gas pilots will be relit by a M.U.D. technician after the interruption.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

Scheduling your appointment(s) is critical so work in your area can proceed to completion and your service is not interrupted. We must have all gas services switched to the new main in a timely manner before taking the old main out of service. We appreciate your cooperation.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

customersuccessteam@mudnebr.com

mudomaha.com/infrastructure - projects
Tina Gutschenritter 402.504.7770
or Tina Valentin 402.504.7257

Look for project updates on NextDoor

The Dangers of Lead

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that has toxic effects when it enters the body. It can often be found in soil, paint produced before 1978, older pipes, toys, and even food. It can cause neurological and developmental damage, as well as affect organs such as the lungs and kidneys. There is no safe level of lead. Children are particularly susceptible to lead poisoning, as their bodies take up higher concentrations of lead than adults. A child's cognitive and physical development can be permanently damaged by lead poisoning.



The Omaha Lead Superfund Site

The eastern part of Omaha is designated as an EPA Superfund site due to historic lead air pollution deposits. Properties located in this site are eligible for free soil sampling and testing. If the concentration of lead in the soil exceeds the EPA's threshold, the city will perform free remediation of the soil. Properties that meet these criteria are eligible for an assessment of the exterior for lead-based paint, and, if found, free paint stabilization. The city has set up an easy-to-use website where Omaha residents can check to see if their property has been tested and remediated and what their soil test results were: www.omahalead.org.

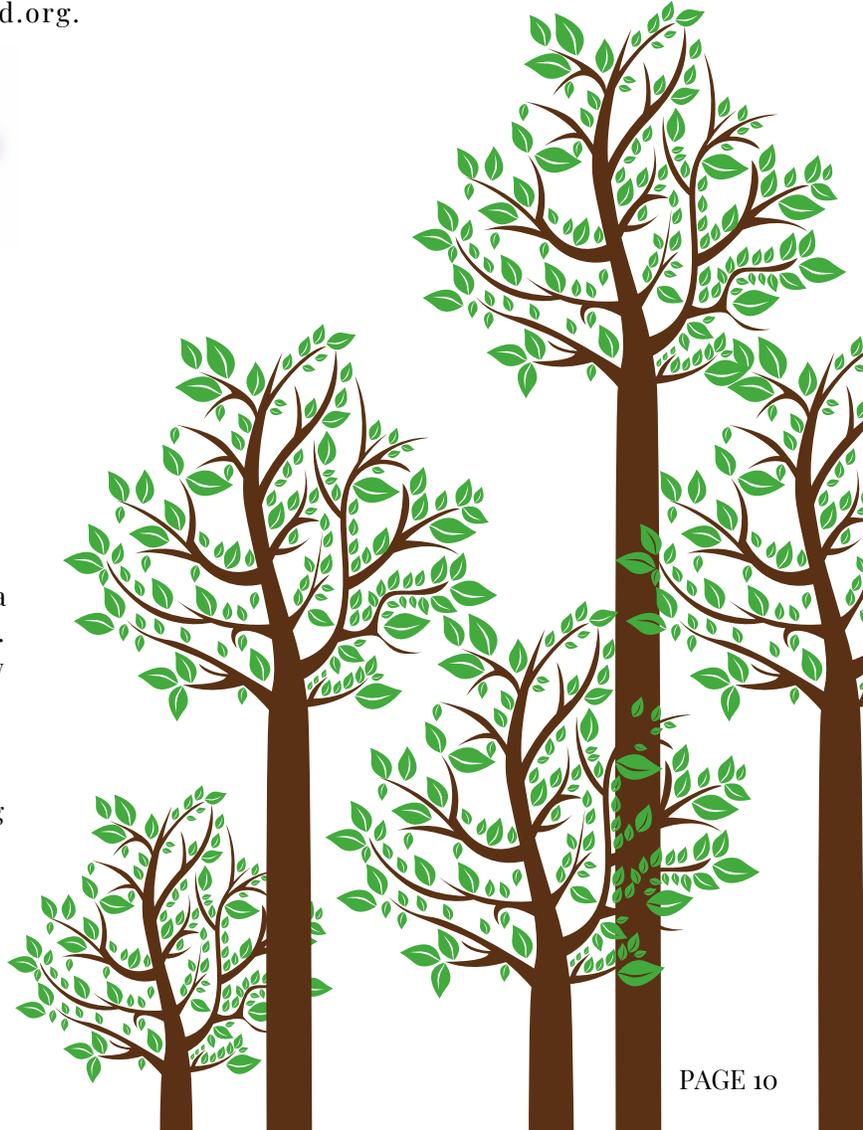
To read all about lead in Omaha and find links to other programs available for residents to help keep their families safe from lead, go to www.gotlead.org.

Tree Inventory

by Alex Goswami

If you love our tree canopy in Gifford Park, come join us to create a tree map of our neighborhood on Saturday June 10th from 11am-2pm. We are going to use Treeplotter to map the tree type, height, location and other distinguishing characteristics. We will use this inventory to build a tree-walk map for folks to tour the canopy.

Once the task of entering the data is done, an inventory becomes a powerful management tool. Since each tree has a GPS location, the community forest inventory has a similar format to the data for a city's grey infrastructure. For example, the path of a proposed sewer line can show how many trees would be impacted by the project, stormwater and energy savings benefits provided by a stand of trees can be calculated, tree diversity can be analyzed for smaller parts of town to refine tree planting priorities, detailed response plans can be made before a devastating tree pest is introduced in the community. Tree inventories are not only useful for those that care for public trees, but also non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, other city agencies, and environmentalists. Join us! Email hello@giffordparkomaha.org to work on this project!



Neighborhood Watch

by Jim Wilwerding

News From the Precinct

As the new year progresses, two major areas of crime continue high in our area, auto theft, and theft from cars. The former can be largely attributed to the ease of stealing some Kia's and Hyundai's, along with a smattering of cars left running 'to warm up.' If you have a Hyundai or Kia that starts with a key (rather than a pushbutton), you are strongly advised to park it indoors. If that is not an option, a steering-wheel immobilizer (The Club or other) should be used. While most stolen cars are eventually recovered, repairing a broken window and a damaged steering column is not cheap even assuming the thieves have not done other damage driving it. A friend of mine saw a stolen car being driven in a reckless manner, and the thieves crashed it into a parked car, likely totaling both vehicles. Theft from cars is an ongoing problem. The solution is to always lock your car and not leave valuables in plain sight. Thieves walk down the street, looking into cars to see what can be taken. Laptops, tablets, backpacks, purses, wallets, and phones are all targets along with anything else that can be converted to money. If the door is locked, a window will be broken. The solution is to lock items in the trunk, take them with you, or at least slide them out of sight under the seat. To help in recovering stolen cars, if you see a car left in our neighborhood with a broken window, or if it is left running, it is likely to be a stolen car and should be reported.

Starting soon, all Omaha police radio communications will be encrypted. To maintain transparency, unencrypted transmissions will be available on Broadcastify after a 15 minute delay. For those who wonder what ABLE-1, the police helicopter, is doing orbiting the neighborhood, presumably the information will be available there.

As most are probably aware, there are two tiers for contacting the Omaha Police Department. The 911 dispatch system is for emergency calls, and the Telephone Response System (TRS) is for non-emergency calls. The TRS number is (402) 444-4877. Any calls that do not involve a crime in progress or personal injury should go to the TRS. If in doubt, call 911, and dispatchers can transfer callers to the TRS if appropriate. Calls to 911 are prioritized, and officers are dispatched to higher priority calls first. If drinking or drugs are involved in a disturbance, that increases the priority of the call. If the caller is willing to speak with dispatched officers, that increases priority also.

If a large group is involved (over 10 people) that also affects the priority. Presumably we will see some partying when the weather warms, so it might be worth mentioning those things to the dispatcher when calling to get a more rapid response. While 911 can accept texts, they restrict those contacts to the hearing-impaired or in cases of life-threatening emergencies, due to the difficulty in soliciting necessary information. Despite advances, calls from cell phones can't always be located, so be sure to provide your location if that is relevant. As mentioned in a recent Omaha World Herald article, OPD is currently understaffed, so response times may be longer than usual.

As a point of pride, OPD closed 2022 with an 87% homicide clearance rate, far higher than the national average, in part due to community involvement and cooperation.

We seem to be seeing an increase in the number of folks trespassing. Police strongly recommend that all gates be closed and locked where feasible. If you have an attached garage, but your car is parked outside, you should not leave a garage door opener in your car. A broken car window, and the burglar is in your garage, and, usually fairly easily, house. Most burglaries are preceded by someone ringing your doorbell to find out if someone is home. So if someone rings the doorbell, but has an unlikely story, extra vigilance may be advisable. Photos or video from doorbell or security cameras may be helpful to police especially if a number of break-ins or other crimes occur in a specific area.

The city and police department are working to devise a process for helping the homeless. If they are camping on private property, the owner must file a notice closing the property before police can remove the homeless. If they are on public property, a number of factors determine whether they can be removed. Since the park is closed overnight, anyone in the park during the hours closed can be removed. The neighborhood meeting on May 4 will have various agencies present to discuss what options and resources are available.

We are looking into re-establishing a neighborhood watch, in some form, over the summer. Activities might include patrolling during late-evening hours on Friday and Saturday night, and being available to respond (as witnesses) to large parties or other disturbances. Obviously, the role is to witness and report where appropriate, not to get involved or take action. Phones, camcorders, or other recorders might be used to provide evidence. If you are interested, please contact Wendell Stanley at (402) 306-8454. If we get sufficient volunteers, a meeting will be set up to get organized.

Gifford Park Neighborhood Market



Midtown's Original Farmers Market...since 2006

520 N. 33rd St.



Support
Local Farmers &
Small Businesses

- Fresh Produce
- Farm Raised Meats
- Breads
- Honey
- Plants
- Handmade Items and more....
- Food Trucks



Every Friday evening - 5:00 to 8:00 pm
June 2 to September 22



Contact:
GPNMarket@gmail.com

Gifford Park Youth Tennis



For: Youth All Ages

Dates: Wednesdays June 7 to July 19

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: _____

Gifford Park Youth Tennis Block Party



For: Youth All Ages

Date: Wednesday May 17

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

**Business owners,
please consider
advertising in Gifford
Park's Pride! A
business membership
costs \$25 and includes
the first ad free in
our newsletter!
Subsequent ads
are \$25.**

MYRTLE & CYPRESS

517 N. 33rd St.
www.myrtleandcypresscoffee.com
[@myrtleandcypresscoffee](https://www.instagram.com/myrtleandcypresscoffee)

A COFFEEHOUSE IN GIFFORD PARK

Clean Ingredients
Locally Sourced Ingredients
Connecting to Our Neighbors Needs
Free Wifi
House Roasted Coffee
Cozy Vibes
Community Compost Site
Neighborhood Book Club



Omaha Mobile Stage



Calling all youth performing artists in the Omaha metro! Omaha Mobile Stage is hosting a free youth talent show competition at the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market on June 16 at 5:30 pm. Featuring a performance by Opera Omaha Artists. Free registration at www.omahamobilestage.org.

Open to youth ages 3-19 and all performing arts disciplines. Solo acts and ensembles can act, sing, dance, recite poetry, or play an instrument. Winners of each age division advance to a finals event on August 20 at Gene Leahy Mall in downtown Omaha. Booking a youth act for this competition is free and open to the public. For questions, contact Kaylea at kaylea@livable.org.

This event is made possible by Noll Spine Rehabilitation and Orthopedic Physical Therapy and Opera Omaha.

Community Garden & Adventure Playground

We hope you plan to attend our Community Garden & Adventure Playground Season Opening Event, Saturday May 13th, 10am to Noon at the community garden (35th & Cass Street) to celebrate the start of our 23rd year - it's free and open to everyone. We plan to have a variety of family activities including Youth Garden program & Adventure Playground registration, information on the community garden; Big Muddy Urban Farm; 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!

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 13, 10am - Noon)
- Youth Garden Program (Saturdays 10-11:30am, May 20 to August 26)
- Adventure Playground (Saturday afternoons noon-2pm, May 13 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 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 other questions contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net)

For information on renting a garden plot, contact Rose Carlson (402-639-5952 or rhcarrson4@yahoo.com)

For Adventure Playground, 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 13th, 10 a.m. to Noon
at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass Street)

Variety of family activities including:

Youth Garden Program & Adventure Playground registration
Free Library Books; Ask the Master Gardener
Mother's Day take home project; Face-Painting; Music; Digging; Chickens
Information on community garden, Adventure Playground, Big Muddy Urban Farm
Free Seeds, Plants and Refreshments (while supplies last)

Gifford Park Youth Garden Program



2023 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

May 13 Garden Kick-Off Season Opening Event (*10:00am-noon)
May 20 Get to Know Your Garden (prepare plot for planting & paint stakes)
May 27 Plant Your Plot/Paint Your Stake
June 3 Plant Your Plot/Paint Your Stake
June 10 Soil Health & Composting
June 17 Critter Camo Competition
June 24 Food Preservation through Dehydration
July 1 Pebble Meditation
July 8 Rokk The Citi Garden
July 15 Seed Bombs
July 22 Native Pollinators & Prairie Plants
July 29 Garden Puppeteering
Aug 5 Cooking & Nutrition
Aug 12 Wildcrafting: Nature Made Mandalas
Aug 19 Bio-Blitz
Aug 26 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 13. 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 20 through August 26 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 or video during Gifford Park Youth Community Garden activities for publication, social media, 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 _____



Yates Illuminates
and
Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Present



The Science Club

Join us if you are between 6 – 16 years old on Sundays
11 AM – 2 PM



Mark your calendars:

April 23rd

May 7th, May 21st

June 4th



Here are some of the things we may do:

Youth 6-10:

Lego-like machines,

Mouse trap cars,

Electric circuits,

Lego dinosaurs,

Lego Rocket and lunar bases models...

Youth 11-16:

Programmable Robot EV cars,

Programmable drones,

Solar fuel cell powered model cars,

LEGO space exploration models,

Solar concentrators...

Sign up your youth by emailing Adrian at aspetrescu@alumni.pitt.edu, Subject line "Science Club Sign up" including full name and email of parent, names and ages of youth participants. Spots are limited. Address: Yates Illuminates, 3260 Davenport St.



Project funded in part with grants from Omaha Community Foundation and by donors to Yates Illuminates

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
|  <p>Beau Evoluxion Barbershop</p> |  <p>Bluebird Cultural Initiative</p> |  <p>Center D2</p> |  <p>Do Space</p> |
|  <p>Carl Griffin, Realtor</p> |  <p>Families in Action</p> |  <p>Gifford Park NA</p> |  <p>Great Plains Theater Commons</p> |
|  <p>Handy Stanley</p> |  <p>Intercultural Senior Center</p> |  <p>International Council for Refugees and Immigrants</p> |  <p>Lending Link</p> |
|  <p>Peavy's HVAC</p> |  <p>MCC @ Yates</p> |  <p>Midlands African Chamber, Inc</p> |  <p>Refugee Women Rising</p> |
|  <p>Wolf Tattenbach, Whole Life</p> |  <p>Restoring Dignity</p> |  <p>Yates Illuminates</p> |  <p>Youth for Greater Good</p> |



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 PO Box 31462
 Omaha, NE 68131



**Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 Membership Application**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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