



Gifford Park's Pride

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

December 2015

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association



GPNA's 27th Annual Holiday Banquet

When: Thursday, December 3, 2015 6:00pm
(Dinner served at 6:30 pm)

Where: Becic Dining Room, Creighton
University Medical Center

A traditional holiday meal will be served, compliments of
CHI Health-Creighton Medical Center

RSVP: to Eliza @ 207-590-9880 or email:
yrrepazile@gmail.com
(Space is limited, RSVP by 12/1/15)

Join us for a Year-in-Review, Neighbor of the Year
Award, door prizes and time with your neighbors!

Please bring a canned food item for the Food Bank.

Gifford Park Neighborhood School/ Save Yates Effort - Update

Our Neighborhood School/Save Yates Effort leadership team, Leslie Wessel, Eliza Perry, Matt Cronin, Martin Janousek, Chris Foster and Mike Caban, has organized a multi-pronged campaign that has been, frankly, inspiring. They have canvassed and gathered close to 800 letters of support, and still counting. This team rallied over 150 neighborhood folks and friends to an information and update meeting, at Yates, on November 10th. A lively Q&A session ensued, that put a microscope onto specific challenges we face

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2016 Elected Board

Welcome new board members! Elected at the November meeting:

President	–	Marie H�el�ene Andr�e
Vice President	–	Eric Purcell
Secretary	–	Eliza Perry
Treasurer	–	Alexandra Goswami
At-Large	–	Andy Wessel, Charles Mitchell, Luther Larson, Jason Feldman
Business Rep	–	Martin Janousek
Landlord Rep	–	Chris Foster

2015 GPNA Officers

Luther Larson, President

402-616-9350 | lutherlar@cox.net

Eric Purcell, Vice President

402-719-5108 | eric.purcell@crmladers.org

Jill Westfall, Secretary

402-213-3105 | jill.lynn.westfall@gmail.com

Alexandra Goswami, Treasurer

847-477-2156 | omaha_beef@hotmail.com

Board

Mark Trampe, At-Large

402-332-6188 | supertrampe@gmail.com

Andy Wessel, At-Large

402-916-5030 | ajwessel13@yahoo.com

Charles Mitchell, At-Large

402-309-0777 | charlesalexandermitchell@gmail.com

Marie Hélène André, At-Large

402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

Martin Janousek, Business Rep

402-558-4070 | mjjanousek@leoadaly.com

Chris Foster, Landlord Rep

402-290-8187 | foster3413@cox.net

Opportunities – Contacts

GPNA General Meetings

Luther Larson, 616-9350

Community Bike Project

Charles Mitchell 309-0777

Community Garden/Youth Garden

Chris Foster 290-8187

Adventure Playground

Teal Gardner 402-875-1896

teal.gardner@gmail.com

Teen Market Garden

Cynthia Shuck 556-2090

dalilabush@cox.net

Gifford Park Market

Martin Janousek 558-4070

Yates Community Center

Susan Mayberger 557-2431

susan.mayberger@ops.org

Youth Soccer

Eric Purcell 719-5108

Youth Tennis

Chris Foster 290-8187

Spring Cleanup

Luther Larson 616-9350

From the President

By Luther Larsen

As my second term as president of GPNA comes to an end; I would like thank you, the GPNA members and the residents of Gifford Park that have helped make Gifford Park a better place. There are so many of you that have committed your time and resources to improving Gifford Park that I am not going to mention you by name in fear that I will miss someone. Maybe the most visible changes have been in your backyard; with many houses improving their physical appearances. Speaking of backyards, the Adventure Playground has become the most transformed backyard in the city. With the recent addition of the large tree house platforms, it is a great spot for kids throughout city to visit. Thanks to the many of you that have helped in the development, financing and construction of the Sallie Foster Adventure Playground. In addition, I appreciate the livelihood that the Friday Market has brought into the business district, the display of large murals instead of graffiti and the many improvements you all have made throughout the neighborhood. Even with all these great strides in the right direction, there is still lot of room for additional improvements. You can help GPNA by getting involved by becoming a member and volunteering your time and resources. Thanks for all your support during this last year.

Big Muddy Beginning Farmer Training Program

After four years of growing and vending fresh produce in Gifford Park, Big Muddy Urban Farm is thankful for the support and pleased to announce its Beginning Farmer Training Program to start the 2016 Growing Season. The training, complete with housing and modest stipend, provides young adults interested in starting their own farming enterprise by applied practice in sustainable fruit, vegetable and laying hen production, business and marketing training, as well as community building. If you or someone you know might be interested, please inquire by emailing: info@bigmuddyurbanfarm.com and apply to be a Big Muddy Urban Farm fellow today!

Editor's note: If you have news of interest to the Gifford Park Neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for the monthly newsletter. Editorials are subject to approval by the GPNA Executive Board. Please include your contact information. Articles may be submitted by email to brent.lubbert@gmail.com.



Adventure Playground Treehouse is Complete

By Teal Gardner

Gifford Park's Adventure Playground now officially has a Treehouse! It simply can't be overstated our gratitude to the super skilled carpenters & hard-working volunteers who put in hours to make this dream come true! The kids who were there at 8 AM on Saturdays to put in hours of work helped move the project forward. Shout out to Elijah, Emmanuel, Ethan, Jessyka, Milan, Ezra, Jaylon, Josie, Stella, Andrew, Osama, Awab, Gianni, Santos, Miguel, Ixayana, Briana, Junior, Christopher, Kevin, Leslie, Victoria and more!! Great big thanks goes out to the grownups: JFC Builders; Francisco, Diego, Luis, Tepexi, parents; Jasmine Frierson, Monica Lehn, Paul Pellerito and of course, Chris Foster who were each key in their own way to the success of the project. Incredible work everyone! You may have noticed a few signs have gone up to help guide use of the Adventure Playground. On

the fence at the entrance are posted our Hours of Operation: Saturdays noon-4pm, underneath which the sign states "Except Members," and lists my phone number. This refers to a new membership opportunity that will open the playground for more hours during the week, and should help to abate "playgroundsickness" when we are closed for a duration this winter. To sign up for a membership you must complete a form (available via email if you contact me or come by the playground when open), take a guided tour of the playground, and agree to our conditions for use.

Now that colder temperatures have arrived, the Adventure Playground will be open only on selected Saturdays when the weather is above freezing, but watch Facebook, or drop by on snowy days we may be open & sledding or roasting marshmallows! Signing up for a membership would also mean that the playground is open when it is convenient for you, rather than only when we are open. Please do call or email me if you have any questions: 4028751896 or teal.gardner@gmail.com

Gifford Park Neighborhood School/Save Yates Effort - Update

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in our effort to save Yates and acquire the right location for the new school. We learned a lot at this community forum. One important thing we learned is that people in this neighborhood really do care, and you show up. And you showed up in very impressive numbers again, at the OPS meeting, on November 16th.

So far we've had a total of 12 presenters at 3 OPS meetings. Each one spoke respectfully, eloquently and knowledgeably on our behalf. Thank you to Leslie Wessel, Brandon Sperry, Matt Cronin (twice), Sara Howard (State Senator), Eric Purcell, Cheryl Hansen (Yates teacher), Eliza Perry, Alyssa Stanley, Emma Erickson, Alexandra Goswami, Veronica Hill (Yates Administrator), and Kristine Gerber (Restoration Exchange Omaha executive director).

Most of you have probably either received your 'SAVE YATES' yard signs already, or have seen them all over the neighborhood. This is another visible display of our determination to keep pressing forward on our vision for our neighborhood, our families and children.

We're getting some positive statements from OPS

Board members and OPS staff, but nothing concrete as of yet. So we soldier on...

OPS officials have told us this timeline for our neighborhood school: January 2017 to September 2017 - building design; October 2017 through December 2017 - construction procurement; January 2018 through July 2019 - construction; August 2019 - move in. OPS plans a thorough process for deciding location and design, our neighborhood will be involved in this process.

For more information, or if you would like a 'SAVE YATES' yard sign, contact Chris Foster 402-290-8187/ foster3413@cox.net, or Eliza Perry 207-590-9880/ yrrepazole@gmail.com.

Creighton Print Center
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701 North 20th Street
Omaha, NE 68178

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tel 402.280.2515
fax 402.280.2370





Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 PO Box 31462
 Omaha, NE 68131

Place
 Stamp
 Here

**Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 Membership Application**

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

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

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Business Phone (if applicable): _____

Name (1): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name (2): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name (3): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name (4): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name (5): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

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

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