



Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 2017

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Gifford Park Neighborhood School Site Update

by Leslie Wessel

As part of the team that worked hard to bring a school to our neighborhood and partnered with OPS to provide input on the design of it, I'm very invested in the future of our neighborhood school. As many of you probably observed, the school site (located at 32nd & Burt) has had some action recently.

I like to pretend that my 3-year-old son really, REALLY likes to look at construction vehicles; and he does like them, but our daily trek down to the school site to watch the excavators and bulldozers was very self-serving. I'd ask him, "Wouldn't you like to walk down to the school site today?"

or, "Maybe we should drive by the school site on our way out today (and on the way back home too!)" I'd use any excuse to check out what was going on!

After the streetlights and (some of) the trees were removed, and the parking lot was dug up, a ton of dirt was hauled in. Currently, the great amount of dirt sits atop the site, and does its work of packing down the earth for a solid foundation.

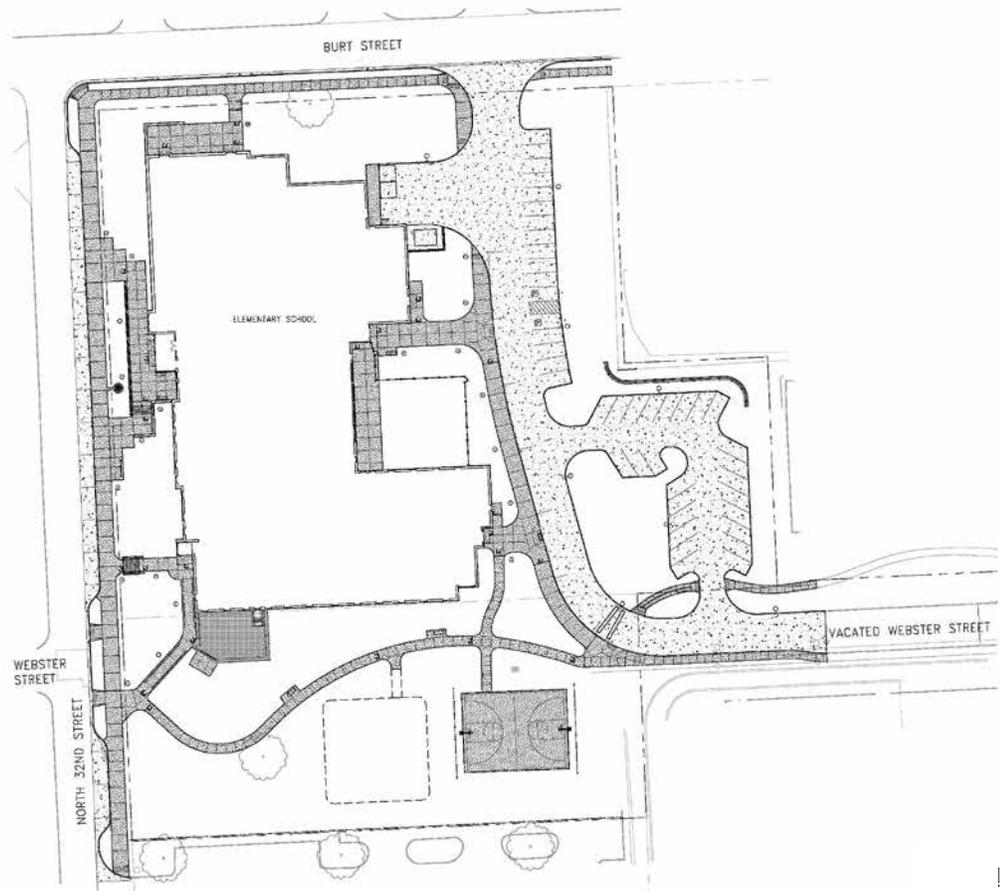
The action on the site has stopped for now, but more movement and changes will be coming again soon. OPS will be receiving work bids in October with plans to start construction in November. The ground-breaking is scheduled for sometime this fall. Stay tuned for updates as we get more information from OPS.

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday November 9
6:30 PM

Yates Community Center
3260 Davenport Street

Presentation:
GPNA Elections
Guest Speakers TBA



2017 GPNA Officers

Marie H  l  ne Andr  , President

402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

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402-558-4070 | mjjanousek@leoadaly.com

Chris Foster, Landlord Rep

402-290-8187 | foster3413@cox.net

Opportunities – Contacts

GPNA General Meetings

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Community Bike Project

Adams Blowers 423-307-4136

adam@communitybikeproject.org

Community Garden/Youth Garden

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Adventure Playground

Jasmine Frierson 402-213-0223

sfadventureplayground@gmail.com

Teen Market Garden

Cynthia Shuck 402-556-2090

dalilabush@cox.net

Gifford Park Market

Martin Janousek 402-558-4070

Yates Community Center

Susan Mayberger 402-557-2431

Youth Soccer

Eric Purcell 402-719-5108

Youth Tennis

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Spring Cleanup

Luther Larson 402-616-9350



West elevation looking North of new elementary school. See Front Page Article.

From the President

Today I want to share with you a few words of wisdom I heard at a conference I attended recently. The conference was about fostering a positive culture in our organizations, a culture that empowers people, a culture based on respect and compassion. Listening to the speakers, I realized that even though it was about the workplace, the principles and lessons learned also apply to our community, to our neighborhood.

We all come from different horizons, we have different life experiences, beliefs and ways to reach our personal goals. Gifford Park Neighborhood is known for its diversity - generational, cultural, personal situation, etc. - and that is what makes it attractive... and what may sometimes lead to misunderstanding between neighbors. We sometimes feel we cannot ‘connect’ with some neighbors, communication is hard, we don’t seem to find any common ground. When this happens, try to change your perspective and remember: we are all human beings. The ‘other’ is just like me: we both want to be happy, to be loved, and to be successful. Ultimately, we share similar experiences and hopes. Reach out to others with compassion: be open and curious, really listen to the others, and connect with them. Develop a ‘possibility’ mindset rather than a ‘problem’ mindset: ‘why not?’ rather than ‘it is not possible’. Develop your ‘conversational intelligence’. The direction of a conversation depends on how the first few words are perceived: are they perceived as positive, respectful and engaging, or as authoritative?...

If we apply these principles ourselves, we will become agents of change and we will make our community, our neighborhood and why not, the world, a little bit better.

As one of the speakers said: ‘May you be happy and be agents of happiness in your world!’

Marie H  l  ne

Note: speakers whose main takeaways are included herein are: Jerry Wagner, Gayle Van Gils, Paul Zelizer, Raymond Yeh, and David Krueger.

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 gpnewseditor@gmail.com.

Gifford Park Wins Tour De Garden Salsa Competition

On Sunday September 10, community members organized Tour de Garden, an event started by former GPNA board member Ricky Green and continued with the help of Sarah Johnson of the Omaha Bicycle Company and many others. The event is a bicycle tour of the community gardens and residential gardens of Omaha that culminates with an after-party with food, refreshments, great local musicians, and salsa competition (each community garden makes a salsa entry made with their own garden's ingredients). This was the first year the Gifford Park Community Garden hosted the after party – many thanks to Matt Cronin and Eliza Perry for all their hard work! Thanks to Kurt Goetzinger with Benson Community Garden for hosting the previous years.



We are proud to announce Gifford Park Community Garden's own Asit & Alex Goswami household prepared the winning salsa for the second year in a row! The trophy is a giant hot pepper crafted out of bicycle chains by the folks at the Omaha Bicycle Company. It is meant to be a travelling trophy, but next year, we will try to keep it in Gifford Park!



23rd Annual Halloween Festival

Where:

*****New Location!!!**
Gifford Park Playground
35th & Davenport St.



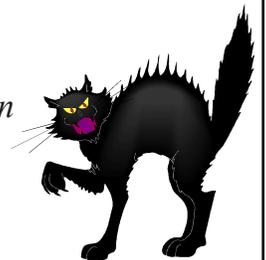
When:

Thursday
October 26th
6:00 to 8:00pm



*hosted by the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity,
 Delta Zeta Sorority & Gifford Park Neighborhood Association*

All Neighborhood Children and Parents are Welcome
 Halloween Activities, Pumpkin-Carving, Face-Painting,
 Treats, and other Fun Festivities!



FREE!

Porchfest Recap

By Eliza Perry

Early in the summer, GPNA was approached by organizers Emily Cox of E3 Music Management and local musician and booking manager Ben Baldwin with an intriguing idea: host a music festival on porches around the neighborhood and base it out of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market. It seemed almost too good to be true.

The idea was not new. PorchFest, as it lovingly called, has made its way into 87 neighborhoods across the country (and Canada!) over the last ten years. The mission of the event is to celebrate the vital creative community through music and art. Ben had played at the market on a few Friday evenings and thought Gifford Park would be the perfect venue for a grassroots, community-oriented folk festival.

We jumped aboard, but had lots to sort out first. Emily and Ben were completely open to talking through our concerns and ultimately tailored the event to align perfectly with our goals.

And boy, the event was a success. Every yard in front of each porch was filled with neighbors and new friends of ALL ages. We had hula-hooping, live paintings by local artists, chalk-painting, food, ping-pong, an old Studebaker truck that was way too fun to honk, and a general feeling of aliveness everywhere you went on California St, 33rd St and Burt St.

We can't wait for next year's event. We'll be meeting throughout the off-season to discuss improvements and other feedback we heard from folks - get in touch with ideas if you have them! We are SO grateful to Emily and Ben, they know how to organize a great event. We are also thankful to the numerous volunteers who helped set up and take down the market. And above all, thanks to the musicians and artists and neighbors who together created an incredibly enjoyable, memorable evening in Gifford Park.

photos of Porchfest on page 5

Bike Shop Update

by Adam Blowers

Temperatures are dropping but the shop is still going strong. We've got some great events coming up and we're working hard to finish this year's Earn-a-bike season strong. October is the last month for Youth Earn-a-Bike and Kids Bike Club before we take our year end hiatus. Classes will restart in February. So if you know of any kids looking to get a bike, send them down to the shop to get started.

We are debuting a brand new event this October! On October 21st from 6pm to 9:30pm we will be leading a ride that goes to 3 of Omaha's haunted locations. We're partnering with Rural Investigators of the Paranormal (R.I.P.) who will be on hand at each location to tell stories, show off equipment and give a brief ghost tour. The locations will be Cornerstone mansion, Ft. Omaha Metro Campus, and Hummel Park. This will be a fun casual ride where costumes are encouraged and prizes will be awarded for best decorated bike and best costume. To sign up visit the website www.communitybikeproject.org. Tickets are \$30 per person which keeps our programs like Youth Earn-a-Bike and Open Shop going strong. Some of the funds will also go to support R.I.P.

Lastly, we're gearing up for your annual Bike Build-a-Thon. This will be from November 10th to December 10th. Last year we refurbished over 125 bikes during this event and donated them to other local nonprofits in time for the holidays. This year we'd like to make it 150 and shatter the record of bikes we've distributed in a year. Stop by to find out how you can help, we'll need all the help we can get.

As always, if you need help with a bike or simply need a bike stop into the shop and we can help you out or contact adam at adamblowers@gmail.com.

Photos of Porchfest on September 29th



Maria Devlin Recognized by Creighton for her Impact in Gifford Park

By Joy Doll

In September, Maria Doyle Devlin was recognized by Creighton University's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions for the 2017 Young Alumni Appreciation Award. Maria was recognized for her efforts as a student through Operation Playground to get the Gifford Park Playground newly constructed. As a student, Maria worked with the community to raise funds and design the playground in addition to her studies as an occupational therapy student. Since graduating and moving to Colorado, Maria has returned every year for 5 years to partner with community members and students from Creighton University's occupational therapy program



to clean up the park and playground. She has provided healthy snacks to volunteers and been active with this part of our community even though she does not live here.

According to Creighton, recipients of this award must possess the following:

“The Young Alumni Appreciation Awards are conferred annually on an outstanding graduate from each of the three disciplines in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (occupational therapy, pharmacy and physical therapy) who earned his/her degree from Creighton in the past 10 years. The citation is awarded to alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professional practice, community service or other areas that reflect positively on our School and the University.

Recipients of the award are chosen based on these qualifications:

Personal qualities that makes them of high moral principles guided by the Jesuit ideals of being men and women for and with others

Distinguished service to the University, to their profession and/or to their own community together with a way of life that clearly exemplifies the University credo”

Maria received her recognition as part of Creighton's Alumni Weekend. Members of the GPNA were there to celebrate in addition to Maria's family. Congratulations to Maria and we hope she continues to be a part of our community.



Top Photo: Maria with the Dr. J. Chris Bradberry, Dean of the Creighton School of Pharmacy and Health Professions; Maria's husband, Rory and members of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association; Bottom photo: Maria volunteering to clean up the Gifford Park and playground with OT students for Alumni Weekend

Community Garden & Adventure Playground Fall Activities

Saturday, October 28th

10:00 AM - community garden/youth garden plots cleanup

4:30 PM - pumpking carving

5:30 PM - obstacle course relay

6:00 PM - potluck

6:30 PM - movie begins

Everyone welcome to join in the activities



Gifford Park Bemis Park BLOCK TALKS



Join your Gifford & Bemis Park neighbors on a walk to explore community improvements and connectivity.

Saturday, October 21

8:00 AM-9:30AM- Walk 10:00AM-12:00PM-Goal Setting

Block Talks begins at the corner 33rd & Cass St.

Breakfast & Lunch Provided

For Questions Email Julie Smith at Julie.Smith@oneomaha.org

25
CERTIFIED ORIGINAL
SHELTERBELT THEATRE
3225 California Street • Omaha, NE

RESURRECTION: The Best of ShelterSkelter

by Rob Baker • Joe Basque • Ben Beck • Molly Campbell • Julia Hinson
Jeremy Johnston • Daena Schweiger • Scott Working • Aaron Zavitz
directed by Kaitlyn McClincy, Jayma Smay & Elizabeth Thompson

October 6 - 29, 2017

Thurs./Fri./Sat. at 8pm • Sun. at 6pm (Oct. 29 at 2pm)
Come in costume! Top costume in the finals wins 2 season tickets!

FEATURING:
Craig Bond • Katy Boone • Kevin Goshorn • Eric Grant-Leanna • Whitney Hansen
Meganne Horrocks Storm • Matt Karasek • Debbie Krambeck • Sarah Smeltzer

RESERVATIONS:
www.shelterbelt.org
boxoffice@shelterbelt.org
402.341.2757

Friday Night Fright Spooktacular

By Eric Purcell

Have you heard? Gifford Park is getting a coffeehouse! The Purcell and Sperry families will be opening Myrtle & Cypress: Neighborhood Coffeehouse and Snackery in the Spring of 2018! Our mission is to create a space where community and connection can thrive! Starting on October 17th we're inviting the Gifford Park community to help us make this a reality through a crowdfund campaign on IFundWomen. To kick things off we are partnering with Snowshoe Candy Co (Ali Clark Yahnke) to throw a fun family event called Friday Night Fright Spooktacular. Funds raised at the event will benefit the crowdfund campaigns of Snowshoe Candy Co. and Myrtle & Cypress! We would love to see you there!

<p>FRIDAY NIGHT FRIGHT OCTOBER 20TH</p> <p>COME JOIN US FOR A S P O O K T A C U L A R EVENT OF FUN AND FUNDS TO BENEFIT</p> <p>MYRTLE & CYPRESS COFFEEHOUSE</p> 	<p>OCTOBER 20 GIFFORD PARK MARKET (NEAR 33RD + CALIFORNIA) 5:00-7:30PM LOT</p> <p>FOR A FREEWILL DONATION ENJOY:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Chili Dinner</td> <td>Live Music</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bonfire</td> <td>Caramel Apples and Coffee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Costume Contest</td> <td>Cookie Decorating</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pumpkin Carving and Painting</td> <td>Hot Cocoa</td> </tr> </table> <p>PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT WILL SUPPORT OUR CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGNS THROUGH IFUNDWOMEN</p>	Chili Dinner	Live Music	Bonfire	Caramel Apples and Coffee	Costume Contest	Cookie Decorating	Pumpkin Carving and Painting	Hot Cocoa
Chili Dinner	Live Music								
Bonfire	Caramel Apples and Coffee								
Costume Contest	Cookie Decorating								
Pumpkin Carving and Painting	Hot Cocoa								

Playground/Park Cleanup

On behalf of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA), a big THANK YOU to Operation Playground leader Maria Devlin & husband Rory and Maria's parents George & Patty Doyle for leading another Playground/Park cleanup Saturday September 16, and tremendous family support of Gifford Park! Thanks also to the great group of Creighton Occupational Therapy students and GPNA volunteers Matt Cronin and Eliza Perry for helping get a lot of work done in the rain, especially on the 33rd Street flower beds. Thanks to the City of Omaha Parks Department for dropping off a big load of mulch and hauling away the yard waste!



Community Garden

Thanks to everyone who attended our fall potluck dinner Sunday September 10 at the community garden at 35th & Cass St. for our community gardeners, youth gardeners, Adventure Playgrounders, volunteers, neighbors and their families. We had children playing, chickens wandering, delicious food, fine weather and great comradery. Besides our normal grilling of burgers and hot dogs by Paul Pellerito, our special guest Chef Wilson Calixte (chef at Le Voltaire French Restaurant) treated us to some entertaining food preparation and grilling, and offered great words of wisdom.

As the garden season winds down we have scheduled a fall garden cleanup Saturday October 28 starting at 10:00am. Everyone is invited to help as we cleanup both family and youth plots. Also that day we will have pumpkin carving and painting starting at 4:30pm, obstacle relay at 5:30pm, potluck at 6pm, and a "movie night" at the Adventure Playground around 6:30pm. (Event details in this newsletter). Contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) for information.

Photos of Neighborhood Activities for September



A Benefit for Big Muddy Urban Farm

LET'S GROW HERE GALA

Friday, November 3rd, 2017

6 PM to 8:30 PM

University of Nebraska Medical Center
Sorrell Center



Big Muddy's First Ever Gala - Let's Grow Here!

By Brent Lubbert

Crunching multicolored leaves, carving pumpkins, and growing the compost pile with a heap of tomato and pepper plants. One more thing to add to the list is a celebration with Big Muddy. This year we are celebrating the harvest season with the first ever Let's Grow Here Gala at UNMC on November 3rd.

Together, we've journeyed a long way. From our energetic beginning in 2011 to now hosting many educational programs for a wide array of community members. The uplifting, universal spirit that's been cultivated in Gifford Park for many years, by many neighbors, is the nutrients that's allowed us to succeed. We stand on the shoulders of giants. The Let's Grow Here Gala marks a significant milestone in our growing up as an organization and we hope you can be there for this step of the journey as well.

Tickets for the Let's Grow Here Gala are \$50 (or \$40 under 40 years old) and we have tables of 10 available for \$500. You can reserve your spot at the table by visiting www.bigmuddyurbanfarm.org/letsgrowhere. A spread of delicious food will be created by The Grey Plume, Kitchen Table, and Table Grace Cafe with wine generously donated by Platinum Wine Distribution. An original short film about Urban Agriculture and Big Muddy will be shown followed by presentations by the inaugural group of Aspiring Farmer Residents and a fun grow the pumpkin patch fundraising activity. Don't let the word Gala scare you, the dress code is "dressy casual." and we would love it if you were in attendance. Get your tickets soon as space is limited. Happy Autumn!

Gifford Park Resident, Julie Kalkowski, Receives Jim Wolf Equal Justice Award

Nebraska Appleseed is proud to recognize advocates who have made outstanding contributions to the fight for justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans. This year, Nebraska Appleseed has the honor of recognizing Julie Kalkowski with the Jim Wolf Equal Justice Award. For more than 25 years, Kalkowski has doggedly fought for low-income families, connecting them to the financial mainstream. In her work, she puts her personal relationships with low-income Nebraskans first. From that place of deep understanding, she works to address the deep systemic challenges that each individual may face. Congratulations Julie!



The Keys Foundation is offering a **FREE Basketball Camp** and will provide the basketball balls and instructors for each lesson. Parents and others are welcome to assist. Space is LIMITED so please be on time. **To be enrolled, YOU MUST complete the form below and bring with you to the basketball camp or email form to: thekeysfoundation@yahoo.com.**

Call or email for more information. Email: thekeysfoundation@yahoo.com | Phone: 402-452-0552

Location: Yates Community Center at 32nd Davenport

For: Youth (Ages 5-10)

When: Oct 18th-Nov 8th (every Wednesday)

Time: 6:00PM-7:00PM

Note: If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food item as a donation to families in need.

REGISTRATION FORM

Participant's Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Age _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Contact Name #1 _____ Contact Name #2 _____

Phone Number _____ Phone Number _____

WAIVER OF LIABILITY RELEASE FORM

I am aware of the nature of this activity and I hereby assume responsibility for _____ to participate to be photographed for publicity purposes. I will not hold THE KEYS FOUNDATION/YATES COMMUNITY CENTER and/or its employees responsible in the case of an accident or injury as a result of this participation. I understand that this completed form must be in possession of The Keys Foundation prior to participation in this program.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



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.