



Gifford Park's Pride

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

December 2018

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association's

30th Annual Holiday Banquet

Join us for a home-cooked dinner, dessert and special celebration of all things Gifford Park over 30 years!

W H E N : Thursday, December 6, 2018 | 6:00pm (dinner served 6:30pm)

W H E R E : Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart
Auditorium entrance and parking lot at 36th St & California

R S V P : By November 30, please! Email or call Eliza at yrrepazile@gmail.com | (207) 590-9880

**Please bring a canned food item
or warm, gently-used
winter gear for donation**

2019 Elected GPNA Board

Welcome new board members! Elected at the November meeting:

President – Eliza Perry
Vice President – Marie Hélène André
Secretary – Brent Lubbert
Treasurer – Alexandra Goswami
Landlord Rep – Chris Foster
Business Rep – Martin Janousek
Yates Rep - Susan Mayberger
At-Large – Anna Deal, Obed Sanchez, Tyler Magnuson

2018 GPNA Officers

Eliza Perry, President

207-590-9880 | yrrepazile@gmail.com

Marie H el ene Andr e, Vice President

402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

Brent Lubbert, Secretary

402-213-9646 | brent.lubbert@gmail.com

Alexandra Goswami, Treasurer

847-477-2156 | omaha_beef@hotmail.com

Board

Tyler Magnuson, At-Large

402-706-7496 | tyler.magnuson@gmail.com

Andy Wessel, At-Large

402-916-5030 | ajwessel13@yahoo.com

Eric Purcell, At-Large

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

Martin Janousek, Business Rep

402-558-4070 | mjjanousek@leoadaly.com

Chris Foster, Landlord Rep

402-290-8187 | foster3413@cox.net

Susan Mayberger, Yates Rep

402-342-6606 | susanmayberger77@gmail.com

Opportunities – Contacts

GPNA General Meetings

Eliza Perry 207-590-9880

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

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Rep

Adrian Petrescu, 402-769-9070

aspetrescu@alumni.pitt.edu

Gifford Park Market

Martin Janousek 402-558-4070

Yates Community Center

Susan Mayberger 402-557-2431

susan.mayberger@ops.org

Youth Soccer

Eric Purcell 402-719-5108

Youth Tennis

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Spring Cleanup

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Newsletter Editor

Brent Lubbert 402-213-9646

From the President

by Eliza Perry

Our most recent neighborhood meeting last week at Yates Community Center was well-attended. We were treated to updates from the Northeast Police Precinct, Metro Omaha Transit's Bus Rapid Transit, Heartland B-Cycle, and our highly anticipated new elementary school. We also held the election of the board's 2019 slate and heard brief neighborhood updates. The hour and a half was jam-packed and the room felt engaged.

We did not get to a very important topic that wasn't on the agenda, but I had intended it to be part of the board elections discussion: reporting out on our 2018 objectives that we set as a board almost a year ago in January. Overall, it has been a truly outstanding year - but the work never ends. Your neighborhood needs YOU to make it the best neighborhood on earth!

3rd Annual Cocoa, Carols and Mitten Drive!

Thursday, December 20 6:30-8:30pm

In Front of Myrtle & Cypress Coffeehouse

Join your neighbors for a Gifford Park holiday tradition! It's the annual Cocoa, Carols and Mitten Drive!



What could be better than a gathering next to a lovely Christmas tree and singing Christmas Carols? Doing that with your friends and neighbors while sipping a lovely warm cup of hot cocoa from Myrtle & Cypress Coffeehouse!

We will also be collecting new or gently used gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, etc. to share with our neighbors who may have need of

them. So, bring a pair of gloves, mittens, hat or scarf to hang on the tree. The last two years we have gathered enough warm winter gear to fill several boxes that we set out at the Community Bike Project, California Bar and Danny's Corner Grocery!

Invite your neighbors and lets enjoy the season together!!

(Hosted by GPNA, Myrtle & Cypress Coffeehouse and Rooted Way)

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.

2018 GPNA Objectives Progress Report

by Eliza Perry

1. Secure status as a designated Neighborhood Arboretum

i. Thanks to neighbors Richard and Clarinda White, with GPNA Board Member Chris Foster, Gifford Park Neighborhood was successfully designated a Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) Community Arboretum Affiliate in April 2018! This designation reflects our values and affirms our commitment to protecting our green spaces. Thank you Richard and Clarinda for your many years of dedication to these efforts.

2. Complete digital upgrade including online donation/membership portal, website upgrade

i. We did not successfully accomplish this goal due to the extreme expense of a true website overhaul and lack of a board member or neighborhood volunteer champion (please get in touch with one of us if you have leads on this!)

3. Continue work on soccer field, begin fundraising in earnest.

i. We have not yet begun fundraising in earnest. The project is stuck in limbo for the time being as we wait on approvals and official correspondence with the City Parks Department. We have engaged Neighborhood Planning Manager Chris Wayne of the City Planning Department to help us move this process along.

4. Continue to engage deeply in the school design process

i. Check! We had many neighbors part of the Educational Specifications committee that guided OPS and the architects on design features we felt were compatible with the neighborhood. We engaged with the Human Resources department on the hiring of the new school principal based on input from neighbors that put a big emphasis on outdoor learning, community partnerships and gardening. We are so excited to welcome Kim Jones as our new principal!

5. Use Yates Community Center as an important partner to our neighborhood

i. Our dear friends at Yates allow us to take over their gymnasium quarterly for our neighborhood meetings. We also host programming there, such as the Holiday Makers Market, youth basketball camp with the Keys Foundation, various special meetings like the community interview of our new school principal, and more. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, Yates. We feel lucky to call you a neighbor!

6. 30th anniversary – celebrate our neighbors and invite more

i. We have not yet recruited more neighbors to become members of Gifford Park Neighborhood Association than in prior years, but we're not done with 2018 yet. We would so, so, so appreciate your consideration, dear reader – help us keep the neighborhood news coming, the free programming running, and our shared sense of home blossoming through gathering and events by becoming a member in 2018!

Updates on 32nd and Burt Elementary School

Have you had the opportunity to drive by the new school site located at 32nd and Burt Street? Progress is being made every day on the new elementary school located at 32nd and Burt, and is scheduled to be ready to occupy mid to late June of 2019. Letters went out to future students who reside within the new school's boundaries in October through U.S. Mail. Community meetings have been held during October at the TAC building and at Yates Center to receive input on the school name, school mascot and school colors. A committee is being formed, which is made up of future 32nd and Burt Street School students, parents, district representatives, and community members with the selection for the school name, colors, and mascot being finalized by mid-January. Ms. Kimberly Jones, newly appointed Principal of the new school at 32nd and Burt Street School, shared the district protocol/process of selecting a school name, mascot, and school colors with families and community members in attendance at the meetings. Student Placement shared the process for students who will be assigned to the new school, and school selection options, and Jeramie Cobb, Jacobs representative, shared the plans and progress being made on the new school.



Within the next few months grants will be written for playground equipment, concrete will be laid on the site, and the building brick will be completed. The building is being secured and enclosed for work that will occur through the winter months, and it is starting to take shape! Ms. Jones completes walk throughs weekly of the new school, and takes pictures to upload to Facebook to keep the public informed of the progress. Staffing will begin after the first of the year, as well as ordering of furniture and instructional materials. Updates will be provided through newsletters and social media. The excitement felt in the community and district level interest and support has been overwhelmingly positive! Good things are ahead for our school community!



Tree Planting Project

Tree planting project planting 7 trees Saturday October 13 near 31st & Dodge St. Thanks to volunteers Alex Goswami, Cynthia Shuck, Tyler Magnuson, Lisa Sock, Rod Switzer, Veronica Switzer, John Ransom, Diana Failla. Thanks also to Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Retree Program and Nebraska Statewide Arboretum for their support. GPNA plans to do another neighborhood tree planting in the spring.

New Bike Share Station in the Neighborhood

by Pell Duvall

Gifford Park is excited to welcome Heartland B-cycle to our neighborhood! The station is located on the northeast corner of 33rd & California Streets just west of Selena's Market and comes online Wednesday November 21st.

Heartland B-cycle is the first large-scale municipal bike sharing system in the Omaha metro area operated by Heartland Bike Share. Bike sharing makes it economical and convenient to use bikes for trips that are too far to walk but too short to drive. As a member or using a FUN! pass, you can use a B-cycle to run an errand, grab lunch, travel from the bus stop to your office, or just get some fresh air.



We are so excited that our neighborhood is included in Heartland Bike Share's expansion, and we hope you'll join us on November 21st at 4:30pm for the first 'Ceremonial Check Out'. You can hear more at this ceremony from GPNA President Eliza Perry, Community Bike Shop Director Adam Blowers, and Heartland Bike Share Executive Director Ben Turner about how this station is part of a network of solutions to help you use active transportation in our city.

The bikes are readily adjustable for people short & tall, equipped with baskets to carry your goods, and lights to keep you safe! The bike has a built-in lock, and it has three speeds to make climbing our neighborhood's hills easy...well, easier.

Memberships are available on a monthly or annual basis and include unlimited 1 hour rides at all metro locations. Or you can try it out with a \$6 FUN! pass for unlimited 1 hour rides for 24 hours! Use the B-Cycle app or the station kiosk to buy your FUN! pass and get riding. You can check out bikes at any of the 70 stations in the metro area! Members can purchase and use their Heartland Pass card or the B-cycle app to check out bikes.

We hope you'll join us and try out Heartland B-cycle in Gifford Park! For more information about Heartland B-cycle, visit <https://heartland.bcycle.com/> or call 402-957-2453.

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What kind of design do you want to see around the bus stops on Dodge? Let's talk TOD.

by Alexandra Goswami

This impacts our neighborhood, and we have a voice. The city wants to hear our voices. Nothing is decided yet, but the city wants to finalize plans in July for what the space around the new rapid transit bus stops will look like along Dodge. How will this fit into our vital neighborhood? Will houses be torn down? Will new ones be built? Will this housing be affordable? What can we do to make the streets around the bus stop walkable, pleasant, attractive, pedestrian-friendly? What kind of design do we want to see? These are all questions that the city is asking us. Come and make your voice heard. You can speak up or write out your thoughts. There will be neighborhood meetings organized by the city in the later part of the winter. We had one in mid-November too. Stay tuned for updates.

The name of this initiative is transit oriented development aka TOD. Google it. The City of Omaha and Metro Transit are building a rapid transit bus along Dodge from Westroads to downtown. This is called Omaha Rapid Bus Transit or ORBT for short. This should attract people, and to make it more attractive the city needs to update its Master Plan to allow for old stuff, new stuff, and good stuff around these bus stops. Email me alexandra.goswami@gmail.com if you want more info, follow the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Facebook page for event details and updates, and go to the City of Omaha's "Transit Oriented Development" page to learn more about TOD.

Golden Grocery Opens at 33rd & Cass St

by Chris Foster

Mukhtar Omar (he says just call him "Omar") is very excited to open his new business "Golden Grocery" at 33rd & Cass (site of the old gas station). He is getting to know the business district and other areas of our neighborhood. In fact, Omar, his wife and children recently took a tour of the community garden and Adventure Playground – they love the chickens and climbing to the second story of the tree house! He and his family, originally from Somalia, Africa, currently live just northwest of our neighborhood. Golden Grocery just opened November 12. Over the next few weeks, they plan to finish stocking their shelves with a variety of both grocery and convenience items. Besides many grocery item staples like cereal, flour, grains, rice, beans, lentils, canned vegetables, sesame and other oils, ketchup, milk, honey, fruit juices, etc., they also sell organic products, corn grits, chicken, cumin seeds, adzuki beans, mixed tea spices, dates, ginger/cardamom/cinnamon mix, ethnic and imported products, and hot sambuusa (a fried savory pastry).



Some of his products, he said, can't be found at any other store in Omaha. They will sell tobacco products, but no alcohol. Omar says initial business hours are 9am-7pm every day, and he plans to expand hours and put up signage soon. Omar and his family invite the neighborhood to stop in and say hello and check out the store. We wish Omar good luck and welcome to Gifford Park!

Tennis Updates

Congratulations to our Gifford Park Neighborhood Association for receiving the Outstanding Diversity Achievement and Community Outreach award from both the Omaha Tennis Association (OTA) and Nebraska Tennis Association (NTA) for ALL our enthusiastic volunteer's efforts with the Gifford Park Youth Tennis programs and more! This award is presented to an individual, family or organization that has championed the cause for diversity and community both on and off the tennis court. We also wish to thank the NTA for a very nice donation toward tennis racquets for our program. Last but not least, this fall we have 15 dedicated youth participating in indoor tennis lessons at Hanscom Park Tennis Center – "keep your eye on the ball!"

Gifford Park Cleanup

On behalf of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA), a big THANK YOU to a great group of around twenty Creighton Occupational Therapy students for volunteering to do a park cleanup Friday afternoon October 26. Volunteers picked up litter, weeded, trimmed, and mulched all the flower and planting beds along 33rd Street. Thanks to the City of Omaha Parks Department for dropping off a big load of mulch and hauling away the yard waste!



Holiday Makers Market

Saturday, December 8; 11am - 3pm
Yates Community Center

by Matt Wettengel

With the holiday season upon us, the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market hopes that everyone continue our tradition of supporting local makers at our annual Holiday Makers Market on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. in the gym at Yates Community Center (3260 Davenport Street).

This festive end-of-the-year market will showcase some of the favorite vendors from summer markets as well as some new talent and awesome items to the neighborhood. There will be lots of original artwork, beautiful ceramics, hula hoops, homemade candles, locally-made cheeses, skin care products, honey and bee products, handmade jewelry, handcrafted goods and so much more!

We're excited to offer some kids' activities again this year, so bring them down to join in the fun! Come hungry because there will be prepared food available, from Phyllis and Louise Creative Catering, as well as hot coffee and tasty snacks from Myrtle & Cyprus & more!

Invite your friends, family, or anyone who might be in the market for locally-made treasures and treats at the Holiday Makers Market Saturday on Saturday, Dec. 8! Rain, snow or shine, our neighborhood's holiday shopping extravaganza will go on!



Photo from 2017 Holiday Makers Market

Community Bike Project Update

by Adam Blowers

The year is winding down at the Bike Project. This time of the year things get slow, the shop can get lonely, and it's not as much fun to ride. However, we've got an event to cure all of those things! It's the 2018 Community Bike Project Build-a-Thon! The Build-a-Thon is a month long race to refurbish as many kids bikes as we can. In the last two years we have done over 100 each year. Each of these refurbished kids bikes are then given away to other are non-profits just in time for the holidays. This is a big deal for us, we want every kid to have access to a safe and rideable bicycle. If you're an experienced with a wrench we could really use your help, even if you aren't experienced we could use your help. Stop by during open shop hours and refurbish a kids bike or two to help us achieve our goal of 100 kids bikes. The Build-a-Thon begins November 17th and wraps up December 16th.

Lastly, if you haven't been by the shop in awhile, swing by and check out our new sign!

As always, we are looking for great volunteers to get involved. Stop by the shop or email me at adam@communitybikeproject.org to get involved.

Community Garden/Adventure Playground Updates

Despite the October 14 snowstorm, we had a beautiful sunny Nebraska fall day Saturday October 20th for our annual fall cleanup day at the community garden and Adventure Playground. A big thanks to EVERYONE who volunteered and participated, and especially Gifford Park neighbor Logon Brown and her Iowa Western Community College women's softball team and coach for volunteering to do an AMAZING effort! One more thanks – Bob Hutton did his annual shutoff of the water and blew out the lines – thanks Bob! Contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) for any other community garden questions.

Adventure Playground update: As always, the tree house and Adventure Playground area (located next to the community garden at 35th & Cass St.) are open and free to use at any time. Except for special occasions, we will not be hooking up the zip line or opening up the Adventure Playground garage until warmer weather next spring. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact us at sfadventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook.



Yates Youth Basketball Camp

Many thanks to Marquis Barnes, founder & director of The Keys Foundation, for organizing and running our second Yates Youth Basketball Camp each Wednesday evening October 3, 10, 17, 24. Marquis, husband AJ and mother-in law Tyronda Pearce did a great job organizing about 25 kids each week along with volunteers. Marquis and company included a lot of exercise, skills-building, mentorship, teamwork, competition, sportsmanship, games and fun into each 1 ½ hour session for this free program! For the finale, we celebrated



with food & snacks and certificates for the participants and volunteers. It is quite impressive to watch how positively the kids respond to Marquis and AJ as they share their passion for basketball. Might there be a future NBA or WNBA star in our neighborhood? GPNA also thanks Jaimie Cogua and her staff at Yates Community Center for hosting the camp. We look forward to the next session next year!

I wanted to share a bit more information about Marquis Barnes and The Keys Foundation. They are a nonprofit organization that is compassionately dedicated to assist youth girls with developing their basketball skills and knowledge, all while encouraging fitness for the game of basketball. They are committed to educate and empower today's youth girls of the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment, and integrity. They also emphasize on keeping the inner-city community involved with women's basketball and give women that have a passion for basketball the opportunity to play in a friendly, yet competitive atmosphere. See these links for more information: www.thekeysfoundation.com and www.facebook.com/TheKeysFoundation

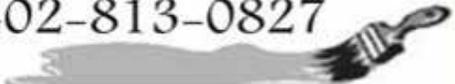


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High School Juniors Support Students at Yates

by Susan Mayberger, Yates Representative

High school juniors in the Grassroots Leadership Development Program (GLDP) spent a day at Yates in early October as part of their community service project. The students have been studying school, city and county government. This program encourages student leadership and civic engagement. The students are asked to think about how they can positively impact their community. Approximately 150 students have been participating in this program on Tuesday evenings this fall. The community service project is to put into action what they have learned about how students can positively impact their community.

Fourteen of the GLDP students chose to go to Yates on Oct. 12th. The students spent the morning working in the Pre-K classrooms. Over lunch, they had a presentation from the League of Women Voters about how to register to vote. In the afternoon, the students set up a Children's Carnival for the Pre-K students and their families. The GLDP students were responsible for planning the activities. Over 50 Pre-K students and their families had the opportunity to finger paint, pin the nose on the jack-o-lantern, go through a tricycle obstacle course and throw bean bags on to a target.

In addition to doing community service at Yates, some GLDP students are working with Habitat for Humanity, working in a homeless shelter and going into middle schools with the presentation "How to Be Successful in High School." The GLDP students who successfully complete all components of the program are eligible to attend the United States Hispanic Leadership Program in Chicago in February.



Photo by
Hailee Camacho

10th Annual Bike De'Lights Ride

by Pell Duvall

Break out your battery-powered string lights, gloves, and balaclavas! It's that time of year to decorate your bike and ride around midtown Omaha to see the holiday lights with friends!

The 10th Annual Bike De'Lights, a social ride at a casual/conversational pace hosted by Bike Walk Omaha (formerly Omaha Bikes), enjoying viewing holiday decorated homes and displaying festively decorated bicycles. Participants are encouraged to layer in warm clothes. For your safety, lights and bicycle helmets are required. This is a nighttime ride on public streets. Nebraska law requires you to have a white front light and a red rear reflector when riding after dark. In addition, a red tail light and light/reflective clothing strongly recommended! (And highly luminescent, over the top holiday decor will be rewarded) You are riding and at your own risk and will be required to sign a liability waiver to participate.

The route will begin and end at Burnzzz Burgers, Wings & Games and be about 5 miles long on a combination of bike trails and open, public streets. Social hour and judging of decorated bikes begins at 6pm, and the ride will start promptly at 7pm. Check out the latest details on Omaha Bikes Facebook Event '10th Annual Bike De'Lights'.

24th Annual Halloween “Festival” in Gifford Park

Great fall weather greeted us for our 24th Annual Gifford Park Neighborhood Halloween “Festival” event held Sunday evening October 28th in our new location at the Gifford Park playground area for the second year in a row. On behalf of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA), THANKS to the Creighton Phi Delta Theta Fraternity (Dillion Nerland) and the Delta Zeta Sorority (Megan Siembieda, Bethany Winslow) for hosting this event! Tremendous thanks to Brittney Rubek (and her daughter Arianna, and grandmother Jan Franks) for organizing the event from the GPNA side, and Mike Caban for keeping an eye on safety from our GPNA Watch Group. And special thanks to Roger Folts for providing many of the Halloween decorations to “scare-up” the park, and the Stanley family for baking cupcakes!



A big thanks for everyone’s help on a great traditional fun Halloween/Fall event. Activities included pumpkin painting, musical chairs, scary decorations, treasure hunt in the playground sand, ring toss, face painting, bowling, mummy wrap, giant leaf pile, hula hooping, balloon dart board, roast marshmallows & smores over a firepit, and treats & refreshments under the park shelter. Brittney also organized an awesome finale at the end of the event where kids had to find treasures in the dark with the aid of colored glow in the dark globes and cell phone flashlights (think of it as an Easter Egg hunt in the dark!). It was great to see so many families enjoy the festivities, and many kids dressed up in their Halloween costumes! We already have some good ideas to build on for next year!



Big Muddy Urban Farm Update

by Brent Lubbert

We are incredibly thankful for the community we grow in. Thanks for supporting Big Muddy at the second annual Let's Grow Here Gala held on November 2nd! We will continue to provide accessible educational opportunities in urban agriculture because of you! Together we raised \$15,700!

The evening showcased a full display of local talent and local agriculture. We all came together to break bread, enjoying a meal together that was crafted by the magnificently talented chefs at Creighton Dining Services, Monarch Prime & Bar, Kitchen Table, and Grainolia. The food was so good and the turnout was beyond belief that we started to run out of food. Thanks to the miracle maker chef Kevin Newlin at CU and Matthew Cronin for helping make sure everyone had a dish to enjoy! Food was created with local ingredients provided by local farms Common Good Farm, In Season, City Sprouts, ELTEE Mangalitsa's LLC Gourmet Pork, Plum Creek Farms, Small Starts, Big Muddy Urban Farm, Doc's Holiday Healthy Farms, and AJ Farms.

Paired with the food was delicious local craft brew by Pint Nine Brewing Co., Kros Strain Brewing Company, Upstream Brewing Company, and Benson Brewery. There are many savvy brewers in our community, thank you for the support!

The evenings program began with a new rendition of hot potato ~ hot sauce! Attendees won Crazy Gringa Hot Sauce if they had the bottle of hot sauce when tunetastic musicians Adam Sherrerd and Anna Selmecki stopped playing. Hot Sauce was made using Scotch Bonnet peppers grown by Big Muddy Aspiring Farmer Residents.

We explored the work of local filmmakers Karalee Padilla and Lynn Sanchez as they showed a short clip of their documentary "Love Letters from the Resistance" about women in agriculture in the Nebraska/Iowa food shed.

Aspiring Farmer Residents - Kaya Baker, Laura Simpson, Jess Dooley, and Gavin Johnston - spoke to their experience of farming for a season as individuals and as a collaborative group. Board Members Jen Miller, Emily Andersen, Richard Callahan, and Michelle Elson-Roza joined in to garner seeds of support and grow the pumpkin patch! Youth Gardeners aka the Pumpkin Patch Kids (pictured right) gathered seeds (donations) and secured a new crop of farmers, community organizers, and food.

Thanks again for showing up and supporting! Looking forward to seeing everyone next year on the first Friday in November (11/1/19) and hear from a new crop of farmers!



Please Support the GPNA!

Hi Neighbor! It's that time of year again to renew your membership to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association! Not a member...well then it's a perfect time to become one! For only \$10 per year for individuals, \$15 per year for families, and \$25 for businesses you gain the opportunity to not only learn about the latest things happening in our area through our monthly newsletter and neighborhood meetings, but also the ability to become involved in an assortment of activities to help grow and strengthen our neighborhood. Our members are the foundation of the GPNA, and the greater our membership base the more we can do to serve and enhance the Gifford Park neighborhood! Your membership helps support neighborhood cleanups, newsletters, youth activities, Friday night market, watch group, tool lending, tree planting and many other worthwhile programs. To renew your membership, use the form on the last page of the newsletter and mail your payment to: Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, PO Box 31462 Omaha, NE 68131. You can also find our membership form on our GPNA website: www.giffordparkomaha.org. Remember we are a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. Thank you to those who have already sent in their dues - we really appreciate your support!



PHOTOS WANTED!

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is looking for old photos.



———— CONTACT US AND WE'LL MAKE COPIES ————

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

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

An Invitation from the Committee for Spontaneous Fun

Last Winter on several occasions there was a snowball fight in the Gifford Park community garden at 35th and Cass St. Toddlers, kids and adults threw frozen water at each other and enjoyed being playful while also spending time outside on a blustery day. No one was injured, and hot coco and pizza was enjoyed afterwards.

We would like to invite anyone from the neighborhood to join us next time OPS calls a snow day, this year or any year in the future, for another low key snowball fight. It will start at 5:30pm in the community garden. We have come up with a simple diagram you can place on your fridge to help you determine if a snowball fight will be happening on any certain day.

Until next time,
The Committee

Snowball fight?

Has OPS cancelled school

Yes

No

Walk outside, gather snow up in your hands and toss it. Does it stay together in a ball?

No snowball fight

Yes

No

No snowball fight

Snowball fight! 5:30pm tonight in the community garden, bring a friend!

Photos From Around the Neighborhood





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.