



# Gifford Park's Pride

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn, and Play  
[www.giffordparkomaha.org](http://www.giffordparkomaha.org)

June 2019

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Let's  
Plant  
Trees!



Like us on facebook  
or visit us on the web  
[theurbanbirdandnaturealliance.com](http://theurbanbirdandnaturealliance.com)

This project is in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation and funded through the Hubbard Community Forestry Awards.

Join us to plant trees  
and sustain the urban forest in  
Gifford Park Neighborhood.

We will be planting fruit and shade trees  
throughout the Gifford Park neighborhood  
right-of-way and Parkland.

**Saturday, June 1, 2019 • 8:30am-noon**

Meet at Gifford Park • Located at 35th & Davenport

- 🌳 We will plant shade trees and lay mulch.
- 🌳 Although shovels will be provided, volunteers are encouraged to bring their own shovel and gloves.
- 🌳 Tree holes will be pre-dug to ease volunteer labor.
- 🌳 Water and snacks provided.

Please let us know if you'll be joining us.

Email: [dianafaila@cox.net](mailto:dianafaila@cox.net) • text/call: 402-651-5779

The Urban Bird & Nature Alliance will be planting and mulching trees this spring and fall throughout the city in key locations. Contact us or like us on Facebook to learn more about other tree planting projects .

## NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Thursday, August 8th // 6:30 PM  
Yates Community Center  
3260 Davenport Street

Topics:  
TBD

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Neighborhood Market
- Tree Planting
- Youth Garden
- Tennis Lessons
- Soccer Camp
- Slip'n'Slide

*Event dates and details inside newsletter*

### 2018 GPNA Officers

#### Eliza Perry, President

207-590-9880 | yrrepazile@gmail.com

#### Marie Hélène André, 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

#### Anna Deal, At-Large

206-276-5952 | anna@immigrantlc.org

#### Obed Sanchez, At-Large

402-401-0554 | grainolia@gmail.com

#### 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 | susan.mayberger@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

Monica Lehn 402-660-9046

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 402-342-6606

#### Youth Soccer

Eric Purcell 402-719-5108

eric@thresholdscommunity.org

#### Youth Tennis

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

#### Spring Cleanup

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

#### Newsletter Editor

Brent Lubbert 402-213-9646

## A Note from the President

by Eliza Perry

The truest, purest, most beautiful form of collaboration, in my humble opinion, is when neighbors come together around an idea and make it happen together. There are countless examples of this kind of collaboration throughout Gifford Park neighborhood's history and present (and future!). It is the essence of our community. Accordingly, at least from where I sit, the very core purpose of Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is to help provide the resources neighbors need to collaborate. This is why I am so incredibly proud and grateful to report out on a few wonderful wins for this community:

### Grants

We were successful in our applications to Omaha Community Foundation and Mayor's neighborhood grant programs - AND both were fully funded! AND the stunning market team received their own fully funded Mayor's grant for market programming and infrastructure too!!!!

Thanks to Vice President Marie Hélène André for spearheading the OCF grant and to board members Obed Sanchez, Martin Janousek and Chris Foster for their input and work on it as well. We received \$5000 for our youth garden and Adventure Playground! Thank you Omaha Community Foundation!

Thanks to board member Anna Deal for spearheading the Mayor's grant, and to Brittney Rubek, Pell Duvall, Chris Foster, and many other neighbors who added their knowledge of programming needs, primarily focused on the events and gatherings that bring neighbors together and strengthen our shared sense of community all year long. Thank you Mayor Jean Stothert and the Mayor's office staff!

Thanks to the whole market team: Alex O'Hanlon, Matt Wettengel, Ameen Wahba, Emily Hefeli and Martin Janousek for writing a fabulous grant to support Gifford Park Neighborhood Market, and to our dear friends at Big Muddy Urban Farm for administering this grant in partnership with the market.

*continued on page 3*

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.



**TOOL LENDING HOTLINE**  
**Call Chris 402-290-8187**  
**Mowers - \$5**  
**Rent for most tools - \$3**



## A Note from the President

*continued from page 2*

Perhaps the biggest thanks of all to our Treasurer Alex Goswami. Without Alex checking our numbers, processing invoices, quickly reimbursing generous volunteers, meeting to discuss project ambitions, and keeping accurate records, we could absolutely not do these projects. I mean that very literally. Alex's dedication and skill are genuinely the reasons we get to do so much fun stuff.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think this is a first - \$13,000 in grant funding for our vital community in one year! And it is all because we have neighbors who build teams to make tons of amazing, amazing, AMAZING things happen.

Special final shout-out to Anna and Marie H el ene. Wrangling that many cats, distilling our ambitions into a cohesive, well-written application, is no small feat. You two are neighborhood heroes in my book. Thank you for your work.

### Omaha Gives

25 individuals gave a total of \$640 to GPNA on May 22's Omaha Gives! To those who chose to support our little volunteer organization working hard to make Gifford Park a great place to live, work, learn, play, and grow for all neighbors: thank you!! These are gifts to every child who learns a new skill and makes a new friend at any of our free programs. These are gifts to the smiling interactions we have with each other on the street after meeting at a neighborhood event. These are gifts to the behind-the-scenes, unglamorous work that so many individuals do to make our home such a warm, active, caring community.

### Membership

Right now, 64 neighbors and friends have renewed their membership or joined the GP family with a new membership this year. My personal, heartfelt thanks to all current members! Members are those who are able and inspired to send in \$10 or \$15 per year to support the operations of GPNA. These funds go toward the printing, postage, food, signage, and other event or promotional supplies that literally make everything happen around here. Please consider joining (or remaining part of) the fam before December 31!



## SLIP-N-SLIDE 2019 DATES

At Gifford Park (33rd and Cass St.)

- Thursday June 13, 6-8pm
- Thursday July 18, 6-8pm
- Thursday August 22, 6-8pm

# Gifford Park Free Soccer Camp

For: Youth (3 to 11 years old)

Dates: June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24

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

Time: 6:30-7:30 PM

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is offering a FREE summer soccer camp and will provide goals, balls and instructors. Parents and others are welcome to help.

To be enrolled, YOU MUST complete the form shown below and return it to Eric Purcell 3152 Chicago St, Omaha, NE 68131. **Special prize for those who attend every session and demonstrate good sportsmanship.** There is limited space available so please be on time. Call (402) 719-5108 for more information.

Registration/Permission Form - Mail to the address listed above or bring this form (completely filled out) with you to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association summer soccer camp.

Youth's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Community Garden Update

We could use a break from the heavy rain (and even small hail on May 28!) and cool weather... some warmer and drier weather is needed about now. Check out the community garden at 35th & Cass Street, including our new 10-week-old “adolescent” chicks located in their coop on the upper-north part of the garden, bee hives behind the “garden house” (next to the community garden on the west), and other features and plantings. Work nights continue each Wednesday 6 to 8pm through the growing season. At this time we have three small 5' x 8' plots available. During these times water



and garden tools will be available for plot renters and anyone else interested in helping maintain the community garden – we always need weeding of the flower beds! It's a good time to stop by the garden to see neighborhood friends or check out what's growing. Contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722, [caban3321@cox.net](mailto:caban3321@cox.net)) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster (402-290-8187, [foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net)) for other questions.

## Adventure Playground Update

The 2019 season of Adventure Playground has started and hit the ground running. We plan to work on a few projects to enhance the space for kids and adults including building a large pergola to help with shade in the southwest corner and install a brick patio and firepit under the pergola – this will help us with movie nights, pot lucks, and doing other projects in this soon-to-be improved area. As always, the 2-story tree house and playground area are open and free to use at any time. Volunteers and access to the materials in the shed are on Saturdays from Noon-3pm. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact us at [sfadventureplayground@gmail.com](mailto:sfadventureplayground@gmail.com) or on Facebook, or contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187, [foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net)), or text Monica Lehn 402-660-9046.

Gifford Park's neighborhood bar for 80 Years

ESTD. 1937

**CALIFORNIA BAR**

OMAHA, NE

**Craft Beer on Tap  
Friday Night Karaoke  
Beer Garden  
KENO**

**Stop in and watch your Creighton University & Nebraska games**

510 North 33rd Street

[www.calibaromaha.com](http://www.calibaromaha.com)



## Spring Cleanup 2019 Highlights

Gifford Park neighborhood volunteers enjoyed great “cleanup weather” Saturday, May 11 for our annual Spring Cleanup. Again this year volunteers helped neighbors with hauling large items, and cleaned alleys, streets and Gifford Park. Our metal recycler Eric McGhee was on hand again to help us with metal salvage. We filled trash compactors, recycled tires & metal, salvaged a few interesting items, and collected donations & GPNA memberships. Thanks to all of the volunteers: Eliza Perry, Anna Deal, Asit & Alex Goswami, Obed Sanchez, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Lowell Switzer, Grant Taylor, Paul Mileris, Matt Cronin, Terry Wilwerding, Rob Baum, Jim Kyler, and others. Special thanks to the City of Omaha and Keep Omaha Beautiful for sponsoring these vital neighborhood cleanups year after year!



## Come Plant Trees on Saturday June 1!

*by Alex Goswami*

Let’s show our volunteer spirit! Join us to plant trees and sustain the urban forest in Gifford Park. We are a certified community arboretum and our neighborhood is full of beautiful tree-lined streets. Let’s add more! Bring your kids! The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is working with The Urban Bird and Nature Alliance and the City of Omaha Parks department to honor the Hubbard Community Forestry and the Arbor Day Foundation award by planting over 150 trees in our neighborhood on Saturday June 1 from 8:30am to noon. Meet in Gifford Park at 35th St. & Davenport St. This will be one of the easiest tree plantings you’ve ever done, and if you have never planted a tree, you’ll see how easy it is. We’re fortunate that Great Plains Nursery is providing the trees and they will pre-dig the holes and do the first watering. Amazing!

We’ll plant a wide variety of fruit trees and shade trees likely including such stunners as quaking aspen, autumn blaze maples, swamp white oaks, and more. We are going to plant all around the neighborhood including in the city right-of-way. We hope it is another beautiful day in the neighborhood!

**SAVE THE WINDOWS**

# OLD HOUSE Restoration

- \* EXTERIOR SIDING & TRIM
- \* WOOD STORM WINDOWS
- \* WINDOW RESTORATION
- \* WINDOW SILLS
- \* HISTORIC PAINT WORK
- \* PORCH & COLUMN REPAIR

\*\*\*\*\*

**LAWRENCE PAINT CO.**  
 Call or Text David @  
 402-813-0827

email: [lawrencepaintco@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencepaintco@gmail.com)



## Tennis Block Party 2019 Highlights

by Chris Foster

We had great weather for our annual Tennis Block Party Wednesday May 15 in Gifford Park with over 50 youth participants and a dozen volunteers. Our young players learned the basic tennis skills along with rally courts, and we finished up with watermelon, fruit, cupcakes (made by the Stanley family!) and other snacks for everyone. Many thanks go to our dedicated tennis instructors and volunteers – Stanley girls (Dawn, Crystal, Justine, Witney), Logan Deese, Ari Manzo, Buddy Hogan, Larry Newton, Lou Harrison, Vince Emery, Laurie Bolte (and her nephew Tyler), Donnie Gildon, Maggie Weedman, Calvin Webster, Jan Franks, Brittney Rubek, Betty Slayden Tyffaney Reichert, Tyronda Pearce, Jackie Foster, Chris Foster. Thanks to Ric & Jane Hines for supplying equipment and great support. And a couple more special thanks: the Omaha Tennis Association, the Nebraska Tennis Association, and the City Parks & Recreation Department for their generous support over the years. We are offering youth ages 7 & older the opportunity to continue on playing tennis each Wednesday (10:00am to Noon) June 5 – July 17 at Gifford Park. Anyone interested, please contact Chris at 402-290-8187 for a registration form, or you can show up at the Gifford Park tennis courts.



## FULL CYCLE SUPPER

a farm fresh meal & bike tour  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 23 // 5-8PM**

Featuring Talented Local Chefs:

- 🍷 Culprit Cafe & Bakery
- 🍷 Myrtle & Cypress
- 🍷 Tim Maides & Josh Poe
- 🍷 Grainolia

\$45 per ticket // details & registration at:  
[www.communitybicycleshopomaha.org](http://www.communitybicycleshopomaha.org)

Funds raised go to support the neighborhood-based community building work of The Omaha Community Bike Project and Big Muddy Urban Farm

## Photos From Youth Garden and Adventure Playground





# YOUTH SUMMER TENNIS FREE INSTRUCTION AND DOUBLES PLAY

*Sponsored by the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, USTA Nebraska, Omaha Tennis Association, and the City of Omaha*



## WEDNESDAYS

### June 5 - July 17

10am-11am: Ages 7-11

11am-Noon: Ages 12 & Over

## GIFFORD PARK TENNIS COURTS - 33<sup>rd</sup> & Cass

Rackets and balls provided

For more information, call Chris at 402-290-8187

-----**GIFFORD PARK SUMMER TENNIS REGISTRATION FORM AND PERMISSION SLIP**-----

Send to: **GPNA Summer Tennis Program, P.O. Box 31462, Omaha, NE 68131-0462**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to Participate \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature of Parent/Guardian Required*

## Gifford Park Elementary School Update

by Kim Jones

Gifford Park staff are very excited to move into our new building and begin unpacking the tremendous amount of boxes that we have, as well as inventorying and distributing our new supplies.

Staff were able to tour the building for the first time Friday, 5/24/19. Carpet and tile flooring is currently being installed. Sidewalks and landscaping will begin within the next two weeks. Staff should be able to move in and begin unpacking boxes August 1st.

Gifford Park is excited to welcome three Pre-K classrooms that will join us from Yates. We will be home to the following Early Childhood programs: Pre-K (N.I.C.E), Pre-K (Migrant), and Pre-K (ESL).

Gifford Park staff will be participating in an “onboarding/team building workshop” the last three days of July. Our staff is coming from many OPS schools to include: Skinner Magnet, Central High School, Crestridge Magnet, Yates, Franklin, Conestoga, South High School, Minne Lusa, Miller Park, Kellom, and King Elementary. Lots of great activities are planned that will help our staff get to know one another, learn more about the community in which we will work, and build a great culture and sense of family so we are ready to welcome all of our students and Gifford Park families during Safe Routes to School on August 12th, from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Gifford Park will open with an estimated PK-6 enrollment of 330 little “groundhogs!” The sense of excitement from our Gifford Park staff is contagious! If you have any questions about Gifford Park please contact Ms. Jones, Principal, at 531-299-6255 or Kimberly. jones@ops.org.



*View of east side of new elementary school set to open August 2019*

## Mural Unveil at Yates Community Center

Yates Community Center welcomed a new mural to the building at a celebratory event held on May 10, 2019. Gifford Park resident and artist Gerard Pefung created the mural titled “First Voices: Portrait and Stories of Yates.”



## Youth Garden Update

The first two weeks of our 16th annual Youth Garden (GPYG) program at the community garden have our young gardeners off to a great start with activities including getting familiar with the garden, painting namestakes, learning about seeds & plants and how to plan what to plant in their plots, meeting our new young chickens, and preparing the soil and planting their plots. The program is each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30am through August 24th. Below you will find the remaining schedule. It's not too late, we still have space available. This free program teaches youth of all ages how to grow our vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Many thanks to the parents and wonderful volunteers, especially Big Muddy Urban Farm, who make this program work! Contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net) if you have questions about GPYG program.

2019 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10–11:30am

- June 1 Plant Your Plot & Tree Planting
- June 8 Journeying & Visioning Around the Garden
- June 15 Bat Houses/Chicken Care
- June 22 Exploring the World through Ice Cream Toppings
- June 29 Fun Fungus
- July 6 Herbs/Soap Making
- July 13 Cooking with Obed Sanchez
- July 20 Neighborhood Tree Walking Tour
- July 27 Garden Surprise!
- August 3 Plant Mandalas
- August 10 Field Trip to Iowa Farms in Crescent, IA
- August 17 Canning and Preserving
- August 24 Pizza Garden Harvest PARTY!
- Rest of growing season - tend your plot



## GIIFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET

Starts Friday Evening May 31st.

5:00 - 8:00 pm

33rd and California between the California Bar and Danny's Gracery Store

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Locally-grown Produce

Plants

Handmade items

Baked goods

Live music



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.