



Gifford Park's Pride

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

September 2019

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

How to get involved with the Gifford Park Elementary School PTO

by Bren Duvall

Clothing Donations - We're seeking donations of gently used or new kids clothing items for the new Gifford Park Elementary nurse's office, sizes 3T to adult small: sweats, socks, new underwear, shorts, t-shirts, shoes, coats, gloves, hats. Donations can be dropped off at Gifford Park Elementary at 717 N 32nd St.

GPE Dedication & Open House - 9/10 5:00-8:00pm - Gifford Park Elementary dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony begins at 5:00pm, with an open house to follow at 6:00pm. All students, parents, teachers, family and neighbors are welcome. We'll have music and face painting! Plus, the PTO will be organizing a bake sale to fundraise for school events, and we'll have Gifford Park Groundhog t-shirts for sale.

First GPE PTO Meeting - 9/19 5:30-6:30pm at Gifford Park Elementary. Join us to help choose officers, work on bylaws, and create an outline of events the PTO will support this year.

Save The Date - Upcoming PTO Meetings - 11/21/19, 2/20/20, 4/16/20

JOIN THE PTO

Join the GPE PTO to support our children, connect with families and teachers, help with events and fundraising. Everyone is welcome, including students, teachers, parents, grandparents, and community members. Send an email to giffordparkpto@gmail.com to get signed up to receive updates. You can find us on Facebook and Twitter @GiffordParkPTO

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Bren Duvall at bmdmarketing@hotmail.com or 402-943-6503

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Thursday, November 7th // 6:30 PM
Yates Community Center
3260 Davenport Street

Topics:
GPNA Elections and more

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Elementary School Dedication
- Neighborhood Market
- Chicken Show at Market
- Community Garden Potluck
- Porchfest

Event dates and details inside newsletter

SAVE-THE-DATE

Gifford Park Holiday Banquet
December 5th, 2019
at Duchesnee Academy

2019 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

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.



Porchfest returns for the 3rd Annual event on Sunday, October 6th from 1pm to 6pm. Take in over 30 performances on neighborhood porches throughout Gifford Park, including the market stage. Enjoy fun activities including balloon twisting, face painting, henna, tarot cards, and more! Bring the whole family to this free event celebrating our community.

Gifford Park Community Tree-caring Tuesday September 17th @ 6pm In the Gifford Park

This year we planted almost 200 trees throughout the neighborhood. The highest concentration of trees planted was in the park and now is the time of year to prepare them for the winter ahead. We will be staking, mulching and selectively pruning trees for 2 hours on Tuesday the 17th. Tools will be provided but please bring gloves and water. We will meet at the tennis courts and will only cancel if there is severe weather forecasted. See you there!

Adventure Playground Update

As we head into fall, we have started 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, potucks, and doing other projects in this soon-to-be improved area. Construction has started building a “music & sensory” corner, and a wood building workshop area. As always, the 2-story tree house and playground area are open and free to use at any time. Volunteers and access to materials in the shed are on Saturdays from Noon-3pm. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers Monica Lehn, Amy Lanspa, Jasmine Frierson, Witney Stanley, Zedeka Poindexter, Rebecca Cashman, Jessie Fisher, Amanda Huckins, and others. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact us at sfadventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook, or contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net), or text Monica Lehn 402-660-9046.



Community Garden Update - Potluck Dinner Sunday, September 15

Plan to come to our Community Garden Potluck Dinner Sunday, September 15th at 4:30pm Socialize, 5:00pm Dinner at 35th & Cass Streets. Community gardeners, youth garden and Adventure Playground participants, family, friends, and neighbors are invited to celebrate; please bring a side dish or dessert to share; donations accepted. Besides our normal grilling of burgers and hot dogs, we will have a special guest - Chef Wilson Calixte (Chef at Le Voltaire French Restaurant in Omaha) will treat us to some entertaining food preparation and grilling, so be sure to come early about 4:30 to enjoy his expertise! Chef Wilson has often shared his culinary skills at our youth garden program and potlucks. Wednesday work nights continue each Wednesday 6 to 8pm through the growing season. 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 help weeding the flower beds. Contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) for other questions.



The 33rd Block Party was a Blast!

by Julie Smith

Howdy, neighbors. On August 16, Gifford Park residents gathered in one last hurrah for the new school year. At the annual 33rd Friday block party, families and friends enjoyed music, live dance performances, raffle prizes, facepainting, an art show, street games, and basketball. Party-goers also browsed the Gifford Park Market, and many participated in the inaugural 33rd Friday Parade. Asit Goswami provided the inflatable costumes and Jim Kyler provided the classic cars for the parade. Deja Schulte and Wendell Stanley Jr were our grand marshals for the parade.

As always, the event was a success because of hard-working volunteers who chose to be generous with their time. On top of everything else going on in their lives, the 33rd Friday volunteers' individual contributions created an opportunity for the entire community to celebrate shared values, shared interests, and the end of life as we know it—I mean, the end of summer. We even got a few candid pictures of Chris Foster and Police Captain Mark Matuza shooting hoops.

If you are interested in volunteering next year or wish to help plan the event, please attend a meeting of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. We'll see you all again next year.

Thanks to Gifford Park and Midtown business event sponsors for helping with food, kids games, and raffle prizes: The Afternoon, Burnzzz, Corky Canvas, Danny's, Myrtle and Cypress, Leadbelly, Longdog Fat Cat, Wax the City, and Wohlner's.

Special thanks to our neighbors that made the event possible: Amy Lanspa, Amelia Peterson, Aaron Haug, Asit Goswami, Ameen Wahba, Bob Hutton, Brittney Rubek, Christian Thomas, Tyronda Pearce, Stanley Family, Aerni Family, Ean Patrick, Pell and Bren Duvall, Henry Nunn, Martin Janousek, Jessie Fischer, Amanda Huckins, several Creighton students and many more!

Editors note: Special thanks to Julie Smith and Eliza Perry for organizing a fantastic Block Party this year!



Sporting Omaha FC Fiesta Fútbol

Join us on Friday September 13th at Weircrest Soccer Fields
for an evening filled with soccer, music, food
and fun for the whole family.

Weircrest is located at 6132 Weir St Omaha Ne 68117
There will be a soccer clinic for kids from 5:30-6:30 pm.

Contact our office for more information
at 402-896-4420

The poster features a colorful background with a soccer ball on the right, a musical note on the left, and several vinyl records at the bottom left. The Sporting Omaha FC logo is in the top left corner.

Photos From 33rd Block Party



Youth Garden Update

by Chris Foster

Now in its 16th year, 2019 was another great year for the Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program. It began May 11 with our “Season Opening” event and ended with our “Pizza Garden Harvest Party” August 24. In between these dates we about 50 registered youth participants gardening on 44 raised beds (each 30”x30” plots). Last newsletter I gave an update through week 12, here are highlights of the last three weeks of activities: Week 13 Gavin Johnston and Big Muddy Urban Farm took us on a field trip to local organic lowana Farm in Crescent, Iowa where we harvested over 1,000 lbs of potatoes and got to see a small plane take off! Week 14 Big Muddy Urban Farm and Eric & Annemarie Noll (one of the founding families of the community garden!) presented another fun food adventure of “Canning & Preserving” vegetables and the wonderful long-lasting benefits good nutritious food provides our bodies. Everyone made their own pickled jar of vegetables. Week 15 we celebrated another wonderful year of the Youth Garden program with a Harvest Party! We enjoyed homemade pizzas prepared by the kids, Big Muddy Urban Farm, and volunteers. Each pizza was topped with an assortment of vegetables harvested from Big Muddy’s gardens, our young gardener’s plots, and Friday Night Gifford Park Neighborhood Market. After all the pizzas were baked in neighbors’ ovens, we enjoyed each other’s company while savoring our harvest. We also gave special recognition to Monica Lehn, Amy Lanspa and Mike Caban – incredible people who go above and beyond the call of duty with their volunteering and dedication to our kids! We encourage our young gardeners to continue tending your plots for the rest of the growing season. This program teaches youth of all ages how to grow vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Plus, the youth are creative with art and music; explore our natural environment; and have fun while working together and getting our hands dirty. GPYG relies upon parents and volunteers each week to provide snacks, lead lessons, and simply share their time with participating young people. Tremendous thanks to all our volunteers including but not limited to: Monica Lehn, Amy Lanspa, Anna Deal, Stanley family, Matt Cronin, Melynda Walsh, Julie Smith, Ruppert Outman, Tyronda Pierce, Sarah Schulte, Rebecca Cashman, Wessel family, Lawse family, Rose Carlson, Paul Pellerito, Jackie Foster. HUGE thanks to Big Muddy Urban Farm director Brent Lubbert and residents Gavin Johnston, Shayna Sterling, Maggie Weedman, Matt Wettengel and Jordan Eberhardt for their planning, implementation, presentations and support to the program! Thanks to the dedicated parents and family members who participate with their young gardeners. And very special thanks to Mike Caban for his amazing dedication year in and year out to this program and the community garden project – you’re the best Mike! Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net) if you have questions about GPYG program.

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



Community Bike Project Update

by Adam Blowers

Whew, that Summer seem to fly by didn't it? No matter, everyone in Nebraska knows that the best time to ride your bike is late Summer and Fall. We've been busy inside the Bike Project doing a little re-organization and moving some stuff around. You might find it hard to believe, but after 12 years of operation, we could use a little refresh.

Earn a Bike has been chugging along with some fresh new faces this year that we are really excited about. Emiyah (pictured) was so excited to earn a bike that after she earned her bike she brought in her brother and sisters to help them earn bikes also! Additionally, our Adult Earn-a-Bike program has seen more graduates than ever before this year. So far we've helped over 40 adults earn bikes for themselves.

We plan to have some fun events coming up this fall. Look out for the (sorta late) bike shop birthday party where everyone is welcome to come celebrate with us, some casual fall rides, and a special Halloween ride. Check out our facebook to get updates about any of these awesome events and everything else going on with the shop and how you can help.



Tree lovers of Gifford Park (hopefully that is all of you)

by Tyler Magnuson

This is a quick update on the work and plans we've been making to care for the new trees in the neighborhood. First of all, thank you to everyone who has been looking after our new neighbors (baby trees) this summer. Watering, staking and singing to them. It was very dry for most of June and any extra water probably did a lot to help keep some trees alive. You will notice that there are many new trees that don't look to hot this time of year. While some of them may have died others might just be shedding their leaves early and getting ready for winter. We plan on doing a survey of the trees in late fall and getting a count of how many we will need to replace. There are some opportunities to partner with organizations in the Omaha area for new trees next spring and we will keep you posted as those develop. Unless you know how to tell dead wood from dormant wood (YouTube might have a quick lesson) we suggest you refrain from pruning limbs you think might be dead until spring. Here are a few things you can do to show the trees on your block some love:

1. Water them with a 5 gallon bucket monthly until the ground freezes
2. Weed and remulch them without mounding the mulch up against the trunk
3. Join our tree and park subcommittee by emailing me (Tyler.magnuson@gmail.com) and help plan for their care in coming years

Enjoy the changing seasons; yellow cottonwood leaves rattling in the cool evening breeze, flashes of red, crimson & gold from our resident maples and the sudden morning leaf drop of ginkgoes on the first night of frost.

Subby Anzaldo was a friend of GPNA

by Chris Foster

You may have seen the sad news that former City Councilman Subby Anzaldo passed away in early August at the age of 86 after a lengthy illness. Subby served as Acting Mayor in 1994. He was also a theatrical booking agent and homebuilder who represented Gifford Park, downtown and part of South Omaha on the Omaha City Council for more than 11 years. Subby and his wife Janice attended nearly every GPNA Holiday Banquet, missing only one when he was out of town (the year he received our GPNA 'Neighbor of the Year' award), and they were unable to attend this past year due to Subby's health. They always donated gifts and door prizes for our banquets. Subby raised his family in the Columbus Park neighborhood and was recently recognized for his work with the Columbus Park Community Center being named for him. He was remembered for going to bat for older neighborhoods, the length and diversity of his service and his big and close family. Subby was a friend to GPNA, our sincere condolences to all of the Anzaldo family.



*The Omaha Public Schools
invites you to join us for the*

**Gifford Park Elementary
Dedication/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

on

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019 at 5 p.m.

Open house to follow at 6 p.m.

717 N. 32nd Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68131

Tours of the building immediately following the ceremony.

Everyone is invited.

Congratulations Justine and Logan!

GPNA offers our enthusiastic CONGRATULATIONS to Justine Stanley on her marriage to Logan Neese on August 25! Logan and Justine have been best friends for the past four years. Of course, Justine along with the rest of the Stanley family volunteer for just about EVERY event and activity with GPNA, and Logan has been volunteering too! Justine's dad Wendell, who is a minister, performed a touching outdoor ceremony not far from Gifford Park at the Highlander on North 30th Street. Many of us Gifford Park neighbors shared in the celebration of their big day. And just as you would expect, Logan & Justine were volunteering a few days later at our Gifford Park youth tennis finale!

26th Annual Youth Tennis Program Highlights

by Chris Foster

We had some fine Nebraska weather for our 26th annual August Youth Tennis Program in Gifford Park. This year we had about 45 youth participants with 30 recognized for attendance and good sportsmanship. The kids learned groundstrokes, volleys and everyone's favorite rallying! Godfather's Pizza gave us a good deal providing 12 pizzas for our program "finale" on the last day. Neighborhood volunteers also provided treats. We had great help from our dedicated volunteer instructors for each Wednesday in August for this free program - Buddy Hogan, Vince Emery, Donnie Gildon, Laurie Bolte, Travis Bolte, the John & Jenn Aerni family, Beau Finley, the Stanley family (Dawn, Crystal, Justine, Witney, Rachel, Wendell Junior), Logan Neese, the Gonzalez family (Paco & Maria, Fran, Alex), Chris Foster. Also, during June and July, volunteer instructors Lou Harrison, Brianna Liu, and the Stanley family taught group tennis lessons on Wednesday mornings in Gifford Park - this was the 12th year for this free program for kids having a stronger interest in tennis. Special thanks go to Jan Franks, Brittney Rubek, Betty Slayden, Kayleen Tran, and Tyffaney Reichert, for handling registration and other duties, and Ric & Jane Hines for their great support! Thanks also to the Omaha Tennis Association, the Nebraska Tennis Association, and the City Parks & Recreation Department for their generous support over the years. If anyone who participated in the tennis lessons is interested in more advanced lessons, please contact Chris Foster at 402-290-8187.



Photos From Around the Neighborhood



BIG MUDDY URBAN FARM



Aspiring Farmer Residency
Open Call for Applications
July 21 - September 30, 2019



learn to grow | grow to learn

THE RESIDENCY IS A YEAR-LONG, HANDS-ON PROGRAM.

Every year, Big Muddy Urban Farm selects five Aspiring Farmer Residents from a pool of applicants. Residents are supported with a place to **live** while they **learn** how to collectively write a sustainable urban farm business plan and put their plan into action by **growing** food on several nearby plots of land. The residency houses, farm plots, and chicken coops are all within walking distance and are located in the Gifford Park Neighborhood near 33rd and Burt Street, Omaha, NE.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The residency is designed for aspiring farmers, urban gardeners, and anyone with an interest in applying their learning about sustainable agriculture and food systems to their selected fields, from chefs to social justice advocates. Candidates are committed to living, working, and learning in the residency houses for the full year-long program (December 2019 to November 2020). Well qualified applicants have strong interpersonal skills and are self-motivated with a can-do attitude. Prior farm or garden experience is not necessary, as long as you have an eagerness to learn.

COST OF PROGRAM

There is an opportunity cost to consider, but no monetary fee. In exchange for part-time, service-learning work, Residents receive all the educational benefits of instruction, experience, and networking as well as room and communal provisions. Farm participation is part-time with seasonal aspects; approximately 20 hours per week with a slower, research period in the winter and some longer days during the growing season. Residents typically have a part-time, off-farm job or commitment for supplemental income and activity.

TOPICS COVERED

seed selection • chicken care • planting methods • greenhouse management • soil health • weed and pest management • water management • cover cropping • marketing and sales • community organizing • business entities • financial record keeping • harvesting • preservation and storage • value-added goods *practices follow Organic standards

Apply online before September 30, 2019 - bigmuddyurbanfarm.org/afr



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.