



Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 2019

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Summer Market Recap and Upcoming Holiday Market

by Matt Wettengel

After a fantastic 18 weeks, another season of the market is in the books! The market team would like to thank the neighbors, vendors, customers, musicians, clowns, artists, volunteers, family and friends who helped make the market happen each week — we couldn't do it without you!! Looking ahead to the holiday season, we are tentatively planning to host the annual Holiday Makers Market, featuring your favorite GPNM vendors & more, on Saturday, Dec. 7. We're hoping to confirm date and time with Yates ECP soon, but mark your calendars now! Watch the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Facebook page for updates, or be sure to read our update in the next GPNA newsletter. Anyone interested in vending at the holiday market, please email gpnmarket@gmail.com.



SAVE-THE-DATE

GPNA Holiday Banquet
Thursday, December 5th, 2019
at Duchesne Academy

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

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

Topics:
GPNA Elections and more

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Porchfest
- Youth Basketball Camp
- Park Cleanup
- Halloween Festival
- Big Muddy Urban Farm Gala
- Fall Neighborhood Cleanup

Event dates and details inside newsletter



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Opportunities – Contacts

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Youth Tennis

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Spring Cleanup

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

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Presidents Column

by Eliza Perry

My husband works with elementary all the way through high school aged youth. He’s a magnet whenever children are present - I’ve literally never met anyone better able to relate to a child at any age. He’ll remind me emphatically that “Our children are our future.” He said so tonight after dinner together. Tonight, that statement flooded me with gratitude and honestly made me emotional. I get to live in a neighborhood filled with people of all ages and backgrounds who know and live this sentiment, who spend a few or many hours enriching the lives of our children through coaching, teaching or administering our invaluable volunteer-run programs for kids. It’s a ton of work and as the season of outdoor activity wraps up around here, I hope all of us take a minute to reflect on the kind of community we each get to be part of and help build. And remember that when you need help, there’s a long list of folks able and willing to lend a hand to Gifford Park neighbors. It is the magic of community, and most especially THIS community. Also, look for the many neighborhood activities coming up with details about the events like Youth Basketball Camp and Halloween Festival listed in this newsletter.

GPNA technology improvements: This winter, we will be working to improve our email system. We will also add a way to donate to GPNA via our website, something many of you have asked about for several years now.

Porchfest: Porchfest OMA is quite possibly the best fall event in all of Omaha and it happens here in Gifford Park Neighborhood!! Lots more information in this issue on this free event so I’ll stop here. Thanks to the MANY neighbors and organizers who make it happen!

Fall cleanup: Mark your calendars for November 23 – we’ll have a late fall version of the spring “dumpster days” aka Neighborhood Cleanup, but our fall version will be hosted at Duchesne’s parking lot at the corner of California and 36th St.

Park cleanup: Thanks to our friends in Creighton’s Occupational Therapy program, we will clean up our beloved park on Saturday October 26 from 9am-noon! The Doyle family, longtime Gifford Park supporters, will provide all participants with lunch. Come out and take care of one of our neighborhood’s greatest assets, the park! Get in touch with me (Eliza) at yrrepazile@gmail.com to RSVP (so that we have enough food!).

Recent car thefts: Throughout the month of September, there were tire slashings, car breakins, and six cars were stolen. It should be noted that police made two arrests from these six stolen autos and had recovered four out of the six cars that were stolen. The police are monitoring the situation and let us know that the majority of victims had wallets and electronics in their cars, which were left unlocked – this is a friendly reminder to protect these valuables and lock up!

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.

Creighton OT Students Support Gifford Park Elementary

by Joy Doll

On Saturday August 24th, a group of Creighton University Doctor of Occupational Therapy students as part of the student club, Creative Occupations, painted games on the sidewalks of Gifford Park Elementary. The intent of these was to supplement the outdoor area of the school since the playground has not been installed yet. These games allow the students to play outdoors and are permanent. The games include a variety of different activities. On behalf of Gifford Park Elementary, thank you to the Creighton Students!



Community Garden/Adventure Playground Update

by Chris Foster

Thanks to everyone who attended our annual fall pot luck dinner Sunday evening September 15 at the community garden at 35th & Cass St. for our community gardeners, youth gardeners, Adventure Playgrounders, volunteers, neighbors and their families. The weather was warm again this year in the 80's. We enjoyed frisbee, chickens, delicious food, and neighbors gathering to celebrate and announce upcoming neighborhood activities. Thanks again to Mike Doll for grilling burgers and hot dogs...and he made some awesome stuffed peppers and bacon! As the garden season winds down, we have scheduled our fall garden cleanup for Saturday October 19 starting at 10:00am. Everyone is invited to help as we cleanup both family and youth plots. Also, thanks to Rose Carlson who did a magnificent job cleaning and organizing our garden shed just prior to the pot luck, it needed it after the youth garden season! She also does a lot of weeding and other care for the community garden – thanks Rose! 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 questions.

Adventure Playground update: As always, the tree house and Adventure Playground area (located next to the community garden at 35th & Cass St.) is open and free to use at any time. Volunteers and access to the materials in the shed are on Saturdays (weather permitting) Noon to 3pm. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact us at sfventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook, or contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net), or text Monica Lehn 402-660-9046.



Yates Community Center was Showcased at MIDTESOL19 Conference

by Susan Mayberger

The region's Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages' Conference: Bridges to Success held their regional conference in Omaha on Sept. 27-28. There were over 700 educators that attended the conference at the DoubleTree. On Thursday, September 26, there was a pre-conference visit to Omaha schools to showcase the strong programming for English learners, refugees and migrant students. Educators at the conference visited the Yates Community Center to see how OPS is providing programming for newly arrived parents and young children. The visitors were so impressed to see how our neighborhood center had welcomed our newest neighbors. They had a chance to visit the English classes for parents and the Family Literacy classes. It was very evident that our neighborhood embraces our diversity.

In addition, Yates' Migrant Education staff member, Veronica Hill, presented at the conference on Culturally Proficient practices. Timon Gurung, a UNO student, who attended programming at Yates as an OPS student, was part of the Luncheon Keynote on Saturday. Just like the Neighborhoods USA Conference that was here in Omaha in May of 2017 allowed us to showcase our neighborhood, MIDTESOL allowed us to showcase educational programming at Yates Community Center.

October's Bright Blue Weather

by Helen Hunt Jackson

O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather;

When loud the bumblebee makes haste,
Belated, thriftless vagrant,
And goldenrod is dying fast,
And lanes with grapes are fragrant;

When gentians roll their fingers tight
To save them for the morning,
And chestnuts fall from satin burrs
Without a sound of warning;

When on the ground red apples lie
In piles like jewels shining,
And redder still on old stone walls
Are leaves of woodbine twining;

When all the lovely wayside things
Their white-winged seeds are sowing,
And in the fields still green and fair,
Late aftermaths are growing;

When springs run low, and on the brooks,
In idle golden freighting,
Bright leaves sink noiseless in the hush
Of woods, for winter waiting;

When comrades seek sweet country haunts,
By twos and twos together,
And count like misers, hour by hour,
October's bright blue weather.

O sun and skies and flowers of June,
Count all your boasts together,
Love loveth best of all the year
October's bright blue weather.

FALL NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP

Saturday, November 23

9am-2pm

NEW this year, trash compactors
will be in Duchesne parking for a
fall neighborhood cleanup.

September Neighborhood Events Photos

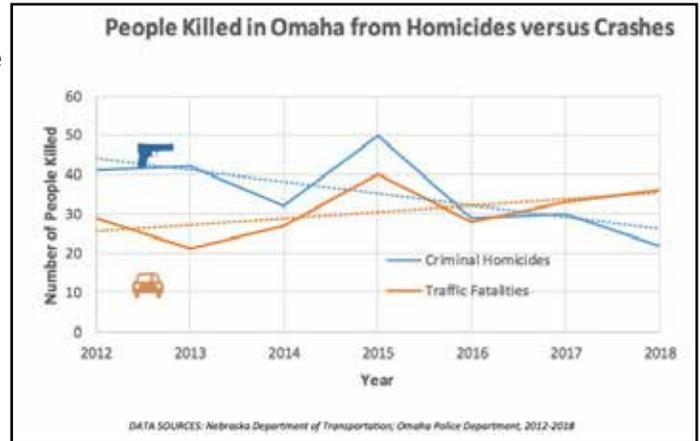


Gifford Park residents appointed to Vision Zero Task Force recommend safety changes

by Pell Duvall

Gifford Park Neighborhood residents Andy Wessel and Pell Duvall, members of Mayor Stothert's Active Living Advisory Committee, were appointed to the Vision Zero Task Force to make recommendations to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries in our city. After meeting monthly for over a year, the task force's recommendations were published this fall.

Vision Zero is an initiative developed in Sweden in the 1990's with a mindset that traffic fatalities are not inevitable but preventable. Rather than preventing minor fender benders, the goal is to eliminate crashes that end lives or permanently affect them.



Traffic fatalities and serious injury crashes are trending upward in Omaha, recently surpassing homicides in 2016 and cost our city an estimated \$80 million annually. Over 50% of fatal and serious injury crashes in Omaha occur on just 6% of roads. The Task Force has presented a series of recommendations to the Mayor in five categories:

1. ENFORCEMENT/SAFETY

Increase enforcement during periods of highest fatal and serious injury crashes.

Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) data (2010-2017) shows most fatal crashes occur between 9:00 pm and 2:59 am (40%). Most serious injury crashes are between 3:00 pm and 9:00 pm (39%). Identify priority safety corridors for safety improvements where the most harmful crashes occur. 50% of the fatal and serious injury crashes in Omaha occur on just 6% of roads.

2. DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION

Incorporate speed reduction and other safety features as part of the Complete Streets review process. Amend the Transportation Master Plan to include priority safety corridors and review other local plans to coordinate planned investments along these corridors.

Prioritize improvements to sidewalks and other active transportation facilities on corridors with high crash rates involving vulnerable users and along transit corridors.

Expand scope and amount of local safety funds in the CIP for safety-related projects and improvements on priority safety corridors.

3. LEGISLATION

Support state legislation for primary enforcement for seat belt use and distracted driving and requirement for back seat passengers to wear seat belts (LB39 & 40, introduced by Sen. Hilkemann. Transportation and Telecommunications Committee took no action in 2019).

4. EDUCATION/AWARENESS

Improve coordination between safety campaigns, branding under "Vision Zero Omaha".

Focus on impaired driving (alcohol, drugs, distracted) and vulnerable users (motorcyclists, pedestrians, bicyclists).

5. DATA

Update crash reporting standards and co-ordination including a city-wide database and annual reporting mechanism. Disaggregate data for traffic fatalities and serious injuries by race and ethnicity to allow for better analysis and to improve the ability to address potential equity concerns.

Groundhog news from the PTO at Gifford Park Elementary
Support our school, teachers, and our next generation of youth!

Bake Sale at Parent Teacher Conferences - 10/24, 12-8:00pm

- The PTO is running a bake sale during parent teacher conferences to fundraise for school events. Please email giffordparkelementary@gmail.com to bring an individually wrapped item for the bake sale or pick a time to help at the table.



Clothing Donations

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

Monetary Donations Needed!

- A school will typically start with the previous year's balance for the next year's PTO.
- As the Gifford Park Elementary is a new school, our starting balance was minimal.
- Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the PTO to help support our teachers, staff and students!

PTO Meetings -

Save the date for upcoming PTO meetings! All are from 5:30-6:30 pm with food and drinks
November 21, 2019 February 20, 2020 April 16, 2020

For updates: Visit our PTO pages on Facebook and Twitter. Email us at giffordparkelementary@gmail.com



Trunk-or-Treat Halloween!

Gifford Park Elementary is looking for Volunteers!

October 31 from 3-4:00pm



We are looking for volunteers (parents, community members or businesses) to decorate their vehicles and bring a treat to pass out to students.

Donations are needed for:

Bags to use for trunk-or-treat

Used or new costumes in sizes 3T - adult small

Please drop off donations in the GPE office before noon on 10/31.

Email us at giffordparkelementary@gmail.com with questions!



The Keys Foundation is offering a **FREE Youth Basketball Camp** and will provide basketballs and instructors for each session. 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: mbarnes@thekeysfoundation.com**

You can also register online at: www.thekeysfoundation.com/basketball-camp-registration

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

Location: Gifford Park Elementary School at 32nd Burt St.

For: Youth Ages 5-14 (some flexibility)

When: Mondays October 7, 14, 21, 28

Time: 6:30-7:30pm

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 and to be photographed for publicity purposes. I will not hold THE KEYS FOUNDATION/Gifford Park Elementary/Omaha Public Schools 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 _____



The third annual benefit for

LET'S GROW HERE GALA

Friday, November 8th // 6:00 - 8:30pm at Creighton University

The third annual benefit for



\$500 - Host a table of ten
 \$50 - Individual registration
 \$40 - Young professional (under 40)
 Registration includes program, dinner, drinks, and dessert

Register Today

at www.bigmuddyurbanfarm.org/lgh

- or -

make a donation and help us reach our goal of raising \$22k



PORCHFEST SCHEDULE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 6, 2019



	MARKET STAGE 520 N 33RD ST	PORCH 1 3422 CASS ST	PORCH 2 3409 CALIFORNIA ST (BACKYARD)	PORCH 3 3411 CASS ST	PORCH 4 3320 BURT ST	PORCH 5 3435 CALIFORNIA ST	PORCH 6 3406 WEBSTER ST	OPEN MIC PORCH 3203 CALIFORNIA ST
1 PM								
1:30	THE SHINEYS 1 PM	VIRGINIA KATHRYN 1:15 PM	COREY STROUD 1 PM	WOODEN MUSIC 1:15 PM	ROOT MARM CHICKEN FARM JUG BAND 1 PM	UNION COUNTY TRIO 1:15 PM	SUPPER 1 PM	
2 PM								
2:30	PONY CREEK 2 PM	SCOTT SEVERIN 2:15 PM	NATION 2 PM	DAVE LETCHER 2:15 PM	ROBO DOJO 2:15 PM		DANNY BURNS & THE JOHN LEE BAND 2:15 PM	ALY PEELER'S
3 PM								
3:30	SOUTHPAW BLUEGRASS BAND 3 PM	RO HEMPEL 3:15 PM	MATT CRONIN 3 PM	BILL KING 3:15 PM		SOUL TREE 2:30 PM		OPEN MIC STAGE
4 PM								
4:30	JESSICA ERRETT 4 PM	MATT COX 4:15 PM	ORACE GIEBLER 4 PM	PICKLE 4:15 PM	THE BEDROCK 3:30 PM	LUCAS KELLISON 3:45 PM	MR. E & THE STRINGLESS KITE 3:30 PM	1 PM TO 6 PM
5 PM								
5:30	THE PRAIRIE GATORS 5 PM	TOWNSHIP & RANGE 5:15 PM	JASON BIRNSTIHL 5 PM	BRIKWONDO 5:15 PM	DANIEL & THE DELIVERANCE 4:45 PM	THE WILDWOODS 5 PM	JAGUAR JAMES 4:45 PM	

DONATIONS ACCEPTED - PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE GIFFORD PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

Photos From Gifford Park Elementary School Dedication on September 10



Bensonhurst
NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR

2 DAYS | 11 HOMES

Two decades with a history of the site and neighborhood.

OCTOBER 12-13, 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

MEMBERS ENJOY A 50% DISCOUNT!

MEMBERS: \$10

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$20

- Tickets available pre-sale or on day of the tour
- Pre-sale tickets will NOT be sent, they will be available via Will Call at registration table on the day of the tour

TOUR INFORMATION

Tour Registration Site

St. Joseph's Hall – Archdiocesan Retreat & Conference Center at 3300 North 60 Street.

This is a walking tour with mostly flat terrain. There are a few steps up to some of the homes and some indoor staircases. A shuttle will deliver you to the tour starting point and return you afterwards. The tour is recommended for adults and older grade-school age children.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

25th Annual Halloween Festival

Where:

**Gifford Park
Playground Area
35th & Davenport St.**



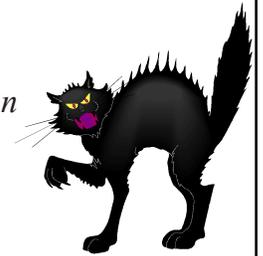
When:

**Sunday
October 27th
5:00 to 8:00pm**



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

**All Children and Parents Welcome
Halloween Activities, Pumpkin-Painting, Face-Painting,
Games, Treats, and other Fun Festivities!**



FREE!



Gifford Park Cleanup and Playground Celebration



What: Gifford Park Cleanup and Playground Celebration

Where: Meet at Gifford Park Playground at 35th Ave & Davenport

Who: EVERYONE (adults & children)!

Date: Saturday, October 26, 9am to Noon

**Activities: Playground & Park Cleanup, Pickup Litter, Weeding,
Mulching, Raking (tools & gloves provided)**

Food: Sandwiches & Refreshments for Volunteers



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.