



Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 2020

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Tyronda Pierce Receives YouTurn Community Volunteer Award

By Chris Foster

Huge Congratulations to Gifford Park's own Tyronda Pierce for being honored as YouTurn's 2020 Community Volunteer Award Recipient! Tyronda was recognized on September 10 for her commitment to violence prevention and changing lives! Thanks Tyronda for helping YouTurn fulfill its mission of helping youth "Make A 180 Against Violence". The organization is a community-based "movement" committed to ending youth violence and works one-on-one with the highest risk adolescents and young adults, 12 to 25+ years of age, that are negatively impacted by violence in the community. YouTurn offers support and resources to break the cycle of poverty, reduce violence and trauma, and promote positive behavior change leading to resiliency, healthier families, and safer communities.

Tyronda is a longtime Gifford Park resident and GPNA volunteer for many of our neighborhood programs and events including Easter egg Hunt, neighborhood & park cleanups, youth garden, Adventure Playground, youth tennis, youth soccer, youth basketball, Yates Community Center, Gifford Park Elementary School, holiday banquet, Slip'N'Slide, 33rd Street Block Party (last year's parade and hoop-it-up), and is a great neighbor keeping an eye on the neighborhood, especially our youth and more vulnerable folks. Tyronda is the type of neighbor who will call to check on how you are doing for no particular reason, because she genuinely cares. Tyronda includes her kids and grandchildren in participating and volunteering. Her son AJ & daughter-in-law Marquis (founder of The Keys

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

See page 3 for details on
Thursday November. 5th GPNA
meeting.



Foundation) organize our annual youth basketball that started a few years ago at Yates and moved to Gifford Park elementary last fall because of the great success of the program. By the way, Tyronda has some great moves on the basketball court... trust me! From your GPNA friends, congratulations Tyronda, you are doing incredibly important work, not just in Gifford Park, but the broader community too!

Note: Tyronda is very humble...a neighbor tipped me off about Tyronda's award. I told Tyronda I want this to go in the GPNA newsletter as an example to inspire others to get involved in a positive way.

2020 GPNA Officers**Marie Hélène , President**

402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

Alexandra Goswami, Vice President / Treasurer

847-477-2156 | omaha_beef@hotmail.com

Board**Wendell Stanley, At-Large**

402-306-8454 | wvstanley@icloud.com

Zedeka Poindexter, At-Large

402-212-5869 | znpoindexter@gmail.com

Brent Lubbert, At-Large

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

Obed Sanchez, At-Large

402-401-0554 | grainolia@gmail.com

Martin Janousek, Business Rep

402-558-4070 | mjjanousek@leoadaly.com

Chris Foster, Tenant/Landlord Liason

402-290-8187 | foster3413@cox.net

Susan Mayberger, Yates Rep

402-342-6606 | susan.mayberger@gmail.com

Opportunities – Contacts**GPNA General Meetings**

Marie Hélène André 402-769-9183

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

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 Editors

Amanda Huckins and Jessie Fisher

402-706-1045

a.r.huckins@gmail.com

Editor's note: If you have neighborhood news or an editorial to share, we want to hear from you! Please include your contact information and put "GPNA Newsletter" in the subject line and submit by email to a.r.huckins@gmail.com. Editorials are subject to approval by the GPNA Executive Board.

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association**Budget for approval by membership****For the calendar year 2021****Submitted October 2020****Donations & revenue**

Unspecified		
Memberships	\$	1,500
Donations		
Banquet (donation stimulated by banquet)		5,000
Other unrestricted donations		4,600
Misc. other		50
Newsletter ads		600
Specified		
Neighborhood Market		-
Cultural Event/33rd Friday		200
Easter Egg Hunt (matched)		500
Flower Pots (matched)		-
Tennis (matched)		400
Soccer camp		250
Garden & Adventure Playground		300
Garden plot fees		420
Membership outreach and development		100
Holiday Market		100
Total	\$	14,020

Expenses

General		
Banquet		3,000
Newsletter printing and other flyer printing		1,200
Postage		300
Cultural Event/33rd Friday		500
Post office box & bank fees		200
Organization memberships & sponsorships		300
Email subscription service		250
Meeting expenses		120
Digital promotion		-
Insurance		1,000
GPNA Board discretionary		1,000
Specific		
Facilitation for vision, diversity, and inclusion		1,750
WorldPay fees (Neighborhood Market)		-
Neighborhood Market other		-
Easter Egg Hunt (matched)		500
Facility rental fees for neighborhood meetings		100
Flower pots		-
Soccer camp		500
Garden & Adventure Playground		1,200
Basketball		100
Porchfest music festival		100
Park events (Halloween, park cleanup portapotty)		400
Tree care		1,000
Membership outreach and development		100
Tennis (matched)		400
Total		\$14,020

Total change in net assets**\$0.00****Additional items contingent on sale of Yates for Yates Illuminates**

Pledge to Yates Illuminates, LLC (as coordinated t	(5,200)
CD's held by GPNA	5,200
Total	\$0.00

Thursday November 5 GPNA Zoom Meeting Information

Topics:

Introductions
Election of Officers and Board Members
Yates Update
GPNA 2021 Goals
Approval of 2021 Budget

The GPNA Nomination Committee will present the following slate of officers and board members for the GPNA in 2021. Voting will take place at the Thursday November 5th general meeting (by zoom). Please plan to attend via zoom meeting since a quorum will be necessary for passage of the following slate:

President – Alexandra Goswami
Vice President – to be determined
Treasurer – Marie H el ene Andr e
Secretary – Susan Mayberger
At-Large – Zedeka Poindexter
At-Large – Cynthia Frasier
At-Large – MC Raterman
At-Large – Wendell Stanley
At-Large – Brent Lubbert
At-Large – Obed Sanchez
Business Rep – Martin Janousek

GPNA Board Discussion of 2021 Goals:

- To have greater inclusion in all neighborhood activities
- To continually improve the relationship between Creighton students and the Neighborhood
- Transit-Oriented Development
- Green Spaces: Turner Park North, Gifford Park, Replace Trees planted in 2019, Boys Town's Green Space
- Improve GPNA digital presence, upgrade website with "donate now" button and improve the handling of emails
- Increase GPNA membership and "Meet Your Street" events
- Support "Yates Illuminates"

Join Zoom Meeting **6:30pm**
<https://zoom.us/j/95207769245>

Meeting ID: 952 0776 9245

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/a1VVljvMI>

From Around the Neighborhood



GPNA Welcomes New Board Member Wendell Stanley

Hi, I am Wendell Stanley. My family and I relocated to Gifford Park from Birmingham AL in October of 2001 rounding our settling here at 19 years now. Alyssa and I have been married for 28 years now and have six amazing kids ranging from 28 to 14, the last two of which were born here. I currently work as a freelance handyman and have held regional positions in corporate as well as director positions with local nonprofits. My passion is helping people improve overall quality of life. As we head into our empty nest years we look forward to always enjoying the home our kids grew up in. We are fortunate that it is situated in such a wonderful and active neighborhood surrounded by caring and helpful neighbors from diverse backgrounds.

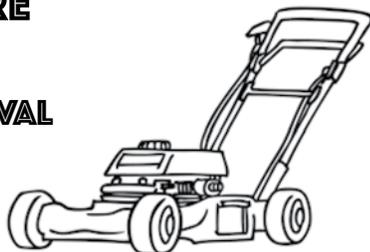


GPNA Welcomes New Board Member Zedeka Poindexter

My name is Zedeka Poindexter and I have lived in Gifford Park with my husband Hervey and our daughter Zoey for over two years. We moved here because of all the ways we saw the community connecting at the Friday night market and the community garden and we have not been disappointed. We recently purchased a home in the neighborhood and are excited to be permanent residents.



JUNIOR STANLEY'S
LAWNCARE
YARDWORK
SNOW REMOVAL
402-804-9034



Your Neighborhood Coffeehouse



MYRTLE & CYPRESS
COFFEEHOUSE

Have we met yet?
Mention this ad for
1/2 OFF one item.

Call: (402) 720-4873
Walk-up-Window: 517 N 33rd St
Online: www.myrtleandcypresscoffee.com

Big Muddy Update

by Brent Lubbert

We are beginning to add compost and mulch to our growing beds, putting them to rest for the winter ahead, though that doesn't mean the season is over. There are a few more things to look forward to, like a hike through the spooktacular Halloween forest! Aspiring Farmer Residents are getting their costumes ready and invite you to a no-contact, socially-distanced Halloween walk through the permaculture forest on California Street. The walk is on Halloween - Saturday, October 31st from 3pm - 5pm. The entrance is located at 3215 California Street. Hope to spook you there! Please stay home if you or your child is ill or have been in proximity with anyone that has tested positive for Covid-19. Masks are required.

We are forgoing an in-person gala this year and are instead putting a meal together in a charcuterie box. You'll want to get in on the first edition of our Let's Grow Here Charcuterie Box that includes a Baguette from La Quartier, A Pumpkin Saison specially brewed by White Elm Brewery, Handmade wooden coasters branded with Big Muddy Logo, Gluten-free seed crackers by Relish Lunch and Catering, Jisa's Cheese, Summer Sausage by Blair Meat Market, Onion Jam by CURE cooking, Caramels by Snowshoe Candy Company, Cookies by Copper Finch Creations, Pickled Beets grown and pickled by BMUF, Dilly Beans grown and pickled by BMUF, Fresh apples, Chocolate Habanero or Fresno Pepper Hot Sauce by Crazy Gringa Hot Sauce, Honey & Mustard by C&Czzz Bzzz, and Assorted Nuts from The Nut Hutte. Each box is designed to be shared between 2 to 4 people and costs \$100 per box. Proceeds from your purchase help sow the seeds of educational experiences in farming and gardening at Big Muddy Urban Farm. Order your box by visiting our website www.bigmuddyurbanfarm.org/lgh. Pickup or delivery is scheduled for November 13th. Hope you are staying safe, creative, and well!



Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Recap

By Martin Janousek

After another season of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market at 33rd & California every Friday night from early June through the end of September, the market team would like to thank the dedicated neighbors, vendors, customers, artists, volunteers, family and friends who helped make the market happen each week — we couldn't do it without you! Even with COVID-19 restrictions and challenges, neighbors enjoyed the friendly community atmosphere and great variety of vendors providing shoppers with fresh produce, meat, bread, honey, house plants, jewelry, musical instruments, handcrafted items and more. On the last day of the market we had Scooter Dogs curb side serving hotdogs, smoky brats, chili cheese Fritos, beef & meatball sandwiches. Watch the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Facebook page and future GPNA newsletters for updates regarding a possible Holiday Market and next year's market plans. If interested in being a vendor or more information, please email gpnmarket@gmail.com.



Yardwaste and Tire Collection

A yard waste and tire collection event has been planned for the fall of 2020. This collection will take the place of a fall cleanup.

The 2020 Fall Cleanup takes place on four Saturdays, running from October 24 through November 21, 2020. Each Saturday, two locations will be available to dispose of yardwaste, and one of the sites will also collect tires. Sites will be open from 9:00AM – 2:00PM.

Call the Omaha Fall Cleanup Hotline at 402-444-4636 or visit cleanup.wasteline.org for more information.

October 24:

- Tranquility North Soccer Fields – 123rd & Fort St – tires and yardwaste
- Al Veys Park – 6606 S 60th St. – yardwaste only

November 7:

- Dill Softball Complex, 7002 Military Ave. – yardwaste only
- Mission Park – 6110 S 168th St. – tires and yardwaste

November 14:

- Tranquility North Soccer Fields – 123rd & Fort St – yardwaste only
- Al Veys Park – 6606 S 60th St. – tires and yardwaste

November 21:

- Dill Softball Complex – 7002 Military Ave. – tires and yardwaste
- Mission Park – 6110 S 168th St. – yardwaste onl

Examples of Accepted/Common Items (not a comprehensive list): Tree limbs, Brush, Logs Stumps, Tires (at designated locations)

Prohibited Items (not a comprehensive list): Rocks and concrete, Dirt, Household garbage (putrescible waste) – put out with your normal trash collection., Dead animals, manure, and animal bedding, Railroad ties, Landscaping timbers, Construction debris, tires still on rims.

GPNA Membership

Please join or renew your membership to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association! 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!

To join/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. We are a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.

In order to vote for GPNA officers and board you must be a current GPNA member.

They Call Us Weeds

By: Mike Caban

They cut us down,
And we grow back,
On harder, stronger,
Stubborn wood.

They yank us out,
But we come back,
Rising up again, with good,
Sharp, flesh piercing thorns.

Spray chemicals on us,
So, we form a coat that's
Poisonous to the touch.
Plus, more unbending scorn.

We are not, weeds. We belong!
We seed, we root and return,
Always stronger and forever,
Resistant born.

“Just one more thing: Give us Yates—we will know what to do with it for everyone.”

by Adrian S. Petrescu & Marie Hélène André

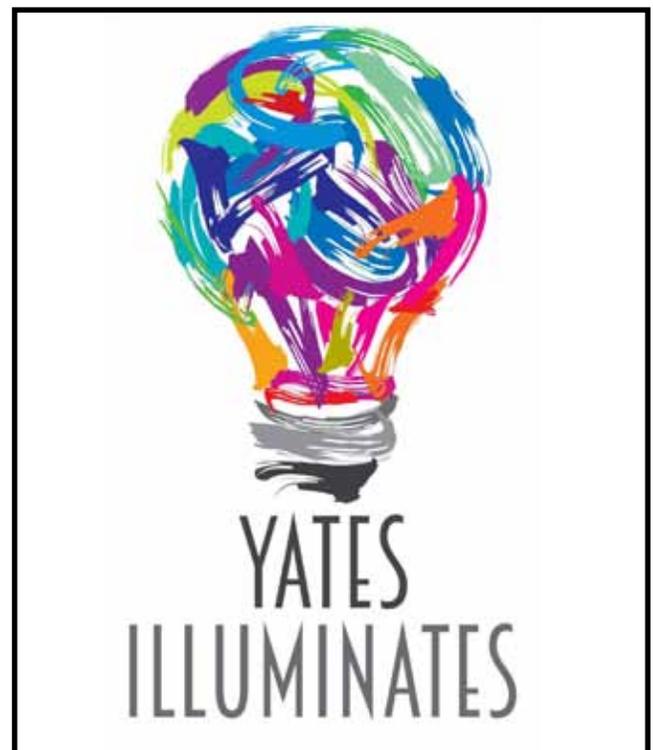
Early in September the Yates Illuminates community proposal, backed up by the Weitz Family Foundation, was submitted to the attention of Omaha Public Schools, to purchase the Yates building and to continue its use as a community center with an educational purpose.

The speakers at the OPS Board of Education Meeting on Monday, September 21, were all great and made the case for the Yates Illuminates proposal. Senator Sara Howard spoke about the effort the community put in this project and the importance to have such an education center serving the entire Omaha community to continue the wishes of the Yates family for years to come. Julie Smith described the science behind the visioning sessions conducted for the planning. Marie Hélène André made the case for the continuation and expansion of over thirty years of youth and multi-generational programming into a brick and mortar setting year round. Rose Carlson spoke on behalf of Eva Swanson who unfortunately couldn't come in person: Eva went to Yates school as a child; she insisted that it is thanks to the neighbors' commitment since the 1980s that the neighborhood is what it is today--a safe place for everyone--, and it is this kind of commitment that will make the Yates Illuminates project a success. Pam Font-Gable highlighted the importance of such a community and education center to support New Americans as they make Omaha their permanent home. Dr. Van Bawl Kan spoke about how Yates programming helps himself and his community overcome literacy challenges, and learn and improve English skills to become contributing citizens. Yohana Vanero impressed everyone when she told her story as an immigrant who needed to learn English, and she insisted that closing Yates would mean shutting down thousands of dreams of qualified professionals wanting to contribute their best to the United States. Alyssa Stanley thanked OPS for giving us the beautiful Gifford Elementary School, before asking for 'just one more thing': that by giving us Yates, OPS shows our kids that they are loved

not only between 8 am and 3 pm, but all the time, and even after high school graduation, for life, as lifelong learners along with all of us. 'We will know what to do with it for everyone.' Witney Stanley explained how we would embrace the sense of community that exists in the neighborhood and at Yates, and spread the love of learning to people all over Nebraska. Kevin Lawler mentioned he's never seen a project as innovative as this one, and he's excited to bring the storytelling work of Great Plains Theater Commons to Yates Illuminates.

At the last minute we learned that the vote wouldn't take place as early as we had hoped. The Yates building sale may be on the agenda of an OPS Board of Education meeting mid-November.

Now is the moment! Let's all speak up and be counted! Between now and then there will be three more meetings when we would appreciate speakers in support of the Yates Illuminates proposal, for Monday, October 19, November 2, and November 16. Please also contact your OPS Board of Education elected member, and ask your friends living across all of Omaha to do the same with theirs. Call or email your OPS elected official and tell them that you too would like to learn forever at the Yates Illuminates community center. If you have any questions on details of the proposal, or you need help figuring out who your elected OPS Board member is, please let us know or check www.facebook.com/SaveYatesForOmaha.



Community Garden/ Adventure Playground Update

by Chris Foster

2020 has turned out to be a very dry year... at the time of this article we are 13" below normal rainfall and still looking dry ahead! Luckily, early season rains were decent enough to give most plants a good start. Mark your calendars for Saturday October 17 starting at 10:00am for a few hours we will have our annual fall garden cleanup for community gardeners able to clean out their plot...and do cover cropping for anyone interested to improve the soil for next season..."it's all about the soil!". We will also clean out the youth plot area. Please bring your mask, we will do social distancing. Besides the garden plots, we plan to weed and clean up the other flower/planting beds. Again this year we will have a generous volunteer crew from the Iowa Western Women's Softball Team helping us! Thanks to Brittany Stebbins for handling this year's garden plot management, and organizing our gardeners to do cover cropping this fall. Many thanks to Brittany and Rose Carlson for hosting our Wednesday work nights and doing much needed weeding around the garden. Thanks Big Muddy Urban Farm program coordinator Rhonda Freeman who tended the youth garden plots with "salsa" gardens (tomatoes, peppers, onions). 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. And a big shout-out to our steady main man Mike Caban – stay healthy, we missed you at the garden this year, but we'll hope to see you in the spring!

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic regarding formal youth garden and Adventure Playground programs, obviously we hope to resume more normal programming next spring. If you have questions about the community garden, contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 / foster3413@cox.net); for garden plot information, contact Brittany Stebbins (402-318-2355 / brittanyastebbins@gmail.com); for Adventure Playground, contact Chris Foster, or text Monica Lehn 402-660-9046, or email us at sfadventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook.



Boundaries

by Jim Wilwerding

Good fences make good neighbors. One man's ceiling is another man's floor. One man's liberty ends where another man's begins. Or Ann Landers' famous "MYOB".

All different ways of saying that people need to respect boundaries.

On a local website, one poster complained about what is permitted and what is not. City laws usually provide guidelines on what is allowed.

A recent posting discussed noise limits. Maybe worth quoting those limits, from city ordinances:

-"Sec. 17-3. - Volume control.

No person shall play, use, operate or permit to be played, used or operated, any radio, tape recorder, cassette player, compact disc (CD) player, or other machine or device for reproducing sound, if it is located in or on:

(1) Any public property, including any public street, highway, building, sidewalk, park or thoroughfare; or any motor vehicle on a public street, highway or public space unless the volume of amplified sound shall be so controlled that it will not be audible for a distance in excess of one hundred (100) feet from the source and so that the volume is not unreasonably great and the noise, raucous, jarring, disturbing or a nuisance to persons within the area of audibility; or

(2) Residential property, whether a unit of a multiple-family residential dwelling or a single-family dwelling structure, unless the volume of amplified sound shall be so controlled that it will not be audible in any adjoining unit. Provided, however, that actual notice from the occupant of the adjoining residence to the occupant of the property containing the source of amplified sound shall be a necessary element under this subsection."

In simple terms, you have a right to listen to what you want to listen to. But your neighbor has a right NOT to listen to it.

Everyone has a right to post political signs

on their property, within reason. And others do not have a right to deface or remove those signs if they disagree with the message. Differences of opinion are normal, imposing opinions on others is not.

You have a right to own a dog. But you have a responsibility to see that the dog does not disturb the neighbors with barking, to confine your dog on your property, and to clean up after your dog if you choose to take it off your property.

Public parking is just that, public. You do not have a right to convert public parking for your private use. Vehicles must be moved periodically, and unregistered vehicles may not be parked on public streets. No-parking areas are defined to promote traffic flow and traffic safety. Parking in no-parking zones, even temporarily, can create traffic hazards, especially on our narrow neighborhood streets.

Most conflicts between neighbors can be avoided, if appropriate boundaries are recognized and respected.

OLD HOUSE Restoration

- * WINDOW RESTORATION
- * PORCH COLUMN REPAIR
- * WINDOW SILLS & TRIM

* * * * *

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

email: lawrencepaintco@gmail.com

Editorial Corner: Neighborhood Voices

Readers are welcome to submit their letters for the Editorial Corner to any Executive Board member (see page 2) prior to the Executive Board meeting held the third Thursday of every month. The Executive Board has final approval for all editorials appearing in this section. Full name, address, and contact information must be included on all letters submitted (address and contact information will be kept confidential). The views and opinions stated are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the GPNA or the Executive Board.

by Marie H el ene Andr e

What follows expresses my humble opinion and my feelings about Tyler Magnuson's editorial in the July newsletter. It is slightly adapted from the original response I sent to Tyler before the newsletter was published.

Because of who I am, my upbringing and my very personal experience, I have been a witness with a special perspective on the events. I want to remind you that English is my third language, and it is not easy for me to express how I feel about what is happening. I am not used to speaking/writing about my own personal feelings, not even in French...

The past months have been hard on each and all of us; the social upheavals have shattered our beliefs and it is a time of great changes. We have entered uncharted territories.

I appreciate Tyler's wanting to change and improve things for populations who have suffered a lot and are still suffering from injustice and discrimination. However, I feel some categories of people 'at risk' of racism, discrimination and injustice are forgotten in the editorial. The community is unsafe not only for BIPOC, it is also unsafe for those who do not 'belong': those who look different than the vast majority, those who come from elsewhere, those who have an accent or do not speak English fluently.

I am white, yes, and I am a woman.

As long as I remain silent, I am 'safe', but as soon as I start speaking, people notice my accent (some may say it is cute), and I subject myself to lack of respect, discrimination, unwanted questions/comments/insinuation, or even worse, some people just ignore me. I have learned to cope with it, I have learned to make fun of my own accent (and somehow to be proud of it), but it hurts, and I am sometimes afraid to speak in public, or

to have to justify myself. My husband and I have had encounters with police/immigration officers or safety officers, and I was scared: although we are both white and we are both educated, we sometimes didn't feel safe!...

I have also noticed that deep discrimination exists among people of the same race, and I could tell you more about that.

Until recently, I thought Gifford Park was the place I could call home, which is really hard for me: I am Belgian but born and raised in Africa, educated in Belgium and the Netherlands; I also lived and worked in Brazil, and I end up in Gifford Park, Omaha as a first-generation American. Where do I really belong? Where is 'home'? Wherever I go, I am 'the foreigner', I do not really belong anywhere, just because I was somehow 'privileged': to be white growing up in Africa, to have grown up in Africa compared to other Belgians, to be European in Brazil... and now to be 'a white property owner' in Gifford Park?

Since I arrived in Omaha, I have tried to use my own experience to help those whose voice is rarely heard, both at work and in the neighborhood. Integrating into a new country, a new culture, a neighborhood takes time and a lot of personal effort. When we moved to the neighborhood, nobody came to welcome us, we had to consciously take steps to meet people and introduce ourselves. We soon got the newsletter announcing the next general meeting and decided to take the first step and attend that meeting, the end-of-the-season potluck in the community garden, and other events to get to know neighbors. We were responsible for our own integration in the neighborhood and in the community. I now realize that being an active member of the neighborhood

continued on pg 12

association, sitting on the board and even being its President doesn't mean I am an integral part of this very community... How disappointing! How much more do I need to do after 7 years in the neighborhood to really be a member of the community beyond my differences and so-called privileges?!

I agree a lot more needs to be done to really have each and everyone feel welcome and valued in this neighborhood.

More diversity is certainly needed at all levels of GPNA, starting with the Board. However, we have tried in the past to recruit members with diverse backgrounds to represent their community and they have respectfully declined the invitation for personal reasons. Forcing diversity on the Board may not lead to the expected results to really represent our community. We must first define what kind of diversity we want, and recognize it may somehow already exist in ways we didn't think about.

Finally, in this time of major changes, it is of utmost importance to have a message of healing and unity rather than a divisive, controversial, antagonizing and blaming speech that may lead to negative reactions and resentment rather than appeasement. We also have to look at the long-term effects of our messages and articles, who they will reach and how they will be perceived, what the consequences will be not only for our neighborhood, but also for the bigger projects GPNA has undertaken to benefit the larger community of Omaha in its diversity, and how those very messages could jeopardize them.

Thank you,

Parking Violations

As children return back to school it is a good time to remind neighbors that vehicles should not be parked on sidewalks. It is, of course, illegal. In addition, it is inconsiderate to pedestrians. As a neighborhood, we try to be pedestrian friendly. Please leave sidewalks unobstructed, so the many walkers and children can use them. In addition, where there are sidewalks, and that is almost everywhere in our neighborhood, we would ask that pedestrians use the sidewalk, rather than walking in the street, obstructing traffic and risking injury. Parking violations continue to be a big problem. In many cases, legal on-street parking is available close by. In some cases, as in that shown in the photo, there is sufficient room to pull forward off the sidewalk and onto the driveway. So, we would appeal to drivers to please make the effort to keep sidewalks clear.



Daryl Woundedshield

Daryl Woundedshield, a member of the Omaha tribe, died on Friday, October 9th, due to complications from Covid-19. Though many in the neighborhood may only have known Daryl as one of the homeless men who sat on the benches overlooking the Gifford Park soccer field, to many others he was a friend and brother.

I am humbled to say that to me Daryl was a friend who was always eager to encourage. As a regular customer at Myrtle & Cypress, he often shared ideas and generously offered to connect us to people he knew who could help us out. Daryl was gentle, perceptive and a calming presence among the homeless community in the Gifford Park area.

Daryl was a veteran of the Iraq War who preferred to stay outdoors. When interviewed earlier this year about his experience of the Pandemic, he said that it was disappointing that it was happening and that he felt safer living in the open air.

Daryl knew suffering deeply, yet he wore an eager smile. He always carried hope, despite his many traumas and addictions. He taught us the joy and power of friendship, the gift of each new day, and the high cost of broken systems and injustice.

Daryl will be deeply missed by many in our community. May you rest in peace, Daryl Woundedshield.

by Eric Purcell



From Around the Neighborhood

Photo Collage by Marie Hélène André



Backyard Adventure



A few pictures of the most amazing things I discovered in my backyard and in the neighborhood (May to September 2020)



(c) MH André - 2020



Gifford Park Elementary PTO Update

by Bren Duvall

Donations Needed -- Treats & Drinks for Parent Teacher Conferences -- 10/21 & 10/21

- Treats, snacks and drinks are needed for GPE teachers, staff and translators to enjoy during parent teacher conferences (65 people total).
- To limit the spread of COVID-19, all items will need to be store-bought and individually wrapped. No homemade items, please!
- Donations are accepted at the school (717 N 32nd St, Omaha, NE 68131) 10/20 and 10/21 from 8:30-4:00. Please ring the doorbell to deliver your goodies, no visitors are allowed inside the building.

New Groundhog Gear

Thank you to everyone who purchased Groundhog Gear! You will be contacted once your items arrive.

2019-2020 Groundhog Gear -- Now \$7

We have a few short sleeve t-shirts available in last year's thumbs up design. These are discounted to \$7 each, and available in sizes Youth XS-XL, Adult S and Adult 2XL.

Email giffordparkpto@gmail.com if you would like to order one! Proceeds support the Gifford Park Elementary PTO.

Save The Date -- PTO Meetings

All meetings will be virtual, at 8pm. Email giffordparkpto@gmail.com if you would like an invitation for any of these dates: 11/10/20, 2/9/21, 4/13/21

Officers for 2020-2021

Co-President - Joy Doll

Co-President & Neighborhood Liaison - Darci Stacy

Treasurer & Secretary - Bren Duvall





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.