



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A great place to live, work, learn, and play.

www.giffordparkomaha.org

APPRECIATING AUTUMN

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING



Photo from annual Porchfest event on October 2nd, 2022

Thursday, November 3rd

6:30-8:00 PM

Location: California Tacos
3235 California Street

Agenda:

Elections and
Budget Approval

"Money Talks - Kids and
Money." Presentation by
Wolfgang Tattenbach





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Welcome Students!

We have a large number of university students living in the area who have returned for another year of school, or who are just starting college this year. Welcome (back) to Gifford Park! The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) has been working very hard to improve the appearance and safety of our neighborhood. The goal of the GPNA is to improve the neighborhood and make it a better place for all residents, and we would ask our new student neighbors to become a part of this effort.

The largest part of being a good neighbor is consideration for others. First, we ask students to be considerate in terms of noise, especially after 10 PM. Many families in our neighborhood have children or go to work early. Parties are another problem. Unfortunately, parties always seem to end up bigger and noisier than first planned.

Another issue is parking. Our neighborhood is short on parking, so you may not always be able to park directly in front of your residence. Please do not park on lawns, across sidewalks, or on the wrong side of the street (facing traffic). Besides being a serious safety issue and making the neighborhood look bad, all of these are parking violations and are subject to ticketing. Also, please do not litter and help us to keep our neighborhood picked up. Many of us pick up trash that we did not leave and we ask that you would help us by doing the same.

Finally, consider coming to our quarterly neighborhood meetings and joining our Association. A single membership is only \$10 and the membership form is on the back page of this newsletter. We welcome students for the upcoming year, and we hope that you will help us continue to make the Gifford Park neighborhood a better place to live, work, learn and play.



GIFFORD PARK
GPNA
30 YEARS

YOUR MEMBERSHIP FUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD FUN!

FOR THOSE ABLE AND INSPIRED TO GIVE, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN GPNA BY FILLING OUT THE FORM ON THE BACK PAGE AND SEND TO PO BOX 31462

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-BUILDING IN GIFFORD PARK!

\$10 SINGLE
\$15 FAMILY
\$25 BUSINESS



You Might've Missed...

Porchfest



Neighborhood Market



This was the 17th summer of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market, which happened every Friday evening from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. for 18 weeks running. Pictured are vendors Haley and Claire.

You Might've Missed...

33rd Friday



Omaha Mobile Stage Youth Talent Show



Gifford Park welcomed the first annual Omaha Mobile Stage Talent Show on September 17th, 2022. Like the Good Fellows Show Wagon that ran from the mid-1950s to the early 2000s, Omaha Mobile Stage allows young people to share their talents with their community through the performing arts.

For more information, visit website omahamobilestage.org or contact Jessica Scheuerman, executive director of Partners for Livable Omaha, at jscheuerman@livable.org.

29th Annual Youth Tennis Program Highlights

By Chris Foster

We had some hot weather for our 29th annual August Youth Tennis Program in Gifford Park. This year we had about 50 youth participants with 28 recognized for attendance and good sportsmanship. We gave special recognition (including a gold racquet and tennis ball!) to 18 year-old Rachel Stanley for perfect attendance since she started the program at age 2! She has been a model student demonstrating great sportsmanship, hard work, and has been teaching the younger kids for the past several years, she also volunteers for many other GPNA activities – THANK YOU Rachel!! 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 – Jenny Waltemath, Donnie Gildon, Jim Wilson, August Hogan, Laurie Bolte, Travis Bolte, Beau Finley, Micah Fannin, Nick McGill, Julian Font-Gable, the Stanley family (Dawn, Crystal, Justine, Witney, Rachel, Wendell Junior), Logan Neese, Bill Roach, Chris Foster, and the UNO men’s & women’s tennis teams (coaches Matthew Barlow & Adam Summit and their players). Also, during June and July, the Stanley family (Witney, Wendell Junior, Justine) taught group tennis lessons on Wednesday mornings in Gifford Park – this was the 14th year for this free program. Thanks to Jackie Foster and Hannah Waltemath for handling registration 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.



Community Garden

After decent weather and timely rains in spring and early summer, 2022 has turned dry...at the time of this article we are over 6" below normal rainfall and still looking dry ahead! We hope everyone who either planted a family plot, a youth plot, or simply spent time in the garden enjoyed the variety of plants, flowers, herbs, bushes, trees, birds, butterflies, insects, chickens...speaking of animals, as with most urban gardens, we have also had rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, possums, mice, rats, snakes, groundhogs, etc...and neighborhood cats (we could use a few more cats to create the perfect balance!)

All of this nature keeps the garden changeable and interesting through our Nebraska seasons, everyone welcome to check it out. For questions about garden plots contact Rose Carlson at 402-639-5952 (rhcarlson4@yahoo.com), for other questions contact Chris Foster at 402-290-8187 (foster3413@cox.net).



Article and photos submitted by Chris Foster

Youth Garden

Now in its 19th year, 2022 was another good year for the Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program. Last newsletter I gave an update through week 9, here are highlights of the last six weeks of activities: Week 10 longtime Gifford Park resident and Boy Scout leader Bob Hutton (just turned 90!) taught us hands-on rope-making and had us use cranks to make rope from twine. Week 11 Big Muddy Urban Farm Fellow Tricey Chea led us in a sound bath meditation with sound bowls and listening to the sounds of nature around us. Week 12 culinary expert Witney Stanley and nutrition expert Frankie Hamburger taught us all about nutrition and great tips on cooking our vegetables...the meal was delicious! Week 13 local owner of 'Sovereign Beauty & Wellness' Arielle Martinez took us on a tour of the garden to find herbs and other healing plants, then we made our own infused honey. Week 14 Kelly Alsup from Big Muddy Urban Farm led us to explore our five senses and build poems using inspiration from the garden! Week 15 we celebrated another year of the Youth Garden 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 our youth plots, Big Muddy's gardens, and Gifford Park Neighborhood Market. A HUGE thanks to youth garden director Monica Lehn, Big Muddy Urban Farm, and Mike Caban who greeted our young gardeners each week. 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. Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net) if you have questions about GPYG program.

Adventure Playground

With fall upon us, we hope 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 (a brick patio was installed this past spring), and a wood building workshop area. As always, the 2-story tree house and play area space are open to use at any time. Volunteers and access to materials in the shed are on Saturdays from Noon-2pm through end of October. Thanks to our amazing director Monica Lehn and other volunteers for nurturing new experiences and development for youth participants Saturday afternoons spring through fall.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact us at sfadventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook, or text Monica Lehn 402-660-9046 or contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net).



Gifford Park Identity Garden

Article submitted by Jenny Hopwood

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is a nonprofit conservation organization that protects the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. [The name of the organization (which is pronounced Zer-sees) comes from the now-extinct Xerces blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche xerces*), the first butterfly known to go extinct in North America as a result of human activities.] Insects and other invertebrates—butterflies, dragonflies, beetles, worms, bees, mussels, and crabs are but a few—make up 94% of the world’s animal species.



These animals pollinate plants, disperse seeds, are food for wildlife, recycle nutrients, clean water, control pest species, and more, services that are critical to life on our planet. Jennifer Hopwood, based in Omaha, is one of three Xerces staff that are based in Nebraska. Jennifer's work focuses on pollinators and also insects that contribute to soil health and biological control, and she works with scientists, land managers, educators, farmers, and communities to create habitat for these important animals. At the end of September we planted a variety of species in Gifford Parks on 33rd and Cass, the planted species are listed in the provided chart above. You can find out more at www.xerces.org.

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Draft Budget 2023
Proposed to the membership for vote at November 3, 2022 neighborhood meeting

Cash balances at 10/15/2022

Bank account balances

Checking	\$ 23,419
Certificate of Deposit 12 month	2,769
Certificate of Deposit 7 month	2,522

Specified funds on hand

Yates Illuminates	11,950
OCF Grants	6,029
MNA Mini Grant 2022	1,500
Soccer Field, Turner Park North (board-designated)	2,000
Tennis	2,076

General funds on hand	<u>\$ 7,232</u>
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	2022 Year to date	2023 Budget
Donations & revenue		
Unspecified		
Memberships	\$ 1,819	\$ 2,000
Donations		
Banquet (donation stimulated by banquet)	-	5,000
Other unrestricted donations	190	6,000
Misc. other	121	150
Newsletter ads	-	200
Specified		
Neighborhood Market	-	-
Cultural Event/33rd Friday	274	300
Porchfest (OCF Grant, OMS)	2,500	3,500
Easter Egg Hunt	798	800
OCF Grant 2022	4,500	-
MNA Mini Grant 2022	1,500	-
Yates Illuminates	3,500	-
Tennis (matched)	1,000	800
Soccer camp	250	250
Garden & Adventure Playground	1,500	3,000
Garden plot fees	394	420
Membership outreach and development	-	-
Holiday Market	-	100
Total	<u>\$ 18,347</u>	<u>\$ 22,520</u>

Expenses

General

Banquet	\$ -	\$ 3,000
Newsletter printing and other flyer printing	3,629	4,500
Postage	-	500
Cultural Event/33rd Friday	690	500
Post office box & bank fees	347	400
Organization memberships & sponsorships	50	200
Email subscription service	-	150

**2023 Draft Budget
Continued**

**GPNA Officer
Nominations**

President - Wendell Stanley

Vice President - Zedeka Poindexter

Treasurer- Paul Pellerito

Secretary- Rose Carlson

Meeting expenses	37	120
Digital promotion - Website	-	150
Insurance	-	800
GPNA Board discretionary	238	1,000
Specific		
Neighborhood Market other	-	-
Easter Egg Hunt (matched)	430	500
OCF Grant 2022	2,340	-
Yates Illuminates	-	-
MCC Scholarship	500	500
Facility Rental Fees for neighborhood meetings	-	-
Flower pots	-	-
Soccer camp	355	500
Garden & Adventure Playground	1,382	3,000
Basketball	-	-
Porchfest music festival	4,500	4,500
Park events (Halloween, park cleanup portapotty)	300	1,500
Tree care	-	300
Tennis (matched)	761	400
Total	\$ 15,560	\$ 22,520
Total change in net assets	\$ 2,787	\$ -

Community Bike Project Hosted Bike Rodeo

Article submitted by Adam Sundberg

It may be fall, and the peak of the cycling season is now behind us, but the Bike Project is as busy as ever at our shop on 33rd street. If you've popped in recently, you've no doubt seen Jacob or Jack hard at work with youth or adults as they work on their bikes. If you've never seen the shop, make sure to stop in and say hi.

The Bike Project is also excited to spread the word about a community event we hosted in Gifford Park earlier this month - a Bike Rodeo! A Bike Rodeo is a youth-centered bike safety event. We set up various stations where our staff and volunteers taught children various bike safety skills by using simulated real-life situations. Children had their bicycles and helmets inspected and fitted, then rode through a skills course to learn bike safety techniques. The goal was to learn safe cycling skills while also having fun!

We had a free helmet for any youth who attended (ages 5-12). They were also entered into a raffle for a free bike that Jacob built. We had a mechanic station available to service issues.

If you have any questions, simply shoot us an email (info@communitybikeproject.org), message us on our Facebook page, or just pop in during our regular shop hours. (Wed-Sun 2-5pm)



Science, Engineering and Teamwork

The Science, Engineering and Teamwork camp is for youth 7 to 16 to learn about Science and Engineering while having fun, playing and interacting with others.

During the Summer, youth 7 to 16 learned about the energy of the future, physics and the mechanical advantage, and robotics. During the first session, they built and raced solar powered fuel cell model cars and built electric circuits. The second and third sessions were dedicated to mouse-trap powered cars: participants designed, built and raced their own mouse-trap cars. Finally, the last session was dedicated to building and using functional Lego-like machines.

More sessions will be offered in the Spring of 2023. Stay tuned!

For more information, contact Adrian at aspetrescu@alumni.pitt.edu, subject line 'SEaT information' including full name and email of the parent, and names and ages of youth participants.

Pictures by MH André - Project funded with a grant from the Omaha Community Foundation.



THE GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION IS DELIGHTED TO INVITE YOU TO THE...

Annual GPNA



Holiday Banquet

WHEN

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 1ST
2022

DOORS OPEN
AT 5:30
DINNER &
PROGRAM
AT 6

WHERE

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
421 S 36TH ST.

HANDICAP
PARKING
AVAILABLE
ON 36TH ST.

GIFFORD PARK IS WHERE FAMILIES CONNECT

DINNER WILL BE PREPARED BY THE
WONDERFUL STANLEY FAMILY

TRANSLATION SERVICES WILL BE
PROVIDED BY SUSAN MAYBERGER
EMAIL: SUSANMAYBERGER@GMAIL.COM
PHONE: 402-342-6606

RSVP INFO

PLEASE SEND RSVP TO ROSE CARLSON
BY NOVEMBER 15TH

EMAIL: RHCARLSON4@YAHOO.COM
PHONE: 402-639-5952

RSVP WITH FULL NAME AND
GPNA MEMBERSHIP STATUS
(MEMBER OR NON MEMBER)

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Neighbors Save Yates and Now The Yates Fund Hires its First Executive Director, Marie H el ene Andr e

The Yates Fund, which operates Yates Illuminates LLC, has hired Marie H el ene Andr e as its first Executive Director. Neighbors from the Gifford Park Neighborhood united together in 2019 to save the former Yates Elementary School at 3260 Davenport Street. The Save Yates for Omaha group led community fundraising efforts, and received a matching grant from the Sherwood Foundation and essential support from the Weitz Family Foundation to secure the purchase of the former school building from the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education in November of 2020.

A new era begins for Yates Illuminates with the formal hiring of Marie H el ene Andr e as Executive Director. Born in Burundi, raised in Rwanda, and of Belgian descent, Marie H el ene officially became an American citizen on November 17, 2015. She is multilingual and has earned two MA's, one in English and Dutch as foreign languages, and one in European Studies. After arriving in the United States, she also earned an MBA from Bellevue University.

Marie H el ene's career has focused on education. She has taught language (English, French, Dutch) to both children and adults, and has held positions in the European Commission and Metropolitan Community College, both of which focused on educational workshops and language classes. Marie H el ene has also worked in administration. Her background in both education and administration, as well as her New American status, makes her perfectly suited to be the Executive Director of a community center dedicated to serving a community with a diverse immigrant/refugee population.

Yates Illuminates will be home to an array of local non-profit tenants, including Metropolitan Community College, Restoring Dignity, D2 Center, Great Plains Theater Commons, Bluebird Cultural Initiative, Youth for Greater Good, Do Space, International Council of Refugees and Immigrants, Inc, Midlands African Chamber, Inc., Lending Link, Intercultural Senior Center, Families In Action, Refugee Women Rising, and Gifford Park Neighborhood Association.

Marie H el ene is committed to the mission of Yates Illuminates, which is "to serve our community by offering social, cultural, and educational resources in order to create an inclusive environment that uplifts every person's possibilities." Marie H el ene Andr e officially started her new job as Executive Director of Yates Illuminates on September 26. We offer her an enthusiastic welcome and invite anyone interested in Yates Illuminates to reach out to Marie H el ene at mhandre@yatesilluminates.org.

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Gifford Park newsletter letter to the editor section is a forum available to all who live in the neighborhood. It is the goal of the newsletter review committee (NRC) to allow anyone who wants to submit an editorial to have that editorial published if that letter is in line with the guidelines below.

ONE

GPNA will only print letters that address a specific issue, theme, or article



TWO

Letters may not be more than a single page of the newsletter. The letter can be words, pictures, or other images.



THREE

GPNA will not print more than one letter per issue per writer



FOUR

To preserve the author's intent letters do not need to be edited for style, clarity, or grammar. The NRC may suggest edits to the author to provide clarity to readers



FIVE

Letters do not need to be in any particular language. The NRC will work with the author and others to translate the letter to English. Both versions of the letter will be printed.



GPNA WILL NOT PRINT

Guidelines for letters to the editor continued

ONE

Letters that incite physical violence.

Letters that are obscene. This includes any statement that is vulgar, profane, or offensive.

TWO

Letters that are threatening. This includes personal attacks, intimidation, bullying or threat of harm against a person or organization.

THREE

Letters making false statements of fact about other people. These letters are potentially libelous. You can disagree with someone, but you cannot claim they did something damaging without proof.

FOUR

Discriminatory on any grounds. This includes discrimination based on age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, religion or culture.

FIVE

Letters that are promoting products or services. Letters may discuss resources if they are neighborhood specific, or if it refers to another newsletter article. The newsletter provides other routes for advertising.

SIX

Letters that discuss any candidate for political office. This is because the GPNA is a 501(c)3

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
Application to be a Board Member



Name:
Address:
E-mail:
Cell Phone:

How many years have you been a GPNA member?

Why would you like to be a Board Member?

How have you been involved in GPNA activities?

- Attending quarterly neighborhood meetings Helping with Holiday Banquet
- Helping with gardening program Halloween Event
- Friday markets Easter Egg Hunt
- Neighborhood clean-up events 33rd Friday Cultural Event
- Helping with youth activities (ie tennis/soccer/Adventure playground/etc..)
- GPNA Newsletter Other areas (please be specific):

What skills would you be able to offer to the GPNA Board?

- Accounting Legal Public Relations Putting out a Newsletter
- Social Media/Communication Membership Drives Other skills:

Have you been a Board Member for other organizations? Yes No
If yes, please list the Boards and when you served.

What is your vision for our neighborhood?

The Board meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month (except for December) and twice in January. Meeting times are 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Neighborhood meetings are once a quarter.
Would you be able to commit to participating in 75% of the meetings (at least 12/16)?

The objectives of GPNA are:

- To raise the standard and quality of life in the community;
- To bring into closer relationship the persons and the community, so that persons and institutions may cooperate intelligently in the redevelopment and preservation of our community;
- To develop between public officials and the community such united efforts as will secure for all a better environment in which to live, learn, work and play; and
- To promote the unique assets of the Gifford Park area as an inner-city blend of residential, educational, commercial and recreational opportunities.

I support the GPNA objectives and I would like to be considered for the GPNA Board. I understand that the term is for a minimum of 2 years starting on January 1 of each year and membership on the Board can be extended.

Signature: Date:



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
PO Box 31462
Omaha, NE 68131



Venmo: @MHA-GPNA



If choosing to Venmo, please include your email, phone number, and address in the payment description section. Please do not categorize payment as a "good" or a "service."

**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.