



Gifford Park's Pride

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn and Play

Spring 2024

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Yates Illuminates Grand Opening Event: Sunday April 28, 1-4 pm...EVERYONE WELCOME!



GRAND OPENING ♦ SUNDAY, APRIL 28th ♦ 1-4PM

Yates Illuminates | 3260 Davenport Street, Omaha, NE 68131

Ribbon Cutting & Remarks (1:00pm)

Free performances by Bluebird Cultural Initiative, Los Galleros Mariachis,
Youth For Greater Good, Nebraska Hazara Community & Karen Youth Love Culture

Family-friendly activities and self-guided tours

Share your Yates stories, contribute to our new sign, and meet the people
of your community center, Yates Illuminates!

Hosted by DJ Chelita

Contribute to the Yates food pantry by bringing nonperishable food items
for donation on the day of the event.

Free street parking will be available as well as parking at 32nd and California Street.

In lieu of the May
General Meeting,
please attend the
Yates Grand Opening!

Next Meeting
Thursday August 1
6:30 pm
at Yates Illuminates
3260 Davenport St.

In this issue...

Yates Grand Opening
Spring Cleanup
Neighborhood Market
Science Club
Sweet Circle
Community Garden
Youth Garden
Adventure Playground
Youth Tennis
Youth Soccer
Bike Shop
Crime, Parking Issues
Park Updates
Big Muddy Urban Farm
Membership
History Archiving
What's Happening



Primary Election
Tuesday May 14
On the ballot are local, state,
federal, non-partisan, and
special issues tickets

GPNA OFFICERS

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 mjanousek14@icloud.com 402-558-4070
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**For City Services, Information,
 or Complaints Call:
 Mayor's Hotline 402-444-5555**

**In Case of Emergency Call 911 for
 Police, Fire, Rescue,
 or Medical Emergency**

**For Police Non-Emergency
 Call : 402-444-5600**

Spring Cleanup Saturday May 11

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association will be partnering with Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association for the annual spring cleanup Saturday, May 11, 9:00 am to 2 pm in the Duchesne parking lot (3601 Burt St.). If you would like to volunteer, or if you have furniture, appliances or other items you would like to have picked up, contact Chris at 402-290-8187 or email foster3413@cox.net. There is no charge to bring items to the cleanup or to have them picked up, but please consider joining GPNA and/or making a donation.

- *Neighborhood volunteers will monitor the site (No commercial hauling)
- *Items ACCEPTED: furniture, bulky items, appliances, metal
- *Tires (without rims) may be dropped off for FREE at Walnut Hill Elementary School (4355 Charles St.)
- *Appliances may be dropped off for FREE at Waypoint Church (1313 North 48th Ave)
- *Yardwaste will be accepted ONLY at the designated yardwaste site, City of Omaha Joint Use Maintenance Facility (5225 Dayton St.)
- *Gifford Park Neighborhood Association members will get highest priority to have items picked up by volunteers

The following items are NOT ACCEPTED at the Spring Cleanup:
 *Rocks, concrete, and any items that can be collected via your curbside trash and recycling service.
 *Toxic materials (paint, oil, pesticides, and other chemicals) are also NOT ACCEPTED and should be taken to the Under the Sink facility near 120th & I Streets (UnderTheSink.org).



Volunteers Needed! Gifford Park Elementary (GPE) parent Cait Caughey and GPE Librarian Christine Ericson led an effort last fall to plant tulip, daffodil, and hyacinth bulbs on the east side...check out the spring blooms! They are working on a garden plan for GPE to have raised beds maintained throughout the year. If you're interested in helping, please contact Cait Caughey at mulleinhillfarm@gmail.com for details.

News From the Northeast Precinct

by Jim Wilwerding

I've been attending monthly Police Advisory Council (PAC) meetings at the Northeast Precinct. Always interesting to hear the crime stats, as they don't get a lot of coverage in the media. Good news is, crimes in most categories are declining, with the exception of auto thefts, largely due to the Kia/Hyundai vulnerability. This is the direct opposite of most cities, some of which are seeing skyrocketing crime rates. OPD closed out 2023 with an 80%+ homicide closure rate, many times better than most police departments, and perhaps a factor in the low homicide rates in Omaha. At the March meeting we heard information on the new problem property/nuisance property ordinance, which will allow property owners to be cited if there are repeated problems on their property. The primary method of enforcement is either a call to the police department or the Mayor's hotline, depending on the type of problem or disturbance. Though the legal consequences have not been determined, if there are 3 citations in an 18 month period there will be penalties assessed against the property owner. This will provide an additional means for the police and city to deal with businesses that create problems in a neighborhood, but will also apply to rental properties. So if you live next door to a property where the parties go late, loud, and long, you can do something about it. As time goes on, and we get some experience with how this is enforced, we may form a small group to witness/record such problems, as police response times do not always allow for a timely reaction.

Gifford Park is a Walkable Neighborhood

by Jim Wilwerding

Modern city planners are working to achieve walkable cities. Gifford Park is far ahead of the curve, with an exceptionally walkable neighborhood. If walking for exercise or recreation, we have numerous challenging hills and interesting destinations. With a wide range of architectural styles, and the many gardeners in our area, there is always something interesting to see. With warmer weather, we are also seeing a greater diversity of wildlife. From the tops of the hills, we have a panoramic view of downtown. Within a mile of most homes, we have numerous parks, schools, stores, bars, and other services. We have places to meet and socialize. We have houses of worship, along with a concert venue in Turner Park. We have three bus routes within walking distance of most homes. And perhaps most importantly of all, we have sidewalks, so pedestrians don't need to walk in the street, risking injury from collisions. Unfortunately, we also have people who obstruct those sidewalks in a number of ways. Perhaps most common is drivers parking on the sidewalk. This is not only against the law, it is a bad idea. While street parking can be a challenge in some areas, please be considerate of pedestrians. Probably next most common are trash containers left on the sidewalk 24/7. Again, the law requires they be removed within 24 hours of trash day. More recently, we are seeing rental scooters left laying on sidewalks, presenting a hazard to pedestrians. It would be helpful if users left them parked on the edge of the sidewalk, not crosswise or laying down. Finally, we have pet owners who do not clean up after their pets. While this problem seems in decline, along certain routes it is still common. No one wants to spend time cleaning up their walking shoes when they get home. Please do your part to keep our neighborhood walkable.

Gifford Park



Neighborhood Market

Every Friday Night 5-8pm
at 33rd & California starting June 7

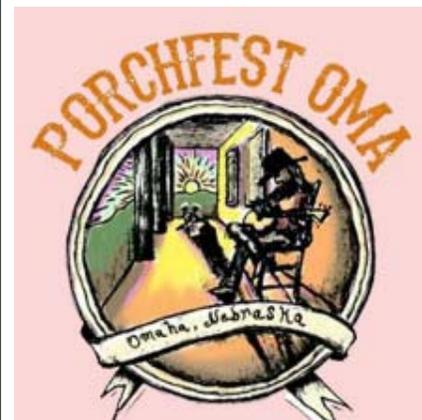
520 N. 33rd St.



Support
Local Farmers &
Small Businesses

- Fresh Produce
- Farm Raised Meats
- Breads
- Honey
- Plants
- Handmade Items and more....
- Food Trucks





Save the Date

Sunday October 6, 2024

Community Garden & Adventure Playground

We hope you plan to attend our Community Garden & Adventure Playground Season Opening Event, Saturday May 11, 10 am to Noon at the community garden (35th & Cass St.) to celebrate the start of our 24th year - it's free and open to everyone. We plan to have a variety of family activities including Youth Garden program & Adventure Playground registration; information on the community garden; free books; Mother's Day take home project; face-painting; music; digging; free seeds, plants, and refreshments (while supplies last); and meet "The Green Man", our bees and 17 chickens!

We hope everyone pitches in to help with ideas, projects, maintenance, and overall participation with the community garden in whatever capacity you feel comfortable. Here is a list of some known and potential projects/events/activities that we plan to do...

- Garden Opening event (Saturday, May 11, 10 am - Noon)
- Youth Garden Program (Saturdays 10-11:30 am, May 18 to August 24)
- Adventure Playground (Saturday afternoons noon - 2 pm, May 11 to September)
- Pot Luck dinners to be announced
- Garden tours (get people familiar with different parts of the garden areas)
- Theme garden maintenance (roses, butterfly, senses, perennial, front wall, herb, berry bushes, fruit trees, etc.)
- Compost bins - turn over compost pile (good exercise!)
- Planting & weeding (on-going)
- Chicken care

For more information, contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net) or Rose Carlson (402-639-5952 or rhcarslson4@yahoo.com)

For Adventure Playground, contact Monica Lehn 402-660-9046, or mmlehn@gmail.com or sfadventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook



The Gifford Park Community Garden wishes to introduce a new feature to our garden - a Memorial Bricks Dedication Site located at the front-center area near the Peace Pole, there is a heart-shaped planting area in the middle of this brick feature (see photo from last year...annual red salvia flowers surrounded by a border of white alyssum).

The purpose of this feature is to give family members or friends, who have had a connection to Gifford Park neighborhood or the community garden and have contributed in an impactful way, the opportunity to have an engraved brick for loved ones who have passed away to honor them. If you are interested in learning more information, or how to go about purchasing a memorial brick, contact Chris at 402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net.

GPNA Membership Drive

What a deal...Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) annual membership dues are only: \$10 for Single, \$15 for Family, \$25 for Business. Your membership simply helps support our events and programs including neighborhood cleanups, park improvements, newsletters, public safety, and many youth activities like Science Club, tennis, soccer, gardening, and Adventure Playground. We are a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.

To join or renew your membership, there are a couple options:

-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

-PayPal to hello@giffordparkomaha.org

For more information contact our membership chair Rose at rhcarlson4@yahoo.com or 402-639-5952
Thank you to those who have already joined!



Mondays 6 - 8pm
Yates Illuminates
3260 Davenport St

- Mar 11/25**
- Apr 8/22**
- May 6/20**
- June 3/17**
- July 1/15/29**
- Aug 12/26**
- Sept 9/23**
- Oct 7/21**
- Nov 4/18**
- Dec 2/16/30**

Free Support Group for Women (16 & up)

Join us for refreshments, peer group discussions, professional guest speakers, activities, free workshops & education

A safe space to take care of **YOU**

Contact Us

Tyronda 402-598-0919
SweetCircle365@gmail.com



A Message from



bigmuddyurbanfarm.org

Located in 8 repurposed residential plots throughout the Gifford Park neighborhood

dedicated to making sustainable agriculture education accessible to all

Hello Gifford Park Neighborhood Friends!

The year 2024 shall be a year of change and rebuilding, but also a year of continued impact and leadership in the world of Nebraska urban agriculture.

We have made the decision to pause our Aspiring Farmer Residency program for the 2024 calendar year. After careful consideration and a lot of reflection, we will move forward and diversify our programming, prioritizing our role in our community as an educator in urban farming. While Big Muddy has become known for its residency program over the last several years — and we seek to relaunch it in the future! — we are taking this year to get the proper leadership in place before beginning our work in this area again.

In terms of programming you can expect to see in 2024, you can expect to see work from us with innovative community partnerships, outreach to the neighborhood, technical assistance, farmers market training for aspiring farmers/vendors, and seed & plant sales.

Thank you for being our neighbors!

Gratefully,

The Big Muddy Urban Farm Board of Directors

Gifford Park Youth Garden

Everyone Welcome!



2024 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

- May 11 Garden Season Opening Event (10:00-noon)
- May 18 Get to Know Your Garden (pick & prep a plot)
- May 25 Plant Your Plot/Paint Your Stake
- June 1 Plant Your Plot/Paint Your Stake
- June 8 Music in the Garden
- June 15 Bio-Blitz
- June 22 Nebraska Archaeology and Fossil Making
- June 29 Garden Movement
- July 6 Storytelling and Comics
- July 13 Bugs & Insects
- July 20 Garden Surprise
- July 27 Quick Pickles
- Aug 3 Cooking & Nutrition
- Aug 10 Herbs: Walk the Garden
- Aug 17 Art in the Garden: Gourds
- Aug 24 Garden Harvest PARTY!
- Rest of Season (tend your plot)

The Gifford Park Youth Garden is a fun, free educational program for all school-age youth. Volunteers, parents, and children meet **Saturdays from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.** at Gifford Park Community Garden at 35th & Cass Streets.

Ways parents can get involved:

- Post this schedule of activities in your home
- Pick a date to bring snacks
- Accompany your child to any or all sessions
- Ask your child what they have been learning at the garden

2024 Youth Garden Sign-up

Child(ren)'s Name(s): _____

School: _____ Age(s): _____

Parent's Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

We would like to bring treats on one of the Saturdays: yes no

My parent/I would like to volunteer sometime: yes no

To register, complete the sign-up information and bring to the Season Opening Event on May 11.

For more information, contact:

Monica Lehn 402-660-9046/mmlehn@gmail.com or

Chris Foster 402-290-8187/foster3413@cox.net

Waiver and Release of All Claims and Assumptions of Risk

Please read this form carefully and be aware that in signing up and participating in the Gifford Park Youth Community Garden program, you will be expressly assuming the risk and legal liability and waiving and releasing all claims for injuries, damages, or loss which you or your minor child/ward might sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with and associated with this program.

I recognize and acknowledge that there are limited risks of physical injury to participants in this gardening/nature program. I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, damages, or loss, regardless of severity that my minor child/ward or I may sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with this program, including any incidents for my minor child/ward or me while en route or returning from a Youth Garden activity. Further, I permit taking photos and/or videos during Gifford Park Youth Community Garden activities for publication, social media, and use as the program deems.

I have read and fully understand the above important information, warning of risk, assumption of risk, and waiver and release of all claims.

Participant's Name (please print) _____

Guardian's Signature _____

Date _____

Community Bicycle Project of Omaha (CBPO) Updates

Community Bike Project of Omaha located at 525 North 33rd Street directly connects Omahans in need with bicycles to own, the space and tools to maintain their bikes, and the skills and knowledge to independently repair and safely ride their bikes. What's available?

Work Space: When the Community Bike Project shop is open, five complete workbenches are available on a first-come basis. No reservations or calls needed—just walk your bike through the front door!

Tools & Equipment: Don't have the tools for a proper bike tune-up at home? No worries! Whether it's a major tune-up or a simple tire pump-up—CBPO has you covered!

Bike Parts: From inner tubes to seats, chains to derailleurs, forks to pedals, and lube (okay, technically not a part!)—what needs replacing? CBPO provides a range of pre-owned parts and accessories, including full bikes, and a small stock of new parts. Your purchases go a long way in supporting our mission!

Our bike shop is staffed by experts and volunteers who meet you where you're at: leaving you to care for your bike on your own, answering your questions, providing on-the-spot education, or even handling your repair if requested (though we can't guarantee same-day repairs). We kindly ask that you pay for repair labor if you have the means to do so. Your support keeps us going!

Open Shop Hours:
 Monday/Tuesday: Closed
 Wednesday: 2:00-6:00pm
 Thursday: 2:00-6:00pm
 Friday: 2:00-6:00pm
 Saturday: 12:00-5:00pm
 Sunday: 12:00-5:00pm



For more information, contact:
 info@communitybikeproject.org
 Text or Voice: (402) 957-2454

Gifford Park Youth Tennis Block Party



Wednesday, May 15, 6:00-7:30pm
 Gifford Park Tennis Courts, 33rd & Cass St.

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is offering a FREE evening of tennis, games, & snacks to youth and will provide racquets, balls, and instructors.

For more information, contact Chris at 402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net

Gifford Park Youth Tennis



For: Youth All Ages

Dates: Wednesdays June 5 to July 17

Time: 10am to Noon

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

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is offering FREE summer tennis lessons to youth and will provide racquets, balls, and instructors.

For more information, contact Chris at 402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net



Come to where all the fun is, come to The Science Club at Yates Illuminates!

by Adrian S. Petrescu

Have you ever heard about The Science Club, now in its fourth active year? Do you wonder what we do? Have you ever lifted DNA from a strawberry or lit an LED with a potato based battery? Made your own little Mars and Sun? Spoke on the radio across the country or across the ocean? Here is what our participants say:

“The Science Club is a place where kids come to play, read, learn, and build with science. The helpers are: Burak, David, and Adrian. The director is Marie H el ene. The Science Club is for anyone who loves science. Some of the topics we have learned about are: space, electricity, rockets, simple machines, and flight. We also have snacks, and sometimes play with Legos or foosball!” (Zeke G, 9)

Mikael D (10): “The best part of Science Club is meeting other kids who love to build things and learn new things, just like me! We get to work together on projects, and it’s a lot of fun.” Zeke G seconds this saying “his favorite parts are doing projects and working with friends.”

John Paul G (7) loves the learning part of The Science Club while Lucas dM (7) likes the beginning, the middle and the end of Science Club session. He likes learning materials and videos such as on electricity. He says he likes snack time. That’s Rosie’s favorite time too...

Do you agree with them and want to start The Snack Club? ;-) Complete our survey and let us know what you think and what new cool things would you like to learn about: [TSC Survey Spring 2024](#)

Rosie G (4) adds that she was “sad to not see [her] teachers” one time she had to miss out because she was ill and only her brothers came. “My favorite part is that, as a homeschooler, I get excellent science help!” (Sara G, nicknamed Science Mom by Dudley Allen KDONMD, of Bellevue Amateur Radio Club and ARRL Nebraska youth outreach coordinator, a volunteer partner). David D (6) concludes: “Science Club is awesome! We build cool Lego stuff and play foosball after class!”

Did we tell you we got national attention with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Kids on the Air Day on January 6? Since the start, we partnered with Omaha STEM Ecosystem, NESciFest and beyond, expanded offerings across the gamut of technology & scientific fields from genetics to birds and butterflies migration, and from Leonardo da Vinci bridges and mechanical advantage to biomimicry in batteries discovery & design and much past the sun and the planets and beyond our solar system.

We plan to be at the Yates Grand Opening on April 28 with Kids on the Air and lego and foosball, and we’ll have another Kids on the Air Day on June 15.

One more reason to join us: it is **FREE** for everyone and serves ages 4+, with parents! We meet every other Saturday from 1:30 to 4:30 pm at Yates Illuminates (3260 Davenport St.). That is May 4, 18, June 1, 15. New dates after that will be announced after we receive your survey answers.

By the way, did you know two Nobel Prize Winners went to school at Yates? Your child could be the third...

Email ASPetrescu@InnovationTrek.org names and ages of youth and the name and email of parent/guardian who will come. If you read from elsewhere than Omaha, please ask us how to start and run The Science Club where you are.



THE SCIENCE CLUB



Gifford Park Free Soccer Camp



Ages 3 to 13 years old

Dates: June 12, 19, 26 & July 10, 17, 24, 31

Times: 6:30 to 7:30 pm

at Gifford Park (33rd & Cass St.)

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

To enroll, YOU MUST complete the form (see QR code) and return via:

-Email: jeffspurlock@icloud.com (please use 'GPNA Soccer Form' in subject line)

-Mailbox: Jeff Spurlock, 3561 Cass St., Omaha, NE 68131

-In Person: Bring completed form to Soccer Camp

Hello Neighbors! It's almost summer, which means Magpie and I have been planning and prepping for this year's soccer camp. The one change this year will be that we are skipping a week in the middle; Wednesday July 3rd. Here is a QR code you can scan to digitally fill out the signup form, or print it out and drop it off. As always, there will be forms on site you can complete when you come to camp. If you are interested in volunteering as a coach this year, please contact Magpie at tyler.magnuson@gmail.com. Thanks, looking forward to seeing you all! Jeff Spurlock - jeffspurlock@icloud.com / 402-651-4725

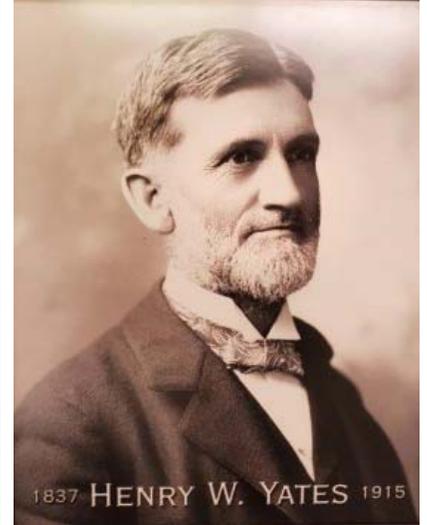


On behalf of Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, THANK YOU to the 25-30 Creighton Greek Life volunteers led by Hailey Douma and David Hernandez for doing a great job picking up litter, sweeping glass, moving mulch, and pruning branches in Gifford Park, Turner Park North, and a few nearby streets and an alley.

- Monthly Park Litter Cleanup -

EVERYONE WELCOME to meet at the Gifford Park tennis courts on Sunday May 12 at 2 pm and the second Sunday of the month thereafter. GPNA has partnered with Keep Omaha Beautiful to provide gloves, garbage bags, trash picker sticks, and other cleanup tools. Contact Chris at 402-290-08187 or foster3413@cox.net with any questions.

PHOTOS WANTED! GPNA is looking for old photos



- Contact us and we'll make copies -

Martin Janousek - mjanousek14@icloud.com or 402-558-4070 / Chris Foster - foster3413@cox.net or 402-290-8187

If anyone has any neighborhood memorabilia or history items (pictures, videos, books, awards, articles, other items), we would love to hear from you. The GPNA has collected and inherited items over the years and we would like to better organize some of the neighborhood and GPNA history that tells a rich, interesting and ongoing story. Our past GPNA historian Eva Swanson did a wonderful job of capturing information into our "History Book" and several large scrapbooks. We plan to build on her great work and honor her legacy by working on a neighborhood history archiving project to share history items online for all to see and experience. Any old photos would be appreciated!

What's Happening around the Neighborhood . . .

Congratulations and welcome to the neighborhood to Malik Drissi born October 17, 2023 to Moussa Drissi & Meriem Tarik...and also too June Celia Patrick born April 7, 2024 to Ean & Jenny Patrick!

Sadly Dale Robinson passed away March 15, 2024 at age 67, he lived in Honey Creek, IA. Some of you may remember he worked alongside his dad Bill at Robinson's Garage at 33rd & California and took over the business in 1987 until he sold it in 2011. Dale's son Gabe also worked alongside his dad Dale. Many of us in and around Gifford Park were happy customers taking our vehicles to Robinson's Garage!



February GPNA Neighborhood Meeting at Yates featured guest speakers (left to right) City Councilman Danny Begley, OPS board member Brianna Full, and State Senator John Cananauh.



In one of their seasonal celebrations, Richard & Clarinda share Irish songs, music, and stories on St. Patrick's Day. Please stay tuned for future celebrations and performances!



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
PO Box 31462
Omaha, NE 68131

Place
Stamp
Here

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)
Membership Application

GPNA membership year runs from January 1 to December 31
We are a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization

Type of membership: ___ Single (\$10) ___ Family (\$15) ___ Business (\$25)

Today's Date: _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____ Phone: _____

Name (1): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name (2): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Return this completed form along with your payment and mail to:

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, PO Box 31462, Omaha, NE 68131

or PayPal to hello@giffordparkomaha.org