



Gifford Park's Pride

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

June 2015

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Community Garden Open for Season

By Chris Foster

Our annual Season Opening event was held Saturday May 9, at the community garden (35th & Cass Street). We had a variety of family activities including Youth Garden program registration; information about the community garden, Big Muddy Urban Farm, and Adventure Playground; information from the County Extension Office; children's take home project (Mother's Day painted potted plant); face-painting; free library books and kids memberships; free seeds, plants and refreshments. We also let out the chickens for everyone to see and handle. Many thanks to all the volunteers and families who came out for the event.

With generous May rain, most plants are doing very well and we are ready for some warmer weather. Everyone is encouraged to check out the community garden including the chickens located in their coop on the upper-north part of the garden. Also, check out the new Adventure Playground on the west part of the garden. Wednesday work nights and will continue each Wednesday 6:00-8:00 p.m. through the growing season. During these times water and garden tools will be available for plot renters and anyone else interested in helping maintain the community garden – we always need weeding of the flower beds! It's a good time to stop by the garden to see neighborhood friends or check out what's growing – things are changing fast! Contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) for other questions.

**Next General Meeting
Thursday, August 13**

**7:00 pm
CHI Health-Creighton University
Medical Center
Morrison Seminar Room**

Youth Garden Program Update

The first four weeks of the Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program have seen lots of activities including children getting familiar with the garden, learning about seeds & plants, how to plan what to plant in their plots, and actually preparing the soil and planting their plots. The program is each Saturday morning 10:00-11:30 a.m. through August 29 (except NO session July 4). On page 5, you will find the remaining schedule and photos from our first few weeks. This free program teaches youth of all ages how to grow our vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Many thanks to the parents and wonderful volunteers (especially Big Muddy Urban Farm) who make this program work! Please contact Chris Foster(402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net) or Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) if you have any questions about GPYG program.

Check out photos from the garden on page 5

2015 GPNA Officers

Luther Larson, President

402-616-9350 | lutherlar@cox.net

Eric Purcell, Vice President

402-719-5108 | eric.purcell@crmladers.org

Jill Westfall, Secretary

402-213-3105 | jill.lynn.westfall@gmail.com

Alexandra Goswami, Treasurer

847-477-2156 | omaha_beef@hotmail.com

Board

Mark Trampe, At-Large

402-332-6188 | supertrampe@gmail.com

Andy Wessel, At-Large

402-916-5030 | ajwessel13@yahoo.com

Charles Mitchell, At-Large

402-309-0777 | charlesalexandermitchell@gmail.com

Marie Hélène André, At-Large

402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

Martin Janousek, Business Rep

402-558-4070 | mjjanousek@leoadaly.com

Chris Foster, Landlord Rep

402-290-8187 | foster3413@cox.net

Opportunities – Contacts

GPNA General Meetings

Luther Larson, 616-9350

Community Bike Project

Charles Mitchell 309-0777

Community Garden/Youth Garden

Chris Foster 290-8187

Adventure Playground

Teal Gardner 402-875-1896

teal.gardner@gmail.com

Teen Market Garden

Cynthia Shuck 556-2090

dalilabush@cox.net

Gifford Park Market

Martin Janousek 558-4070

Yates Community Center

Susan Mayberger 557-2431

susan.mayberger@ops.org

Youth Soccer

Eric Purcell 719-5108

Youth Tennis

Chris Foster 290-8187

Spring Cleanup

Luther Larson 616-9350

From the President

Since moving into Gifford Park more than nearly 9 years ago, I have seen many improvements that have made Gifford Park a desirable place for young families, professionals, and retirees to live. Noted improvements have been house paint, landscaping, front yard fence removal, sidewalk/step upgrading etc. all which seem to be taking the neighborhood in the right direction. The one thing that doesn't seem to have changed much over the years are single family houses that are rentals. They have not changed in two ways: many properties are still in poor condition and some continue to rent single-family zoned properties to more than three unrelated persons. These poor rental management

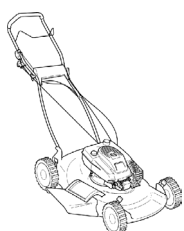
practices create frustration for neighbors that are working hard to improve the neighborhood by investing both money and effort in property improvements. As president of the neighborhood association, I would like to help neighborhood members that live next to poorly managed rentals by having GPNA be a place that members could file a complaint about a neighboring rental property. If the GPNA board feels the complaint was warranted, we will set a meeting with the owner/manager of property(ies) to discuss how management practices could be improved. So if you feel that rental property next to you is being poorly managed, please call or email me so GPNA can help.

Luther

Lock Your Cars!

By Dana Carlton Flint

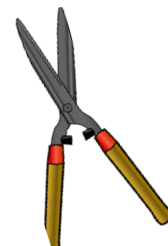
Beware neighbors...recently there has been quite a few individuals in our neighborhood and other nearby neighborhoods that have reported that someone has gone through their car looking for change. So far no damage has been reported other than them rifling through everything and leaving it thrown about in the car. So lock your car doors if your car is not in a garage. Our car was gone through and it was in our driveway. It only takes one time of leaving it unlocked for them to strike.



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

Call Chris 290-8187

**Mowers - \$5
Rent for most tools - \$3**



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 jill.lynn.westfall@gmail.com.

Gifford Park Soccer

By Eric Purcell

Our fourth year of the Gifford Park Youth Soccer Camp is off to a great start. On June 3, 35 little 3-8 year olds and their parents came out for the first of seven weeks of the soccer camp. Along with our wonderful neighborhood volunteer coaches we also have several UNO Women's Soccer team players joining us this summer as coaches for the camp. Soccer Camp runs every Wednesday night from 6:30-7:30 p.m. through July 15 so if you've got a little one that would like to play, we'd love to see you!



Adventure Playground

By Teal Gardner

After months of planning and talking it up, the Sallie Foster Adventure Playground is finally open on Saturdays 12:00-4:00 p.m. On the first day, kids swarmed the open space at noon, creating slides and swings, breaking up furniture with hammers, tying and taping and nailing things together. The mailbox was installed by one industrious group, led by Taylor Heaton. Another group made an obstacle course and invited others to join. An incredible dragon welcome sign was drawn and meticulously colored in by several kids working together—a worthy fate for an old headboard! We have been open four consecutive Saturdays since then, and each has been filled with its own variety of activities, all of them dreamt up by the kids.

It seems that almost all materials that have appeared on the playground have found a

purpose. Very popular are the large wooden cable spools, used for climbing and balancing on, as well as for tool storage, a painting surface, and a chair. Even the “Dave Domina for Senate” signs donated by Matt Cronin have been used in multiple ways by kids looking to skid down the hill, create a sunshade on their pallet-huts, or just roll around inside of like puppies.

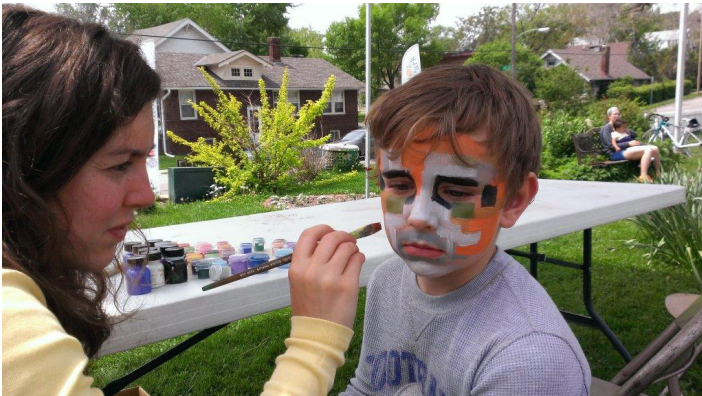
When kids arrive, they sign themselves in on the clipboard if their parents have already filled out waivers for them. Then they can get to playing! We have adult volunteers on-site at all times during playground hours. Donations are received on-site, and we are currently looking for: more pallets, nails, an electric drill & some screws, paintbrushes & colorful acrylic paint, new lumber, interesting house hardware, rope, sticks, stakes, and other such possibility-laden objects. Get in touch! teal.gardner@gmail.com



Community and Youth Garden

Gifford Park Youth Garden Program
2015 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30am

- June 13 All about compost
- June 20 Art in the Garden
- June 27 Wildlife and Animal Care
- July 4 Fourth of July (*no program)
- July 11 Art in the Garden II
- July 18 Truck Farm and Garden Movement
- July 25 Sound of Music
- August 1 Cooking Matters
- August 8 Canning & Preservation
- August 15 Herbs & Health Remedies
- August 22 Seed Saving
- August 29 Pizza Garden Harvest PARTY! (Big Muddy Farm)
- Rest of growing season - tend your plot



Neighborhood Market

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Market is open for business Friday evenings, 5:00-8:00 pm in the business district near 33rd and California Streets.



Tennis Block Party 2015 Highlights

Very chilly, rainy weather forced us to move our annual Tennis Block Party one day to Thursday, May 21 in Gifford Park. We had perfect weather. With the change we still had a good showing of about 50 youth participants and over a dozen volunteers. Our young players learned the basic tennis skills along with rally courts, and we finished up with watermelon and snacks for everyone. Many thanks go to our dedicated tennis instructors – Buddy Hogan, Jim Wilson, Calvin Webster, Roger Freeman, Laurie Bolte, Jenny Waltemath, Perry Mitchell, Donnie Gildon, Vince Emery and Chris Foster. Again this year we had some of the older youth participants help with our rally courts and they did a great job. Thanks Stanley sisters (Dawn, Crystal, Justine, Witney), Ari Manzo and Tyler Bolte. Thanks also to our other volunteers Jan Franks, Brittany Rubek, Monica, Lehn, Paul Pellerito and Mike Caban, they helped with multiple tasks including

registration, signage, safety, setup, taking pictures, and snacks. Thanks to Ric & Jane Hines for supplying equipment and always great support. And three more special thanks: Ryan Polito who donated a very nice supply of new youth tennis racquets for our Gifford Park program; the Omaha Tennis Association for many years of generous support; and the City Parks Department for doing a great job repairing the tennis court net straps and cable along with other park repairs – it made a big difference!

We are offering to the older youth the opportunity to continue on playing tennis with several instructors on Wednesdays (10:00-11:00 a.m. for ages 9-11, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon for ages 12 & over) June 10 – July 15 at Gifford Park. Anyone interested, please contact Chris at 402-290-8187 for a registration form, or you can show up at the tennis courts to register.



Learning from Our Neighbors

By Stephen Grindle

My wife and I stayed with Eric and Lisa Purcell in April 2015. I was interested in exploring the Gifford Park neighborhood because we are interested in gathering others who care about our neighborhood in Joplin, MO.

Three things stood out to me as we explored the Gifford Park neighborhood.

1. I was astonished at the number of active community members who care about and bring leadership to some of the projects in this neighborhood. It was not simply one person or one organization that was working for the common good. Eric mentioned several key figures and a host of neighbors who are all contributing in unique ways.
2. The amount of park/green space. It seemed like every time we turned a corner there was another community garden, park or chicken coop. I was overwhelmed with the redemptive use of land (that would have otherwise sat empty). I can see that the neighbors here are champions for

organic food, educating the next generation in sustainable practices, and beautification of the built environment. The redemptive use of land in Gifford Park is inspiring.

3. Relationships seem to be at the center of what happens in Gifford Park. From the moment we left Eric's front door, we met Johnny, who collects cans in the neighborhood and supports his family. Then, we heard story after story about Chris Foster and Martin Janousek who donate a large amount of time, energy, and personal resources to make the neighborhood beautiful. Next we walked by Charles Mitchell, who runs the bike shop that provides free repairs and the chance for neighbors to own their own bicycles. Our last stop was the community garden where we heard about Teal Gardner's desire to start an "adventure playground" where kids are free to explore and parents are encouraged to relax. This web of relationships is what makes Gifford Park what it is.

I felt honored and inspired by my visit to Gifford Park. Thank you Purcells for being good hosts, and excellent commentators on the life and the people of your place.

#KerrieOn

Chris Foster sent the following note of condolences to OPD Chief Todd Schmaderer and Northeast Precinct Captain Scott Gray on behalf of the neighborhood.

"On behalf of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association we send our sincere condolences to Officer Kerrie Orozco's family and the Omaha Police Department family for last week's tragedy. There have been so many kind words spoken, and so many deep emotions felt, especially by fellow police officers, that many of us feel we have gotten to know her pretty well. Because of her incredible attitude and actions, perhaps no other person could have had a more profound impact on bringing our entire local community together as we try to move forward. The outpouring of community support in such a deep way makes us proud to live in Omaha and be protected by people like Kerrie.

A couple things I will always remember. One was listening to a young boy on the baseball team Kerrie

coached describe her...he said "she was like a mother to him and his teammates," it was the way he said it for such a young boy, it was from the heart and so genuine. And your words Chief at the funeral service... you talked about Kerrie's legacy of breaking down barriers, she resonates with everybody...you asked people to look past the cruiser, look past the uniform, look past the badge because there is a little bit of Kerrie in all our police officers.

You guys and the rest of Kerrie's comrades should feel proud of being an important part of her life and career as an Omaha Police Officer, especially supporting her community service work. Kerrie was simply a great citizen, we now all have been honored to get to know her. Thank you for sharing her life with us."

Omaha Whole Living Opens in Gifford Park

By Kate Bodmann

Many of you may have been wondering what is coming to the retail space at 521 N 33rd St. which previously was Maud Boutique. I am excited to share that there are many things that are eventually going to be happening there from classes to events to retail space all as a part of Omaha Whole Living. The motto of Omaha Whole Living is grow, learn, share.

Omaha Whole Living is a cooperative endeavor to bring classes, events, local artisans and holistic health providers into our local community. I would like it to feel like a community resource and a place that people can come to nourish their mind, body and spirit. There will be documentary screenings and community events. There will be on-going and one-time classes and events. There will regularly be weekend classes on variety of natural health topics. I hope to have painting, yoga, nutrition, meal planning and other classes to enrich our lives as well. I invite anyone from the community who would like to share their passions or talents to offer a class or event. The space is very affordable and open to rental on an hourly basis so feel free to contact me if interested. Once OWL is formally open there will be retail hours initially on Mondays and Fridays where people can buy hand-made local goods made by artisans and crafters as well. I hope to run an Indiegogo campaign in the next month to

help fund making more opportunities free to the public such as documentary screenings and "lunch and learn" talks.



Omaha Whole Living will also be the home of Land of Milk and Honey Herbs which is my health and wellness consultation business. I have been operating this business out of my home here in Gifford Park for 3 years. I have clients from all over the city as well as from surrounding communities who would like to use the bounty of nature's herbs to help support their wellness goals. I recently became the 3rd Registered Herbalist in the state and the first Registered Aromatherapist in the state and needed more space to accommodate clients as well as more space to offer education and outreach classes. This new space is a perfect space to promote holistic wellness. This quote for Herbalist Rosemary Gladstar explains my vision of health and what I hope that Land of Milk and Honey Herbs and Omaha Whole Living will help support in our community.

You can find out more about Omaha Whole Living and upcoming classes at www.omahawholeliving.com. You can find out more about Land of Milk and Honey Herbs at www.landofmilkandhoneyherbs.com.

Omaha Whole Living Events

On-going events

Pre-ballet/Creative Movement
Thursdays 10:00 - 10:40
Ballet/Creative Movement
Thursdays 10:50 – 11:30
Dancing for Birth
Thursdays 6:30 – 8:00

One-time events

Essential Oil 101: Facts and Fables
June 6th 10:00 – 11:30
June 15th 6:00 – 7:30
Essential Oil 102: Practical Applications
June 13th 10:00 – 12:00
Summertime Herbal First-aid
June 27th 10:00 – 11:30
June 29th 6:30 – 8:00
Omaha Chicken Talk Gathering
June 27th 6:00 – 8:00

*See Omaha Whole Living for more information.

Midtown Neighborhood Garden Walk

By *Diana C. Failla*

The 4th annual Midtown Neighborhood Historic Garden Walk & Heritage Tree Tour will be held Sunday, June 28th at 9:30 am to 5 pm. (Note the time change). The treasured gardens will be located throughout historic midtown neighborhoods.

This year will include an Heritage Tree Tour for those who wish to participate. Attendees can walk the gardens, go on the tree tour, or attend both. Among trees featured will be a 1780 Druid bur oak, a champion White Oak, an historic Pecan tree and a 100 year old Chestnut tree. Urban Forester Graham Herbst, will lead the boulevard tree tour at Hawthorne Avenue in Bemis Park neighborhood, Mercer Boulevard and Happy Hollow. And a special walk through the Mercer mansion grounds.

The cost for the Garden Walk will be \$10 for the gardens, \$10 for the Tree Tour or \$20 for both. \$25 for couples. Children walk or ride at no cost. Seats are limited for the Tree Tour. RSVP now by emailing theurbanbirdandnaturealliance@cox.net or call 402-651-5779

Look for more detailed information to come. Garden addresses and a map will be provided at each start points to be determined. For questions please email theurbanbirdandnaturealliance@cox.net, or call 402-651-5779.

Volunteers are needed to guard the gardens and provide a presence in each garden. If you are interested in volunteering to spend some time in a beautiful garden, please email dianafailla@cox.net. Morning or afternoon shifts are available. This is a great and fun opportunity for students and incoming or seasoned Master Gardeners to earn community hours.

The Garden Walk is sponsored by The Urban Bird & Nature Alliance partnering with Children's Hospital & Medical Center, The NE Forest Service and The NE Statewide Arboretum.

City Solutions



Animal Bites	444-7578
Barking Dogs (sick, injured, or stray animals)	444-7800
Cars (abandoned or junked)	444-5782
Cars/Trailers parked on front lawn	444-5350
City Services (complaints or information)	444-5555
Crime or Vandalism	444-5600
Empty buildings, Houses (vacant or dilapidated)	444-5371
Gang Hotline (Youth intervention)	444-6920
Garbage not picked up	444-5238
Garbage/Litter violations	444-5910
Gas leaks, waterline breaks, fire hydrants	554-7777
Handicap Parking Stickers	444-6080
Hedges, tree limbs blocking view/traffic	444-5592
Neighborhood Watch Program	444-5772
Rats, raw garbage, etc.	444-7481
Street Construction (problems or complaints)	444-5220
Tenant/landlord discrimination issues	444-5055
Zoning Enforcement	444-5364

Gifford Park Has a Little Free Library

Dana Freeman and Stuart Shell are excited to be the stewards for the Little Free Library (LFL) #15835 on behalf of their neighbors and community. Dana & Stuart designed and constructed the library completely from recycled materials. They recently installed the LFL in front of their home at 3435 Webster Street.

The way it works is simple:

- Dana & Stuart initially stock the LFL with a variety of good quality books and seeds that they hope will interest their neighbors.
- You stop by and take whatever catches your fancy.
- You return and bring books and/or seeds to contribute.
- LFL books and seeds are always a gift—never for sale!

Little Free Library is a movement started by Todd Bol and Rick Brooks of Wisconsin in 2010 and has grown to include little libraries in most states and dozens of countries. Little Free Library's mission is to:

- Promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide.
- Foster a sense of community and connection as we share skills, creativity, and wisdom across generations.
- Build more than 2,510 libraries around the world (the number of "real" libraries built by Andrew Carnegie)!

Check out the LFL story at www.littlefreelibrary.org to look at examples of little libraries and for more ideas on how you can support the project. Don't forget to explore your neighborhood LFL by taking a walk down Webster Street!



Did you know that the Creighton Print Center (which generously prints our monthly newsletter) is open to the public? Contact them for any of your printing needs:

Full color digital printing	Newsletters
Brochures and flyers	Business cards
Presentations and reports	Large format posters, signs
Direct mailers, post-cards	Books and programs

Creighton Print Center
<http://printcenter.creighton.edu>

Xerox Corporation
Murphy Building
701 North 20th Street
Omaha, NE 68178

creightonprintcenter@xerox.com
tel 402.280.2515
fax 402.280.2370





Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 PO Box 31462
 Omaha, NE 68131



**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.