



# Gifford Park's Pride

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn, and Play  
[www.giffordparkomaha.org](http://www.giffordparkomaha.org)

Jan/Feb 2016

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Strategic Planning Recap

By Andy Wessel

This past November, the GPNA General Meeting was an inspiring evening that focused on the future of Gifford Park. Two trained facilitators from the Omaha Public Library – Maggie Rasmussen and Marvel Maring – led that portion of the meeting, which was organized with the help of Julie Smith from ONE Omaha ([www.oneomaha.org](http://www.oneomaha.org)). Here are some of the highlights from the discussion:

First, qualities that we value in Gifford Park are the diverse people (especially their welcoming and neighborly attitude), the history and identity of the neighborhood including its older buildings, the park and all the tree-lined streets, the walkability of the neighborhood, and all the programs and activities like the community garden, the market, the youth sports, etc.

Second, areas for improvement were creating a community center, having more businesses and services within the neighborhood, making sure businesses recycle, improving safety (included better lighting), having a way to turn left from eastbound Dodge; getting more families with kids to live here; and making sure diverse members of the neighborhood are brought into leadership positions.

From the brainstorming about an ideal Gifford Park, three areas to focus on included:

- Yates and the New Elementary School
- Strengthening the Business District
- Including Diverse Members of the Neighborhood in Leadership

**Next General Meeting  
Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic:  
32<sup>nd</sup> & California St  
Proposed Housing Development  
by Steven Held**

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

Yates was the leading vote-getter of the three topics but we decided to focus on the businesses district since there is already strong organizing around Yates. Ideas that emerged for the 33rd and California area included establishing a business improvement district or a merchants association, foster business incubators (especially a coffee shop), and improving the storefronts and design of the street (possibly through a Midtown Business Association Façade Improvement Grant).

In addition, we discussed the issue of new development coming into the neighborhood and how to get it right -- by working with the City of Omaha on improving the notification process for developers and potentially creating an officially recognized neighborhood plan for Gifford Park.

As you can see, we covered a lot of ground that night (which the GPNA Board will work on moving forward), but two comments stuck out in my mind.

*Continued on page 7*

**2016 GPNA Officers****Marie Hélène André, President**

402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

**Eric Purcell, Vice President**

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

**Eliza Perry, Secretary**

207-590-9880 | yrrepazile@gmail.com

**Alexandra Goswami, Treasurer**

847-477-2156 | omaha\_beef@hotmail.com

**Board****Jason Feldman, At-Large**

402-429-7646 | jason@yearofthestartup.com

**Andy Wessel, At-Large**

402-916-5030 | ajwessel13@yahoo.com

**Charles Mitchell, At-Large**

402-309-0777 | charlesalexandermitchell@gmail.com

**Luther Larson, At-Large**

402-616-9350 | lutherlar@cox.net

**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**

Marie Hélène André, 402-769-9183

**Community Bike Project**

Charles Mitchell 402-309-0777

**Community Garden/Youth Garden**

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

**Adventure Playground**

Teal Gardner 402-875-1896

teal.gardner@gmail.com

**Teen Market Garden**

Cynthia Shuck 402-556-2090

dalilabush@cox.net

**Gifford Park Market**

Martin Janousek 402-558-4070

**Yates Community Center**

Susan Mayberger 402-557-2431

susan.mayberger@ops.org

**Youth Soccer**

Eric Purcell 402-719-5108

**Youth Tennis**

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

**Spring Cleanup**

Luther Larson 402-616-9350

**Treasure's Report** prepared by Alex Goswami**Gifford Park Neighborhood Association****2016 Budget****for the period 1/1-12/31/16**

	<b>Bank Accts</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Cash balances		
General funds on hand (12/31/2015)		\$10,560.33
Checking	\$7,411.12	
Certification of Deposit 1	\$2,740.74	
Certification of Deposit 2	\$2,511.41	
Specified funds on hand (12/31/2015)		
Garden	\$1,698.92	\$1,698.92
Soccer (MNA Grant)		\$102.94
Tennis		\$2,000.00
Adventure Playground		\$0.00
Bank account balance as of 12/31/2015	<u>\$14,362.19</u>	<u>\$14,362.19</u>

**Income****2016 Budget**

Unspecified	
Memberships	\$2,000.00
Donations	\$4,600.00
Misc. Other	\$30.00
News Letter Ads	\$500.00
Specified	
Donations	
Sallie Foster General	
Easter Egg Hunt	\$500.00
Flower Pots	\$200.00
Tennis	\$550.00
Garden	\$500.00
Sallie Foster	
Garden plot fees	<u>\$420.00</u>
Total	<u>\$9,300.00</u>
Expenses	
General	
Banquet	\$500.00
Newsletter	\$750.00
Cultural Event/ 33rd Friday	\$500.00
Post Office Box/Bank Fees	\$300.00
Organization memberships	\$200.00
Website	\$500.00
Meeting expenses	\$400.00
GPNA Board discretionary	\$1,000.00
Specific	
WorldPay Fees	\$485.00
Neighborhood Market	\$265.00
Easter Egg Hunt	\$500.00
Flower Pots	\$200.00
Soccer	\$400.00
Garden	\$3,000.00
Tennis	<u>\$300.00</u>
Total	<u>\$9,300.00</u>

Change in net assets 1/1- 12/31/2016 \$0.00

Editor's note: If you have news of interest to the Gifford Park Neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for the monthly newsletter. Editorials are subject to approval by the GPNA Executive Board. Please include your contact information. Articles may be submitted by email to brent.lubbart@gmail.com.

## From the President

*By Marie Hélène André*

Welcome to 2016 in the Gifford Park Neighborhood!

A new year starts with a new president, new board members, and new goals, but with the same enthusiasm and dedication to make the Gifford Park Neighborhood a great place to live, work, learn and play.

As a short introduction, I am Marie Hélène André, and I have been living in the neighborhood since September of 2013. I am married and I have one stepdaughter (16 years old). I work for Metropolitan Community College as the coordinator of MCC Express, where we offer ESL and GED classes for adult learners. As soon as my husband Adrian and I moved to Gifford Park, we became members of the GPNA, as we thought it was a good way to get to know our neighbors and the community. I got involved even more in the association last year, as a board member. I was impressed at how dynamic and active the neighborhood is all year round: meetings, market, various youth programs, community garden, Omaha Community Bike Project, etc.

Looking back at 2015, I am proud to say a lot has been accomplished... but there is still room for improvement (as Luther said in the last newsletter)!

One of the main topics of conversation last year was to get an elementary school back in the neighborhood. After the OPS bond issuance, we were hopeful we would see a new school soon in our neighborhood, while keeping Yates Community center. Thanks to your support, we started discussions with OPS and with Creighton University. One of our goals for 2016 is to make the Gifford Park Neighborhood a great place to learn and therefore to get a resolution on the new school for the neighborhood, and on maintaining Yates Community Center. Keep supporting the effort in 2016! The neighborhood is a great place to live and play, especially since the opening of the Sallie Foster Adventure Playground last summer: children are invited to come and invent, create, imagine while playing and having fun... This is unique in Omaha! Even more so since the treehouse was finished at the end of the fall. If you haven't seen it yet, just stop at the community garden and walk through the magic gate...!

The GPNA also strives to preserve and protect the neighborhood. Last year, the board met with a couple of developers to share our vision of the neighborhood, and influence their decisions on new developments. This year, we want to create a basic response plan for new development in the neighborhood: we want developers to know we care for our neighborhood, and we want them to take into consideration our vision of the future of the Gifford Park Neighborhood.

Finally, we want to keep doing what we have been doing well in previous years... and that is a lot! The Easter Egg Hunt (March 26), the Spring cleanup, the community and youth gardens, the Friday Neighborhood Market, the Tennis and Soccer programs, just to name a few. I want to mention the soccer program in particular: we want to get a resolution on Turner Park North, to build a new soccer field there.

A last word about what the Gifford Park Neighborhood does really well: celebrate diversity!

When we were looking for a home, Adrian and I had a list of criteria (old house, mature trees, green neighborhood, etc.). When we moved to the Gifford Park Neighborhood, we found more than 'just' a home. We discovered a welcoming community, neighbors who care for the others, who welcome newcomers from around the world (Gifford Park is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Omaha). This diversity was celebrated during the 33rd Friday Block Party, and it was a huge success: not only did we have the usual market vendors -who always do a great job-, we also had food and dance

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## Celebrating Volunteerism with the Bike Project

*By Charles Mitchell*

At our annual Golden Spokes Volunteer Appreciation Party, volunteers, board members, and graduates of the Youth EarnABike program gathered together at Yates Community Center on January 16, 2016 to celebrate 2015's accomplishments.

### *Volunteers of the Year*

In total, 14 volunteers received awards for their marvelous volunteering at the Bike Project, almost double the awards from last year! 2015 was an amazing year and we had so many superb volunteers to thank for their efforts.

### Golden Spokes (Adult Volunteers of the Year)

As an experienced bike mechanic, Jai Gonzales brings a great attitude and a wealth of knowledge to the shop and is always enthusiastic about teaching others new skills.

Our Program Coordinator, Adam Blowers, teaches Youth EarnABike classes at the shop and refurbishes/frankensteins vintage mountain bikes, mostly. An avid cyclist and self-taught mechanic, Adam's passion for bikes and his DIY attitude make him a perfect mentor for our youth.

Jeff Lintel is a volunteer mechanic and Youth EarnABike instructor. When he isn't helping out at the shop, he is usually welding exquisite bike art for Bike Project events. And when he's not welding bike art, he's developing his skills as a frame builder. Jeff's enthusiasm for bikes doesn't end!

From building bikes and coordinating events to cooking for volunteers and mentoring neighborhood youth, Teal Gardner is always willing to help out in any way possible. Her commitment to community, youth, and cycling is inspiring.

Golden Wrench (Youth Volunteers of the Year) Musaab rides road, mountain, and BMX bikes and can wheelie and work on them all! He is always willing to help others learn more about



mechanics and his zest for cycling is contagious.

Osama's kind and patient personality makes him an excellent learner and teacher. After studying bike mechanics in Youth EarnABike, he mastered the subject by teaching others during Kids' Bike Club, EarnABike, and Open Shop.

Kevin helped his 3 younger siblings earn bikes while earning his own. He likes to clean bikes when volunteering and keeps his younger brother and sisters involved with creative projects!

Ixsayana and Briana built more bikes over the summer than any other graduates. They believe that everyone deserves a bike and worked hard to give bikes to their friends, get others involved, and make the shop a fun place to build community!

Additionally, we awarded a certificate to the Board Member of the Year, Lenli Corbett. Lenli's experience in the nonprofit world is invaluable to the Bike Project. She is always eager to take on projects and events to help grow and sustain the Bike Project. Sam Senda-Cook received a Stoker of the Year award for her dedication and leadership as Board Chair, Kids' Bike Club instructor, and keyholder. Sam is involved at all levels of the Bike Project and dedicated to the Bike Project's mission and values.

## From the President

*Continued from page 3*

performances from around the world: some of the performers live in our neighborhood and attend classes at Yates... one more reason to maintain the community center and to get to know our neighbors!

All these activities are made possible thanks to your dedication, help and support. If you haven't done so yet, get involved by becoming a member and volunteering your time and resources.

I hope you are like me... already looking forward to another great (or even greater!) year in Gifford Park Neighborhood, a neighborhood where life is (really!) good, where everyone is welcome, where people meet and talk with each other, where people get involved... in short, a greater place to live, work, learn and play!

## Groundhog Day Snow Storm in Gifford Park



*Creighton students took advantage of their snow day and stayed active with a snowball fight and building a snowman in Gifford Park.*



*Snow was of good consistency for building a snowman as our new GPNA president, Marie H el ene Andr e, did.*

## 2015 GPNA Holiday Banquet Highlights

Once again we had a great turnout with full capacity of 125 GPNA members, family, and guests who attended our 27th Annual Holiday Banquet held Thursday December 3rd at CHI Health - Creighton Medical Center in the Becic Dining Room. Many thanks to everyone who helped with sending out invitations, taking RSVP's (Eliza Perry) and setup/clean-up (Matt Cronin and Brent Lubbert) to make this another great celebration! We displayed neighborhood and GPNA memorabilia, this included history scrapbooks (created by our historian Eva Swanson), and picture books of our GPNA activities. Thanks Mike Caban for not only helping again with 'behind the scenes' banquet planning, but also working a "Neighborhood School/Save Yates" table to collect support letter signatures and answer questions. Emcee and GPNA past President Luther Larson kept the evening moving. This year's theme was "cardinals, trees, snowflakes", Dana Carlton-Flint put together our beautiful table decorations. The 2015 events & activities slideshow ran during the first half of the evening as people enjoyed the festive atmosphere and good conversation.

After our delicious meal we had a 'Year in Review' which several folks presented photos and highlighted their respective programs including: Friday Night Neighborhood Market/Block Party & Multi-Cultural event (Eliza Perry, Susan Mayberger, Martin Janousek); Community Bike Project (Shop Manager Charles Mitchell); Adventure Playground and Tree House project (Teal Gardner and youth volunteers). Charles and Teal also presented Elijah Walsh (pictured in lower right) with 'Youth Volunteer of the Year' for his tireless efforts and involvement with practically all of our neighborhood youth activities and programs – congratulations Elijah, you are "everywhere" in Gifford Park and a great role model! GPNA Vice President Eric Purcell finished the evening by presenting our "Neighbor of the Year" to Luther Larson (see 'Neighbor of the Year' article in this issue).

We again offer our sincere appreciation to CHI Health - Creighton Medical Center for their great support by hosting this event complete with a buffet of traditional holiday fare! Darryl Hutton was our

event "photographer" again. Luther Larson and Mark Trampe greeted everyone, took memberships and handled the collection of canned food donations (to the Food Bank).

Throughout the evening door prizes were given to lucky neighbors, and children received presents – all donations came from GPNA members and VIP's - Senator Sara Howard & husband Doug and her mom Gwen, Councilman Chris Jerram, OPS Board Member Marque Snow, Subby & Janice Anzaldo, Paul Mileris, Asit & Alexandra Goswami, Jackie Foster, Chris Foster, Nancy Gaarder, Mike Caban, and Bob Hutton (note: again this year Bob Hutton made hand-carved wooden ornaments for gifts). We'll see you around the neighborhood!



# 2016 RESTORE OMAHA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Saturday, March 5, 2016 | 8 to 5 p.m.

## NEW VENUE FOR 2016!

Metropolitan Community College, Fort Omaha Campus  
Institute for the Culinary Arts Building and the Mule Barn  
32nd and Sorensen Parkway | Omaha, Nebraska

Attention owners of older homes,  
neighborhood community leaders,  
developers and architects – Restore  
Omaha has something for you:



- **FRIDAY PRE-SESSION:** Learn more about Federal and State Funding Tools available to help restore historic buildings.
- **FRIDAY NIGHT:** Enjoy a guided tour of North 24th Street, followed by a reception in the historic Blue Lion building at 24th and Lake Streets.
- **KEYNOTE BY CRAFTSMAN SCOTT SIDLER:** Hear from the writer of The Craftsman Blog and owner of Austin Home Restorations in Orlando, FL.
- **CHOOSE FROM 15 BREAKOUT SESSIONS:** Topics range from maintaining old windows, infill design guidelines, and the latest on the restored Burlington Station.
- **RESTORE JAM:** Share the before-and-after photos of your own restoration project.
- And, plenty of opportunities to visit with vendors, local craftsmen and other attendees to **GATHER IDEAS, CONTACTS AND SOLUTIONS.**

For more information and to register, visit

[WWW.RESTOREOMAHA.ORG](http://WWW.RESTOREOMAHA.ORG)

Pre-register by February 25 for a chance to receive a free old-home consultation with Scott Sidler the morning of March 4.



MAJOR SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

AIA Omaha | Dundee Bank | The Architectural Offices  
Eyman Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Co.

## Strategic Planning Recap

*Continued from page 1*

First was one made by Chris Foster who said, "I'm amazed because even five years ago most of the conversation tonight would have been about crime and safety. We've made so much progress as a neighborhood." The second comment was from the Omaha Public Library facilitators. Maggie said, "What an amazing neighborhood you have here." "Yeah, I want to live here!" was the response from Marvel.

As you can tell, we made quite the impression so thank you to everyone who was there for their enthusiasm and creative ideas on behalf of Gifford Park.

## GPNA is a 501(c)3 organization

GPNA's application for 501(c)3 was approved. Donations to the GPNA are now tax deductible. Make a donation to support the GPNA and all of its activities at any of our events or by mail. P.O. Box 31462, Omaha, NE 68131-0462

## Shelterbelt Opens Comedy by Local Playwright

Shelterbelt Theatre, 3225 California Street, is pleased to announce their upcoming world premiere production of Ellen Struve's Untitled Series #7: A Comedy. The production runs January 22-February 14, 2016. Performances are Thursday/Friday/Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 6pm (except for the February 14 performance at 2pm.) (\$15 general, \$12 students/seniors/TAG). Tickets are on sale at [www.shelterbelt.org](http://www.shelterbelt.org) (click box office), or [boxoffice@shelterbelt.org](mailto:boxoffice@shelterbelt.org) or 402.341.2757. On Saturday, January 30, the theatre hosted a post-show panel discussion, "Artists and Collecting" giving insight into the world of artists and art collecting in which the play takes place, including local artists Bart Vargas and Kristin Pluhacek, and Laurel Thiel Mooney from Anderson O'Brien Gallery, lead by playwright, Struve. The theatre will be collecting bottle caps and lids for Vargas, who recycles them into his art.

## Luther Larson - 2015 GPNA Neighbor of the Year

*By Chirs Foster*

The GPNA honored Luther Larson as our 2015 'Neighbor of the Year' at the 27th annual GPNA Holiday Banquet hosted by CHI Health - Creighton Health on December 3rd. Amazingly the GPNA board somehow kept this a secret all the way up to the announcement at the banquet, even from his wife Deb!

Before highlighting Luther's GPNA accomplishments, I wanted to share some personal background about Luther and his family. He was born in Albion, NE in 1957 and grew up on the family farm seven miles east of Petersburg, NE. Luther graduated from Augustana College in 1979 with a Computer Science/Math Bachelor's Degree (this explains why he is so good at analyzing neighborhood survey data and budgets!). He worked 34 years at Mutual of Omaha in the IT Department, and just retired in July 2013. Luther met Deb in Sioux Falls, SD where she attended Sioux Valley School of Nursing, they got married in 1979. Deb worked as an RN at UNMC until their second child was born and then she stayed home to raise the family. She homeschooled their youngest two children through high school. Luther & Deb have two sons, three daughters, and eleven grandchildren!

Luther's neighborhood involvement is equally impressive since moving into Gifford Park in summer 2006 at 3565 California St. (southeast corner of 36th & California). In 2008 he joined the GPNA board as an At Large Board Member. Luther then served as President and handled membership duties from 2011-2012. Being a numbers guy he then was treasurer in 2014. In 2015 Luther graciously accepted President duties again at the urging of the GPNA board, and has now settled back into At Large board member again...where he started!

Besides Luther's continuous leadership roles, his 'boots-on-the-ground' volunteer efforts include spring cleanups, Easter egg hunts, community garden, park cleanups, block

parties, neighborhood survey, grants, and other activities. Speaking of grants, he was heavily involved with acquiring & installing new park benches, the bicycle rack/sculpture (northeast corner of Gifford Park), doggie-doo dispensers, and other neighborhood enhancements. As President, Luther was responsible for setting agendas, hosting board meetings, neighborhood development initiatives, and overall being accountable to the GPNA – it takes leadership and a big commitment to take on being President.

Luther & Deb have been involved with the Restore Omaha Conference and love fixing up older homes, and they are great at it. They have fixed up three old homes in Gifford Park and another in Joslyn Castle neighborhood (where they live now)...and presently working on another old fixer-upper. Luther (& Deb) has always been very supportive of so many of our GPNA programs and activities (and very supportive to me) – he is a true "team player", always willing to help, and cares very much for our neighborhood. Congratulations Luther for being our 'Neighbor of the Year'!



## Welcome Gifford Park's Newest Residents

David Frederick Wilwerding made his appearance into our neighborhood eight weeks before his expected due date on December 22nd, 2015, spending four weeks at the hospital before coming home to his parents, Eric and Liel. He weighed four pounds and is named after his grandfathers, David Wilwerding (deceased) and Frederick Van Dyke.



## New CSA Option Available in Gifford Park

By Tyler Magnuson

We are excited to bring a new CSA option to Gifford Park this coming growing season. The Loess Hills Collaborative CSA is made up of two local vegetable farms (Botna Burrow & Old Tree Farm) in Southwest Iowa that have connections to the neighborhood. Our CSA runs from June until September and will be available for members to pickup at Omaha Whole Living (521 N 33rd St.) on Monday evenings.

Farmers Tyler, Cait & Mike all lived in the Gifford Park neighborhood in the past decade. Cait & Tyler were involved with the community garden & founding the Community Bike Shop, and later went on to be a part of starting Big Muddy Urban Farm. Mike lived on Webster last year and always enjoyed the neighborhood chickens on the corner of 33rd! Gifford Park has always held a special place in our hearts because of its supportive community atmosphere, thriving neighborhood projects, and focus on building relationships within the neighborhood. It has also become a hub for environmentally-focused activity through permaculture, urban agriculture, and community gardening. Omaha Whole Living's opening continues the trajectory of projects and start-ups geared toward healthy people and ultimately healthy neighborhoods.

We are all excited to be back in the Gifford Park neighborhood and partnering with Kate at Omaha Whole Living to provide a space for our pick-up. We would love to have you along with us for a season of fresh, locally-grown produce. If you want to learn more about our farms or become a CSA member please email us [info@loesshillscsa.com](mailto:info@loesshillscsa.com) and/or visit [www.loesshillscsa.com](http://www.loesshillscsa.com).

## Valentine's Gifts of Love

By Kate Bodmann

One of the most fun aspects of my job as an herbalist is sharing the simple ways to nourish your mind, body, and spirit with herbs. Herbalism is steeped in a rich tradition that many relate to as their Grandma's medicine. Grandma's kitchen medicine was full of love.

If you would like to nourish yourself or someone you know with a little love this Valentine's here is a simple recipe to try for fun. Bath salts with a bit of added aromatherapy is a great gift for yourself or for someone you love. They are simple to make. Take  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of Epsom salt and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of course sea salt or Himalayan salt for a bit of color. Add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of baking soda if you tend towards itchy skin. Add 10 drops of a skin friendly essential oil like orange or lavender. Add a bit of dried flower petals for a pop of color and then mix, label, and package it with ribbons and instructions for use. "Fill the bath with hot water."

This easy recipe is safe for nearly anyone and not only are you giving them a physical gift you are also giving the gift of encouraging them to slow down and take care of themselves. If you don't have time to make some of your own for friends and family stop by Omaha Whole Living and pick up a couple. This recipe is by Kate Bodmann, Clinical Herbalist and Aromatherapist of Land of Milk and Honey Herbs. Bringing Nature's Gift of Health to You!



Get fresh and local vegetables, herbs and fruit every week of the summer from the Loess

Hills Collaborative CSA! We've partnered with Omaha Whole Living to provide a convenient pickup location in the Gifford Park neighborhood so your weekly bag of healthy food is only a short walk away.

For more details on how to join please visit our website

[loesshillscsa.com](http://loesshillscsa.com)

or pick up a flyer at Omaha Whole Living (521 N. 33<sup>rd</sup> St). Spring is coming!



## California Bar History

*By Darryl Hutton*

The California Bar has been operating in the same location in Gifford Park on 33rd Street (510 N. 33rd St.) since July 1st 1937. It is one of the oldest bars in Omaha (the records are unclear but we believe it is the 3rd oldest bar in continual operation in the same location in Omaha).

The owner, Lilly Estes, is the 3rd owner and second family to own the bar. Founded by Joe Hill and his brother Tony and later Joe's wife June, the "Cali Bar" as locals call it has always been a great social networking site. The customers as is the neighborhood are a great melting pot of all types. Ninety plus percent of the customers are regulars. Everyone from the Creighton crowd to the "Hipsters" to Doctors and Lawyers and the working class intermingle like no other place in Omaha.

While years ago the drink options were sparse, the bar has evolved into a place where you can get some of the best craft beers and cocktails you can imagine for a "neighborhood bar". The bar received a tip of the hat from The Reader's Choice Best of the Big O for best Karaoke Bar as well as best Billiards Bar for 2015. Credit / Debit cards are welcomed.

Package beer & alcohol are available until 1 AM every night. (Factoid – The Cali Bar has never closed for one single day since it's inception and regardless of weather conditions it is ALWAYS open until 2 AM EVERY night.

There are nightly specials starting at 7 PM every night. Additional specials available if you friend the bar on Facebook at "Calibar Omaha" Happy Hour is Monday through Friday from 4 – 6 PM and entitles you to 25% off all shots, mixed drinks and bottled beers. Also there is free pool during Happy Hour. There is free Wi-Fi, Keno, a sheltered beer garden, pool, a video game machine, electronic darts, jukebox, large screen TVs, an ATM and some of the best craft beers and personal service you can find in Omaha. You are encouraged to "keep it local" and become a part of the family at this local hidden gem in the heart of Gifford Park.

## Yates Community Center: A Place for Activity and Meetings

The Yates Building located at 3260 Davenport provides early childhood programming for students and parent involvement programming for migrant and refugee parents. In addition to this programming, Yates is also available to the Gifford Park Neighborhood to use for meetings and other activities. There is a gym and 8 classrooms available. The school has hosted a Financial Literacy Class sponsored by Creighton, community meetings and Citizenship classes on Saturday. If anyone in the Gifford Park Neighborhood is interested in using the space for programming, Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, sporting events, meetings, etc., they can contact Susan Mayberger, Building Administrator, at 402-557-2431 or [susan.mayberger@ops.org](mailto:susan.mayberger@ops.org) to request a building permit. The building is open weekdays until 8:00 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for activities.

*The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association wishes you a*

♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥

## New Additions at Omaha Whole Living

Omaha Whole Living has been building momentum in the Gifford Park business district. We have been hosting a variety of private and public events and classes. In addition to my clinical herbal consultation practice, Land of Milk and Honey Herbs, we are also pleased to have Meg Davies, who is a Joslyn Castle neighbor, offering life coach consultations and seminars through her business Demanding Joy.

Just a quick reminder that Omaha Whole Living is available to rent for small gatherings, classes and events. We are also looking for holistic health practitioners who would like to offer their services in our community. Check out [www.omahawholeliving.com](http://www.omahawholeliving.com) to keep up on all the events and offerings.

## Letter to GPNA from Creighton and OPS

*Letter dated December 23rd, 2015 by the Creighton University President and Omaha Public Schools Superintendent*

Dear Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Members,

The Omaha Public Schools (OPS) and Creighton University are continuing to evaluate the use of property currently owned by Creighton University near the area of 32nd and Webster St. for a proposed new Yates elementary school. Discussions are occurring with officials from both OPS and Creighton, and planning tasks are being identified to advance the feasibility of the concept further. OPS and Creighton University have agreed to coordinate efforts to ensure any related timelines established by OPS are achieved for the design and construction of the new elementary school.

Both Creighton University and the Omaha Public Schools are fully engaged in discussions related to the above referenced site to serve the Gifford Park neighborhood community. OPS officials will lead in this effort with Creighton University providing input and information as needed to consider property options that will meet the physical specifications required in an elementary educational campus setting.

Please be assured that any announcement about a selected location for the elementary school will be communicated publicly by the Omaha Public Schools.

Kind regards,

Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J. - President, Creighton University

Mark A. Evans - Superintendent, Omaha Public Schools

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## Big Garden Seed Share

Join us for our 2nd Annual Seed Share -- this year at Omaha Whole Living (521 N 33rd St) on Febuary 20th, from 10am to 2 pm. Free seeds for all! Take what you need. Please bring your labelled garden seeds to share if you are able, but it is not required. Please do not bring seeds older than 2013. We will have seed packets for you to select seeds, as well as folks available to assist you.

In addition to the seed share tables we will have on-going activities (FREE) for individuals & families!

- Demonstration on Starting Seeds Indoors
- Discussion on planning your garden for Seed Saving
- Organic Gardening Resources (Seed Starting, Planting Tips, Seed Saving, etc.)
- Arts & Crafts for Kids
- Healthy Snacks

Questions? Contact Cait Caughey — [ccaughey@bigmuddyumc.org](mailto:ccaughey@bigmuddyumc.org)

### UPCOMING EVENT

**The Love Bazaar - featuring local makers and their wares**  
**Sat, Feb. 6 :: 10am-4pm**  
**Sun, Feb. 7 :: 12pm-4pm**  
**at Omaha Whole Living**  
**(521 N 33<sup>rd</sup> St)**

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

[creightonprintcenter@xerox.com](mailto:creightonprintcenter@xerox.com)  
 tel 402.280.2515  
 fax 402.280.2370

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





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.