



Gifford Park's Pride

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

Jan/Feb 2017

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday February 9

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Yates Community Center

3260 Davenport Street

Presentation: Update on New Elementary School

Please join GPNA's first general meeting of 2017 - Architects and OPS administrators working on the 32nd & Burt St School will give an overview of where they are at in the design phase and take questions and input from the community. Snacks provided, everyone including children welcome.

Building the soul into the New School

By Adrian S. Petrescu

It all changes and it all stays the same

When I started to write these words the President of the United States has been President for about eight years and had just a few days left in office. When you will read these words that person would have stepped with his legacy into history books and will no longer be the President. The Office of the President will however stay the same, if generally changing towards more power in times of war, and back under more control by Congress as the latter holds such increase in power in check. We will always respect the Office of the President, no matter who is occupying it. This, however, is not at all intended as either a lesson in checks and balances, nor as an ideological rant.

When the President took office there was a big hill in our neighborhood. It was left behind there when

the US 75 interchange at 30th St was completed. Eight years later when the President leaves office the big hill is still there. Maybe it got reduced in height under the winds by some 0.001 of an inch. Other than that, all is the same. That, dear friends, is the "power" of the Presidency of the United States to us, Gifford Park residents. Or, rather, to our children, who would much rather see a park there where they could play and enjoy sports. Where they could breathe and could take a short break from all the homework the public school or parents or both are giving them.

It turns out the Nebraska Department of Roads is responsible for improving the roads, no matter who pays, so it may be them who left the dirt hill behind when the US 75 30th St at Cuming to Dodge interchange project was completed.

When the President took office Gifford Park had no elementary school of its own. Now as the President left office and the 45th President of the United States took office since, we still don't have

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

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Eric Purcell, Vice President

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Eliza Perry, Secretary

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Board**Tyler Magnuson, At-Large**

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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

Adams Blowers

adam@communitybikeproject.org

Community Garden/Youth Garden

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Adventure Playground

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

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

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association**Budget 2017****Proposed to the membership**

	Bank Accts	Allocation
Cash balances		
General funds on hand (12/31/16)		\$12,294.27
Checking	\$24,904.12	
Certificate of Deposit 1	\$2,740.74	
Certificate of Deposit 2	\$2,511.41	
Specified funds on hand (12/31/16)		
Garden	\$3,002.51	\$1,946.31
Sherwood Big Muddy		14,400.00
Tennis		2,000.00
Adventure Playground		\$1,056.20
Neighborhood Market MNA		\$462.00
Gifford Park Roof Repair		\$1,000.00
Bank account balance as of 12/31/16	\$33,158.78	\$32,158.78

2017 Budget Proposal

Income		
Unspecified		
Memberships	\$2,000.00	
Donations	\$4,800.00	
Misc. Other	\$30.00	
News Letter Ads	\$500.00	
Specified		
Neighborhood Market	\$1,000.00	
Donations		
Easter Egg Hunt	\$500.00	
Flower Pots	\$100.00	
Tennis	\$0.00	
Garden	\$500.00	
Garden plot fees	\$420.00	
Total	\$9,850.00	
Expenses		
General		
Banquet	\$2,000.00	
Newsletter	\$750.00	
Cultural Event/33rd Friday	\$500.00	
Post Office Box/Bank Fees	\$200.00	
Organization memberships	\$200.00	
Website	\$500.00	
Meeting expenses	\$400.00	
GPNA Board discretionary	\$1,000.00	
Specific		
WorldPay Fees	\$650.00	
Neighborhood Market	\$350.00	
Neighborhood Market Passthru		
Easter Egg Hunt	\$500.00	
Flower Pots	\$100.00	
Soccer (GPNA Operating)	\$400.00	
Garden	\$2,000.00	
Tennis	\$300.00	
Total	\$9,850.00	
Gain/Loss	\$0.00	

prepared by Alex Goswami

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 gnewseditor@gmail.com.

From the President...

Welcome to 2017!

Another year started, bringing changes... some will influence our country and the world, and others will take place in our neighborhood. I will not be too long, as this newsletter will tell you more about what is happening in Gifford Park Neighborhood... and there is a lot!

As is the custom at the beginning of a new year, the Board met to define the goals for the association. Before telling you more about these goals, I want to welcome our new members: Brent Lubbert, Tyler Magnuson, Scott Larsen and Curtis Flint. I am sure they have great ideas for Gifford Park Neighborhood!

Following the decision to have a new elementary school in the neighborhood last year, we will continue to engage deeply in its development. A special 'Ed. Spec.' committee was created at the end of 2016, and they have already met with OPS. Learn more about this partnership in the next pages.

While we get more involved in the building and specifications of the new school, we also want to make sure Yates remains a community center, a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

In an effort to preserve and protect the neighborhood, GPNA met with a few developers last year to share our vision of the future of our neighborhood. As other changes may come up in the future, we will create a basic response plan for new developments. It seems important for us to state what our vision of the future is, and let potential developers know about it. Moreover, because we care about the environment, we will start the process to be recognized as a neighborhood arboretum by the State of Nebraska. We will also keep the discussion going about Turner Park North, and the possibility to have a soccer field there.

Finally, we will keep offering activities and events that make our neighborhood so vibrant. If you have ideas, if you want to get involved, let us know! Gifford Park Neighborhood is what it is thanks to your dedication and support! See you soon in the neighborhood!

Marie H el ene



2017 RESTORE OMAHA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Saturday, March 4, 2017 | 8 to 5 p.m.

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

The historic Hotel Deco in downtown Omaha will offer rooms for \$129 for Restore Omaha attendees. To reserve contact Laurie Czyz Group at 402-991-4981 or lczyz@hoteldecoomaha.com.





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

- **FRIDAY NIGHT:** Attend *Saving Places: A Preservation Celebration*, a night honoring preservation achievements in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro. The event features drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a fast moving video awards ceremony along with desserts and coffee all inside the restored Art Deco Paxton building at 14th and Farnam Streets.
- **KEYNOTE BY THE NATIONAL TRUST'S TOM MAYES:** *Why Do Old Places Matter?* Mayes will share 14 reasons and give you the tools to advocate for saving older places in your community.
- **CHOOSE FROM 18 BREAKOUT SESSIONS:** Topics range from maintaining old windows, historic tile and the current restoration of M's Pub. CEUs offered for architects and realtors.
- **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

MAJOR SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:
Dicon and Lund-Ross
AIA Omaha and Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture AO*, Hotel Deco, Field Day Development, Morrissey Engineering, PEN Architect, Oldenhuis Contracting, R. Mechanical and Renaissance Roofing

Spend the day gathering ideas, solutions and inspiration to restore and preserve older properties.







Building the soul into the New School

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a neighborhood school yet, but we voters in Omaha Public School District voted in favor of a bond about two years ago and we will have a school at 32nd and Burt Streets relatively soon. That, dear friends, is the power of local rule, which is a feature by design of the government system in the United States. As it turns out the name Nebraska is embedded in the US Constitution on the right of parents to teach their children things they want to teach their children, in the famed Meyer v. Nebraska (1923) Supreme Court case.

Let's move the dirt hill—child labor, or play and local initiative taught early?

In December, I was talking to two boys of school age who were at our table during the GPNA Christmas celebration dinner. It was a very deep, responsible, and quite pleasant conversation. We discussed almost everything from what is best in schooling—homeschooling or the public schools—to matchbox toys and how to best play with them, to ultimately what should we all do about this hill. See? The boys would like to play soccer in that park if it was a park. Thus, if the hill was flat it could be a park. They can't do that on the hill though. Whoever saw a hilly soccer field? We never touched on either President, old or new. Thus we never truly touched on how the President failed our neighborhood about this hill of his. Or, is it of the Nebraska Department of Roads? Who knows? Why should it matter at all? I remember when I was the boys age and my Dad and I used to fix things together around the house. We were so proud of “finishing” the job and we would call Mom and show her. Then my Dad and I would go about our business doing something else. Mom would always say: “The job's not finished until you put all your tools away. You're not like a plumber for hire. You both live here!” I guess our government is like a plumber for hire, in my Mom's words. Neither the President, old or new, nor the Nebraska Governor, old or new, has children in our neighborhood. We do.

The two boys at our table, Eric Purcell, Brent Lubbert, Marie H el ene Andr e, and I came up with a plan. We'll start moving the hill, one small shovel times many children at a time, and then we'll make the initiative go viral. As soon as Spring will break in, the Soccer Club will meet at the hill with shovels and wheelbarrows, and the children will start moving the dirt, while Brent will film. We'll youtube the entire thing and then we all will help the short clip go viral. Once it's viral, the question on inducing child labor will be on everyone's lips nationwide. Or will it be? Either way, this way we hope that either Governor or new President or both will come and move, or simply will cause to be moved, their hill. So our children can play sports in the flattened park.

It's always a culture thing

I can't wait for spring to come. Over my lifetime I've seen many great initiatives that took on from Nebraska and took over the world. The first one that I can remember as a child was of course Boys Town. I learned about it from Mickey Rooney and Spencer Tracy, from their 1938 movie, many years ago and thousands of miles away growing up behind the Iron Curtain. Culture, home rule, resilience, responsibility and initiative passed through that Iron Curtain though, in spite of all the barriers set in front of it. When we came to Nebraska we couldn't wait to feel the vibes of such intense and historic culture at Boys Town and to showcase them to everyone, from my daughter to our nieces and nephew. It would take another few years but over time I learned about many other of all the great things that come from Nebraska and have already conquered or simply will conquer the world. After all, conductive plastics (officially known as intrinsically conductive polymers) may be said to have “grown” as an idea from culture nurtured around here at Yates neighborhood school. We recall of course that in 1977 Alan J. Heeger, Alan MacDiarmid and Hideki Shirakawa reported high conductivity in oxidized iodine-doped polyacetylene. For this research, they were awarded the 2000 Nobel Prize

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Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Vendor Meeting is Set

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Market (GPNM) team is back at it! We've set the dates for our first vendor meeting of the 2017 season:

Sunday, February 26th
at Omaha Whole Living, 521 N 33rd St
2-3pm

Learn how to become a vendor, submit your application, reserve your table (deadline to 2/26), and best of all, come together again! We want to hear all your feedback and ideas for your favorite summertime market. New to the market? We can't wait to meet you!

GPNM is a 100% volunteer-run weekly, free, outdoor event for local makers, growers, neighbors and friends to sell and buy their handmade, homegrown products in Gifford Park.

Gifford Park



Neighborhood Market



Community Garden/Youth Garden/Adventure Playground Update

This is the time of year folks start thinking about gardening. Soon we will start to plan for community garden projects and the youth garden program, as well as Adventure Playground. Stay tuned for more updates in our March newsletter as spring approaches. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming involved with the community garden, youth garden program or Adventure Playground, contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net), or Mike Caban (402-341-4722 or caban3321@cox.net).

Bike Shop Update

By Adam Blowers

The 20"/16mm Build-a-Thon was a huge success! We refurbished 102 bikes for a total of 2,610 lbs! The individual winner was Jacob Stacy who refurbished 218 lbs of bicycles (9 bikes). The team winner was Team Lintel who refurbished 628 lbs of bicycles (23 bikes)! Lastly, the winner of the bike shop category was Ponderosa Cyclery and Tour. Ponderosa refurbished 183 lbs of bicycles (6 bikes). The bikes from the Build-a-Thon were donated to CASA for Douglas County, Heart Ministry Center, and the Open Door Mission. For the year of 2016 the shop was able to put 512 bikes out into the community. 81 of these were earned during Youth Earn-a-Bike, 27 during Kids Bike Club, and 48 were from Adult Earn-a-Bike. In 2017 we hope to continue our growth and put over 600 bikes into the community!

Golden Spokes, our volunteer appreciation party and awards show is coming up soon. We are just awaiting the painting of the gymnasium at Yates to be completed and we will host the event. Be on the lookout for that announcement and join us for an evening of fun games, food, and showing love to those who make the shop what it is.

As always, we are looking for great volunteers to get involved. Stop by the shop or email me at adam@communitybikeproject.org to get involved.

Building the soul into the New School

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in Chemistry “for the discovery and development of conductive polymers.” In 1950 Alan J. Heeger went to school at Yates Elementary, or at the then neighborhood school. (http://www.giffordparkomaha.org/History_Yates_Elementary.html)

Let's keep this culture alive and let's amplify it even more. Whether it is about moving the hill to make a park, being and staying the greenest place in Omaha, helping a child to become the next worldwide renowned soccer player, influencing motivation of youth globally, or becoming the discoverer of something that will make the entire metal-for-conductivity industry shrink in the next world run in part by artificial intelligence, or who knows yet what it'll be. It always starts with a culture of trust in youth that amplifies in our children the power to self-

We are Building a New School—Who is we?

I had come to the Education Specification Committee (EdSpec) meeting with Omaha Public Schools with some fear. I didn't know what to expect. From the preparatory emails I already felt overwhelmed. There was so much going on. There were so many names in the To: field. I didn't know over four fifths of the people behind those names. The original proposed time was odd and I simply couldn't make it at that time. Someone else from the Neighborhood thankfully brought it up and I then jumped in and I also kindly asked for a reschedule. Chris Foster also asked. The reschedule happened and I could go. I was going to be late coming from class but I could go. A good start. Overwhelmed and all, but a good start in the end.

I was late at the Education Specification Committee meeting, as I knew I had to be late. Mark Summer, Jacob's Project Manager, had introduced everyone on OPS's side, and the neighborhood colleagues had introduced themselves too, and now they were starting the presentations. I had sat next to Shane Strong, President of Bemis Park Neighborhood Association and a friend from Law School and “fresh” father. I got some reassurances sitting next to Shane. I looked around. Chris Foster was there. Martin Janousek was there. Eric Purcell was there. I knew they were going to be. I got more reassurances. “We seem to be about half the room. They seem to be about half the room. OK. They're building a school. We're building a school? Who is they? Who is we? Let's see how this goes.” was going through my mind.

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1950 Yates Elementary 8th Grade Class
Photo Submitted by Al Akerson, Pasco, Washington (August 2006)

trust and thus readies them for success beyond belief. Which will move mountains. Or hills. Even literally, we hope, come March 2017 in Gifford Park Neighborhood.

2016 GPNA Holiday Banquet Highlights

By Chris Foster

We had a great turnout with full capacity of 125 GPNA members, family, and guests who attended our 28th Annual Holiday Banquet held Thursday December 1st 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 (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 your help with 'behind the scenes' banquet planning.

Emcee and GPNA President Marie Hélène André kept the evening moving. This year's theme was "Peace on Earth", Dana Carlton-Flint put together our beautiful table decorations of big bows and the word "peace" translated into a different language for each table.

The 2016 events & activities slideshow ran during the first half of the evening as people enjoyed the festive atmosphere and good conversation. Sadly, this is the last GPNA holiday banquet to be held in the Becic Dining Room, we cannot thank enough CHI Health - Creighton Medical Center for the past 28 years of hosting this special event. Photos were shown of past banquets. Creighton's Dan Burkey and John Wilhelm, who have attended many banquets, had very nice words to say about GPNA and our longtime partnership past, present and future.

After dinner, we gave updates on plans for our new neighborhood elementary school, Big Muddy Urban Farm, the Neighborhood Market, our new "Welcome" yard signs, and the upcoming Neighborhood's USA Conference coming to Omaha in May. Then the GPNA recognized a couple very special volunteers. First Adrian Petrescu recognized 14 year-old Curtis Flint for his outstanding 'Youth Volunteer of the Year' efforts, including leading last year's Monarch Butterfly Habitat project. Chris Foster finished by presenting our 'Neighbor of the Year' to Jim Kyler (see 'Neighbor of the Year' article in this issue beginning on page 8).

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. Alex Goswami and Eliza Perry 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, Subby & Janice Anzaldo, Paul Mileris, 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!



Building the soul into the New School

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Function defines Form. Strategy defines Tactics

We heard about the boundaries, setting goals, and objectives and who would be the children going to the 32nd and Burt Street Elementary School.

We heard about the principles taken into account when deciding on spaces. Urban school. Liberty school is an urban school. We could go visit. There will be a tour. Function dictates form, and flexible use spaces make good use of the capital available. It makes sense that the gym could be the cafeteria and it then doubles as a hands-on learning space when not used as a gym or a cafeteria. Flexibility in space design saves money and it could make spaces more appealing too. It makes sense that the library is not just a storage space for books, but rather a hands-on space filled with the latest technology. "The computer labs in my school are always full and we students rarely find a spot to write on our essays or finish our Powerpoint presentations for homework." It was a student. Nice of her to make that point. Nice of OPS to invite her.

Yes, it was a building. Yes, all of these people have done this before. They knew what they were doing. But did they? I'm thinking: "Computers? Powerpoints? Writing essays? This school was going to be here one hundred years from now..." The words kept coming, and I was listening to them but some would pass me by still. "Your homework is to write back to us what would you like to see in a school..." Ah, it's getting serious.

They moved on to the content of the capital project. The bond includes the basic infrastructure. That includes from walls and windows and doors to teachers' desks to network broadband connections. "Ah, the playground is included too. That's reassuring. I've seen places where it took years before they managed to raise more money to make a playground."

Mark Summer spoke the magic words. "In 80 years when they will look we want them to say 'Wow, those people knew what they were doing back then. How did they know to make something that lasted and we can use it well to this day?'" I thought: "that's the spirit! Thank you, Mark!" I was starting to get some relief from my fears. Indeed, everyone here knows what they were doing. The right attitude is in place. But, our homework for next time aside, did they really need us? Do they really care? And then it came...

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Jim Kyler - GPNA Neighbor of the Year

by Chris Foster

The GPNA honored Jim Kyler as our 2016 'Neighbor of the Year' at the 28th annual GPNA Holiday Banquet hosted by CHI Health - Creighton Health on December 1st. With the help of Jim's family and friends, the GPNA kept this a secret from him all the way up to the announcement at the banquet!

Before highlighting Jim's Gifford Park neighborhood accomplishments, I wanted to share some personal

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Jim Kyler - GPNA Neighbor of the Year

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background about him and his family. Jim and his wife Jean first dated in 1976 when Jim was living “in” Gifford Park on North 34th Street. They bought their current home at 135 North 32nd Ave in 1986 when the next-door neighbor told them about the house - Jean thought it was a “scary neighborhood” but they still put in a bid that night and got the house. I don’t think you can find a more beautiful, well-maintained home in Gifford Park. Jean has worked as a nurse at UNMC for the past 28 years. Their daughters Hillary, Shannon and Sara all attended Yates Elementary until it closed in 1999.

Jim worked for the City of Carter Lake as Director of Maintenance of streets, sewers, and most other things that break. Then he worked for Carmody Plumbing, Channel Construction, and Ronco Construction. He also worked at the California Bar as a bartender years ago, where he got to know many Gifford Park residents. He is known for being very “MacGyver-like”, very resourceful, and finds solutions. Jim & Jean frequently walk their rescue dogs around Gifford Park and Bemis Park. Back in the early 1990’s, the Kyler’s had chickens, 3 ducks, 1 goose, and 1 rooster – who knew Jim and his family were “planting the seeds” for chickens and urban farming to come to Gifford Park!

Jim has been helping with RAGBRAI (the annual bicycle ride across Iowa) since the late 1980’s, and bought the “Team Pump” bus in 1994. In the early 2000’s he organized a bus and bike trip with kids and adults to the Wabash Trace Trail in Council Bluffs. You have probably seen Jim driving his Studebaker on countless hauling trips at neighborhood cleanups (spring and fall). He delivers more monthly newsletters and event fliers (about 150) door-to-door than anyone – he sometimes recruits his family to help! Jim is the “perfect” person to deliver because he is personable, not afraid to engage neighbors, and a great Gifford Park ambassador. He has a way of convincing people to do the right thing. Case in point, a few years ago, he addressed an issue involving a rowdy fraternity house across from Yates. Jim took the frat boys for a ride and talk

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“Neighbor of the Year” past recipients

- 1991 – St. Joseph’s Hospital
- 1992 – Loren Johnson (J’N’J Grocery owner)
- 1993 – Chuck Kilgore (GPNA founding members)
- 1994 – Subby Anzaldo (City Councilman)
- 1995 – Jack Bowman (St. Joseph’s Hospital Senior Vice President)
- 1996 – Chris Foster (**Ron & Cynde Yates special recognition)
- 1997 – Mike Paul (Omaha Police Officer)
- 1998 – Creighton University
- 1999 – Harry Dirgo
- 2000 – Eva Swanson
- 2001 – Bob Hutton
- 2002 – Sue Wilwerding
- 2003 - Roger Freeman
- 2004 – Betty Slayden
- 2005 – Ron & Vicki Frey
- 2006 – Jan Franks
- 2007 – Mike Caban
- 2008 – Cynthia Shuck
- 2009 – Darryl Hutton
- 2010 – Dana Carlton-Flint
- 2011 – Martin Janousek
- 2012 – Steve & Rose Carlson family
- 2013 – Wendell & Alyssa Stanley family
- 2014 – Jill Westfall
- 2015 – Luther Larson
- 2016 – Jim Kyler



Preservation Celebration Weekend

Restoration Exchange Omaha (REO) celebrates preservation the weekend March 3 and 4, 2017.

Friday night, REO will host *Saving Places: A Preservation Celebration*, a night to honor preservation achievements in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro. The event starting at 6 p.m. features drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a fast moving video awards ceremony along with desserts and coffee all inside the restored Art Deco Paxton building at 14th and Farnam Streets.

Saturday REO will hold the 12th annual Restore Omaha Conference on the Fort Omaha campus of Metropolitan Community College. Tom Mayes, vice president and senior counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is the keynote speaker. In 2013, Mayes received the National Endowment for the Arts Rome Prize in Historic Preservation. Following a six-month sabbatical in the Italian capital, he wrote a series of essays titled *Why Old Places Matter*. Mayes looked at the question from a variety of perspectives—14 to be exact—and he will share those at the Restore Omaha Conference.

Mayes also will present a breakout session detailing the advantages of preservation easements, a preservation strategy that offers higher protection than local landmark status. Though not currently in practice locally, preservation easements are being used successfully in other states. Sheila Ireland, an architect with Leo A Daly, will reprise her “TEDx Omaha” talk from last October to open the conference. In “The City is a Library,” Ireland explains how buildings tell the story of a city. But unlike books, they can never be reproduced.

The conference will feature local craftsmen demonstrating construction skills such as plastering, woodworking and paint removal along with 18 breakout sessions ranging from historic tile to the restoration of M's Pub. It will end with the popular Restore Jam! where people will have five minutes to highlight a restoration project they completed.

One attendee shared why he comes to the event - “I love old houses, old neighborhoods, old buildings. Want to see more saved and restored. So many reason's this (Restore Omaha) makes sense. Need to be with like-minded folks to learn, get inspired, share what we have learned.”

All those attending the Friday night celebration will receive a complimentary admission to the Restore Omaha Conference or you can choose to attend just on Saturday. Architects and realtors attending can receive continuing education credits.

For more information and to register visit www.restoreomaha.org
Major support for the event is provided by Dicon, Lund-Ross, AIA Omaha and Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture.



Big Muddy Urban Farm Residency Begins

by Brent Lubbert

Big Muddy Urban Farm is growing this year, and more than just healthy fruits and vegetables. The organization has gone through the necessary changes so your neighborhood urban farm can be experienced by many more people interested in farming and growing food. We developed the Aspiring Farmer Residency program over the course of this past year. The Aspiring Farmer Residency is a year-long program that supports farmers with a place to stay while they learn to develop and execute a market farm business plan by growing on 7 plots within Gifford Park. We received 16 applications from an open call period in the summer and we are excited to announce the six fellows of 2017! Residents are really eager to get outside and plant as well as get to know their neighbors in Gifford Park.



From Left to Right: Brent Lubbert, Executive Director; and Residents: Kia Beason, Tyrome Williams, Taylor Jespersen, Cadence Hernandez, Emily Hefeli, Terry Salem

Kia Beason // Lincoln, NE - Kia has been working at Lincoln's food coop, Open Harvest, for many years and has learned much from the distribution side of local food. She is looking forward to understanding the producer side of local food systems and has a strong interest in apothecary and herbalism.

Tyrome Williams // Omaha, NE - Tyrome works with the afterschool program Building Dreams. He will be exploring aquaponics systems and how they relate to direct sow methods of cultivating food during his residency.

Taylor Jespersen // Hemingford, NE - Taylor recently returned to Nebraska after studying sustainable agriculture in an eight-month training course at the University of Vermont. He is excited about learning the business creation process for future endeavours in starting a farm.

Cadence Hernandez // Omaha, NE - Cadence is currently studying horticulture at Metropolitan Community College. She wants to learn what it takes to physically, mentally, and financially to grow food and is also looking to do bee keeping on the farm.

Emily Hefeli // Omaha, NE - Emily will be taking courses at UNO in spanish language and gender studies while in residence. She is intersted in the role food has in building and supporting community.

Terry Salem // Omaha, NE - Terry is very passionate about growing food and how it relates to living a healthier, happier life. He wants to gain as much knowldege of growing food so he can share what he knows with many young men and women in our community.

Get to Know Board Members

Eliza Perry is beginning her second year on the board. She loves every piece of neighborhood history she learns and each new resident of Gifford Park she meets - the stories and individuals tucked among our beautiful old homes make us the very richest neighborhood. Eliza grew up in Maine before she moved to Nebraska 3.5 years ago. She and her partner Matt live next to their mentor and coincidental landlord, Chris, and love hosting everyone and any event at their home - stop by sometime! She helps manage the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market and works for The Nature Conservancy, advocating for and raising funds toward our mission to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends.



Scott Larsen is the Director of Community Outreach and Inclusion for the Refugee Empowerment Center and after living one street away from Gifford Park for a couple years is now a proud new resident of the neighborhood! He looks forward to continuing the work of ensuring that Gifford Park is a welcoming neighborhood for all.






FEATURING:
Eli Ami • Erin Stoll • Jenna Briggs
Kathy Longe • Jill Walmer • Sue Mouttet

The Motherhood Almanac

by Noah Diaz
directed by Moira Mangiameli

January 27-February 19, 2017

Thursday/Friday/Saturday at 8pm Sunday at 6pm (Feb. 19 at 2pm)
•Sat., Jan. 28 - post-show talkback with the playwright

A series of women, scattered across time and space, search for understanding of what it means to mother: one writes a letter to her unborn daughter on Burger King napkins, one delivers a speech about knowing when mothering stops, one toasts her daughter's new bride, and so on. This is a fiercely passionate tapestry about the life inside of each us, as told by women and the women who raised them.

RESERVATIONS:
www.shelterbelt.org • boxoffice@shelterbelt.org • 402.341.2757



Omaha's Home for New Plays

Building the soul into the New School

continued from page 8

What defines us? Who are we?

It was one word. Only one word in a sea of many words.

"I am trying to learn who you are as a neighborhood. I looked at your website." It was the architect, Eileen. "She is committed. I like her." was going through my mind. She went on. "We want the school to represent who you are, who the children who go to the school are." She had just struck a sensitive chord. "That sounds very nice. No wonder... wait, the other speaker drove around. She checked the website thoroughly..." Then it came. "Diversity. That's the one word that defines you." She was saying it with such deep love, care and appreciation. It was soothing and reassuring. I felt home. "We want that diversity to be reflected in the design of the school. We want the children to feel at home and to be attracted to come to school because of the school represents them. At one project we put on the walls of the railings of the stairs quotes from people in the neighborhood over time written in the glass of those walls. This again is your homework to teach us how will we reflect who you are in the design." By now my mind was dreaming at walking into the built already school and simply loving it. I guess we all are actually building a school. We are the school and the school is and will be us.

We, the Neighborhoods, are Building the Soul into the New School

The EdSpec Committee is a team. We, the neighborhoods, are part of the team. It is our soul that will be driving the build. Everyone at OPS and with its contractors is on our side. There are after all no two sides. There are no they and we. We are we. The spirit of the bike shop and children's leadership, play and responsibility, and of the adventure playground, and the neighborhood market, and the tennis and soccer programs, and the community garden and the urban farming efforts, the spirit of seeding and growing, of getting to know each other and respecting each other, the welcoming spirit, and the creative and innovative spirit that comes from diversity are all who we are. That spirit is the soul of our neighborhood and neighborhoods and it will be the soul of the New School.

OPS is waiting for our advise through the EdSpec Committee. We are waiting for input from everyone. On Thursday, February 9, at Yates Community Center during the GPNA regular meeting, OPS will be there and will brief us all on where everything is going and we'll have the chance to speak our minds once we did our homework. Please let us know what you would like to see in a new school. Reach out to anyone on the GPNA Board or the EdSpec Committee. Prepare your ideas for the February 9 GPNA meeting or tell them to any one of us before that.

It is your soul that we need to reflect to be built into the school our children will go to for decades to come. And then, armed with that soul in their spirit they will go on to change the world. Let's all help them.

Yates Community Center: A Place for Activities and Meetings

Yates Community Center located at 3260 Davenport Street is available to the Gifford Park Neighborhood to use for meetings and other activities. There is a gym and 8 classrooms available. Yates has hosted a variety of classes, community meetings, events, celebrations, basketball, and other activities. If anyone in the Gifford Park Neighborhood is interested in using the space they can contact Susan Mayberger, Building Administrator, at 402-557-2431 or 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.

Jim Kyler - GPNA Neighbor of the Year

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on his "Team Pump" bus, he explained to them they were not living up to their promises...not sure what was said on the bus ride, but problem solved!

Jim watches out for his neighbors. He regularly visits longtime GPNA member and longtime resident Harry Dirgo (92 years old) who now lives in a long-term care facility, Jim brought Harry to the banquet. Jim is very connected to Yates School, including our "SAVE YATES" effort where he went door-to-door collecting many signed letters of support, and distributing "SAVE YATES" signs. He and Roger Freeman help lead volunteer park cleanup efforts. Jim, Roger and Bob Hutton have been doing the Free Food drop-off since 2008 in Gifford Park on Tuesday mornings (he also takes free food to Table Grace and other needy organizations).

Jim is always there when you need him...a couple examples: during the 2016 Easter Egg Hunt in the rain he was the first person to help setup tents; For Curtis Flint's Monarch Butterfly Habitat Eagle Scout project last May, he brought sandwiches for volunteers. Of course, Jim provides his "Team Pump" bus for our annual 33rd Friday Block Party. Jim's family has been GPNA members since GPNA formed in 1988, and they have made numerous donations to GPNA as well.

Congratulations Jim, you are a great ambassador always talking up Gifford Park with your positive "can-do" attitude. You are an inspiration to young people and a great neighbor to all of us in Gifford Park!



Educational Specification Committee Contact Information

Gifford Park elementary school update! Please join GPNA's first general meeting of 2017 at Yates Community Center on Thursday, February 9, 6:30pm - Architects and OPS administrators working on the 32nd & Burt St School will give an overview of where they're at in the design phase and take questions and input from the community. Snacks provided, everyone including children welcome. The following list are members of the Educational Specifications Committee and their contact information in case you have any questions, comments, or concerns:

Leslie Wessel (402-916-5030 milchkopf@hotmail.com)
Shane Strong (831-402-0167 shaneebenstrong@gmail.com)
Brandon Sperry (402-669-1576 bsperry91011@gmail.com)
Brittney Rubek (402-359-3086 bdrubek12@gmail.com)
Cait Caughey (ccaughey@biggarden.org)
Eric Purcell (402-719-5108 eric@thresholdscommunity.org)
Tony & Tukta Newman (tonynewman19@gmail.com)
Eliza Perry (207-590-9880 yrrepazile@gmail.com)
Matt Cronin (402-515-2471 mcronin@biggarden.org)
Martin Janousek (mjjanousek@leoadaly.com)
Adrian Petrescu (ASPetrescu@alumni.pitt.edu)
Chris Foster (402-290-8187 foster3413@cox.net)
Brent Lubbert (402-213-9646 brent.lubbert@gmail.com)

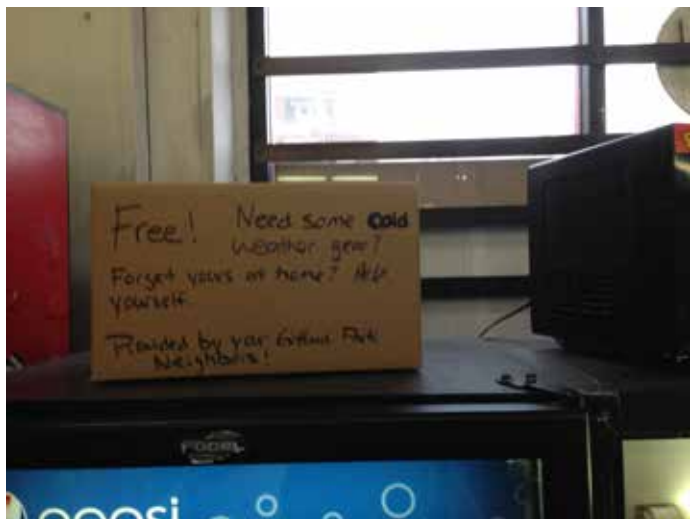
First Annual Carols, Cocoa and Mitten Drive

by Eric Purcell

It was a remarkably pleasant night on December 22 in the Gifford Park Market area. A Christmas tree was blinking with multi-colored lights, a warm fire was burning in a temporary fire pit, and a table spread with makings for hot cocoa stood nearby. As 6:30pm rolled around, Gifford Park neighbors began to gather-bringing with them warm winter gear to share with neighbors who may not have what they need to keep warm in the winter. They came with scarves, mittens, gloves, hats-even a pair of snow boots and a warm fleece jacket! All of these things were lovingly placed on and around the Christmas tree.



Hosted by GPNA and Rooted Way community, nearly 50 friends and neighbors gathered to sip hot cocoa and sing carols by the campfire on our first annual Carols, Cocoa and Mitten Drive! And what a fun night of singing it was! Chris Foster provided songbooks and everyone took turns choosing their favorite carol for the group to sing, croon, belt, harmonize and even do a little dancing! After we ran out of cocoa and the fire started to die down, a few hearty souls carried on, warmed by each other's presence and the joy of the holidays!



After the evening ended, Eric Purcell gathered up the donated winter gear and distributed them to various locations in the neighborhood: a box at the community bicycle shop, one at K-N-J, another at the Cali Bar and a few items donated to Yates Community Center students.

The event was such a hit that many suggested we do it again next year. So, first annual it was...and we look forward to singing with you next December at our second annual Carols, Cocoa and Mitten Drive.

501(c)3 Status

In 2015, the 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.

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 PO Box 31462
 Omaha, NE 68131

Place
 Stamp
 Here

**Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
 Membership Application**

The GPNA membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.

Type of membership: ___ Single (\$10) ___ Family (\$15) ___ Business (\$25)
 Today's Date: _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Business Phone (if applicable): _____

Name (1): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (2): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (3): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (4): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Name (5): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Volunteer Opportunities! I'm interested in helping with...

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Banquet | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup/Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Tenant Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Lending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Memberships | <input type="checkbox"/> School Liason | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Market | <input type="checkbox"/> School Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Walks | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer | |

Return completed form along with check or money order to:
 Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, PO Box 31462, Omaha, NE 68131.