



Gifford Park's Pride

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

July/August 2017

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

33rd Friday Block Party and Cultural Celebration

First Friday comes once a month... but there is only one 33rd Friday per year. Celebrate it the right way - on 33rd Street! Gifford Park Neighborhood Association invites EVERYBODY to celebrate summertime, community, and our neighborhood's diversity together from 5-8pm on August 18th.

Free admission!

Your favorite Friday night market, free kids games, face-painting, prizes, live music and dance performances from around the world, craft fair, a bounce house, and SO MUCH MORE!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18TH
33RD + CALIFORNIA ST
5^{PM} TO 8^{PM}
RAIN OR SHINE

FREE ADMISSION
FRIDAY NIGHT MARKET
FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES
BIKE ACTIVITIES
LIVE MUSIC
FOOD
...AND SO MUCH MORE!

33RD
FRIDAY
BLOCK PARTY

FIRST FRIDAY COMES ONCE A MONTH...
BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE 33RD FRIDAY
CELEBRATE IT THE RIGHT WAY -- ON 33RD STREET!

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday August 10

6:30 PM

Yates Community Center
3260 Davenport Street

Presentation:

**Update on New Elementary
School Design and Timeline**

OPS, Jacobs Consulting, and Jackson-Jackson will present an overview of our new Gifford Park Neighborhood Elementary School design work completed to date along with project schedule milestones and next steps. Both exterior elements (Site, landscaping, building façade) and interior elements (layout, configuration, floor plan, finishes and materials) will be shown with chance for neighbors to ask questions. Refreshments provided.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tennis Lessons**
- **Youth Garden + Field Trip**
- **33rd Friday Block Party**
- **Neighborhood Market**
- **Porch Fest**
- **Big Muddy Open House Dates**

Event dates and details in articles of newsletter

2017 GPNA Officers

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Chris Foster, Landlord Rep

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Opportunities – Contacts

GPNA General Meetings

Marie Hélène André 402-769-9183

Community Bike Project

Adams Blowers 423-307-4136

adam@communitybikeproject.org

Community Garden/Youth Garden

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Adventure Playground

Jasmine Frierson 402-213-0223

sfadventureplayground@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

Yates Community Center Update

By Susan Mayberger

The Yates Pre-K and Parental Involvement Program will begin the new school year on Monday, August 21st. Yates will continue to have four Pre-K classes as well as classes for Conversational English for immigrant and refugee parents. The Conversational English classes are from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. each day that the OPS elementary schools are in session.

I would like to introduce the new Building Administrator for Yates - Jaimie Cogua. She will be replacing me as I retire after 35 in education and 18 years with OPS. Jaimie is a dedicated educator who has worked as a 6th grade teacher at Jackson, an ESL/Dual Language teacher at Crestridge Magnet and a Supervisor of Elementary Education. She is a strong advocate for our community and she is excited about getting to know the people of Gifford Park. You can contact Jaimie at jaimie.cogua@ops.org. Veronica Hill, the Migrant Teacher Trainer, will continue to lead the Parent Involvement program at Yates. You can continue to connect with her regarding donations for the migrant and refugee parents at Yates. She can be reached at veronica.hill@ops.org.

Thank you for all the support that you have given me in my work at Yates over the years. I look forward to continuing to be a member of GPNA and to work with all of you to support the programming at Yates and the quality of life in our neighborhood. You can reach me at susanmayberger77@gmail.com.

Fireworks

By Maria Carlson

The Fourth of July here on Webster Street is always amazing! Our neighbors have cool fireworks that they light off! A lot of our neighbors start a week or two in advance, but they always have plenty for the actual Fourth. A lot of our neighbors light the loud ones that make a lot of noise and shoot a lot of sparks. The fireworks usually last until eleven at night, but some go all night.

My favorite fireworks are the ones that shoot balls out of a sort of canon and light up the sky! My least favorite are the rockets because you never know which direction they will go.

I love Webster Street fireworks!!

Happy Birthday Bob “The Godfather” Hutton!

85, or is he 58?? We hope you have a grand time celebrating!

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 gpnewseditor@gmail.com.



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE
Call Chris 402-290-8187
Mowers - \$5
Rent for most tools - \$3



Gifford Park to Host Omaha's First Annual Porchfest

Porchfest began as a small neighborhood festival 10 years ago in Ithaca, New York; it has now expanded to numerous sister festivals across the United States and Canada! The mission of the event is to celebrate the vital creative community through music and art. Entire neighborhoods of families, friends, couples, children, pets, foodies, bicyclists, art lovers, music fans, and more enjoy the free event annually in 87 cities.

Volunteers are in the early stages of planning a Porchfest here in Omaha after witnessing a successful event in Lincoln last year. The inaugural Porchfest OMA is scheduled for Friday, September 29, 2017. The festival will include 15 musicians, bands, comedians, and spoken word artists performing on 5 porch stages from 5pm to 10pm in Omaha's Gifford Park Neighborhood located at 33rd & California Street.

Our goal is to bring an exciting, unique, family-friendly, free event to the Omaha neighborhood and surrounding communities. Festivals around the country have attendance of 1,000+ after many years of growth; we are shooting for 500 festival-goers our first year! Sponsorship opportunities available. Lineup is currently being curated. Please visit their website www.PorchfestOMA.com. For further questions and to get involved contact Emily Engles at contact@e3musicmanagement.com, or 402.707.3706.



September 29, 2017 // 5PM - 10PM

HistoricMidtownOmaha.com

HistoricMidtownOmaha.com (otherwise known as Texty Tours—a self guided walking tour through Historic Midtown Omaha) is ready for your viewing and walking pleasure. Take with you on your smartphone all the information about historic places worth visiting in all the 17 neighborhoods in Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA). No smartphone? Or having a low-tech day with the children? Just walk around with a printout that you prepared in advanced from home. GPNA's chosen sites are naturally Yates former school, and the Melrose Apartments. Check out all the interesting sites in all the other MNA neighborhoods. Register online so we all know how many people use the tours (and so that we show all the other neighborhoods that we walk more and care more for Omaha's history too). Enjoy fully walking with friends and family and visiting on foot (OK, by bike works too) everything Midtown Omaha has to offer, and don't forget to tell all of your friends.

Thank you, Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (the project sponsor), Vince Furlong, Diana Failla, Margie Magnuson for their leadership, and Julie Mierau and our own very own neighbors Luke Armstrong and Brian Harvey of RenMind at Cali Commons for their respective creative online wizardry, and all the participating neighborhoods, for everyone's great work to make this project possible.

Please reach out with comments and suggestions for future stages and improvements to the little online walking Omaha Texty Tours.



Youth Garden Program Update

By Chris Foster

At the time of this newsletter we have completed 10 weeks of the Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass St.). The 2017 program is each Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30am. This year we again have 44 each 30"x30" raised garden beds that each youth planted and tended since May. To get you caught up with what's been going on, we started May 13 with our Garden Season Opening followed by the next three weeks of learning about plants, selecting which vegetables to grow, then planting their own garden plot and painting name stakes - a lot of important work gets done during these early weeks. During week 4, local neighborhood artist Gerard Pefung had us spray paint our three concrete lion statues, these are displayed in front of the Adventure Playground to "guard" the entrance! Week 5 featured local neighborhood Cure Cooking owners Chad Lebo and his wife Cynthia Frasier, they did a hands-on demonstration all about Fungus! Week 6 local neighborhood "rock star" musician & gardener Matt Cronin led "Sound of Music", he had us form our own "bands" to share our garden sound creativity. Week 7 Terry Salem from Big Muddy Urban Farm taught us about chickens, and Lynn Danzer and Cynthia Shuck taught us about bees, including a live bee display. Week 8 Matt Cronin and some of our young gardeners brought a variety of interesting pets to show and tell as we learned all about Wildlife & Animal Care. Week 9 yoga expert Monica Lehn led our "Garden Movement" session, including the crazy "caterpillar race", Mike Caban organized a "Garden Scavenger Hunt", and we finished with a 'slip & slide' on a HUGE sheet of plastic, water and a little dish soap! And Week 10 Nebraska tree expert Justin Evertson guided us on a tree walk through parts of the neighborhood finishing back at our Adventure Playground tree house built around two catalpa trees. Our young gardeners have been growing and harvesting ripening vegetables including squash, cucumbers, radishes, carrots, peas, lettuce, tomatoes, watermelons and more. We cannot thank enough our dedicated volunteers, parents and family members who participate with their young gardeners. Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) if you have questions about GPYG program.

Remaining 2017 Schedule ~ all Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

July 29 Herbs & Health Remedies
 August 5 Canning & Preservation
 August 12 Cooking Matters
 August 19 Field Trip
 August 26 Pizza Garden Harvest PARTY! (Big Muddy Urban Farm)
 Rest of growing season - tend your plot



Youth Garden Field Trip to Local Farms will be on August 19th

By Brent Lubbert

On Saturday, August 19th from 10am - 2pm there will be a very unique youth garden program your kids will not want to miss. Thanks to a grant from Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), youth gardeners will go on a field trip to two local farms, expanding their perspective of agriculture and the surrounding landscape. The farms are located 19 miles from Gifford Park in Honey Creek, IA. The first stop will be to Honey Creek Creamery to see how goat cheese is made. The second stop will be to a 10-acre vegetable farm called Iowana. Youth gardeners will need to fill out a permission slip to go on the trip. You can pick up a permission slip at the community garden shed. For further questions please contact Brent at (402)-213-9646 or brent.lubbert@gmail.com.

The Trial of the Century -- Remembering About the Future 2037 -- Part II

By Adrian S. Petrescu

Court Clerk: All rise...

Judge [entering the courtroom]: You may sit down. [Judge takes his seat] Good morning. This Court is now in session. Does anyone have anything before we continue with closing argument of the Plaintiff, where we left off yesterday? I hear no objections. Counsel, you may proceed.

Attorney for Plaintiffs: Thank you, Your Honor. Ladies and Gentleman of the Jury, Yesterday I reminded all of you of the many Gifford Park successful youth whom you heard directly from or heard about during this long trial. Let's recapitulate briefly: (1) Maria Duarte, the international tennis player who won gold at the 2036 Olympics; (2) Alberto Riveira, the soccer player selected to play for the national US soccer team at the 2038 world cup next year; (3) the parents of Sithúkathiⁿ Míⁿzhiⁿga, Barefoot Girl in her Omaha-Ponca native language, Nobel Prize winner in Economics for 2035; (4) Mohamed whose trainee is riding in the Tour de France as we speak after he won third and second place the last two times he participated; (5) Andrew French the global chef reputed for his fresh-from-farm dishes and a pioneer of the urban farm to fork movement. All of them were once Gifford Park neighborhood residents.

Today, let me start getting to our conclusion of a long trial by reminding everyone what this trial is about. This trial is about the futures of children in a neighborhood of ours. It is about the future of our children. It is about the responsibilities that those in charge with minding the future of our children have to allow and nurture the children's growth to their fullest potential.

The judge will give you at the end of closing arguments today the instructions for the jury. These will be on two distinct, completely separate, causes of action. First, traditional negligence. We showed that the government defendants had a duty and that they breached it. Don't get scared by these fancy Latin words—*res ipsa loquitur*—as we said already many a time they just mean “the thing speaks for itself.” Those instructions from the judge will ask you to find that (1) The type of neglectful things that happened in Gifford Park don't just happen. Someone must have been negligent. Then, they will ask you to find what we showed: that (2) the defendants, the school district, the City of Omaha, the government of Nebraska, and the US federal government, together had full and sole control over the events that happened. They will ask you to find that (3) the type of injury that occurred is within the scope of the duty that the defendants have towards the plaintiffs. But of course—isn't the government's duty to help guide, or steer, things for its citizens towards the best possible outcomes of community life? Were they asked over and over again? Did they know what the citizens, and especially the youngest, most unheard citizens—the children—wanted? What happened instead? One of the defendants was telling the Gifford Park parents “it's not us, it's the other [defendant] layer of government.” In turn, the other layer was doing the same thing. All of that from 1997 to 2037, for forty years, and still counting, as we haven't seen much improvement yet...

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Soccer Camp Update

By Eric Purcell

On July 19 the temperature was hovering around 100 degrees, but that didn't stop Gifford Park Soccer Camp from meeting for our last week of camp. Along with our regular soccer practice and scrimmages, on our last night we also celebrated all of the kids, coaches and parents with a cookout and potluck!

This was our sixth summer for Gifford Park Soccer Camp, a seven week free soccer camp in Gifford Park for 3-11 year olds. We continue to grow each summer as more and more people find out about this amazing program. This year I started getting calls from Lutheran Family Services and Augustana

Lutheran Church who both run programs for refugees in our area. Our goal has always been to serve the diverse people in our neighborhood, so we were really excited to invite them to join us! On our last night I was talking with some of our Latino neighbors whose children have participated almost every summer. One of them made the comment that it was really beautiful to see all of the different colors-like a rainbow-sitting together sharing a meal. I couldn't agree more!

This was also our LARGEST camp so far! 100 kids aged 3-11 participated. An average of 57 kids came each week, with a new all time high of 68 kids one night! Each week we focused on a particular soccer skill: passing, kicking, dribbling, stopping, scoring and defending, following directions and working together as a team. By the end of camp, the kids showed a lot of improvement! We also were able to purchase Gifford Park Soccer Camp t-shirts for all of the kids this summer!

Of course, a program like this doesn't just happen! A lot of people put a lot of effort into making this happen. This summer 21 volunteer coaches put in a combined 260 hours to create a program that served 100 kids and their parents over the course of the camp. On our first week of camp we were short a coach for one of the groups. A Latino man named Cesar came up to me and said he had read about our camp in the newsletter and wondered if we needed any help! Cesar was faithful each week and took great care to set up the field with skills drills and led the kids in fun activities and scrimmages. I loved hearing him encourage the kids as they practiced and improved! Additionally, each week parents volunteered to bring juice and snack for 70-80 kids and coaches. For our awards celebration every family also volunteered to bring a side dish to share. And let me tell you, multi-cultural potlucks are SO DELICIOUS!! Funding for the program came from GPNA, \$100 donation from Scheels, and \$250 came from a Thrivent Financial Action Team grant. Our awesome families got in on the the funding as well with a small fundraiser at the end of camp!

A BIG thank you to all of our kids, coaches, parents and donors who make this camp possible!



The Trial of the Century -- Remembering About the Future 2037 -- Part II

Continued from page 5

Second, we ask you to agree with us that it is highly necessary at this point in time to introduce a new tort called negligent ignorance of citizens' delegated duty. Simply put, it is when government by the people and for the people has a delegated duty coming from its citizens, and government ignores it, and when injury in fact happens to the beneficiaries of government's work. In our situation, the athletes and the scientists accomplished all of these great things--simple people who benefitted from much support from the community. These were just normal children of normal people who over the years just took advantage of what Gifford Park neighbors put together as activities in spite of the continued ignorance of their constant calls to government—the defendants here—to help them out. A community growing without a neighborhood school self-organized for twenty two years from 1997 to 2019 to compensate for the lack of a school in the neighborhood. The Gifford Park neighborhood itself and the community garden became the place it is today, the pride of Nebraska and in many ways a great contributor to the world, in compensation of it and its constant calls for help being ignored by all authority responsible to help. That the Park became the soul of the neighborhood. The gathering place. Normally a neighborhood school is the spirit of the community. The soul of it. The children in front of you—now adults—they grew up at a variety of schools in town but all came back to the neighborhood for getting the holy air and water of belonging we all so much need. The Park in general offered the nurturing of each person's dream from when they were little and barely speaking and walking. What moms and dads showed their children by their own actions. It was not the government to come and give the folks in Gifford Park something. Mohammed taught the neighborhood children that hard work is much easier when it is fun and play-like and when you see the rewards in sight and when you care a lot for the rewards. We don't think that Mohammed read either Malcolm Gladwell's great book, *Outliers*, or the underlying research behind it, from the way the far Eastern cultures grew over time different than Western cultures to Daniel Pink's book *Drive* outlining modern understanding in motivational psychology. We think Mohammed simply followed his heart and his intuition. Most people do just that. Maybe it was just more so in Gifford Park neighborhood than anywhere else. Maybe it is simply contagious with this community.

Story to be continued in the next newsletter...



COME TO THE GREEN SPACE BLESSING!

Join us for a beautiful Green Space blessing by Tibetan monks from the Gaden Shartse Monastery in India. The monks have been visiting Omaha for more than 25 years, emissaries from The Dalai Lama on a mission of spreading compassion and sharing Tibetan culture.

Mon., Aug. 7, 2017 • 7 p.m. • rain or shine
Between Cass St. and Cottage Grove, from 30th St.

Come relax on the grass under the trees, and enjoy the peaceful chanting of the monks, the tinkling of bells, and the singing of birds in the Green Space! Bring blankets or lawn chairs, if you wish. You don't have to understand the ceremony to receive the blessings it bestows.

The Green Space, which belongs to Boys Town Hospital, is a beautiful park-like green, home to urban wildlife, songbirds, and mature trees – including rare American Elms.

More about the Tibetan monks' visit and events:
www.CompassionOmaha.org/happening-now

From the President: Summer time in Gifford Park Neighborhood.

"A picture is worth a thousand words..."

Credit for the pictures: (c) Marie Hélène André, 2017





“Soccer in Gifford Park” Fundraiser

By Eric Purcell

We are raising money for two soccer initiatives in Gifford Park: Gifford Park Soccer Camp and a new proposed green space a Turner Park North that will help us to continue growing and expanding Gifford Park Soccer Camp!

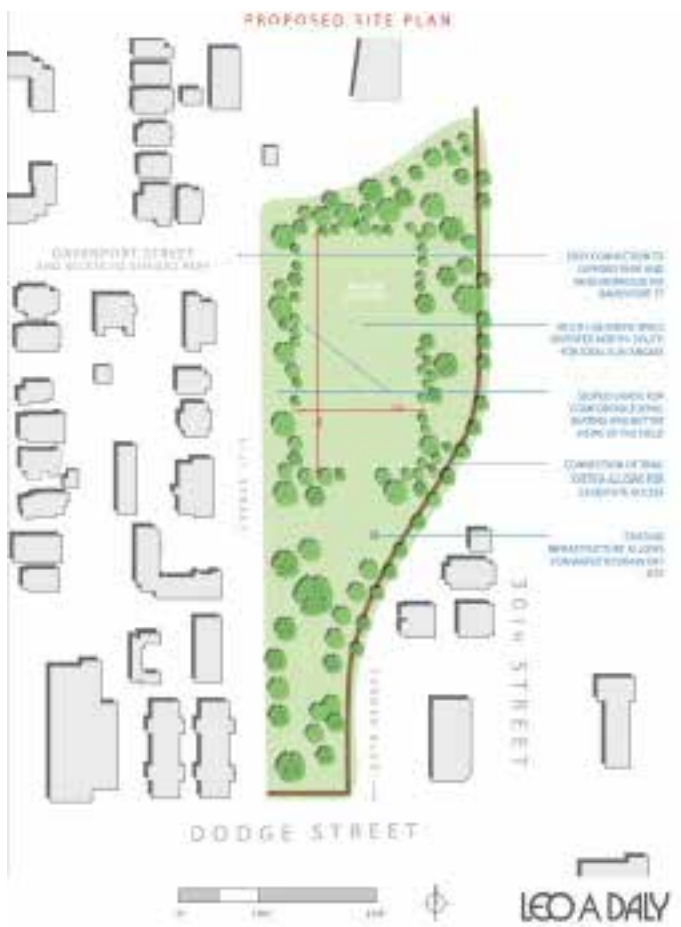
There are two simple ways to participate:

1. Purchase a Gifford Park Soccer Camp drawstring bag for \$10. All proceeds will help pay for Gifford Park Soccer Camp (equipment, prizes, shirts, cookout, etc).
2. Make a tax-deductible donation to Gifford Park Neighborhood Association and designate the funds for Gifford Park Soccer Camp or Turner Park North.

Several GPNA board members have been working for nearly 4 years with the city of Omaha Parks Department to turn an old interstate off ramp near 30th and Dodge back into green space for the neighborhood. We are getting closer to being able to start making this happen. The first step is to “Move the Mountain” of dirt that currently sits on the site. This is a big and expensive job! GPNA is actively fundraising the money we will need to move this dirt!

Will you help us make it happen??

Make Checks Payable to Gifford Park Neighborhood Association and write “Turner Park North” on the Memo line.



National Night Out is Tuesday, August 1st

National Night Out is an annual event designed to strengthen our communities by encouraging neighbors to engage in stronger relationships with each other and with their local law enforcement partners.

Plan a party or get-together on your block and invite all of your neighbors to help celebrate National Night Out. And help celebrate the event by turning on your porch light.



The Shop Turns 10 and Goes to Montana

By Adam Blowers

July has been a busy month for the Bike Project. On July 15th the Bike Project Youth Board threw the annual birthday party for the shop and this one was special because the shop turned 10 years old! We celebrated with some amazing food, a bicycle obstacle course, t-shirt printing, and Mohamed gave several people rides in a pedicab. We appreciate everyone who came by to help us celebrate 10 years of the Bike Project. Here's to another 10 years of making sure everyone has access to a bicycle.

The very next morning after the birthday party we departed for a grand adventure in Montana. Myself, Jacob (Shop Mechanic), Mohamed (Shop Legend) and Ian (Shop cool dude) got in the van to go do some amazing bike camping. Our first night was spent in the Badlands National Park where we did a quick 19 mile gravel ride and then spent some time climbing up to high points for some amazing sunset views.

The next morning we headed out towards Montana, stopping along the way at Sklar cycles to check out some amazing custom handmade frames. Once in Montana we loaded up our bikes and spent the next 3 days riding and camping. We climbed mountains, descended mountains, swam in mountain lakes, bathed (removed the gravel dust from our bodies) in mountain streams, skipped rocks, built campfires, created inside jokes, and took lots of pictures. Despite a few flat tires and one major wreck (it was me, I'm fine) the trip went off without a hitch. Overall we did 110 miles or so, with the majority of that being gravel. If ever up that way, I recommend a hot sandwich and huckleberry bear claw at Polebridge Mercantile, that was the second day of the trip and it was like an oasis. For Jacob and Mohamed this was the first time they had really seen mountains and I think they are hooked. Notable animal sightings included: 2 black bears (with one running out in front of us), one grizzly bear, 3 baby weasels, 10 baby rabbits trying to sneak into our camp, pronghorns, too many deer, a bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and a Great Grey Owl.

We will try to take a trip like this every year, although we might stay a little closer to home next time. If you ever want to check out some pics, swing by the Bike Project or check us out on facebook (@CommunityBikeProjectOmaha) as we will be posting a lot of the pictures there.



ORIGINAL LIVES HERE.

We are Shelterbelt. We are possibilities...

Resurrection: The Best of ShelterSkelter
October 6 - 29, 2017

You asked for it and we brought ShelterSkelter back to life - the eerie, the funny, the dark and spooky! Come in costume, we'll take your pic and post on our Facebook page. The image with the most likes wins a season ticket! Be sure to catch this limited edition Skelter, in honor of our 25th Season! We don't know when it'll appear again in this dimension...

Across Rhodes by Amy Elizabeth Schweid
January 26 - February 18, 2018

In a small lonely town, sits Rhodes Bar, the only place with live music for miles. James, a grave, young musician trailed by the phantom of his past winds up at Rhodes and gets entranced and inspired again by Sarah - a hauntingly beautiful girl who can no longer share her music with the world. A story of life, death, and the fear of sharing who you are with the world.

Three To Beam Up by Don Nguyen
April 20 - May 13, 2018

It's the 23rd century. Capt. John Wisher of the USS Valkyries finds his ship and crew stuck in the middle of a nexus that has suddenly appeared in the gamma quadrant. Capt. Wisher hears an alien voice that compels him to follow it into the mysterious nexus, risking the safety of all. Meanwhile in the present day, Sam and Jules Wisher look for their father, John Wisher, who is missing...again. *Three to Beam Up* is about a man who believes he is the captain of a Federation starship and the children that fight to keep their father's feet firmly planted on Earth.

SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Visit our lobby or our online box office today!
Don't miss a single show! \$65/adult, \$50/student/seniors/TAG.

COME PLAY WITH US!

Burnzzz is Newest Restaurant in Gifford Park

By Chris Foster

When our GPNA president Marie Hélène André suggested us to have our June GPNA Board meeting at our neighborhood's newest restaurant Burnzzz (pronounced Burnzies) near 33rd & Cass Street, we said sure. Our president is a very smart woman! Our board enjoyed our meals very much! Restaurant owners and couple Dustin & Tasha Burns are longtime Gifford Park residents, they open Burnzzz in March of this year.

The very reasonably priced menu items include an excellent variety of burgers nestled in fresh homemade buns topped with several cheeses, bacon, egg, avocado, mushroom, onion, lettuce, tomato, peppers, spices, sriracha, BBQ, and other homemade sauces. One of their favorites (and mine too!) is the Jalapeno Cream Cheese & Bacon burger. I normally have trouble with hot & spicy foods, but the cream cheese takes just enough bite out to cool it down to perfection, at least for me. They can add habanero jelly sauces if you prefer more heat.



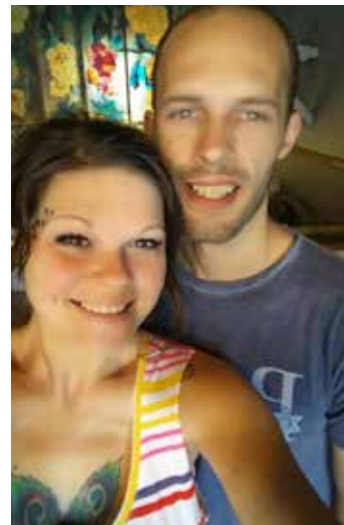
Besides great burgers, Burnzzz has a variety of wings to go with their large selection of homemade sauces. Sandwiches include Philly Steak & cheese, Pork Tenderloin, and Patty Melt. Sides include fries, onion rings, homemade cole slaw, and veggie salad. They have Spicy Black Bean Burger and Boca Burger (another favorite of mine!) for Vegan selections. There is a kid's menu too. And try to leave room for the Tres Leches, a 3 milk cake topped with whip cream and strawberries (yes, another favorite!).

As I mentioned, Dustin & Tasha have been in Gifford Park most of their lives, including attending Yates Elementary School in the 1990's. Before opening Burnzzz, Dustin did commercial and residential painting for the Burns family painting business. Tasha was finance director for Classic Chevy & Cadillac Car Dealership. Dustin's hobbies are music, guitar, cars, painting, and a 'jack of all trades'. Tasha enjoys gardening, cooking & baking, children, and being involved with the neighborhood...little does she know, 'be careful what you ask for' ©! Dustin & Tasha have 5 children.

The building owner, Dustin's father Glen Burns, first came to Gifford Park in 1969 hanging out with friends while attending a commercial art school. In 1978 Glen bought the building at 504 N 33rd Street. Some of you "old-timers" may remember the interesting history of the businesses occupying the building over the years including Otis's Head Shop (1st one in Omaha), furniture store, TV repair, food co-op, church, and recently the Marrakech Restaurant.

Over the years, Glen has collected a variety of eclectic items (on display at Burnzzz) from some of Omaha's recognizable places like stained-glass art from the Lazy Leopard Lounge at New Tower Inn; glass ceiling and oval doors from Ross' Steak House; a statue and parrot from Mr. C's; a mural from Fontenelle Hotel; a preserved tree trunk from Brandeis; booths from Natural Kind Café; and others.

As one of our GPNA board members described, Burnzzz has excellent, quality food, well presented dishes and menu, they pay attention to detail with their food and customers, and their restaurant staff are very personable. They are open Monday-Thursday 11am-9pm, Friday & Saturday 11am-10pm, closed Sundays. For more information call 531-329-3054 (phone orders accepted) or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/burnzzzburgers>





Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Photos from July



Field Notes from Big Muddy Urban Farm

By Brent Lubbert

The Beauty of our midwestern climate is the distinct changes in seasons. The farm is gearing up for its fall planting of beets, carrots, bok choy, lettuce and much more. These crops, in association with summer crops that are now starting to ripe makes for a cornicopian harvest for the fall months. As the crops begin to change, so is the program. July 22nd was the beginning of our open call period for next year's Aspiring Farmer Residents. The open call for applicants ends October 1st. The Aspiring Farmer Residency is a year-long program supporting five resident farmers with a place to live while they learn how to develop a sustainable market farm business plan and grow crops on several plots in Gifford Park. To apply, please visit www.bigmuddyurbanfarm.org/afr

Big Muddy is also excited to announce its first ever *Let's Grow Here* Gala! Save the date:

Friday, November 3rd from 6-8:30PM

at University of Nebraska Medical Center - Sorrell Center

We have varous sponsorship levels and tickets for the event are \$50, or a table of ten for \$500. Our goal for the event is to raise \$35,000 supporting Big Muddy's neighborhood based, community building work. For more information please visit www.bigmuddyurbanfarm.org/letsgrowhere.



Aspiring Farmer Residency
Live. Grow. Learn.

Apply Now

Open call for applications ends Oct. 1st
Details and Application:
www.BigMuddyUrbanFarm.org/afr

PIG MUDDY URBAN FARM

The poster features a photograph of several people working in a garden with raised beds. The text is overlaid on a green background at the top and bottom of the image.

Adventure Playground Update

Neighborhood families enjoyed watching "Goonies" and making smores at Adventure Playground movie night July 8. And this group of Yates Pre-K children enjoy the upper deck of the tree house. As always, the tree house and playground area is open and free to use at anytime. Volunteers and access to the materials in the shed are on Saturdays from 12-4pm and Sundays from 12-2pm. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact us at sfadventureplayground@gmail.com or on Facebook.





24th Annual Gifford Park Free Tennis Program

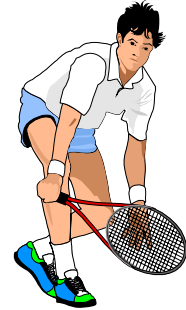


For: Youth (4 to 18 years old)

Dates: August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
(each Wednesday in August)

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

Time: Ages 4 to 9 (6:00 - 6:45 p.m.)
Ages 10 to 18 (6:45 to 7:30 p.m.)



The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is offering **FREE Tennis Lessons** and will provide tennis racquets, balls and instructors for each lesson. Parents and others are welcome to help.

To be enrolled, YOU MUST complete the form shown below and bring with you to the tennis lessons. Special prize for those who attend every lesson and demonstrate good sportsmanship. Space is limited so please **be on time.** Call **402-290-8187** for more information.

Registration/Permission Form - Bring this form (completely filled out) with you to the tennis lessons to be enrolled.

Youth's Name: _____ Parent's Name: _____
 Street: _____ Street: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
 Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ School: _____
 Parent/Guardian Phone: _____ email: _____

As the parent or legal guardian of the child named above, I hereby give my full consent and approval for my child to participate as a member of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Youth Program.

I understand that there are certain risks of injury inherent in the practice and play of this sport, as well as related activities incidental to my child's participation, and I am willing to assume these risks on behalf of my child. I hereby certify that my child is fully capable of participating in this sport and that my child is healthy and has no physical or mental disabilities or infirmities that would restrict full participation in these activities, except as listed below.

I hereby waive, release and hold harmless the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Youth Program, and the City of Omaha, Nebraska, its Officers, coaches, sponsors, supervisors and representatives for any injury that may be suffered by my child in the normal course of participation in this sport and the activities incidental thereto, whether the result of negligence or any other cause. Furthermore, I give consent to any necessary medical treatment in case of emergency.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____



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.