



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

September 2017

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Takes a Village to Raise an Athlete

*Chris Foster:* Walking (or should I say running!) in the footsteps of her older sisters Dawn, Crystal, and Justine, 18-year-old Witney Stanley “graduated” from our 24th Annual Gifford Park Youth Tennis program with 15 years of great sportsmanship and perfect attendance. It’s a tremendous accomplishment of dedication, hard work, generosity, and love of tennis and community by a wonderful person. Witney is again playing #1 for the Central High School Girls Tennis team, and has taught our youth players the past few years. When playing tennis tournaments, she is known by other players and parents as being one of the fairest and nicest players – that’s what sportsmanship is all about! Besides tennis, Witney was a finalist for the Miss Teen Nebraska. She is also taking Culinary Classes at Metro Community College. I had the honor of presenting Witney with a plaque recognizing her tennis and community efforts. I have said many times before, Witney and her family help define what our Gifford Park neighborhood is all about. Congratulations Witney!! Because Witney has been a great role model for kids and adults, I asked her to say a few words to everyone at our tennis finale August 30th.

*Witney Stanley:* Thank you guys so much! You know they say it takes a village to raise a child, but what they don’t tell you is how to raise an athlete. Every single one of you has played a big part of me growing as an athlete. God has blessed me with this tennis program, and for that I’m very grateful. Mrs. Jane and Mr. Ric Hines, I remember carrying the dinner plate of my imaginary spaghetti on the face of my racket. Mr. Vince Emery, before I met you, I couldn’t hit a volley to save my life. Mr. Donnie Gildon, through all the trash talk you spoke, I was finally able to keep a rally in play with you. Mrs. Jenny Waltemath, you’ve taught me how to be a challenging opponent while maintaining the poise of a lady. Mr. Lou Harrison you taught me all there is to know about the basics of a tennis serve. Mr. Roger Freeman, whether you were talking my ears off about pro tennis players or correcting my form, I always seemed to learn something from you. Mr. Buddy Hogan, you taught me my ground strokes by demonstrating them with your impeccable form.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Neighborhood Market
- Tour de Garden
- Community Garden Pot Luck Dinner
- Porchfest
- Park & Playground Cleanup
- Big Muddy Open House Dates

*Event dates and details inside newsletter*



*continued on page 3*

### 2017 GPNA Officers

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### Opportunities – Contacts

**GPNA General Meetings**

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**Community Bike Project**

Adams Blowers 423-307-4136

adam@communitybikeproject.org

**Community Garden/Youth Garden**

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**Adventure Playground**

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**Teen Market Garden**

Cynthia Shuck 402-556-2090

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**Gifford Park Market**

Martin Janousek 402-558-4070

**Yates Community Center**

Susan Mayberger 402-557-2431

**Youth Soccer**

Eric Purcell 402-719-5108

**Youth Tennis**

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

**Spring Cleanup**

Luther Larson 402-616-9350

## From the President

Changes, changes, and more changes!

People react differently to change: some will welcome change and adopt it early, while others will fight against it and eventually accept it, reluctantly. Yet, we cannot indefinitely refuse change: it happen and we have to live with it.

Our neighborhood is undergoing a lot of changes for the moment: some minor, like the construction of a few townhouses that will bring new families to our community, and others much more visible, like the redevelopment of Creighton University Medical Center into ‘The Landing’, a large complex of apartments and retail spaces, or the construction of the long-awaited new elementary school.

Indeed, OPS broke ground about two weeks ago and the former parking lot is now fenced, trees have been taken down, and heavy machines are digging and taking the dirt out. The new elementary school, a project that took almost 20 years to exist, finally becomes reality!

NuStyle started earlier in the summer, and the old medical center now looks like a war zone, with walls torn down and broken windows, and with dirt everywhere. The new townhouse are almost ready and will soon be put on the market.

Is that what we wanted for our neighborhood? How are these new buildings going to look like? How are they going to influence our community? Will OPS and NuStyle keep their promises and deliver what they showed us at various general meetings? What kind of people will the newcomers be? Will they embrace our values and integrate our vibrant community, or are they going to try to change us? What about the diversity?... All questions that reflect our concerns and our attitude toward change.

The GPNA Board is aware of the concerns, and we have decided to welcome changes though not at all cost: we want our history, our fights and our values to be respected and preserved. We want our diverse and vibrant ‘ecosystem’ to evolve, but not too fast (it took years to become what it is today!) We embrace change... as long as our voice is heard and we are able to influence some decisions: we want developers and newcomers to know what we believe in, what our vision for the future of our neighborhood is. More changes are on the way... let’s welcome them as long as they have a positive impact on our neighborhood and our community!

Marie Hélène

P.S. There is one thing I really don’t want changed: the enthusiasm I saw at the last session of the summer tennis program this evening!... This is what makes our neighborhood, and that will not change!

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**



## Takes a Village to Raise an Athlete

*Continued from page 1*

Mr. Jim Wilson, you taught me to strategize by using my head instead of my body on the court. Ms. Laurie Bolte, you taught me how to show love everywhere except on the court. Thank you to my dad, Wendell Stanley, for holding me accountable and teaching how to compete against my opponents. Thank you to my mother, Alyssa Stanley, for being my support system, fashion consultant, medical specialist, and nutritionist. Thank you to my wonderful siblings, Dawn, Crystal, Justine, Rachel, and Wendell Stanley, for always making practice even when I didn't want to, demonstrating good sportsmanship, and always being there for me. Dawn, you've taught me to have a positive attitude on the court no matter what the outcome may be. Crystal, you've taught me to be confident and to always believe in myself. Justine, you've taught me to never underestimate or overestimate any of my opponents and to always give myself a fighting chance. Rachel you've taught me to carry myself with respect on the court while maintaining a calm mindset. Wendell Jr., you have been the world's greatest tennis assistant! Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Faust, for helping keep my muscle memory intact during each winter season. Mark Mercier, you have helped deepen my skills of the game by training me several days a week. Also thank you to the countless others that have helped me along the way. Having said that I have to state that I'm merely just one of the many athletes this program will raise. That is because of one particular person. He is a strong man of God who loves others. He is the first one to arrive and the last one to go home. Also, I believe everyone in the state of Nebraska has received a beating from him on the court. Chris Foster, you have taught me the heart of tennis by merely being yourself. That's why I consider you as being the father of the Gifford Park tennis courts. It's been fifteen great years and all the glory goes to God. Through tennis I've had many great experiences and made many lifelong friends. Overall, tennis has become a big part of my life and I love every second of it. I will never be able to repay any of you for the blessings I received, but I can make sure that I'm a helping hand for the oncoming years of this program. Thank You!

## Gifford Park to Host Omaha's First Annual Porchfest

Gifford Park was approached to host Omaha's iteration of Porchfest, an annual family-friendly, walking-oriented festival making music on porches across the country since 2007. Gifford Park Neighborhood Market will serve as the home stage while 15 local musicians and bands perform on 5 porches around the neighborhood from 5pm to 10pm (maps of performances will be distributed that evening). We sincerely hope you can join us for the inaugural event! Free and open to the public.



## Omaha Picks: Leadership and Learning for Neighborhoods

Neighborhood associations and community organizations have a critical role at the ground level of our civic life. Leaders of these groups face many of the same needs and challenges as business and nonprofit executives, but often on a volunteer basis and with even fewer resources! Develop your leadership skills with Omaha Picks: Leadership Learning for Neighborhoods, a mix of books and free online learning from Omaha Public Library. Titles include: *Somebody Do Something*, *Tactical Urbanism*, *From the Garden Club*, *Leadership Foundations*, *Organizing for Social Change*, *Simple Habits for Complex Times*, and many more to choose from. For a complete list, please visit: [www.oneomaha.org/omaha-picks-leadership-learning-for-neighborhoods/](http://www.oneomaha.org/omaha-picks-leadership-learning-for-neighborhoods/) or the Library's website.

## Youth Garden 2017

By Chris Foster

Now in its 14th year, 2017 was another great year for the Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program. It began May 13 with our “Season Opening” event and ended with our “Pizza Garden Harvest Party” August 26. In between these dates we had over 60 registered youth participants gardening on 44 raised beds (each 30”x30” plots), some children shared their plots. We again had no rainouts (although tents came in handy a couple days it rained)!

Last newsletter I gave an update through week 10, here are highlights of the last five weeks of activities: Week 11 Kate Bodmann brought us a variety of herbs and other plants for us to sample with our senses, and how we use them to improve our health. Kate also brought fabric and other materials for us to make little garden gnomes! Thanks to Don Newland who made and donated 25 birdhouse kits and led us in building and painting our own birdhouses to take home! Week 12 Brent Lubbert with Big Buddy Urban Farm and Matt Cronin taught us about “Canning & Preservation” of vegetables and the great long-lasting benefits. Week 13 we learned what to do with all of those vegetables we’re growing with the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) and their famous “Cooking Matters” class led by Chef Wilson Calixte and Anna Curry. Chef Wilson cooked a meal made with vegetable donations from our youth garden and Friday Night Neighborhood Market.

Week 14 we went on a field trip to a local farm in Iowa, Honey Creek Creamery, where we took a hike in the Loess Hills and learned about goats and goat cheese, including hands-on milking a goat! (thanks to Big Muddy Urban Farm and a generous grant from Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education – SARE). Week 15 we celebrated another wonderful year the Youth Garden program with a Harvest Party! We enjoyed homemade pizzas prepared by the kids, Big Muddy Urban Farm, and volunteers. Each pizza was topped with an assortment of bountiful veggies harvested from Big Muddy’s gardens, our young gardener’s plots, and Friday Night Market. After all the pizzas were ready, we enjoyed each other’s company while feasting on our harvest. We encourage our young gardeners to continue tending your plots for the rest of the growing season. As you can see the program teaches youth of all ages how to grow vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Plus, the youth are creative with art and music; explore our natural environment; and have fun while working together and getting our hands dirty. GPYG relies upon parents and volunteers each week to provide snacks, lead lessons, and simply share their time with participating young people. Tremendous thanks to all our volunteers including but not limited to: Matt Cronin, Eliza Perry, Monica Lehn, Paul Pellerito, Amy Lanspa, Tyronda Pierce, the Stanley family, Jasmine Frierson, Francisco & Blanca Manzo, Erin Grace, Andy & Leslie Wessel, Rhoda Bearfield, Tyler Magnuson, Cait Caughey, Daniel & Andrea Lawse, Eric & Lisa Purcell, Veronica Saavedra, Michaela Wolf, Rose Carlson, Anna Deal, Maranda Allbritten and Jackie Foster. Huge thanks to Brent Lubbert and Big Muddy Urban Farm residents Taylor Jespersen, Kia Beason, Cadence Hernandez, Emily Hefeli, and Terry Salem for their planning & help to the program! Thanks to the dedicated parents and family members who participate with their young gardeners. And very special thanks to Mike Caban for his incredible dedication year in and year out to this program and the community garden project, I run out of words to describe his dedication – thanks Mike! Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net) or Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) if you have questions about GPYG program.



## Community Garden Update - Pot Luck Dinner Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

Plan to come to our Community Garden Pot Luck Dinner Sunday, September 10th at 4:30 PM Socialize, 5:00 PM Dinner at 35th & Cass Streets. Community gardeners, youth garden and Adventure Playground participants, family, friends, and neighbors are invited to celebrate; guests can bring a side dish or dessert to share; donations accepted. Besides our normal grilling of burgers and hot dogs, we will have a special guest - Chef Wilson Calixte (Chef at Le Voltaire French Restaurant in Omaha) will treat us to some entertaining food preparation and grilling, so be sure to come early about 4:30 to enjoy his expertise! Chef Wilson shared his culinary skills at our youth garden program and at last year's fall pot luck.

See attached flier for the Tour de Garden event Sunday, September 10, 9am-Noon. It's a free bike ride tour of 10 community gardens (ride starts at 9am at Omaha Bicycle Co. 6015 Maple St.), and from Noon-2:00pm is the music/salsa competition/after-ride party at our Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass St.).

Everyone is encouraged to check out the community garden including the 12 chickens located in their coop on the upper-north part of the garden. Also check out the always-changing Adventure Playground on the west part of the garden, including the 2-story tree house and zip-line. Wednesday work nights continue each Wednesday 6 to 8 PM through the growing season. During these times water and garden tools will be available for plot renters and anyone else interested in helping maintain the community garden – we always need help weeding the flower beds. Contact Mike Caban (402-341-4722, caban3321@cox.net) for garden plot information, and Chris Foster (402-290-8187, foster3413@cox.net) for other questions.

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## The Trial of the Century -- Remembering About the Future 2037 -- Part III

*By Adrian S. Petrescu*

You heard the judge take judicial notice that OPS owns today in 2037 a lot of parking lots in Gifford Park neighborhood. The judge also took judicial notice that Omaha Public Schools (OK, I'll just call them OPS from now on) used to own quite many parking lots in Gifford Park neighborhood in 2017. You heard many witnesses testify that owners, such as OPS here, are the only ones who control what happens to their property. You heard Mr. Martin Janousek and Mr. Chris Foster testify about the work of the Education Specification Committee and beyond from back in 2017, and how they begged OPS to not make even more parking lots in connection to the school that was opened in 2019.

You heard Mr. Eric Purcell explain that in 2015-2017 the youth soccer program he was running had consistently about 80 students. You saw that the judge took judicial notice that soccer is played with 22 players on one field. Let me remind you that 88 divided by 22 is 4, and hence 88 students would need four soccer fields to all play at the same time. Yet, Mr. Purcell testified that three soccer fields would have been sufficient to have divided the growing number of students by age groups across the three soccer fields—if they were available—, and that three fields were clearly not enough anyway as his program has grown to 200 students by 2020 and to 400 students by 2025—but he never had three soccer fields. All happening while the defendants were listening to all of it being predicted and doing essentially nothing. You heard Mr. Eric Purcell and Mr. Brent Lubbert explain how one day they decided to take the 200 participants in the soccer program and to start moving the dirt hill at Turner Park North with wheelbarrows and essentially with “child labor”—except it was for fun and for a good cause—staying fit and uncovering the soccer field from under the dirt hill left behind by government negligent ignorance in forecasting what would happen due to their “cost savings”.

You heard testimony from Mr. Mike Caban explaining that Gifford Park neighborhood lost its old Yates school in 1999, by a decision of OPS. You heard in the testimony of all the people from Gifford Park neighborhood

*continued on page 7*

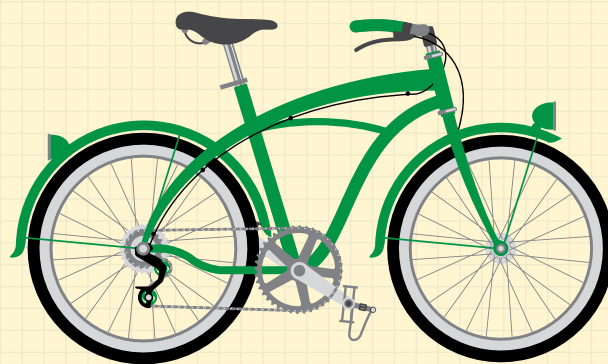
## 24th Annual Youth Tennis Program Highlights

By Chris Foster

I usually start off my tennis recap articles with a description of the weather because it has a big impact on outdoor activities. I'd say this year we had some of the best weather with no rainouts for the 24th annual August Youth Tennis Program in Gifford Park. This year we had over 75 youth participants and 43 with perfect attendance. We had great help from our volunteer instructors for each Wednesday in August for this free program. The kids learned basic groundstrokes, volleys and rallying skills.

Godfather's Pizza gave us a good deal providing 12 pizzas for our program "finale" on the last day. Neighborhood volunteers also provided treats. Many thanks go to all our great instructors for their support and dedication to this program: Ric & Jane Hines, Jim Wilson, Vince Emery, Leif & Jennessa Bade, Roger Freeman, Jackie Foster, Jenny Waltemath, Laurie Bolte, Donnie Gildon, John Aerni, Bo Finley, the Stanley sisters (Dawn, Crystal, Justine, & Witney), Ari Manzo, Buddy Hogan, August Hogan, Tyler Bolte, Travis Bolte, Perry Mitchell, the Gonzalez family (Paco & Maria, Fran, Alex), and Chris Foster. For the finale, we were grateful to have former State Senator Gwen Howard, ONE Omaha director Julie Smith, and Omaha Police Officer (and volunteer tennis instructor) August Hogan share their words of wisdom. We gave special recognition to Witney Stanley for an amazing 15 years of perfect attendance and great sportsmanship in the tennis program! Witney gave an inspirational speech about her experiences growing up in the program (see front page). Also during June and July, volunteer instructors Lou Harrison, Ari Manzo, and the Stanley sisters taught group tennis lessons on Wednesday mornings in Gifford Park - this was the 10th year for this free program for kids having a stronger interest in tennis.

Special thanks go to Jan Franks, Brittney Rubek, Betty Slayden, and Tyffaney Reichert for help with registration, awards and lots of other administration duties! Thanks also to the Omaha Tennis Association, the Nebraska Tennis Association, the United States Tennis Association, and the City Parks & Recreation Department for their generous support over the years. If anyone who participated in the tennis lessons is interested in more advanced lessons, please contact Chris Foster at 402-290-8187. Keep your eye on the ball!



**Tour de Garden**  
Community Garden  
Bicycle Tour

For more details, including the list of community gardens participating and a route map, look up "Tour de Garden" on Facebook

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017**  
Ride Starts @ 9 am at  
Omaha Bicycle Co. (6015 Maple St)

Sponsored by



## The Trial of the Century -- Remembering About the Future 2037 -- Part III

*continued from page 5*

how the neighborhood put together a strong and successful effort to save the Yates Community Center from being torn down. You heard testimony from several neighborhood leaders about the efforts to influence OPS to include community gardening, an active working kitchen, green energy production, urban farming, a community sports and playground center, and several other things in the design of the new school that opened in 2019. Yet, few of those efforts were successful. The school didn't include another soccer field. There was no room for a working kitchen. There was ultimately no working garden for the children to learn urban farming in. The school ended up being in many ways a run-of-the-mill design, in spite of all the input from the neighborhood and of the declared honest intent and efforts of incorporating neighborhood input as a reflection of the culture into the design and execution.

You will now hear the attorneys for the defendants—the four layers of government represented here, tell you why they didn't do anything wrong. The school district will say that it was unreasonable to expect that a new school could be built faster than over twenty-two years of wait time. Come on. Really? Unreasonable? That OPS involved the neighbors and parents in the design of the new school and that all of the reasonable requests that the Ed Spec committee had were met. That it would be unreasonable to expect so many trees re-planted and that it is counter to public policy to allow neighborhoods to decide what an owner may and may not do with their property. They will tell you that OPS had just followed City code on the issue of parking spaces required per employee. They will emphasize that, if the City had wanted to enact code to require a certain amount of minimum green space maintained for each resident under which a neighborhood as a whole cannot go, the City could have enacted such code. But it didn't. The attorney for the City will tell you that it is impractical and unreasonable to give so much power of decision to neighborhoods. The state will argue that they had priorities and the budget was tight over all these years, and that the federal government didn't fully pay for the I-480 connector project, and hence the state had to eat some of the cost overruns. The federal government attorney will tell you that their client is protected by sovereign immunity and they will repeat that we could not have sued them unless permitted by the Federal Tort Claims Act of 1946, which they will say doesn't allow this lawsuit. That even if it did by some stretch of imagination, their behavior is still exempt under what is called the "decision-making authority" exception. In other words that 'they are entitled to make policy-based allocations of scarce resources,' and when they do so are free from tort liability to anyone. Everyone on the defendants' side will argue that it has been a historic tradition for hundreds of years in democracies that once duties are delegated through open and fair elections, those duties are the representatives' alone—school board, city council, state legislature and governor, US Congress and President—, and direct democracy is generally impractical, and that what my clients have been asking here for four decades is generally not acceptable practice in our democracy. I ask you to refuse that argument as simple "being given the run around" by too many for too long. I ask you to contrast that argument with the wise words of President Abraham Lincoln.

*continued in next month's newsletter*

**25**  
CERTIFIED ORIGINAL  
**SHELTERBELT THEATRE**  
3225 California Street • Omaha, NE

**RESURRECTION:**  
**The Best of ShelterSkelter**

by Rob Baker • Joe Basque • Ben Beck • Molly Campbell • Julia Hinson  
Jeremy Johnston • Daena Schweiger • Scott Working • Aaron Zavitz  
directed by Kaitlyn McClincy, Jayma Smay & Elizabeth Thompson

**October 6 - 29, 2017**

Thurs./Fri./Sat. at 8pm • Sun. at 6pm (Oct. 29 at 2pm)  
Come in costume! Top costume in the finals wins 2 season tickets!

**FEATURING:**  
Craig Bond • Katy Boone • Kevin Goshorn • Eric Grant-Leanna • Whitney Hansen  
Meganne Horrocks Storm • Matt Karasek • Debbie Krambeck • Sarah Smeltzer

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

## 33rd Block Party and Cultural Celebration on August 18th





## Photos of Neighborhood Activities for August



## A Green Space Blessing for a Green Neighborhood

*By Clarinda and Richard White*

On Monday, August 7, 2017, the Tibetan Monks of Gaden Shartse Monastery in India performed a beautiful blessing on the cherished Green Space at 30th Street between Cass Street and Cottage Grove. Many neighbors attended, on a summer evening full of tinkling bells and birdsong, while the mature trees, including rare American Elms, gave shade and refreshing breezes, as we enjoyed the Monks' peaceful chanting at sunset.

The Tibetan Monks have been visiting Omaha for 25 years, to spread compassion, to demonstrate Tibetan culture, and to fundraise for the monastery and for schools and medical care for Tibetan refugees in India.

A green space blessing is particularly meaningful here in the Gifford Park neighborhood, where we are committed to being a green neighborhood, and where, with our wonderful diversity of green spaces and wide variety of trees, we are working with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum to become a Community Arboretum. This will allow Gifford Park to expand our green awareness and mission, and, we hope, help to protect our neighborhood green spaces against incursions by development.

The Green Space blessing brought mindfulness to this, and to the way that all our green spaces refresh our spirits, bring us together, and give us a sense of peace, wonder, well-being, and joy.



In addition to our tree-lined streets, Gifford Park's diverse green spaces include Gifford Park, Gifford Park Community Garden, Sallie Foster Adventure Playground, Big Muddy Urban Farm and Sweet Thymes Permaculture Garden, the Green Space at 30th and Cass, Teen Market Garden, Turner Park North, Root Down/Blue Jay Garden, Yates Community Center and raised garden beds, as well as our neighborhood's many special personal gardens, cultivated with care, creativity, and ecological awareness.

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## Development and Property Management Code of Conduct

*By Eric Purcell and Andy Wessel*

One of the goals set by the GPNA board this year has been to press into how we can be proactive in regards to new development and redevelopment in our neighborhood. Though there is still much more to do and conversations to be had, we have created a short document that we're calling the "GPNA Development and Property Management Code of Conduct" (located on page 12). Also, in order to give some context and help property owners, city planners and developers understand what an incredible neighborhood this is and how important it is to protect it, we've also included a "Portrait of the Gifford Park Neighborhood" (located on page 11). We have already had great feedback from meetings held with city planners as we've shared this document and talked about our neighborhood! We plan to continue using this document in conversations in the upcoming months as we meet with people interested in building in Gifford Park.

*See documents on following pages*

## A Portrait of the Gifford Park Neighborhood

**Our Mission:** As members of Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, we are committed to preserving and protecting our neighborhood. In the spirit of volunteerism and teamwork, and through dedication, integrity and communication with neighbors and local government officials, our goal is to help make the Gifford Park Neighborhood a great place to live, work, learn and play.

### **We are Strong, Diverse, Inviting and United.**

Few neighborhoods in Omaha can boast the strength of social fabric present in Gifford Park. Those who know this place describe it as inclusive, open and welcoming, celebrating the strength of our socio-economic diversity, built on a spirit of volunteerism and a celebration of our history. Though many on the outside see it as a “rough” neighborhood in need of cleaning up, Gifford Park residents have been building a level of social capital and trust in the this neighborhood for over 25 years and beyond.



### **We have engaged local businesses, associations, organizations and institutions:**

GPNA, Big Muddy Urban Farm, Community Bike Project, Yates, Duchesne, OPS district office and new Neighborhood School. These and others have helped to create and build on **an Abundance of Neighborhood Amenities** like our diverse housing stock, location, great partnerships and incredible youth activities (Youth Garden, Soccer Camp, Tennis Program, Adventure Playground).

### **We have a well rooted interest in preserving Nature:**

For three years, until the city stopped making this award, Gifford Park was named Omaha’s Greenest Neighborhood! We are a leader in neighborhood Green Initiatives, Urban Farming, the use of Green Spaces and boast multiple community gardens (Root Down Garden, Teen Market Garden, Youth and Community Garden, Yates Garden, Butterfly Gardens). We are the birthplace of No More Empty Pots and Food not Bombs. This neighborhood proudly stands by its Sustainability and Green Ethic.



This is what is at stake as Gifford Park becomes more attractive to investors and a prime location for redevelopment.

**Our Question is: How can we work together to preserve what is and make it even better... together?**

## Development and Property Management Code of Conduct

The purpose of this document is to clearly communicate the Development and Property Management hopes and expectations of GPNA with city planners, developers, property managers, and residents. It is our desire that we can all work together as neighbors for the Common Good of and in Gifford Park.

### **For Developers**

1. Purpose: Any new development or redevelopment in Gifford Park will have a sense of purpose and vision for how it fits into and serves the people of Gifford Park. We are not interested in development for its own sake because there is available land and the market is hot.
2. Relationship: Any developer seeking to build new development or redevelopment in Gifford Park will seek input from the community early and throughout the planning process, incorporate neighborhood feedback, and work in partnership with the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association.
3. Intelligent: Any new development or redevelopment in Gifford Park will be based on the three principles of good architecture: Durability, Utility and Beauty.
  - a. Durability: It should stand up robustly and remain in good condition
  - b. Utility: It should be useful and function well for the people using it
  - c. Beauty: It should delight people and raise their spirits
4. Physical: Any new development or redevelopment in Gifford Park will be done in an architectural style that fits with the neighborhood.
  - a. Front porches
  - b. Balance of traditional materials with modern materials
  - c. Balance of single-family and multi-family dwellings
5. Financial: We care deeply about maintaining a balanced level of housing affordability. Any new development in our neighborhood will consider and contribute to a vibrant housing stock in Gifford Park. We are committed to maintaining as much of our current housing stock as possible as it is the most affordable to lower income families.

### **For Property Managers**

1. Property Managers will follow city code, especially as it relates to:
  - a. Unrelated persons living in a single family dwelling
  - b. Parking
  - c. Zoning
  - d. Basic maintenance
2. Property managers will be responsive to both their tenants and the broader neighborhood.
3. Property managers will make sure that options are exhausted before choosing to demolish their properties.
4. Property managers will have a local responsibility to maintain the integrity of the neighborhood.



### Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Photos from August



### New School Details Coming Soon

In August sitework began at 32nd & Burt for our new 450-student Gifford Park Neighborhood elementary school to open in August 2019. Stay tuned for next month's newsletter for interior and exterior design renderings and drawings.



## Field Notes from Big Muddy Urban Farm

By Brent Lubbert

It's amazing to think that the crops we plant strive to grow, day after day, regardless of the daily conditions they are presented with. They are resourceful with their conditions and find what nourishes them to continue growing. It's also amazing to think about our own daily growth and that occasionally, any given day's conditions might not be ideal, but it is up to us to be resourceful and grow within those conditions.

This being the first year of the Aspiring Farmer Residency, there is growth daily, through sunny and rainy days. One example of this growth is the dedication residents have taken in prudently arranging and planting the fall crop, learning from the trails of spring planting. And as the fall crops grow, Big Muddy is looking to future growth as well. We are currently taking applications for next year's Aspiring Farmer Residency.

We are approaching the end of our application open call period (October 1st). Please act swiftly in telling your friends or by applying today. Applications and more information can be found on our website [www.bigmuddyurbanfarm.org](http://www.bigmuddyurbanfarm.org).

**Aspiring Farmer Residency**  
Live. Grow. Learn.

**Apply Now**

Open call for applications ends Oct. 1st  
Details and Application:  
[www.BigMuddyUrbanFarm.org/afr](http://www.BigMuddyUrbanFarm.org/afr)

PIG MUDDY URBAN FARM

We also have exciting announcements with the Let's Grow Here Gala held November 3rd at University of Nebraska Medical Center. The Grey Plume, Kitchen Table, and Table Grace Cafe will cater the evening with a diversity of dishes to indulge your palette. We are very grateful for The Mutual of Omaha Foundation's pledged sponsorship at \$1,500. And Resident will give their "What I've Learned" speech at the Gala. An evening not to be missed. Visit our website for more information and to purchase tickets.

### Gifford Park Cleanup and Playground Celebration

**What:** Gifford Park Cleanup and Playground Celebration

**Where:** Meet at Gifford Park Playground at 35th Ave & Davenport

**Who:** EVERYONE (adults & children)!

**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 10am to Noon

**Activities:** Playground & Park Cleanup, Pickup Litter, Weeding, Mulching, Raking (tools & gloves provided)

**Food:** Sandwiches & Refreshments for Volunteers

## Welcome, Students!

We have a large number of university students living in the area who have returned for another year of school, or who are just starting college this year. To both categories, congratulations, and welcome (back) to Gifford Park. The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) has been working very hard with the city and police to improve the appearance and safety of our neighborhood. The goal of the GPNA is to improve the neighborhood and make it a better place for all residents, and we would ask our new student neighbors to become a part of this effort. The largest part of being a good neighbor is consideration for others. First, we ask students to be considerate in terms of noise, especially after 10 PM. Many families in our neighborhood have children or go to work early. Parties are another problem. Unfortunately, parties always seem to end up bigger and noisier than first planned, and the police have been more active in enforcing noise and underage drinking ordinances. Another difficult problem is parking. Our neighborhood has barely enough parking (like school), so you may not always be able to park directly in front of your residence. Please do not park on lawns, across sidewalks, or on the wrong side of the street (facing traffic). Besides being a serious safety issue and making the neighborhood look bad, all of these are parking violations and are subject to ticketing. Also, please do not litter and help us to keep our neighborhood picked up. Many of us pick up trash that we did not leave and we ask that you would help us by doing the same. Finally, consider coming to our quarterly neighborhood meetings and perhaps joining our Association. A \$10 yearly single membership will get this newsletter delivered to you every month, and you will meet your neighbors and many other wonderful people during our activities such as neighborhood cleanups and holiday events. We welcome students for the upcoming year, and we hope that you will help us continue to make the Gifford Park neighborhood a better place to live, work, learn and play!

## Adventure Playground Update

*By Jasmine Frierson*

There has been some exciting activity at Adventure Playground lately. There are new neighborhood kids that have joined and collectively everyone has taken the zipline to a whole new level with a game called “Zip & Dodge” Which you can see videos of on Facebook.

We are also excited to announce our next event. On September 15th, we will hold our First Annual Camp Out! At 7:30pm we will start with a fire to roast hot dogs and of course S’mores and marshmallows. Then a series of games including a popular neighborhood game, Manhunt. Finally, we will be relaxing and sleeping under the cool metro sky. So bring your tents and/or sleeping bags, If you don’t have one, just let us know and we will work something out. Permission slips will be distributed in the upcoming week. Parents are encouraged to stay but not mandatory. Adult volunteers are needed so please contact us through facebook @Salliefosteradventureplayground if you would like to be take part in a night that is sure to be beautiful and fun!





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.