



Gifford Park's Pride

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

March/April 2018

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Update on Neighborhood School

By Leslie Wessel

If you've driven by 32nd and Burt streets, you may have noticed that there is movement once again on the school site. The latest news is that the ground soil, which received a lot of attention last fall, is now established and settled. Footing and foundation work has begun, as well as site utility connections (the utility work has caused some minor street closings). The major progress in the foundation work has been the installation of 250 rammed aggregate piers (10 ft. deep holes drilled and filled with rock) which will help make the foundation stronger. The school is being built on what used to be a parking lot, but before it was parking it was residential land filled with homes – and basements. The soil underneath the school site was filled with unknown debris from the demolition of those basements years ago, but now that the soil has been compacted and settled and the foundation strengthened with the piers, they are ready to start the structure work!

The next step is to get some concrete poured to allow workers and trucks to move about the site easily, without being in the mud. Soon to follow, as spring turns to summer, there will be concrete masonry work, walls, steel and brick! This should be an exciting summer as we watch this school begin to emerge from the ground! I know I'll be visiting the site often to see the progress – perhaps I'll see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Easter Egg Hunt**
- **Park Cleanup**
- **Neighborhood Wide Spring Cleanup**

Event dates and details in articles of newsletter

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

**Thursday May 10
6:30 PM**

**Yates Community Center
3260 Davenport Street**

**Presentation:
TBD**

“Where are you from?” “I’m from Gifford Park... I guess I’m from all over the world”

By Adrian Petrescu

We visited historic France the other day. It's right there on 35th St. France often comes to visit us too. We stopped by in Madagascar just last weekend. It's on Davenport St. When my car was stuck slipping on ice and wouldn't budge, I got help from Nepal from two nice ladies living across the street. I say Hello! to them every day. We sat down with our neighbors and the parents from Central Nebraska at Cali Bar the other day and we shared stories about Nebraska past and present. We were happy to enjoy the sun at one of the very few terraces in town, and to impress true Nebraskans born and raised with things we learned from our travels across the state. The “camel originated in Nebraska” story never fails to make an impression if you haven't visited Ashfall Fossil Beds in Northeastern Nebraska just yet. We go to Germany on California St. and we spoke German and French and Romanian alike at the last Christmas Banquet. We visit South Africa and so many other cultures at Yates. We hope that some day everyone from everywhere will come to visit us in Transylvania and in Gaume (Southern part of Belgium)

continued on page 5

2018 GPNA Officers

Eliza Perry, President

207-590-9880 | yrrepazile@gmail.com

Marie H el ene Andr e, Vice President

402-769-9183 | mhandre34@hotmail.com

Brent Lubbert, Secretary

402-213-9646 | brent.lubbert@gmail.com

Alexandra Goswami, Treasurer

847-477-2156 | omaha_beef@hotmail.com

Board

Tyler Magnuson, At-Large

402-706-7496 | tyler.magnuson@gmail.com

Andy Wessel, At-Large

402-916-5030 | ajwessel13@yahoo.com

Eric Purcell, At-Large

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

Martin Janousek, Business Rep

402-558-4070 | mjjanousek@leoadaly.com

Chris Foster, Landlord Rep

402-290-8187 | foster3413@cox.net

Susan Mayberger, Yates Rep

402-342-6606 | susanmayberger77@gmail.com

Opportunities – Contacts

GPNA General Meetings

Eliza Perry 207-590-9880

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

Midtown Neighborhood Alliance Rep

Adrian Petrescu, 402-769-9070

aspetrescu@alumni.pitt.edu

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

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

Newsletter Editor

Brent Lubbert 402-213-9646

From the President

By Eliza Perry

At our last neighborhood meeting, we talked about what we as a neighborhood might want our regular meetings to look like. In past years, we met more frequently than we do now, every other month, as an experiment to see if that could bring more people out. It didn't, and a few years ago we went back down to quarterly, only four per year. At the same time, we lost our regular meeting spot at CHI's Morrison Seminar room, and attendance has absolutely decreased, making it hard to tell which had more of an effect. We've talked about hosting our meetings irregularly, closer to any upcoming event so that we could involve more neighbors in the planning. We've weighed the pros and cons of having a set agenda vs opening most of the meeting up for discussion and announcements. We have explored meeting at a different establishment throughout the neighborhood each time, showcasing all the great places right in our backyards.

Ultimately, most of us thinking about this right now feel consistency is key - what do YOU think? I hope all of our members will give their perspectives on this matter. We recognize few folks want more meetings in their lives. But there's so much happening in and around our neighborhood that needs leadership from the people who actually live here. And better yet, we can all make an actual, tangible difference where we live. More on that later.

We'll keep experimenting, and we'd really love to hear your feedback. Talk to your neighbors about coming out and engaging in what we all have in common: our neighborhood.

Luckily, many of us will see each other at the massive Easter Egg Hunt in Gifford Park soon - yahoooo! Please let all your children know there will, yet again, be a blizzard of "easter eggs" for them to find on March 31. See you there!



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

Being A Good Neighbor

“You live in an old neighborhood. If you don’t like it, move.”

That was the response for many years when we asked for cooperation on solving problems in our neighborhood. Problems like loud parties, noisy pets, parking problems, drug dealing. Instead we formed Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) in 1988. Over time, we convinced the various authorities that we were serious about making our neighborhood a better place to live. And we got action on chronic problem addresses and residents. Gradually, house by house, apartment by apartment, the neighborhood improved.

But we have new people moving into the neighborhood every year. And some of them seem to think that, as an older neighborhood, anything goes. So we continue to struggle.

We are a quiet, mostly residential, neighborhood. That means we expect quiet from 10:00PM until 7:00AM, in accordance with city ordinance. Recently, problems have been identified at a few locations. The police have advised that they will be happy to respond to such complaints, and if minors are in possession of alcohol at those locations, arrests may occur. We will be resuming limited citizen patrols when the weather warms, and violations will be reported to the Omaha Police Department. The city also has laws regarding loud music at any hour of the day. Please respect your neighbors, and confine your music to your own property.

Barking dogs may also be a noise violation. During daylight hours a dog out barking more than 20 minutes is disturbing the peace, according to the Humane Society. During the hours of 10:00PM to 7:00AM any barking is a violation.

We are seeing an increasing number of people parking on sidewalks, forcing pedestrians, in some cases, to walk in the street. We try very hard to be a pedestrian-friendly neighborhood. Please leave sidewalks unobstructed, so the

many walkers and children can use them. We plan to have an enforcement effort on this in the near future, and citations will be written. In addition, where there are sidewalks, and that is almost everywhere in our neighborhood, we would ask that pedestrians use the sidewalk, rather than walking in the street, obstructing traffic and risking injury.

Fortunately, this winter we had no major snowfalls. But quite a number of properties failed to clear snow from sidewalks. In respect to your neighbors, please keep your walks shoveled, to keep pedestrians safer. As a reminder, it is illegal to move snow into the street. And it makes driving more dangerous as well.

We will, before long, be back into mowing season. City ordinance requires that lawns be no taller than 12". But a 12" lawn looks pretty shoddy. We would ask that residents keep lawns neatly mowed to enhance the appearance of the neighborhood. And we would remind residents living on alleys that they are responsible for keeping weeds along the alleys mowed as well.

We will also try to have enforcement on speeding in the neighborhood this spring. Most streets have a 25 or 30 MPH limit. Last summer, drivers were clocked going as much as 50 MPH. Obviously this is a danger on narrow residential streets with pedestrians and children.

Obviously, the neighborhood today is a far better place to live than when GPNA started. But there is always room for improvement. Please do your part to help law enforcement and help our own neighborhood be safe, especially this time of year with weather warming up. Things you can do: Observe and report (call 911) suspicious activity - it’s the right thing to do and helps document issues; When calling 911 be willing to meet with officers even if you meet at a nearby location - the call will be given higher priority; If possible, take photos and provide as much information as you can. Remember the old saying “If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.”

See page 4 for list of additional phone numbers for neighborhood issues.

City Solutions...Where to Call

Problem	Call	Agency/Department
Abandoned/junked cars	444-5555	Mayor's Action Office
Barking dogs, sick, injured or stray animals	444-7800	Humane Society
City Services complaints or information	444-5555	Mayor's Action Office
Crime in Progress	911	Communications
Crime or Vandalism	444-5600	Police Division
Empty buildings, vacant houses, occupied dilapidated houses	444-5555	Mayor's Action Office
Garbage not picked up	444-5238	Quality Control
Gas leaks, waterline breaks, fire hydrants	554-7777	M.U.D.
Graffiti to Report	444-5555	Mayor's Action Office
Holes, debris or litter in the street	444-4919	Street Maintenance
Improperly licensed vehicles	444-5888	Police Department or 444-5555 Mayor's Action Office
Northeast Police Precinct	444-3367	Police Department
Rats, raw garbage, etc.	444-7975	Douglas County Health
Street construction, problems/complaints	444-5220	Construction Engineer
Tenant/landlord discrimination issues	444-5055	Human Relations
Tenant/landlord legal issues	348-1060	Legal Aid Society
Trailers/Cars parked on front lawn	444-5555	Mayor's Action Office
Weeds over 18", Yard litter	444-5910	Weeds & Litter
Zoning enforcement	444-5488	Code Enforcement

Clothing Drive for Professional Attire

Have a pair of slacks or a nice dress that doesn't fit anymore? Bring your professional attire to Spruce Staffing for their SpruceUp Career Closet event on March 29, 2018. For more information call Spruce Staffing at 972-997-6261.

Newsletter Advertising Rates


The new advertising rates for Gifford Park's Pride newsletter will be as follows:

1/8 page (business card size) ads: \$25 per month


1/4 page ad: \$50 per month

NO political ads.

If you are interested in advertising in the Gifford Park's Pride newsletter, please contact Brent Lubbert at brent.lubbert@gmail.com / 402-213-9646



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



“Where are you from?” “I’m from Gifford Park... I guess I’m from all over the world”

Continued from page 1

at our new Chateau now under re-construction at the other end of California St. right next to 30th St. Of course we love to visit Ethiopia with Danny and his family at his grocery store or to visit Syria, Vietnam, Congo, or any part of America, “from California to the New York Island, [and] from the Redwood Forest, to the gulf stream waters” or any other place around us here in Gifford Park, where we can learn something new from a neighbor who brings their own wealth of cultural experiences to all of us.

When I came to this country about twenty-five years ago, I was much surprised walking around and seeing children play, each in their parents’ house’s backyard. I couldn’t understand why no children were playing with the other children, and everyone was simply playing alone or only with own brothers and sisters behind their own fence, while the neighbors were playing also alone behind their fence. Odd, I felt, since I grew up elsewhere playing with all the children in the neighborhood at the corner of the street. Gifford Park Neighborhood is seemingly very different. Just as I was first surprised by how things were in a rural university town in Central Pennsylvania, I was much more pleasantly surprised to discover that here in Omaha where we live children simply play with one another all the time everywhere. When my nephew from Belgium visited us a few years ago he saw children play on the soccer field in Gifford Park. It was Summer and we were coming back from the Neighborhood Market with my sister in law who was also visiting from Belgium. We had just bought cupcakes from the Stanleys and we were heading home to eat them. My nephew forfeited the cupcakes and asked if he could simply stop at the soccer field to play. My nephew’s English was very poor at best at that time. I looked him in the eyes, I looked his aunts in the eyes, the two of them looked back at me, we all looked at my nephew, and all the three of us adults decided silently he could go. As it turns out children may not even need the same language to be able to play together in what was already and what is always an international group of players. He spent a few hours there and we had to go and ask him to come back for dinner quite late, as he was enjoying himself a lot and forgot about time.

One thing I was very happy about when we moved to Omaha years ago was our ability to visit first hand Boys Town. I’ve known about Boys Town since the 1970s, when I saw the Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney 1938 movie portraying the greatest idea in education and youth community and maturity building that Omaha or any place globally ever had. I’m getting happier by the day as we’re getting to soon be neighbors with Boys Town at the Eastern end of the neighborhood at the corner of California Street and 30th Street. Visiting Boys Town today is traveling in time to a moment in the history of our city and our country when our inherent humanity and our wisdom and caring gave the best in us, and that giving stayed and grew for a hundred and more years, and affected the upbringing of children everywhere and as far away as in then communist Romania behind the Berlin Wall, and we hope it will stay for hundreds of years more to come.

Building community starts around a soccer field and around the daily chores, and around a park and with neighborhood tennis and soccer programs, at a bike shop and at the Easter Egg Hunt and so much more.

continued on page 7

Coffee
With:
MARQUE SNOW
9:00 A.M. *Howlin' Hounds*
712 SOUTH 16TH St.
Dates: April 21// May 19 // June 16 // July 21

Nebraska Historic Preservation Conference Highlights

By Chris Foster

Restoration Exchange Omaha (REO) together with the Nebraska State Historical Society teamed up to offer education and motivation to restore, revive and preserve our great older homes and buildings. Now in its 13th year, the event was held on March 2 & 3, at Metropolitan Community College, Fort Omaha Campus in the new Advanced and Emerging Technology building – the space was impressive! Amy Nicole Swift, CEO and founder of Building Hugger in Detroit, was the event keynote. Swift is passionate about creating skilled jobs and providing more accessible preservation trades services. She, along with a panel representing Metropolitan Community College and local tradespeople, talked about the



importance of training the next generation of tradespeople. Omaha World-Herald's Matthew Hansen and Sarah Baker-Hansen opened the conference talking about their travels throughout Nebraska uncovering the stories happening in older buildings. Attendees chose from 18 breakout sessions. Everything from restoring old windows, plaster repair and appropriate kitchen and bath remodels to financing for historic restorations to learning about the old historic Omaha streetcar stops and hearing how small towns are bringing new life into their downtown main streets. About 30 exhibitors, including craftspeople and businesses with products for old homes, and neighborhood associations hosted booths, shared information and answered questions. Thanks Adrian Petrescu and his wife Marie H el ene Andr e for being at our GPNA booth. The conference concluded with the popular Restore Jam, in which attendees shared before-and-after photos of their own restoration projects – many thanks to Emma Erickson, Aaron Haug & his wife Amelia Peterson, and Chris Foster for sharing their projects. Thanks to GPNA board members Martin Janousek and Brent Lubbert for volunteering. And you may have seen the Friday, March 2nd Omaha World Herald front page Living section article promoting the conference – the article and photos highlighted Gifford Park's own Emma Erickson and Dawn Stanley – nice job ladies! For more information, go to www.restorationexchange.org

Please Support the GPNA, Join Today!

Hi Neighbor! It's that time of year again to renew your membership to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association! Not a member...well then it's a perfect time to become one! For only \$10 per year for individuals, \$15 per year for families, and \$25 for businesses you gain the opportunity to not only learn about the latest things happening in our area through our monthly newsletter and neighborhood meetings, but also the ability to become involved in an assortment of activities to help grow and strengthen our neighborhood. Our members are the foundation of the GPNA, and the greater our membership base the more we can do to serve and enhance the Gifford Park neighborhood! To renew your membership, use the form on the last page of the newsletter and mail your payment to: Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, PO Box 31462 Omaha, NE 68131. Remember we are a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. Thank you to those who have already sent in their dues - we really appreciate your support!

“Where are you from?” “I’m from Gifford Park... I guess I’m from all over the world”

Continued from page 5

I was a child again for an evening last Summer when I watched for the first time in my life “The Goonies” (1985) in Gifford Park’s Neighborhood Sally Foster Adventure Playground. Children who play together respect each other and learn from each other. They turn to be adults who respect each other and value the different stories each brings and learn new perspectives from each of the stories they hear or live.

I’ll confess to a story from my childhood. Many questions about raising our children, about education and community building have been troubling me a lot lately, as teacher and as parent, and as voter and simple person witnessing powerless now decades of school shootings occurring nationwide.

In fifth grade I broke the chair I was sitting on at my desk in my class in public school. It broke because I was balancing myself on its hind legs out of boredom in classes that had too much lecture and too little engagement of us learners. I had to go to school with my Dad to see the head teacher about it. I argued with my Dad that it broke because it was wooden and that it wouldn’t have broken had it been made of steel. I hated my Dad most for siding with my head teacher. The offense wasn’t as big and I got away with some community service. But my dislike of my Dad grew more and more after that. This went on for ages. I got to often dislike my parents for not defending me in situations when I felt I was right. These situations when I wanted my parents to defend me kept happening, whether in high school or even in college. I learned one thing though: just because you think you’re right doesn’t truly make you right. Time—and travel, even if only inside your own neighborhood, or even if in time through books or movies about past times—may teach you a perspective that in the moment you may simply miss by far. I learned the skill of seeking another perspective. With purpose and curiosity. That is why I like Gifford Park Neighborhood and Omaha. I like to meet other people with stories different than my own. I like to listen to them and be inspired by them. I like to travel around the world and in time while not even leaving the neighborhood. It helps a lot with questioning my own thinking and behavior without even being asked by someone else to do so. From the teacher’s perspective, I broke a chair that was school property because I did something with the chair that it was not designed to resist. The school trusted me at the age of 11 to act as an adult and to have the responsibility not to balance on the chair. In the moment, I blamed the school for making the chair too fragile and I blamed my Dad for not siding with me, and for not defending me at school. Did that make me punishable? Did that make me mentally troubled? I remember reading Mark Twain, and learning to jump out the window at night to go out with friends. I know now that was not the brightest idea and that my parents must have worried a lot. We disagreed for ages. We have all the notebooks filled over the years with upset arguments as memories to prove it. Yet, over time now I ask how is it possible that someone fresh out of their teen years doesn’t dedicate more time studying. Why do people use phones in class while the teacher speaks? Why do (even adult) students

continued on page 11

Gifford Park’s neighborhood bar for 80 Years

ESTD. 1937

CALIFORNIA BAR

OMAHA, NE

**Craft Beer on Tap
Friday Night Karaoke
Beer Garden
KENO**

**Stop in and watch your Creighton University &
Nebraska games**

510 North 33rd Street

www.calibaromaha.com



Neighborhood Market Update

By Martin Janousek

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Market is going into its 11th year as Omaha's first Friday night market. We really missed everyone over the winter and can't wait to see all of you this summer. In the meantime, if you want to be a vendor or know someone that would enjoy selling locally grown produce or handmade items tell them to visit our Facebook page or e-mail us at gpnmarket@gmail.com. We can send you applications to be a vendor and other pertinent information to be a Gifford Park Neighborhood Market Vendor.



Eliza, Alex, Ameen, Emily, Matt and Martin are currently planning this summer's market which will begin June 1st and continue every Friday night until September 28th. The market takes place in the empty parking lot in the business district between Danny's Corner Store and the California Bar starting at 5:00 pm. We have some great music planned for our stage every Friday and children's activities throughout the summer. If you want to get involved, we're looking for volunteers to help with different theme nights this year, such as the 3rd annual Backyard Chicken Show or the 33rd Friday Cultural Event.

Our next vendor meeting will be April 29th, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Big Muddy Urban Farm House – 3320 Burt St.

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Market has become our neighborhoods "living room" during the summer months and we can't thank everyone enough for making it such a great event....Thank you!

Big Muddy Urban Farm Update

By Brent Lubbert

The 2018 Residents - Kaya Baker, Jess Dooley, Shatice Jones, Gavin Johnston, and Laura Simpson - have been busy putting together what Big Muddy will be growing this upcoming season. The first seeds were sown of peppers and tomatoes in the greenhouse at the beginning of March. They collaboratively selected tomato varieties like Esterina Cherry, Amish Paste, and Purple Cherokee. Stop by Big Muddy's market stand at the Gifford Park Neighborhood Market all season long to see these tomato varieties and the many other vegetables residents have chosen to grow this year. With innovation and excitement, their Community Support Agriculture (CSA) program will consist of three, six-week shares - Spring, Summer, and Fall. An option for all 18 weeks is available too. CSA members receive a box of fresh veggies every week for their initial investment. For more information and to sign-up for Big Muddy's CSA program, please visit www.bigmuddyurbanfarm.org

Residents were not the only ones planning things this past February. Big Muddy hosted its first Stakeholders Meeting at the OPS Teacher Administration Center on February 5. From the strategic planning activities facilitated by Todd Mercural-Chapman we were able to determine three key focus areas for organizational health: Board Development, Strategic Partnerships, and Improving Residency Operations. Thanks to everyone who provided their input for the Stakeholders Meeting and as always, if you want to tell us something we are doing well or an area we could use improvement, please send us a message at info@bigmuddyurbanfarm.org or call Brent Lubbert at (402-213-9646). Your feedback and engagement can only help us grow.

29th Annual

Gifford Park Neighborhood - EASTER EGG HUNT



Where: Gifford Park

When: **Saturday, March 31**
Noon (Rain or Shine!)

Who: Children Ages 12 & Under

Bring Your Easter Baskets!

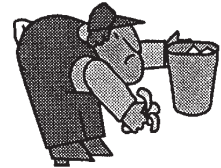


***Volunteers needed to help pickup litter in Gifford Park at 10:30am prior to the event

SPRING CLEANUP - Saturday, May 12, 9am to 2pm



Neighborhood & Park Cleanup Trash Compactors in Gifford Park Membership & Donation Drive



- * Neighborhood volunteers will monitor the dumpsters (NO commercial hauling!)
- * Items **ACCEPTED**: furniture, bulky items, appliances, metal
- * Items **NOT ACCEPTED**: yardwaste, rocks, concrete, paint, hazardous & toxic material
- * **Toxic materials** (paint, oil, pesticides, chemicals) can be taken to the *Under the Sink* facility near 120th & I Streets
- * **Tree brush** vouchers will be available at Gifford Park
- * **Tires** may be dropped off for **FREE** at South High School (23rd & J) or St. Vincent DePaul (22nd & Leavenworth)
- * **Tires** will be accepted at Gifford Park site at \$1 each
- * **Appliances** containing freon (refrigerators, A.C.) will be accepted at Gifford Park site at \$10 each
- * Gifford Park Neighborhood Association members will get highest priority for hauling items
- * If you can help with our neighborhood cleanup or if you need help hauling, please call:

Chris 402-290-8187

Membership Drive: Gifford Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) annual membership dues are only: **\$10 for Single, \$15 for Family, \$25 for Business**. Your membership helps support **neighborhood cleanups, newsletters, youth activities, watch group equipment, tool lending** and many other worthwhile programs. The Spring Cleanup is a great time to join! You can also find our membership form on our GPNA website: www.giffordparkomaha.org

Bike Shop Update

By Adam Blowers

It's ExhiBIKEtion time! ExhiBIKEtion is our annual bicycle themed art show. This year it will be on Friday, March 23 from 6pm to 9pm at 525 N 33rd St. All art will be for sale and we're currently looking for artists who are inspired by bikes and want to support the bike shop's community building efforts by participating in the art show. Bring your awesome bike-centric artwork to display and sell at the shop, all submissions will be accepted! ExhiBIKEtion is an all-ages art show, and youth are encouraged to submit art! This event is always a blast so come join us for a fun night of bicycle art.

One of our most amazing volunteers just got some awesome news. Mohamed, the bike shop legend, has been chosen as one of four winners of the Greg Siple Award for Youth Cycling from Adventure Cycling Association. This award will provide him with a brand new touring bike, some touring gear, and the opportunity to fly to Oregon to participate in a touring leadership course. Mohamed is super excited about this opportunity and one of his projects when he returns is to lead a one night bike/camping adventure. Look to our facebook page for details on that when it is announced. In the last year Mohamed has been to Montana, Washington D.C. and now he's going to the Oregon coast. Not bad for a senior in high school.

Lastly, Youth Earn-a-Bike and Kids Bike Club will start back up on March 29th. Stop by the shop to get a sign up sheet or to find out more.

Community Garden/Youth Garden/Adventure Playground Update

By Chris Foster

This is the time of year folks start thinking about gardening. We are starting to plan for community garden projects and the youth garden program, as well as Adventure Playground. The community garden and Adventure Playground are located at 35th and Cass Street. At the time of this newsletter we have a few community garden plots available. Stay tuned for more updates in our next newsletter as we enter spring. 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).



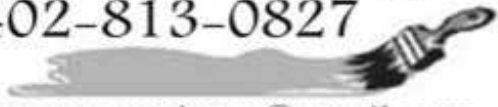
OLD HOUSE Restoration

- * EXTERIOR SIDING & TRIM
 - * HISTORIC PAINT WORK
 - * PORCH & COLUMN REPAIR
 - * BUILT-IN GUTTERS
 - * WINDOW SILLS
 - * WATER PROBLEMS
- * * * * *

LAWRENCE PAINT CO.

Call or Text David @

402-813-0827



email: lawrencepaintco@gmail.com

Park Clean Up

**Sunday, March 25 // 10am - noon
Gifford Park (33rd and Cass St.)**

Please join the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Sunday March 25, 10:00am-noon in Gifford Park (33rd & Cass St.) for a park cleanup with a lot of help from the Creighton University Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. Volunteers will pick up litter, trim bushes, weed and mulch the flower beds near 33rd & Cass Street and by the tennis courts. We will also have a crew edging weeds around the playground concrete perimeter. We will have yard tools, buckets, wheel barrows, mulch, gloves, etc., but please bring these items if you have them. Many thanks to the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity guys for asking to help with Gifford Park!

“Where are you from?” “I’m from Gifford Park... I guess I’m from all over the world”

Continued from page 7

find excuses not to do homework? Why, at an extreme, does someone who dislikes something in their life pick up a weapon and goes to school and shoots people?

The answer is probably simpler than we think. Because they didn’t travel yet enough, in space and time, and inside their own mind, to look for and see another perspective. Because there was no Boys Town atmosphere of responsibility and care, while sometimes principled and harsh, in their life. Did I learn all that from breaking the chair at school in fifth grade? No, from a caring father who had the patience and love it took to let me figure out things at my pace without judging but by being firm and what may have looked unfair and uncaring sometimes. We are all children and many of us are parents, even when we may not have children of our own. I think Gifford Park Neighborhood has the power to inspire community building. Let’s travel all around the world in Gifford Park and grow wise here and mentor others to do the same. Let’s thank a patient mentor and let’s mentor in our turn. In the neighborhood and everywhere. In all that we do. Thank you.

Sonnet 49

By John Masefield

Look at the grass, sucked by the seed from dust,
Whose blood is the spring rain, whose food the sun,
Whose life the scythe takes ere the sorrels rust,
Whose stalk is chaff before the winter’s done.
Even the grass its happy moment has
In May, when glistening buttercups make gold;
The exulting millions of the meadow-grass
Give out a green thanksgiving from the mould.
Even the blade that has not even a blossom
Creates a mind, its joy’s persistent soul
Is a warm spirit on the old earth’s bosom
When April’s fire has dwindled to a coal;
The spirit of the grasses’ joy makes fair
The winter fields when even the wind goes bare.



Photo of Community Garden on February 10, 2018





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.