



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

July/August 2019

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## The Best Block Party in Midtown

by Julie Smith

Music, dancing, street games, and vendors serving so much tasty food—goodness, y'all. August 16th is the fifth annual 33rd Friday in the heart of Gifford Park (33rd & California Streets).

The party starts at the Gifford Park Tennis Courts at 4:45 p.m., with decorations for kids' bicycles and a chance for them to ride in the first 33rd Friday Parade. 33rd Friday will also feature a station for voter registration, 3-on-3 basketball, face painting and raffle prizes donated by local businesses Corky Canvas, Wohlners, Leadbelly and more. Gifford Park residents and visitors look forward to another family-friendly party with fun for all ages.

But we can't do it without your help!

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is searching for helpful neighbors who will volunteer to help supervise/facilitate kids' games. From setting up activity stations to organizing children's programming, the annual block party is completely supported by volunteer efforts. It's a party thrown by the community, for the community, so all neighbors are invited to contribute. Donating time to 33rd Friday is a chance to earn service hours, meet your new neighbors, and have fun while making a difference. If interested in volunteering, please contact Julie at [driversmom27@gmail.com](mailto:driversmom27@gmail.com).

## NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

**Thursday, August 8th // 6:30 PM**  
**Yates Community Center**  
**3260 Davenport Street**

**Topics:**  
**Partnership 4 Kids & Tree Planting**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Neighborhood Market
- Tennis Lessons
- 33rd Block Party
- School Mentor Fair
- Elementary School Open House
- (canceled) Slip-n-Slide
- Porchfest

*Event dates and details inside newsletter*



### 2018 GPNA Officers

#### Eliza Perry, President

207-590-9880 | yrrepazile@gmail.com

#### Marie Hélène André, 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

#### Anna Deal, At-Large

206-276-5952 | anna@immigrantlc.org

#### Obed Sanchez, At-Large

402-401-0554 | grainolia@gmail.com

#### 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 | susan.mayberger@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

Monica Lehn 402-660-9046

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 402-342-6606

#### Youth Soccer

Eric Purcell 402-719-5108

eric@thresholdscommunity.org

#### Youth Tennis

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

#### Spring Cleanup

Chris Foster 402-290-8187

#### Newsletter Editor

Brent Lubbert 402-213-9646

## Third Friday Art Show and Sunday Open Hours at Media Corp

Join us on August 16th (otherwise known as 33rd Friday 2019) for yet another 3rd Fridays on 33rd Art Show at Media Corp (515 N 33rd, just south of Myrtle & Cypress Coffee House). We'll be featuring the work of Michaela Wolf from 5pm to 9pm!

Curious about what ELSE goes on inside 515 N 33rd St.? Stop by Open Hours this month! From 2pm to 5pm most Sundays, neighbors Jessie and Amanda are on hand to show you how to use printmaking tools, introduce you to our lending library and various art supplies, or just chat. In August, we'll have the space open on the 4th, 11th, and 25th.

Media Corp. is an all-ages, alcohol-free space that is available to use - at no cost - for many types of community building events. So far we've hosted grassroots organizer meetings, a book club, movie screenings, art-making workshops, poetry and music performances, and drop-in hours for neighbors to connect and create! For more information about upcoming events - or to plan your own - email [mediacorpgiffordpark@gmail.com](mailto:mediacorpgiffordpark@gmail.com) or find us on facebook by searching Media Corp.

## Adventure Playground Update

*by Chris Foster*

The 2019 season of Adventure Playground has been active! Thanks to our dedicated volunteers Monica Lehn, Amy Lanspa, Jasmine Frierson, Witney Stanley, Zedeka Poindexter, Rebecca Cashman, Jessie Fisher, Amanda Huckins, and others. We have started to work on a few projects to enhance the space for kids and adults including building a large pergola to help with shade in the southwest corner and install a brick patio and firepit under the pergola – this will help us with movie nights, pot lucks, and doing other projects in this soon to-be improved area. Construction has started building a “music & sensory” corner, and a wood building workshop area. As always, the 2-story tree house and playground area are open and free to use at any time. Volunteers and access to the materials in the shed are on Saturdays from Noon-3pm. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact us at [sfadventureplayground@gmail.com](mailto:sfadventureplayground@gmail.com) or on Facebook, or contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187, [foster3413@cox.net](mailto:foster3413@cox.net)), or text Monica Lehn 402-660-9046.

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](mailto:brent.lubbert@gmail.com).

**NO SLIP-N-SLIDE ON  
AUGUST 22**

## Consider Mentoring Your Neighborhood Kids

by Ean Patrick

With the 2019-2020 school year already just around the corner, you may be wondering how you can get involved with the new school and with the amazing youth of Gifford Park. Volunteering with Partnership 4 Kids (P4K) could be the answer for you!

P4K is Omaha's only curriculum-based mentoring organization that serves students from pre-K all the way to college and careers. This year, P4K is very excited to start providing programming at the brand-new Gifford Park Elementary!

In total, P4K works in 16 OPS schools. In our six elementary schools - Field Club, Fontenelle, Franklin, Gifford Park, Minne Lusa, and Sherman - we work with all students through our Book Buddy and Goal Buddy programs.

P4K Book Buddies read to pre-K through 3rd grade classrooms, working on gradually increasing steps of literacy. Goal Buddies work with 4-5/6th graders on goal setting and achieving with literacy, attendance, and life skill development. In these grades we also introduce future-thinking and careers. Goal Buddies work in groups of 3-4 students within the classrooms.

Formal Group Mentoring begins in middle school and continues through 10th grade. We provide programming at Lewis and Clark, Marrs, McMillan, Monroe, and Norris middle schools as well as Benson, Central, North, Northwest, and South high schools. Here, true career exploration begins in and amongst curriculum of financial vitality, community responsibility and more, with the opportunity for students to be matched with mentors. Junior year turns from group mentoring to one-on-one case management. This is when our students create the plan to obtain the career of their dreams and we help them achieve it.

We are always looking for caring volunteer mentors. Book Buddies, Goal Buddies, and Group Mentors are an essential part of the success of our program. We'd love to have you volunteer with us at Gifford Park or any of our schools! The rewards are many!

For more information visit our website at [p4k.org](http://p4k.org), or contact Lori Benton at [Lbenton@p4k.org](mailto:Lbenton@p4k.org) or dial 402-557-6376. Thank you.

#OPSProud

# MENTORING FAIR

The most important gift you can give a child is your time. Learn how you can become a mentor by talking with mentoring programs at the OPS Mentoring Fair. Guest speakers and mentoring matches will be there to share how mentoring is making an impact in Omaha!

**Wednesday, August 7**  
**Gifford Park Elementary**  
**717 North 32nd Street**  
**Mentoring Event | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
**Media Event | 11:30 a.m.**

**GUEST  
SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Cheryl Logan**  
**Dr. Tom Osborne**



# 26th Annual Gifford Park Free Tennis Program

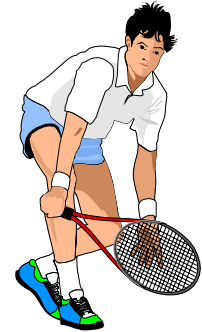


**For:** Youth (4 to 18 years old)

**Dates:** August 7, 14, 21, 28  
(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 **Chris at 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 Elementary PTO Update

by Bren Duvall

Through the generous donations of parents and community members, the Gifford Park Elementary PTO supported acquiring teacher and staff break room appliances, including two refrigerators, an ice machine, a freezer, and two microwaves. Plus, we now have a popcorn machine for school events! Thanks to everyone who donated to support GPE teachers and staff.

The new bike racks are installed at Gifford Park Elementary on the west side of the building! Omaha Public Schools' standard policy uses a 'wave' bicycle rack that is very difficult for elementary age children to use. Thanks to generous neighborhood and community support, Gifford Park Elementary now has 'inverted u' racks that are easier for our elementary children to use. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this improved bike parking possible, we're looking forward to seeing them in action during Safe Routes To School in August.



### YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

**Clothing Donations** - We're seeking donations of gently used or new kids clothing items for the new Gifford Park Elementary nurse's office, sizes 3T to adult small: sweats, socks, new underwear, shorts, t-shirts, shoes, coats, gloves, hats. Donations can be dropped off at Gifford Park Elementary at 717 N 32nd St.

**Safe Routes To School** - 8/12 5:00-6:30pm - Students and families can practice their safe route to Gifford Park Elementary, then meet the staff and teachers to celebrate a wonderful start to the 2019-2020 school year!

**33rd Friday Block Party** - 8/16 5-8pm - The GPE PTO will have an info table at the 33rd Friday to promote signups and sell new GPE t-shirts (all profits will support PTO)!

**Open House** - 9/10 6:00-8:00pm - Gifford Park Elementary invites all students, parents, teachers, family and neighbors to tour the school. We'll have music and face painting! The PTO will be organizing a bake sale to fundraise for school events.

### JOIN THE PTO

Join the GPE PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) to support our children, connect with families and teachers, help with events and fundraising. Everyone is welcome, including students, teachers, parents, grandparents, and community members. Send an email to [giffordparkpto@gmail.com](mailto:giffordparkpto@gmail.com) to get signed up to receive updates. You can find us on Facebook and Twitter @GiffordParkPTO

### QUESTIONS?

Please contact Bren Duvall at [bmdmarketing@hotmail.com](mailto:bmdmarketing@hotmail.com) or 402-943-6503; or Ms. Kim Jones (Principal) at 531-299-6255.

## What does the Gifford Park Friday Market mean to our neighborhood?

by Susan Mayberger

The Gifford Park Friday Market is a happening place from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. every Friday during the summer. The market provides an opportunity to buy fresh vegetables, drink kombucha or lemonade, buy plants, listen to music, hula hoop or just visit with your neighbors. On a recent Friday evening, Dejah Schulte and I asked our neighbors why they come to the market. Here is what they said.

For the kombucha and the community, the music and because there is always something going on.

- Aaron Haug (left)

I come to say hello and enjoy the people.

- Mohamed Ukach (middle)

I used to live in this neighborhood and I have a lot of friends here.

- Ian Dishman (right)



The sugar at the market is good – the maple syrup and honey. We came from Iowa for the weekend. - Nathan and Marla Meyers, Aaron, Eva and Audrey



We live in the neighborhood. We love to shop local. We want to support the market so it stays in the neighborhood. – Megan Lamb



I enjoy the market here. I like helping out. I get to see a lot of familiar faces and meet new people. –



**SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 6**

# Neighborhood Tree Planting Project

191 trees were planted in our neighborhood on Saturday June 1. GPNA in partnership with The Urban Bird and Nature Alliance, the City of Omaha Parks Department, the Hubbard Foundation, and the Arbor Day Foundation purchased trees through Great Plains Nursery. Neighborhood volunteers planted a wide variety of fruit and shade trees including quaking aspen, autumn blaze maples, swamp white oaks, and more.

Special thanks to Diana Failla, John Wynn and Brook Bench from City Parks Department, and GPNA tree planting committee leaders (Alex Goswami, Tyler Magnuson). And we were very honored to have Ann Hubbard (Hubbard Community Forestry Foundation) digging and planting trees alongside kids and adult volunteers.



**SAVE THE WINDOWS**

# OLD HOUSE Restoration

- \* EXTERIOR SIDING & TRIM
- \* WOOD STORM WINDOWS
- \* WINDOW RESTORATION
- \* WINDOW SILLS
- \* HISTORIC PAINT WORK
- \* PORCH & COLUMN REPAIR

\*\*\*\*\*

**LAWRENCE PAINT CO.**  
 Call or Text David @  
 402-813-0827



email: [lawrencepaintco@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencepaintco@gmail.com)

## Photos From Around the Neighborhood







**AUGUST 16**  
**5-8 P.M.**  
**33RD STREET,**  
**CALIFORNIA**  
**TO CASS**  
**OPEN TO ALL**  
**RAIN OR SHINE**

# 33<sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY BLOCK PARTY



Gifford Park



Neighborhood Market

**FEATURING:**

**PRE-PARTY PARADE**  
**KIDS' ACTIVITIES**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET**  
**DANCE PERFORMANCES**  
**LIVE MUSIC & MUCH MORE!**  
**+ BURNZZZ 33RD STREET DINING**  
**EMAIL [GIFFORDPARKOMAHA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GIFFORDPARKOMAHA@GMAIL.COM)**  
**TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS EVENT!**



## Soccer Camp Wraps-up

by *Eric Purcell*

You couldn't have asked for a better night to wrap up our 8th summer of Gifford Park Soccer Camp! The weather was incredible and the whole park was filled with kids, parents and coaches! It's hard to think this program could get any better, but in my opinion our 8th summer was our best!

This summer over 70 youth and 17 adult coaches gathered in Gifford Park for a little over an hour of soccer fun, friends and snacks. Each week we focus on a different soccer skill, like kicking, passing, shooting, dribbling and goalie skills. Most nights the weather was pretty perfect, but on the nights that it was extra hot we brought out our cooling station: a 2.5 gallon hand pump weed sprayer! The kids love it (and some of the parents too)! A new addition this year was a weekly sportsmanship award for each of the age groups. At the end of each night the coaches got to pick one youth that showed outstanding sportsmanship during practice.

A big thank you to all of our coaches who make this camp possible. They give of their time and heart to create this fun environment for the kids and parents. Our coaches this year were: Virginia Roode, Patrick Roode, Eric Purcell, Cesar Tadeo, Matt Cronin, Witney Stanley, Crystal Stanley, Dawn Stanley, Andrew Pellerito, Josie Pellerito, Tyler Magnuson, Chris Larue, Ean Patrick, Aaron French, Norah Purcell and Jaqueline Ensastegui.

I would also like to honor one of our coaches each year. This year I especially want to thank and honor Cesar Tadeo Ramos for his faithful dedication to our camp. Three years ago he arrived at camp and introduced himself to me. He told me that he had read about the camp in the newsletter and wondered if we needed any help. Of course we did! Cesar has become our go to coach for the 7-8 years olds! He always has a plan and keeps those kids moving!

We're also grateful to GPNA for its financial support of this program, along with \$250 Thrivent Grant and \$100 donation from Scheels Sporting Goods!

One final note: we're working on some connections for kids that want to keep playing in the fall! If you're interested please call me (402.719.5108) or Pat Roode (402.321.7555) to learn more!

Until next summer!



## Youth Garden Update

by Chris Foster

At the time of this newsletter we have completed 12 weeks of the Gifford Park Youth Garden (GPYG) program at the Gifford Park Community Garden (35th & Cass St.). The 2019 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 11 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. During week 4, ONE Omaha director and neighbor Julie Smith to lead us (kids & adults!) in a "visioning" and "brainstorming" of ideas for our community garden and Adventure Playground areas. We also planted several trees in front of neighboring homes. Week 5 Big Muddy Urban Farm taught us all about chicken care and a fun exercise of creating chicken art with real feathers! Week 6 Melynda Walsh and Monica Lehn lead an exploration of the world through ice cream toppings by identifying plants that make up toppings and where they originate in the world using globes and maps. Week 7 Big Muddy Urban Farm resident Shayna Sterling presented growing mushrooms, identifying various mushrooms, and eating seared mushrooms grown by a local farmer. Week 8 Monica Lehn and Melynda Walsh presented a class on discussing and smelling various garden herbs and making soap with herbs and other ingredients. Week 9 Obed Sanchez treated us to his engaging presentation "Cooking with Obed Sanchez". Obed also sells baked goods at our Friday Night Market at 33rd & California! Week 10 we had our great Nebraska State tree expert Justin Evertson take us on an interactive tree walking tour of Gifford Park and our newly planted tree orchard and other recent plantings and had us using tools to measure and determine height of trees! Week 11 Nate Belcher with Cover Crop Exchange enlightened us on what cover cropping is and why it is important, and we explored the wonderful critters in the soil. Week 12 Monica Lehn and Anna Deal taught us about various garden plants and then we made mandalas out of the leaves, flowers, pinecones, seeds, rocks, and other items found in garden. Our young gardeners have been growing and harvesting ripening vegetables including eggplant, basil, squash, cucumbers, radishes, carrots, peas, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, watermelons and more. We cannot thank enough our dedicated volunteers, parents and family members who help and participate with our young gardeners. This free program teaches youth of all ages how to grow our vegetables, prepare, eat, and share our harvest with others. Many thanks to the parents and wonderful volunteers, especially Big Muddy Urban Farm, who make this program work! Please contact Chris Foster (402-290-8187 or foster3413@cox.net) if you have any questions about GPYG program.

2019 Schedule (Remaining schedule) ~ all Saturdays 10–11:30am  
 August 10 Field Trip to Iowa Farms in Crescent, IA  
 August 17 Canning and Preserving  
 August 24 Pizza Garden Harvest PARTY! (Big Muddy Urban Farm)  
 Rest of growing season - tend your plot

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](http://www.calibaromaha.com)





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.