



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

528 North 32nd Street
Omaha, NE 68131



Chairman - Jim Windorski 341-4695 Vice-chairman - Chuck Kilgore 558-5000/341-2757 Treasurer - Ron Yates 558-6027
Secretary - Corky Grimes 345-3217 Corresponding Secretary - Ruth Windorski 341-4695

Members-only Mailing

February, 1991

GIFFORD PARK AREA RESIDENT CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Elmer Swanson, long time resident of the Gifford Park area, celebrates his 100th birthday on February 14th. Appropriately, his middle name is Valentine. Elmer and his wife, Elsa (who will be 96 in the spring), moved into their present home on Webster street the day they were married in 1923. Elmer said he spent many hours walking the neighborhood before selecting his house, and he still feels he made the right choice.

Elmer and Elsa Swanson were both born in Sweden and immigrated to the U.S. in 1909 and 1914. They met here in Omaha. Elmer came to Omaha to work for his uncle, who was then a partner in King-Swanson Co., a clothing store. When his uncle later became a partner in Nebraska Clothing Company, Elmer moved to that store, where he sold men's shirts, underwear, ties, and socks, and was also a buyer. He was a popular salesman, because he remembered his customer's sizes and could always fit them correctly. He worked at the downtown Nebraska store almost until it closed in 1974 to make way for the new public library.

Elmer is proud of the fact that he joined the U.S. Navy in 1918 during World War I, serving in Puget Sound and San Diego. He and his wife have made several trips back to Sweden to visit their brothers and sisters, but they are content now to stay in the comfort of their home, assisted by their daughter, Eva.

NEXT MEETING:

FEBRUARY 7
7 p.m.

**ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
SEMINAR ROOM**
FREE PARKING

Guest: Mr. Richard Cottage
Housing Manager
City of Omaha Planning Department

INCORPORATION OF THE GPNA

by Jim Windorski

As set forth in the bylaws of the GPNA, revised and approved in July, 1990, this Association is to become incorporated. One of the major reasons for incorporation is the protection of the officers and the general membership of the GPNA. We have not taken care of business as promptly as we should have.

As of January 24, the GPNA is moving forward with this important change. The board approved the retention of Dan Cheshire to do the necessary incorporation papers. Dan and his wife, Nora, are valuable neighborhood volunteers in the Stonybrook area; thus I feel Dan understands neighborhood associations and the activities unique to them.

I believe I owe the Neighborhood Association an apology for not being more persistent in this matter.

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NEIGHBORS OVERSEAS

by Jim Windorski

I am very much interested in knowing if there are any family members of GPNA families serving in Operation Desert Storm. Please notify me with name and address, and we would be most happy to mail them each month's newsletter. Every little bit of home helps to make it a little easier for our people serving there.

In the same vein, it is great to see the flags flying within our boundaries in support of our troops serving in the Persian Gulf. Keep it up, and let's add some more.

SURVEY

Thank you to those few of you who completed and returned the survey that appeared in last month's newsletter. The response was not nearly what we had hoped for. This survey is an important way for us to get the pulse of our neighborhood. Without more responses, it is not possible for us to know the areas of greatest concern to our residents.

If anyone wishes to complete a survey — it is not too late to do so. If you would like another copy so that you can complete it, please feel free to contact Ruth at 341-4695. We still have some copies available.

GPNA MEMBERS ARE REAL WINNERS!

Virginia McRoberts was recently honored as the St. Joseph Hospital's employee of the month.

Richard Liddick was honored by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) for his outstanding work on the OPD traffic crew (midnights) arresting drunk drivers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Ron Yates

Balance 12/21/90	\$1,728.01
New Memberships (5)	15.00
Donation (Whelan)	<u>10.00</u>
	\$25.00
Mr. & Mrs. McRoberts	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Stover	15.00
Mr. & Mrs. Foster	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Whelan	<u>10.00</u>
	\$60.00
Balance 1/27/91	\$1,693.01

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Ruth Windorski

The GPNA welcomes the following new members: A. Limones, Kathleen Anderson, Mel and Mary Ann Beckman. We thank you for your support. Our membership totals 231.

Members wishing to renew their membership before the June 1st expiration date are welcome to do so. Simply mail \$3.00 in cash or check made payable to GPNA, 528 N. 32nd St., Omaha, NE 68131.

**GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date _____

ANNUAL DUES -- \$3.00 PER PERSON -- MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JUNE 1, 1991

If paying by check, make checks payable to GPNA

Mail to Ruth Windorski: 528 N. 32nd St., Omaha, NE 68131

FEBRUARY IS NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING VIOLATION MONTH*by Chuck Kilgore*

It has come to the attention of the GPNA Board that numerous parking violations have been and are occurring in the neighborhood, despite countless complaints to the Police Department, the Permits and Inspections Office, and the car owners, themselves. These violations range anywhere from parking in front yards to blocking driveways. We are not receiving enforcement from the city that we deserve. The GPNA has decided to target parking violations as the neighborhood problem for the month of February. As the old expression goes, "The squeakiest wheel gets the oil;" the more noise we make at the mayor's office, the greater the likelihood we will have in obtaining results.

Please, all members write a letter to:

Mr. Rod Hise
c/o Mayor's Office
1819 Farnam Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68183

Let the Mayor's Office know that we are tired of people parking automobiles in their front yards week after week.

JANUARY GPNA MEETING

The January meeting of the GPNA was held on January 3rd at 7 p.m., in the Seminar Room of St. Joseph's Hospital. Due to the severe cold, the meeting was poorly attended.

Chuck Kilgore, Vice-chairman, presided in the absence of Jim Windorski, Chairman.

Mr. Leonard Clark, an active GPNA member, treated us all to his delicious homemade molasses taffy. Mr. Clark also brought his own recipe of caramel corn to the Holiday Banquet. We thank him sincerely.

The membership present voted to approve an additional \$350.00 to the GPNA Walk and Watch group. These monies are to be used for a base station, portable scanner, and three portable antennas.

After considerable discussion, the membership voted to continue newsletter publication and distribution in the same manner as last year: 6 mailed editions and 6 walk-through-the-neighborhood editions.

The incorporation of the GPNA was discussed. Chuck Kilgore stated that in talks he has had with Creighton University representatives, the university would fund the association up to \$1,000.00 for the purpose of incorporation.

Mr. Art Limones, a 911 dispatcher, was the featured speaker. His presentation of how the 911 system works and the ways in which a citizen can best be served when calling 911 was informative as well as interesting.

So you see, folks, even in the dead of winter exciting things still happen at GPNA meetings. Try to make time in your busy schedules for February 7th. Mr. Richard Cottage is very capable of answering any question you can possibly have about code enforcement in the City of Omaha — you will not be sorry you came!

EDITORIAL CORNER

Readers are welcome to submit their letters for the Editorial Corner to any Executive Board member prior to the Executive Board meeting held the third Thursday of every month. The Executive Board has final approval for all editorials appearing in this section. Full name and address must be included on all letters submitted. The views and opinions stated are not necessarily those of GPNA or the Executive Board.

THE STATUS OF NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALKS

by Ruth Windorski

There are some minor violations of laws that seem to be rule of thumb in the Gifford Park area. As a person who walks anywhere within reason, these infractions really do bother me. It is my firm belief that it is the responsibility of all people to make reasonably sure our sidewalks are free of hazards to pedestrian traffic.

Let us never forget this is a "walking" neighborhood. We have dozens of children walking to and from school. People can be seen going from place to place on foot at all hours of the day or night and in all kinds of weather.

The city removes snow from our streets — to the sidewalk. Some businesses remove snow from their parking lots — to the sidewalk. Strange, but true, it is a violation to put snow from the sidewalk into the street. Try to figure that out! Some owners of huge amounts of property deem it necessary to shovel or remove snow in a narrow path approximately 16" wide; this hardly leaves room for people to pass or meet without trudging through the unshoveled snow. These narrow paths usually aren't shoveled until two or three days after a snowfall.

Some feel the public sidewalk is the proper place for their private trash containers. I have, in a 2 block walk from my home, encountered everything from a small garbage can to a 20 cubic yard dumpster located on the sidewalk.

The vehicle parked across the sidewalk is the most aggravating. There are a myriad of reasons why nothing can be done to prevent this one! Usually, "I have company and they are leaving" is the retort. However, the vehicle is still there days later — appearing never to have been moved.

Another safety hazard, although not an infraction unless you are fortunate enough to apprehend the culprit in the act, is the large amount of broken glass bottles on our sidewalks. These bottles are broken so close to a proper disposal unit (garbage can) that the rationale for breaking them totally escapes me.

I do have a solution for one of the problems on our sidewalks. Creighton University could furnish porta-potties to the locations of all the university students' parties.

You can see that acceptance or tolerance of minor offenses has a strange way of making major offenses more tolerable. In my eyes, and to my feet, this is the status of the sidewalks in the Gifford Park area. Let's all do some little part to make it better.