



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

528 North 32nd Street
Omaha, NE 68131



Chairman - Jim Windorski 341-4695
Secretary - Corky Grimes 345-3217

Vice-chairman - Chuck Kilgore 558-5000/341-2757

Treasurer - Ron Yates 558-6027
Corresponding Secretary - Ruth Windorski 341-4695

Members-only Mailing

April, 1991

SPRING CLEANUP

by Chris Foster

Have you looked around our neighborhood's streets and yards lately? How does your own yard or your neighbor's yard look? We all know during the winter, it's difficult to keep our yards picked up and we don't notice trash when it's covered by snow, but spring is here and it's the perfect time to do something about it.

So what are you doing Saturday, April 13th? How about participating in our Neighborhood Spring Cleanup Day? Look at the events that will happen on this day:

- Neighborhood Cleanup
- Dumpsters in Gifford Park
- All Forms of Recycling
- Picnic in the Park (hot dogs and pop)
- Membership Drive

The City of Omaha is providing us with dumpsters for use by Gifford Park neighborhood residents only (no commercial hauling). Last year, our neighborhood filled 21 dumpsters full of trash. The City will also operate a chipper near Fontenelle Park — if anyone has tree branches, this is a change to get free wood chips that can be used for many landscaping ideas. Besides cleaning our own yards, we will have trucks and neighborhood volunteers combing the streets and cleaning up our neighborhood. If you can help with Gifford Park Spring Cleanup Day in any way, or you need help with hauling trash, please call:

Chris Foster: 342-6006
Jim or Ruth Windorski: 341-4695

NEW BUSINESS TO MOVE IN

A warm welcome to the California Institute of Music, which is scheduled to open at 508 N. 33rd Street on or around May 1. Barry Brown, Jim Barnes, Bob Lease and Charles Eszrodop will be repairing these instruments: guitar, piano, drums, sax, and bass. They will also give individual instructions. All aspects of photography will also be offered. It is certainly going to be a plus for "the avenue" to have another building occupied.

NEXT MEETING:

APRIL 4
7 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
SEMINAR ROOM
FREE PARKING

Guest: Sgt. Jim Alexander
Representing Omaha Police Union

COMMITTEE NOTES

A nominating committee consisting of 5 members will be elected at the April 4 meeting of the Association. The purpose of this committee is to select a slate of officers for next year for the GPNA. The members of the committee select their chairman from among themselves.

If any of you would like to serve on this committee or hold office, be sure to attend this meeting.

Richard Liddick has been appointed to serve as co-chairman of the budget and finance committee. He, along with the treasurer, is to have a budget prepared for the Association to approve at the general meeting in June.

YATES PTA ANNUAL SPRING CARNIVAL

Saturday, May 4, 1991
Noon to 3 p.m. -- Rain or Shine!

Yates School — 3260 Davenport Street
Games, Prizes, Food, and Fun
A neighborhood tradition for over 50 years.
Proceeds benefit Yates students through the PTA

Everyone welcome!!

**IF YOU SUSPECT DRUG ACTIVITY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
PLEASE CALL THE NARCOTICS UNIT 444-5681, OR CALL 911**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Ruth Windorski

As the new fiscal year of the GPNA approaches, we welcome one new member, Michael Holthaus.

Your membership can be renewed at anytime, but must be paid by June 1st, or our will receive no more members-only newsletters. This is a very economical way to stay informed of what is happening in our neighborhood.

Your membership card will be mailed to you in the mailing of the newsletter following your renewal. Our new cards are pink.

Thank you so much to Ed Osterhaus for printing our membership cards at no cost to the Association. We appreciate this so much, Ed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Ron Yates

Balance 2/24/91	\$1,346.24
No Activity	0.00
	0.00
Creighton (newsletter)	80.00
Post Office (stamps)	72.50
	\$152.50
Balance 3/25/91	\$1,193.74

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.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

an anonymous letter endorsed by Jim Windorski

As you drive through the 33rd Street corridor, what are your thoughts? As you leave Dodge Street with its noise and activity, do you know where you are? According to city planners, you are entering a deteriorating part of the city. IMAGE! Quaint, old Yates school to your right — busy on a school day, quiet any other day. Then on your left is the park — “Which park?” you ask. IMAGE! On your right is a 7-11 store in need of improvements with 3 unkempt phone booths in the parking lot. Now you are entering the real IMAGE, people sitting on porches or walking down the street with open cans of beer in hand, BBQ-ing on the public sidewalk (if there is enough room between the trash containers); some people just can't seem to move to their rear yards.

The business of Robinson's Garage is next, with luck there are no cars parked every which way — again, on the public sidewalk. Then comes Welling Electronics, whose sign says it is OK to park on the sidewalk to make deliveries. Then the vacant drug store building with no broken windows. Hopefully you will have to wait for the traffic light to turn green and you can observe more.

Cross California Street to JNJ Grocery, you may be able to get in the front door if no one is making deliveries on the public sidewalk there also. Then comes the laundromat parking lot with its usual share of litter. The Arctic Circle — a welcome sight for sore eyes — neat, clean and attractive (it is possible!).

Continue your journey to Cuming Street, all residential area. Many folks see no need to keep furniture out of the yard, trash and letter picked up or to dispose of automobiles that don't run. The tunnel under Cuming Street is ridden with graffiti — again!

Turn around and start your journey back to Dodge Street. More residences in need of attention — some with porches falling away from the buildings,

others with torn screens and doors. The Melrose — on the National Register of Historic Places — cars and trucks in the yard at all hours and construction trash abounds.

Now we wait to cross California Street again. Looking east we see unpainted buildings, newspaper-covered windows. There are a few signs of caring at Kilgore's and the potter's next door.

The light changes and we proceed south. A storefront church that also serves as a residence; though neat and clean, it just doesn't fit. Then an overgrown vacant lot littered with broken glass, bottles, cans and papers. The barbershop, vacant now because the prostitutes across the street drove him away. The theater building that has been vacant for ages — but no broken windows. The California Package Store and Bar — once a hub of neighborhood activity, now just there. Another vacant building with broken windows and patched doors, a reminder of the last tenant to occupy it — drug dealers. Next door is another storefront church with no windows to let in God's light. We are back to the park — clean, free of litter, and much used.

So what is this all about? IMAGE. Not what we know but what we see.

We know many good people live and work in the IMAGE. So let's, as neighbors, make a resolution to make a difference. Let us make what we know the same as what we see. In many cases, just a few minutes of concentrated effort would make a huge change. We can begin by supporting the businesses in the corridor, letting them know we care and need them, might even remind them of the things that bother us. Make the people who feel they need not follow the rules aware that we know the rules. Negative pressure is better than no pressure.

This is a safe neighborhood because people walk here all day and all night. Let's make it look safe!

GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD
SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Saturday April 13th

EVENTS:

Neighborhood Cleanup
Dumpsters in Gifford Park
Recycling
Picnic in the Park
Membership Drive

WE NEED HELP WITH:

Cleaning our Streets, Yards, and Park
Hauling (Trucks Needed)
Monitoring and Packing Dumpsters
Separating Recyclable Items
Providing Rakes, Brooms, Gloves, Buckets

* There will be volunteers to monitor the dumpster
(NO Commercial Hauling!)

* If you can help with our neighborhood cleanup or
if you need help with hauling, please call:

CHRIS FOSTER: 342-6006
JIM OR RUTH WINDORSKI: 341-4695

* Bring this flyer to Gifford Park on Cleanup Day
and get a FREE Hot Dog & Pop (DUMP 'N' DOGS!)

*THINK HOW NICE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CAN LOOK
IF EVERYONE PITCHES IN.*

