

This GPNA Newsletter is getting a new letterhead! Come to Thursday's Meeting -- We Need Your Vote!

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

June, 1991



Show Wagon is Returning to Gifford Park!

Gifford Park will be the site of two Show Wagon performances this year. A regular performance will be held July 1st, and the Regional Finals will be held on July 15. Both performances are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Come out on both dates to enjoy an evening of music and dance at Gifford Park. Seating will be at the east bank of the park, so bring your blankets and enjoy the show!

Central Omaha Pony League Baseball

Gifford Park is being used again this year for Pony (Protect Our Nation's Youth) League Baseball. The GPNA also sponsors a team in the Pony League. These are the remaining games to be played at Gifford Park:

June 5	6:15 p.m.
June 6	6:00 p.m.
June 12	6:15 p.m.
June 13	6:00 p.m.
June 20	6:00 p.m.

Our park ballfield is also used by the South Omaha Saints. It is good to see the park being used by both of these youth leagues. Why not try to get down to the park and show some visible neighborhood support.

Special thanks are in order for Subby Anzaldo and Deputy Chief Larry Roberts of the Omaha Police Department. Both have been instrumental in providing prompt response to complaints regarding illegal parking activity in the neighborhood, such as abandoned or illegally parked vehicles.

NEXT MEETING:

JUNE 6
7 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
GLASSED-IN AREA OF CAFETERIA
FREE PARKING

**** Annual Meeting ****
Election of Officers

Election of Officers

by *Jim Windorski*

The June 6th meeting of the GPNA is our annual meeting. This means election of officers and annual reports from all board members. Please attend this meeting; it is very important for the continued success of the Association.

At the May meeting, Eugenia Stevens, nominee for Treasurer, graciously declined her nomination, leaving the work of the nominating unfinished. However, Jerry Rieger has accepted the nomination of treasurer. The following is the slate of officers nominated and nominations for the board members at large:

Chairman — Ron Yates
Vice-chairman — John Lynch
Recording Secretary — Judi Caban
Corresponding Secretary — Ruth Windorski
Treasurer — Jerry Rieger
Board Member at Large — Leo Wilwerding
Board Member at Large — Barb Schroeder
Board Member at Large — Rick Liddick
Board Member at Large — Ed Hendershot

Please remember nominations from the floor are welcomed for any of the offices to be filled. If more than one candidate is nominated for any office, election will be by ballot. The only requirements for an office in the GPNA are the person must be a member in good standing (dues paid for 91-92) and have attended four meetings in the past year. Naturally, anyone being nominated must have given their permission to be nominated.

Again, we urge everyone to attend this very important meeting. See you there.

GPNA Address Changes

by Jim Windorski

The address for all correspondence to the GPNA is being changed. It will now be 3225 1/2 California Street, Omaha, NE 68131. The reason for this change is to take the direct affiliation of GPNA from any one individual or his place of residence. This change comes into effect immediately.

Meeting Scheduled by Salvation Army

An informal meeting discussing Salvation Army program development planning has been scheduled for Mon., June 3, at 7 p.m. at the Salvation Army Renaissance Center, 3612 Cuming Street. Anyone interested in a progress report on Salvation Army activities in the Center is invited to attend. For more information, contact Jim Windorski, 341-4695.

Appointees for the Audit Committee

by Jim Windorski

John Lynch, Corky Grimes, and Jerry Rieger have been appointed by the Executive Board to serve on the audit committee. Their task is to make sure all financial matters of the GPNA are in order when the new treasurer takes over his responsibilities. A report from this committee will be forthcoming at the July meeting of the Association.

Membership Notes

by Ruth Windorski

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership or newly joined the GPNA. Our work would be impossible without your support. As of this date, membership for the 1991-92 year is 53, of which 3 are business memberships. As this is the end of the year in GPNA, I would like to thank all of the faithful people who deliver the newsletter every other month.

Please note the change of address new in effect for mailing your membership or any other GPNA correspondence: 3225 1/2 California Street. This change is in effect immediately.

GPNA Watch Group

by Mike Caban

Warm weather has returned, and the GPNA Watch Group has transitioned from the mobile mode. We are out on foot once again, and this means we need walkers. If you are unable to walk, we also need more base station operators. The GPNA Watch Group will provide all the equipment and instruction. In April we had a meeting to review our rules, and as a result the minimum number of walkers was changed from eight to six. The age limit was also revised; instead of eighteen, it's now twelve years of age and older (12 to 17 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible guardian). As you can see, these changes reflect a desperate need for more people to take part in this activity. I have decided to discontinue the practice of calling walkers every time we go out; instead, I will publish a schedule every other month in the Newsletter (members only issues). Anyone interested is welcome. The success or failure of the GPNA Watch Group depends largely on the willingness of the Association membership to participate. Keep in mind that safe neighborhoods attract economic development, progress, and produce higher property values. For more information about the GPNA Watch Group, call 341-4722.

GPNA WATCH GROUP CALENDAR										
FOR JUNE/JULY 1991										
(Meeting place: 32nd and Webster parking lot)										
	Dates									Times
	S	F	S	F	S	F	S	F	S	
June	1	7	8	14	15	21	22	28	29	11 p.m. -1 a.m.
July		5	6	12	13	19	20	26	27	11 p.m.-1 a.m.

**GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Date _____

ANNUAL DUES -- \$5 (Single), \$8 (Family), \$25 (Business/Institutional)
MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JUNE 1, 1991

If paying by check, make checks payable to GPNA
 Mail to GPNA: 3225 1/2 California St., Omaha, NE 68131

NEIGHBORHOOD SALUTE

by Brian Kokensparger

The GPNA recently entered Cox Cable's "Salute to Omaha's Neighborhoods" competition, where we will compete with other neighborhoods for a cash prizes. You may remember that we won the competition two years ago. Jim Windorski served as a judge of the competition last year, so we were ineligible to enter. The entry form covered many of our present areas of concern, and we thought it would be valuable to reproduce our responses in each area.

THE ENTRY FORM ASKED US TO DESCRIBE OUR ORGANIZATION'S EFFORTS IN THE AREA OF:

SOCIAL PROGRAMS Our social programs are designed to include everyone in the neighborhood, members and non-members alike. Popular social events over the last year included the Pumpkin Patch and Easter Egg Hunt for neighborhood children, a neighborhood picnic in the park, a garage sale, and a picnic during this year's Spring Cleanup. Additionally, we sponsored a Pony League Baseball Team, the Show Wagon, and Optimists Bicycle Rodeo, all at Gifford Park. Area businesses, such as Kilgore's Restaurant, often become informal meeting places where neighbors gather to grab a bite to eat and discuss the issues of the day.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT/BEAUTIFICATION Our neighborhood improvement/beautification plans concentrate on positive resources and encouragement for neighborhood beautification. We sponsored two successful cleanups during the year; our Spring Cleanup filled nine dumpsters with trash, sent at least five truckloads of branches to the mulchers, produced \$115 in revenue for recycled aluminum and scrap metal, cleaned many street sewer drains, and helped countless neighbors get rid of trash, brush, and old appliances. A Holiday Decorating Contest helped beautify the neighborhood at the end of the year. We also made a large number of improvements to Gifford Park, working to get a sign erected, grading and seeding the east bank of the park, pouring two concrete slabs, and adding two barbecue grills and picnic tables.

COMMUNICATIONS The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association's number one priority is communication, and our monthly newsletter remains the primary vehicle. We publish twelve issues a year, of which six are mailed directly to members, and six are distributed to every residential unit in the neighborhood. In order to have full feedback, we have added an editorial section, and devote every square inch of the newsletter to news and information (no advertisements!). A survey was distributed to every residence in the neighborhood, allowing neighbors to sound off about their likes and dislikes. We also have active correspondence with area businesses and institutions, and work to encourage open communication among neighbors as a first step to problem solving. In our monthly general meetings, we have invited guests from City Hall (including Mayor Morgan), the Police Division, MAD DADS, St. Joseph's Hospital, Creighton University, Omaha Public Schools and Boystown National Research Institute, as well as several political candidates, to foster two-way communication and address specific issues.

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NEIGHBORHOOD SALUTE (continued)

NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEM-SOLVING/ADDRESSING NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS Our neighborhood's problems are many, and we try to address them as humanly, firmly, and creatively as possible. Our Neighborhood Walk Group is a unique response to crime — the walkers are a visible sign of our determination to keep crime out of our neighborhood. Our purchase of a large supply of drug-free zone stickers is an equally visible sign that the illegal sale of drugs will not be tolerated in this neighborhood. February was "parking month;" we emphasized the proper parking of vehicles. Members also participated in Police Ride-Alongs and invited a 911 operator to speak at the January general meeting. On a positive note, we collected money, food, clothes, and toys to create Holiday Sharing Baskets, which were distributed to needy neighborhood families.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (relationships with schools, churches, businesses, government)

We are surrounded by large institutions and corporations, which give us a wide variety of resources upon which to draw, as well as issues to address in terms of expansion and peaceful coexistence. As a result, we try to keep the lines of communication open, and to work with these institutions in the best interest of the neighborhood. We have also worked to foster legitimate business activity in the 33rd and California area, and can proudly report that a new business has opened in our neighborhood. City-wide, we continue to be actively involved in city events and activities, such as the city-wide Spring Cleanup, Brush Up Nebraska (we were the only neighborhood association to sponsor a team), and the Blood-Mobile at St. Joseph's Hospital.

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.

No submissions received this month.
Send your opinions in for next month.



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

528 N. 32nd St., Omaha, NE 68131

341-4695



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN 1990-1991

The GPNA is a very special Neighborhood Association in the city of Omaha. We are an urban potpourri of people who, unlike our suburban cousins, are here for a potpourri of reasons. We have large institutions surrounding us—their need for expansion puts pressure on the residential characteristics of our neighborhood. With each passing year, the texture of the area is changing. There are yet remaining many families with multiple generations living here. There are people who have left and have returned. Our public school is crowded with a very flexible daily census. Our neighbors have the ability to move their residence quickly, within or outside the area. We also have a college population, who occasionally forget that this is our home also. We are not all home owners. We are not all poor. We are a neighborhood wealthy in tradition as many prominent citizens of our city have had roots in the Gifford Park area.

The neighborhood is fragile at this point in time. The area embraces a large multi-culturalist makeup that it is today as potpourri in that respect. We should be proud as neighbors' that we have this opportunity to be a melting pot of people with wide social, economic, cultural, educational backgrounds.

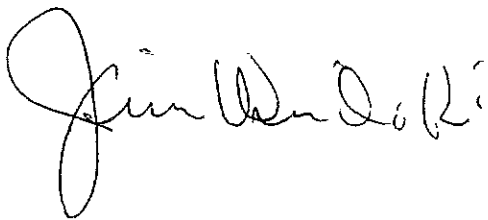
In the past three years, I have had the great opportunity to try to make a difference, positively. I find it very hard to be positive without being honest about what the GPNA has accomplished in its brief history. The honors and accolades from our sister neighborhoods are very gratifying to the chairman. But the real satisfaction comes when you know your efforts have helped your neighbor with no expectation of reward.

The GPNA is a people organization. Its most important function is information. The newsletter is critical to its existence, viability and credibility.

The GPNA also needs a Social base of activity that brings our neighborhood together to work and play. The Association should be a catalyst to our youth and our elderly neighbors. In the past we have not communicated with our neighborhood churches as we should have. The area has many low-profile businesses.

In this area we need more contact with both small and large enterprises in and around our boundaries.

There are many problems and few persons dedicated to working for no pay. I know that the board and myself have given freely of our time and resources to help the GPNA to be a leader in successful neighborhood associations in the city. It has also helped new neighborhood associations forming. But success could not be ours if not for the faithful membership which made this commitment most worthwhile for me. To all, I thank you for your support and know that your support will continue for our newly elected officers and our fine at large board members. Yours truly will not disappear, I owe the GPNA my continued service as a member of the Board as the Past Chairman.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim W. D. K.", located at the bottom left of the page.