



# GIFFORD PARK 'S PRIDE

*A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association*

**July, 1991**

## **New Officers Elected at Annual Meeting**

*by Judi Caban*

At the G.P.N.A. meeting on June 6, 1991, an election of officers for the coming year was held as specified in our bylaws. The following persons were elected by the members present:

Chairman:	Ron Yates
Vice-chairman:	John Lynch
Recording Secretary:	Judi Caban
Corresponding Secretary:	Ruth Windorski
Treasurer:	Jerry Rieger

Four at-large members of the G.P.N.A. Executive Board were also elected. They are:

Richard Liddick  
Ed Hendershot  
Barb Schroeder  
Leo Wilwerding

Other highlights of the June 6th meeting included:

A donation from the G.P.N.A. was presented to representatives of the MAD DADs Security Committee in recognition and gratitude for their assistance to the G.P.N.A. Watch Group.

Members of the G.P.N.A. Watch Group were honored for their service to the Group during the past year.

The officers and committee chairmen presented their annual reports to the Association.

The out-going officers were recognized and honored for their outstanding service to both the G.P.N.A. and the Gifford Park community.

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## **NEXT MEETING:**

**JULY 11\***

**7 p.m.**

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

**Guest: Charles Ritchie  
Park Ranger Volunteers**

**\*Please note date\*\*Please note date\***

## **National Night Out 1991**

*from the Omaha Watch Newsletter*

National Night Out 1991 takes place Tuesday, August 6th. The annual National Night Out prompts us to take a hard look at our commitment to our neighborhoods. We know that, each year, some neighborhoods experience the pain and fear of burglary and other property crimes. There still remains only one best deterrent to neighborhood crime, and that's neighbors working together and watching out for each other in cooperation with local law enforcement.

KNOW what's happening in your neighborhood, REPORT crime and suspicious activity to the police, and GET INVOLVED with your neighbors in making the important decisions that affect your neighborhood.

This National Night Out is an excellent opportunity for Neighborhood Watch chairpersons to revitalize their groups. Find out who is new in the neighborhood and bring everyone together to unite the neighborhood. Make a difference on National Night Out and on every other day of the year.

**G.P.N.A. Watch Group**  
by Mike Caban, Group Chairman

At the June meeting of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, some of the walk group members were acknowledged for their contributions to this committee. The following people received certificates of recognition for over ten hours of volunteer time in the past year: Wayne Hill, 13 hours; Isaac W. Daily II, 16 hours; Dorothy Munhall, 21 hours; Sallie Foster, 25 hours; Dennis Rieger, 46 hours; Kathy Rose, 47 hours. For their contributions of 48 hours and above, the following people received a year pin in addition to the certificate: Mark Holzaphel, 48 hours; Chris Foster, 49 hours; Roberta Jensen, 60 hours; Jerry Rieger, 67 hours.

For service far beyond the call of duty, the following members contributing over one hundred hours received a G.P.N.A. Watch Cap, in addition to a year pin and certificate: Judi Caban, 108 hours; Jim Windorski, 115 hours; Ruth Windorski, 123 hours; Harry Dirgo, 130 hours; Mike Caban, 131 hours; Ron Yates, 161 hours.

I again want to thank all the people who have made this endeavor possible, and encourage anyone who is interested in DOING something pro-active, to join us in our attempt to maintain a healthy, safe, and wholesome environment for the Gifford Park community. And to those who may think our neighborhood is a good place for gang hideouts, drug deals, loud unruly partying, or any illegal activity, THINK AGAIN.

**Newsletter Report**  
by Brian Kokensparger

With the adoption of 3225 1/2 California Street as the new mailing address for the G.P.N.A., Chuck Kilgore has graciously agreed to take newsletter information there as well. You can drop off any articles or news items at Kilgore's during regular business hours. Deadline for each month's newsletter is the fourth Monday of the prior month. (For example, information for the August newsletter needs to be delivered to Kilgore's on or before July 22.)

Editorial items should be delivered to Kilgore's, or given to any board member, on or before the Executive Board meeting day (the third Thursday of each month).

All approved articles and editorials will be included as space allows. If they are not included in the month for which they were submitted, they will be printed the following month. If you want me to make little changes (changing a word or two here or there, for example) to help the article read better, just write that on the top or bottom of the article. If not, we will print the exact words we receive.

Always remember: this is your newsletter. We print the newsletter because your opinions, articles, and news items are a lot more valuable on the page than under your hat.

**Treasurer's Report**

No report this month -- the audit has not yet been completed.

**Membership Committee Report**  
by Ruth Windorski

The membership committee wishes to welcome all new or renewed members of G.P.N.A. A very special thank you and acknowledgement goes to Mr. Paul Mileris for his generous check in the amount of \$100.00. We truly appreciate such financial support.

Our membership has dropped to approximately one half of what it was last year at this date. This troubles me. Have you forgotten to renew or is there some other reason for not renewing your membership? This is an association of its members, all of them, and less than 100 members does not begin to speak for our whole neighborhood. Please, if there is a particular reason for your non-renewal, let us know. Your opinions and thoughts are important to us.

**GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES -- \$5 (Single), \$8 (Family), \$25 (Business/Institutional)**

**MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRED JUNE 1, 1991**

If paying by check, make checks payable to GPNA

Mail to GPNA: 3225 1/2 California St., Omaha, NE 68131

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## Annual Report of the Chairman, 1990-91

by Jim Windorski

The G.P.N.A. 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-culturist 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, and 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 G.P.N.A. 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 G.P.N.A. is a people organization. Its most important function is information. The newsletter is critical to its existence, viability, and credibility.

The G.P.N.A. 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 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 G.P.N.A. to be a leader in successful neighborhood associations in the city. It has also helped new neighborhood associations form. But success could not be ours if not for the faithful membership which made this commitment most worthwhile to 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 G.P.N.A. my continued service as a member of the Board as the Past Chairman.

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### News Items

At the June regular meeting of the G.P.N.A., a motion was passed by majority vote to support Buck's, Inc. in their request for a license to sell beer at their 30th and Dodge Streets facility. Ruth Windorski, corresponding secretary, sent a letter of support to the City Council shortly thereafter. The Council passed the resolution 6-1.

We received a check for \$100.00, and special recognition for accomplishments in the area of Communications, during a reception announcing the winners of Cox Cable's Salute to Omaha's Neighborhoods. Dundee Memorial won the overall award, and will be featured in a documentary by Cox Cable later this year. The G.P.N.A. was well-represented at the reception, with some dozen members in attendance.

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## 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.*

### A Concern

by Leonard J. Clark

It would be very nice to be able to say yes to every expense that comes along and still have money left over. But some of us aren't working like we used to and don't bring home a check. Some of us must cut corners to have something to eat, some of us must take medicine to stay well, some of us must pay taxes on our homes. Now what has this to do with Gifford Park Neighborhood Association? I'll tell you pretty soon.

This neighborhood does a terrific job looking after things that pulls down a community and they do something to correct the problem. Do you as an Association think some of the group aren't needed? Well it could come to that if the dues are increased to \$5 and I understand the talk was \$10 for dues but \$5 was decided on. I was asked if I was going to the meeting and I answered the dues were due in June and I hadn't paid and I didn't feel I could and wouldn't go if I owed dues. Can't we use some other method of raising money instead of increasing the dues? Let's not be like the places of business that takes you for all that traffic will bear. This is my concern and I thank you for reading me through.

### To Whom it May Concern

by Anne Jernigan

Enclosed please find check #6032 in the amount of \$13 for my \$5 membership and my tenant's \$8 membership for G.P.N.A. When you send their membership card please make note to them I have paid for them.

I really believe in everything G.P.N.A. is doing and want all in our neighborhood to be involved. I wish I could afford to pay for more people to become members. The Minnigs don't know I'm doing this, so please inform them. Thank you.

### Wow! Would You Look At This Place . . .

by Mike Caban

A few years ago, I moved away from the Gifford Park area, because it was falling apart at the seams. Now look at it. The house I sold for twenty thousand dollars is now worth fifty-five thousand. There are people actually picnicking at the park, and baseball leagues use the field almost every day of the week. What happened to all the broken glass on the park's foot paths, all the trash, and the weeds growing two foot high on every other lot? Why, even the people seem different. I walked to the Grocery Store, and on the way there, people actually said hello with smiles on their faces. There were five bikes outside the Arctic Circle and none of them were chained up. A couple of young ladies played jump rope in front of the newly remodeled apartment buildings across the street from the California Bar, as their mothers kept an eye on them and chatted. And I couldn't believe those beautiful planters on the four corners of 33rd and California. One in front of the apartments, one in front of J'N'J's, one in front of the New Drugstore, and one in front of the New Dry Cleaners. I hear the plants were all donated by the owner of the New Garden Shop on the corner of 33rd and Cass. I stopped in for lunch at the recently opened Mexican Restaurant, between the Garden Shop and the New Pet Store, and recognized the girl behind the counter as one of the kids that went to Yates Elementary School, some years back. She told me the New Yates School on the east side of 33rd Street, between Burt and Webster, across the street from TAC, opened last fall and it's one of these modern learning centers, where all the new innovative teaching concepts are used, and that everyone in town wants to send their kids to it. She told me not to miss going to the New Zorinsky Community Center, where the old Yates school used to be. She said they have literacy classes, and parenting classes, and there's a day-care and a pre-school, and arts and crafts workshops, and other programs for the elderly. She said, Mutual of Omaha, Creighton University and the Boys' Town Institute contributed all the equipment for the Computer Center, and volunteers to help local young people improve their chances of getting good jobs. She said, she's a senior in high school now, and that she volunteers at the Community Center as a math tutor for elementary aged kids in the neighborhood, and that Creighton University students also tutor high school drop outs in their G.E.D. program at one of the fraternity houses in the area. She was apparently very proud of her neighborhood, and with good reason. "What in the world happened here?" I asked, and you know what she told me. It all began with THE GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION . . .

. . . today's fiction can be tomorrow's fact.