



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

FEBRUARY, 1992

Chairman:
Ron Yates
558-6027

Vice-Chairman:
John Lynch
345-9624

Treasurer:
Mike Caban
341-4722

**Recording
Secretary:**
Judi Caban
341-4722

**Corresponding
Secretary:**
Kathy Rose
341-3955

**At Large Board
Member:**
Ed Hendershot
341-0475

**At Large Board
Member:**
Rick Liddick
345-2476

**At Large Board
Member:**
Barb Schroeder
342-0869

**At Large Board
Member:**
Leo Wilwerding
345-1433

NEXT MEETING:

FEBRUARY 6
7 p.m.

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

Guest: Charles Ritchie, Park Ranger

FREE PARKING

GPNA's NEIGHBOR OF THE YEAR

by Tom Rose

In keeping with our goals to acknowledge outstanding participation in GPNA activities, this year we present the first annual Neighbor of the Year.

Who, but St. Joseph's Hospital, one of our finest neighbors east of 30th Street, who cordially invites us to use their facilities for our monthly GPNA general meetings, and at our December meeting, provides a banquet at their expense, deserves our first annual Neighbor of the Year Award.

Of course, St. Joseph's Hospital does more for us than the aforementioned niceties . . .

Without their unselfish commitment to community involvement, we as an award-winning neighborhood association, could have, in our infancy, ceased to exist.

The seminar room to the north of the cafeteria has, for the most part, been a welcome oasis for neighborhood thought, ideas, and sometimes bitter discussions that have influenced decisions and ideals we all live by.

So thanks to St. Joseph's Hospital, for all your support and thanks for your patience with us, thanks for the coffee and thanks for the banquet, and thanks for the things you do for us that we forgot to mention, and thanks for being there when we needed you. In this day of corporate insensitivity, it's nice to know that our first Neighbor of the Year has such a big heart.

Want to Advertise in the Gifford Park Pride?

For information contact:
Mike Caban
422-4343 - weekdays
341-4722 - evenings

PARK COMMITTEE

by Park Committee Chairman, Jerry Rieger

The Park Committee members met with Jerry Parks and Larry Foster on January 21st at the Civic Center. We were updated as to the progress of work being done in Gifford Park. The reason, however, for our meeting was to present to the City the recommendation of the Association for the removal of the basketball poles, as approved by the membership at the January, 1992, meeting. Mr. Parks promised that the Park Department would respond to our request prior to the February Association meeting so that results may be announced at that meeting.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

The GPNA Executive Board has received, and regretfully accepted, the resignation of Mrs. Ruth Windorski from her positions as GPNA Corresponding Secretary and chair of the Membership and Courtesy Committees.

Mrs. Windorski was a founding member of the Association, and has contributed greatly to its success and growth. The Executive Board joins the entire membership in extending a sincere vote of thanks and appreciation to Ruth for her work on behalf of the GPNA, and we look forward to her continuing support and participation in Association activities.

In accordance with the bylaws of the Association, the Executive Board has elected Mrs. Kathy Rose to serve as Corresponding Secretary and chair of the Membership Committee for the remainder of the present term.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Mike Caban

Balance on 11/30/91	\$2,310.04
Memberships	16.00
December Mini-Raffle	36.00
Holiday Sharing Donation	11.50
Memberships	<u>121.00</u>
Total Income	\$184.50
Sec. Exp. and Holiday Banquet	36.80
Holiday Sharing	350.00
Newsletter Printing	80.00
Lighting Contest Prizes	<u>50.00</u>
Total Expenditures	\$516.80
Balance on 12/31/91	\$1,977.74

GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

ANNUAL DUES -- \$5 (Single), \$8 (Family), \$25 (Business/Institutional)
 **Please note: All memberships expire June 1, 1992.

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

VOLUNTEERISM: INCREASING PARTICIPATION*by Chris Foster*

My wife Sallie and I recently attended a workshop for neighborhood associations, presented by Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB). Vic Gutman, who lives in our neighborhood, spoke about volunteerism today. I want to share some of the things we learned in the workshop that I hope you will find interesting.

Why do people volunteer?

1. It makes them feel good.
2. People like to be part of a group.
3. People have a cause or belief.
4. People want to make their beliefs a reality.

What are obstacles in today's world that keep people from volunteering?

working	lack of funds/resources
child care	uncertain impact
TV	hopelessness
apathy	lack of leadership
communication	group friction
transient people	neighborhood cliques
over-committed	physical barriers
fear of retaliation	lack of shared vision
some members not open-minded, controlling	
politics	

What are ways to overcome these obstacles?

- .Everyone has basic needs, like safety and security for family and friends
- .Communication — advertise in a newsletter or sign
- .Provide easy and diverse ways for people to volunteer
- .Everyone has a skill that is needed in some way
- .Variety of volunteer types — long-term, short-term
- .Patriotism, identification, pride
- .Be patient but persistent
- .Reward volunteers — awards, recognition, thank yous, group identities like logos, hats, t-shirts
- .Ask for volunteers
- .Volunteering truly does "energize" us

What about fundraising?

- .Contributions from businesses — money, food, tools, supplies
- .Cause related marketing — i.e., a grocery store donates 5 cents to the neighborhood association for every carton of milk sold during March and April
- .Entrepreneurship — sell t-shirts, hats, and etc. with logo displayed
- .Others — raffles, concessions, membership drive, private donations, neighborhood picnic.

Cindy Smilley, of Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB), presented awards and thanked the neighborhood associations for their participation in neighborhood cleanups. Let's support KOB, because they are involved with cleanup, recycling, tree planting, and other beautification projects. I picked up handouts at the workshop on recycling, so if you would like more information, please call me at 342-6006.

TOOL LENDING UPDATE*by Chris Foster*

Just a reminder about the GPNA Tool Lending Program for anyone in the neighborhood, member or not. People who have taken advantage of the tool lending say it's the best deal in town. We have got about any tool you would ever need, from yard chores to home repairs. It's easy — give us a try! Call Ed Hendershot (341-0475), Jim Windorski (341-4695), or Chris Foster (342-6006).

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

During our January 16th Board Meeting, a discussion was held about the homestead exemption. A call to the office of Frank Bemis, Douglas County Assessor, gave us the following information:

- . Seniors must be 65 or over before January 1st to file
- . Must be an owner-occupant
- . Federal gross income must be under \$10,400 (excluding Social Security Income)
- . Exempt from taxes on the first \$35,000 of property value

They informed us that they would be happy to help anyone with questions at 444-7185.

PERSONAL ADS ARE HERE !

GPNA members, now you can purchase an ad of this size in the Gifford Park Pride for the unbelievably low price of \$5 per month!

Place a 'Happy-Ad' to celebrate holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, etc, or advertise any personal sales, such as pets for sale, or garage sales. (Not for business use.)

To order an ad, or for more information contact Mike or Judi Caban at 341-4722. Deadlines for personal ads are the 15th of the month prior to desired publication month.

PIPES AND WIRES . . . by Leo Wilwerding

The age of our neighborhood can be determined partly by the records of when gas, water, and electricity were connected. A few homes, however, were farm houses and were well out in the country before gas and water mains were laid in newly plotted streets. In some instances water lines were run a block or more to serve individual houses because water mains had not been extended on certain streets. A number of houses on California east of 36th were served by lines connected at 36th and Webster. Other houses on Webster west of 34th were originally served with lines from Burt Street.

A check of water and gas line records for the area show that the majority of homes were built in the 1910 to 1920 period. A few, however, are much older. Several in the 500 block of North 32nd, in the 3100 block of Cass, the 3000 block of California, 3300 block of Dodge, and 3100 block of Chicago and on Burt, date back to the 1800's, with the oldest shown in 1888. This is pretty good when you consider Omaha did not have a water system at all until 1881! A few of the oldest houses in the neighborhood almost certainly had wells before city water was available.

One interesting item is that some homes had rainwater cisterns. There is one right next door to me. The rainwater was caught from the roof and channeled into the cistern. Because of being perfectly soft water, it was prized for use in washing clothes and shampooing hair. An old-fashioned hand pump was often used to draw the water out of the cistern.

Electricity and telephones became available in the late 1800's. One home I know of has the electric wiring channels and switches exposed on the interior walls.

Many homes in our area had gas lights in addition to electric. Our house had gas lights on all floors, despite being built in 1914!

We would be astounded today if we could see all the pipes and wires that serve us while concealed beneath our streets. A recent water main break washed out an entire intersection. With all the dirt removed, it looked like spaghetti with gas, water, sewer, street light, traffic light, power, telephone, and television lines all exposed. It is easy to forget these silent servants, but a rude awakening when they quit working!

How old is your house? Let's see if we can determine the oldest house in the neighborhood. Call me at 554-7793, and we will show the ages in another issue. I have a list of water tap dates for comparison.

It is interesting to note that houses are ageless if properly maintained. I'm sure some of the oldest are the nicest. How are you doing in caring for yours?

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.

LET'S PULL TOGETHER!

by Tom Rose

Our Neighborhood Association is almost three years old, and the founding members have done a wonderful job keeping the group together. We have grown from a group of friends that were concerned about the deterioration of the area, to an award-winning progressive bunch of hard-working volunteers. We should keep in mind that we have many different ideas on how we should operate; disagreements should be handled with maturity and petty bickering kept under control. We are adults; no one gets paid for what we do. So as the new year unfolds, let's make a group resolution to end these useless squabbles and get down to our prime objectives. Under our new leadership and the leadership of the future, we will, as we always have, pull together to make hard jobs seem easier and big jobs seem smaller.

A CALL FOR HELP

by Mark Burns, Supervisor of the
A.V. Sorensen Rec. Center

I am writing to you because of my concern for the future of the A.V. Sorensen Rec. Center. My 1991 budget was less than anticipated, and made necessary the curtailing of hours for my part-time staff. The new budget for 1992 is over \$3,000 less than the previous year. The further diminishing of hours for a very dedicated and concerned staff will necessitate the further curtailment, and possibly the elimination of some classes. Knowing that families from your organization use our facility, and wish to continue to do so, is the reason I'm bringing this matter to your attention. Anything you can do to help overcome this situation will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!