



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

MAY, 1992

President:

Ron Yates-558-6027

Vice-President:

John Lynch-345-9624

Treasurer:

Mike Caban-341-4722

Recording Secretary:

Judi Caban-341-4722

Corresponding Secretary:

Kathy Rose-341-3955

Past President:

Jim Windorski-341-4695

**Standing Committee
Chairs:**

Budget & Finance

Mike Caban-341-4722

CDC/Incorporation

Chuck Kilgore-341-2757

Clean-Up

Chris Foster-342-6006

Courtesy

Cinde Yates-558-6027

Gifford Park Day

John Lynch-345-9624

Membership

Kathy Rose-341-3955

Social Activities

Kathy Rose-341-3955

Neighbor of the Month

Tom Rose-341-3955

Newsletter

Brian Kokensparger
558-3834

Park

Jerry Rieger-341-4172

Program

John Lynch-345-9624

Tool Lending

Ed Hendershof-341-0475

VIP

Mike Caban-341-4722

Watch Group

Ron Yates-558-6027

Weeds & Litter

Leo Wilwerding
345-1433

NEXT MEETING:

MAY 7

7 p.m.

**ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
DINING ROOMS A, B, and C**

**Guests: Sgt. Mark Sundermeier, Omaha Police Department
and Larry Brown, Lighting Specialist, OPPD**

Topic: Bikes, Crime, and Lighting

FREE PARKING

GPNA WATCH GROUP RECEIVES AWARD!

The Safety and Health Council of Greater Omaha, Inc., a chapter of the National Safety Council, recognized the efforts of the GPNA WATCH GROUP and other individuals and organizations at an awards luncheon held April 29th at the Holiday Inn Convention Centre.

The GPNA Watch Group Received the 1992 "O.P.P.D. Service to Community Safety Award" which was established in 1964 to encourage effective action in the area of Community Safety by a not-for-profit group.

The GPNA Watch Group and the members of the GPNA have worked hard to make this a better place to live. It is gratifying to know that our efforts have been noticed, and recognized in this manner by the sponsoring organization, O.P.P.D, and the Safety and Health Council of Greater Omaha.

A big Thank You to all who participated in Watch Group activities these past two years. Keep up the good work. Anyone interested in participating in this committee may call Ron Yates at 558-6027 for information. The Award will be on display at the May Association meeting.

AN ADDITION TO THE FAMILY

Many of you may know Jackie Beaton, who works in the Marketing Department of St. Joseph Hospital. She is one of the individuals who schedules our meetings, sits patiently through them and makes certain we have coffee and cookies available. She and the other Marketing Department employees have taken very good care of us.

Jackie and her husband, Randy, were blessed with their first child, a son, on March 21st. Jordan Robert Beaton was delivered by C-Section and weighed in at 7 lbs., 13 1/2 oz. The latest report indicates mother and son are doing fine. Jackie plans on returning to work the first week of May.

Congratulations, Jackie and Randy!

LET THERE BE LIGHT.....

Severa Investments is quite large and they are providing a much needed service in our neighborhood. They are the largest property holder in our area and are doing something right: Lighting! Their larger buildings have security doors and resident managers. Some of these resident managers are members of our Association and are quite responsive to the neighborhood needs.

The security lighting that Severa Investments installs is probably the greatest benefit to their properties, tenants and the neighborhood. Notice the units on 33rd and Burt Streets and those on California and Chicago Streets, and you will see how effective good lighting is. Check your property. Good lighting is encouraged for adequate safety and security. Let's encourage landlords, businesses, and home owners to follow their example.

GPNA MEMBERSHIP

By Kathy Rose, Membership Chairperson

It's that time of the year folks, where you, the members of one of the finest Neighborhood Associations in Omaha, are able to really make a difference to this area. With your modest membership dues, we have made an impact on this neighborhood. Our publication of the *Gifford Park Pride* reaches this entire neighborhood from Dodge to Cuming, 30th to 37th, six times a year, and members every month. As of today's date the membership count is 244. We hope that this year's membership far exceeds these numbers.

What do we do, you ask? How about the annual Easter Egg Hunt? A Spring and Fall Cleanup in the park? The only active association-sponsored Watch Group in Omaha? An annual garage sale, which -- by the way -- is the best around? Christmas Lighting Contest? Tool Lending Program? And how do you like the new park equipment at the west end of Gifford Park? These are some of the things, to name a few.

As a viable voice to the Omaha City Council our decisions will influence our neighborhood at present, and in the years to come.

So be a joiner today, and you too can be out there hiding Easter eggs, or selling those precious items at the annual Garage Sale. Or how about witnessing the great Spring phenomena known in these parts as the **SPRING CLEANUP?**

In all seriousness only with your support and volunteer participation can we achieve our dreams of making the Gifford Park Neighborhood the best place in the city to "Live, Work, Learn and Play."

Voor Kleintjes

CHILD CARE



Nice home environment, preschool, USDA meals, licensed, CPR & First Aid certified staff. **OPEN SATURDAYS!**

126 N. 35th Street
345-0529

Melodie Anderson
Director

Thea Snow
Owner

For every new fulltime customer, \$10. will be donated to GPNA

ARCTIC CIRCLE

615 No. 33rd Street

342-4474

QUITTING BUSINESS!

EVERYTHING GOES!

OPEN EACH WEEKEND IN MAY

GREAT BUYS & PRICES!

50¢ OFF ANY NECKLACE!

via Bar & Pkg.

N. 33rd. Street

Serving the Gifford Park
Community since 1937

Wayne & Peggy Hill,
Proprietors



**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 new and newly-renewed memberships will expire June 1, 1993.**

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

EASTER EGG HUNT

The day of the Easter Egg Hunt in Gifford Park dawned as a dreary, drizzly day. The workers were quite concerned about whether or not the hunt would be finished before the impending rain began to fall. Despite the damp surroundings, the workers went about finding the crevices and hollows to conceal the eggs and candy. All preparations were made by 8:45 a.m. and the rain remained at bay.

The children began arriving and were greeted by the fuzzy, floppy-eared Easter Bunny who gave them pretty colored eggs and candy. The younger children were especially delighted. At 9:10 a.m. the count-down began and the children eagerly rushed into their respective areas in search of goodies.

Approximately 100 children participated in the event and all appeared to have a delightful time. The hunt was over and most everyone was gone before the first drops of rain began to fall.

This event was sponsored by the GPNA with generous contributions from J-N-J and Albertson's grocery stores. The GPNA wishes to express thanks to these contributors and the volunteers who colored and hid the eggs. Their generosity makes programs such as the Easter Egg Hunt a benefit to our neighborhood and it's residents.

PERSONAL INJURY LAW
 Charles R. Kilgore Jr.
 Attorney at Law
 4913 Underwood Ave.
 558-5000

**Want to Advertise in
 the Gifford Park
 Pride?**

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

**Have You
 Heard?**

**RON YATES
 TURNS 50
 THIS MONTH!**

**Happy Birthday Ron!
 From Your Friends in the GPNA**

SPRING CLEANUP REPORT

By Chris Foster

What a team effort! Gifford Park's Pride happens to be the title of this newsletter, and WOW did our pride shine bright on an otherwise mostly cloudy and cool day that began at 8 a.m. and finished about 4 p.m. Saturday, April 11th. So many neighborhood volunteers worked so hard during the GPNA Spring Cleanup Day, and everyone had a smile throughout the day.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Here is a summary of the day's events:

- filled 10 dumpsters (most were 20 cubic yd containers)
- filled 7 City of Omaha trucks (these trucks ain't small!)
- hauled 3 Kiewit Construction Company flatbed truckloads to the dump
- used 20 tree chipper passes and 8 landfill passes
- recycled 18 appliances
- recycled scrap metal and aluminum which netted over \$70
- recycled salvageable garage sale items and given to neighborhood people
- sold 17 GPNA memberships
- received \$73 in donations
- cleaned Gifford Park in preparation for our annual Easter Egg Hunt
- helped countless neighbors haul trash (many of these people have no other means of disposing of this trash without the spring cleanup program)
- provided recycling information
- snarfed-down 200 hotdogs and 5 cases of pop at the picnic in Gifford Park

SPECIAL THANKS

The GPNA would like to give special thanks to the following people and businesses who contributed invaluable help to our neighborhood for this year's spring cleanup:

- City of Omaha (Jerry & Jackie Flood, Jerry Parks, and the rest of the staff)
- Keep Omaha Beautiful (Cindy Smilley)
- Glad (Bag-A-Thon)
- Abe's Trash (donated dumpsters)
- Davies (donated dumpsters)
- Waste Management (donated dumpsters)
- Lt. Stangel (House Arrest help)
- Kiewit Construction Company (Don Hamre)
- St. Joseph's Hospital (Jack Bowman & Dave Rogers)
- Albertson's Grocery (Randy Bishop)
- Hinky Dinky Grocery (Kent Peterson)
- J-N-J Grocery (Loren Johnson)
- California Bar (Wayne & Feg Hill)
- 7-Eleven Store (Dave Capp & Verne Sanwick)
- Tracy's Trucking (appliance recycling)



J-N-J GROCERY STORE



Fresh Meats - Fresh Produce - Friendly Service

Your Neighborhood Store Is Moving!

**To a LARGER STORE with MORE VARIETY
& MANY IN STORE SPECIALS**

**New Location At 3301 CALIFORNIA STREET
Open FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH**

**GRAND OPENING JUNE 5TH - 6TH - 7TH
Many Give Aways - Drawings - Specials**

WE DELIVER!

422-1058

8 AM-9:30 PM - Monday Through Saturday - 8 AM-9 PM - Sunday

SPRING CLEANUP REPORT (continued)

WHO'S WHO IN SPRING CLEANUP

Without your help, there would be no spring cleanup. The rest of the stars on our TEAM were Gifford Park's finest volunteers. Hauling trash and brush, cleaning the park, streets, yards, vacant lots, monitoring dumpsters, recycling, spreading wood chips for park landscaping, collecting memberships and donations, and cooking hotdogs were activities that our volunteers accomplished on this day. Being a very busy day, I undoubtedly missed the names of some of you who made this year's cleanup a big success - rest assure, you're part of the TEAM.

Mike & Candy Bacome	Katie Beirr	Michael & Debra Bergman	Mike & Judi Caban
Jason Cameron	Gordon Cantu	Leo & Marlene Wilwerding	Delta Epsilon
Chris & Sallie Foster	Roger Freeman	Jim, Ruth, & Kent Windorski	Mr. & Mrs. Dave Gurney
Denise Hall	Russ Hamm	Ed & Farol Hendershot	Mark Holzapfel
Tim Hendershot & Family	Roberta Jensen	Scott Jensen	George & Sandra Jones
Chuck Kilgore	Nguyen Quynh	Brian & Karen Kokensparger	John & Jackie Lynch
Jeanette Martin	Vickie Raysor	Keith & Dotty Munhall	Diane & John Reuss
Hubert & Edna Reuss	Jerry Rieger	Tom & Kathy Rose	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Snow
Smokey & Elaine Stober	Sharon Walters		
Gloria Wecker	C.J. Cullinan		
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Wilwerding	Shane Graham		
Ron & Cynde Yates			

MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS

My only regret is that I cannot personally thank everyone who helped in the cleanup, because everyone worked together and worked hard. I would like to highlight three outstanding jobs out of many on cleanup day (I call these MVP Awards). Denise Hall cleaned and raked almost the entire fence area around the baseball diamond and other areas around the Park- she uncovered some great spots to hide eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Jim, Ruth, & Kent Windorski (& family) not only did a great job hauling trash and recycling paint on cleanup day, but also delivered 700 flyers to about half our neighborhood a few days before. Keith & Dotty Munhall worked long and hard on cleanup day. Several volunteers made exceptional comments to me about the efforts they put in. (By the way, do you two remember picking up a bunch of tough "thorn bushes in front of someone's house?... Those were mine - Sorry!).

I apologize to those of you who did not get your trash picked up on cleanup day. Neighborhood volunteers worked very hard to clean up our neighborhood as best we could, and under the circumstances I think we did a very good job, but it wasn't perfect. We will learn a great deal from this year's spring cleanup and try to improve for next year's. Our main goal with the cleanup is to provide an opportunity for neighbors to come together on one day to make our neighborhood cleaner and safer for everyone, and have a good time doing it. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

Ed's Note: Just one more MVP Award to note...it goes to Chris Foster for all his efforts regarding the spring cleanup. You did a lot of work Chris and the GPNA members and the entire neighborhood THANK YOU!

TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

. ED (341-0475)

. JIM (341-4695)

. CHRIS (341-6006)

CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO CALL THEM?

**YATES SCHOOL
SPRING CARNIVAL
SATURDAY, MAY 16TH
NOON TO 3 PM**

RAIN OR SHINE

3260 DAVENPORT STREET

FOOD! GAMES! PRIZES! FUN!

**A NEIGHBORHOOD
TRADITION FOR OVER
50 YEARS!**

EVERYONE WELCOME!



**Proceeds benefit
the students of
Yates School
through
their
PTA**

**A TON OF
FUN FOR
EVERYONE!**

WHAT'S IN A NAME?*by Eva Swanson*

Do you live on a named street between Dodge and Cuming? Ever wonder how it got its name? A little research at the Omaha Public Library revealed the following bits of history:

DODGE— A 1926 publication claims this street was named in honor of General Grenville M. Dodge, chief engineer in building the Union Pacific Railroad. A 1917 publication, however, recorded that Dodge Street bears the name of Augustus C. Dodge. He introduced the bill in the U.S. Senate that resulted in the organization of the Territory of Nebraska in 1854.

DAVENPORT — Named by a group of bankers from Davenport, Iowa, who opened a branch banking house in Florence. The street was named in honor of their home town and also honors a leading family of that city.

CHICAGO — Chicago, Illinois. "Chicago, Davenport, and Omaha" were on the direct line of travel to the gold fields.

CASS — Named in honor of General Lewis Cass, secretary of state in President Buchanan's cabinet. He ran for president of the U.S. in 1848 but was defeated by Zachary Taylor.

CALIFORNIA — Said to have been named because the gold seekers of the early 1850's landed near the foot of this street. They crossed the Missouri River on the "Lone Tree" ferry and continued their way west via "California" Street.

WEBSTER — Named in honor of Colonel E. Daniel Webster, private secretary to Marlin H. Seward, the Secretary of State. Col. Webster was instrumental in organizing the Republican Party. He died in 1852, two years before Omaha was platted. The street led to and from the Webster Street depot.

BURT — Named in honor of Francis Burt, first territorial governor of Nebraska. He died of colonitis in Bellevue on October 18, 1854, only 12 days after his arrival in the territory.

CUMING — Named in honor of Thomas B. Cuming, second territorial governor of Nebraska, who succeeded Francis Burt.

MR. ELMER SWANSON*by Leo Wilwerding*

Our oldest member passed away on April 6th. Elmer Swanson, who lived at 3417 Webster Street for 69 years, moved there on his wedding day in 1923. His wife, Elsa, and his daughter, Eva, survive him and continue as members of the GPNA.

Mr. Swanson was born in Sweden in 1891 and as a 17 year old, came alone to the United States. What courage it must have taken. Speaking only Swedish, he mistakenly got on the wrong train after leaving Ellis Island. Instead of Omaha, he ended up in St. Louis. Friendly persons there got him on the right train for Omaha. He arrived here in the Union Station at midnight, took a streetcar to 16th and Farnam and got off because most of the other on the car were doing so. After looking up and down the almost deserted street, he wandered north until he came to a hotel of sorts — a veritable flop-house where for 25 cents he got a bed in a big room containing about twenty other sleeping men. Leaving his clothes on, he put his shoes under the pillow and went to sleep. Next morning, he arose, found a little restaurant where he obtained pancakes by indicating with sign language that he wanted the same as another patron was eating. He then proceeded south on 16th Street and came to the King-Swanson store in which his uncle was a partner. Recognizing the name on the sign, he walked in, about a week late, to the complete surprise and relief of his uncle. He went to work and continued there when the name was changed to Nebraska Clothing Company. He did not retire until he was over 70 years old. As a buyer and salesman, he was known to most of the businessmen of the city. Mr. Swanson was an avid gardener and famous for his lovely flowers — sweet peas, roses, lilies and dinner plate sized dahlias were his forte. Being the first in the neighborhood to have fresh tomatoes was his pride. He returned to his native Sweden four times for visits and was able to chide his Mother about her insistence that he initially take enough money for a round-trip ticket because she was sure he would not like it in America. Always soft-spoken, he had a quiet but well-developed wit. He looked-- and was -- a real gentlemen, and a wonderful neighbor.

HELPING OUR CHILDREN STAY DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE*By Judi Caban, Parent Liaison, Yates School Family Center*

MINOR IN POSSESSION (M.I.P.)
ALERT HOTLINE: 393-4444.

To Report:

Teen alcohol parties before they happen
Retailers who routinely sell alcohol to minors
Bars or taverns who regularly serve alcohol to minors
Anyone who is producing false I.D.

This is a 24 hour hotline staffed by volunteers who will relay your information to the proper law enforcement agencies. The information is checked out and handled by law enforcement officials as appropriate in each case. The hotline is available to parents, schools and the general public.