



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

SEPTEMBER, 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

27/7/92
**Standing Committee
Chairs:**

Budget & Finance

Mike Caban-341-4722

CDC/Incorporation

Chuck Kilgore-341-2757

Clean-Up

Chris Foster-342-6006

Courtesy

Cynde Yates-558-6027

Gifford Park Day

John Lynch-345-9624

Historian

Eva Swanson - 345-1707

Membership

Kathy Rose - 341-3955

Pride Distribution

Ron Yates-558-6027

Pride Production

Brian Kokensparger-558-3834

Park

Roger Freeman-345-0585

Program

John Lynch-345-9624

Public Relations

Jackie Lynch-345-9624

Social Activities

Jeanette Martin-345-7639

Cynde Yates-558-6027

Tool Lending

Ed Hendershot-341-0475

VIP

Mike Caban-341-4722

Watch Group

Ron Yates - 558-6027

Weeds & Litter

Leo Wilwerding-345-1433

NEXT MEETING:

SEPTEMBER 3

7 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL -- DINING ROOMS A, B, & C

FREE PARKING

PRAISE FOR AREA RESIDENTS

a letter to the GPNA from Larry L. Roberts, Acting Chief of Police *27/1*

Dear Mr. Yates,

I am writing to tell you how impressed my officers are with the Gifford Park Neighborhood residents. On 28 July 92, Omaha Police Officers attempted to arrest a party who was wanted for a drive-by shooting. This individual fled from the officers, on foot, from 33rd & Davenport Streets, Westbound through the Gifford Park area. The officers in pursuit did not always have visual contact with the suspect, and, in fact, eventually did lose the suspect. However, they were very impressed with the fact that many residents came out to the sidewalk and pointed out the direction the suspect had taken. Eventually, the suspect was captured in a garage near 36th & Davenport Streets. He was captured because one of the area residents took the time to call the police about her concerns. The officers who were on the scene agree that this party would have escaped, had the call not been made.

The officers were very impressed with the actions of the Gifford Park residents, and the consensus was that this individual had picked the wrong neighborhood to try his escape. The Omaha Police Division greatly appreciates the actions of the Gifford Park residents on that night. If you would, please make them aware of our comments.

Sincerely,
Larry L. Roberts
Acting Chief of Police

FALL MINI-CLEANUP

By Chris Foster

The GPNA will have its annual FALL MINI-CLEANUP Saturday, October 24th (one week before Halloween) in Gifford Park. The cleanup is for GPNA MEMBERS, or PEOPLE DONATING TIME OR MONEY to the cleanup. We will have food for the volunteers. Also, Halloween pumpkins will be given away to anyone who comes down to Gifford Park. This is a good time to do some fall cleaning before winter — remember how soon winter hit last year! If you need help with hauling trash or you would like to help, call Chris Foster (342-6006) or Ron Yates (558-6027).

FOR ALL IT'S WORTH . . .

If you think your neighborhood improves when somebody cares, you're wrong. It improves when YOU care.

It's never too late to care, and it's never too late to join the GPNA.

Please -- do both today.

OFFICE - RESOURCE CENTER - BASE OF OPERATIONS

Approval was given at last month's membership meeting to go forward with plans to rent the storefront adjacent to J-N-J Grocery. This space will:

- * Provide the GPNA a visible presence in the community.
- * Accommodate the Community Development Corporation (CDC).
- * Allow us room to pursue ways to expand our community involvement in areas like health and safety related workshops, voter registration drives, ESL classes, after school Tutoring.
- * Secure a location for executive board and committee meetings.
- * Consolidate and centralize our records.
- * Supply the neighborhood with a bulletin board of services and activities in our area.
- * A place to showcase our awards and achievements.

**GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

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

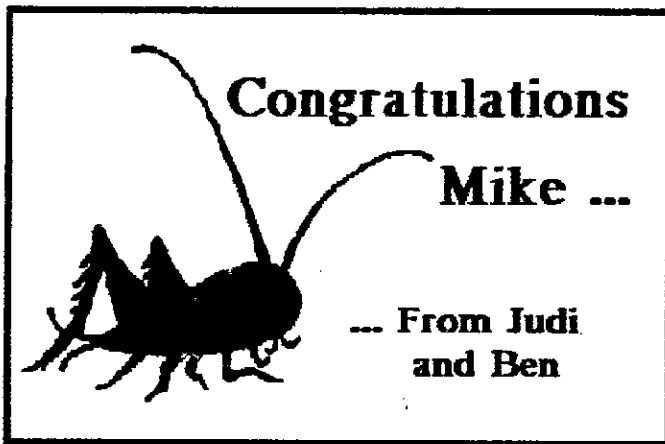
****Please note: All new and newly-renewed memberships will expire June 1, 1993.**

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

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are in order for GPNA treasurer, Mike Caban. a short story written by Mike has been accepted for publication in the September issue of the nationally acclaimed children's literature magazine, "Cricket." The story, "The Sweetest Guavas on the Island," is loosely based on Mike's childhood experiences on the island of Puerto Rico.

Mike has had previous stories printed in the Hispanic literature magazine "Neustro," and in "Smackworm," a magazine published by the University of Nebraska at Omaha.



NEIGHBORHOOD TOOL LENDING

By Chris Foster

You have heard the old saying, "use the right tool for the job." Well don't forget about our neighborhood tool lending program for anyone in the Gifford Park neighborhood. You DO NOT have to be a member of the neighborhood association to use this program. The purpose of the neighborhood tool lending is to provide tools to people in the neighborhood who may not have a tool or a place to store tools. There is a minimal chard of \$3.00 to rent a tools, mainly to cover maintenance costs. Below is a list of just a few of the tools we have available:

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| Lawn Mower | Hedge clippers |
| shovels | garden hoe |
| ladders | post hole digger |
| saws | rakes |

Remember, if we don't have it, we'll try to find it. Take advantage of neighborhood tool lending today.

TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

ED: 341-0475

JIM: 341-4695

CHRIS: 342-6006

California Bar & Pkg.
510 N. 33rd. Street
Serving the Gifford Park
Community since 1937.
Wayne & Peggy Hill,
Proprietors

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

FIRST ANNUAL GIFFORD PARK DAY A NEIGHBORHOOD SUCCESS*by John J. Lynch, Jr.*

On Saturday, August 1, the lawns of Gifford Park were filled with the sounds of family and friends celebrating Gifford Park Day, the first of what will become an annual tradition for this area. The signs of cooperation and togetherness prove this to be a lasting event.

It had been nearly two year since Past-President Jim Windorski suggested some sort of festivities to be held under the banner of Gifford Park Day, and now it has come to pass. Beginning with a park walk-around to clean the park grounds on Friday, July 30, the group that made this success possible came together. Saturday morning kicked off the program with a pancake breakfast hosted by Rev. David Showalter and the Lighthouse Church. The park was opened to the picnic crowd around 12:00 noon, and music in the park began at 2:00 pm. Children's games took place at 3:00 pm, and a Tug-of-War contest was held shortly afterward.

There are many people to thank for the success of Gifford Park Day, including (but not necessarily limited to):

Mike and Judi Caban
Loren Johnson

Chris and Sallie Foster
Ron and Cynde Yates
Ed Hendershot

Tom and Kathy Rose
John and Jackie Lynch

The music was provided by Steve Bowder, courtesy of the Subby Anzaldo Entertainment Agency, from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. The 4:30 pm 'til 6:30 pm shift was shared by two bands, Cultural Attraction and Beef Curtain, regular performers at Kilgore's. Their time was very much appreciated and the music was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Next year promises to be bigger and better, as many new ideas were brought forward by area residents. We are proud of the Gifford Park Neighborhood, and the tremendously POSITIVE reception to the First Annual Gifford Park Day certainly is a POSITIVE step toward future celebrations.



J-N-J GROCERY STORE



Fresh Meats - Fresh Produce
Friendly Service

3301 California Street - 422-1058

WE DELIVER!

8 AM-10:00 PM - Monday Through Saturday

8 AM-9 PM - Sunday

GPNA RUMMAGE SALE

The GPNA is holding its Fourth Annual Rummage Sale, on 33rd and California Streets, September 5th from 9 am to 5 pm. If you wish to donate items to the Sale, you may call Ron Yates at 558-6027, or Mike Caban at 341-4722. Proceeds from this Sale are used for programs and activities that benefit the Gifford Park Community.

SALVATION ARMY TO OPEN NEW PROGRAMS

The Salvation Army will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 10th for its new Child Development Center, Transitional Housing Facility and Temporary Crisis Program.

The Child Development Center, located on the first floor of the Renaissance Center, 36th & Cuming Streets, will serve the needs of a broad spectrum of Omaha children. Children between the ages of 6 weeks and 12 years will eventually be enrolled in the program; however, the initial focus will be on toddlers and pre-school aged children.

The Temporary Crisis Program will expand services available through the Emergency Shelter with funding from the Region VI Mental Health, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Administration. The program will provide temporary shelter and specialized case managed support services for stabilized individuals with mental health problems.

NATURE FOR KIDS 9-13

by Suzanne Winckler

For Kids who would like to learn about birds, bugs, bats, soil, water, trees, flowers, prairie grass, and other wild things here in Nebraska: Our first field trip is coming up on Saturday, September 26.

We will visit a small virgin prairie just north of Omaha, where the prairie grasses will be over your head and the fall wild flowers will be blooming. It will give you an idea of what Nebraska was like over a hundred years ago.

If you and your friends would like to go on this trip please have your parents call me for more information at 346-3258 and leave a message.

Later this fall, on October 24, to get in the mood for Halloween, we will get together and watch a slide show about all the amazing BATS that live on this continent.

And next spring (date to be announced) I'd like to take a group over to Grand Island to watch the thousands of sandhill cranes that gather on the Platte River every spring.

Any parents who would like to assist in the field trips, please let me know also.

Want to Advertise in the Gifford Park Pride?

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

ARCTIC CIRCLE

615 No. 33rd Street

342-4474

QUITTING BUSINESS!

EVERYTHING GOES!

OPEN EACH WEEKEND

GREAT BUYS & PRICES!

50¢ OFF ANY NECKLACE!

DID YOU KNOW...?

by Judi Caban

You probably know that our neighborhood elementary school, located at 3260 Davenport Street, is called Yates School. You may even know that the school's full name is the Henry W. Yates Elementary School, but - did you ever wonder just who Henry W. Yates was, or why the school is named for him? If so, read on...

Henry Whitefield Yates was an early resident of our neighborhood and a pioneer Omaha banker and businessman. Born in Maryland on January 1, 1837, his family moved to Washington D.C. when he was quite young. As a grown man, he was often quoted as saying that he "had the advantage of being born poor." Although the extent of his formal education was only 3 years of public school attendance, he was chosen from all the school children in Washington to deliver the 4th of July oratory at Arlington Cemetery, where he met and was congratulated by President Millard Fillmore.

After working for 10 years as a clerk in a small store in Washington, at the age of 21 Henry took his savings and headed west. He obtained a bookkeeper position with Nave, McCord & Co., a wholesale grocers company based in St. Joseph, Missouri. In 1861, Nave McCord decided to establish a branch in Omaha. The steamer "Omaha" was chartered and loaded with goods needed by overland emigrants, and with Mr. Yates in charge, sailed up the Missouri River to Omaha, a journey which took 11 days. The new store was located at 14th and Farnam Streets, and did a good business. In 1862, Henry resigned his position and returned to St. Joseph to marry Miss Eliza Samuel, who had been called the "prettiest girl in the state" by the governor of Missouri. The new Mrs. Yates was a 2nd cousin to Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln, and the Yates' visited in Washington several times during Lincoln's presidency.

Mr. Yates returned to Omaha in 1863 as assistant cashier for the First National Bank, located at 12th and Farnam Streets. The bank was a small frame building and a box nailed to the floor and fastened with a padlock served as a safe. As most of the business of the day was conducted using gold dust, a shelf ran along one wall to hold the pans of gold dust. Mr. Yates was among the several bank employees who slept at the bank to serve as guards.

In 1882 he resigned from the First National Bank, and with the financial help of his father-in-law, founded the Nebraska National Bank, where he served as president until his death at the age of 78 in 1916. In addition to his career in banking, Mr. Yates also had many other business and civic interests. He was vice-president of the Omaha Electric Light and Power Company, a director of the Nebraska Telephone Company, and had interests in several smaller businesses. He was one of the original incorporators of the Omaha Library Association, was a member of the first Board of Trustees of the Brownell-Hall School, and served as senior warden for Trinity Episcopal Church for 48 years. He also served as a trustee for Clarkson Hospital.

In 1887, Mr. Yates purchased a 2 1/2 acre plot bounded by Davenport and Chicago Streets on the south and north, and by 33rd Street and 31st Avenue on the west and east. A large mansion named "Hillside" was built on the site. Hillside became one of the show places of early Omaha, and was so interesting that a future article will be devoted to it. In 1917, Mrs. Yates sold a portion of the Hillside land that had been used as a pasture to the Omaha School Board for the sum of one dollar, on the condition that it be used for a school to be named after her late husband. The Henry W. Yates Elementary School opened its doors to students in the fall of 1917, and will be celebrating its 75th anniversary during the 1992-1993 school year. Mrs. Yates retained the rest of the property and the house, which she occupied until her death at the age of 89 in 1929. Mr. and Mrs. Yates are buried in the Prospect Hill Cemetery, 3202 Parker Street.