



# GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

*A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association*

**OCTOBER, 1992**

**President:**

Ron Yates-558-6027

**Vice-President:**

John Lynch-345-9624

**Treasurer:**

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**Recording Secretary:**

Judi Caban-341-4722

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Kathy Rose-341-3955

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Chairs:**

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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:

**OCTOBER 1**

**7 p.m.**

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

**GUEST: DOUGLAS COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE  
REPRESENTATIVE**

**FREE PARKING**

### **FALL MINI-CLEANUP**

Our Fall Mini-Cleanup is just a few weeks away: Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., in Gifford Park. As in the past, the GPNA will purchase up to two 20 cubic yard dumpsters for the Fall Mini-Cleanup, which is for GPNA members or volunteers only. Along with the cleanup, we will have a membership drive, a picnic, and Ed Hendershot will again provide the neighborhood with Halloween pumpkins. If you need help with hauling trash, or would like to help, call Chris Foster (342-6006) or Ron Yates (558-6027).

Please Note: At press time, we are working on a couple of details regarding the cleanup:

1. Because of an environmental law that went into effect June 19th, Freon from refrigerators and air conditioners must be removed properly before they can be disposed of in landfills.

2. Due to the limited budget of the GPNA, we can purchase a maximum of two dumpsters. Tree limbs and brush take up a lot of space in dumpsters, so, at this time, we are discouraging large amounts of tree brush (please save for Spring Cleanup).

\*\*We are working on a solution to both of these problems, so call Chris or Ron at the phone numbers for more information.

### **ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL COMES THROUGH AGAIN!**

Recently Jack Bowman, from St. Joseph Hospital, was approached with a request for assistance in building a required twelve foot wall and installing two doors in the new GPNA office. The response from St. Joe was very enthusiastic.

Three skilled craftsmen were provided for two days, along with all necessary materials.

A very special thank you to the three workers — Mike, Dale, and Bernie — for their fine work and enthusiasm in completing the job. A thank you also goes to St. Joseph Hospital for its continued support of the GPNA. We appreciate the help!

**BPNA BUYS GPNA'S CB'S AND STARTS ITS OWN PATROL**

"Have you noticed the neighborhood patrols sprouting up all over Omaha lately? Hmmm, what a novel idea," he said.

The success of the GPNA Watch Group in the past two years has caused other neighborhood associations to seek us out, and develop similar programs in their own areas. GPNA Watch Group personnel have visited several groups in the past year, to address some of the concerns and questions about the watch group concept.

The Bemis Park Neighborhood Association had invited us to speak to them in June, and within a month they were developing their own watch group. In the process, they showed an interest in purchasing communications gear, and since we received a grant to upgrade from our original CB radio set-up to more sophisticated two-way FM radio equipment, the GPNA and BPNA entered into an agreement that would benefit both of us.

We had offered to sell them our old CB radios at a reasonable price, and after they worked with the gear for a month, they accepted. Word is that this arrangement has been good for both Associations, and all parties seem pleased that we could work this out.

The BPNA purchased three 40-channel, portable CBs with batteries and chargers, one 40-channel base station CB with three antennas and cables for \$250. Originally, we had purchased this equipment, new, for approximately \$700, and used it for a year.

We were fortunate to find a buyer for this surplus equipment, plus the BPNA was fortunate they didn't have to spend half as much for the same set-up we had.

We wish Bemis Park all the success in the world with their BPNA Patrol, and hope it can do for their area what the GPNA Watch Group has done for ours.

**FINAL WARNING**

If you haven't renewed your membership, this is the last member's mailout of the PRIDE you will receive. We have extended mailouts to last year's members, in the hope that it would remind them to renew their memberships. Everyone in the neighborhood will still receive the walk-around issues, of course.

**O.P.S. LIAISON NAMED**

We are pleased to announce that our "big neighbor" to the North, Omaha Public Schools, has named Ms. Deborah Mitzlaff to serve as its liaison to the GPNA. Ms. Mitzlaff is a member of the school district's Public Information Services department.

Welcome to the GPNA, Deb! We hope that you will enjoy this new "duty."

**GIFFORD PARK GARDEN WALK**

OK you gardeners, I know you're out there! Here's a way we can show off our gardens and help the community.

We're interested in Rock, Flower, Vegetable, and other types of gardens that will allow people to enjoy a walking tour through the Gifford Park neighborhood.

Proceeds will go to the GPNA. If you are interested in participating, please contact Diane Reuss at 553-2312.

Let's show that we are proud of our homes and community, and we're continuously working toward improving our neighborhood.

**LAWNMOWER FIXED FOR TOOL LENDING PROGRAM**

Bob Hutton fixed our "twenty-something" year old Toro lawnmower, and it runs like a champ. It was immediately used several times. Bob fixed the carburetor, sharpened the blade, and gave it a real good tune-up. (Bob can fix anything and doesn't charge much!)

The Gifford Park Tool Lending provides people in our neighborhood with tools for a minimal charge of \$3 (mainly to cover maintenance costs). Try neighborhood tool lending today.

**TOOL LENDING HOTLINE**  
ED: 341-0475  
JIM: 341-4695  
CHRIS: 342-6006

**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

## A GLOOMY BEGINNING ENDS IN SUCCESS

Ominous clouds loomed on the horizon, the morning of September 5th. We had planned to hold the sale outside, as we assembled at the GPNA office, among the piles of plastic bags bursting with clothes, boxes of assorted items, furniture, and equipment stacked to the rafters; while munching on donuts and drinking coffee, those of us who showed up at 7 a.m. were, to say the least, apprehensive, as it began to rain.

A torrential downpour now fell. We started sorting through, separating clothes from things like refrigerators and stoves that could be put outside. Little by little, it was beginning to look like some semblance of organized chaos. Everything was set up by 9 a.m., and the rain slowly subsided.

It wasn't all work though. Watching little ones with smiles on their faces as they walk out with a new/used toy gives one a good feeling. One lucky young man found an old R&B LP, and bought it for a buck. He returned later on and told us he had resold it for twenty-five. A collector's item. Good buy!

A young woman in jeans and a t-shirt walked in, looked around, rummaged through racks of hanging clothes. And a few minutes later walked out wearing a lovely flower print dress that fit perfectly, to the surprise of her boyfriend, who I imagine wondered where she had changed outfits.

They were already in their car when she realized she had left her purse on a table stacked two foot high with clothes. We spent a hectic few minutes searching for it. She was a nervous wreck. All her money was in it, but sure enough, a lady had found the purse and turned it in to one of the workers.

When the young woman recovered her lost purse, she commented on the honesty of our people. And once again, left with a smile, her new dress, her purse, and most importantly, a very good feeling about the people of Gifford Park.

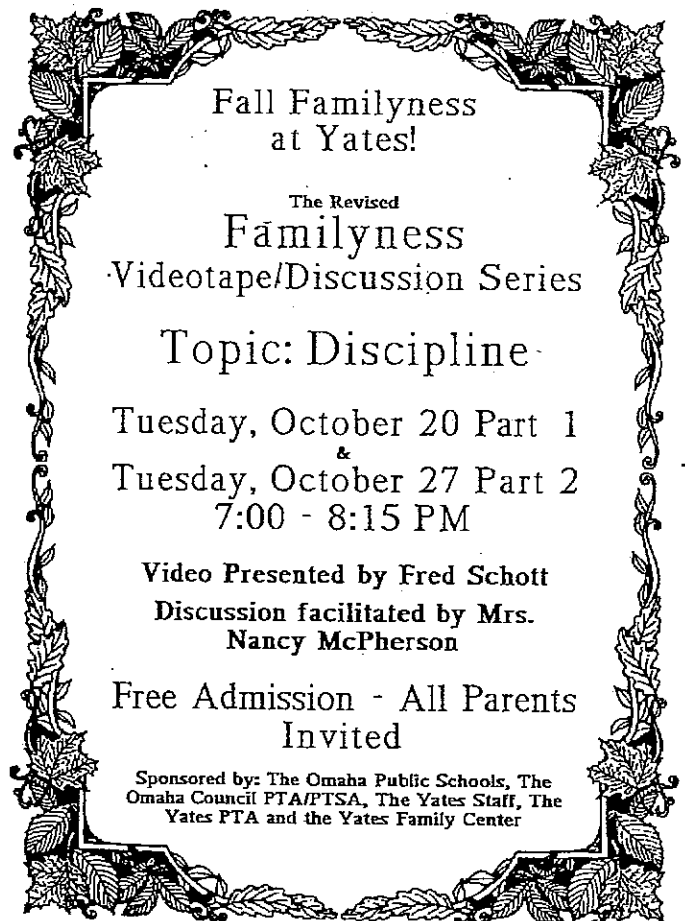
The GPNA held its 4th annual Rummage Sale, and again this year the question was asked: Will you be open all the time? Again, the answer was no. But what a possibility for anyone looking to open a second-hand store in the area. I believe the clientele is there. HINT—HINT

By day's end, on Sunday, the rummage sale had accrued \$800 for the GPNA treasury, a whole lot of good stuff for the people in the neighborhood, and a feeling of accomplishment for those who worked so hard on this project. Sure, the same old people helped, but there were some new faces, too, and some we haven't seen for awhile. We hope it was a positive experience for all of you, especially when it looked so gloomy a day earlier. As the Rummage Sale Committee, we offer our sincerest appreciation to all.

## JUNIOR GIRLS UNIT OPEN TO NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS

Junior Girls Units are sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They instill a firm belief in the principles of our Republic and reverence for the flag of the United States. They develop character, cooperation, leadership, self-reliance, and a willingness to assume responsibility. Jr. Girls is open to unmarried girls from ages 6 to 16 who are daughters, granddaughters, foster daughters, stepdaughters, sisters, or half-sisters of members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They need not be a member of a V.F.W. Post. They meet on the 2nd Sunday of every month downstairs in the V.F.W. Post 247, on the corner of 33rd and Leavenworth at 1 p.m.

...Marge Hawkins is the chairman for Jr. Girls V.F.W. Post 247. Her unit is one of five in the state of Nebraska, and she is very excited about it. They have been having meetings now for a year, and have done some exciting things and this promises to be another great year. If you have any questions, please call Marge at 345-6494, after 6 p.m.



Fall Familyness  
at Yates!

The Revised  
Familyness  
Videotape/Discussion Series

Topic: Discipline

Tuesday, October 20 Part 1  
&  
Tuesday, October 27 Part 2  
7:00 - 8:15 PM

Video Presented by Fred Schott  
Discussion facilitated by Mrs.  
Nancy McPherson

Free Admission - All Parents  
Invited

Sponsored by: The Omaha Public Schools, The  
Omaha Council PTA/PTSA, The Yates Staff, The  
Yates PTA and the Yates Family Center

**REMBRANDT**

A Rembrandt you may not be. Perhaps you haven't even painted the outside of a building. And you may have doubts about your ability to do so. But the plain truth is that with today's easy-to-use materials, almost anyone can do a good job. Besides, free advice is available. Just call. Gender is no barrier, either. Several ladies I know have painted their entire houses. You can too.

Fall is the time to paint. Cooler weather makes easier going. And paint prices are at their lowest of the year.

If your house is looking a little shabby, now is the time to put it in sparkling shape. You will be glad you did!

**GPNA MEMBERS RECEIVE DISCOUNT**

Creighton University's season-opening production of *DOIN' CHICKENS*, a tragic and dark portrayal of a young girl coming to age in Appalachian Kentucky, will take the stage on Friday, Oct. 2, continuing through Oct. 11. The play was written by Brian Kokensparger, a member of the GPNA. Discount tickets (\$1 off) are available by identifying yourself as a GPNA member and phoning 280-2509 for reservations.

**BRIEF NOTES**

"Recycling -- Will it Ever Work?" A talk by John VanDerHarst, Recycling and Community Leader, Citizen Activist, from Nashville, Tennessee, Thursday, Oct. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the UNO Milo Bail Student Center, 2nd Floor Ballroom.

Brochures are available covering topics such as waste reduction ideas, recycling, yard waste reduction and recycling, used oil and auto battery recycling, and reusing as a form of waste reduction, through the Omaha Effort Hotline (444-4500).

Keep America Beautiful, Inc., has introduced a new guidebook, entitled *WASTE IN THE WORKPLACE*. The guide is intended to help businesses minimize waste, better manage disposal costs and identify potential recyclables. The guide targets small businesses in particular and provides a step-by-step process to assess the contents and volume of a business' waste. Copies are available by sending \$9.95 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling to Keep America Beautiful, Inc., 9 West Broad Street, Stamford, CT 06902

**WHERE DID IT GO?**

I didn't lose it . . . it's just misplaced. It's got to be on the table; lurking under paint samples, magazines, recipes, or possibly in between the multitude of hardware store receipts, unopened junk mail or mixed in with Barrett's Kindergarten homework. It's easy to find — I wrote it on a bright yellow advertisement with red crayon: Newsletter/Suburbs to Downtown/New House to Old.

Well, I've lost it; it's not on the table, but this should be easy, no? My clothes are covered with paint, my hair is thick with sawdust, I reek of Bug-Be-Gone, and I have a dull headache from paint remover fumes — why did I move from there to here, anyway? Somewhere last January, when winter was at its most dreary, while pondering how to use up bonus book credits, I came across a book on reviving old houses and ordered it on the spot. A quick study, by March our home was on the open market and taken off just a month later when costs of selling one home, packing, buying an older home with all the requirements to last through retirement and moving ourselves in before the snow flies again. By late June, like a latent spring tonic, inspiration and longing for that older home overcame the dread and our suburban home was again on the market, and I was actively old-house-hunting.

Within a week, I found a house that met our needs (and I suspected we met some of the needs the house had in mind, too). We agreed that a downtown location is a plus, with easy access to the Orpheum, Joslyn, Children's Museum, Emmy Gifford Playhouse, Dundee Theater, Old Market and UNO. More important were the subtle differences. There is a certain risk of a "put down" to the suburbanite in my explanation, but, with luck, none of them will read this! Up until Brandt's retirement from the Navy 7 years ago, we've had to move every 3 years as a matter of course. The move to Papillion was our first move into a suburban housing development. The primary conversation line in suburbia is, "Who does your lawn care?" Change is switching lawn care services and your consummate value is based on your lawn color, grass texture, and absence of dandelions to your sacred plot of green. There must be an unwritten clause to the American Dream that includes the finer points of lawn worship and the pressure to conform into uniform sameness. We felt we were growing old, bored, and boring. Our plumbing never failed, our electric was A-1, nothing leaked or dared to set itself apart from all the encroaching homes surrounding us. Worst of all, I began to fret over crabgrass and my inability to rid my lawn of an imposing clover patch! Our ideal community was becoming too uniform, too quiet and too stagnating.

Happily, we now own an abundance of crabgrass, our plumbing leaks in tune with the soggy basement, our wiring is at best questionable and all over the house something is desperate for attention. It's not all bad to wake up and feel the pioneer spirit evolve as we survey our lovely but not-so-reliable older home. I could wax literary over the house but I promised to be brief! In short, the living in an older neighborhood, with its diverse mix of people and architecture, is of far greater value than rural redundancy. Perhaps it's one of those "spice of life" things that doesn't relate to cooking. We've been here barely a month, but I know we're going to like it here . . . besides, I just found my note for this article under my shoe!