



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

NOVEMBER, 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

**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:

NOVEMBER 5

7 p.m.

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

**GUEST: BRENDA COUNCIL
OMAHA SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMAN**

HOLIDAY BANQUET

You say it is early November! However, the holidays are right around the corner. Before long we will all be rushing around shopping for, preparing, and enjoying that wonderful Thanksgiving meal. Then it will be time to decorate the house and the Christmas tree and shop for presents for those dear to us. The wonderful smell from the kitchen of baking cookies and the eagerness of children to decorate them will soon be here for our enjoyment. We'll attend holiday parties and visit with our families and friends. The holidays are always an exciting and enjoyable time of year.

Plans are beginning for the GPNA Holiday Banquet. The officers and executive board of the Association would like to extend an invitation to all GPNA members to attend.

DATE: Thursday, December 3, 1992

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: St. Joseph Hospital (glassed in dining area)

Please call your reservation to Jeanette Martin at 345-7639 or Cynde Yates at 558-6027 before November 22.

Come and enjoy the fine meal provided by St. Joseph's Hospital and visit with your friends and neighbors.

FALL CLEANUP REPORT

Neighborhood volunteers did another bang-up job with our fall mini-cleanup held Saturday, October 24, in Gifford Park. Everyone worked hard and had fun. We filled 2 20-cubic-yard dumpsters, hauled trash, placed wood chips around park trees, painted a park swingset, gave away pumpkins, had a picnic for volunteers, salvaged recyclable items like scrap metal and garage sale items, separated tree brush from the dumpsters, collected \$85 in salvage metal, and collected \$150 in GPNA memberships and donations.

The weather was outstanding again and this made for perfect working conditions. I want to share with you some of the highlights of the cleanup. Bob Hutton taught us many tricks on how to load three dumpsters worth of trash into just one. I don't know what we would have done without Ron Yates and his truck, "Old Green" — Ron made countless hauls and took care of our scrap metal collection. His wife Cynde was our designated emergency operator when we needed phone calls made. Mike Caban put together a painting crew, which included CJ Cullinan and John Frazier, to paint a large swingset — it looks like new! Mike's wife Judi and Kathy Rose headed the information and membership table all day in the hot sun. They kept the show going smooth. Great job, ladies! Kathy's husband Tom "The Enforcer" Rose was our "traffic controller" for trucks hauling in and out of the parking lot — not an easy job when you consider many kids playing around the park during the cleanup. John Lynch and his family handled the picnic festivities. John found out that he indeed can roast hotdogs on two grills at the same time. Ed Hendershot as always provided the Halloween pumpkins, tools, phone, truck, and bathroom (we're sure glad Ed lives close to the park). The Wilwerdings were well-represented in the cleanup: Leo made two trips for wood chips to put around park trees, his sons Terry and Jim helped with hauling and loading dumpsters. My wife Sallie gave me timely support and helped behind the scenes to prepare for cleanup day. The GPNA thanks the neighborhood businesses for their generosity: Loren Johnson (J'N'J Grocery) provided 200 hotdogs, Wayne and Peg Hill (California Bar) contributed five cases of pop along with ice and a cooler, and 7-Eleven provided coffee and cups for volunteers. Other organizations helping out were: The City of Omaha Park Maintenance and Forestry Division (they took care of our tree brush), House Arrest (Lt. Stangel), and K.O.B. (Keep Omaha Beautiful).

I want to give special recognition to three individuals who contributed to our cleanup effort in big ways. Paul Newell kept the parking lot swept and helped load dumpsters. Charles Cunningham spread wood chips around park trees and helped load dumpsters. John Gossett spent much of the day smashing furniture to save dumpsters space for us — this is a difficult job requiring strength and safety and few people could have broken up as much furniture as he did that day. But what impressed me most about these three guys was the fact that they don't even live in this neighborhood. There were other volunteers I wish I could recognize, but I better not make this article too long.

These neighborhood cleanups bring out so much in the people involved. It's hard work, but it also gives you a good feeling of pride to work together as a team to make things more attractive where we live. Our next neighborhood cleanup is in the spring (April). The GPNA invites everyone to participate, because the difference starts in your own neighborhood.

OMAHA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Omaha Community Partnership has been created, whose mission is "To have a safe community in which all citizens share the responsibility for zero tolerance of the illegal use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs through a spirit of cooperation and coordination of services." The OCP sponsors many programs each year, such as the Teen Talent Show and the "Think Tank," designed to create alternatives to illegal tobacco, alcohol, and drug use in the community.

For more information about the Omaha Community Partnership, please contact Executive Director Diane Zipay, 444-5921 (phone) or 444-6059 (fax).

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

Charles R. Kilgore Jr.

Attorney at Law

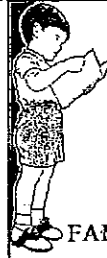
4913 Underwood Ave.

558-5000

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST EXPANDED THIS YEAR

The 4th Annual GPNA Holiday Decorating Contest has been expanded to include ALL residents within the Association's borders, which are approximately the Interstate on the east, 36th-37th Streets on the west, Dodge Street on the south and Cuming Street on the north. Unlike the previous contests, you DO NOT need to be a GPNA member to be eligible, and you DO NOT need to enter to participate.

Judging will take place on Thursday, December 17, between 7 and 8 p.m. The contest judges (GPNA Executive Board members) will consider all residences within the boundaries that are decorated at that time. (Commercial displays are not eligible.) The judges will make their decision and award prizes immediately after the viewing takes place. Prizes will be: First place — \$25; Second place — \$15; Third place — \$10. Judging criteria will be based on an overall pleasing effect; all decisions are final.



PARENTS...

Would you like to learn to communicate more effectively with your children? Would you like to have a chance to win \$25?

If so, please plan to attend The Revised

FAMILYNESS VIDEO/DISCUSSION SERIES

at
YATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3260 Davenport Street

PART 1 - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

PART 2 - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

Both sessions begin at 7:00 pm.

Videos presented by Fred Schott
Discussions facilitated by Mrs. Nancy McPherson

FREE ADMISSION!
\$25 CASH DOOR PRIZE AT EACH SESSION!
REFRESHMENTS!

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



PLAN TO ATTEND!
YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!



**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

ANOTHER GROUP HOME?!

a commentary by Mike Caban

On the evening of October 6, a delegation representing the GPNA, Yates School, Yates PTA, OPS, Creighton University, Creighton students, and St. Joe's Hospital, met with representatives of St. Leo's Church, on 102nd and Blondo. Our common concerns were expressed eloquently by several in our group, regarding the location of a shelter for men across the street from Yates Elementary School, at 3126 Chicago.

St. Leo's representative elaborated on the merits of the project, their criteria for choosing this site, and listed supporters of the program. There was no immediate indication that our concerns had an impact on their decision.

What St. Leo's Parish doesn't fully appreciate is the position our community is in. On the surface it may appear as if we are overly sensitive to this one specific program. That's not the issue at all. When comparing the Gifford Park neighborhood with other areas of Omaha, including St. Leo's Parish, we have more than our share of group homes already.

Over thirty five percent of the property in this area is occupied by group homes, halfway houses, and other forms of subsidized housing. It seems to me that older inner-city neighborhoods like Gifford Park are targeted as fertile ground for these programs, when what we need is stable family influx.

Meanwhile, millions of dollars in block grants, community centers, libraries, new schools, and community renovation projects flow into both the suburbs and high crime areas of Omaha, and seem to miss areas like ours year after year.

The people in this neighborhood deserve better. We have worked hard to discourage crime in our streets, and to maintain a sense of community under difficult circumstances over the past several years. We're proud of the success we've had so far, and are fully aware of the work that remains ahead of us.

If we seem a bit sensitive to the health and safety of our neighbors, and our children, forgive us, but when no one else gives a damn, you learn to do for yourself. And we have. I don't know of a neighborhood that works as hard to keep its head above water.

Maybe that's why we have misgivings when those who can't relate to our situation, unload their good intentions into our back yard. Supporters of this program should know that a group home for men, located so close to a school, is totally unacceptable. Here, or anywhere.

OFFICE COMMITTEE CHAIR NAMED

We are pleased to announce that your board has appointed Vanda McEachern chairman of the office committee.

Vanda, her husband Kevin, and their daughter, Mallory, have lived in the neighborhood for three years.

Along with her full time job as accountant at the Omaha Country Club, she is Bulletin Chair of the American Society of Women Accountants.

Vanda's new duties will include scheduling the use of our new office, as well as formulating new positions for the office committee. We are sure that we will find several other voluntary assignments for her.

We appreciate her dedication to the GPNA and commitment to this neighborhood's future. We are sure that Vanda will do a fantastic job.

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 our 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. We also need people to donate garden-type arts and crafts (home-made bird houses, bird baths, paintings, flower-shaped cookies, and etc.) to be sold during this event. The walking tour will take place sometime in 1993, so start planning now.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Diane Reuss at 553-2312. We will all get together sometime this winter to determine a date when most of our gardens will be at their peak.

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

WHO TO CALL WITH NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEMS OR FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

Holes, debris, or litter in street	Street Maintenance (444-4919)
Street/Stop Sign down or missing	Traffic Maintenance (444-5160)
Garbage not picked up. Info on newspaper pickup	Solid Waste (444-5238) or Watts Truck Line (592-7310)
Weeds over 18" or litter	Weed and Litter (444-5910)
Broken or obstructed sidewalk	Sidewalk Division (444-5283)
Street light out or electrical wires down	OPPD (554-1900)
Gas leaking, waterline breaks, or fire hydrants	MUD (554-7777)
Abandoned cars	Vehicle Impound Division (444-5782)
Crime or vandalism	Police Division (444-5600)
Neighborhood Watch Program	Community Serv. Police Div. (444-5772)
Rats, yard litter, open refrigerator/freezer in yard	Douglas County Health Dept. — 444-7481/444-7482
Trailers or cars parked on front lawns	Permits and Inspections (444-5350)
Problems with empty buildings, vacant houses, deteriorated garages, occupied dilapidated houses	Code Enforcement Div. (444-5371)
Handyman Program (seniors and handicapped)	Housing Dept. (444-5219)
Suspected drug activity -- Crimestoppers	Narcotics Division OPD (444-5681)
Snow removal	Street Maintenance (444-4919)
Hedges or tree limbs blocking view of traffic	Forestry Division (444-5925)
Sick, injured, strayed, or dead animals	Humane Society (571-0501)
Problems with city parks, pools, golf courses or recreation centers	Parks and Recreation Dept. (444-5900)
City sewer stopped up	Sewer Maintenance (444-5332)
Creighton University student concerns	Stephanie Wernig (280-2718) or Jana Martin (280-1784)
Improperly licensed vehicles	Police Division (444-5888)
In need of "No Parking" or other signs	Traffic Engineering Division (444-5250)
Handicap parking stickers	City Clerk (444-5556)
Cox cable TV complaints	City Council (444-5520)
Police Division North Sector	Captain (444-5648)
Complaints against Police Division	Patrol (444-5888)
Street construction problems or complaints	Construction Engineer (444-5220)
Community Services	United Way (444-6666)
County Information	Douglas County (444-7000)
State Ombudsman (Information)	Toll Free (1-800-742-7690)
Federal Information	Local number (221-3353)
Major city events or attractions	Tourism/Convention Bureau (444-4660) (978-7183)
Yates Elementary School	
Council member, District 3	Subby Anzaldo (444-5525)

For information about city services or complaints, call Mayor's Action Line, 444-5555

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