



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

MAY, 1993

NEXT MEETING:

THIS THURSDAY, MAY 6

7 p.m.

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

GUEST: To Be Announced

FREE PARKING

EASTER EGG HUNT AN IMPRESSIVE EVENT

by Cynde Yates

We were delighted this year when the day of the Easter Egg Hunt in Gifford Park dawned a bright and beautiful sunny day. What a difference from last year! The workers went about scattering the eggs and candy across the park, attempting to hide the goodies from all the eager children. The fuzzy, white Easter Bunny was there, greeting the children and giving them candy. The younger children certainly enjoyed the Bunny.

The children were all very good while they patiently waited for the hunt to begin. The countdown began right on schedule... and the children were off... searching for all the hidden goodies. The number of children this year was particularly impressive — the most we have ever had — 164. We were delighted to have such a fantastic turnout. I was particularly impressed when I noticed several children sharing with others who were not quite as successful in finding eggs and candy.

The Easter Egg Hunt was sponsored by the GPNA with generous contributions from J'N'J and Albertson's grocery stores. The GPNA wishes to express thanks to the contributors. Their generosity makes programs such as the Easter Egg Hunt a benefit to our neighborhood and its residents. I would also like to express my appreciation to the volunteers who colored and hid the eggs. I always enjoy coordinating this sort of event. However, it would not be possible without the support of the many wonderful neighbors we have in the Gifford Park area.

May is "Renew Your Membership" Month!

See page 2 for renewal/new membership form.

Remember: If you're not a member, you can't vote in the upcoming election
at the June 3 General Meeting.

Your GPNA Officers:

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

**Charles R. Kilgore Jr.
Attorney At Law**

**4913 Underwood
Avenue**

558-5000

**Personal Injury Law
Workers' Compensation
Injury**

Auto Accidents

Insurance Claims

TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

ED: 341-0475

JIM: 341-4695

CHRIS: 342-6006

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Kathy Rose, Membership Chairman

Now that you're finished writing those checks to the I.R.S., keep your checkbooks out and write one to the GPNA to renew or purchase your new membership.

If you care about your neighborhood and want to be a contribution to it and the GPNA, all we need is YOU!

What does the GPNA do? Stop by St. Joseph's Hospital the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., and meet everybody. Check it out for yourself and see what it's all about.

I, for one, am proud to be a resident of this neighborhood and an active member of this Association.

So, come and join me and the GPNA in making our neighborhood the place to live, work, learn, and play.

**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, 1994.**

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

GOALS SET FOR ART IN THE PARK

by Brian Kokensparger

At the organization meeting of the Art in the Park committee, members Mike Caban, Kevin McEachern, Cynde Yates, John Lynch (in abstentia), and Brian Kokensparger set exciting goals for obtaining a work of sculpture in the park, possibly a fountain. The committee discussed several ideas that had come up from past discussions, the possible location of the sculpture within the park, several possible funding sources, and set a course of action for the next few months.

One of the primary objectives of the Art in the Park committee is to involve the entire neighborhood in the planning, conception, production, and installation of the artwork.

The committee is currently busy inviting area sculptors to submit slides of their work, taking photographs of the park from various angles, and approaching the City with the general idea.

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

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

**California Bar & Pkg.
510 N. 33rd. Street**

**Serving the Gifford Park
Community since 1937
Wayne & Peggy Hill,
Proprietors**



**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

SPRING CLEANUP REPORTby *Chris Foster*

The Gifford Park cleanup crew is gettin' pretty good at packing dumpsters, hauling trash, recycling, controlling traffic, and even making money for the G.P.N.A. With temperatures in the 60's, the cleanup crew worked together under ideal working conditions for our annual Spring Cleanup Day, held Saturday, April 10th.

After the cleanup was all said and done, it added up to these impressive totals:

- . Packed 11 20 cu. yd. dumpsters
- . Filled 8 city dump trucks
- . Recycled 30 appliances
- . Recycled 5 refrigerators
- . Recycled 32 tires
- . Collected \$110 from recycled metal and batteries
- . Collected \$23 for garage sale items
- . Collected \$263 for donations
- . Collected \$117 for GPNA memberships
- . Passed out many dump passes and chipper passes to keep most tree brush out of the dumpsters.

The cleanup crew was made up of neighborhood volunteers as always, and I hope I didn't leave out too many names, because all volunteers should feel proud of their efforts.

Ron Yates — "Everything"
 Cynde Yates — cook, monitor
 Bob Hutton — dumpster packer
 Judi Caban — cleanup "accountant," flyers
 Tom Rose — traffic control
 Kathy Rose — membership, flyers
 Leo and Marlene Wilwerding — monitor, flyers
 Terry Wilwerding — hauler
 Jean Peck — dumpster monitor
 Mike Bacome — truck, hauler
 John Reuss — monitor, salvage
 Diane Reuss — monitor, flyers
 Ed Hendershot — hauler, bathroom, tools, flyers
 Angie Conley — monitor
 Vonda McEachern — monitor
 John Lynch and Family — cook, monitor, flyers
 Russ Hamm — car for salvage
 Jim and Ruth Windorski — flyers
 Ross Windorski — hauler
 Lloyd Canfield — hauler
 David Beck — hauler, setup
 Sallie Foster — flyers
 Sharon Meyer and Scouts — street cleanup
 Roger and Sandy Freeman — hauler, flyers
 John and Juan DeLeon — truck, hauler
 C.J. Cullinan — street cleanup
 Jerome Borton — hauler

Brian and Karen Kokensparger — flyers
 Jeanette Martin — cook, flyers
 Terri Allen — hauler
 Melvin Borland — hauler
 James Alcom — hauler
 Don Foley — hauler
 Dave Funk — dumpster monitor
 Also: Phil Buhett, Jon Vegas,
 Ray Henery, Bud Frank



**Come One,
Come All!**

To the
**Yates
School
Spring
Carnival!**

Saturday, May 15th

Noon to 3:00 p.m.

At Yates School,

**3260 Davenport
Street**

(Rain or Shine)

Food! - Games!

Prizes!

Fun for All Ages!

**A Neighborhood Tradition for
Over 50 Years!**

Everyone is Welcome!

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

CLEANUP REPORT (CONTINUED)

Business and Community Organizations:

J'N'J Grocery (Loren Johnson) — hot dogs, buns
 California Bar (Wayne and Peg Hill) — pop, ice
 7-Eleven (Jim Golde) — charcoal, coffee
 Kiewit (Larry Jackson, Don Hamre, Joe Brumbaugh,
 Jim Taylor) — flatbed truck, safety fence
 B.F.I. — dumpsters
 Tracy's Trucking (Tracy and Debra) — appliances
 St. Joseph Hospital (Jack Bowman) — truck
 House Arrest (Lt. Stangel)
 Omaha Police Dept. (Bob Fidoni, Sgt. Zoucha)
 -- cleared parking lot
 Subby Anzaldo — Horse Patrol
 St. Anthony House — truck, haulers
 Keep Omaha Beautiful (Cindy Smilley)
 — organization
 City of Omaha Parks, Forestry Division (Jerry and
 Jackie Flood) — organization

A few individuals deserve special attention. Jerry Flood and his staff with the City of Omaha for their outstanding organization of the entire city-wide Spring Cleanup — they are vital to the success of the cleanup. Judi Caban took on our membership and donation table and handled accounting duties and kept our trucks and volunteers with addresses of neighbors needing trash pickup. Tom Rose did another terrific job directing traffic, keeping this a smooth and safe operation. Ron Yates, GPNA President, was involved with everything from start to finish. No one has put forth more of an effort with our neighborhood cleanups than Ron has.

Gifford Park's pride shined bright this cleanup day. Great job!

Editor's Note: A huge thank you is also directed to Chris Foster, whose expertise and good-natured leadership demonstrates to us that the GPNA is not only getting older, it's getting better.

CALIFORNIA PIZZA & SUBS

3235 CALIFORNIA STREET

OPEN DAILY 11 AM - 9 PM

**1/2 OFF ON ANY
SANDWICH**

Expires May 31, 1993

**\$1 OFF ANY MEDIUM OR
\$2 OFF ANY LARGE PIZZA**

Expires May 31, 1993



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.

CLINTONS "BAILED OUT"

by Judi Caban

My respect for Bill Clinton was tarnished when he and Mrs. Clinton announced that they were sending their daughter Chelsea to private school. One of the reasons that I voted for Clinton was that he supported public education not only in speeches, but in practice — Chelsea was attending a public school in Little Rock. So when I heard that she was to be enrolled in a \$10,000-a-year private institution for children of the Washington elite, I was somewhat disenchanted.

My husband and I have a 9 year old son, Ben, and although we are willing to make the sacrifices required for us to send him to private school, we choose to send him to our neighborhood public school, where the student body is a combination of just about all races and cultures found in our city. This diversity in the backgrounds of the students is as important to us as the quality of the curriculum and the faculty, and this school meets our criteria on all counts. But even though the ethnic mix has remained constant in our school, there has been a decline in the number of children from middle-class homes. Many of the parents in our area who can afford to send their kids to private school have chosen to abandon the system. Like the First Family, these parents, some of whom are friends of ours, claim they must leave the public schools in order to do what's best for their children; they say they are unwilling to sacrifice their kids for the good of the community. When asked to explain what that means, they maintain that private schools are safer or that the quality of education is better.

I disagree. First of all, there have never been any incidents at Ben's school that make me anxious about his safety. What's more, I am not convinced that the education at private schools is necessarily superior. Ben is getting a fine education at his school. I do however, agree with my friends when they say that parents must do what is best for their children — and that is precisely why we send Ben to public school. We believe a good education includes life lessons not measurable by standardized tests.

Ben is learning from children who haven't had the advantages he's had. He's friendly with kids who, because they were born into circumstances unlike his, see the world in a different light. It's a cliché, I know, but Ben can learn a lot about the real

world at our school, about what's right and what's wrong with our society, and about how complex these matters can sometimes be.

I am sure that Chelsea will learn about poverty and racism, history books now include many examples. But no curriculum can effectively replace the understanding and appreciation of each other's differences that Ben and his friends are learning every day.

Maybe the Clintons think the Washington schools are truly dangerous or that the education there is unacceptably inferior. I don't know if that's true, but if it is, who better than the President's daughter to shed light on the problems that initiate change? Imagine how different the public schools in Washington might be today if the kids of Al Gore, Jesse Jackson, and Lamar Alexander had attended them instead of private schools.

What if all of our elected representatives, power brokers or community leaders were required to send their kids to public schools? Instead of wringing their hands about the state of public education or making empty speeches about how they support it, what if they just enrolled their kids in these schools, attended the PTA meetings, headed up fund raisers, worked with the teachers and principals, and spoke out loudly and often at school board meetings? With that kind of pressure from powerful parents, ALL of our schools would become excellent — maybe even good enough for the President's daughter!

In order to do what's truly best for our own kids, we must realize that the social and economic fates of ALL children are bound together. This country's future depends on EVERY child receiving a first-rate education. But that will never happen when the wealthier, better-educated parents — those who can most easily influence the classroom, school district, and state and federal legislation — bail out.

It would be nice if America's social problems were solved before the Chelseas and the Bens of this world start running the show, but I know that they and their classmates will face many of the same issues we struggle with today. And unless ALL children grow up to understand the complex problems of our society better than their parents do, they will be in no better position to solve them.