



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
JANUARY 1994

GPNA OFFICERS:

President:

John J. Lynch, Jr. - 345-9624

Vice President:

Judi Caban - 341-4722

Recording Secretary:

Cynde Yates - 558-6027

Corresponding Secretary:

Kathy Rose - 3413955

Treasurer:

Vonda McEachern - 341-7346

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Community Devel. Corp:

Chuck Kilgore - 341-2757

Clean Up:

Chris Foster - 342-6006

Courtesy:

Candy Bacome - 344-3233

Gifford Park Day:

John Lynch - 345-9624

Historian:

Eva Swanson - 345-1707

Membership:

Kathy Rose - 341-3955

Office:

Ron Yates - 558-6027

Pride Distribution:

John Lynch - 345-9624

Pride Production:

Kevin McEachern - 341-7346

Park:

Mike Caban - 341-4722

Program:

John Lynch - 345-9624

Public Relations:

Jackie Lynch - 345-9624

Social Activities:

Jeanette Martin - 345-7639

Tool Lending:

Ed Hendershot - 341-0475

Volunteer Incentive Program:

Vonda McEachern - 341-7346

Watch Group:

Ron Yates - 558-6027

Weeds and Litter:

Leo Wilwerding - 345-1433

NEXT MEETING:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

7:00 P.M.

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

GUESTS: TO BE ANNOUNCED

FREE PARKING

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BANQUET

This year's Holiday Banquet was hosted by St. Joseph's Hospital on December 4, 1993 and was an enjoyable event for all who attended. Many thanks to St. Joe's for their enthusiastic contributions year-round to our Association!

City Councilman Subby Anzaldo presented the yearly oration to the members present. He also contributed to the success of our banquet by donating a couple of door prizes. These, along with one donated by Jackie Lynch, were given away. The lucky recipients were Mike Caban, Judi Caban and Leo Wilwerding.

Our President John Lynch presented the "Neighbor of the Year" award to Chuck Kilgore. Chuck has been a key member of the GPNA and has been instrumental in getting the CDC started. Thanks for all your hard work, Chuck!

We encourage all of you to attend the banquet next year. It is always an enjoyable event, and we'd like to see all GPNA members attend. May each of you have a happy holiday, and we hope to see you at the monthly meetings in 1994!

Jeanette Martin

MRS. DOUBTFIRE...a critical cinematic review
by Mike Caban

To anyone who hasn't seen this movie yet, I recommend it highly. Oh, and take the kids. No, it's not an epic film. It doesn't have high tech visual effects that blow you out of the seat. I don't even recall one person or animal being slaughtered in this flick.

What this movie has that makes it enthralling and wonderful is: One, great acting; Two, almost continuous action; And three, a positive message. Without giving too much of it away, I recommend this film to anyone who has been through a difficult marriage, or to children of divorce, and to anyone who knows in real life, the good guy doesn't always get the girl in the end.

Sounds depressing? Don't worry, that's one thing it's not. It's funny, real funny, and touching, and revealing, and uplifting. In addition, there are many examples of tactful treatment of people's differences, using comedy, with taste. This movie is an example of good creative writing with the public's best interests in mind.

You know the kind of movie we keep saying there aren't enough of now a day? Mrs. Doubtfire is that kind of movie, and it proves that the entertainment industry CAN make that type of movie, and still make lots of money at the same time.

If the news and entertainment media devoted more effort and resources exploring, and exploiting positive ways to influence our lives, and our children's lives, perhaps by chance, the "humane face" of our society would become trendy, fashionable, a fad if you will, and even profitable (for those who use that as an excuse for not publicizing the good that we are capable of doing to, and for one another).

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And Mexican Menu

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HOLIDAY DISPLAYS MAKE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD A "WINTER WONDERLAND"

December 16, 1993, 8:30 PM -

It was a dark and stormy night: six intrepid member of your GPNA Board of Directors, chosen at random to be judges in the annual Holiday Lighting Contest, pile into a van and set off to tour the neighborhood. Armed only with a notebook, pencil and nerves of steel, they are on a quest for the 3 prize winning holiday lighting displays. Up and down the street they go, slowly, slowly - looking first left then right. Pausing here to make a note, there to debate - they cruise the community. Backtracking to check contenders, each judge has his or her favorites.

Our valiant crew has their work cut out for them - they count over 100 displays within the Association's boundaries! Finally, they come to a reluctant consensus. Now comes the fun part - delivering the prizes. Braving slush, dark of night and dogs of varying degrees of ferociousness, they deliver cash prizes, congratulations and holiday greetings to the residents at the following locations:

- 1st place - 803 No. 33rd Street
- 2nd place - 3036 Cass Street
- 3rd place - 3421 Burt Street

These were the official winners, but your judges all felt that there were other displays worthy of mention:

- "Area With Most Displays": Webster Street between 33rd and 36th.
- "House With Most Lights Per Square Inch": 3401 Burt Street.
- "Best Stapled Addition to Display": 619 No 34th Street.
- "Special Mention - Artistic Merit": 3321 Davenport, 321 No 36th Avenue, 3512 California and 3429 Webster Street.
- "Best Commercial Display": J-N-J Grocery.
- "Best "Charlie Brown" Christmas Tree": the GPNA Office.
- "Most Holiday Spirit": 429 NO 31st Avenue.

And finally, the display on the corner of 36th and Cass is so wonderful every year after year that the judges have decided to designate it "Exhibit Emeritus Extrordinaire in Perpetuity"!

Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law

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Avenue

558-5000

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Gifford Park Residential Specialist

Scott A. Rosenthal

Hello! This is just a quick note to introduce myself. I have been a resident at 3409 California since January of 1990. I am focusing my attention on the Gifford Park area for NP Dodge Real Estate Co., and I am anxious to meet all of you! Do not hesitate to call me at home or at work for reliable, quick answers to all of your real estate questions.



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TO THE PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

SOME FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- * Peer pressure to try alcohol and other drugs can begin as early as the fourth grade and nationally, by the sixth grade, more than 40% of children have used alcohol.
- * Children who have strong bonds with their family and school are far less likely to try alcohol or other drugs.
- * When children, parents, the school and the community are all involved with a prevention and education program, the use of alcohol and other drugs by young people declines sharply.

Find out what you can do to help your children enjoy growing years that are free of alcohol and other drugs. Join with us in **COMMON SENSE: Strategies for Raising Alcohol and Drug Free Children** to find out what works and what doesn't; what puts children at risk and how to avoid those risks. The program will be presented over four meetings. Plan to attend them all.

All meetings will be held at
Yates Elementary School
3260 Davenport Street

Meeting # 1

WHAT WE CAN DO
Tuesday, January 4, 7:00 PM

Meeting #2

**ESTABLISHING FAMILY
RIGHTS, RULES AND
LIMITS**
Tuesday, January 11, 7:00 PM

Meeting # 3

**PARENTS AS ROLE
MODELS**
Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 PM

Meeting #4

**BUILDING STRONG
BONDS WITH FAMILY
AND SCHOOL**
Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 PM

This series of dynamic meetings is free and open to the public. There will be refreshments, child care for younger children, door prizes and plenty of valuable information. Please join us, and plan to bring a friend!

**WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

Presented by the Yates School Family Room and the Yates School Guidance Center. For more information call Yates School, 344-7895.

California Bar & Pkg. 510 No. 33rd St.

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NOTICE

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE
IN THE GIFFORD PARK PRIDE?

If so, contact Vonda McEachern at 341-7346
after 6:00 P.M.

THE BULLY PULPIT

by Mike Caban

Since the appearance of an editorial that I wrote for the Omaha World Herald Public Pulse, I have received many positive comments from people who read the piece. It was cut considerably, but the edited version more or less reflected the thoughts behind the longer, more in depth, and perhaps more controversial original article that I submitted.

For those who are curious, the editorial dealt with my reaction to comments made by Senator Ernie Chambers, and other public and community leaders who wasted no time in condemning and accusing the police of racism, when a group of Central High School students were video taped and arrested last month. My reaction to the accusations of racism, by Senator Chambers especially, came out of a frustration that I, and many other people of color in this city feel when we hear this catch word misused so often.

There is no doubt that racism lives and breathes and is well entrenched, not only in Omaha, but in the entire nation. That it still exists is not to be denied. That it is systemic is another issue altogether, and one that I refuse to accept. What concerns me is that some people of color, who hold leadership positions sometime contribute to hatred and mistrust, by fanning the flame of prejudice with irresponsible statements that lack any foundation in truth. Like in the story of the boy who cried wolf, one day, when the wolf really threatens, I'm afraid that no one will pay any attention to the plea for help.

Of greater concern to me is that people in leadership positions have a unique responsibility to our children. As role models, they must craft their words and actions carefully. And when Senator Chambers uses his muscle to intimidate everyone from the mayor on down, he is teaching children that right and wrong are irrelevant. It's the bully who wins the battle. Well, since I was a skinny little Puertorican kid in the Bronx, I've been dealing with bullies. I discovered early on that bullies only win when their opponents lack courage and conviction.

Children need to know they will be held accountable when they misbehave. Senator Chambers (and others) virtually showed them how to evade accountability when they are caught. Just scream "RACISM!" It was wrong of him to do that, and he should be ashamed of himself for setting our children up for future failures if they take his advice. I think the mayor and everyone else who bowed to the pressure were wrong, because they proved that bullies win. Sometimes they do, but that doesn't make it right. And I'd rather go down fighting for what's right, than to stand by and watch while bullies destroy our children.

**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

Referred by: _____

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