

GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

MARCH 1994

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Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 3
7:00 P.M.

St. Joseph's Hospital
Dining Rooms A,B, & C

Guest: To Be Announced

FREE PARKING

MONEY SAVING TIPS FROM OPPD

- * Consider lighting your home or office with compact fluorescent lighting. This type of lighting uses 75% less energy, lasts 10 times longer and produces as much light as 60-70 watt bulbs.
- * Fluorescent bulbs give off three or four times as much light as incandescent bulbs per watt.
- * Hallway and closet lights work efficiently on 40 watt bulbs.
- * "Supersaver" incandescent bulbs consume up to 13% less electricity than ordinary bulbs.

While the electricity used to light your home is a small part of your total energy costs, the amount of waste caused by inefficient lighting is high. With a more efficient lighting system, you can reduce use and **SAVE MONEY.**

Reduce the Opportunity of Assault

- # 1 Check your car and home before entering. Don't enter if you suspect a stranger is inside.
- # 2 Always have your keys in hand before reaching your house or car.
- # 3 Require all strangers to show identification.
- # 4 If you live alone, list only your initials and last name on mailboxes and telephone directories.
- # 5 Leave lights on outside and inside whenever possible and have your blinds and drapes drawn at night.
- # 6 If you have car trouble, lock yourself up inside the car. Wait for help! NEVER get into a stranger's car.
- # 7 Lock all doors and windows in your home and car. Dead bolts are best for your home. Install peepholes in your house door.
- # 8 Be alert and suspicious. Be conscious of where you are and who is around you, both strangers and acquaintances.

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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.

FROM THE PARK COMMITTEE:

Spring is just around the corner, and our little treasures will be converging on Gifford Park to do what little ones do best, play and have fun. Please, if you use the park, keep it clean. The city has put a new coat of paint on the playground equipment, and added more sand in the sand lot.

Throw your trash in the green cans, not on the sidewalks, the sand lot, or on the grassy areas. This is our park, lets enjoy it, and allow our kids a safe, clean place to play and fun.

If you see anyone vandalizing, disrupting the peace, or causing harm to anyone in the park, call 911 immediately. If you notice a safety hazard, or something that needs repair, call the GPNA Park committee chairman.

The spring of 1994 will bring bright new additions to Gifford Park: FLOWERS! Please don't pick them. Allow everyone to enjoy their beauty. And if you have a green thumb and wish to assist in providing additional flowering plants, fertilizer/compost, bordering material, or your labor, the park committee is planning a new summer flower bed in the area between the tennis courts and the baseball field. Work on this flower bed will begin on the day of Spring Clean-up. Call the park committee chairman for more details.



EDITORIAL SECTION

New Business Welcome in Our District

by
John J. Lynch, Jr.

Previously in our newsletter, commentary was made regarding the newest business, a day-care center, looking to locate within the Gifford Park business district. Although some valid personal concerns regarding this new venture were voiced, the overall critique of the business, as well as the GPNA support of this operation, was not, in this writers' opinion, totally correct.

There are currently numerous empty storefronts in our area, and many others that sat empty for great periods of time before new businesses occupied the space. It has been a major goal of GPNA to attract new businesses to our area and to maintain the existing stores in operation. The direct result of additional quality companies in our area is greater stability of the neighborhood as a whole. No one can deny this as a suitable goal.

In criticizing this potential new neighbor, the previous writer made points regarding the potential safety hazards facing children in this building. The business owner has apparently received all the necessary permits and inspections required by the appropriate governing bodies fro his intended use of the building. The only item that the new owner requested GPNA to address was a parking waiver, something the association has done previously for other area businesses. If there is reason for concern regarding these permits and inspections, perhaps the correct action would be to criticize the appropriate government bodies, not to berate a new member of the community.

Another concern of the previous writer was the new business owners' lack of previous experience in this field. If this was a pre-condition to an individual starting a new business anywhere in this area, there certainly would be a lot more empty storefronts.

Let's welcome this new venture to Gifford Park. As with any new operation, we will watch closely for their growth and continued success, and hope they become strong supporters of the GPNA and our neighborhood.

All members are invited to submit articles for the editorial section. They must be signed and submitted by the third Thursday of the month. The views expressed in this section do not necessarily represent the views of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association or its Executive Board.

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: _____

Here's Another Quick Fix For Ya

by Mike Caban

Councilman Joe Friend recently introduced an ordinance that if passed penalizes parents/guardians of youth offenders with among other things, monetary fines, and/or forced parenting classes, if they are found to be derelict in their parental responsibilities. While I applaud the well meaning intentions of Councilman Friend, whom I'm assuming is genuinely concerned about our city and all its people, I nevertheless doubt very seriously whether this ordinance, if passed, will achieve either of its goals i.e., lower youth crime rate, or modify parental behavior in adults.

Lacking a comprehensive strategy, involving the entire gamut of government, corporate, and civic resources in a process that cultivates responsible parenting, even before a child is born, I see any effort such as the Councilman's proposal, as miserably inadequate, reactionary, narrow in scope, and doomed to fail. The fact is, that if nothing is done to educate poor and disenfranchised parents, (the real targets of this ordinance) on ways to develop a wholesome nurturing environment, and behavior, even before a child is born, anything we do after the child reaches the juvenile court system, is in most cases simply too little, too late.

Quick fixes, make for good press. They tend to give the illusion that we are really trying to do something positive for the poor, the alienated, and uneducated segments of our society, when in fact, the real message is that a certain percentage of our citizenry is expendable. The proof is in the number of get tough laws, crime bills, gun ordinances, three strikes laws, and now this latest and greatest quick fix before our city council.

How many more laws, ordinances, police officers, jails, judges, lawyers, social workers, juvenile detention halls, hospitals, and cemeteries will it take for us to realize that we are not solving the problem by attacking victims? In the meantime, politicians continue to offer us vote getting, but ineffectual quick fixes, and what used to be locally responsible corporations continue to merge into multi-national conglomerates, making more money for top executives and stock holders, while they eliminate thousands of American jobs, rather than invest in our people, and provide opportunity to our children, so that one day, they too, may hope to achieve the American dream through education and hard work.

If there is no opportunity, there is no hope. If there is no hope, there is no will. If there is no will, there is no future. If there is no future, then why even try.

Here's another quick fix for ya: I challenge politicians to propose ordinances that will levy hefty fines on corporations for every American worker they dump on the street. Use that money to create meaningful jobs, and to support and educate families that have no opportunity to live the American dream. Call me naive, but wouldn't that be a kick in the pants.

ALL GPNA MEMBERS:

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE will be elected at the March 3rd meeting! Serving on the nominating committee does not preclude holding a position. If you are interested in serving on the committee or holding a position **BE THERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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

**4913 Underwood
Avenue**

558-5000

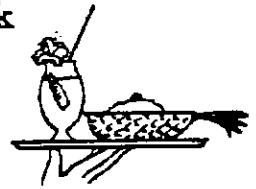
Personal Injury Law
Worker's Compensation
Injury
Auto Accidents
Insurance Claims

HAD ANYTHING STOLEN LATELY?

Many GPNA members have decided to protect their property, and you can too! We have invested in two engravers (Thank you Ron!). Engraving your name and social security number into your valuables increases your chances of retrieving stolen property by 3 fold according to the Omaha Police Department. Protect your valuables. Call the GPNA office to come down and use the engravers. (This is a free service sponsored by GPNA)

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IN THE GIFFORD PARK PRIDE?**

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after 6:00 P.M.

MOVING SALE!!!

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Dryer \$50.00. Queensize Waterbed w/everyting
\$75.00. Refrigerator \$350.00 or best offer
(brand new). Lawnmower. Olympic Weights &
Bench. New Verticle Blinds. Couch & much
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on Sat & Sun. March 12th & 13th. 8am to 6pm
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8:00 AM - 10:00 PM SUNDAY