



Gifford Park's Pride

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn and Play

October 1994

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association



Fall Cleanup Date Is Set

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association's annual Fall Cleanup will be **Saturday, October 29rd, 8 AM to 2 PM** in Gifford Park. As in the past, the Fall Cleanup is for GPNA members only, or people who donate time or money to the cleanup. Activities planned are:

- Neighborhood & Park Cleanup
- Dumpsters in Gifford Park
- Membership & Donation Drive
- Recycling
- Garage Sale Items
- Park Picnic
- Halloween Pumpkins



We always need volunteer help with providing pickup trucks for hauling, monitoring/packing dumpsters, and especially picking up your own streets and yards. If you have a couple of hours on cleanup day, come down to Gifford Park (by the baseball diamond) and we'll have something for you to do.

It's very important for you to call the phone numbers listed below **BEFORE** cleanup day if you need a volunteer to pick up trash - we will prioritize hauling based on your call. There will be a charge for appliances that contain refrigerant (freon) - this charge has not yet been set. **Tree brush will NOT be accepted** for the Fall Cleanup...save it for the Spring Cleanup. Because the GPNA pays for these dumpsters, we may require a donation if you have excessive trash (ie. several truckloads) to help fund the cleanup.

Please call Chris or Ron for more information or if you can help with this year's Fall Cleanup:

Chris Foster 342-6006 Ron Yates 558-6027

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 6th
7:00 P.M.

Guest Speakers:

Mary Irwin - Community Development
Coordinator, City of Omaha

Helicopter Pilot for St. Joseph's Hospital

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

FREE PARKING

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GPNA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ron Yates 558-6027

VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Foster 342-6006

RECORDING SECRETARY

OPEN

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Cynde Yates 558-6027

TREASURER

Marlene Wilwerding 345-1433

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BUDGET & FINANCE

OPEN

C.D.C.

Chuck Kilgore 341-2757

CLEAN-UP

Chris Foster 342-6006

COURTESY

Candy Bacome 344-3233

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

MEMBERSHIP

Kathy Rose 341-3955

NEWSLETTER

Chris Foster 342-6006

OFFICE

Kathy Rose 341-3955

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ron Yates 558-6027

WATCH GROUP

Ron Yates 558-6027

WEEDS & LITTER

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433



NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIN

Think of this neighborhood as a train with many passengers on board who have various destinations...

Some are riding to the end of the line; Others will be getting off sooner.

Some would rather be traveling by airplane, boat or automobile; Others feel that the train beats walking.

Some feel that other passengers do not need their luggage and that it is OK or cool to put their feet on the seats or to be loud and vulgar; Others are considerate, kind and helpful.

Some feel that if they board quietly, no one will notice; Others like to sit next to a quiet passenger with lots of luggage.

Some believe that this train will crash before the next stop. Some do not care what happens; Others think that some passengers will leave at the next stop.

Still others believe that **YOU** can make the difference.

ENJOY THE RIDE!

GIFFORD PARK GETS GRANT

The GPNA Watch Group is pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the City of Omaha. The grant (\$2,199.27) has been used to purchase six FM Radios and a cellular phone. This equipment will help the Watch Group provide the neighborhood with better service. We wish to thank **George Ireland**, from the Mayor's office, councilman **Subby Anzaldo** and especially the taxpayers. Thank you very much!

Tennis Backboard Gets Surprise Donation

The tennis backboard which was recently erected at the Gifford Park tennis courts received an added cash donation. **Jackie Foster** donated \$140 toward the cost of materials needed. This donation along with the remainder of materials donated by **Micklin Lumber** and **Ideal Hardware** meant the backboard was totally funded by donations. We would like to erect another larger backboard on the adjacent court. We are hoping to find donations (cash or materials) for this project - the cost of materials would be near \$400. Call **Chris Foster** (342-6006) or **Ron Yates** (558-6027) if you can help.



The GPNA wishes to thank **Creighton University** for their help in printing our newsletter



CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

NEEDED:

HELP WITH NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

The GPNA is looking for anyone, any age, interested in delivering newsletters in the Gifford Park Neighborhood.

Call 558-6027

NEEDED:

RECORDING SECRETARY

The GPNA is looking for someone interested in filling the duties and responsibilities of Recording Secretary.

Call 558-6027

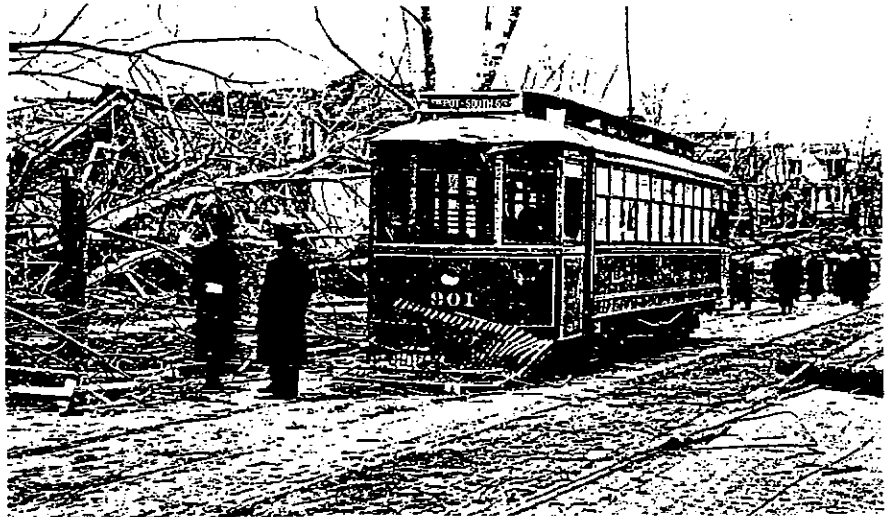
STREET CARS IN GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD?

Did you know that our Gifford Park neighborhood business area of 33rd and California had Street Cars? The street car was the only mode of public transportation in Omaha until they were entirely replaced by buses. The first street cars were horse drawn and began in the middle 1860's. Slowly but surely, they finally became electrified around the middle 1880's.

The year was 1902 and a decision had been made by the Omaha Street Railway Company to extend a double track from 25th & California west to 33rd and California then north on 33rd Street to 33rd and Parker Street. This street car line was in operation for thirty nine years. It was finally abandoned late in the year of 1941 (Just before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor). The street cars that were in use in Omaha were manufactured right here at the "Omaha Shops" located at 26th & Lake Street. These buildings are now used today by the City of Omaha as a truck and auto repair facility.

In the 1930's the line would begin at 33rd & Parker go south 33rd Street to California Street, go east on California Street to 25th Street, go south on 25th Street to Dodge Street, go east on Dodge Street to 16th Street, go south on 16th Street to Leavenworth Street, go west on Leavenworth Street to 60th Street, go south on 60th Street to Woolworth Street, go west on Woolworth Street to 63rd & Woolworth Street, go south on 63rd Street to Shirley Street (in front of Aksarben).

As some of you old timers remember,



Street car 901 was only a year old when it was caught by the Easter Sunday Tornado of 1913. This picture shows the street car heading south on 33rd at Lincoln Blvd.

both 33rd Street and California Street were brick. Since the 1950's the trend has been to cover the bricks over with asphalt. For many years the bricks on 33rd Street between Cuming and Hamilton were exposed so you could see that the middle of the street was re-bricked. Of course this was because the tracks were taken out and sold as scrap.

But some of you remember in the 1950's and 1960's that California Street between 30th and 33rd Street still had the bricks and tracks exposed. When it was time for the city to put asphalt on California Street in the middle 1960's, they did not take the time to take the tracks out, but just covered them over with the asphalt.

Some time take a drive to the Creighton University Campus. There you can get an idea of how California Street might have looked in the 1930's. The location would be about 27th & California Street on the Creighton Campus. You will see California Street bricked with the street car tracks exposed. If you look straight West you will see that so much

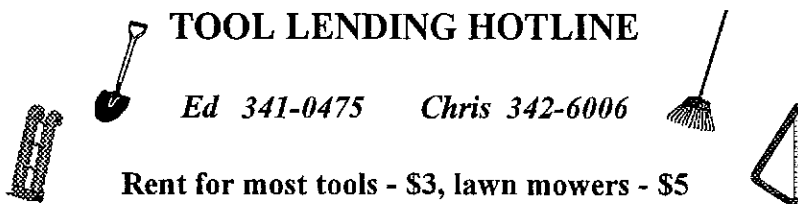
has changed. California Street is abruptly cut off at 27th Street and suddenly there is Interstate 480 and Boys Town institute in the way of where California Street and the street car used to go.

If you want to get an idea of what the street cars were like, take a trip to the Western Heritage Museum. Go downstairs to the Omaha Exhibit Area in the lower level and there you will find a restored street car just like the ones that ran in our neighborhood for 39 years. Take the time to get in the street car and inspect it. Use your imagination. You might pretend as you are sitting in one of the seats in the street car, that it is turning on 33rd & California and going North to the end of the line at Parker.

By John Howard

John Howard is a Sales Manager with Word Data Business Systems, located right here in our neighborhood, 3172 Dodge St. John and Word Data have contributed greatly to the GPNA. Thanks John!

TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

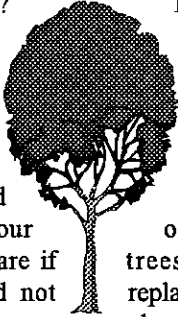


Editor's note: Deadline for submitting articles and editorials is the third Thursday of each month. Articles can be left at the GPNA Office. I will also accept articles stored on IBM compatible disks. Contact Chris Foster at 342-6006 for information regarding the newsletter.

Trees Planted Along California Street

Have you ever walked in a neighborhood where trees were few and far between?

Many neighborhoods lack the character of the Gifford Park area with our tree-lined streets and homes.



But even our own streets can look bare if trees are removed and not replaced, which was the case along a part of California Street. Well thanks to **KETV Celebrate Trees, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, Nebraska Forest Service and City of Omaha Forestry Division**, sixteen young trees were donated to the GPNA. **Steve Farrington, Seth Farrington and Sam Farrington of Indian Creek Nursery** did the digging and planting on California Street between 33rd and 36th Street. This is the second year in a row that the GPNA has received this valuable donation. A special thanks goes to **Ron Yates and Kathy Rose** who submitted the grant application. If one of these trees is planted on your property, do your best to take care of it.

Neighbor of the Month: Jenny Root

Jenny Root, the Gifford Park's Pride newsletter producer for most of this year, has unfortunately moved out of the Gifford Park Neighborhood. Because of her move and very busy schedule, Jenny has had to pass on the newsletter production.

Jenny took over the newsletter at a time when the GPNA needed someone to step up and take over after Kevin and Vonda McEachern moved from the neighborhood early this year. She has been progressive in her efforts to make our newsletter a quality, professional-looking publication by including graphics, different font styles, dropshadowing, boilerplating, and high quality output. These enhancements lay the foundation for future newsletters.

Besides newsletter responsibilities, Jenny has been a very active GPNA member attending general meetings, board of directors meetings, neighborhood cleanups, and many other functions. She won the GPNA Outstanding New Member Award this year. She is currently a senior at Creighton, majoring in Accounting, and is a member of the Theta Phi sorority. Jenny works at the Shadow Ridge Golf Course located near Elkhorn. She enjoys sand volleyball when time allows.

The GPNA wishes Jenny much luck and success... We'll see you around!

'Unique Antiques and Collectibles' Opens New Business in Neighborhood

The Gifford Park Neighborhood welcomes a new business on the northeast corner of 33rd and California Street.

Levoyn Nelson, owner of **Unique Antiques and Collectibles**, says the corner location, abundant windows and a newly remodeled building have been a great combination for his business. Besides selling a variety of antiques and collectibles Levoyn says his business also refinishes furniture. Welcome to the neighborhood!



GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Membership Application



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

Referred by: _____ () New Member () Renewal

ANNUAL DUES -- \$5 (Single), \$8 (Family), \$25 (Business/Institutional)

****Please note: All new and newly-renewed memberships will expire June 1st.**

If paying by check, make checks payable to GPNA
Mail to GPNA: 532 North 33rd St., Omaha, NE 68131

The Gifford Park Neighborhood ... A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn and Play!