



Gifford Park's Pride

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

April 1995

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Spring Cleanup Date Set

This year's Spring Cleanup will be **Saturday, April 15th** from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** in Gifford Park. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will occur on the same day just prior to the cleanup - see details below. As in the past we will have neighborhood cleanup, recycling, membership and donation drive, and a picnic in Gifford Park. Everyone in the Gifford Park Neighborhood is encouraged to take this opportunity to help clean up your part of the neighborhood. We would like to see neighbors helping each other get involved with this year's cleanup. The GPNA thanks the City of Omaha and Keep Omaha Beautiful for providing free dumpsters and chipper sites to our neighborhood. Please note the following rules and guidelines for this year's cleanup:

- Neighborhood volunteers will monitor the dumpsters (NO commercial hauling!).
- Dump passes will be available to River City Recycling with a \$5 charge per pickup size. Free dump passes will be available to the Douglas County Landfill in Elk City on Saturday only.
- Tree brush and branches no larger than 6" in diameter must be taken to one of the following chipper sites between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday only.

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|---|--|
| Levi Carter Lake Boathouse Parking Lot 13th & Cornish Boulevard | Joint Facility - North End North Parking Lot 8788 Vernoni Avenue |
| Spring Lake Park Parking Lot 14th & I Streets | Trendwood Park Parking Lot 132nd & Pacific Streets |

- We require a \$10 charge for handling items containing refrigerant (refrigerators, A.C.), and \$1 per car tire.
- We may require a small fee for pickup of large hauls.
- Recycling items accepted: scrap metal (iron, copper, brass, aluminum, etc.), batteries, garage sale items.
- Call if you need help hauling or if you can help in any way - we always need volunteers and trucks.

The focus of the Spring Cleanup is for everyone to clean up and beautify our neighborhood - parks, streets, yards, alleys and vacant lots, and help those that need help. For information on the Spring Cleanup, contact **Chris Foster (342-6006)** or **Ron Yates (558-6027)**.

Next Meeting

**Thursday, April 6th
7:00 P.M.**

Guest Speakers:

**Tom Cavanaugh
Douglas County Clerk**

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

FREE PARKING

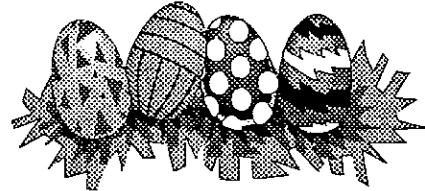
6th Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15th

9:30 a.m. (Sharp!)

at Gifford Park

Ages 12 years old & under



**Bring Your Easter Baskets
& Be Ready To Hunt!**

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ron Yates 558-6027

WATCH GROUP

Ron Yates 558-6027

WEEDS & LITTER

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433



GPNA Watch Group Thank-You

Years and years of Watch Group activity seems to be paying off. Even though we hit a bump now and then, the road to neighborhood security appears much smoother than it was five years ago. I can't remember the last call we made to 911, but would guess that it has been over 60 days. Who do we thank for this change? The long/short list should include the founding members of GPNA; Council Member, Subby Anzaldo; the Omaha Police Department; the Kiewit Foundation; (then) Police Lieutenant, Jack O'Donnell; Tom Zoucha; an unnamed member of the Community Services Bureau; business owners; Chuck Kilgore, Loren Johnson, Wayne Hill; Doug Hiner and other landlords. My personal thank-you goes to Harry Dirgo, Kathy Rose, Terry Wilwerding, Chris Foster, Cynde Yates, Rich Exline and newcomer, Betty Slayden and their families for bearing with us. We also need to thank college students and the young people in our neighborhood who have greatly improved their behavior. Thanks to the criminals and hoodlums who have left the neighborhood. For those criminals who have not yet left — there is still time. Finally, thank-you to members (and back-bone) of the GPNA.

By Ron Yates, GPNA Watch Group

American Heart Walk At Chalco Hills

St. Joseph's Hospital is recruiting volunteers to participate in the Smith Barney American Heart Walk. Saturday, May 6th at the scenic Chalco Hills Recreation Area/Wehrspann Lake. Registration is at 8 a.m., the 10-K (6.2 miles) walk starts at 9 a.m. The American Heart Association will utilize the money raised for research, education and community service in the fight against heart disease, the nation's number killer. All participants must collect their sponsor money prior to the day of the walk. Each Heart Walker should turn in their collection envelope to their Heart Captain before the event. Runners, bicyclists and roller bladers will be the first people allowed on the 10-K course. Contact Jerry Reiger (341-2305) for more information.



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!

Free Tax Help Still Available From IRS

There are just two more dates available for free tax help at the GPNA Office, **Saturday April 8th & 15th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Processing of basic tax returns will be available on the dates listed below. Walk-in appointments are welcome, but priority will be given to those who call first to schedule an appointment. To schedule an appointment or to get more information about the tax help, call **342-6006**.

Tennis Our Way (TOW) Offering Free Lessons

The "Tennis Our Way (TOW) Organization" will be offering free tennis lessons for 6 weeks every Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting June 5th to July 14th, 1995. This program is open to youth ages 7 to 14 at the following sites: Athletic Park, James Lynch Park, Fontenelle Park and Miller Park.

For youngsters ages 5 to 7, Mr. Pee Wee tennis lessons will be available at another location.

For information call 551-9670 for details.

Tennis Our Way is a volunteer organization, non-profit, dedicated to promote instructional tennis with special emphasis on the urban youth who otherwise would not get the chance to be exposed to tennis. 1995 will be the third summer with kids.

Congratulations to St. Joseph's Hospital celebrating 125 years of service to the community!

SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL
AT OREGON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER



Historically Speaking...Robinson's Garage

"Way back when," the auto repair shop known today as Robinson's Garage on 33rd street was a Blacksmith Shop, doing a good business with the horses of that day. Borg's Garage was established about 1925 in that same location and was the second oldest general auto repair garage in Omaha according to Ray Borg, son of Carl Borg, the operator of Borg's Garage. The oldest repair shop was located downtown about 29th and Douglas.

Borg's Garage began as the Montclair Garage on Cuming Street where Borg was in partnership with Ray Keaton. After the move to 33rd and after Borg bought out Keaton it was called Borg's Montclair Garage and later just Borg's. Borg employed several mechanics, and when his sons Ray, Charles and Carl were old enough they also worked in their father's shop. They worked on Model T's and A's, and occasionally a Willy's Knight, a Pierce-Arrow, a Marquette, a LaSalle, and a Cord. At that time oil was about 25 cents a quart and gasoline was 17 cents a gallon.

Carl Borg died in March, 1943, and *By Eva Swanson*

since his sons were then in the Air Force in WW II, the garage was sold to Virgil Johnson who operated it under Borg's name until Bill Robinson took over in the spring of 1958. Robinson, with sons Dale and Doug, operated the garage until fall of 1987 when Bill retired and Dale Robinson took over as owner and operator. Bill can be seen occasionally at the garage, but mostly he and his wife, Lorna, are enjoying life in a motor home traveling the country. Dale Robinson works on all makes of cars and trucks and provides excellent computer car work and general repair work having attending GM School to keep up-to-date on the latest models. The price of oil has risen to \$1.98 and he no longer sells gasoline.

Dale Robinson has one son and three daughters so that business has many years to go. Incidentally, although Carl Borg's sons did not continue in the repair business, his grandson, David Borg, is Service Manager for Rhoden Auto Center in Council Bluffs.

Neighbors of the Month Set Example For Everyone

John and Cathy Stuve are the neighbor's of the month. About a month ago they cleaned the alley just west of 34th street that runs between California and Webster Streets. This alley was becoming an eyesore before their effort. They have also walked on the watch group. John is an outreach worker for Community Alliance and Cathy is an activities leader in a nursing home. They enjoy camping, hiking, canoeing and especially scuba-diving. Good job John and Cathy!



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

Ed 341-0475 Chris 342-6006

Rent for most tools - \$3, mowers - \$5



Editor's note: If you have something that would be of interest to the people of our neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for our monthly newsletter, Gifford Park's Pride. Deadline for submitting articles and editorials is the third Thursday of each month. Editorials must be approved by the GPNA Executive Board. Articles can be left at the GPNA Office, please include your name and phone number. We will accept articles stored on IBM compatible disks. Contact Chris Foster at 342-6006 for information regarding the newsletter.

The Neighborhood In World War II

For someone who hadn't experienced it, the patriotic fervor present during the Second World War would be hard to imagine. The entire force of the communication media was focused on getting everyone 100% behind the "War effort." This involved not only all the adults, but children as well. These were taught to save their pennies to buy War Stamps which accumulated until a War Bond could be issued.

Propaganda against Germany and Japan was so powerful that I firmly believe a person waving an enemy flag on a busy street would have been mobbed and killed. Our neighborhood was indeed a different place in 1944!

To adequately supply the armed forces, many items were rationed. Among these were shoes, gasoline, meat, sugar and tires. Everyone was issued ration books. The average car owner could only purchase 3 gallons of gas a week. Persons who needed transportation directly connected with the war effort, (defense workers, truckers, etc.), could get more. In the gas eaters of that era, 3 gallons of gas didn't get you far. Most people just left the cars home except for church or a little ride on Sundays. Trips out of town were almost unheard of... possible only by long term saving of gas stamps. Hardly anyone drove a car to work except persons going to far out jobs like the Martin Bomber Plant in Bellevue. Even then, carpooling was mandatory! Two pairs of shoes a year was the limit. Shoemakers did a great business in resoling and reheeling old shoes. Many stores sold soles and heels the average person could stick on themselves with tubes of adhesive. Trouble was they tended to become unstuck at the most embarrassing times. Like right in the middle of a day at school. A flapping sole was a real attention getter.

Mothers were hard pressed to provide attractive meals when such things as meat and sugar were rationed. The use of syrups, honey and saccharine as sweeteners was widespread. Nothing seemed to adequately replace sugar, however. Everyone was urged to conserve everything, all the time. Housewives saved tin cans. After the ends were removed and placed inside, the cans were flattened, saved in cartons, and regularly collected for the tin they contained.

Women also saved all cooking grease such as bacon drippings. This was collected and turned into explosives. Regular scrap metal drives were undertaken. The object was to collect as much as possible for building tanks and guns. It was amazing to see persons tearing down their beautiful wrought iron fences and throwing them in the scrap drives. Children scoured the back alleys, garages and basements for metal that might be donated. Anything not tied down was fair game.

There were very few toys available during the war years, and certainly none made of metal. Wooden wagons, trykes, and pull toys took the place of the pre-war metal types. Windup toys were common before 1942, but were unheard of afterward. Lincoln Logs and Tinker Toys were popular, and wooden.

A few 1942 model cars were sold, but that was the last of new cars until the 1946 models arrived. Anything that would run drew a good price. A neighbor who found a 1927 Model A Ford pickup in good shape, was proud of his acquisition. The average person just could not get new tires for his aging car. The result was that used tires drew high prices. It was not unusual to see persons driving on tires without any tread whatsoever even the cords showing through. Filling stations didn't sell much gas, but fixed lots of flat tires.

Until the war few women worked outside the home. Suddenly, however, they were urged to go to work. With a large proportion of the men away at war, women took over jobs of every kind, even heavy labor types. Industry and the defense plants were filled by ladies doing tough and often highly skilled jobs.

Most families had someone in one or another of the branches of service. Some of these who were assigned overseas, were away from home for 3 or 4 years. Their family's pride and sacrifice was shown by hanging a small flag with a star in the center for each person in the service. The stars were blue except when the serviceman or woman had been killed, and then it was gold. It was a sad time for those who lost family members. One family lost 5 sons!

There were grave sacrifices for some and many small sacrifices by all. The joy therefore when the war finally ended, was to be expected, yet, almost unbelievably in its intensity. What a relief to have it over, even for the kids!

By Leo Wilwerding

Magazine Recycling

April 29th & 30th
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Center Mall
42nd & Center



Cub Foods
114th & Miracle Hills Drive

Montclair Shopping Center
132nd & Center

Bring Slick Magazines
No Catalogs

For Information, Call 444-7774