



Gifford Park's Pride

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

May 1995

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Gifford Park Neighborhood Cleanup Shows No Mercy

There's no doubt about it, the Gifford Park Cleanup Crew gets the "most tonnage value" of any cleanup effort around. If the statistics don't prove it, then maybe if you saw the large hole in the intersection at 34th & Davenport, this would convince you. The incident happened at our last Spring Cleanup, Saturday, April 15th in Gifford Park. The street collapsed about 2 p.m. under the sheer weight of dumpster trucks and neighborhood volunteer trucks hauling trash. Our dumpster monitors may have contributed to the weight of the dumpsters - they worked hard to pack the dumpsters efficiently, wasting little space which added weight to the dumpsters. Also, a short time before this incident, a City of Omaha dump truck experienced an engine breakdown in Gifford Park while handling dumpster overflow. Another truck was quickly sent to the rescue and the cleanup continued. That's proof that our cleanups show no mercy! But seriously, the only casualties were the street and the truck, no one was hurt in either incident.

Again the cleanup crew did a tremendous job of hauling trash for neighbors; cleaning yards, parks, streets, and the business district; separating recyclable items; and packing the dumpsters. The weather was very pleasant as the day began with our annual Easter Egg Hunt and volunteers were rewarded with hot dogs and pop at lunch time. Below is a recap of the cleanup:

- filled 10 dumpsters and 3 city dump trucks
- recycled 6,000 lbs of metal
- recycled over 20 tires
- sold many garage sale items
- sold 18 memberships
- collected over \$600 in donations, memberships, and salvage material
- ate 200 hot dogs and drank 6 cases of pop



It is obvious that this is an important event for our neighborhood and other neighborhood organizations throughout the city, we certainly hope the Spring Cleanup remains a high priority for the City or Omaha for years to come. The reason the cleanup is successful in Gifford Park is because of our experienced volun-

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Next Meeting

**Thursday, May 4th
7:00 P.M.**

Guest Speakers:

To Be Announced

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

FREE PARKING

Gifford Park Improvements

Have you taken a walk through the park lately? There have been a few improvements: trees have been planted around the tennis courts, new tennis net straps, a new bleacher on the west side of the ball diamond, repair of dugout bench, the ball diamond was dragged out for league play, a stump removed, a picnic table, landscaping where old shelter was. **Mike Bacome**, park chairman, said most of the items on his "wish list" sent to the City of Omaha Parks department has been completed. Also neighbors **Roger Freeman** and **Jim Kyler** are going to paint new lines on the tennis courts. During the Spring Cleanup, glass on the basketball court was swept up and trash picked all over the park. Walk through our park - it looks nice.

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GPNA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ron Yates 558-6027

VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Foster 342-6006

RECORDING SECRETARY

Barbara Remmen 341-8331

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Cynde Yates 558-6027

TREASURER

Marlene Wilwerding 345-1433

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

PARK

Mike Bacome 344-3233

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ron Yates 558-6027

WATCH GROUP

Ron Yates 558-6027

WEEDS & LITTER

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433



Easter Egg Hunt Draws 123 Kids

The sixth annual Gifford Park Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 15th at 9:30 a.m. in Gifford Park. With the cooperation of good weather, volunteers began "hiding" the Easter goodies about 8 a.m. By 9:15 a.m. neighborhood children were gathering in the park, coming from all directions. Shortly after 9:30 a.m. organizer **Kathy Rose** started the countdown for the 123 children who anxiously awaited the start. If you have never been to one of our Easter Egg Hunts, it's truly a spectacular site to see the children's faces. As you can imagine it didn't take long for the children to collect the treats. Some of the children were dressed in Easter costumes for the occasion. **Betty Slayden, Jerry Pitt and Ron Yates** also helped with this event. As always a big thank you goes to **Loren Johnson and J'N'J Grocery** for providing the treats.



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.

American Heart Walk

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. Runners, bicyclists and roller bladers will be the first people allowed on the 10-K course. Contact Jerry Reiger (341-2305) for more information.



**Come One,
Come All!**
to the
**Yates School
Spring Carnival!**



**Saturday, May 20th
Noon to 3 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.*

California Pizza & Subs Has New Owners And New Name

John and Kathy Stuve, who live in the neighborhood, have recently opened their new business - California Cafe - on 33rd & California Street (formerly California Pizza & Subs). They will be serving soups, salads, pizza and a variety of sandwiches including vegetarian entrees. They currently are open 11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. everyday. They have 20 years of experience in food service and have some great plans for the cafe. The Stuve's plan to keep a nostalgic atmosphere for the dining experience. California Cafe invites everyone to stop in - there's plenty to choose from on the menu...and they hope to add ice cream to the menu soon.

Kilgore's No Longer Serves Lunch, But Adds New Entertainment

Since 1978, Chuck Kilgore, owner of Kilgore's Restaurant and Bar at 3225 1/2 California Street, has spent his lunch hour serving those delicious sandwiches along with wonderful jazz music in the background to providing a great atmosphere for lunch. Chuck said he opened Kilgore's mainly because of his love to play jazz music. The bad news is that Chuck won't be serving lunch any more. But the good news is that great music at night will continue because Chuck is renting his building to the theater group, Shelterbelt. The group, which has about 10 members and has been together for a year and a half, performs plays and is in charge of all



entertainment at the "old" Kilgore's. Chuck says this arrangement will enable him to spend more time doing what he enjoys most - performing music during Tuesday night's "open jazz night" (he has even put in a grand piano). Also, Shelterbelt will have various live bands playing Wednesday and Thursday, and perform plays themselves Friday through Sunday starting at 8 p.m. General admission is \$7, \$5 for students and seniors, everyone is welcome. Currently Shelterbelt is performing the play "Salt" which runs through May 14th. We will miss lunch at Kilgore's, but we look forward to these new opportunities.

The GPNA wishes to thank IRS volunteers Jackie Foster, Kathy McDonald and Jan Bostick for their efforts during the tax season. They helped 24 people with tax returns!

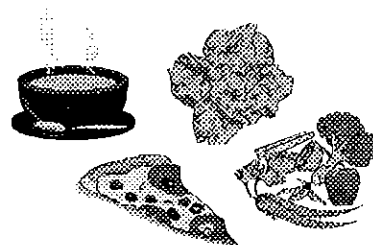
TOOL LENDING HOTLINE
Ed 341-0475 Chris 342-6006
Rent for most tools - \$3, mowers - \$5

Lawn Mowing Service
Call Rich: 341-4388



California Cafe

33rd & California Street



Pizza - Hoagies - Salads - Homemade Soups

California Cafe
\$1.00 OFF ON ANY MEDIUM PIZZA
expires June 31, 1995

342-8606
Open
11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Everyday

Historically Speaking...

California Beauty School

The area of 33rd and California had the best coiffed women in Omaha from about 1916 to 1952 because 521 North 33rd was the home of Mrs. Kathryn (Katie) Wilson's California Beauty School. Young and not-so young ladies of that time sported tight finger waves and lovely marcel curls courtesy of the students at the school. Classes of 35-40 students, both men and women, attended Beauty School for nine months. Tuition in the '30s was \$100 and included white uniforms. Many of the students were from Omaha, but some came from out-state Nebraska and other states. Some worked for their room and board in Omaha homes. They practiced on each other as well as the neighborhood ladies.

The California Beauty School was advertised as the "oldest beauty school west of Chicago." (Capital Beauty School was not established until 1923.) Mrs. Wilson was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, April 1, 1870 and died in Omaha in 1952. She married Alphonso Wilson in 1896 and published a textbook, *The Successful Hairdresser*, in 1925. She was a petite black woman, and to reach the status of owner and operator of such a prestigious beauty school serving mostly white students was an exceptional accomplishment. Graduates of her school included some of Omaha's finest beauticians. It is recorded that at least one student went to Hollywood.

The days of 35 cent shampoos and waves, 50 cent marcel curls, and \$2.50 permanents (using those awful machines) have come and gone, but Mrs. Kathryn Wilson's California Beauty School deserves a place in the history of Omaha and in particular, the history of 33rd and California.

By Eva Swanson

GPNA Donates Money To KOB and St. Joseph's Hospital

The GPNA executive board approved donations to two very deserving organizations that help our neighborhood in many ways. The GPNA donated \$50 to Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB) and \$50 to St. Joseph's hospital. KOB is headed by Cindy Smiley. The City-wide Spring Cleanup is one of many projects that KOB helps neighborhood organizations with and they are a major reason for the continued success of this program. We all know what a good neighbor St. Joseph's Hospital has been to the Gifford Park Neighborhood.



SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL
AN OSF HEALTHCARE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER



Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law

4913 Underwood Avenue

558-5000

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

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

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



Community Alliance

Non-profit Mental Health Services is
 having a garage sale June 8th & 9th.

We need donations. Any items.
 Please call John at 341-5128 for

pickup or bring it to
 4001 Leavenworth Street.

Thanks.

GPNA Spring Cleanup Report *(continued from page 1)*

teers. Below are the names of the volunteers that were part of the cleanup effort, I apologize if any names were left out because everyone who helped deserves to be recognized:

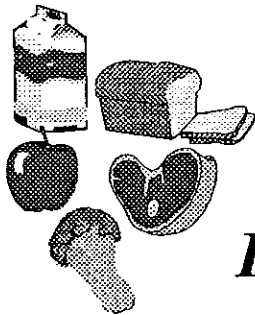
Bob & Virginia Hutton
 LLoyd Canfield
 Jake Cox
 Lyle Smith
 Willie Reaws
 Lee Chase
 Larry Brown
 Rich Koeppen
 Michael Stone
 Tom & Kathy Rose
 Roger Freeman
 Jim & Ruth Windorski
 Ross, Kent Windorski
 Ben, Dallas Sweazy
 Brian Kokensparger
 Rich Exline
 Leo, Jim Wilwerding
 Terry, Steve Wilwerding
 Buzz Wells

Angie Groff
 Mike Sedlacek
 Brian Houch
 Kim Harold
 Jay Pick
 Wilfred Trahan
 Chris & Sallie Foster
 John Lynch
 John & Dianne Reuss
 Ed Hendershot
 Barbara Remmen
 Mike & Candy Bacome
 John Matschiner
 Mark Forster
 Quynh Nguyen
 James Kyler
 Jerry Reiger
 Ron & Cynde Yates

The GPNA thanks the following businesses and intitutions for their help:

J'N'J Grocery - Loren Johnson
 California Bar - Wayne & Peg Hill
 Anthony House - Rich Koeppen
 Creighton University - Fred Salzinger, Loretta Zuck
 St. Joseph's Hospital - Jack Bowman, Randy Strofus
 City of Omaha - Ed Aldmeyer & staff, Jerry &
 Jackie Flood, Walt Mertz, Arlon Hunter
 Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB) - Cindy Smilley
 7-Eleven - Jim Golde
 Douglas County House Arrest - Lt. Stangel
 Davie Disposal Systems
 Western Auto
 Billy Dooley

A special thanks to the Ed Aldmeyer and Jerry Flood with the City of Omaha and Cindy Smilley with Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB) for their continued support and leadership of the City-wide Spring Cleanup. The GPNA appreciates the efforts of you and your staffs, especially considering the changes that have taken place over the last several years. Keep up the good work!

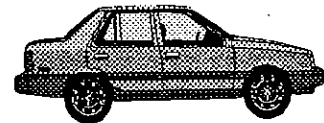


J'N'J GROCERY STORE

Fresh Meats -- Fresh Produce
Friendly Service

3301 California Street -- 422-1058

WE DELIVER!



7:00 AM - 10:00 PM Monday thru Thursday

7:00 AM - 11:00 PM Friday thru Saturday

8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Sunday

GPNA Offers Many Opportunities To Get Involved And Make A Difference

Below is general information about current GPNA standing committees and elected officers along with a brief description of each. Some committees are more active than others, but all committees offer opportunities to get involved in your neighborhood. Everyone is encouraged to bring his or her talents to the GPNA.

Budget and Finance - Develop ideas to raise funds for GPNA, apply for grants.

CDC (Community Development Corporation) - Develop master plan for entire neighborhood, improve/create new businesses.

Cleanup - Neighborhood cleanup (specifically Spring and Fall cleanups), organize volunteers and cleanup events.

Courtesy - Send cards, flowers, letters, thank yous, etc. for special occasions and events.

Membership - Update and maintain membership data, print lists and labels.

Newsletter - Gifford Park's Pride is our neighborhood newsletter done every month. We need people to write articles in the following categories: history, current events, upcoming events, recognition, editorials. We also need help with distribution of news-

letters (every other month only).

Office - The GPNA office is located next to J'N'J Grocery - 532 North 33rd Street.

Office to be kept clean, organized, and time scheduled for community usage.

Park - Gifford Park beautification, improvements, park master plan, communication with City Park Maintenance Department.

Program - Schedule guest speakers for GPNA meetings. Also organize other events (i.e. Holiday Lighting Contest).

Public Relations - Communication with media - newspaper, TV, radio; any news items affecting our neighborhood.

Social - Organize or help with social events (i.e. Christmas banquet, Gifford Park Day).

Tool Lending - Rents tools, mowers, etc. to neighborhood people for a nominal fee. Areas of need: Space to store items (mainly mowers).

VIP (Volunteer Incentive Program) - Recognition and awards for outstanding participation in the neighborhood.

Weeds and Litter - Document and report code violations/problems of properties, communication with City officials.

Youth Activities - Organize or help with any youth activities (i.e. Easter Egg Hunt, Pumpkin Patch, Tennis, etc.)

Watch Group - Neighborhood watch group that observes and reports suspi-

cious activities by driving and/or walking in Gifford Park neighborhood.

GPNA Elected Officers:

President - Oversees and directs all functions of GPNA.

Vice President - Backup to President.

Recording Secretary - Takes minutes at general meetings and executive board meetings.

Corresponding Secretary - Handles all neighborhood mail and correspondence.


Treasurer - Handles financial accounting for GPNA.

Executive board is made up of all GPNA officers and committee chairpersons. Board meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the GPNA office, anyone is welcome.


Anyone wishing to participate in the GPNA in any way can call any of the numbers listed on page two of this newsletter. Whether you are a student, teacher, professional, retiree, homeowner, renter, landlord, business owner, employee, young or old, this is your neighborhood and there are many opportunities for you to make a difference in your neighborhood.

I Am Not Interested

Many people, when asked to join the GPNA, say they have other commitments such as family, home, work or business. What do you think the GPNA is all about? We have a long list of activities and projects that have been done and another list of things that need to be done. We have developed good working relationships with various City agencies and are able to address problems that a single individual can not. We ask that you join us and improve the quality of life in our homes, schools and businesses. Let's make this the safest, cleanest and friendliest neighborhood it can possibly be. Attend a meeting. Come look us over. We are certain that we have a great deal of common ground. Then, please join.



GIFFORD PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Membership Application



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

Referred by: _____

Interested in participating: () yes () no

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!