



Gifford Park's Pride

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

July 1995

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Plenty of Fun At "Sun Dawg"

The summer youth program "Sun Dawg", sponsored by the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation Division, has lots of fun activities in Gifford Park. The program is free for kids of all ages - parents can sign up children at the "Rec-Shack" at the west end of Gifford Park. **Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** and runs through August 4th. Brian Bowles, Brian Davis and Betty Slayden have been supervising kid's activities. Parents are welcome to volunteer or think of ideas for new activities. Following are just some of the many events and activities going on now through August 4th:



Tennis
Box Hockey
Olympics
Story Telling
Safety - Rescue 911
Diversity Week

ESPN Sports Skit
TV Acting, TV Tag
Face Painting
Clown Day
Puppet Show
Swimming

Sun Dawg Picnic in Gifford Park

Good food and fun were served up Friday, June 23rd in Gifford Park as part of the Sun Dawg Program. About 30 kids and 7 adults participated in the picnic. Loren Johnson (J'N'J Grocery), Greg Slayden and the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association made contributions for this event.



Neighborhood kids take a break in front of the "Sun Dawg" rec-shack in Gifford Park.

Next Meeting

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

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

FREE PARKING

GPNA Gets Non-Profit Status

I am pleased to announce that after months of red tape, the GPNA has finally received its non-profit corporation status from the Internal Revenue Service. Our classification is "501 (c) (4)".

Our warm thanks go to Fred Salzinger of Creighton University School of Medicine. Fred has been one of our greatest supporters ever since the GPNA was first organized. With Fred's help, the Creighton University School of Medicine donated \$1,000 defray the costs incurred in obtaining our non-profit corporation status. Thank you very much Fred and Creighton University!

By Chuck Kilgore, CDC

Editors note: Chuck Kilgore has been instrumental in accomplishing this project. This now opens the door for greater opportunities for the GPNA. Thanks Chuck!

In This Issue:

Summer Sun Dawg Program for Kids	1
GPNA Receives Non-Profit Status	1
Master Plan Update	2
Fourth of July Message	2
Tennis Program Planning	2
Garbage Collection Rules	2
Business District Mini-Cleanup	3
Neighbor of the Month	4
Watch Group, NOVA Awards	4
Historically Speaking - The Ice Box	5
Membership Update and Application	6



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

Cynde Yates 558-6027

NEWSLETTER

Chris Foster 342-6006

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Ron Yates 558-6027

OFFICE

Jean Peck 344-0722

PARK

Mike Bacome 344-3233

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Shannon Moreau 344-7211

TOOL LENDING

Ed Hendershot 341-0475

WATCH GROUP

Ron Yates 558-6027

WEEDS & LITTER

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

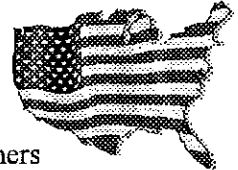


Master Plan Update

Vic Gutman has been working diligently to raise \$7,500, the amount necessary to give Mary Schukert the go-ahead to begin work this September on the Gifford Park Neighborhood master plan. To date, St. Joseph's Hospital has agreed to make a donation in a yet to be determined amount. We have also received a grant of \$1,000 from the Community Foundation. In mid-July, we should receive word concerning a \$3,000 Neighborhood Empowerment grant application. Great work Vic!

by Chuck Kilgore, CDC

A Fourth of July Message



On the 4th day of July, in the year 1776, the Declaration of Independence was ordered and approved by the first Constitutional Congress of the United States of America. The signers included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Hancock, names that would go down in history as among the founding fathers of this great Nation.

It is due to their vision, their thirst for freedom, their spirit of hope for the future of this Republic, that we celebrate this day. For over two hundred years now the people of this nation have enjoyed freedoms no other people have. For over two hundred years the pursuit of LIFE - LIBERTY- AND HAPPINESS has made us the envy of every other nation on earth.

It's no wonder that on this date, every year for over two hundred years our people explode into joyful merriment, in commemorations of that first breath of independence. But like those brave patriots of old - we must know that freedom is not a given commodity. It is hard earned with the sweat of our brow, and paid for in blood if need be. Let us all celebrate, and remember, and remain always vigilant, for freedom is a most precious thing.

by Mike Caban

GPNA Tennis Program Plans Being Formulated



Tentative plans are being developed for the second annual GPNA Tennis Program for kids. The format will be similar to last year. The dates will most likely be each Wednesday in August from 6 to 7 p.m. at Gifford Park. Racquets and balls will be supplied and the program is free. Information will be available in the GPNA Office and J'N'J Grocery a couple weeks before the program starts. Contact Chris Foster at 342-6006 after July 20th for information.

Garbage Collection Rules



- Up to a combined total of 5 CLEAR bags or trash cans (with lids) per household
- Unlimited BLUE BAGS for RECYCLABLE items
- Unlimited yard waste - must be in cans clearly marked as yard waste (i.e. YW); or brown yard waste paper bags; or bundled tree brush
- Trash, Recyclable items and Yard Waste are picked up on the same day
- Garbage is to be placed at the collection location no sooner than 1 day before and no later than 6 a.m. the day of garbage pick-up
- Trash cans are to be removed by 10 a.m. of the following day after garbage pick-up
- Weight limits: trash cans - 45 lb; plastic bags - 30 lb; brown yard waste bags - 40 lb
- For garbage collection complaints, call 444-5238 (24 hours a day)

**TOOL LENDING
HOTLINE**

Tom 341-3955

Ed 341-0475

Ron 558-6027

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



GPNA Members Do Mini-Cleanup of Business District

Light rain and cool temperatures didn't stop the GPNA Cleanup Crew from doing a "mini-cleanup" of our Business District on Sunday morning, June 25th, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. We cleaned, swept, shoveled, weeded, chopped, picked-up and threw away weeds and litter that has collected around the 33rd & California Street area. We may have even added a little sparkle to the Business District - but you wouldn't expect anything less from the best neighborhood cleanup crew in the city!

Marlene Wilwerding	Maureen Calabro
Leo Wilwerding	Susan Moreau
Terry Wilwerding	Shannon Moreau
Marge Hawkins	Cynde Yates
Rich Exline	Ron Yates
Chris Foster	Roger Freeman
Brad Chatley	Tom Rose
Mike Caban	

Thanks also to the **Horton's**; **Harry Dirgo**; **Roger Freeman**; the **Cabans**; the **Roses**, and **Ann Johnson** who, along with many others, routinely clean-up the park and other areas of our neighborhood. Special thanks to **Cynde Yates** who did most of the organizing for the mini-cleanup.

"Mini-cleanups" like this one accomplish many positive things: cleaner and safer streets, pride, communication and even exercise. Consider "adopting your neighborhood block" to clean up. The GPNA Cleanup Crew would like to do more of these if you are willing to help organize volunteers on your block. Contact **Chris Foster** or **Ron Yates** if interested.



The Gifford Park Cleanup Crew stands in front of the GPNA Office after cleaning up the Business District around 33rd & California Streets.

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.

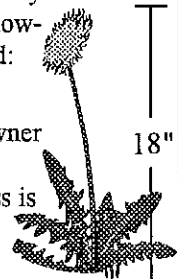
Serving the Gifford Park
Community since 1937
Wayne and Peggy Hill,
Proprietors



Weeds...how tall is too tall?

City of Omaha code states that weeds (or any vegetation) cannot be over 18" tall. The following steps can be taken if this code is violated:

- A complaint can be filed by anyone
- A City Inspector will send the property owner a 10 day notice to cut the weeds
- If the owner does not respond, the address is put on a mowing list
- Property will be mowed and the owner will be charged according to the size of job



Gifford Ready Mowing Service

Call Rich: 341-4388

Neighbor of the Month... GPNA Member Prefers Neighborhood to Suburbs

Mary Anne Morgensen, who moved to the Gifford Park neighborhood from Ralston three years ago, says she loves this neighborhood and declares vehemently, "I wouldn't go back to the suburbs for all the tea in China." Mrs. Morgensen and her husband, Les, lived in the suburbs for 17 years, "and I was bored out of my mind," she says. "All the houses are alike. You go for a walk and it's all the same." Les adds, "There's nothing to do out there but watch the grass grow."

When asked what she likes about this neighborhood, Mary Anne replies, "Its uniqueness. The variety of people. The houses are all different. It's fun just to walk around here."

The Morgensens decided to buy a new house when their youngest son, Grady, moved out at 21. The house they had was too big for just two people. Mary Anne also hated battling the traffic. "We lived on 92nd and almost Harrison. The only way out was either by 84th Street or by the Interstate. It was all congested. I was trapped. Trapped in Southwest Omaha." Mary Anne had driven by the Gifford Park neighborhood many times and liked it. When she and Les saw the ranch house for sale on North 35th Avenue, they knew they'd found what they were looking for.

"It was a horrible mess," Mary Anne says of the house, which had been on the market for a year. "The yard was like a jungle. Our friends thought we'd gone nuts. They turned white when they saw the place."

"They couldn't see the possibilities," says Les.

The Morgensens completely renovated their new home, a project that took just under three years. They cleared out all the brambles, took out the 1929 kitchen sink and installed a whole new kitchen, added a bathroom, refinished

all the floors, and put in a garage. They still plan to redo the sidewalk. "We've worked hard," says Mary Anne. "I love my house. It's perfect."

I asked Mary Anne if outsiders view this area as crime-ridden. She reflects for a moment, then responds, "I think people think that about anything north of Dodge, which is a total misconception." Ironically, the Morgensens had worse experiences in the suburbs as far as crime. They were burglarized three times; their pets were molested by malicious neighbors.

Les Morgensen is getting ready in two years to retire from his job as a steam fitter, working on the piping of manufacturing, processing, and refining plants. The Morgensens have three grown sons: Fred, who is married and works for a pharmaceutical company; Jeff, an engineer who frequently leaves his Charpei with Mary Anne for her to baby-sit; and Grady, who followed in his father's footsteps and earned his steam fitting license. In January, Mary Anne and Les are expecting their first grandchild. They found out on Mother's Day.

"I think the neighborhood association is a really good thing," she states. "I especially like their clean-up committee."

All in all, the Morgensens are very pleased with their neighborhood and their house. "We doubt very much if we'll ever resell," says Mary Anne. "We're not even interested. We're happy to stay here the rest of our days."

by Shannon Moreau, Public Relations

Watch Group, NOVA Awards Presented



At the June general meeting, members were honored for their service to the GPNA over the past year as part of the VIP (Volunteer Incentive Program). Watch Group awards were presented to the following members along with total cumulative hours of neighborhood patrol since the beginning of the GPNA Watch Group Patrol:

Ron Yates	935
Harry Dirgo	874
Kathy Rose	627
Mike Caban	559
Judi Caban	353
Terry Wilwerding	310
Chris Foster	154
Rich Exline	142
Betty Slayden	58
Cynde Yates	22

**Total hours patrolling
our neighborhood
streets by the GPNA
Watch Group to date
is 4,237 hours!**

NOVA awards were also presented in the following categories: New Member - **Betty Slayden**; Experienced Members - **Harry Dirgo** and **Leo Wilwerding**; Business Member - **Tom Bogard**; Leadership - **Chris Foster**

Congratulations and thanks for your continued commitment to the Gifford Park Neighborhood.

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.

Historically Speaking... The Ice House

In the early 1900s til about 1940 an old, very small, ice station was located next to the alley by the present 7-11 store. Ice, "nature's gift to man," was a boon to home refrigeration. A large, or small, oak ice box was a part of most kitchens at the time. Ice in 25-50-70-100 lb. blocks was sold from horse drawn wagons and later from trucks. The ice man stopped at each house and delivered the required number of pounds right into the ice box. Housewives usually bought coupons and had a card in the front window showing the amount needed. Ice blocks cost 35-40 cents for 100 lbs. The ice man was about as popular then as the ice cream man is today. Shouts of "Here comes the ice man" heralded his coming, and children gathered around to scramble for ships of ice. A friendly ice man would deliberately shave off pieces of ice for the youngsters.

Sometimes on a hot summer day more ice was needed, and the children were

dispatched with the little red wagon to buy ice at the ice house. The ice house came in handy if extra ice was needed for the watermelon, homemade ice cream, or to cool the beverage.

Ice was cut during the winter from the Missouri River, Carter Lake and Seymore Lake in Ralston and was stored in big wooden barns under an insulating blanket of sawdust and burlap. A 1929 advertisement for ice read: "Ice is not only the most economical form of refrigeration--it is the ONLY form of refrigeration that is absolutely safe and dependable at all times. You KNOW that a block of ice will never get out of order. SAFE, SOUND, SILENT"

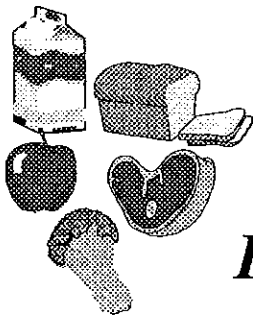
Yes, the old ice box was safe, sound and silent. but I wouldn't trade my present refrigerator for it. However, if you do own an old ice box, don't throw it away, it is a valuable antique.

by Eva Swanson, Historian

Ridge Runners

Between 38th and 40th Streets lies an area from Dodge to Cuming which includes Joslyn Castle, St. Cecilia Cathedral, Travel Lodge, a half-way house and some Section 8 housing. You've got it — Gold Coast beauty! I love the area. It bothers me, however, to see my good G.P.N.A. neighbors from 34th, 35th and 36th Streets up on the ridge when we have some very good sidewalks down here. We have many nice homes, good lawns, beautiful flower beds and interesting people east of the ridge. If you are one of these people perhaps the next time you take your walk, you might consider going as far east as 35th or 34th Streets. Maybe the very brave will get to 33rd or even further. These are your streets and sidewalks, get to know them as well.

by Ron Yates

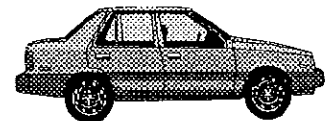


J'N'J GROCERY STORE

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

Membership Update, *Our People Make the Difference*

As I went through the GPNA mail the other day. I was excited to find several membership renewals. You must be encouraging your neighbors to join.

In one envelope from an elderly widowed lady, I found a wrinkled, faded and crumpled five-dollar bill. I thought,

"This lady has held onto this bill for a long time." I'm sure she is on a fixed income and, like most of us, finds it difficult to make ends meet.

I was so pleased that she felt joining the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association was a good reason for giving up that precious

five dollars. By joining the GPNA you support the many activities and events we sponsor. If you have not yet mailed in your membership, please do so today.

Following is a list of new members and renewals recently received for the 1995-1996 membership year:

Mary Whitley
 David and Mary Ellen White
 Cecilia Crew
 Miriam Sweeney
 Mike and Judi Caban
 David and Marge Hawkins
 Ann Johnson
 Martha Kelly
 Dawn Kirby
 Harry Dirgo
 Mike and Candy Bacome
 Leo and Marlene Wilwerding
 Thomas Crowley
 Jan Franks
 Mary McHale
 Jack and Bette Tanner
 Jenifer Halverson/Bradley Williams
 Bill Baker
 Roger and Lois Vipond
 Ron and Cynde Yates
 Jap and Constance Danielson
 Pat Boganowski
 M&M Investments (Maureen Calabro)
 Richard and Donna Lee Lewis

Choon Ja Peterson
 James and Vera Horton
 Rich and Pearl Exline
 Jerry Rieger
 Clifford Potter
 Evelyn Iams
 Ed Hendershot
 Norman and Barbara Remmen
 Clara Schmidt
 St. Joseph Hospital
 F. T. Godinez
 Robert and Clare Eischeid
 George and Ann Wachtler
 Alex and Diana Halloway
 Miriam Sweeney
 Small World Day Care
 Boys Town National Research Hospital
 Tom Rose
 Liu Houg
 John Manning
 Jack Atkins
 Jim Hughes
 Michelle Tompsett/Gregg Grossman
 Irene Kazak

Chris and Sallie Foster
 Jackie Foster
 Mark and Julie Forster
 Anna Jernigan
 Francoise Anderson
 Fred Salzinger
 Seb and Frances Cortese
 Mick and Jane Whelan
 Bill and Anne Millea
 Joseph and Barbara Gastineau
 Lou Ellen Kline
 Jerry Tyrell
 J-N-J Grocery
 Jim O'Brien
 John Thein
 George and Sandy Jones
 Elizabeth Sullivan
 Mel and Mary Ann Beckman
 Phyllis Thagard
 Joan Amato
 Jianzhong Liu
 John Zegar
 Pete and Antoinette Hamilton
 Shelterbelt Theater

Thank you, members, for your support!

By Cynde Yates, Membership



Special thanks to
 Loretta Zuck and
 Creighton University
 for your help with our newsletter.

NOTICE

WOULD YOU LIKE TO
 ADVERTISE IN THE
 GIFFORD PARK PRIDE?

If so, Call:
 558-6027

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



GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION 532 N. 33rd Street, Omaha, NE 68131 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please print clearly)



Membership year: _____ (Membership year runs from June 1 through May 31)

Type of membership: Single (\$5) _____ Family (\$8) _____ Business (\$25) _____

Name of business _____

Name _____ (Last) _____ (First)

Spouse _____ (Last) _____ (First)

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

Telephone Number: _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

In case of an emergency notify: _____ (Name) _____ (Address) _____ (Phone No.)

May this information be included in the GPNA Neighborhood Directory? Yes _____ No _____

Signature _____ Date _____