



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

August 1995

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## GPNA Tennis Program Begins



The second annual GPNA Tennis Program for kids started Wednesday, August 2nd at the Gifford Park tennis courts. The dates are every Wednesday in August from 6 to 7 p.m. at Gifford Park. Tennis instructors, racquets and balls are supplied and the program is free for kids ages 7 to 14. Information is available in the GPNA Office and J'N'J Grocery. Contact Chris Foster at 342-6006 for information - we may still have room for more kids!

## Sun Dawgs Summer Program a Success in Gifford Park

### *Program to Add Activities Next Year*

Sun Dawgs is over for this summer in Gifford Park. The kids really had alot of fun. I hope alot of you got time to go by the park during the week to see the hard work the kids did on keeping the park clean. They did alot of trash pick-up races. Some of you may have noticed the shelter roof is being repaired and the park got a new picnic table. These were the result of the Sun Dawgs program. We had a safety week in July. We had the Bike Patrol, Mounted Patrol, Firetruck and much more. Once a week we went swimming at Kellom Pool. We also had tennis lessons three times a week. The Sun Dawgs didn't just play games and do crafts, they learned alot while they were there. The program will continue next year. The City of Omaha will be adding alot more activities. We hope Gifford Park will be a part of that. All the Sun Dawgs would like to thank: the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, Loren Johnson of J'N'J Grocery, Brian Bowles and Brian Davis (Supervisors), and Carol Hodges and her staff with the City of Omaha for everything they did for the kids in our park this summer!

*by Betty Slayden*

**Next Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 3rd**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**St. Joseph's Hospital**  
**Dining Rooms A, B, & C**  
**FREE PARKING**

### *Historically Speaking...*

## Grocery Stores in the Area

Piggly-Wiggly, Hinky-Dinky, Spic & Span, and Nelson-Anderson were names of some of the grocery stores on 33rd and California from the '20s to the '60s, several at about the same time. The Nelson-Anderson Grocery at 3226-28 California was one of the oldest, operating about 1923 till about 1939. It was run by two Swedes, George Nelson and Bob Anderson. They dealt in credit and offered home deliveries. They personally waited on each customer who came in and took many orders by phone. I remember the store especially at Christmas time when Christmas trees and the stiff, dried Swedish fish (Lutfisk) were stacked in front of the store along California street.

The Piggly-Wiggly store was located at 528 N. 33rd. It's tenure was 1927-1936 and was one of

*continued on page 4*

### *In This Issue:*

<i>GPNA Tennis Begins</i> .....	1
<i>Sun Dawg Program Ends</i> .....	1
<i>Historically Speaking</i> .....	1
<i>Neighborhood Observations</i> .....	2
<i>TKE Fraternity</i> .....	2
<i>Watch Over Thy Neighbor</i> .....	3
<i>Yates PTA Selling River City Buttons</i> .....	3
<i>Duchesne Academy Changes</i> .....	4
<i>Membership Update and Application</i> .....	4

**If you have NOT renewed your 1995-1996 GPNA membership, this is last mail-around newsletter you will receive. The mail-around newsletter is mailed to current GPNA members for February, April, June, August, October, and December. See page 4 for membership application.**



**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



**Neighborhood Observations... Rental Property**

I would estimate that within the borders of the GPNA, at least half of the people live in rented housing. Some of this property is clean and well kept. Not surprisingly, some of the best property is owned by people who live in the neighborhood. At one time, we even considered a "Landlord of the Month" award, an honor well deserved by some.

Unfortunately though, some of the property in the neighborhood would not qualify for any awards. At one time we also considered a "Slumlord of the Month" award, but figured it would only produce bad publicity without much good effect. Trash, weeds, junk cars and an overall lack of upkeep are evi-

dent in many of the our less out-standing properties. Predictably, much of this property is occupied by people who would not qualify for any "good neighbor" awards either.

This sort of housing depresses property values and generally runs counter to all the goals of the GPNA. You would think that the owners would realize that better upkeep could attract better renters, higher rent and less destruction of their property, besides helping with appreciation in value. Historically though, the only time these sort of landlords improve their property is when the city

forces them to, and this is often done grudgingly. As long as the rent keeps coming, many of these landlords could care less about the neighborhood.

So what can you do if you live by this type of property? It has been my experience that it will take some persistence to get much action. The first step is to find out who owns the property. It is probably better if there is a local landlord, but quite a bit of property is owned by out of towners, and I am sure some property is owned by people outside the country. Occasionally local landlords are responsive to neighborly prodding,

**You would think that the owners would realize that better upkeep could attract better renters, higher rent and less destruction of their property, besides helping with appreciation in value.**

especially concerning troublesome tenants. Most of the time you will have to deal with the city

however. There are many ordinances concerning rental property. Getting enforcement is the problem and will require some persistence.

There has been some discussion about starting a subcommittee of the GPNA to coordinate code enforcement. If you are interested in helping, let us know. Overall, I would say that there has been some improvement in rental property in the neighborhood, but we have a long way to go.

by Terry Wilwerding

**TAU KAPPA EPSILON - Our House Means Business**

We moved into the area around the beginning of 1991. After doubling in size, we acquired yet another house. Although we maintained are active numbers, we felt that it would be economical to consolidate our expenses, re-priorities our goals, and re-group into the house we currently reside in.

The question asked by many; what is a fraternity and does it only involve parties and mischief? The answer is definitely NO!! Through my experiences, I have always liked to compare our fraternity with a thriving employee-owned

business.

Our managerial structure is comprised of top executives, public relations, recruiting, training, economists, and morale motivation. Like a business, we run with the belief that everyone is important and should live up to expectations of others as well as their own.

We at this chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon, have cleaned up streets, taken under-privileged children to the zoo,

continued on page 3



**TOOL LENDING HOTLINE**

Tom 341-3955

Ed 341-0475

Ron 558-6027

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



## Watch Over Thy Neighbor

*It's important to watch out for your neighbors," says GPNA member Mary Anne. "I have an agreement with [neighbors] Smokey and Janelle. We watch each other's houses while the other is away. We figure we have to."*

Janelle, a data entry clerk for Mutual of Omaha, couldn't agree more. "If you don't watch out for your neighbors, then you can pretty much expect to get ripped off."

Janelle bought and moved into her house right behind Mary Anne's on North 36th Street in August of 1979. She previously lived in an apartment on 34th and Howard. "The rent kept going up as all things do, so I decided I may as well buy a house, so I just got in the car and started circling. I came across this house; it had a [for sale] sign in the yard, and that was it. I had looked at some other houses, but I walked in here and thought, "I could just go get my clothes and come right back."

Being used to apartments, living in a house made her jittery. "Every noise was like 'What's that? What's that?' I was spending more time looking out the windows and wasn't getting any sleep." Janelle took a trip to the dog pound, intending to adopt a big watch-dog. She came home with a 9-pound critter that looked like a long-haired

Chihuahua. She named her Princess. It wasn't for another 8 years that Janelle got a watchdog-type canine, in the form of a 70-pound Australian Shepherd named Bear. "She'll rip your throat out," Mary Anne declares. "No, she's never bitten anybody," Janelle insists. "But she comes on so intimidating that most people don't stick their hands out for her to bite, which is the idea."

Janelle tries to keep an eye on everything that goes on in her neighborhood: "I'm very nosy. I have this fear the neighbors will think I watch every

move they make. But if I call the police because I see their car getting ripped off one night, they're going to stop thinking of me as nosy."

One night her dog Bear went to the window and started barking. Janelle looked out and saw a man on her neighbor's porch. She tried to telephone her neighbor but got the answering machine. Then she called the police. When they arrived, the man was gone. It turned out that her neighbor was asleep on the couch with the window open. She had not been expecting any visitors.

About five years ago, Janelle was involved in a neighborhood watch group with her surrounding neighbors. The group was initiated by two sisters after their duplex got broken into. At one meeting, which included an Omaha police officer, a woman who lived in the top floor of an apartment building mentioned that she watched a drug deal go down.

"And you didn't call the police?" Janelle demanded incredulously. "Well, I didn't want to get involved," the woman replied timorously.

Janelle was furious. "All you had to do was pick up the phone and dial 911. The police could have arrested those SOB's. How could you sit there and do nothing?"

Janelle recalls this story with a laugh. "That police officer was probably sitting there thinking, 'I'm not getting in an argument with this lady.'" She still bristles at the apartment-dweller's inaction. "It's just like that one saying," she says, referring to the quote by Pastor Martin Niemoeller:

*"In Germany they came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't*

*speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."*

by Shannon Moreau

## TKE

continued from page 2

taken others to haunted houses, cleaned and painted houses for low-income families, worked with the March of Dimes, and plan to pursue more involvement with the Special Olympics.

The history of our organization is long and full of memories. Unfortunately, a piece of paper cannot express the closeness of our members, the life-long friendships, and the loyalty that we come to deserve and respect from each other. One thing is evident, any organization filled with many different types of people and personalities, yield great achievements which always outweigh the rising problems.

by The Men of Tau Kappa Epsilon

## Buy River City Roundup Buttons From Yates PTA

Yates School PTA will be selling River City Roundup buttons starting August 21. The cost is \$3 per button and Yates PTA will keep 75 cents of each button sold. The cost is the same wherever you buy your button so please consider helping the PTA with this small fund-raiser. If you would like to buy some buttons please call Betty Slayden, Yates PTA President at 553-3311 or you may call the school at 344-7895. Thanks for your support of our kids.

Correction: An important name was misspelled in the July newsletter. In the "Master Plan Update" article on page 2, Marty Schukert's first name was printed as Mary - sorry Marty.

## Historically Speaking... Grocery Stores in the Area *continued from page 1*

the first self-service stores. The Piggly-Wiggly chain was started by Clarence Saunders. He conceived the idea of a self-service store while working in the billing department of a wholesale grocery firm in Omaha as a \$4 a month clerk. He returned to Memphis, Tennessee, where he was born, and piloted the Piggly-Wiggly chain to a 7 million dollar business which he lost in 1923 on Wall Street. The store on 33rd street sold pork chops for 27 cents a pound, ham for 32 cents a pound, leg of lamb for 29 cents a pound, coffee for 46 cents a pound, eggs for 34 cents a dozen, and Post Toasties or Kellogg's Corn Flakes for 7 1/2 cents a package. Butter was 43 cents a pound, rye bread 10 cents

a loaf, and potatoes were 36 cents a pack. Eggs and potatoes were purchased in huge quantities in Omaha for the 2,300 store chain. Although these stores are gone in the Nebraska area, the name is still carried on the west coast.

A Spic and Span Store was located in the area about 1927. It was one of a chain of seven in Omaha. At the grand opening each customer who purchased \$1 worth of groceries received a Free bottle of Gingerale and a half pound of Spic and Span Coffee. Gesundheit Malt was sold at 49 cents per can.

The Hinky-Dinky grocery store, part of a large chain of stores in Nebraska

and the Midwest, was first located at 502 N. 33 in 1929. About 1935 it moved to 534 N. 33, the site of today's J-N-J Grocery store. The Hinky-Dinky chain was founded by three brothers, J. M., Albert, and Harry Newman and their cousin, Ben Silver, all of Omaha. They sought a name with the same ring as "Piggly-Wiggly" and came up with "Hinky-Dinky" from the WW I song, "Hinky Dinky Parlay Voo." In 1933 an ad for the store featured "Airy-Fairy Cake Flour" for 21 cents a package, Doggie Dinner at 10 cents a can and Gold Brick Butter for 24 cents a pound. The store closed on 33rd street in 1960. The Newman family sold their chain to the Cullum Companies in 1972.

*by Eva Swanson*

## Welcome to Our New Members

You are doing great encouraging others to join the GPNA. Keep up the good work!

**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:

- Everett and Lucille Bussell*
- Matthew Traub*
- Tony and Anita Jaynes*
- Judy Porter*
- Terry and Sue Wilwerding*
- James and Kathleen Wilwerding*
- John Whalley*
- Jim and Jean Watson*
- James Gottsch*
- Daniel and Mary Kay Begley*
- John and David Matschiner*
- Richard White*
- Claudia Connolly*
- Margaret Drake*
- Brian and Karen Kokensparger*
- American Printing*
- Billy and June Dooley*
- John and Diane Reuss*
- Ron Short*


*by Cynde Yates*

## Duchesne Academy Making Major Changes


The historic Duchesne Academy campus is changing with the installation of a new entry courtyard, over 1,300 lineal feet of ornamental fencing, over 19,000 square feet of exposed aggregate concrete walks and steps, full size soccer field and three tennis courts. The main entry gate will welcome the students and visitors through an ornamental iron gate

below a 30 foot long arched precast sign to a landscaped courtyard. The architectural firm of Bahr, Vermeer & Haecker, and Kiewit Construction Company have produced a design that keeps with the historic values of the campus while incorporating the modern athletic areas needed by Duchesne.

*by Regan Zeller*



**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 \_\_\_\_\_