



Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 1995

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Major Changes in Garbage Collection Coming January 1st

Plan to attend the next GPNA general meeting as our guest speaker will be **Caryl Robinson**, Environmental Specialist with the Omaha Public Works Department. She will discuss the changes in our garbage collection services. Caryl indicated the changes are significant. This is a great opportunity for our neighborhood to learn and ask questions. Education will make the transition smoother. Literature will be available at the meeting.

Fall Cleanup Date Set

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association's annual Fall Cleanup will be **Saturday, October 28th, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** 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**.

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 \$10 handling charge for appliances that contain refrigerant (freon), and \$1 handling charge for each tire. **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 request a small donation if you have excessive trash (i.e. several truckloads) to help fund the cleanup. Please call **Terry (342-2795)**, **Leo (345-1433)**, **Chris (342-6006)**, or **Ron (558-6027)** for more information or if you can help with this year's Fall Cleanup.

Next Meeting

**Thursday, October 5th
7:00 P.M.**

Guest Speaker

Caryl Robinson
Environmental Specialist,
Omaha Public Works Department

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

FREE PARKING

Historically Speaking...

The West Leavenworth/33rd and Parker Streetcar Line

At the turn of the century until the early 1940's a streetcar rattled up and down California Street and turned on 33rd street. Some Gifford Park residents have never seen a streetcar. There is an old car on display at the Western Heritage Museum and there is "Ollie the Trolley," but real streetcars were bigger and noisier than "Ollie." The big trams had 14 forward seats, two in the very back, and two long seats in front. They were covered with durable rattan and there were standee straps toward the front. The cars were painted light yellow on the outside and the decor inside the tall cars was yellow and brown with space for ads much like on buses of today.

Earlier streetcars, as early as 1870, were painted different colors and were pulled by horses or mules, but by 1900 they were powered by electricity. The electricity came from wires which were suspended over the tracks in the streets. A long pole with a rolling trolley wheel was forced upward by powerful springs so that the trolley wheel road along the underside of the overhead wire. The electricity was in this way transferred to the motors under the cars.

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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

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



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

Tom 341-3955

Ed 341-0475

Ron 558-6027

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



PKA Fraternity to Host Halloween Haunted House

When you take your children trick-or-treating on Halloween be sure to stop by the Pi Kappa Alpha (PKA) House at 3100 Chicago Street. The PKA Creighton Fraternity, Yates Elementary School PTA and the GPNA are hosting a trick-or-treating haunted house on Halloween Night from 5 to 8 p.m. Rooms in the house will be decorated in haunted house style and others will be trick-or-treat doors. Parents are welcome to accompany their children through the house. Refreshments will be served in the Coach House. All neighborhood children are invited. Be sure to stop by!



Cynde Yates

GPNA Charters Boy Scout Troop at Yates School



Once again the GPNA leads the way for neighborhood improvement. In looking towards the future, the GPNA Board voted to become the charter partner for the new Boy Scout Troop at Yates Elementary School. The Boy Scouts, lead by Steve Murphy, a student at Grace University, and assisted by Rich Exline, a GPNA member, will be involved with community cleanups and other projects with the GPNA. It gives the GPNA links to the boys in the community and in turn the boys assist area residents. Everybody wins! For more information about scouting, call Mark Leflore at 431-9272.

Mark LeFlore, Umoja District Executive

Duchesne Academy Project Nearly Complete

Many of us who have walked by the construction site of Duchesne Academy have seen the major changes to their campus this summer and fall. On the northwest part of the campus the three tennis courts have been completed. Landscaping will begin soon, with sod on the soccer field, grass seed elsewhere, and tree planting in other areas. The ornamental fence, which will be almost solid steel, is scheduled to go up starting in mid-October. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be nearly done around November 1st.

Regan Zeller, Kiewit Construction Company

Garage Sale Report

The Gifford Park Neighborhood garage sale was held Saturday, September 16th with 17 families participating. Although we had a few sprinkles in the morning, it was generally a good day with lots of shoppers. Sales were brisk with over \$500 being brought in by several individuals. Most of the people contacted were interested in having another neighborhood garage sale like this in the spring. It is a great way to clean out some of those items you haven't used in ages while at the same time making a nice profit! Here's hoping we have many more participants next time around.

Editor's note: Remember, this event is a great way for YOU to make some money because the GPNA takes care of advertising in our newsletter and the Omaha World Herald. Leo Wilwerding did a great job of organizing this event without much lead time.

Magazine Recycling

October 7th & 8th
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Center Mall
42nd & Center



Cub Foods
114th & Miracle Hills Drive

Bring Slick Magazines
No Catalogs

For Information, Call 444-7774

How Old Is Your House?

The approximate age of your home can be determined by M.U.D. records showing the year in which water service was turned on. **Leo**

Wilwerding did some research and found dates for the following addresses in our neighborhood. Is your house on this list?

Burt	California (cont)
3514..... 1889	3835..... 1904
3115..... 1889	3815..... 1905
3119..... 1898	3845..... 1905
3307..... 1907	3859..... 1902
3309..... 1907	Cass
3311..... 1907	3010..... 1907
3315..... 1904	3023..... 1904
3330..... 1892	3110..... 1889
3331..... 1897	3128..... 1889
3403..... 1903	Chicago
3409..... 1906	3136..... 1895
3412..... 1888	Davenport
3419..... 1889	3028..... 1910
3421..... 1899	3304..... 1892
3511..... 1889	3321..... 1906
Webster	3515..... 1908
3013..... 1889	Dodge
3017..... 1891	3302..... 1893
3406..... 1907	3310..... 1897
3408..... 1907	North 31st Ave
3410..... 1907	147..... 1905
3517..... 1900	North 31st
California	142..... 1893
3026..... 1907	414..... 1889
3027..... 1889	North 32nd
3033..... 1889	713..... 1907
3123..... 1907	528..... 1889
3124..... 1904	521..... 1905
3216..... 1901	520..... 1894
3310..... 1895	508..... 1888
3321..... 1907	502..... 1888
3645..... 1905	

Editor's note: If you have something that would be of interest to our neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for our monthly newsletter. Editorials must be approved by the GPNA Executive Board. Articles can be left at the GPNA Office; please include your name and phone number. Contact Chris Foster at 342-6006 for information regarding the newsletter.

The West Leavenworth/33rd and Parker Streetcar Line

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Coal fired power stations furnished the electricity. The motorman sat at the front with his left hand on the controller, his right foot near the brakes and his right hand ready to use the handle to open or close the front doors or to give change.

Before 1931 there was a conductor who collected the fares.

During WW II women were hired to drive the streetcars.

A car equipped with rail grinders kept the rails smooth. In winter, sweeper cars and salt cars cleared the area of the tracks. Many of the maintenance cars were older and smaller model streetcars. Fares were four for a quarter in 1919, but by 1930 a cash fare was 10

cents or tokens, three for a quarter. Special high school fares were 5 cents between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. In 1949 the fare rose to 10

cents with no tokens and in 1950 you could buy two tokens for a quarter.

Young neighborhood boys were the bane of the motorman. The boys would approach the back of the streetcar stopped to load passengers and pull the cord attached to the power pole. This cut off the electricity and forced the motorman to disembark, walk to the rear of the car and re-engage the trolley wheel. Of course the boys were long gone by then, but sometimes they would sneak back and detach the wheel again. (Leo and his friends can elaborate on this!)

During the heyday of streetcars in Omaha a favorite outing for many was the ride to Lake Manawa in Council Bluffs. There the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway

Company ran the Lake Manawa Amusement Park. For the special round trip fare of 25 cents passengers were admitted to the park where there was a roller coaster, a dance hall, hot dog stands, and the opportunity to take the ferry to the other side of the lake for swimming. The last streetcar in Omaha made it's run in 1955. Many lines had been converted to buses by 1952 and earlier. Some of the old cars were sold to a Bible camp for \$325 a piece.

Not all of the streetcar era was tranquil. There were three strikes in the mid-1930's. One began April 16, 1934, and a second one started on July 26 of that year, but lasted only five days.

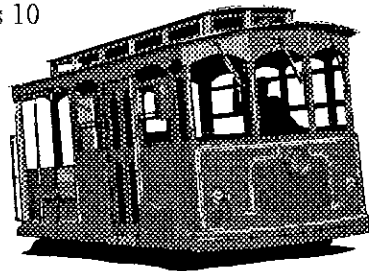
The big strike began April 11, 1935 after the company turned down a tram union demand.

With the strike still on, the firm began operation of three

trams on April 24 with police cars preceding and following each car and with police officers on board. The first disaster came on April 29 when two trams were attacked and one motorman beaten. Later, streetcars and at least one home were bombed as violence grew. Two people were killed, scores injured, and several streetcars were burned in a major disorder on July 14. The next day martial law was declared in Omaha and all beer taverns were told to close from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. On June 20, more than two months after it began, the strike ended.

(Information for this article was obtained from the writings of Richard Orr who is compiling a book about Omaha and Council Bluffs streetcars, and from clippings from the Omaha World-Herald.)

Eva Swanson



GPNA and PKA Fraternity Complete Second Mini-Cleanup



GPNA volunteers worked near 34th and Cumming Streets. Pictured from left to right: Ron Yates, Mark Yates, Diane Reuss and John Reuss. Mark Yates is being groomed for future neighborhood cleanups!

The second "mini-cleanup" this summer was Sunday morning, September 10th, from about 8 to 10:30 a.m. under ideal weather conditions. Several areas of the neighborhood were targeted: Cuming Street from 34th to 38th; Gifford Park; 31st & Chicago Street area; a small portion of the Business District; and even the south side of Bemis Park. Armed with a mower, weed-eater, shovels, rakes, buckets, bags, trash cans and brooms, volunteers worked hard to improve the appearance of these areas. We even cleaned a couple of plugged-up sewer drains. Volunteers included:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Candy Bacome | Susan Moreau | Terry Wilwerding |
| Mike Bacome | Diane Reuss | Cynde Yates |
| Leonard Clark | John Reuss | Mark Yates |
| Chris Foster | Ron Short | Ron Yates |
| Roger Freeman | Gary Toth | PKA Fraternity |
| Shannon Moreau | | |

Three highlights worth noting: The PKA (Pi Kappa Alpha) Creighton Fraternity did a great job combing Gifford Park and the streets around 31st and Chicago. John and Diane Reuss single-handedly cleaned Cuming Street from 36th to 38th - John has the blisters to prove it. And Leonard Clark was up bright and early to help despite being hit by a car Saturday night - that's commitment! These "mini-cleanups" do not take a lot of time or effort, yet the benefits can be seen immediately. We invite everyone to join us for our next "mini-cleanup".

Membership Update: Recent Memberships Received

Sandra Erickson
Peter Frerichs
David & Jeanne Showalter
Bob & Virginia Hutton

Buzz Wells
Deb Mitzloff
Genine Hanna


by Cynde Yates

VOLUNTEERING


There's a Special Place in Heaven

Many will be shocked to find
When the Day of Judgment nears
That there's a Special Place in Heaven
Set aside for Volunteers
Furnished with big recliners
Satin couches and foot stools
Where there's no committee chairman
No group leaders or car pool
No eager team that needs a coach
No bazaar and no bake sale
There will be nothing to staple
Not one thing to fold or mail
Telephone lists will be outlawed
But a finger-snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And rare treats fit for a king
You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few
and work for all their worth?"
Why, all those who reaped benefits
And not once volunteered on Earth!

Author Unknown



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 _____