



Gifford Park's Pride

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

December 1996

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Good Things Are Happening

On November 7, Jim and Leo Wilwerding attended a meeting at Creighton University with fraternity and sorority leaders, and Judy Johns, Police Crime Prevention Coordinator. The purpose of the meeting was to seek a solution for problems arising from fraternity and sorority parties. A very positive result was the opportunity to let students know of the GPNA's position - that we want to be good neighbors and expect them to be the same. This involves not only large parties, but also parking violations (across walks, in yards, blocking drives), littering, failure to mow and cut weeds, loud noise and trespassing on the property of others.

We were impressed with the student's desire to be good citizens and came away with a better understanding of their situations. There will be further communication in the future.

On another issue, the Mayor of Omaha has appointed a commission to study the problem of deteriorated rental property. A meeting was held on November 14 in the City-County Legislative Chambers. It's purpose was to hear public comment on the seriousness of the problem and possible solutions.

About 40 people spoke with Leo Wilwerding among them. He related our neighborhood's difficulties with long standing deteriorated property, complaints from tenants who are denied repairs to substandard conditions, and the use of single family residentially zoned property for multiple residence.

The very fact that the problem is being studied is heartening. For too long, code enforcement has been very poor to almost nonexistent. It looks like something is going to be done!

**Please Note:
Holiday Banquet Will Be
Thursday Dec 12
(No Meeting Dec 5!)**

Next Meeting

**Thursday, December 12th
7:00 P.M.**



**Holiday
Banquet**



**St. Joseph's Hospital
Glassed-In Area of Cafeteria**

FREE PARKING

**See page 2 for details on
the Holiday Banquet!**

Historically Speaking...

Francis P. Matthews

The Gifford Park area has been home to many famous and interesting people. Francis P. Matthews was one of those. He was a well-known national figure in the '30s, '40s, and '50s and resided at 3502 Webster Street. He was born in Albion, Nebraska, in 1887 and came to Omaha to attend Creighton University. He worked his way through school and received his LL.B. degree in 1913 and was admitted to the Nebraska Bar. He became a partner in the law firm of attorney Joseph B. Fradenburg, and later organized Matthews,

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**Season's
Greetings**



from the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Bacome 344-3233

RECORDING SECRETARY

Barbara Remmen 341-8331

TREASURER

Jean Peck 344-0722

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**C.D.C.**

Chuck Kilgore 341-2757

CLEAN-UP

Chris Foster 342-6006

COMPLIANCE

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

COURTESY

Candy Bacome 344-3233

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

LITTER - BUSINESS DISTRICT

Rich Exline 341-4388

MEMBERSHIP

Chris Foster 342-6006

NEWSLETTER

Chris Foster 342-6006

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Mike Bacome 344-3233

OFFICE

Marlene Wilwerding 345-1433

PARK

Mike Bacome 344-3233

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anne & Linda Chapman 348-0464

TOOL LENDING

Ed Hendershot 341-0475

WATCH GROUP

Ron Yates 558-6027

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

*Make Your Reservations Now for
the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association's*

8th Annual Holiday Banquet

*to be held
at 7 p.m. on December 12th
at St. Joseph's Hospital
601 N. 30th Street
in the special dining room
south of the cafeteria.*

*St. Joseph's Hospital graciously
demonstrates its support of the
GPNA by hosting this annual event
for members. Food catering by
Marriott Host Services.*

*There is no cost - you just need
to be a GPNA member.*

*Call 345-1433 for reservations
by December 6th.*

SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL
AT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER



Neighborhood Notes...

Make your reservations for the eighth annual **Holiday Banquet** on **Thursday, December 12** at 7 p.m. at **St. Joseph's Hospital** in the glassed-in area of the cafeteria. Our meeting for December will be the **Holiday Banquet - NO meeting December 5**. Great food, great friends and a great time are on the agenda. The Neighbor of the Year Award will be presented. Also door prizes will be given away. The banquet is free, you just need to be a GPNA member. Call

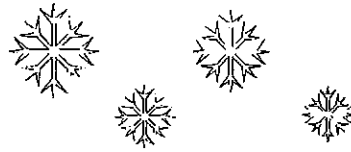
345-1433 to make reservations by December 6. Special thanks once again to St. Joseph's Hospital for their wonderful hospitality.

GPNA member **Rich Exline's** father **Richard L. Exline** has recently been hospitalized. We wish the best of health for Rich's father.

We are all glad to see longtime GPNA member **Ed Hendershot** feeling better after having health problems a few months ago.

Note to parents of children attending **Lewis & Clark Jr. High School** (now and in the future): Are you out of the area, for a ride on a yellow school bus, by a few blocks? I need a count of kids who are expected to wait for a city bus, in the dark every morning. I would like to bring this to the school board and try to get our children a safe ride to school too. Contact: **Maureen Calabro, M&M Investments, 345-7238**. Leave a name, number, address and the number and ages of your kids.

Questions and Answers About Snow Removal



What is meant by a Snow Emergency?

It simply means no vehicles may be parked on the streets where you see an Emergency Snow Route sign. Crews will plow these streets and the Mayor will announce when the snow emergency is over.

Should we move our parked cars from the street in residential areas?

During residential plowing, the Mayor may declare a parking ban on either named or numbered streets that have not yet been plowed. When named streets have been cleared, the ban will be switched to the numbered streets. The City may move improperly parked vehicles to prevent damage to the vehicle and permit the plows to pass.

What happens if I leave my car parked on the street during a residential parking ban?

The cars will be subject to a fine and may be towed at the owner's expense. Radio and TV stations will broadcast all necessary information.

When will my street be plowed?

Depending on the severity of the snowstorm, residential streets are usually plowed within 24 hours after the storm ends.

What about my alley?

The Public Works Department's top priority is to remove snow from major and residential streets to allow traffic flow in case of an emergency. Although alleys are not part of the City's snow removal plan, crews will try to clean alleys on a complaint basis. However, this is not always possible because some alleys are too narrow for snowplows. The residents adjacent to the alley are encouraged to clear the snow from alleys immediately following the storm for best results.

Omaha's Municipal Code requires **all sidewalks to be shoveled within 24 hours** after a snowstorm. Walks left unshoveled may be cleared by City crews at the expense of the property owner. We need your cooperation to keep your sidewalks passable for children and others. It's also against the City law to shovel snow off private property into an alley or street.

For more information or if you have a comment or complaint, please call the **Street Maintenance Office** at 444-4919 (24 hour line).

Information From Northeast Precinct Meeting

On November 18 a meeting was held with Northeast Precinct **Captain Don Thorson, Sgt. Barry DeJong, Lt. John Friend** and neighborhood associations in the Northeast Precinct, which is roughly east of 42nd Street and north of Dodge Street. Information shared by police helps neighborhoods better understand the processes and priorities of the Police Department. For example, the following is the priority list for handling 911 calls:

- 1 - Abductions, injuries, robberies, drowning, other life-threatening situations in progress
- 2 - Burglaries, alarms, disturbances, gunshots
- 3 - Auto-theft, D.U.I., fireworks
- 4 - Loud parties, dead storage vehicles, other minor situations with anonymous caller

Other notes from the meeting included: The Weed and Seed Program for "proactive crime-solving" has recently included the Gifford Park area - traffic checkpoints were set up at 33rd and California this summer; and more recently, working with the GPNA and fraternities regarding parties affecting our area. A new Northeast Precinct building at 30th and Taylor is coming in 1997. Eighteen police cars are now equipped with in-car video cameras.

Historically Speaking...Francis P. Matthews

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Kelley, Matthews and Delehant.

The fraternal Order of Knights of Columbus was high on his list of organizations. He held the office of Supreme Knight in 1939-1945 (the national head of 425,000 members in 2,678 lodges). Besides his work for the KC he was president of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce 1938-39, President of Securities Acceptance Corp. and of the First Federal Savings and Loan Co. He was chairman of the MUD and Public Library Boards and of the Douglas County Democratic Central Committee.

In 1924 Matthews was made a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Pius XI. In 1938 he was elevated to Knight Commander, and in 1942

to Knight with the Grand Cross.

In 1947 Matthews was appointed to President Truman's Commission of Civil Rights and on May 13, 1949 he was appointed by the President as Secretary of the Navy. Matthews was a very controversial figure in this office, firing the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Denfeld. He evoked the ire of Senator Joe McCarthy (Dem. - Wisconsin) for this act and for his possible indiscretion of sending a squadron of destroyers to a Knights of Columbus national convention in Portland, Oregon, and a squadron of naval planes over a St. Theresa procession in New Columbus, Pennsylvania. Seemingly to relieve him as Secretary of the Navy, President Truman appointed him Ambassador to Ireland in July of 1951. While home in Omaha on vacation in October of

1952 Matthews died of a heart attack. He was 65. Home at that time was 39th and Dewey, not far from his former home in the Gifford Park area. He was memorialized by his wife with a gift of \$100,000 to Creighton University and a gift of a dormitory at Duchesne College—Matthews Hall—the building which was recently razed to make way for the soccer field. Matthews and his wife, Mary Clair, a Duchesne graduate, had six children; five girls and one boy. One daughter, Mrs. Charles Irvine, and the one son, Frank Matthews, an attorney, live in the Omaha area.

(Information for this article was found in the *Dundee Sun*, March 11, 1976).

by Eva Swanson



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 _____

GPNA Needs YOU

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**.