



Gifford Park's Pride

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

March 1997

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Come One - Come All To A Very Important Meeting



The **March 6th** meeting of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association will be a chance for all of us to meet and evaluate our district's candidates for the City Council. The list of those scheduled to appear is headed by our current City Councilman, **Subby Anzaldo**, and includes **Kathy O'Connor, Bob Light, Rob Wilson, Bill Petrihos, and James Dugdale**. The format of the evening will allow each candidate equal opportunity to present his/her views, with a session following for questions from the audience. In the interest of fairness and so we may end the meeting promptly, time limits will be imposed. Your attendance is important: Gifford Park residents have the opportunity to become better informed voters - after all, we will be electing an individual who will be representing our neighborhood's interests for the next four years. Also, a large attendance will reinforce our already excellent image at City Hall! As always, great cookies, coffee, and tea will be graciously furnished by St. Joseph's Hospital. See you there!

Next Meeting

**Thursday, March 6
7:00 P.M.**

City Council Candidates' Forum

**St. Joseph's Hospital
Glassed-In
Dining Room**

FREE PARKING

8th Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt

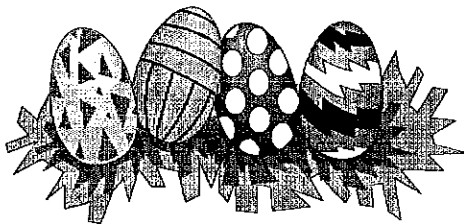
Saturday, March 29th

Noon (Sharp!)

Rain or Shine

at Gifford Park

Children Ages 12 & under



Bring Your Easter Baskets
& Be Ready To Hunt!

Historically Speaking... Raymond John Caffrey

The 1930's were characterized by stories of mobsters, corruption in the cities, and armed bank robberies. A Gifford Park resident played an important but deadly part in a Kansas City bank robbery story. He was Raymond J. Caffrey, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Caffrey, lived at 815 North 35th Street, and whose aunt, Mrs. J.E. Kirchner, lived at 3431 Webster Street. Ray attended Creighton University from 1920-1925 and after a job as credit manager of Beddeo's Clothing Store in Omaha, passed his bar exam and practiced at Bradenton, Florida, before joining the FBI. He was the third agent in FBI history to be killed in the line of duty. Caffrey had been stationed in Omaha but had just been transferred to Kansas City when the following took place (this is taken from an article in the Omaha Sun, June 19, 1980, by H. W. Becker):

continued on page 5

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

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

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

Spring Cleanup Coming in April

This year's Spring Cleanup Day will be on one of the last three Saturdays in April. A date will be set in April's newsletter. As in the past events planned are **Neighborhood Cleanup, Dumpsters in Gifford Park, Recycling, Picnic in the Park and Membership Drive**. Once again the City of Omaha will provide us with dumpsters in Gifford Park and operate several chipper sites for tree brush. The focus of the Spring Cleanup is for everyone to cleanup and beautify our yards, streets, alleys, parks and vacant lots. Make the effort to get your neighbor involved and offer to help. The GPNA will have trucks and volunteers on cleanup day.

The "Cleanup Omaha" program will be somewhat different from last year's event which occurred over seven weeks in April and May. We will pass on the details when they become available. The GPNA would like to extend our thanks and continued support to the **City of Omaha and Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB)** for their efforts with the entire Spring Cleanup Event.

For more information contact **Chris Foster (342-6006), Terry Wilwerding (342-2795)** or **Ron Yates (558-6027)**.

For Your Information...**Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging**

Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENOA) is one of 670 area agencies created by Congress under the Older American Act to serve the elderly population. ENOA serves families in 5 counties including Douglas, Sarpy, Dodge, Cass, and Washington counties. A continuum of services are available to preserve the dignity and independence of each older individual. These services help to meet health, nutritional, and social needs. In most cases, in-home services are recommended by state-certified case managers which support the frail older person's desire to stay at home. Case Managers can conduct a health and social assessment, design a plan of care, contact other agencies on the older person's behalf, monitor services being provided, and coordinate services with other agencies as needed. Cost of services vary, but in most cases, are based on the individual's monthly income.

A sampling of services available include the Home Delivered Meal program that provides one hot, nutritionally balanced meal that can be delivered up to 6 days per week if the person is homebound and unable to prepare their own meal. Presently ENOA serves approximately 1,500 meals per day, helping the elderly remain independent.

Other programs available to meet a variety of needs may include Homemaker, Home Health Aide, Durable Medical Equipment, Handyman, Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Respite Care, Gatekeeper, Yard Cleaning and Snow Removal, and Emergency Pharmacy Assistance.

The ENOA information and referral phone line is available weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at **444-6444**. If an elderly person is unable to contact the office, a family member, friend, or concerned neighbor may do so on their behalf.

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 Sue Wilwerding (342-2795) or Chris Foster (342-6006) for information regarding the newsletter.

Neighbor of the Month...

Martha Kelly

Martha Kelly, we know her as Mrs. Kelly, is our "Neighbor of the Month". Mrs. Kelly has lived in the Gifford Park area for over forty years and has been a longtime member of the GPNA. In about 1953 she first moved into the area to a location near North 30th Street which is now a parking lot for St. Joseph's Hospital. She later moved to her current address of 3315 Davenport Street. Mrs. Kelly noted when the West Expressway was planned to be built and pass near Davenport Street, many people moved away because they were afraid of losing their home. She said this had a big impact and forever changed the neighborhood. Mrs. Kelly decided to stay.

Mrs. Kelly was born in the small town of Dexter, Iowa in 1910. She graduated from Grinnell College in Iowa with a degrees in Biology and Chemistry. She was married in 1935 to Harley Kelly. Their four children, two boys and two girls, all attended Yates Elementary School and graduated from Central High School. Mrs. Kelly worked at University of Nebraska Medical Center as a Research Technician from 1955 until 1970. Her husband Harley worked as a mail carrier. He passed away in 1971. Mrs. Kelly enjoys gardening and reading, especially mystery novels and biographies.

Recently Mrs. Kelly suffered a fall on the ice and broke both wrists. She said the casts are scheduled to come off in early March - she is eager to begin planting that backyard vegetable garden. Her daughters, who both live in Omaha, have been a great help during her recovery.

Mrs. Kelly says she likes the Gifford Park neighborhood because she is close to her church, St. Joseph's Hospital and her two daughters. Also she says the Gifford Park neighborhood has many good, solid people. Mrs. Kelly attends nearly every GPNA meeting that she is able. She provides great insight when there is discussion involving issues affecting our neighborhood. Mrs. Kelly, we hope to see you at the next meeting and congratulations for being our "Neighbor of the Month".

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, Pro-
 prietors*



**For City Services
 Information or Complaints,
 Call:**

Mayor's Action Office

444-5555

Free Tax Help Resumes in April



There's still time to take advantage of **FREE** tax help at the **GPNA Office** located next to J'N'J Grocery, 33rd & California Street. **Everyone is welcome!** Fifteen people received assistance in February. An I.R.S. representative will provide free tax help for our neighborhood. Processing of basic tax returns will be available. Walk-in appointments are welcome, but priority will be given to those who call to schedule an appointment. Free tax help will be available **April 5 and 12 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** For more information or to schedule an appointment call **551-3629**.

Garage Sale Scheduled for April

Spring is just around the corner, and another garage sale season will soon be in full swing. The GPNA is planning a neighborhood garage sale sometime in April as a fund-raising project. Your donations of usable items (no clothing) will be essential to the success of the sale. Volunteers will also be needed to pick up donations and staff the sale. More details will be available in the April newsletter.

California Tacos & More

Homemade Mexican Food

342-0212

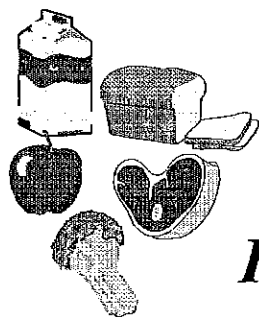
33rd & California Street
Dine In or Carry Out

Open:

Mon - Thur: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Fri - Sat: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Sun: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



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

Historically Speaking...Raymond John Caffrey

continued from page 1

“The notorious bank robber Frank Nash had escaped from Leavenworth Penitentiary, and was vacationing in Hot Springs, AK. There the FBI caught up with him, and arrested him in 1933. Oklahoma City agents Francis Joseph ‘Joe’ Lackey and Frank Smith, assisted by Otto Reed, chief of police at McAlester, OK, who identified Nash, drove him to Fort Smith, AK, where they engaged Pullman beds on a Missouri Pacific train, due at the Kansas City Union Station at 7:15 a.m., Saturday, June 17.

There they were joined by K.C. FBI agents Reed Vatterli and Raymond John Caffrey, and K.C. police detectives W.J. ‘Red’ Grooms and Frank Hermanson. They marched the manacled Nash out to Caffrey’s car and put him in the driver’s seat temporarily.

Caffrey stood on the left of his steering wheel, preliminary to driving the prisoner back to Leavenworth Penitentiary. Lackey, Reed, and Smith got in the back seat, on the left, middle, and right. Caffrey’s car was to be followed by Grooms and Hermanson in their car. They and Vetterli were standing to the right of

Caffrey’s car.

Then all hell busted loose. Someone had phoned Nash’s buddy Vern Miller from Fort Smith. Miller resolved to spring Nash. K.C. crime boss Jack Lazia recommended notorious bank robbers “Pretty Boy” Floyd and Adam “Eddie” Richetti to Miller (though they didn’t know Nash), to join the caper. They thought it would be easy, since the FBI agents were unarmed, a policy soon changed.

Floyd shouted, ‘Up, up, get’m up!’ , but Grooms reached for his revolver. Floyd panicked, and yelled, ‘Let the bastards have it!’ He and Miller had tommy guns, and Richetti had a .38. They sprayed bullets at Caffrey’s car from the north, west, and south.

Nash screamed, ‘My God, don’t shoot me!’ , but he, Reed, Caffrey, Grooms, and Hermanson were all killed. Lackey got two bullets near his spine, Vetterli was winged, and Smith was unscathed.

Floyd darted a look inside the Caffrey car, and gasped ‘They’re all dead in here!’ Then Miller’s

bungling crew drove toward his rented home in Kansas City, tires screeching.

This story is now referred to as ‘The Union Station Massacre.’ Miller was found dead on the outskirts of Detroit in 1933. Floyd was shot by FBI agents in Ohio in 1934. Richetti was brought to trial in June of 1935 for the murder of Frank Hermanson and was the first man to die in Missouri’s gas chamber in 1938.

Ray Caffrey’s body was shipped to Omaha where he lay in state in his parent’s parlor. A platoon of police marched at the head of the procession to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery where Caffrey is buried. Mrs. Caffrey died in 1961. They had one son, Jimmy, who became a surgeon and is now a pathologist in Kansas City.

Caffrey was honored by the FBI in 1983, fifty years after the slaying. A brass FBI seal was placed on his gravestone.”

by Eva Swanson

TOOL LENDING HOTLINE



Tom 341-3955
Ed 341-0475
Ron 558-6027

Mowers - \$5
Rent for most tools - \$3



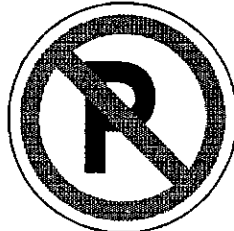
City Solutions...Where to Call

Problem	Call	Agency/Department
Abandoned/junked cars	444-5782	Vehicle Impound Lot
Animal bites	444-7578	Humane Society
Barking dogs, sick, injured or stray animals	444-7800	Humane Society
City Services complaints or information	444-5555	Mayor’s Action Office
Crime or Vandalism	444-5600	Police Division
Empty buildings, vacant houses, occupied dilapidated houses	444-5371	Planning
Garbage not picked up	444-5238	Solid Waste
Gas leaks, waterline breaks, fire hydrants	554-7777	M.U.D.
Holes, debris or litter in the street	444-4919	Street Maintenance
Improperly licensed vehicles	444-5888	Police Department or Mayor’s Action Office
.....	444-5555	Mayor’s Action Office
Rats, raw garbage, etc	444-7481	Douglas County Health
Street construction, problems/complaints	444-5220	Construction Engineer
Tenant/landlord discrimination issues	444-5055	Human Relations
Tenant/landlord legal issues	444-1060	Legal Aid Society
Trailers/Cars parked on front lawn	444-5350	Permits & Inspections
Zoning enforcement	444-5364	Permits & Inspections

A New Parking Game

Previously, the neighborhood association would make up monthly lists of parking violators and give them to a local police representative. The police would deal with these complaints as their free time allowed. Some months we got very prompt action, and some months it took longer. For whatever reason (perhaps police complaints or political gain?), the enforcement of these parking problems has been moved from the local level into the Mayor's Office.

Now the lists of violators Office, where they are en- special enforcement group dealing with these com- basis. I was informed that visited within the next few



NO PARKING

are turned into the Mayor's tered on a computer. A is going around the city complaints on an area by area our neighborhood should be weeks.

Problems that we are trying to address are mainly parking on unpaved areas, parking across sidewalks, and unlicensed vehicles (all vehicles sitting outside must be licensed). In any case, if you have complaints you may call me (342-2795) or call Jewel in the Mayor's Office at 444-5555 and the complaint will be entered directly on the computer. Hopefully this new system will improve enforcement, and add to the safety and appearance of our neighborhood.

by Terry Wilwerding

Tom's Tips... Wood Furniture- Repairing Dents

Dents are depressed layers of wood caused by hard impacts. They can be raised back to original level by steam. Place several layers of damp fabric or damp, brown wrapping paper over the dent. Touch the fabric or paper with a warm iron. The steam will cause the wood fibers to swell back into place. It may be necessary to repeat this process until the dented area is level with the surface around it. Allow the area to dry.

Since the steam opens the wood pores, sand the area thoroughly to "repack" the grain. If you don't, the area will absorb more stain and have an uneven color.

NOTE—Don't use this treatment on veneers. The steam can soften the glue under the veneer and cause it to come loose. Also, be careful when applying steam near joints because the glue there can soften, also.

When an impact has been great enough to cut through the wood fibers, steam and heat will not repair the damage. Fill the dent with a wood filler to make it level. Follow directions on the package.

by Tom Rose



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 _____