



Gifford Park's Pride

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

April 1997

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Spring Clean-up Date Set

The date for this year's Spring Cleanup is set for **Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.** Events planned are **Neighborhood Cleanup, Dumpsters in Gifford Park, Recycling, Picnic in the Park and Membership & Donation 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 clean up 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. Tree brush and branches no larger than 6" in diameter must be taken to one of the following chipper sites between **8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays, April 12, 19 and 26:**

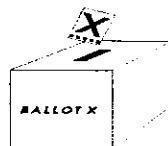
Levi Carter Lake Boathouse Parking Lot 13th & Cornish Boulevard	Fenced-in Area on North Side 22nd & Washington St.
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The GPNA would like to extend our thanks and continued support to **Mayor Hal Daub**, the **City of Omaha** and **Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB)** for their efforts with the Spring Cleanup. For more information contact **Chris Foster (342-6006)**, **Terry Wilwerding (342-2795)**, **Leo Wilwerding (345-1433)** or **Ron Yates (558-6027)**.

Garage Sale Scheduled for April 19th

The GPNA will be holding a garage sale on **Saturday, April 19th**, starting at **8 a.m.** The Sale will be located at the **Duchesne Academy parking lot** (northwest corner of 36th and California). Since this sale will be a fund-raising project, the Association will be asking for your donations of **usable** items (no clothing) which will be the key to the success of the sale. To donate items or for more information, call **Leo Wilwerding, 342-2795**.

Don't Forget To VOTE
Tuesday, April 1!



Next Meeting

Thursday, April 3rd
7:00 P.M.

Guest Speakers:
Omaha Police Department
Representatives

St. Joseph's Hospital
Glassed-In Dining Room

REFRESHMENTS

FREE PARKING

Historically Speaking...

Mary Alice Race

Among residents of the Gifford Park area, Mary Alice Race was perhaps one of the most colorful and verbal in recent years. "Colorful", that is, if you could say that someone wearing a black, Garbo style hat (she had a red one, too) and dark clothing was "colorful". She spoke out on many issues, mostly dealing with people who tend to be forgotten by the corporate power structure. Mary Alice, who lived at 3408 Webster all of her 84 years, became a full-time advocate of the people when she retired from her clerk-typist job at the Veteran's Administration. She joined the "Gray Panthers" (a senior citizen group organized to combat age discrimination), she started attending meetings of the OPPD Board as a private citizen, she joined the League of Women Voters, and she read voraciously all the material about utilities, public transportation, and public officials that she could obtain. She did not have a car and could often be seen trudging to the bus on 33rd Street for her regular trips to the library,

continued on page 4

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

What's Happening in the Neighborhood...

Everyone is encouraged to attend the next general GPNA meeting **Thursday, April 3rd, 7 p.m., at St. Joseph's Hospital** in the Glassed-In Dining Room. The guest speakers will be representatives from the **Omaha Police Department**. Topics to be discussed at the meeting include the Spring Clean-up and Garage Sale. You do not have to be a GPNA member to attend. As always there will be plenty of refreshments.

A Mayoral Candidate Forum is being planned for the May general meeting. The two candidates chosen in the April primary will be invited to attend. The forum will be held in the glassed-in area of the St. Joseph Hospital cafeteria. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the candidates.

Best wishes to **Nellie Petska** for a speedy recovery from a recent stroke. Nellie has been a member of the GPNA for many years.

An OTOC (Omaha Together One Community) election issues forum will be held for Central and South Omaha (Anzaldo - District 3 and Koneck - District 4) on **April 6, 3 p.m., at Spring Lake School, 20th and G St.** The winners of the primary election for these 2 city council seats are scheduled to appear. Issues that will be addressed include deteriorating property/rental regulations, parks, sewers, and welfare reform. If you have any questions about this forum, please call **Sue Wilwerding, 342-2795.**

The next **Property Owners Association** meeting will be held **April 14, 7 p.m., at Ideal Hardware (2nd Floor), 3909 Cuming St.** The two City Mayoral candidates chosen in the April primary will be the guest speakers for the April meeting. Call **Frank Kucirek at 558-4421** for information regarding the Property Owners Association.

Street resurfacing is scheduled to take place this summer in our neighborhood. The streets from 30th to 33rd, Cass to Burt will be paved. The **City of Omaha** and **Swain Construction Company** did a good job on last summer's resurfacing project in our neighborhood.

TOOL**LENDING
HOTLINE****Tom 341-3955****Ed 341-0475****Ron 558-6027**

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3

**A Note of Thanks**

Few of us in the Gifford Park neighborhood have probably given any thought to the longstanding sacrifice of others in our behalf. What I'm talking about is the Neighborhood Watch Group which has been monitoring our neighborhood every Friday and Saturday night for about the past 8 years. On these 2 nights which are generally the busiest of the week for crime and disturbances, **Ron Yates, Harry Dirgo, Rich Exline, and Terry Wilwerding** have patrolled our area, checking for problems and coordinating control with the police. This thankless effort has gone on throughout the year and in all kinds of weather. It's a tough job and often unpopular with troublemakers. Still these people, our neighbors, have been on the street, protecting our interests. We owe them a big vote of thanks. And maybe we owe them more - like volunteering to take their turn on this patrol. They can certainly use the help. Call **Ron Yates (558-6027)** to sign up.

by Leo Wilwerding

Salvation Army Dedicates New Senior Housing

On March 13th, the Salvation Army dedicated the **Charles and Margre Durham Booth Manor Apartments**, a new community for low and moderate income seniors, located at 923 North 38th St. The 48 new apartment units will provide affordable housing for independent seniors who live on limited incomes.

The apartments are in a completely renovated building formerly known as Lucas Hall. Most units will have a living room, bedroom, bathroom, and a complete kitchen and dining area. The units are attractively decorated and equipped with carpeting, mini-blinds, cable television access, and 24-hour security. Three apartments are barrier-free and one unit is designed for residents with a visual

and/or hearing impairment. Residents will have the option of preparing their own meals or visiting the Manor's dining room, which will offer reasonably-priced meals. Convenient parking is available nearby, and there is a MAT bus stop across the street. The apartments rent for as much as \$285 per month (utilities included), with rents adjusted for those with lower incomes, according to **D.D. Launderville**, the Salvation Army's Senior Services Director.

Durham Booth Manor will also house two other facilities: an ENOA (Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging) office to help residents access community resources and

the Dora Bingel Senior Center. The Center offers recreational and social activities for older adults including dancing, crafts, bridge, ceramics, fitness programs, and seasonal celebrations.

Launderville said to be eligible for Booth Manor, residents must be age 62 or older, of moderate or low income, and capable of living independently (do their own housekeeping and dress, bathe, and groom themselves). Individuals deficient in these activities of daily living may still be considered for an apartment, she added. For more information, please call **Launderville** at **554-5944**.

Free Trees Available to Gifford Park Residents

The **Omaha Parks Division** will again take requests from neighborhoods for the planting of trees along streets. The following planting site guidelines must be followed:

1. Trees must be planted along City of Omaha streets.
2. The property owner is responsible to care for each tree after it is planted. A tree care pamphlet will be provided by the City.
3. Trees must be planted within 20 feet of the curb line.
4. Trees will not be planted under electrical wires, within 35 feet of a street intersection, 15 feet of a street light pole, or closer than 3 feet to pavement.



The tree species available are Hackberry, Kentucky Coffeetree, Red Oak, Ginkgo, Norway Maple, White Ash, Swamp White Oak, and Sunburst Honeylocust. The City Forester will determine if the planting locations comply with city ordinances and project guidelines. If approved, the City will have 8 foot tall, bare root trees contract planted beginning April 1st through May 10th. If you are a property owner and are interested in applying for a free tree, or you need further information, please contact **Leo Wilwerding** at **345-1433**. Applications are due by **April 20th**.

Free Tax Help for basic tax returns
April 5 and 12 (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
 at the GPNA Office
 33rd & California St.
 Call 551-3629 for Information

For City Services Information
 or Complaints,
 Call:
Mayor's Action Office
444-5555

Historically Speaking...Mary Alice Race

continued from page 1

board meetings, and concerts. Her spare-time reading tended toward mysteries and science fiction, and she had a passion for classical music, regularly attending the Tuesday Musicals.

Miss Race, who was single, was born in 1908. Her father was an office manager at the Union Pacific Railroad and her mother had been a teacher. She attended the now defunct Webster School, Central High School, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she received a BA in Education in 1929. She had two brothers: one, Robert E. Race, also lived on Webster Street. Mary Alice died in November of 1992. She was respectfully remembered by members and former members of the OPPD Board, by the World Herald, and by many friends and relatives.

Mary Alice espoused many causes in her lifetime. Among others, she pressed for greater equality for bus fares, telephone rates, utility bills, utility shutoffs without due process, open meetings of OPPD, and federal pensions. At the urging of friends, she

decided to run for the Board of Directors of OPPD in 1978. She had been a member of the OPPD Citizens Committee on Rates, receiving publicity when she criticized the members of the Board for not doing their own research.

Her candidacy for the OPPD Board was endorsed by Congressman John Cavanaugh and she attended public gatherings all over the city to gain votes. Surprising many, she won election to the Board in November of 1978. She served faithfully on the Board, continuing her practice of long hours of study on the issues before the Board, particularly on the issue of another nuclear plant at Fort Calhoun. She advocated and won raises for managers of OPPD, believing "you pay for what you get." This stand probably cost her reelection to the Board in 1984.

Mary Alice's advice to her neighbors would be to keep abreast of our city's affairs and personally become involved to change what needs changing and keep what is working.

by Eva Swanson

Large Turn-Out for City Council Candidates' Forum

Approximately 80 people attended the GPNA City Council District 3 Candidates' Forum held on March 6th. Those present were able to hear all 7 of the candidates for the City Council Representative from District 3 state their positions on a variety of issues. Questions such as community policing, helicopters, housing code enforcement, and efficiency in government were addressed.

The GPNA would like to thank candidates **Subby Anzaldo, James Dugdale, Bob Light, Kathy O'Connor, Bill Petrihos, Gil Steele, and Rob Wilson** for their participation in the forum and to St. Joseph Hospital for hosting the event. Thanks also to all the neighbors who attended the meeting and became better-informed voters!

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!