



Gifford Park's Pride

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

June 1997

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

New Membership Year

June 1 marks the beginning of another GPNA membership year. It is a new beginning for Officers, Executive Board Members and residents. It is truly exciting to have new people volunteer to help. We will have several new officers to give the organization a GREAT start!

Our membership year runs from June, 1997 to June, 1998. If you have been a member and supported the GPNA in the past, we appreciate your support and hope you will renew your membership. If you have not been a member, we encourage each of you to consider joining. **Your membership helps pay for this newsletter, neighborhood cleanups and beautification programs, youth activities, social activities, neighborhood watch equipment, tool lending and many other worthwhile programs.** Please join the GPNA today - your membership will be good through June, 1998.

We believe the GPNA should reach out to new residents and inform them of our group, interests and efforts. We are working on developing a "New Resident Packet" to be provided to new people in our area. To do this we need your help. Please let me know the address of any new residents in your block. You can call me at 342-6006. You may also inform any GPNA Officer.

In addition, it would be nice if all members act as ambassadors of the neighborhood association by greeting and welcoming new people. If we hope to become a better neighborhood, we also need to revert to old-fashioned values. We need to take the time to be there for one another; to look out for and protect one another. We need to support the GPNA, attend meetings and help guide the direction of the area in which we reside. We need to encourage our neighbors to participate also. It doesn't have to take much time. Try to make a difference. Together, we can.

Enclosed with this month's issue:

Membership Application Brochure

Please help by passing on this information
to your friends and neighbors

For more information on membership or
if you would like additional brochures or applications:

call 342-6006.

Next Meeting

**Thursday, June 5
7:00 P.M.**

Election of Officers

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

FREE PARKING

Where Do We Stand?

After eight years, the founders of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association can look back with the satisfaction that their efforts and those who followed have, in fact, saved the neighborhood. It was in a rapidly declining position and faced almost irreversible deterioration. Property values were declining, crime swiftly increasing, many homes and yards were poorly cared for, it was becoming dangerous to walk the streets, and people were moving away.

What a pleasure to look at the contrast today. People are taking pride in their property, young families are moving in, law and code enforcement has vastly improved, and there is a strong awareness in City Government of our presence and our needs.

Anyone with half an eye can see the tremendous improvement, and the best part is that if all help, it will only get even better. Our neighborhood can indeed be "the best place in Omaha in which to live." Will you do your part?

**The GPNA wishes you
a safe, happy, and fun summer!**

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**.CLEAN-UP**

Chris Foster 342-6006

COMPLIANCE

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

COURTESY

Candy Bacome 344-3233

GRAFFITI

Maureen Calabro 345-7238

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

Nominating Committee Report

The following individuals have been selected as the proposed slate of officers of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association for the 1997/1998 year-long term:

President	Jim Wilwerding
Vice-President	Mike Bacome
Recording Secretary	Shirley Bates
Treasurer	Jean Peck

<p>Election of GPNA Officers at June Meeting - You MUST Be a Member to Vote!</p>

These nominations will now go to the Association at the June meeting for a vote, so please plan to attend.

What's Happening in the Neighborhood...

Everyone is encouraged to attend the next general GPNA meeting on **Thursday, June 5, 7 p.m.**, at **St. Joseph's Hospital**. Election of officers for 1997-1998 will take place. As always, there will be plenty of complimentary refreshments.

The GPNA extends its thanks to **Brenda Council** for attending last month's mayoral candidates' forum and Officer **Mike Paul** for coming by to discuss neighborhood concerns.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service for **Harold Gifford** on Saturday, June 7, at 4 p.m. at the Gifford Farm, Camp Gifford Road, in Bellevue. Dr. Gifford, a long-time resident of the area, passed away on December 29, 1996

A new business has opened its doors in the Gifford Park neighborhood. **American Labor Force**, located at 3228 California St. (northeast corner of 33rd and California) began operation on April 15th. According to co-owner **Don Leslie**, American Labor Force is an employment service that specializes in finding jobs for temporary employees in industrial production, construction, cleaning, or other areas that require non-skilled workers. Don and co-owner **Cole Bradley** also have an office in Lincoln.

The Omaha Community Foundation has approved a GPNA grant for \$450 to help defray the cost of dumpster rental for the fall cleanup. A big thanks to **Jim Wilwerding** for writing the grant.

A new GPNA committee chair has been created: graffiti. **Maureen Calabro** has volunteered to be in charge of monitoring gang graffiti in the neighborhood and alerting the proper authorities when it is found. If you find any new instances of graffiti, give her a call at **345-7238**.

The GPNA Watch Group monitors our neighborhood's streets every Friday and Saturday night. The Watch Group can always use more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please call **Ron Yates** at **558-6027**.

Street resurfacing is scheduled to take place this summer in our neighborhood. The streets from 30th to 33rd, Cass to Burt will be paved.

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.

City of Omaha Parks & Recreation Sun Dawg Summer Fun Youth Program

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

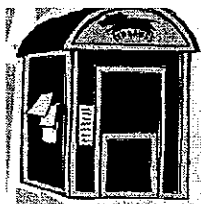
Beginning June 10 for 8 weeks

No Cost

Activities include:

Fun, sports, games, reading, arts and crafts, trips, camp programs, swimming and more.

Registration is Tuesday, June 10 at the Gifford Park Sun Dawg Shack

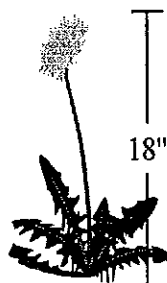


For complete summer fun program information call:
444-4FUN
(444-4386)

Weeds...how tall is too tall?

City of Omaha code states that weeds (or any vegetation) cannot be over 18" tall. The following steps can be taken if this code is violated:

- A complaint can be filed by anyone
- A City Inspector will send the property owner a 10 day notice to cut the weeds
- If the owner does not respond, the address is put on a mowing list
- Property will be mowed and the owner will be charged according to the size of job



NEED YOUR HOUSE PAINTED?

At No Cost!

You could have your home painted at absolutely no cost by volunteers from Omaha area businesses, congregations and service clubs.

If you are over 65 or permanently disabled and meet financial guidelines, you could qualify.

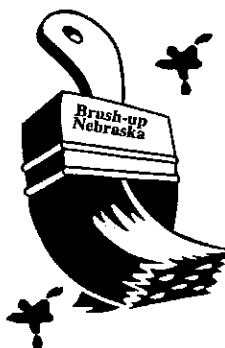
Monthly household income:
1 person - \$1,388
2 people - \$1,583
3 people - \$1,779
4 people - \$1,979

Apply Today

Phone First Call For Help, 444-6666 for an application. Or stop by any Norwest Bank Office in Douglas or Sarpy County to pick up an application.

Application Deadline:
JUNE 6, 1997

PAINT•A•THON 1997



TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

Tom 341-3955

Ed 341-0475

Ron 558-6027

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



Tom's Tips...

The water heater for your home works like a distillation system. As the water is heated, the various salts and minerals that are dissolved in hard water will precipitate out and collect on the bottom of the tank. The gas water heater is designed so that the flame impinges the bottom and the circulating water then carries away the heat. If enough deposits build up on the bottom, it creates an insulating layer that can cause superheating of the bottom and the resulting stress can crack the water jacket.

The home owner should flush the tank bottom out for about 1 minute, once a month, first thing in the morning (the deposits fully settle when water has not been run recently). This is done with the drain petcock at the bottom of the tank which is threaded to fit a garden hose. I have mine rigged with a long piece of hose all the time (Yes...yes it was, just another senseless lawnmower accident). The principle is the same for electric water heaters. The scale encrusts on the heating elements causing the same improper heat transfer and subsequent burnout of the elements.

Furthermore, all that scale floating around your plumbing system clogs up valves, showerheads and faucet screens. The few minutes that it takes each month can end up being well spent in both the short and long run.

by Tom Rose

Tennis Coming to Gifford Park This Summer

Gifford Park has been selected for one of the sites for the 1997 City of Omaha "Sun Dawgs" Tennis Program to be held this summer. The program is sponsored by Omaha Parks & Recreation, Tennis Our Way (TOW) and Play Tennis America (PTA) in cooperation with the Omaha Tennis Association. Following is the schedule for sites close to and including Gifford Park:

June 9 - July 18	6 weeks/3 times a week (M-W-F) (No clinic July 4th)	\$25***
9:00 - 9:45 am M-W-F	Beginners (ages 8-12)	Fontenelle, Gifford Park
10:00 - 10:45 am M-W-F	Beginners (ages 12 & up) & Advanced Beginners	Fontenelle, Gifford Park
11:00 - 11:45 am M-W-F	Intermediate (ages 12 & up)	Fontenelle, Gifford Park
8:30 - 9:15 am M-W-F	Advanced Beginners	Dewey Tennis Center
9:30 - 10:15 am M-W-F	Beginners	Dewey Tennis Center

June 10 - July 17	6 weeks/2 times a week (T-TH)	\$25***
8:30 - 9:30 am T-TH	Intermediate/Advanced Beginners	Dewey Tennis Center
9:30 - 10:15 am T-TH	Pee Wee Tennis (ages 5-8)	Dewey Tennis Center

June 10 - July 17	6 weeks/2 times a week (T-TH)	\$20***
9:00 - 9:45 am T-TH	Beginners (ages 8-15)	Miller Park
6:00 - 6:45 pm T-TH	Beginners (ages 8-15)	Lynch Park

***** (To waive or reduce fee, scholarships are available, call 341-9150)**
 Please make checks payable to: City of Omaha, Tennis Enterprise, 1819 Farnam, Suite 701, Omaha, Ne 68131-0701, or payment rendered at the following registration sites in person starting the week of May 19 at:

Dewey Tennis Center (530 Turner Blvd) Fontenelle Park (4405 Fontenelle) or call **Dante Simone at 341-9150.**



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 _____

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

**Call:
 Mayor's Action
 Office**

444-5555

NEEDED:

**HELP WITH
 NEWSLETTER
 DISTRIBUTION**

The GPNA is looking for
 anyone, any age, interested
 in delivering newsletters in
 the Gifford Park
 Neighborhood.

Call 344-3233