



Gifford Park's Pride

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

July 1997

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Sun Dawg Shack Is the Place To Be

Where is the best place for kids to participate in a variety of fun and exciting activities this summer? Check out Gifford Park! That's where the Sun Dawg summer youth program is happening. It is sponsored by the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation Division. The program is FREE for kids of all ages. Parents can sign up children at the Sun Dawg Shack at the west end of Gifford Park. The program is Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and runs through the August. Dan Feit have been su-activities. Dan and turnout has been nearly sixty neighborhood kids on some days. They also report the kids are having a great time enjoying the many activities and making new friends. Parents are welcome to volunteer or think of ideas for new activities. Sports equipment and arts & crafts items are also needed. Some of the many events and activities going on now include tennis, box hockey, sports, games, reading, arts & crafts, trips, camp programs, swimming, music, face painting and more. For information, call 444-4FUN (444-4386).



first week of Bagley and Mike pervising kid's Mike say the tremendous with



The Limbo is one of many activities going on in Gifford Park as part of the Sun Dawgs youth program. Here Patrick Landers shows his talent. See more Sun Dawg highlights on page 6.

*****Meeting Date Change*****

Due to the Fourth of July Holiday, this month's meeting will be Thursday, July 10.

Next Meeting

**Thursday, July 10
7:00 P.M.**

**Meet Your Neighbors!
Win Door Prizes!**

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

FREE PARKING

Historically Speaking...

J.A.C. Kennedy

Although the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association goes only to 37th Street, I submit information about a man who lived at 521 North 38th Street. (After all, the house is on the east side of 38th Street.) The man was James A. C. Kennedy. He was a prominent Omaha lawyer, a former Dean of Omaha's practicing attorneys, and a legend among Omahans. He reportedly arose at 5 o'clock every morning and performed calisthenics for 40 minutes including ballet style high kicks. He would leave his home at 6:15 to walk to Mutual of Omaha where he was a director, eat breakfast in the company cafeteria, and walk three miles (counting from his home) to his office on the fifteenth floor of the City National Bank Building. He was senior partner in the law firm of Kennedy, Holland, DeLacy and Svoboda.

continued on page 5



**Happy Fourth
of July!**



GPNA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Bacome 344-3233

RECORDING SECRETARY

Shirley Bates 345-8430

TREASURER

Jean Peck 344-0722

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ADVERTISING

Dar Sweazy 345-0125

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

PARK

Mike Bacome 344-3233

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anne & Linda Chapman 348-0464

WATCH GROUP

Ron Yates 558-6027

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

EDITORIAL CORNER

The views and opinions stated are not necessarily those of the GPNA or the Executive Board.

One America

What a concept. For two hundred and twenty one years this nation has been headed down that winding road. Could it be, that now, we may finally arrive at our destination? I hope so. And I believe a great majority of my fellow countrymen and women feel the same way.



The time is way overdue to begin this dialog in earnest. And like any goal worth reaching, success is not a given. History has taught us that. To be ONE AMERICA, we have no other choice but to work hard to understand and appreciate one another, celebrate the contributions of our diverse population, and go on with the business of building a society where every citizen has the opportunity to reach his or her potential, unimpeded by bigotry, hatred, resentment, or fear. We need to shed the burdens of our past, and begin anew to create an even better future for ALL our children.

We live in the greatest country in the world. In spite of our faults, we have already achieved more as a society than any other nation in history. Imagine what greatness lies ahead if we once and for all became One America.

I wish us all the best of luck in this endeavor, for I believe that our nation's very survival depends on it.

by Mike Caban



GPNA Tennis Program Planned for August

Tentative plans are being developed for the fourth annual GPNA Tennis Program for kids. The program will be each Wednesday in August (Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27) starting at 6 p.m. in Gifford Park. As in the past all participants must have a parent or guardian sign a registration form.

Tennis instructors, racquets and balls are supplied and the program is FREE. More information will be available at the GPNA Office and local businesses later in July. For more information call **Chris** at 342-6006. Prizes will be given to kids who attend all four sessions. Remember kids, there is a backboard on one of the tennis courts - start practicing now.

Neighborhood Tool Lending Is Six Years Old

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Tool Lending Program has been in operation for six years. Its goal is simple: provide people in our neighborhood the opportunity to rent tools for a nominal fee (mainly to cover maintenance costs). Everyone can benefit - you **DO NOT** have to be a GPNA member to take advantage of this program. Many people in our area have no space to store tools or do not have access to certain tools or cannot buy many tools. The neighborhood itself benefits when people use the tools to take care of their home and property.

Ladders, rakes, shovels, saws and garden tools are just some of the tools available with the program. Lawnmowers have been the most popular to rent. Many thanks go to **Bob Hutton** and **Mike Bacome** for maintenance of our mowers at little or no cost. For more information call the numbers listed in the adjacent ad.

The GPNA will gladly accept any donations of tools or lawnmowers for this program.

TOOL LENDING HOTLINE



Tom 341-3955

Ed 341-0475

Ron 558-6027

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



GPNA - The Year in Review

The GPNA has been fortunate in that we have always had excellent leadership, but a special thanks goes to Leo and Marlene Wilwerding and the other officers for an outstanding job done in this previous year. The cleanups continue to improve with more participation, better organization (and more trash picked up). The Christmas party was bigger and better than ever. The garage sale was also very successful both in terms of participation and money raised. If the Easter Egg hunt gets any bigger, we'll have to expand the park! The candidates forum was great, and we were involved in a number of political issues. We seem to get more attention in the World Herald neighborhood section than just about any other neighborhood association. And our newsletter is outstanding (read those of other neighborhoods and you will agree). Many people do not realize the amount of time and effort it takes to carry on all of these activities. Considering this, I think that we all owe the officers and the other "regulars" a heartfelt thanks.

Unfortunately, many in the neighborhood are perfectly comfortable letting these same people continue to do the large share of the work, but as with any group or organization, success depends on the efforts of many. At least consider joining or renewing your membership. The cost is extremely modest (\$5 individual, \$8 family) and there are many benefits. Also, think about helping out with projects or even being a leader if you are asked. The talents that people in our neighborhood have are almost countless. I guarantee that you will meet the nicest people in the neighborhood on these projects.

As an example, we are now looking for people to help with the neighborhood watch. We probably have the oldest and longest running neighborhood watch in the city, but we could certainly use some help. Could you spare an hour every week or every other week? We are also considering changing the agenda of our meetings. Do you have an idea that could make the meetings more meaningful or fun? We have a number of other projects that we could also use help on. So please consider becoming one of the "regulars". I am sure that you will enjoy it besides making our neighborhood a better place to live.

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,
Proprietors*



Lawn Mowing Service

Call Rich: 341-4388

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Hot Weather Pet Tips



This information can help you care for your pet when the mercury rises:

✓ Overheating (heat prostration) can kill an animal. Never leave an animal alone in a vehicle, since even with the windows open, a parked car, truck or van can quickly become a furnace. Parking in shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day. When traveling, carry a gallon thermos filled with fresh, cold water.

✓ Don't force your animal to exercise after a meal in hot, humid weather. Always exercise him or her in the cool of the early morning or evening.

✓ In extremely hot weather, don't leave your dog standing on the street, and keep walks to a minimum. He is much closer to the hot asphalt and his body can heat up quickly. His paws can burn since they are not protected by shoes.

✓ Always provide plenty of shade for an animal staying outside the house. A properly constructed dog house serves best. Bring your dog or cat inside during the heat of the day and let her rest in a cool part of your house. Always provide plenty of cool, clean water for your animal.

✓ Keep a current license and identification tag on your dog or cat.

✓ Avoid walking your dog in areas that you suspect have been sprayed with insecticides or other chemicals, as poisonings increase during the summer when gardens, lawns and trees are sprayed. These chemicals can sicken or kill an animal.

✓ Be alert for coolant leaking from your vehicle. Animals are attracted to the sweet taste of coolant and ingesting just a small amount can cause an animal's death. Consider using animal-friendly products that use propylene glycol rather than those containing ethylene glycol.

✓ A clean coat can help to prevent summer skin problems, so keep your dog or cat well groomed. If he has a heavy coat, shaving your dog's hair to a one-inch length will help prevent overheating. Don't shave a dog's hair down to the skin; this robs him of protection from the sun. A cat should be brushed frequently to keep his coat tangle-free.

✓ Take your pet to the veterinarian for a spring or early summer checkup, including a test for heartworm if your dog isn't on year-round preventative medication. Have the doctor recommend a safe, effective flea and tick control program.

✓ Never tie an animal outside on a correction collar. He can choke to death. If you must tether him, use a buckle collar with identification tags instead. (This applies in any season.)

✓ Never let your animal run loose. This is how an animal can contract a fatal disease, including rabies, or be injured, killed or stolen. Be sure there are no open, unscreened windows or doors through which your animal can fall or jump.

California Tacos & More

Homemade Mexican Food

342-0212

33rd & California Street

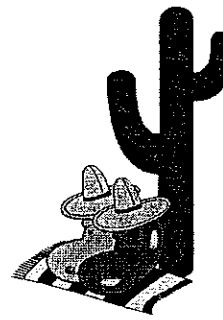
Dine In or Carry Out

Summer Hours

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

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

Sun: Noon - 8 p.m.



California
**Tacos
&
More**

Historically Speaking...J.A.C. Kennedy

continued from page 1

Kennedy was born in Omaha in 1876, the son of Irish descendants. His parents bought land and built a home at 16th and Jackson. He quit school at age 15 to become a messenger boy at the First National Bank, worked by day and attended classes at the Omaha School of Law by night. He graduated from the University of Nebraska School of Law in 1900. He was a lieutenant in the Spanish-American War commanding Company G of the 2nd Nebraska Volunteers at Chickamauga Park, GA. He was elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 1903 and served one term. He was married to Caroline Purvis and they had two children. Mrs. Kennedy died in 1945. Kennedy gave regularly to charities, but insisted that he be given no recognition.

Kennedy played golf, squash, and handball; giving up these activities only when members of his peer group were no longer living. He gave up playing "not because younger men were unpleasant," he said, "but you just naturally find yourself falling back on other things, like reading."

On the occasion of his 90th birthday in 1965 while he was still working regularly in his office, he was asked by a World-Herald reporter what would be his advice to young Americans. He replied, "I'd tell each one that if he wants to get ahead he should outwork the other fellow, and that's not too hard these days." "Sometimes," he admitted, "young Americans are a bit too soft, expect too much."

"I grew up in a frame house with no running water, no sewage system, no artificial light and no central heating," he said. "But I can't remember an unhappy day."

Asked how long he would continue working, he said, "I'll work until they carry me out. I'd be lost doing nothing."

Kennedy continued his rigorous routine until 1971 when he suffered a heart attack. After recuperation he continued as a counsel to his law firm and to the Mutual of Omaha board of directors.

On the day of the 1975 tornado he was sitting in bed reading. As the sirens wailed, his housekeeper came to his room and said, "Mr. Kennedy, I think I should help you to the basement." He smiled and said, "I would find that very inconvenient," and continued reading. Kennedy probably showed no greater alarm in 1935 during the Omaha Street Car Strike when a blast outside his home tore a two foot hole in the sidewalk on the north side and shattered windows in the house next door east.

J. A. C. Kennedy (the initials stand for James Aloysius Charles) died in June of 1975 just five months away from his 100th birthday. The funeral was held at St. Cecilians Cathedral with burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

by Eva Swanson

What's Happening in the Neighborhood ...

Make plans to attend the next general meeting of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, **Thursday, July 10, 7 p.m.**, at **St. Joseph Hospital** in the Glassed-In Dining Room. The focus of this month's meeting will be primarily social - a short business meeting followed by plenty of time to meet and visit with your neighbors. Several valuable door prizes such as gift certificates to area restaurants will be raffled off, but you must be present to win. Hope to see you there!

At last month's GPNA general meeting, the following slate of officers for 1997-1998 was unanimously elected:

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

Congratulations to the newly elected officers, and a great deal of thanks and appreciation goes to the outgoing officers: President **Leo Wilwerding** and Recording Secretary **Barbara Remmen**. You did a fantastic job!

The GPNA was prominently featured in the **Omaha World-Herald's** 20th anniversary of the Neighborhood Notes section of the Metro-Extra. In the article, the fact that the GPNA is one of the few neighborhood groups that has an office was emphasized. Members featured in the accompanying pictures were **Jenny and Chris Foster, Mike Bacome, Jean Peck, Leo Wilwerding, and Shirley Bates**.

Congratulations to GPNA member **Judy Porter** on her June 21st marriage to **Timothy Schroder**. The couple will live in the 34th and Webster St. area.

More Sun Dawg Activities in Gifford Park...



Neighborhood kids take a break in front of the Gifford Park Sun Dawg Shack. Anyone look familiar? Park Supervisors Dan Bagley and Mike Feit, pictured here in the far back, say the best thing about the summer activities is how well the kids get along with each other. They also ask if anyone is interested in helping out to please stop down to the park. Keep up the good work Dan and Mike.



Sharitia Gray and Brandon Moore engage in a friendly game of box hockey. Tiffany Slayden and Jason Novacek await the winner.



Pictured here from left to right are Sharitia Gray, Flor Partida, Brandon Moore, Jason Novacek and Eddie Partida.

Editor's note: If you have something that would be of interest to the people of our neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for our monthly newsletter, Gifford Park's Pride. Deadline for submitting articles and editorials is the third Thursday of each month. Editorials must be approved by the GPNA Executive Board. Articles can be left at the GPNA Office, please include your name and phone number. We will accept articles stored on IBM compatible disks. Contact Sue Wilwerding (342-2795) or Chris Foster (342-6006) for information regarding the newsletter.

NOTICE

Would You Like To Advertise In The Gifford Park Pride?
If So, Call 345-0125

PERSONAL ADS

GPNA members can purchase an ad 3 1/2" wide by 2 1/2" tall in the Gifford Park Pride for the low price of only \$5.00 per month! Place an ad to celebrate holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. or to advertise any personal sales (pets, garage/yard sales, etc.). Deadlines for personal ads are the 15th of the month prior to the desired month of publication. To order an ad or for more information, call 345-0125.



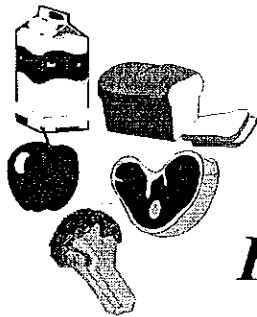
The GPNA gives a big thanks to Loretta Zuck and Phil Franco in the Copy Center at Creighton University. They produce copies of this newsletter each month, and do a great job!



Yates Elementary School Boy Scouts for boys ages 10 & under has planned a summer camping trip July 13-20. For details on joining the Boy Scouts, call 431-9272.

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
Broken or obstructed sidewalk	444-5266	Sidewalk Division
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.
Handicap parking stickers	444-6080	County Clerk
Hedges/tree limbs blocking view of traffic	444-5925	Forestry Division
Holes, debris or litter in the street	444-4919	Street Maintenance
Improperly licensed vehicles	444-5888	Police Department or
.....	444-5555	Mayor's Action Office
Neighborhood Watch Program	444-5772	Police Department
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
TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf)	444-5034	
Trailers/Cars parked on front lawn	444-5350	Permits & Inspections
Youth Intervention Unit (gang hotline)	444-6920	
Zoning enforcement	444-5364	Permits & Inspections



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

Thanks for Joining!

So far through June we have received seventy-seven Gifford Park Neighborhood Association memberships for the 1997/98 year. Below are the names of GPNA members who recently joined. We appreciate your support.

<i>Jack Atkins</i>	<i>Rich Exline</i>	<i>George Jones</i>	<i>Fred Salzinger</i>
<i>Mike Bacome</i>	<i>Bob Ford</i>	<i>Gordon Karre</i>	<i>Clara Schmidt</i>
<i>Mel Beckman</i>	<i>Chris Foster</i>	<i>Diane Kaye</i>	<i>Matthew Shalhoob</i>
<i>Robert Bennett</i>	<i>Jackie Foster</i>	<i>Martha Kelly</i>	<i>Ron Short</i>
<i>Michael Bergman</i>	<i>Jan Franks</i>	<i>Jim Kyler</i>	<i>Eva Swanson</i>
<i>Vernon Bishop</i>	<i>Peter Frerichs</i>	<i>Rich Lewis</i>	<i>Jack Tanner</i>
<i>Brian Brockemeier</i>	<i>F. T. Godinez</i>	<i>Keith Lytle</i>	<i>Gary Toth</i>
<i>Fred Bruce, Sr.</i>	<i>James Gottsch</i>	<i>John Manning</i>	<i>Jerry Tyrell</i>
<i>Elizabeth Burford</i>	<i>Gregg Grossman</i>	<i>Les Margensen</i>	<i>Paul Vescio</i>
<i>John Burr</i>	<i>Rodney Hay</i>	<i>John Matschiner</i>	<i>William Vescio</i>
<i>Linda Chapman</i>	<i>Ed Hendershot</i>	<i>Mary McHale</i>	<i>Richard White</i>
<i>Cecilia Crew</i>	<i>Wayne Hill</i>	<i>Paul Mileris</i>	<i>Jim Wilwerding</i>
<i>Thomas Crowley</i>	<i>James Horton</i>	<i>Mary Moberg</i>	<i>Leo Wilwerding</i>
<i>Jap Danielson</i>	<i>Jim Hughes</i>	<i>Susan Moreau</i>	<i>Michael Wilwerding</i>
<i>Harry Dirgo</i>	<i>Bob Hutton</i>	<i>Ralph Morse</i>	<i>Terry Wilwerding</i>
<i>Billy Dooly</i>	<i>Evelyn Iams</i>	<i>James Nguyen</i>	<i>Ron Yates</i>
<i>Keith Eggerding</i>	<i>Anna Jernigan</i>	<i>Kathleen O'Connor</i>	<i>John Zegar</i>
<i>Robert Eischeid</i>	<i>Ann Johnson</i>	<i>Kirk Peck</i>	

We also thank the following businesses and institutions who have purchased business memberships for 1997/98. Please help support those who help support the GPNA.

<i>J-N-J Grocery</i>	<i>Chuck Kilgore, Attorney</i>	<i>M & M Investments</i>
<i>California Tacos & More</i>	<i>Delta Zeta Sorority (Creighton)</i>	<i>St. Cecilia Elementary School</i>

Yearly GPNA membership dues are only **\$5 for Single, \$8 for Family and \$25 for Business**. Your membership helps support **this newsletter, neighborhood cleanups, youth activities, watch group equipment, tool lending** and many other worthwhile programs. The 1997/98 membership year began June 1 - please send in your membership today!



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 _____

*** For more information call 342-6006

Signature _____ Date _____

Newsletter Distribution

The GPNA wants everyone living in the neighborhood to receive the walk-around edition of the newsletter (1,500 copies). The GPNA could not do this hand delivery without the help of the following dedicated volunteers:

Bob Eischeid	Quynh Nguyen
Kirk Peck	Shirley Bates
Randy Jones	Brian Kokensparger
Mike Wilwerding	Chris Foster
Paul Farrand	Leo Wilwerding
Mike Caban	Bob Hutton
Mike Bacome	Cynde Yates
Jim Tyler	Tom Rose
Norman Remmen	Terry Wilwerding
Jim Wilwerding	Harry Dirgo
John Lynch	Ron Short
Rich Exline	Ron Yates

If you can help deliver newsletters on your block, please call 344-3233.