



Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 1997

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Fall Clean-up Coming Soon

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association's annual Fall Clean-up has been scheduled for **Saturday, October 25, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in Gifford Park. As in the past, the Fall Clean-up is for GPNA members only, or people who donate their time or money to the clean-up. Activities planned include: **neighborhood and park clean-up, dumpsters in Gifford Park, membership and donation drive, recycling, Halloween pumpkins, and a park picnic.** We always need volunteer help with providing pickup trucks for hauling, monitoring/packing dumpsters, and especially picking up your own streets and yards.

PLEASE NOTE: It is very important for you to call the phone numbers listed below **BEFORE** clean-up day if you need a volunteer to pick up trash - we will prioritize hauling based on your call. There will be a \$10 handling charge for appliances that contain refrigerant (freon), and \$1 handling charge for each tire. **Tree brush will NOT be accepted** for the Fall Clean-up...save it for the Spring Clean-up. If you have excessive trash (i.e. several truckloads) we may request a small donation to help defray the cost of dumpster rental. Please call **Terry (342-2795), Leo (345-1433), Chris (342-6006), or Jim (551-1344)** for more information or if you can assist with this year's Fall Clean-up. Let's all pitch in and help make the Gifford Park neighborhood a great (and clean) place to live!

P.S. While you're doing your fall cleaning, don't forget to save your valuable articles for the garage sale scheduled for Spring 1998!

Kids of the Gifford Park Neighborhood:

Have a safe and happy Halloween!

Turn to Page 3 for more information about the PKA Fraternity Haunted House!



Next Meeting

**Thursday, October 2
7:00 P.M.**

**St. Joseph's Hospital
Room 4894**

**PLEASE NOTE:
ROOM CHANGE!**

FREE PARKING

Historically Speaking....

Judge and Mrs. Howard Kennedy

The beautiful white frame house with the colonnaded front entrance at 216 North 32nd Avenue was the home of Judge and Mrs. Howard Kennedy until 1917. Judge Kennedy was the son of Howard Kennedy, Sr. for whom the Howard Kennedy elementary school was named. The senior Kennedy was the first superintendent of Omaha schools. The house was built in the 1890's when the Judge and his wife were first married.

Judge Kennedy was born in 1868 in Nebraska City and died in Omaha in 1939. He graduated from Omaha High School in 1885. After graduation from Williams College he obtained his law degree at Washington University law school in 1891. For many years he was instructor in equity in the Omaha law school. Judge Kennedy was chosen Judge of the Fourth Judicial District in 1904, to fill an unexpired term, and was re-elected in 1907 for another term of four years. He served as a trustee of Bellevue College and was also a trustee of Omaha

continued on page 3

GPNA OFFICERS

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Jim Wilverding 551-1344

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Bacome 344-3233

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Shirley Bates 345-8430

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Jean Peck 344-0722

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Dar Sweazy 345-0125

CLEAN-UP

Chris Foster 342-6006

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Leo Wilverding 345-1433

COURTESY

Candy Bacome 344-3233

GRAFFITI

Maurcen Calabro 345-7238

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

LITTER - BUSINESS DISTRICT

Rich Exline 341-4388

MEMBERSHIP

Chris Foster 342-6006

NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilverding 342-2795

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

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PARK

Mike Bacome 344-3233

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Terry Wilverding 342-2795

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anne & Linda Chapman 348-0464

WATCH GROUP

Ron Yates 558-6027

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilverding 551-1344

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

A Message From The President

I hope everyone enjoyed the last general meeting as much as I did. For those who missed it, we had Officers Paul and Merithew of the Omaha Police Department discussing a number of their recent experiences in dealing with the problems at 33rd and California, the methods and procedures available to police officers in handling specific situations, and limitations on what they can and cannot do in addressing some of the problems. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, the police department has been placing special emphasis on enforcement in and around the 33rd Street business district, and while the problems have not been completely eliminated, they have been greatly reduced.

In connection with those problems, the landlady for 3305-3307 California attended the last executive board meeting. Members of the board had an extended discussion with her about the problems that seemed to originate at that address. She was very cooperative in discussing possible solutions, and she agreed that if the individual living there was unable to control the behavior of visitors, then the person responsible would be evicted. We are all hopeful that either way, we will see a reduction and perhaps elimination of harrassment of people by persons congregating at that address.

Also, the GPNA will begin to follow up on complaints against landlords who are not in compliance with the zoning ordinance for this neighborhood (west of 33rd Street). This ordinance states that there can be no more than three unrelated individuals living in a single family dwelling at one time. If you have any information or questions concerning possible violations of this ordinance, please contact me (551-1344) or Leo (345-1433).

This October promises to be a busy month for us. Our fall cleanup will be held on October 25, and as in the past will be for members only. Of course, since it only costs five dollars to join, it's cheaper to join the group and get rid of some trash than it is to pay someone to haul it to the dump. For that matter, I don't know that it's much cheaper to take it to the dump yourself. If you have neighbors who are not members, especially if they have some junk accumulated, you might do them, the neighborhood, and the association a favor and bring up the idea of joining and participating in the cleanup. As you may recollect, we were fortunate enough to get a grant to cover the cost of the first three dumpsters, so we should have plenty of room for trash. We plan on having pumpkins to give away to neighborhood children at the cleanup, and will have our usual hot-dog cookout in the park on that day as well. If you would like to help out with the cleanup, get in touch with Chris Foster or myself, or just show up the morning of the cleanup. We usually have a fun crowd working as well as dropping off treasures.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

by Jim Wilverding



3rd Annual Haunted House

Where:
PKA House
3100 Chicago St.



When:
Thursday, Oct. 30
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

hosted by:

*Pi Kappa Alpha (PKA) Creighton Fraternity
Gifford Park Neighborhood Association*



All Neighborhood Children
And Parents Are Welcome to
Stop By For Refreshments
And Trick-or-Treats!



Historically Speaking...Judge and Mrs. Howard Kennedy

continued from page 1

University. For many years he was an elder in First Presbyterian Church and held membership in Capitol Lodge, A.F. and A.M. Knights Templars and the Omaha Club.

Mrs. Kennedy was perhaps equally as well known as her husband, mainly for her organizational abilities in musical circles. Mrs. Kennedy helped organize the music conservatory at the old Omaha University in 1913 and was a director for many years. She was the founder of several organizations: the Morning Musicales, the Fortnightly Musical Club, the Friends of Music, the Symphonic Strings, and the Little Symphony. Mrs. Kennedy was instrumental in inviting Richard Duncan to Omaha to become director of the Omaha Symphony, a post he held

continued on page 4

What's Happening in the Neighborhood ...

Plan to attend the next GPNA general meeting on **Thursday, October 2**, at 7:00 p.m. at **St. Joseph Hospital**. **PLEASE NOTE** that the meeting will be held in **ROOM 4894** instead of the dining rooms. Come and find out what's going on in **your neighborhood**. There will be plenty of complimentary refreshments courtesy of St. Joseph Hospital. The GPNA would like to offer its sincere thanks to **Officers Mike Paul and George Merithew** for taking time out of their busy schedules to answer questions concerning police activity in the neighborhood.

St. Cecilia's parish will be holding their annual festival, **Cathedralfest**, on **Sunday, October 5th**, from **noon until 6:00 p.m.** There will be a variety of food, games, booths, raffles - fun for everyone! On the same day, a parade will be held celebrating the 90th anniversary of the laying of the cathedral's cornerstone. It will follow the same route that the original parade traveled in 1907 when the cornerstone was laid. The parade will start at Mutual of Omaha at noon and end at the cathedral located at 40th and Webster.

Congratulations to the **Joslyn Park Neighborhood Association** for all of their hard work in obtaining the lot at 42nd and Dodge for a neighborhood park. **Clarkson Hospital** donated the land to the neighborhood, and the new area will be known as **Clarkson Park**.

Historically Speaking...Judge and Mrs. Howard Kennedy

continued from page 3

from 1940 to 1958. Many performances of these musical organizations took place at the Joslyn Memorial Art Museum which was built on property first owned by the Senior Howard Kennedy and where Howard, Jr. was raised.

Mrs. Kennedy was a musician in her own right. She served as organist in several Omaha churches including the Offutt Air Base Chapel. Mrs. Kennedy died in 1960. The Kennedys had three children.

by Eva Swanson



**A
Neighborhood
Jewel**

*The former home of
Judge and Mrs. Howard
Kennedy as it looks in
1997. The house at 216
North 32nd Avenue was
built in the 1890's.*

Photo by Eva Swanson

Membership Info

We urge you to send in your GPNA membership as soon as possible. The cost is minimal - **\$8 for family; \$5 for an individual and \$25 for a business.** If you participated in the cleanup, you know that the cleanup alone is worth the cost of a membership. Many other programs are also supported by your membership dollars. All the programs are aimed at improving the neighborhood — **our neighborhood.** Please take a moment now to send in your 1997-1998 membership and show your support. Call **342-6006** for more information.



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