



# Gifford Park's Pride

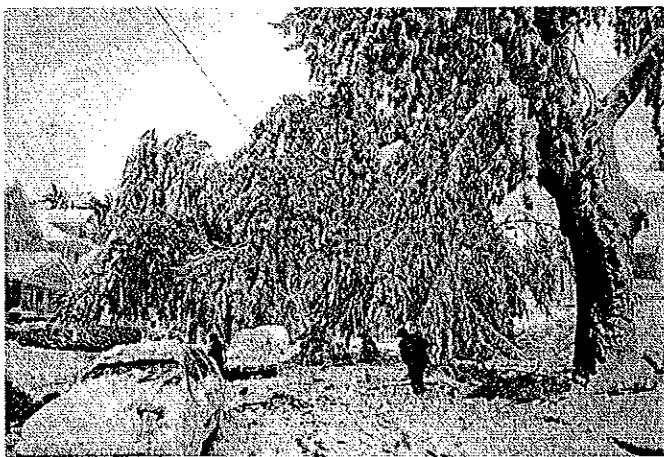
*Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn and Play*

November 1997

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Snowstorm Cripples Neighborhood

When Gifford Park residents woke up and looked out their windows on Sunday morning, Oct. 26th, they may have expected to see the couple of inches of snow that was forecast. What they saw instead was over 12 inches of heavy, wet snow that had bent tree limbs to the ground and snapped others like toothpicks. The massive tree damage caused power outages in virtually every neighborhood in the city. It has been estimated that the record snowstorm damaged at least 75 percent of the city's trees. Gifford Park residents began the slow, tedious task of cleaning up their property, with nearly all experiencing loss of electricity or other services such as phone or cable for varying amounts of time. The neighborhood will recover; however, with the majority of trees suffering some kind of damage, the landscape will look differently for quite some time to come. Who knows - 50 years from now, the GPNA newsletter's *Historically Speaking* article might be entitled "The October Snowstorm of '97"!



*Nearly every street in the Gifford Park neighborhood looked identical to this one. The view is looking west at 34th and Webster.*



*Happy Thanksgiving !*

**from the Gifford Park  
Neighborhood Association**

## Next Meeting

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

**Guest Speaker:**

**Ken Taylor**

**City Planning Department**

**St. Joseph Hospital  
Dining Rooms A, B, and C**

**FREE PARKING**

## *Historically Speaking...* **St. Joseph Hospital**

Saint Joseph Hospital at 30th and California provides rooms for all the monthly meetings of the GPNA as well hosting a Christmas Dinner for GPNA members. The hospital also provides rooms for the Neighborhood Builders, a group, including ours, of neighborhood organizations east of 72nd St.. It provides help for our biannual clean-up days, donating a truck and driver, and gives other help and advice to the GPNA officers on a continuing basis. In 1991 the hospital was the recipient of the first annual GPNA "Neighbor of the Year" award.

Many of us know that St. Joseph's hasn't always been located at 30th and California. Some of us remember California Street as a direct route to downtown, through the Creighton University campus, past St. John's campus church, and on down the hill. The present hospital of one million square feet has only been there since 1977.

Saint Joseph Hospital began operation in 1870 on South 12th street, the first hospital in Omaha. It began as a 28 bed, two-story, frame building under the care of the Sisters of Mercy. The City

*continued on page 4*

**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 &amp; Linda Chapman 348-0464

**WATCH GROUP**

Ron Yates 558-6027

**WEEDS & LITTER**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**From the Desk of the President**

Though Thanksgiving is still a few weeks off, I thought it might be appropriate to publicly acknowledge and thank a number of people who contribute greatly to our success as a neighborhood association. I will admit from the outset that I am still learning about many of the activities of GPNA. If your name is not mentioned, please interpret that omission as a measure of my ignorance, not as a lack of appreciation.

One of the people who doesn't always appear in the headlines, but is involved in almost every aspect of GPNA is **Chris Foster**. In addition to his ongoing involvement with the newsletter, membership recording and recruiting, and supervision and organization of the cleanups, Chris takes on the responsibility for many other ongoing activities, without which the group would surely fail.

**Leo Wilwerding** continues to be very involved with litter and code violations, and works as our representative to the police department and many other city offices. When we have a problem, Leo knows who to call, and is willing to handle the problem until it is resolved. Leo was also the driving force behind the GPNA garage sale last spring, which was very successful both as a fund raising activity for our treasury as well as a neighborhood activity involving many of our members.

**Mike Bacome**, in addition to being vice-president, continues to do an excellent job in organizing and supervising the distribution of the newsletters. As the newsletter is the predominant means of communication to the many non-members in the neighborhood, effective distribution is critical.

**Jean Peck** operates as our treasurer, which is perhaps not a highly visible position, but she handles and records the many payments we receive from memberships, other contributions we may receive, handles disbursements for our expenses, and prepares the monthly financial statement presented at the meeting.

**Sue Wilwerding** has taken increased responsibility for gathering articles and production of the newsletter. As has been said many times in the past, our newsletter is probably one of the best produced by any neighborhood association, and Sue has maintained the high quality and professional appearance. I would also like to thank **Eva Swanson** for her many interesting and informative articles about historical people and places in the Gifford Park area.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the members of the neighborhood watch. In the past year **Rich Exline, Harry Dirgo, Terry and Mike Wilwerding, Chris Foster, Ron Yates, Mike Caban**, and probably some others of whom I am not aware, have spent Friday or Saturday night driving around the neighborhood, keeping an eye on things, and working with the police to resolve problems. **Kirk Peck** has served as dispatcher of the watch. Having spent a few hours on the watch myself, I know that this can be quite boring, as nothing is usually going on. At the same time, there are many people who are out and around at that time of the night who are very aware that we have people watching, which I believe contributes greatly to the fact that nothing is usually going on.

*continued on page 3*

**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**

**From the Desk of the President**

*continued from page 2*

I would also express our gratitude to **St. Joseph Hospital**, which provides us meeting space and goodies for our monthly meetings, and caters our well-attended Christmas party.

Many of our successes come from the activities of city employees, including the police department, code inspectors, and employees of the Parks and Recreation department. Without the cooperation of these employees, our neighborhood would certainly be a less pleasant place to live.

And finally, I would like to thank the many members and non-members in the area who work to maintain their own property, keeping lawns mowed, snow shoveled, houses painted, and litter picked up. The quality of the neighborhood is determined by the actions of the residents. While many of the GPNA committees deal with problems generated by residents who fall short of achieving acceptable levels of performance in the areas of litter, weeds, noise, vehicles, property maintenance, and disturbances, the vast majority of residents keep up their property, limit noise and other disturbances, and in general make the Gifford Park area a pretty nice place to live.

*by Jim Wilwerding*

**Date Set for Annual GPNA Christmas Party**

St. Joseph Hospital has again generously agreed to cater our Christmas party, which will be held on **December 11, 1997, at 7:00PM** in the glassed-in dining room. As usual, the party will take the place of our general meeting for December, so there will be no meeting the first Thursday of December. If you would like to attend, please call **Jim or Kathleen Wilwerding at 551-1344** to make a reservation. As in the past, the party is free to members, and has always been our most well-attended meeting. Plan on being there, and taking the opportunity to talk to many of the members that we don't often see at our general meetings.



**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



**Snow Shoveling Service**

**Call Rich:**

**Phone: 341-4388**

**Pager: 579-3551**



**8 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

## Historically Speaking...St. Joseph Hospital

*continued from page 1*

of Omaha was only 14 years old. The first patient was a 23 year old laborer. The Sisters of Saint Francis purchased the hospital ten years later and built a new facility in 1892 at 10th and Castelar. It was called Creighton Memorial Saint Joseph Hospital to honor it's primary benefactors, John A. and Sarah Emily Creighton who contributed \$150,000 toward the building. In a few years the hospital began a relationship with the newly established John A. Creighton Medical College housed in the original hospital structure. The College moved to a more modern building in 1897 and in 1899 the vacant original building burned to the ground.

Creighton University and St. Joseph's Hospital continue to work together for the finest in medical care and training. A School of Nursing was established in 1897. The hospital established a 17-bed Union Pacific ward in 1870 to care for employees of the railroad. In about 1944 the hospital established a Maternity Division and in 1943 established a Blood Bank. The Kenny Treatment Center opened in 1943 to meet the specialized needs of patients with poliomyelitis. Today the hospital is nationally known for its Cardiology, Cancer and Osteoporosis research, Trauma Care and Primary Care.

In 1971 community leaders in Omaha formed the Creighton-Omaha Regional Health Care Corporation to assume responsibility for the hospital. The new corporation's first major task was the construction of the new hospital and health professions center. The hospital as we know it today is the largest construction project in Nebraska financed by private funds. The cost was \$75 million. Boys Town Institute for Communication Disorders in Children also opened in 1977 and is located adjacent to Saint Joseph Hospital.

Although patient care is the primary function of Saint Joseph Hospital, it is also the primary teaching hospital for Creighton University Medical School and Schools of Health Sciences. It also assists in training students from a variety of medical schools and training programs throughout the area.

In 1984 the 400 bed hospital was sold to American Medical International who in turn sold it to National Medical Enterprises. The new company was named TENET. About three years ago Creighton University purchased back 26 percent. Driving down the Interstate you see the neon sign 19 feet tall and 63 feet long proclaiming the name: Saint Joseph Hospital.

According to a 1996 study, the medical center supports nearly 14,000 jobs in the community and contributes more than \$250 million each year in salaries and wages to the region's economy. The study also notes that many of the health care professionals in the Omaha area graduated from Creighton: nearly 30 percent of physicians, 70 percent of dentists and about 60 percent of pharmacists.

GPNA can be proud of its neighbor to the east.

*by Eva Swanson*

## California Tacos & More

*Homemade Mexican Food*

342-0212

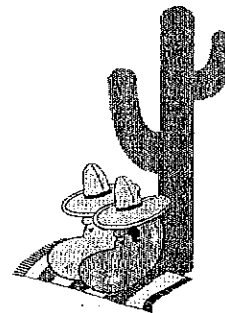
33rd & California Street  
Dine In or Carry Out

### Summer Hours

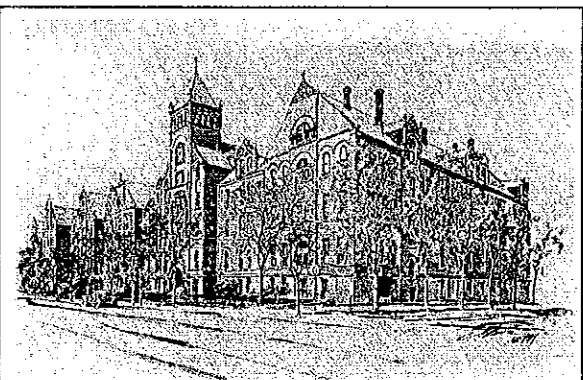
Mon - Thur: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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

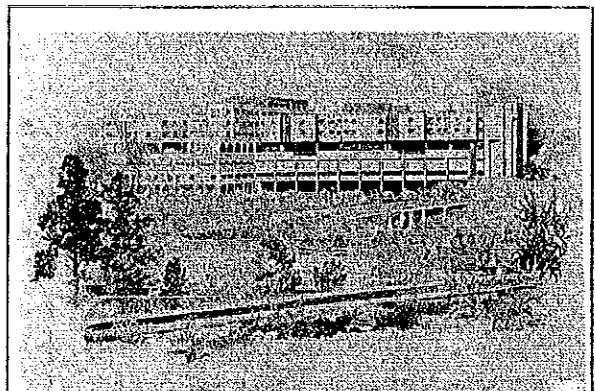
Sun: Noon - 8 p.m.



*California*  
Tacos  
&  
More



*St. Joseph Hospital then (1892-1977)...*

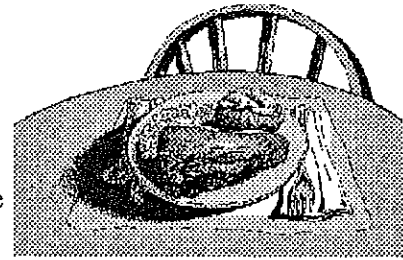


*... and St. Joseph Hospital now*

For Our Senior Neighbors....

## Eating Alone Can Be An Adventure in Good Nutrition

Mealtimes are more than a time to eat. Food and meals are ways you share time and ideas with others. At some time in our lives, many of us are faced with the prospect of cooking for ourselves alone. Whatever the reasons for preparing solo meals, here's the reality: Nothing tastes as good as food you've thought about and taken time to prepare. Also, YOU are the most important ingredient at any meal! You definitely are worth the pleasure of your company. Make sure you eat regularly. Here are some ideas that may help cooking for one to be more enjoyable:



**Combine mealtime with a pleasurable activity.** An 82-year old widow found this solution: "Breakfast wasn't too difficult. I worked the crossword puzzle in the morning paper to keep my mind sharp! Dinner was hard, but I made myself eat. Then I realized how much I enjoyed taking a tray into another room to watch the evening game shows. Now dinner time for me is show time."

**Invite someone to shop with you.** Make it an outing. Trade coupons. Take advantage of "buy one, get one free" offers. Share larger packages with friends and family. You'll get to try new foods and increase the variety of what you eat. Before you leave for the grocery store, take a few minutes to write down some nutritious foods that you enjoy eating, think up a few menus that sound good, and go from there.

**Create a pleasant place to eat.** Set a table with flowers, a placemat or tablecloth, and napkin. Once in a while, use your nice dishes. Listen to music. Eat outdoors or near a window whenever you can.

**Join social or church activities.** You might find others to join you for a meal now and then. You might also find someone who enjoys leisure activities that keep you active and help give you a healthy appetite.

**Consider mini-meals.** Meals don't have to be a major undertaking. Mini-meals and snacks from the five food groups (grain/cereals; fruits; vegetables; milk/cheese/yogurt; and meat/fish/poultry groups) can add up to meet your nutrient needs. Also, mini-meals may be easier for your system to handle than three regular ones. Try eating five or six smaller meals throughout the day.

**Create meals with leftovers.** Cook less frequently, but plan to have leftovers for times when you do not feel like cooking. If you prepare one or two main-course recipes that create leftovers, you can include them in other meals. This way you avoid the boredom of eating the same thing for several days. If you are chopping vegetables, chop twice as much as you need so you have vegetables ready for another meal, soup, salad, or stew.

**Keep convenience in mind.** Look for single-serving packages of juice, soup, cereal, or other products. You might pay a little more but you will enjoy more variety with less waste. Keep frozen entrees on hand - many new products are low in fat and sodium. Check the Nutrition Facts panel and compare. Add fresh fruit, a whole-grain roll, and a glass of low-fat milk for a quick meal with little waste and clean-up. Buy takeout foods such as ready-to-eat fruit and salad greens from the fresh produce section or salad bar of the supermarket.

Adequate nutrition is really important in keeping your health and strength. Don't let the "bother" of cooking for one start you down the path of not eating well.

Information obtained from the pamphlets *Cooking for One and Enjoying It* Tip Sheet and *To Your Health*, courtesy of The Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services

## Fall Cleanup Fills Three Dumpsters Despite Storm

Rainy, windy and cold weather conditions couldn't stop the Gifford Park cleanup crew from filling three dumpsters during our annual fall neighborhood cleanup. The cleanup was held in Gifford Park Saturday, October 25. As bad as the weather was Saturday, no one could have imagined what was to come Saturday night and Sunday as the rain changed to the heavy, wet snow. Many of you may recall the snowstorm that occurred just before last year's spring cleanup. We have a way of picking out unusual weather days for these cleanups.

Despite the weather we gave away about 100 pumpkins to neighborhood children. The conditions however did force us to cancel the outdoor picnic - we wish to thank California Tacos for cooking the hot dogs donated by J'N'J Grocery and providing a warm place to eat. We also appreciate the efforts of Ken Labs Trash for providing excellent service and a great price on the dumpsters. Baker Rents again gave us a canopy to set up, but the weather stopped this also. St. Joseph Hospital again provided a truck and driver to help greatly with our hauling effort. Tires and scrap metal were recycled. The GPNA collected \$240 in



*Volunteers on cleanup day. Standing in back left to right: Kirk Peck, Dan Betten, Mike Wilwerding, Lloyd Canfield, Damon Runyon. Kneeling in front left to right: Mike Bacome, Rich Exline, Chris Foster. These guys must be smiling because they salvaged this beer keg from the dumpster!*



*Despite the poor weather conditions, these neighborhood kids picked out their favorite halloween pumpkin, one of about 100 pumpkins given away at the cleanup. Pictured from left to right: Ain Shahdan, Nuruliyana and Carmen Lugo.*

memberships and donations - we thank those who contributed. A special note about this year's cleanup - because of Jim Wilwerding's efforts last spring, the GPNA received a \$500 grant to pay for the three dumpsters - thanks Jim!

The following volunteers turned in a another great effort under miserable conditions:

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Mike Bacome    | Kirk Peck           |
| Candy Bacome   | Tom Rose            |
| Dan Betten     | Jim Wilwerding      |
| Lloyd Canfield | Kathleen Wilwerding |
| Linda Chapman  | Leo Wilwerding      |
| Billy Dooly    | Mike Wilwerding     |
| Rich Exline    | Terry Wilwerding    |
| Chris Foster   | Ron Yates           |
| Roger Freeman  |                     |

The following businesses contributed to this year's cleanup effort:

- Baker Rents - Pat Glass, Chris Glass
- California Bar - Wayne & Peg Hill
- California Tacos - Brad Bogard
- Ken Labs Trash - Marcia Labs, Jaime Johnson, Damon Runyon
- J'N'J Grocery - Loren Johnson
- St. Joseph Hospital - Gary Honts, Bob Pavelka
- City of Omaha - Jerry Flood, Ed Aldmeyer

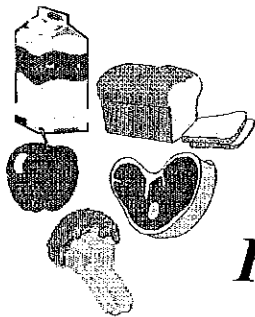
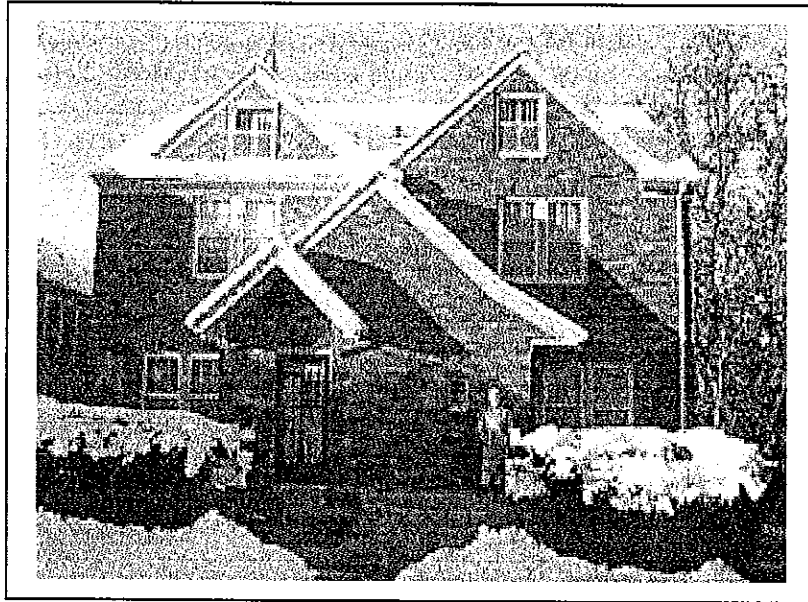
A final observation. This year's fall cleanup showed again why this neighborhood is a great place to live - it's the people. Our volunteers showed courage during weather conditions that might have stopped others. Our spirit of teamwork made this a great day for all those who participated. Thank You. (P.S. I think we're ready for a warm, sunny day for the next cleanup!)



*A soggy Chris Foster packs one of three dumpsters filled by volunteers in Gifford Park.*

## Landlord of The Month: JoAnn Askevics

The landlord for this month is **JoAnn Askevics**, who owns the duplex at 3306 Cass Street. This property is always very neat looking, with a nice lawn and well trimmed hedges. JoAnn says the property was newly painted, and the flowers were very beautiful until our recent unseasonal snowstorm. She has owned this property for 22 years. Besides having a this outstanding property, JoAnn usually dresses up as the Easter Bunny for our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the park. The GPNA congratulates JoAnn Askevics, November Landlord of the Month.



## 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**

## GPNA Membership - Everyone is Welcomed!

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association actively seeks to include everyone in our community, and we consider that our strength lies in the diversity of our membership. We recognize that all who live here, whether for twenty years or one, deserve to live in a safe, clean, and friendly environment. We know that every parent wants a safe park for their children to play in, and we strongly believe that youngsters deserve a chance to enjoy their youth. College students, the elderly, families with or without children, home owners, renters, small business people, blue collar workers, professionals, artists, everyone in our neighborhood is invited to participate in our efforts to continually improve our neighborhood - not for the few, but for everyone.

Your voice is important, and the members of GPNA welcome your participation, your concerns, and any ideas you may have that will benefit our community. Come to one of our monthly meetings and see what we're all about. Read our newsletter. Join in on our semi-annual neighborhood clean-up campaigns. Talk with some of our members and you will see that we have a lot to offer, and that we welcome your contributions whether they be large or small.

In the GPNA, everyone counts. Join us! Become a member of the most active, diverse, and successful neighborhood associations in Omaha!

*Everyone is welcomed!...y Sí, Se habla Español tambien. Bienvenidos a todos!*

La asociación de Vecinos en Gifford Park los invita a todos que participen en nuestras actividades y se hagan miembros de la asociación. Esta es una buena oportunidad para ser parte de un esfuerzo comunal. Nosotros creemos que todos en la comunidad tienen valor, y que cada uno puede ayundar hacer este vecindario un placer para vivir, trabajar, aprender, y jugar.

Pare saber mas, visite una de las juntas de la asociación el primer Jueves de cada mes en el primer piso del Hospital San Jose. Hable con unos de los miembros. Unidos todo es posible.

## What's Happening in the Neighborhood ...

Plan on attending the next general meeting of the GPNA on **Thursday, November 6, 7:00 p.m.** at **St. Joseph Hospital**. The guest speaker will be **Ken Taylor**, from the city planning department, who will address city code enforcement concerns. See you there!

At the 74th annual convention of the Nebraska Congress of Parents and Teachers, held in Lincoln this past September, a GPNA member was elected president of the 16,000-member Nebraska PTA. **Judi Caban** will lead the PTA for the next two years and chose "Building on the Good Life" as the theme of her administration. As many of you know, Judi was one of the founders of the GPNA. She served on the Board of Directors, and has contributed many hours to the success of our organization. Twenty years of child advocacy and PTA leadership at Yates School, along with her experience in the Omaha Council PTA/PTSA, plus her years as a State PTA Executive Board member have prepared her well for this challenging position. We congratulate Judi and wish her and the PTA much success.

The GPNA sends its congratulations and best wishes to members **Tom Rose** and **Shelly DeBoer** on their recent marriage.

The **Circle Theater** is no more. Demolition work has been completed on the building. Also completed recently was the summer-long street resurfacing project. The smooth ride down our neighborhood streets was worth the wait!



### 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 (\$6) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_