



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

January 1998

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## GPNA Members Enjoy Holiday Banquet

*Officer Mike Paul Chosen As Neighbor of the Year*

Despite a lower than expected turnout, this year's **Holiday Banquet** was a big hit with those in attendance. In addition to the excellent meal provided by **St. Joseph Hospital**, we had a large number of door prizes donated by City Councilman **Subby Anzaldo** and **Loren Johnson** of J'N'J Grocery. Most of the beautiful table centerpieces, constructed by **Marlene Wilwerding**, were also awarded by drawing.

Officer **Mike Paul** received the **Neighbor of the Year** award for his work in improving the level of crime prevention in the neighborhood and for his efforts in reducing the junk vehicle population in the area. **Outstanding Neighbor** awards this year went to **Jean Peck** for her work as treasurer and for her assistance in organizing activities, **Mike Bacome** for his work in distributing the newsletters, and **Sue Wilwerding** for her work as newsletter editor. **Rich Exline** was awarded the **President's Award** for his many hours spent in working on the neighborhood watch as well as his unflinching dedication to many of our other projects and activities.

Thanks go out to **Jean Peck**, **Kathleen Wilwerding**, **Jackie Foster**, and **Leo Wilwerding** for their work in contacting members to make reservations. Many thanks to **Chris Foster** for his design work on the program. **St. Joseph Hospital** deserves our gratitude for their generous donation of the meeting space and the meal. And thanks to **Justin Peck**, who was our drawing official for the evening.

To those of you who were at the banquet, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did, and thank you for coming. To those unable to attend, we missed you and hope you will plan on attending next year's party.

*by Jim Wilwerding*

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

### Next Meeting

Thursday, January 8  
7:00 P.M.

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

**FREE PARKING**

### Historically Speaking...

#### Howard M. Lundgren

Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society and WOW are familiar names to Omahans. One of the men responsible for the growth and success of Woodmen of the World, **Howard Lundgren**, lived with his parents at 3214 Cass. He attended **Yates Elementary School** and **Central High**. His parents, **Oscar** and **Hannah Lundgren**, were immigrants from Sweden. **Oscar** was a patternmaker for **Paxton Vierling Iron Works**. He later took up the carpenter trade, built a house at 3561 Cass St., and moved there with his family.

**Howard Lundgren** was president of **Woodmen of the World** from 1955 to 1960. **Woodmen** was founded in 1890 as "an outgrowth of the desire for peace and brotherhood after the Civil War." It was one of many "fraternals" popping up to provide fellowship and security. At one time it was an important social program and had its own "cradle to grave" agenda of helping members in sickness and death. A tree stump and ax was the symbol of the association. Headquarters for the organization was in Omaha and remains here due in part to the influence of **Lundgren**.

*continued on page 4*

**Happy  
New Year!**



**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**

We are just starting the new year, so I thought it would be a good idea to make a few resolutions concerning where I think the association should be going.

I resolve to get more members involved. It seems like we see the same faces at our meetings, and all of the ideas, problems, solutions, and work come from these same people. I would like to think that the silent majority of members think we are doing an excellent job, and have no complaints, but I sincerely doubt that this is the case. I have tried at our monthly meetings to give members the opportunity to bring up problems, and discuss possible solutions, but have been a little disappointed in the response. In those few cases where someone brings up a new issue, they often decline to take part in working toward a solution, apparently thinking instead that it is the responsibility of the executive board to handle the problems. I hear second or third hand grumblings that certain members have "taken over" the association, and perhaps this perception has some truth to it, but only by default. When something needs to be done, the same people volunteer to step up and do the work. Many of the committees on the executive board are one person. Our neighborhood watch group has one crew for Friday night and one crew for Saturday night, with no organized substitutes. Despite repeated requests for newsletter articles, the same people come up with items each month. I hereby invite all of our members to consider what they think needs to be done to improve the association, or to redirect our efforts, and to bring these ideas to the meetings, and to volunteer to help with these proposed improvements or changes. If you willing to get more involved, please rest assured that you will be most welcome.

I resolve to expand our membership. Only a small proportion of residents in the neighborhood are members. Many past members have failed to renew memberships. While additional income from dues would probably barely cover the cost of mailing additional newsletters, we need to get more people involved in our activities if we are to assure the continued well-being of the association. Toward that end we will be organizing a group to actively contact residents and past members to increase memberships for the new enrollment period beginning June 1. If you are not a member, please seriously consider joining, as dues are only five dollars per year for single membership, eight dollars per year for family memberships. If you are a member, please plan on renewing, and consider volunteering to help with the recruiting effort.

I resolve to continue to work to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood, and to work to overcome problems that impede improvement. If my first two resolutions work out, I think I'll have plenty of ideas as to how this can be done, and plenty of help to undertake additional projects. By the way, while on this topic, many of you may remember some of the noisy evenings last spring and fall when the Bluejay Bar had outdoor concerts. At the Holiday Banquet, I was advised by Subby Anzaldo that the bar has changed hands, and the new owner has agreed to limit outdoor events and sound levels so as to minimize disturbance to our area.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are trying to organize a calling committee to help in contacting members for our organized events. We are also trying to form a committee to arrange for speakers or other activities at our meetings. No one has come forward to date. Interested members can contact any of the officers listed to volunteer for either of these committees, or if they wish to get involved in other activities of the group.

by Jim Wilwerding

**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**

### Elections Are Just Around The Corner

Actually, that is an exaggeration. We normally have nominations at the May meeting, and elections at the June meeting. Persons wishing to be considered for office must be members in good standing and have attended at least 4 meetings in the previous year. I am bringing this up now to advise anyone interested in running for office that you still have time to make the four-meeting minimum. I am also looking for people to serve on the nominating committee this year, which is charged with identifying nominees for the elected offices. You may think it is a little early to be thinking about this, but I want to give everyone the opportunity to get involved. If you would be willing to serve on the nominating committee, or if you would like to run for office, please make your wishes known to myself or one of the other officers.

*by Jim Wilwerding*

### Christmas Tree Recycling

For many years the City of Omaha has operated Christmas tree collection sites where natural Christmas trees have been collected and later chipped. Because of the October storm, the normal sites will **not** be opened this year. Instead the City will use the sites established for storm clean-up. The city will **not** be collecting Christmas trees at the curb. As usual, you must remove **all** decorations, plastic bag and the stand from the tree before leaving it at the site. Flocked trees **will** be accepted. If you don't want to take your tree to one of the collection sites, you may keep it in your backyard until yardwaste collection resumes on March 29, 1998. The City of Omaha will accept trees and storm refuse **through** at least **January 15th** at the following drop-off sites:

- 11th and Locust Streets**
- Benson Park (69th Street and Ames Avenue)**
- 60th and Harrison Streets**
- 124th and Fort Streets**
- 126th and Harrison Streets**



## 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...Howard M. Lundgren

*continued from page 1*

First offices for the Society were in the Sheely building. Then the organization built the 18-story WOW Building at 13th and Farnam, the tallest skyscraper between Chicago and the West Coast at that time. That building was sold (it was demolished with explosives in 1977 as part of a downtown renovation project) and the association moved to the Insurance Building. We now know the 30-story structure at 19th and Farnam as the Woodmen Tower. A sideline of the society was radio station WOW, which was purchased in 1920 and later sold to the Meredith Broadcasting Company.

The Lundgren family were members of the First Covenant Church at 309 North 23rd, now located at 90th and Dodge. The church played an important role in their lives. Oscar and Hannah met there; Howard met his wife, Arline, at the church; and Howard's sister, Dorothy, met her husband, Ed Carlson, there. Family entertainment in the early years was a street car ride to Mandan Park for picnics, or to Cut-off Lake for a boat ride, or, closer to home, ice skating in Gifford Park. Howard was interested in music. He took violin lessons and played in the Central High Orchestra, later performing with a combo and with the University of Nebraska Extension Orchestra. He caddied at the Field Club, sold papers, delivered ice, jerked sodas, and ran an A & W Root Beer stand one summer. His main interest, however, was mathematics and accounting.

In 1927, just out of high school, Lundgren got a job with Woodmen in the accounting department and went to night school at the Omaha Law College. Soon he became an investment analyst, and later, in 1951, vice president in charge of investments. He was elected President of Woodmen of the World in 1955. For 68 years of its existence WOW did not admit females, but the Lundgren administration recommended that women be admitted. After much debate the resolution was adopted and WOW became the "family fraternity." In 1900 assets of the Society were \$563,247. By 1960 its assets had reached \$228,587,299.

In addition to his many Woodmen activities, Lundgren was a member of many boards and organizations. He was past president of the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo's Zoological Society, the Omaha YMCA, and Omaha Children's Memorial Hospital Board. He died at age 70 in April of 1990. He and his wife had two sons, Kenneth and Dennis, both of whom reside in Omaha.

*by Eva Swanson*

## California Tacos & More

*Homemade Mexican Food*  
342-0212

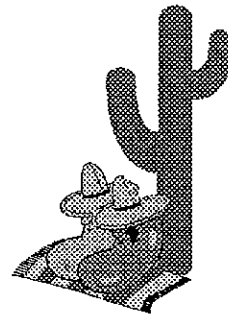
33rd & California Street  
Dine In or Carry Out

*Open Every Day*

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

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

Sun: Noon - 8 p.m.



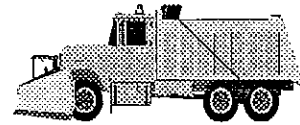
*California*  
Tacos  
&  
More

## Thanks, Marlene!



*Once again, Marlene Wilwerding outdid herself in creating the beautiful table decorations for this year's holiday banquet. Marlene crocheted over 25 angels for the lovely centerpieces.*

## Questions and Answers About Snow Removal



### *What is meant by a Snow Emergency?*

It simply means no vehicles may be parked on the streets where you see an Emergency Snow Route sign. Crews will plow these streets and the Mayor will announce when the snow emergency is over.

### *Should we move our parked cars from the street in residential areas?*

During residential plowing, the Mayor may declare a parking ban on either named or numbered streets that have not yet been plowed. When named streets have been cleared, the ban will be switched to the numbered streets. The City may move improperly parked vehicles to prevent damage to the vehicle and permit the plows to pass.

### *What happens if I leave my car parked on the street during a residential parking ban?*

The cars will be subject to a fine and may be towed at the owner's expense. Radio and TV stations will broadcast all necessary information.

### *When will my street be plowed?*

Depending on the severity of the snowstorm, residential streets are usually plowed within 24 hours after the storm ends.

### *What about my alley?*

The Public Works Department's top priority is to remove snow from major and residential streets to allow traffic flow in case of an emergency. Although alleys are not part of the City's snow removal plan, crews will try to clean alleys on a complaint basis. However, this is not always possible because some alleys are too narrow for snowplows. The residents adjacent to the alley are encouraged to clear the snow from alleys immediately following the storm for best results.

Omaha's Municipal Code requires **all sidewalks to be shoveled within 24 hours** after a snowstorm. Walks left unshoveled may be cleared by City crews at the expense of the property owner. **We need your cooperation to keep your sidewalks passable for children and others.** It's also against the City law to shovel snow off private property into an alley or street.

For more information or if you have a comment or complaint, please call the **Street Maintenance Office at 444-4919** (24 hour line).

My Neighbors asked if I would help with the neighborhood cleanup,  
But I keep my place clean and everyone else should do the same.

My Neighbors asked if I would help with the summer youth program,  
But the parents of the neighborhood kids should run these programs.

My Neighbors asked if I would help with the Neighborhood Association,  
But those sort of people are just nosy do-gooders.

My Neighbors asked if I would help with Neighborhood Watch,  
But the police should be watching the neighborhood, not me.

But just lately, things have been getting pretty bad in the neighborhood.  
I thought I would call up my neighbors to see what we could do,  
But My Neighbors have all moved away.

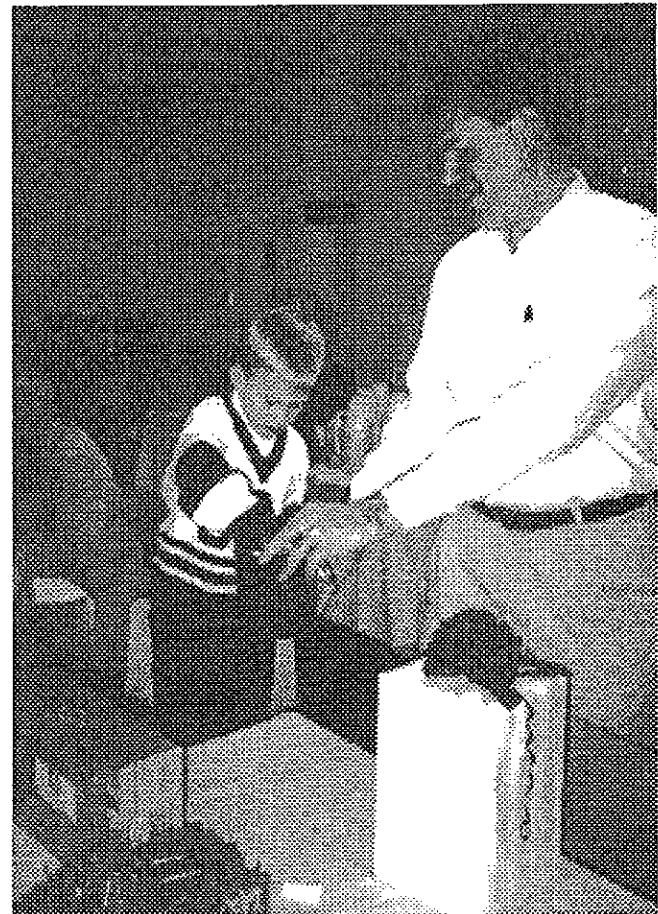
## Scenes from the Ninth Annual GPNA Holiday Banquet



*GPNA members line up for the buffet provided by St. Joseph Hospital. The meal consisted of a lettuce salad, turkey, gravy, au gratin potatoes, green beans, rolls, cherry cheesecake, and a beverage. St. Joseph's Hospitality Services staff provided excellent service throughout the evening. Fr. John Scott, S.J., from Creighton University, delivered the invocation just prior to the start of the buffet.*



*Longtime GPNA member Harry Dirgo is ready to enjoy his holiday banquet meal. Approximately 70 people attended this year's banquet, which was held on Thursday, December 11.*



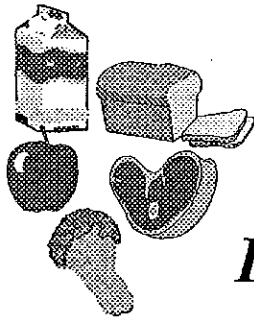
*Young GPNA member Justin Peck assists president Jim Wilwerding in picking the winning names for the many lovely door prizes that had been donated for the drawing.*



*GPNA president Jim Wilwerding congratulates Officer Mike Paul after he received the "Neighbor of The Year" award for 1997.*



*City Councilman Subby Anzaldo and his wife were present to join with other GPNA members in ushering in the Holiday Season.*

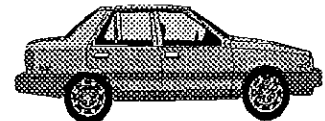


# J'N'J GROCERY STORE

*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**

## Free Tax Help Is Here Again For The Fourth Year in a Row!

Mark your calendars for **FREE** tax help at the **GPNA Office** located next to **J'N'J Grocery**, 33rd & California Street. **Everyone is welcome!** Again this year **I.R.S.** representatives will provide free tax help for our neighborhood. Processing of basic tax returns will be available. Electronic filing will not be available this year. Walk-in appointments are welcome, but priority will be given to those who call to schedule an appointment. Free tax help will be available on the following Saturday dates:

- January 31 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- February 7, 14, 21, and 28 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- April 4 and 11 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



For more information or to schedule an appointment call 551-3629.

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

Everyone is encouraged to attend the next general GPNA meeting **Thursday, January 8, at 7 p.m.** at **St. Joseph Hospital**. Among topics on the agenda will be the formation of a nominating committee for the election of officers held in the spring (see Page 3). Bring your ideas on this topic or any other matter that is pertinent to the neighborhood. As always, there will be plenty of refreshments. See you there!

The GPNA would like to thank the many **Gifford Park neighbors** who decorated their homes and businesses for the holidays. The area looked very festive and was no doubt enjoyed by those who live around here as well as others driving through the neighborhood. The front window of the **J'N'J Grocery** was particularly noteworthy - the winter scene was very colorful and artistically well-done. What a great way to celebrate the holiday season!

The GPNA would also like to thank **OPPD, the City of Omaha, D and J Enterprises, US West, and Cox Communications** for their efforts in restoring their services to the neighborhood under very difficult circumstances after the October snowstorm.

## GPNA Needs YOU!

Anyone wishing to participate in the GPNA in any way can call any of the numbers listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Whether you are a student, 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!

## NOTICE

WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
ADVERTISE  
IN THE GIFFORD PARK  
PRIDE?

*If so, Call 345-0125*

### 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**