



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

February 1998

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## *Historically Speaking...*

### **The Pi Kappa Alpha House**

The newspaper headline said, "Chicago Street Gets a Greek Landmark." Search, if you like, on Chicago Street, but you won't find any Greek architecture. What you will find on the corner of 31st and Chicago, is a stately house of rose stucco in the Romanesque Revival style. The Greek connection is the sign out front designating the home as the Pi Kappa Alpha house. It took five years of planning, frustration and hard work to restore the home to something of its former grandeur to comply with the city landmarks designation. Work was completed in 1982 and the house has been designated a state landmark as well, and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The house is known historically as the Garneau-Kilpatrick house. It was built in 1890 by Joseph Garneau, Jr, a cracker manufacturer who later moved to Chicago.

*continued on page 3*



*In recent years, the Garneau-Kilpatrick house at 31st and Chicago has been home to the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. The house, following five years of restoration, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

## **Next Meeting**

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

**Mr. Mike DeSelm  
City of Omaha  
Street Maintenance Engineer**

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

**FREE PARKING**

## **Seasonal Safety Tips**

Frostbite results when exposure to cold causes crystals to form on areas such as the nose, cheeks, ears, fingers and toes. It can occur either superficially or deeply, in the fluids and underlying soft tissue of affected area. Like burns, frostbite can be mild, moderate or severe. However, victims may not be aware of the extent of injury. **Be aware of the following signs:**

- White to grayish yellow discoloration
- Pain early in the injury, but later numbness if severe
- Blisters may appear later
- Area feels cold and may be rigid and insensitive
- With rewarming of area there may be extreme pain and burning

### **First aid treatment:**

- Get to a warm environment
- Prevent further heat loss

*continued on page 3*

**GPNA OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Mike Bacome 344-3233

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Shirley Bates 345-8430

**TREASURER**

Jean Peck 344-8722

**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 348-0164

**WATCH GROUP**

Rich Exline 341-4388

**WEEDS & LITTER**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**From the Desk of the President**

Well, here we are in February. I imagine most of you are looking forward to spring, as I am. It is beginning to look like we will have many things happening this spring, so February may go fairly rapidly.

I will be attending the Neighborhood Builders seminar at St. Joseph Hospital each Saturday morning in February, which will hopefully provide some additional tools to use to improve association activities. I have a grant application to fill out which, if successful, will provide money to pay for the fall cleanup and a printer for the people who prepare the newsletter, so they can more effectively preview the pages and pictures.

We were fortunate that a number of members volunteered for the Calling Committee at the January meeting. I would like to thank **Jean Kittell, Clara Schmidt, Martha Kelly, Kathleen Wilwerding, Jean Peck, and Candy Bacome** for volunteering for this committee, and trust you will be courteous and cooperative when they call you to participate in neighborhood association activities. The Anniversary Committee will be working on various plans to celebrate the tenth year of the neighborhood association. This topic will be discussed at the February meeting, so I hope you will help out with a few ideas. I would like to thank **Eva Swanson, Nadja Wilwerding, and Sue Wilwerding** for volunteering for this committee, and invite anyone else interested to come forward.

Arrangements are being made to have the meeting minutes published in the newsletter, so those unable to attend will be informed as to the business being transacted.

No one has yet come forward to work on the Nominating Committee. **Mike Bacome**, our vice-president, has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee, as his term will be expiring this year. I am sure he would welcome any assistance and suggestions for nominations. At this time we have a candidate for secretary as **Jean Peck** has agreed to perform that office at the expiration of her term as treasurer. I will again be a candidate for president, although I would gladly relinquish the position if someone feels strongly about serving in this capacity. We still need at least a treasurer candidate and a vice-president candidate. Not to scare anyone off, but I would appreciate it if the candidate for vice-president would agree to serve as president at the expiration of my term in June 1999 (assuming I am re-elected). When I agreed to be president, I had no idea what I didn't know about serving as president. After serving in that office for some months, I now have a fairly good idea of what I don't know. For the continued effective operation of the association, I think the office of president is best served by a person who has spent some time becoming familiar with the various activities and organizations of the association.

Nor has anyone come forward to serve on the Meeting Committee. In the past, the president has generally scheduled the activities and speakers for the meetings. I think the membership is best served if a number of members have input into the programs, so I again invite anyone interested in helping plan the meetings to volunteer.

*continued on page 3*

**Omaha's  
Municipal Code  
requires all  
sidewalks to be  
shoveled within 24  
hours after a  
snowstorm.**



### From the Desk of the President

*continued from page 2*

Events this spring will include the Easter Egg Hunt in the park and the spring cleanup. The executive board will be discussing various ideas to boost our membership. We are also planning to hold our second annual garage sale in the spring, so please be thinking about something you can donate to the association to be sold at the garage sale. All proceeds will go to the association treasury.

I will close by suggesting that each of our members needs to be thinking about how the association can better serve the neighborhood, and how each member can best participate in association activities. I hope we will have some good discussions at the upcoming meetings.

*by Jim Wihwerding*

### Seasonal Safety Tips

*continued from page 1*

- If possible add heat carefully
- Remove constricting clothing
- Gently but rapidly rewarm area with air or warm water
- Keep limb warm and elevated
- Seek professional medical help to assess status

#### Things not to do:

**Do not** start rewarming affected area if unable to complete the rewarming

**Do not** rub, apply ice, or heat to affected part

**Do not** apply ointments or creams

Seek professional medical help to accurately assess damage.

**Note:** Hypothermia often occurs with frostbite. Watch for helpful tips regarding hypothermia in the next newsletter.

**Source:** American Red Cross/Heartland Chapter

*by Kathleen Wihwerding*

### Historically Speaking... Pi Kappa Alpha House

*continued from page 1*

In 1903 the mansion was sold to Thomas Kilpatrick, founder of the Omaha clothing company that carried his name. Kilpatrick lived in the Chicago Street house until his death in 1916.

The house, built of brick and sandstone is textured with rose stucco, the roof is gray slate with ridges covered with crown tile. Much of the original interior was restored. This included woodwork and fireplaces, the grand staircase and the windows. Light fixtures, ceiling, trim and wainscot were also repaired. To conform with city building codes some basement level windows were added and a second outside staircase had to be constructed. There are private bathrooms for each residential room. The rooms house anywhere from three to five students each, and no two rooms are alike. Some rooms have five or six sides, some have bay windows and some a fireplace, although these are not used out of concern for safety.

Pi Kappa Alpha Alumni formed a housing corporation to buy the house and its carriage house. The corporation raised part through private investors; Creighton University made two loans; and the national fraternity added the rest. Total costs for purchase and renovation were about \$450,000.

In recent years the men of the fraternity have turned their home into a "haunted house" at Halloween, delightfully frightening children and parents of the neighborhood. The men are also on hand to help with neighborhood clean-ups and other activities of the GPNA.

At present about 30 men live in the House, and we look forward to further cooperation between the men of Pi Kappa Alpha and the members of GPNA. Cory Engesser from South Dakota is the current president of the fraternity.

*by Eva Swanson*



*Happy Valentines Day!*



**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:

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...**

Make plans to attend the next general meeting, February 5th, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Hospital. The guest speaker will be Mr. Mike DeSelm, Street Maintenance Engineer for the City of Omaha. The room will be available at 6:30p.m., so come a little early to socialize (and have the best choice of cookies, too). There was an excellent turnout at the January meeting - let's keep the attendance growing!

The GPNA has purchased 4 new two-way radios for use by the Watch Group. Because the radios have better range and reception, members report that they are a very welcome addition to the watch effort.

Although spring may seem a long way off, it's not too early to consider items for donation to the 2nd annual GPNA Garage Sale. Donations of usable items (no clothing) will be essential to the success of this fund-raising activity. Watch for more details in upcoming newsletters.

St. Cecilia's Boy Scout Troop 100 will hold their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning, February 8th, from 7:30 - 12:30 in the school's cafeteria at 39th and Webster. The cost is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children.

**THANK YOU!**



**CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY**

The GPNA thanks 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.

**GPNA Boundaries**

GPNA boundaries are the Interstate on the east, 37th Street on the west, Dodge Street on the south, and Cuming Street on the north. Anyone living, working, or having an interest in this area is welcome to join.

**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)