



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

November 1998

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

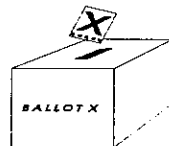
## GPNA Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary

According to Webster's dictionary, an anniversary is defined as the annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event. This month, a notable event that occurred 10 years ago is being recognized - the birth of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. Through the foresight of several individuals who were concerned about their neighborhood and were willing to spend a great deal of time and effort, a group of people was organized - people who shared their interest in preserving and improving the area in which they lived. Many volunteers over the years have continued the mission of the GPNA - to make this neighborhood a great place to live, work, learn, and play. It can be stated with a fair degree of certainty that this neighborhood has improved in many ways over the past 10 years, and the GPNA is largely responsible. Not only was the GPNA one of the first organizations of its kind, but it has also been a model for many other neighborhoods.

The anniversary is being recognized in two ways. An ice cream and cake social will be held at the next general meeting, and all are invited to attend. Also, a special edition of the **Gifford Park Pride** newsletter will be issued in the coming weeks. This edition will contain a history of the GPNA written by Eva Swanson, a chronological review of events that have happened in the neighborhood over the last 10 years, comments from past presidents, photos, and a list of volunteers who have contributed to the success of the GPNA.

Please plan on attending the November meeting and join in the celebration - and be looking for the special edition of the newsletter. Happy Anniversary, GPNA!

**Don't Forget To VOTE**  
**Tuesday, November 3!**



### Next Meeting

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

### 10th Anniversary Celebration

**Join us for Ice Cream and Cake**  
**All Are Invited (Kids Too!)**

### Guest Speaker:

**Jo Kubik**

**Principal, Yates Accelerated**  
**Learning Academy**

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



*Creighton University students Jeongho Yoo and Steve Wilwerding were two of the many volunteers who helped out at this year's GPNA Fall Clean-up. For highlights of the clean-up, see Page 7.*

**GPNA OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

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**TREASURER**

Sandy Sauer 341-8939

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Chris Foster 342-6006

**COMPLIANCE**

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Candy Bacome 344-3233

**GRAFFITI**

Maureen Calabro 345-7238

**HISTORIAN**

Eva Swanson 345-1707

**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

**TOOL LENDING**

Tom Rose 932-6191

**WATCH GROUP**

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

**WEEDS & LITTER**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**From the Desk of the President**

Here we are, back to November. I don't know where the time goes.

We just successfully completed the fall cleanup, this time without snowstorms and falling tree branches. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped, and especially to **Chris Foster**, who as usual got everything lined up, and spent most of the day in the dumpsters packing. Special thanks also to **Bob Hutton**, who was also in the dumpsters most of the day, packing items in along with Chris. Due to their efforts and skill, all of the junk hauled to the cleanup was packed into 3 dumpsters, so most of the cost of the dumpsters will be covered by the grant. **Billy Dooly** also deserves our thanks, for hauling off the scrap metal and taking the tires away. We collected over 50 tires this year. Thanks also to **Loren Johnson** for providing the food for the picnic lunch. I am always pleasantly surprised at the number of volunteers who show up and help, and how much fun we seem to have throughout the day, not to mention the goodies we manage to pick out of the junk to take home (probably to show up, for the most part, at the spring cleanup). Nicely done, everyone.

At our November meeting we will have cake and ice cream in celebration of our tenth anniversary as a neighborhood association. Bring the kids along to the meeting, which will be for the most part social in nature. We don't want any cake left over. We will also be distributing an anniversary edition of the newsletter sometime this month, detailing the history and events that went into making the association what it is today.

We have quite a few members who have not renewed memberships. The calling committee will be contacting these members to make arrangements to renew. Please help them out by mailing in your membership, so they have fewer people to call. Or better yet, bring your renewal to the meeting.

After working with St. Joseph Hospital, we have scheduled the holiday banquet for Thursday, December 3. Hopefully the early date will allow most of our members to free up some time to attend. Mark your calendars now.

Those of you unable to attend the October meeting missed a very informative conversation with our new police chief. Many of his comments suggested that the police department does a very good job, but fails to communicate information well to the community. He indicated that he will be working to improve this communication. He also said he would be reviewing the structure and organization of the police department, with emphasis on trying to free up uniformed officers to return to working in the community, rather than in headquarters. He related a number of interesting, if unorthodox, methods used to combat crime in his previous jurisdictions, and he thought some of these would be equally useful here in Omaha. It appears that his efforts, if successful, will benefit the community in general and our neighborhood in particular, so we wish him much success, and thank him for taking the time to address our group.

With Thanksgiving coming up, it seems appropriate to thank the volunteers who help conduct much of the routine business of the association. Certainly

*continued on page 3*


**TOOL  
LENDING  
HOTLINE**


Tom 932-6191

Mike 344-3233

Chris 342-6006

Ron 558-6027

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



## From the Desk of the President

*continued from page 2*

the officers deserve mention for the time they spend at the various meetings, and the time they spend fulfilling the duties of their respective offices. Our newsletter editors, **Chris Foster** and **Sue Wilwerding**, also deserve our thanks for their work in preparing the newsletter. Thanks also to **Mike Bacome** for organizing distribution of the newsletter. The members of the citizen patrol, **Harry Dirgo**, **Kirk Peck**, and **Terry** and **Mike Wilwerding** also deserve recognition for the many hours spent patrolling our neighborhood. Without them, I expect our neighborhood would be a much livelier place at night. I would also thank the committee chairpersons who take responsibility for organizing and maintaining the various functions of the group. While our neighborhood is not perfect, certainly the association has played a pivotal role in improving the neighborhood, and all of the volunteers who have made this possible during our ten year history should be proud of the roles they played. Attaboys to all of you.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

*by Jim Wilwerding*

## Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law

4913 Underwood Avenue

558-5000

Personal Injury Law  
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## WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THE GIFFORD PARK PRIDE?

*If so, Call 345-0125*

## California Bar & Pkg. 510 No. 33rd St.

Serving the Gifford Park  
Community since 1937  
Wayne and Peggy Hill,  
Proprietors



## Mark Your Calendars for the Annual GPNA Christmas Party!

Although it doesn't seem possible, the holiday season is right around the corner, which means it's time again for the annual GPNA Christmas Party. St. Joseph Hospital has graciously agreed to host the event, which will be held on **Thursday, December 3**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the Becic (glassed-in) dining room. As usual, the party will take the place of our general meeting for December. The party is free for GPNA members, so if you would like to attend, please call **Jim** or **Kathleen Wilwerding** (551-1344) or **Sue Wilwerding** (342-2795) to make a reservation. Please come and ring in the holiday season by enjoying a fine dinner with your GPNA neighbors!



## News From Yates Academy

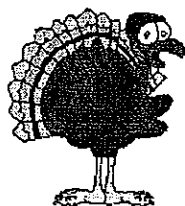
The first quarter at Yates Academy is over and the students are working hard, reports Principal Jo Kubik. She noted that more than 90% of parents participated in the September and October parent-teacher conferences. Ms. Kubik explained that the focus is on students' individual success plans that include goals that are reviewed and updated periodically. In addition, there is a student-parent-teacher compact that is signed by each "member" that defines the responsibilities of each individual in the educational process. Students in all grades except Kindergarten have assignment notebooks and read every night.

To foster multicultural awareness, an African dance troupe performed at the school this past month, and some students will be attending "Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears" at the Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center. In November, the focus will be on Native American culture.

by Sue Wilwerding

## "People" Lending Program Available Through GPNA

The GPNA has added "people" lending to its tool lending program. We would like to help connect people who are interested in being hired to do yardwork, lawnmowing, snow shoveling, etc. with people who need these services. This is a pilot program, and the quality and integrity of those involved in delivering these services will be monitored. Call 342-6006 to add your name to the list of workers or those who need this type of work done.



*Happy Thanksgiving!*

from the Gifford Park  
Neighborhood Association

## 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.



## OPS Postitions Available

The Omaha Public School District has a variety of employment opportunities presently available. There are part-time positions for van or bus drivers to fill morning, afternoon, or split shifts. The salary for van drivers is \$9.57 an hour, and for bus drivers it is \$10.31 an hour. Part-time nutrition positions are also available: kitchen assistants earn \$8.05 an hour, cashiers make \$8.30 an hour, and substitutes \$7.00 an hour. There are also a variety of paraprofessional positions available, which pay \$7.00 - \$8.00 an hour. If you are interested in applying for any of these jobs, or would like more information, call 557-2300 (Mon - Fri).

For City Services, Information, or  
Complaints  
Call:  
Mayor's Action  
Office  
444-5555

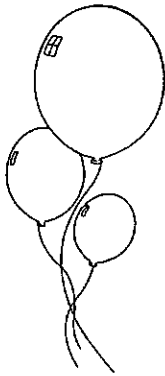
# Children's World Learning Centers

Newest Location

**126 North 35th Street**

Children's World Offers:

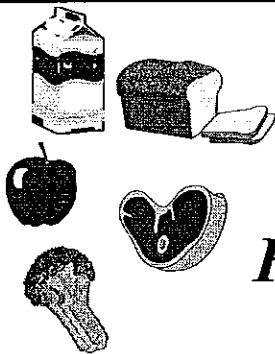
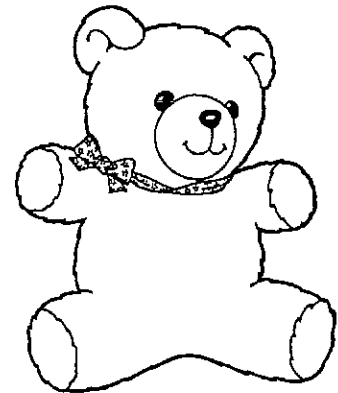
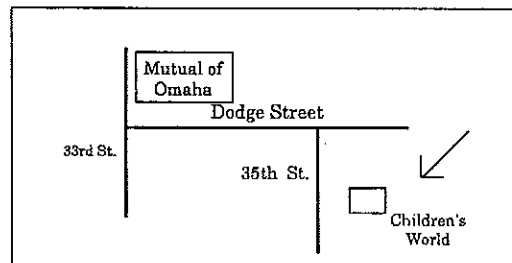
- \* Quality childcare for children ages 6 weeks thru 12 yrs.
- \* Developmentally appropriate activities
- \* Safe, state approved transportation
- \* USDA approved food program to include meals and snacks  
Spaces are limited, so enroll now!



Drop in for a visit or call

**346-9368**

for an appointment.



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*Friendly Service*

**3301 California Street -- 422-1058**

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**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**

## Tips For A Safe And Healthy Winter ..... Influenza/Flu Shots

Just as it is time to winterize our homes, gardens, and cars, getting a flu shot may be another way for many people to prepare for winter by preventing or at least warding off serious complications of influenza this winter.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate the following:

- 1) Because the flu virus changes over time it is recommended those at risk get an annual flu shot.
- 2) This year's vaccine protects against Sydney and the two other viruses called Beijing, which were responsible for the nation's outbreaks this summer.
- 3) Influenza should not be confused with what is called the stomach flu. Influenza attacks the respiratory system and is similar to the common cold but more severe in nature.
- 4) A new flu epidemic sweeps the country each winter and kills approximately 20,000 people, mostly over the age of 65.
- 5) The CDC assures those who get the flu shot that it is impossible to get influenza from the flu vaccine. Rather, if you get the flu following the shot, you were probably exposed to the virus before the vaccine took full effect, which usually occurs within 1-2 weeks following the shot.

### Who should consider getting the flu shot?

The following population groups are considered at increased risk for flu complications:

- 1) Persons age 65 and older.
- 2) Persons of any age with chronic disease of the heart, lung or kidneys; diabetes; immunosuppression; or severe forms of anemia.
- 3) Residents of nursing homes or other long-term care facilities housing anyone, any age, with chronic medical conditions.
- 4) Children and teenagers who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy.
- 5) Women who will be more than 3 months pregnant during influenza season.
- 6) Health care professionals who are in close or frequent contact with anyone in the above listed high risk groups.

### Who should not get a flu shot?

The flu vaccine is developed using hen eggs, so if you are allergic to eggs or chicken feathers you should not get the flu shot.

### When and where to get the flu shot?

Influenza usually emerges in late December each year, but can strike earlier, which explains why most flu shot clinics are open from early October to mid November. Most doctors' offices and hospitals also offer the flu shots.

Medicare Part B covers the shot as well as many private health insurance plans. The cost average is \$10.00

If you are unsure whether to get a flu shot this year, check with your family physician's office for guidance.

**Sources: CDC Guidelines, Omaha World-Herald, GEHA Keynotes, and Vaccinations Services of America web page.**

*by Kathleen Wilwerding*

## Fall Cleanup Report

What a difference a year makes! Remember last year's Fall Cleanup was held the day before the October Snowstorm. This year we had sunny skies and temperatures in the 70's - that's more like it. This led to a very enjoyable day in Gifford Park with several activities that kept everyone busy.

The main event was filling three dumpsters during the morning and early afternoon. The GPNA gave away 100 pumpkins to neighborhood kids as part of our annual pumpkin patch. For lunch we roasted hot dogs for the many volunteers. Scrap metal and 52 tires were recycled - a big thanks to Firestone for accepting our tires at no charge. The GPNA collected over \$200 in memberships and donations - we thank all those who contributed. We also appreciate the efforts of Ken Labs Trash for providing excellent service and a great price on the dumpsters. And because of Jim Wilwerding's efforts again this year, the GPNA received a \$500 grant to pay for the three dumpsters - thanks Jim!

We may have had the best turnout ever for a Fall Cleanup.



*Gifford Park had several activities going on Saturday, October 24th. These young volunteers are hauling a couch across the park to its final resting place - the dumpster. Pictured here from left to right are Marcus Chester, Mike Slatle and David Chester.*



*These neighborhood kids picked out their favorite halloween pumpkins. There were 100 pumpkins given away at the cleanup. Pictured from left to right: Mike Slatle 7, Melanie Slatle 2, David Chester 14, and Michael Sanchez 3.*

The following volunteers turned in another fine effort:

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Mike & Candy Bacome   | John Lynch                |
| Brad Bogard           | Kevin Mitchell            |
| Pam & Dallas Brady    | Eric & Annemarie Noll     |
| Mike Caban            | Kirk & Jean Peck          |
| Lloyd Canfield        | Tom Rose                  |
| Marcus Chester        | Mark Saner                |
| Peter Cihunka         | Tess Stanfield            |
| Harry Dirgo           | Ben Sweazy                |
| Billy Dooly           | Jim & Kathlene Wilwerding |
| Chris & Sallie Foster | Leo & Marlene Wilwerding  |
| Roger Freeman         | Mike & Nadja Wilwerding   |
| Ron Frey              | Terry & Sue Wilwerding    |
| Toby Goodwin          | Steve Wilwerding          |
| Ed Hendershot         | Lawrence Whelan           |
| Bob & Virginia Hutton | Ron Yates                 |
| Mitch & Thomas Koaker | Jeongho Yoo               |

A big thanks to all the following businesses who contributed:

- J'N'J Grocery - Loren Johnson
- California Bar - Wayne & Peg Hill
- Ken Labs Trash - Ken & Marcia Labs
- Firestone (72nd & Dodge St.)
- City of Omaha - Ed Aldmeyer

A final observation about this year's Fall Cleanup. It seemed that everyone had an exceptionally good time - partly because of the fine autumn weather, but mostly because of new faces and old faces working together to make this year's event fun.

If anyone is interested in heading up the cleanup committee, please contact Chris Foster at 342-6006. The Spring and Fall cleanups involve some coordination efforts, but is very rewarding to work with the absolute best people anywhere.



*Bob Hutton, left, and Mike Wilwerding look for empty spaces to fill in this dumpster. Three 20 CY dumpsters were filled.*



