



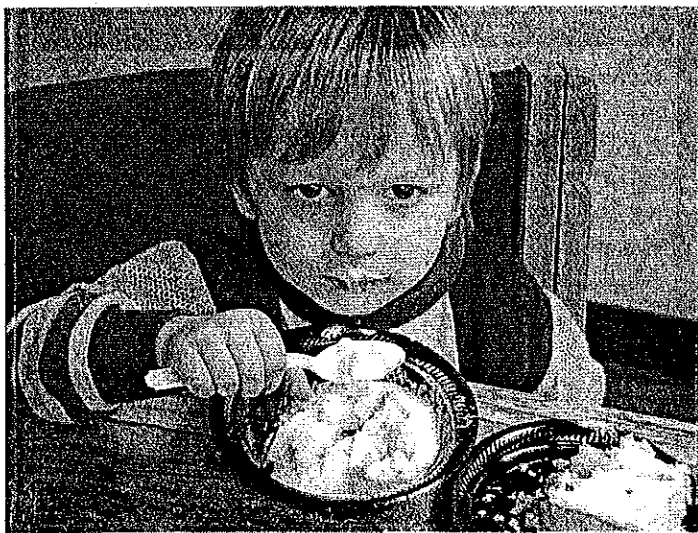
# Gifford Park's Pride

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

December 1998

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## GPNA Celebrates Tenth Anniversary At November General Meeting



*In honor of GPNA's tenth anniversary, neighbors were treated to ice cream (courtesy of St. Joseph Hospital) and cake. (Top) Mark Saner chats with the new police chief of the NE Precinct, Pitmon Foxall, while daughter Alexandra looks on. (Bottom) Jack T. Winters joins in the celebration (Photos by Terry Wilwerding).*

### Next Meeting

Thursday, December 3  
7:00 P.M.



## Holiday Banquet



St. Joseph's Hospital  
Glassed-In Area of Cafeteria

See Page 3 for details on  
the Holiday Banquet!

### Historically Speaking...

## The Thorson Family

They were an ordinary family, a little on the lean side, financially. They lived at 3037 California and later at 2856 Burt. They raised six children of their own and shared their home and table with many friends and relatives. They were the Thorson Family—Paul and Luella, with sons and daughters Loren, Dwayne, Gloria, Marlin, Elaine and Dean. These sons and daughters attended Yates Elementary School and Technical High School. Paul worked at the Martin Bomber Plant during the war and later was a painter at Creighton University. After her children grew up, Luella worked in the cafeteria at Tech High. Paul and Luella taught their children to love God and to respect their elders, their teachers and their friends. They were members of Augustana Lutheran Church at 38th and Lafayette. They had a good time together and what they lacked in creature comforts they made up for with laughter and song.

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Season's Greetings from the Gifford Park  
Neighborhood Association

**GPNA OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Jean Peck 344-0722

**TREASURER**

Sandy Saner 341-8939

**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

**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

**YATES ACADEMY LIAISON**

Dana Carlton 346-4576

**From the Desk of the President**

The holidays are upon us. By the time you read this, we will be past Thanksgiving and heading toward Christmas, so I thought it might be a good time to share with you the things I think we need to be thankful for as a neighborhood association, and also certain items on my neighborhood association wish list.

First, here are the things we should be thankful for. I would like to start out by being thankful for the neighbors and our neighborhood in general. Not to brag, but the Association's efforts to improve the neighborhood continue to bear fruit. Next, I would thank the police department for its efforts and support in working to make the neighborhood a better place. I would include the code enforcement branches of the city in this as well. Certainly, without law enforcement and code enforcement, our efforts would be much less successful. I also think the members of the citizen patrol deserve our thanks. I expect we would have many more disturbances and problems if they did not regularly discourage these types of activities through their presence. Considering that they put in an hour or two every week, I wouldn't be surprised if they put in the most time of any of the members. Of course, all of the members active in our various programs should also be mentioned, but I don't have the space. But any list of names would have to include the officers, the various committee leaders, and all of the members who have supported the Easter Egg hunt, garage, sale, tennis program, and haunted house, as well as the volunteers at the cleanups. If I am leaving anyone out here, please rest assured it is through my ignorance, and not because I do not appreciate the time and effort. All in all, I think we have a good association, and live in a pretty nice neighborhood.

So, what's left for my wish list? Mostly these items reflect ways I think we could improve our neighborhood, realizing that to some extent our neighborhood improves by attracting and retaining people who share the desire to improve the neighborhood. I hope Santa brings license plates and legal parking places to some of the automobiles in the neighborhood. I think outsiders get a negative impression of the neighborhood by seeing unlicensed and junk cars, and cars that are parked on sidewalks and in yards. I also suspect that most of the unlicensed vehicles that are being driven are uninsured, presenting a risk to the residents if accidents should happen. Next, with winter coming on, I hope Santa brings a few more of the neighbors snow shovels this winter. In addition to presenting a poor appearance to outsiders (who might be potential home buyers), snow and ice-covered sidewalks represent a hazard to pedestrians. Okay, I confess, I'm a regular pedestrian, but I see lots of other people walking too. If we have a usual winter, we will have at least one snow that is too deep to comfortably walk through, which drives many pedestrians, including school children, to walk in streets if sidewalks are unshoveled. I also hope Santa brings some of our members an increased desire to be actively involved. I have no complaints about any of the members who participate in association activities, but I know some of them are getting a little burned out and would like to pass the baton to someone else. And finally, I hope a few more neighbors decide to decorate their houses for the holidays. I suspect that holiday decorations make a positive impression on visitors and potential home buyers. And speaking personally, such decorations tend to make me feel more positive about the neighborhood.

I wish you all joyous and peaceful holidays. Remember, the holiday banquet is December 3. Hope to see you at the party.

by Jim Wilwerding

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

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association  
requests your presence at the

## 10th Annual Holiday Banquet

to be held  
at 7 p.m. on December 3rd  
at St. Joseph's Hospital  
601 N. 30th Street  
in the glassed-in dining room  
south of the cafeteria.

St. Joseph's Hospital graciously  
demonstrates its support of the  
GPNA by hosting this annual event  
for members. Food catering by  
Marriott Host Services.

There is no cost - you just need  
to be a GPNA member.

SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL

AT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER



The fourth annual Halloween Haunted House, a joint project of Creighton's Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and the GPNA was a big hit with the neighborhood kids again this year. Thanks to the members of PKA for hosting the event and the GPNA members who donated baked goods and other treats.

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

The GPNA would like to offer its sincere thanks to Jo Kubik, principal of Yates Accelerated Learning Academy, for taking time out of her busy schedule to address the November general meeting. Thanks also to Pitman Foxall, new Northeast Precinct Chief, for stopping by to introduce himself.

Dana Carlton has volunteered to be the liaison between the GPNA and Yates Accelerated Learning Academy. Her name and phone number will be included on the Committee Chairs list that appears on Page 2 of the newsletter.

Because of "holiday crunch" the GPNA Executive Committee voted at the November meeting to cancel its meeting scheduled for December 17.

With the weather being as mild as it has been lately, it's hard to believe it is almost winter and the snow will be falling soon. Don't forget that the GPNA is offering a "people-lending" program if members need to have snow shoveled, or would be interested in providing this service. Call 342-6006 for more information.

As of November, there are 60 GPNA 1997-1998 members who have not renewed for 1998-1999. Please take a few minutes to renew your membership by filling in the application on Page 4 and sending it in with the appropriate dues. Join the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association today - we want to see you at the holiday banquet!

### Historically Speaking...The Thorson Family

continued from page 1

What has happened since those early years is what is remarkable:

Son Loren and his wife had two children. Their daughter, Carolyn, has been a nurse/missionary to Gabon, Africa, for the last 23 years under the sponsorship of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Their son, Larry, and his family served as missionaries in Quito, Ecuador, for six years under the same sponsorship. Larry now serves in Long Lake, Minnesota, as Assist. District Superintendent for Church Health, Northwest District, Christian and Missionary Alliance. Loren and his wife, Eleanor (his first wife is deceased), live in Omaha. he is active in the Technical High School Alumni Association.

Son Dwayne was ordained in the Lutheran Brethren Church and is now retired. He and his wife have a son, Dr. Stephen Thorson, M.D., who, with his family, is serving in Nepal with the Lutheran World Mission Prayer League.

Daughter Gloria and son-in-law Gaylord Grant (both deceased) were missionaries in Sao Paulo Brazil, for 13 years. One son, David, was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and is now serving two churches in Mora and Morris, Minnesota.

Daughter Elaine and son-in-law Dean Swenson served as Lutheran missionaries in Tanzania, Africa, for four to five years and are currently serving an ELCA church in Ocala, Florida. One son and his wife, both pastors—Luther and Lori Swenson—are serving an ELCA church in Neenah, Wisconsin. Another son, Jonathan and his wife, Jana, are also pastors and are serving an ELCA church in Clear Lake, Iowa.

Son Marlin and his family live in Tulsa, Oklahoma; son Dean and his family live in southwest Omaha.

From humble beginnings in the Gifford Park neighborhood, the Christian witness of the Thorson Family has spread around the world.

by Eva Swanson



#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Yates Academy Offering Extended Library Hours

At the November GPNA General Meeting, Principal **Jo Kubik** announced that the Information Center at Yates Academy will have evening and weekend Open Library Hours: **4 - 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, and 9 a.m. - noon on Saturdays** (except during the holiday break). All children must be accompanied by an adult, all readers must sign in, no materials will be checked out during these hours, no food or beverages will be allowed, and an Information Manager and security personnel will be on duty.