



Gifford Park's Pride

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

January 1999

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

GPNA Names Creighton University 1998 Neighbor of the Year

*Tenth Annual Holiday Banquet An Enjoyable
Evening for Members*

GPNA president **Jim Wilwerding** welcomed a large turnout of members gathered at St. Joseph Hospital for the annual Holiday Banquet. After a delicious dinner, **Chris Foster** presented the 1998 Neighbor of the Year Award to **Creighton University** for assistance in newsletter printing and support of other GPNA projects. A variety of lovely door prizes and the beautiful table decorations made by **Marlene Wilwerding** were awarded by drawing to many of those in attendance. A good time was had by all! Special thanks to the GPNA Social Activities Committee: **Jean Peck, Kathleen Wilwerding, Clara Schmidt, Jean Kittell, Candy Bacome, and Martha Kelly.**

For more coverage of the Holiday Banquet, see Page 6



Loretta Zuck and Fred Salzinger accepted the GPNA 1998 Neighbor of the Year Award on behalf of Creighton University. Loretta is the manager of the Medical Copy Center and is responsible for printing the Gifford Park's Pride newsletter every month. Fred is Vice President of Health Sciences.

Next Meeting

**Thursday, January 7
7:00 P.M.**

Guest Speakers:

**Officer Brian Heath
Officer Gary Kula**

**Northeast Precinct
Weed and Seed Unit**

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

Lead Poses Potential Threat to Gifford Park Area Children

Efforts are being made by state and Douglas County officials to encourage parents to have their children tested for lead poisoning. According to an article in the **Omaha World-Herald**, only a small number of at-risk children are currently being screened. Children between the ages of 6 months and 6 years of age who live in houses built before 1978 that have chipping and peeling paint are the most likely to be affected. Elevated blood lead levels can cause children to have developmental problems, such as lower IQ scores.

According to statistics from the Douglas County Health Department, one in five children tested by the county during the quarter ending Sept. 30th had lead poisoning, which is more than four times the national average. Because nearly all the homes in the Gifford Park neighborhood

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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 & 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 346-4575

From the Desk of the President

Well, another year behind us, and many more (hopefully) ahead of us.

I would like to start out thanking all of the people responsible for making the holiday banquet such a success. I would start with **Lisa Fairbairn**, the contact person at **St. Joseph Hospital** who arranged the party. Next I would recognize the catering staff at St. Joe's who prepared the food and the room so marvelously. The ladies of the calling committee, who contacted all of the members, reminded them of the party, and took reservations must also be recognized. Thanks to **Marlene Wilwerding**, who crafted the table centerpieces, which were much in demand, as always. Thanks also go to **Subby Anzaldo, Loren Johnson, and Brad Bogard** for their generosity in providing the prizes that were awarded during the party. **Chris Foster** kindly took the time to design and print the program for us, one of the many roles he plays in promoting the success of the Association. And thanks to all of the members who attended. Judging by the noise level in the room, most everyone had a good time. If you chose not to come this year, please consider attending next year. It is a good way to meet your neighbors, get a good meal, have a chance to win prizes, and just have a good time. Children are also welcome, so bring the kids.

Creighton University was voted **Neighbor of the Year**, and a plaque was given to them at the meeting. Creighton University has consistently provided support for the association through the years, been a responsible landlord for the property they own in the neighborhood, been cooperative with the association in promoting resolutions for problems between neighbors and students, and perhaps most significantly, provided the means for generating the newsletter each month at a very reasonable cost, often times on short notice. When I go to meetings with other association officers, they are often amazed that we put out a newsletter every month, and wonder how we can afford to do it. Most of them put out newsletters only intermittently, as revenues can be found to support the cost of printing and distribution. We are indeed fortunate to have the assistance provided by Creighton, as the newsletter provides the means to inform many of the people in the neighborhood who are not members, or who cannot come to meetings. I consider the newsletter to be very successful, based on the numbers of comments (and yes, complaints) from non-members. Thank you for the help, Creighton University.

Of course, I would also like to thank **Sue Wilwerding** for the time and effort she puts forth in gathering articles, formatting the newsletter in final form, and getting the newsletter to Creighton for printing. Thanks also to **Mike Bacome** for handling distribution of the newsletter.

While on the topic, I would remind members that all are welcome to submit articles for publication in the newsletter. Articles should be neatly written (if possible, typed) and provided to the Board for review at the monthly Board meeting. Barring objectionable content, the articles will be published in the next newsletter. We are always looking for articles about activities in the neighborhood, history of people or places, or news of upcoming events. So get those pencils sharpened and get to work.

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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

From the Desk of the President

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In cooperation with **Jo Kubik**, principal at Yates Academy, we have begun a pen pal program between members and students at Yates. If you would like to join in that program, let one of the officers know, and we will see that you are included. **Dana Carlton** has agreed to be the liaison between the association and Yates. It is apparent that Jo and the staff at Yates are doing wonderful things for the students there, many of whom live in the neighborhood. As I have said before (again and again) the long-term success of the neighborhood, and the Association, hinges on attracting and retaining good people in the neighborhood. I expect that Yates Academy will be a very good reason for people to choose our neighborhood.

We expect to have **Officers Brian Heath** and **Gary Kula** from the Northeast Precinct Weed and Seed Unit at our meeting on January 7. The officers will be providing information about what they hope to accomplish in our area, and how we can work with them. Please plan on attending.

One of the areas of emphasis of the Association is increased law enforcement in our area, in particular in the areas of vehicular and noise violations. Other than the owners, I suspect few find junk cars and unlicensed or unmuffled vehicles desirable, or think that speeding and improper parking improve the quality of life. Loud music and dogs barking may entertain the perpetrators, but otherwise provide a disturbance to all unfortunate enough to be within earshot. I know that some communities find increased enforcement to be undesirable, but I would encourage all officers to handle problems as they are observed in our area, rather than waiting for a complaint to wend its way through the system. I understand that officers are unlikely to be promoted based on the numbers of cars ticketed or towed, or the number of boom cars shut down, but I think many of the residents of the neighborhood would find life to be much improved, and many prospective residents would find the area more desirable if the most obvious violators could be discouraged.

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
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



Lead Poses a Potential Threat . . .

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were built before 1950, children who live here are at greater risk than those living in newer homes in other parts of the city. The zip code in which Gifford Park is located, 68131, has one of the highest percentages of children with elevated blood lead levels among those tested, 22.6%. The National Centers for Disease Control urges testing of children under the age of 6 each year. The Douglas County Health Department provides testing at a number of locations; testing is also available through private physicians. Medicaid and most private insurance will cover the cost of testing. The county will test children without insurance for free. The county will also test homes of children with lead poisoning.

How can exposure to lead be reduced or prevented? Keep houses clean by washing window frames, sills, and floors. Maintain painted surfaces; if paint is not chipping or peeling it does not pose a problem. Do not allow children to eat paint chips or chew on woodwork. Have children wash their hands after playing outside and before eating or going to bed. Wash toys that may have been exposed to dust that may contain lead. Avoid letting children play on bare ground. If paint is chipping or peeling, scrape the surface clean, pick up all the chips and remove the dust, and paint over the area.

For more information, call the Douglas County Health Department at 444-7825.

Free Tax Help Is Here Again For the Fifth Year in a Row!



Free tax help will once again be available at the GPNA office located to the south of J-N-J Grocery, 33rd & California St. **Everyone is welcome!** IRS representatives will provide free tax help for our neighborhood. Processing of basic tax returns will be available. Electronic filing may 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 dates:

Saturdays: February 6, 13, 20, 27 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
April 3, 10 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesdays: February 3, 10, 17, 24 9 a.m. to noon
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 9 a.m. to noon
April 7, 14 9 a.m. to noon

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

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.



Yates Academy Students, GPNA Members Become Pen Pals

A new project to encourage development of communication skills was announced at the Holiday Banquet by Dana Carlton, Yates Academy Liaison. Dana brought letters written by Yates Academy students to the banquet and asked for volunteers to take a letter and write back to that student. After collecting the letters from the participating GPNA members, she delivered them to the school. Other letter exchanges are planned throughout the school year. Depending on the response, the project may be expanded to include other grades. If you are interested in participating in the program, or would like more information, call Dana at 346-4575.

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

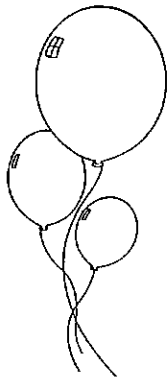
Children's World Learning Centers

Newest Location

126 North 35th Street

Children's World Offers:

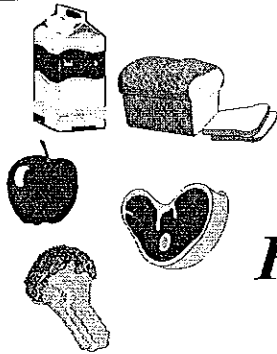
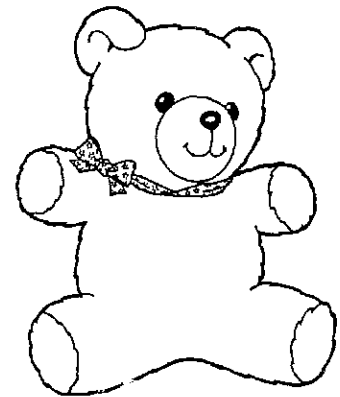
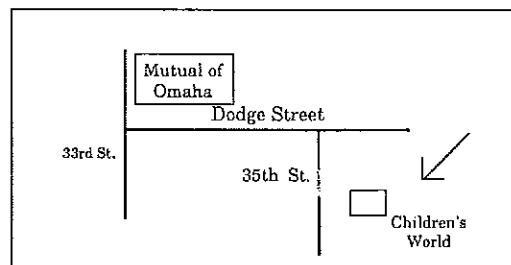
- * Quality childcare for children ages 6 weeks thru 12 yrs.
 - * Developmentally appropriate activities
 - * Safe, state approved transportation
 - * USDA approved food program to include meals and snacks
- Spaces are limited, so enroll now!



Drop in for a visit or call

346-9368

for an appointment.



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

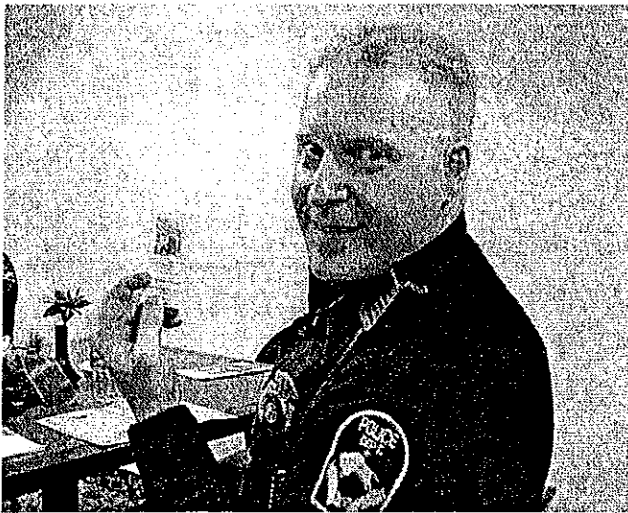
GPNA Members Usher In Holiday Season at 10th Annual Banquet



Bob and Virginia Hutton enjoyed the delicious meal of turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, and pumpkin pie. An estimated 80 GPNA members attended the banquet.



Wearing a beautiful Christmas sweater, GPNA member Eva Swanson joined in the festivities. Eva is the Association's historian and author of the "Historically Speaking" column in the newsletter.



Officer Brian Heath was the winner of a gift certificate to California Tacos & More donated by Brad Bogard. Officer Heath is assigned to the Northeast Weed and Seed Unit and is scheduled to speak at the January meeting.



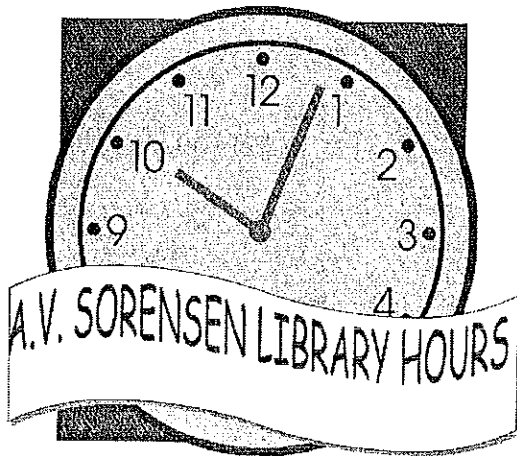
Another lucky door prize winner was Eric Whelan, who was present with the rest of his family. Door prizes were also donated by City Councilman Subby Anzaldo, Loren Johnson (J-N-J Grocery), and Marlene Wilwerding (table centerpieces).

The GPNA would like to especially thank manager **Tom Seidlik** and the other St. Joseph Hospital Hospitality Services staff members who did a wonderful job at the Holiday Banquet!

Leann K. Kelly
Mary O'Neil

Kevin Smith
Jenny Harmon

Rosetta Cannon



Beginning January 1, 1999

Monday	10:00 - 8:00
Tuesday	10:00 - 5:30
Wednesday	10:00 - 8:00
Thursday	10:00 - 5:30
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	10:00 - 5:30
Sunday	CLOSED

Information submitted by Friends of the Sorensen Library Committee. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact **Kay Bashus**, 553-5203.

A.V. Sorensen Library News

Spotlight on Reading

Winter Reading Club for all ages

January 11 through February 28th

Participants are eligible for a prize drawing. You may be the winner of a gift certificate for a local restaurant!

Storytimes

Madeline Storytime

Saturday, January 9, 1999 at 1:00 p.m.

Special visit from Ludwig Benelman's MADELINE courtesy of the Border's at 132nd & Maple

Register in person or by phone at **Sorensen Library**, 4808 Cass St. 444-5274

Junior Friends Group

Junior Friends is a volunteer support group for the Children's Librarian. They assist with the Summer Reading Club, children's computers, crafts, puppet shows, skits, storytimes, and shelving the children's section at the library. This group plans to meet monthly on second Wednesdays starting **January 13th**. If you are in grades 5 through high school and are interested in this program, contact the Children's Librarian at 444-5274

Snow Removal Information

A **Snow Emergency** means that no vehicles may be parked on the streets where you see an Emergency Snow Route sign. Crews will plow these streets first and the Mayor will announce when the snow emergency is over. 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. If cars are left parked on an Emergency Snow Route during a snow emergency or are improperly parked 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.

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 is 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).

City of Omaha Sponsors 8th Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program

The Environmental Quality Division of the City of Omaha Public Works Department is once again providing collection sites for Christmas tree recycling. On **January 3, 9, and 10** from **10 AM to 4 PM**, volunteers will be at the sites to help unload trees. If trees are dropped off at another time, please throw your tree up on the pile, which will leave room for others to access the site. Please remove the following from the tree before bringing it to the collection site: nails, ornaments, plastic bags, wires, tree stands, and lights. Wreaths and evergreen roping *will not* be accepted. Flocked trees are acceptable. The sites are:

- Tranquility Park** (120th and West Maple Road) - North end of the soccer complex
- Ak-Sar-Ben** (Mercy Road and 69th St. Entrance) - Parking Lot #6 (east of entrance gate)
- Orchard Park** (66th and Hartman Ave.)
- Zorinsky Lake Ball Fields** (168th St, 40 blocks south of Dodge) - West entrance south of lake
- Brown Park** ("U" St. between 15th and 18th Sts.)
- Wehrspann Lake** (west of I-80 on Hwy 370) - South parking lot at the entry to the Wildlife Management Area
- Bellevue Haworth Park** (Hwy 370 and Payne Drive)
- Tara Hills Community Center** (100 Limerick Road)
- Halleck Park** (423 South Washington Road) - East end
- La Vista Swimming Pool** (7531 South 85th St.)
- LaVista Sports Complex** (7300 South 66th St)

Share the Christmas spirit and ask a neighbor if you can help them get their tree to a recycling site. All sites will close on **January 12** - please **do not** deliver trees after this date. For more information, call **492-9955** then select **category 6823**. Thank you for making Christmas tree recycling part of your holiday tradition!



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 _____

Want to Join the GPNA?

It's as easy as filling out the membership form to the left and sending it in along with the annual dues - **\$8 for a family, \$5 for an individual, and \$25 for a business membership.** Your membership allows you to receive every month's newsletter as well as participation in members-only activities such as the neighborhood clean-up. Join today and show your support for **your neighborhood organization!**