



Gifford Park's Pride

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

July 1999

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

New Membership Season Begins for the GPNA

June 1 marked the beginning of another GPNA membership year. It is a new beginning for Officers, Executive Board Members and residents. It is truly exciting to have new people volunteer to help. Our membership year runs from June, 1999 to June, 2000. If you have been a member and supported the GPNA in the past, we appreciate your support and hope you will renew your membership. If you have not been a member, we encourage each of you to consider joining. Yearly memberships are only \$5 for single, \$8 for family and \$25 for business (see page 8 for the membership application). Your membership helps pay for this monthly newsletter, neighborhood cleanups and beautification programs, youth activities, social activities, neighborhood watch equipment, tool lending and many other worthwhile programs. Please join the GPNA today - your membership will be good through June, 2000. Call 342-6006 if you have any questions.

In addition, it would be nice if all members act as ambassadors of the neighborhood association by greeting and welcoming new people. If we hope to become a better neighborhood, we also need to revert to old-fashioned values. We need to take the time to be there for one another; to look out for and protect one another. We need to support the GPNA, attend meetings and help guide the direction of the area in which we reside. We need to encourage our neighbors to participate also. It doesn't have to take much time. Try to make a difference. Together, we can.

**JOIN OR RENEW YOUR GPNA
MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

Reminder: No July Meeting!

Next Meeting

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

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

GPNA Information To Be Accessible on Internet

Through the diligent efforts of past-president Jim Wilwerding, the GPNA has been given the opportunity to create and maintain a free Internet web site. The site will be accessible through discoveromaha.com. with the specific address <http://groups.discoveromaha.com/GPNA>. Plans are to publish meeting schedules, lists and descriptions of upcoming events, newsletter articles and pictures, minutes from the general and executive meetings, and other pertinent information. The first "webmaster" will be Steve Wilwerding. Plans are to have the web site up sometime in July. As you are surfing the Net, you'll be able to find out the latest neighborhood information. Watch for the GPNA web site coming soon!

**Attention Gifford Park Neighborhood
Kids!**

**See Page 7 for exciting events
happening for you this summer!**



Happy Fourth of July!

GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Chris Foster 342-6006

VICE PRESIDENT

Brad Bogard 342-2520

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jean Peck 344-0722

TREASURER

Sandy Saner 341-8939

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**ADVERTISING**

Dar Sweazy 345-0125

CLEAN-UP

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

COMPLIANCE

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

COURTESY

Candy Bacome 933-7506

GRAFFITI

Maureen Calabro 345-7238

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

MEMBERSHIP

Chris Foster 342-6006

NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Mike Bacome 933-7506

PARK

Mike Bacome 933-7506

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

TOOL LENDING

Chris Foster 342-6006

WATCH GROUP

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

KELLOM SCHOOL LIAISON

Dana Carlton 346-4575

From the Desk of the President

I want to start by saying a few words about our past president **Jim Wilwerding** whom I have had the opportunity to work with the last couple of years. Jim has done an outstanding job for the GPNA. He has always been there to support all neighborhood association committees and activities. Jim was as committed as anyone in trying to keep Yates School as our neighborhood school, and when we had the shootings in our neighborhood this spring, Jim led the GPNA to turn a negative event into an opportunity to do a police survey and make some good happen. Jim's work on the Weeds & Litter Committee has led to most of the neighborhood looking in good shape as far as lawns mowed and litter picked up. His monthly newsletter articles were always very interesting and informative. Many thanks to Jim's wife **Kathleen** for her help and support. She not only participates in many of the Association's activities, but her work behind the scenes made Jim's job run smoother I'm sure. On behalf of the GPNA, we thank Jim and Kathleen for their service and commitment to the neighborhood, and we're very proud of their efforts.

Just a quick history of how I fit into the puzzle. I have lived in the neighborhood since 1986 and been involved with the GPNA since 1989. I first became involved with the neighborhood association when **Jim Windorski**, GPNA president at the time, asked me to head up the neighborhood cleanup. Jim gave me lots of ideas, support and direction. What really impressed me though was the outpouring of support from neighborhood volunteers on cleanup day. It's a great feeling to experience neighbors working hard and having fun together as they participate in our cleanups and other events that the GPNA has been a part of for over 10 years – that's what keeps me involved with this organization.

What has kept the GPNA going? The hard work and dedication put in by our past presidents **Jim Windorski**, **Ron Yates**, **John Lynch**, **Leo Wilwerding** and **Jim Wilwerding**, and the support they have received from neighborhood volunteers every step of the way. Most of the work of the Association is accomplished by the committee chairpersons and without their efforts there would be no GPNA.

There is no question we need more people to help accomplish the goals of the GPNA. This seems to be a challenge for many volunteer organizations today – attracting and maintaining people to do the work. I personally feel I can do a better job of encouraging people to become involved in the neighborhood association. How can you become involved? Come to our monthly meetings. General membership meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Hospital (no meeting in July) – we discuss neighborhood concerns and usually have a guest speaker (cookies and coffee are also provided by St. Joseph Hospital). Executive board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the GPNA Office (33rd & California) at 7:00 p.m. – we discuss current GPNA business and plan for upcoming events. Everyone is welcome to attend either meeting.

Helping out with annual events such as spring and fall cleanups, Easter egg hunt, garage sale, tennis program, holiday banquet, and PKA Fraternity Haunted House are great opportunities to participate in the neighborhood. We also have a Watch Group made up of volunteers who patrol the streets every Friday and Saturday night, and we can always use more help. One of the best ways to

continued on page 3

**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE**

**Mike 344-3233
Chris 342-6006**

**Mowers - \$5
Rent for most tools - \$3**



From the Desk of the President

continued from page 2

show your support is to buy a GPNA membership – just \$5 for single and \$8 for family memberships. See the article on page 1 of this newsletter for additional membership information. And finally I ask everyone to get involved on your own block by taking the time to get to know your neighbors and ask if they need help. If you have any concerns that the GPNA can help with, please call me or any of the phone numbers listed on page 2.

We will not have a meeting in July since this is a time when many people take vacations. However there are a number of things going on in the neighborhood. Our new membership year began June 1. We currently have 144 paid memberships. There is a membership application on the back page of this newsletter for anyone who would like to join. The Sun Dawg shack is active with kids again this year in Gifford Park. Anyone wishing to help with games, sports, arts, crafts and other activities is encouraged to stop down to the park during weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A bike safety day at St. Joseph Hospital is being organized for Saturday, July 10 - information will be posted soon in the local businesses. The annual summer tennis program is being planned for August in Gifford Park. This is the 8th year for the GPNA Tool Lending program.

Lawnmowers rent for just \$5/day and have been used 10 times this season. Anyone can rent tools and you do not have to be a GPNA member. We also have a short list of neighborhood people who will mow or do other yardwork (for a reasonable fee of course).

The Yates School PTA is working for solutions to solve a potential busing problem. At the time this article was written, Omaha Public Schools will not bus our neighborhood kids to Kellom, which is our new neighborhood school because much of our area's residents live within 1 ½ miles of Kellom so kids are expected to walk or find their own transportation. This is yet another disappointment of losing Yates as our neighborhood school.

We are considering plans to have a Gifford Park Day next spring. Some of the early thoughts are to have a kids' parade, cookout in the park, kids games, music, raffle, adult games, etc. A few years ago the GPNA had a Gifford Park Day with some of the same events. We will need to organize a committee soon to get the ball rolling. Please consider being part of this event.

In closing, as GPNA president, my job is to serve the membership, so I encourage anyone to share your ideas and suggestions with myself or any of the other GPNA board members. As far as priorities, I feel public safety and communication of information are at the top of the list. I ask for everyone's continued support to work on these issues as well as others. Have a great summer!

by Chris Foster

Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law

4913 Underwood Avenue

558-5000

Personal Injury Law
Worker's Compensation
Injury
Auto Accidents
Insurance Claims

Multi-Family Garage Sale

July 1 - 4

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Several Gifford Park neighborhood families will offer a large variety of usable and collectible items including limited edition plates & dolls, antiques, and unique items

Happy 4th of July!

3403 Burt St.

811 North 35th St.

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

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



What's Happening in the Neighborhood . . .

At the June general meeting, the slate of officers nominated at the May meeting was elected unanimously for the 1999-2000 term. The president and vice-president elect are **Chris Foster** and **Brad Bogard**, respectively. **Jean Peck** will remain as recording secretary and **Sandy Saner** will continue as treasurer. Please show your support to these individuals who volunteer to be officers of the GPNA - they are working hard for **your** neighborhood!

"**Saturday Night Alive**", a contemporary jazz worship service, will be held **Saturday, July 10, at 5:00 p.m.** at **Augustana Lutheran Church, 38th and Lafayette**. The next summer date will be **August 21 at 5:00 p.m.** The service blends the uniquely spiritual music of jazz with the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Come to worship in the "Power of the Spirit" and stay afterwards for a light meal gathering. For information, call Augustana at **551-4728** or e-mail them at augustan@novia.net.

If you know of anyone in the neighborhood who might benefit from receiving a card or other greeting from the GPNA (for a speedy recovery from an illness or injury, loss of a family member, birth, marriage, or significant anniversary, etc.) please contact Courtesy Chairman **Candy Bacome** at **933-7506**.

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Tool Lending Program has been in operation for eight years. Its goal is simple: provide people in our neighborhood the opportunity to rent tools for a nominal fee (mainly to cover maintenance costs). Everyone can benefit - you **DO NOT** have to be a GPNA member to take advantage of this program. Ladders, rakes, shovels, saws and garden tools are just some of the tools available with the program. Lawnmowers have been the most popular to rent at \$5. Many thanks go to **Bob Hutton** and **Mike Bacome** for maintenance of our mowers at little or no cost. The GPNA is always looking for additional tools or mowers that anyone would like to donate for the tool lending. For more information call **Chris 342-6006** or **Mike 933-7506**.

The GPNA Watch Group is beginning its ninth year of observing and reporting on our neighborhood streets with this mission: "We are here to help maintain a healthy, safe, and wholesome environment for ALL the people who live in our neighborhood. Our intent is NOT to bother our neighbors, but to ensure our neighbors are not bothered by those who corrupt our community. As a committee of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association we invite you to join us and attend our monthly meetings and participate in the betterment of our community." The Watch Group has a few guidelines for participation. Besides preventing crime, the Watch Group is a great way to meet your neighbors, discuss ideas, and get to know the area better. Call **Mike 341-8224**, **Terry 342-2795**, or **Chris 342-6006** for more information.

California Tacos & More

Homemade Mexican Food

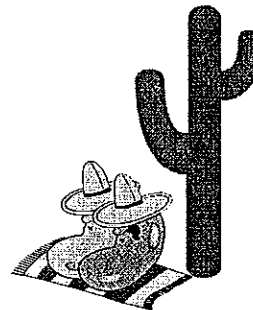
342-0212

33rd & California Street
Dine In or Carry Out

Open Every Day

New Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 11a.m. - 9 p.m.
Closed Sunday



California

**Tacos
&
More**

City of Omaha Parks & Recreation Sun Dawg Summer Fun Youth Program

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Through August 6

No Cost Activities for kids
ages 6 - 15 include:

Fun, sports,
games, reading,
arts and crafts,
trips,
camp programs,
swimming and
more.



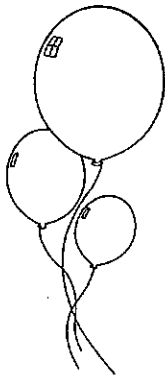
Children's World Learning Centers

Newest Location

126 North 35th Street

Children's World Offers:

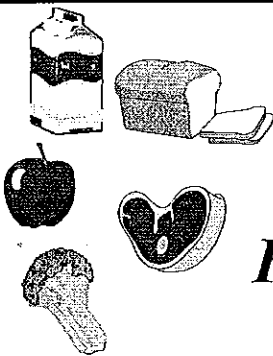
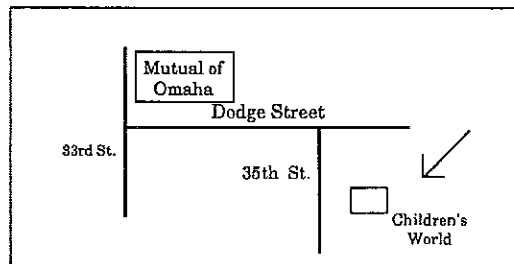
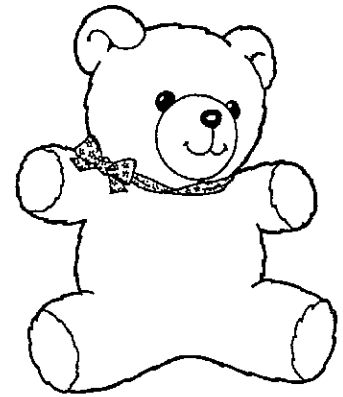
- * Quality childcare for children ages 6 weeks thru 12 yrs.
- * Developmentally appropriate activities
- * Safe, state approved transportation
- * USDA approved food program to include meals and snacks
Spaces are limited, so enroll now!



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

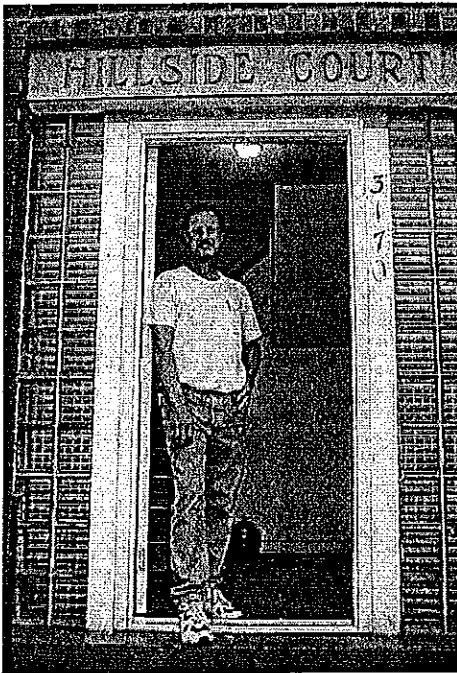
7:00 AM - 11:00 PM Friday thru Saturday

8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Sunday

Hillside Court Apartments Undergo Major Renovation

A transformation is taking place in the Gifford Park neighborhood that will surely have a positive effect on the whole area. **Larry Hoffman** has purchased the **Hillside Court Apartments** on 31st St. between Davenport and Chicago Streets (just east of Yates School) and is in the process of restoring them into updated units. For the past several months, Larry's work crew has been busy performing a complete renovation of the buildings and surrounding property. Larry's overall plan for the apartments is to turn the formerly "slummed out" apartments into an upscale complex with plenty of curb appeal to attract middle income residents. Larry has virtually gutted the existing structures and added all new oak kitchens with dishwashers, air conditioning, ceramic tile showers, bathroom fixtures, and oak floors. A well-lit parking lot has been added to the central area of the complex. The exteriors that face the parking lot have been painted and green awnings will be added. He is especially interested in keeping up the grounds around the buildings; a stone retaining wall has been installed and trees have been planted, with more landscaping planned. A six foot high wrought iron fence will surround the complex to provide security. There are 70 units in the complex, which will rent for \$395 (1 bedroom) and \$470 (2 bedroom) per month. The target occupants are people who work at nearby institutions (Mutual of Omaha, St. Joseph's Hospital) or are professional or graduate students at Creighton or UNMC, with annual incomes of at least \$20,000.

The Hillside project is not the first for Larry; he has "rehab-ed" property in the 31st and Dewey and 25th and Harney areas. His business is to buy older, neglected buildings, make improvements to turn them into more upscale residences, and then manage them. Larry explained that the Hillside Court Apartments held a certain appeal to him, and he felt that they needed "new life breathed into them." Larry said that there has been plenty of interest in the apartments, and he receives several phone calls a day from prospective renters. The first apartments in the complex are due to be occupied around July 15th with all new residents. Welcome to the Gifford Park neighborhood, Larry, and we hope your business venture is very successful!



The new owner of the Hillside Court Apartments, Larry Hoffman, stands at the entrance to the completely refurbished complex. Work on the project began in January, and the first new tenants are due to move in July 15th.



New sidewalks and a stone retaining wall are but a few of the improvements that Larry had made to the property. He plans to landscape the grounds around the apartments and install a fence around the entire complex. Although the project has not been completed yet, it has already improved the appearance of the entire area. Drive by and see this "new" addition to the neighborhood! (Photos by Terry Wilwerding)

Do You Live To Bike?

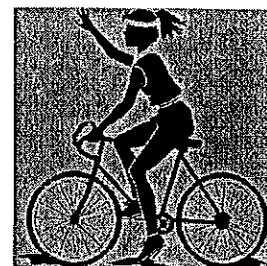
Don't miss out on Saint Joseph Hospital's Community Bike Rodeo. Learn about bike equipment **safety**, experience the **thrill** of our bike obstacle courses and learn how to **maintain** the life of your bike.

Saturday, July 10th, 1999

9 a.m. to 12 noon

Middle Level Parking on 30th and Burt Street
Saint Joseph Hospital

Parking available on top level. Enter from 30th Street



Participate in the following:

Thrilling bike obstacle courses

(Helmets and adult supervision are required in order to ride the courses.)

Bike equipment safety tips

Minor bike maintenance by the pros

(Bring your own bike and learn how to preserve the life of your bike.)

Great raffle at 11:00 a.m.

(Must be present to win. While supplies last.)

\$5 Bike Helmets

(Toddler to adult sizes. While supplies last.)

See the LifeNet Helicopter

Refreshments!



SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL
AT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
Tenet HealthSystem



6th Annual Gifford Park Free Tennis Lessons



The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association will be offering **FREE tennis lessons** at the Gifford Park Tennis Courts (33rd and Cass St.) this August for kids ages 6 to 15. Watch for details in next month's newsletter or see the bulletin board at the GPNA office on 33rd and California (south of J-N-J Grocery)

Music to My Ears

I like music. And I know a lot of other people like music too. Unfortunately, I tend not to like their kind of music, and I suspect they could happily live without being exposed to mine. Obviously, this can be a source of conflict in a neighborhood, especially if I wanted to listen outdoors at high volume, and others wanted to do the same. Fortunately, there is a city ordinance to address this issue. Sometimes referred to as the "Sound Truck" ordinance, it reads in part that "no person shall play, use, or operate a ...machine or other device for reproducing sound... in or on public property... unless the volume of amplified sound shall be so controlled that it will not be audible for a distance in excess of one hundred (100) feet from the source." The ordinance in reference to residential property indicates that no person shall play music in or on "residential property, whether a unit of a multiple family residential dwelling or a single family dwelling structure, unless the volume of amplified sound shall be so controlled that it will not be audible in any adjoining unit."

Presumably, this means that I can listen to my music so long as it does not disturb my neighbor, and my neighbor can listen to music so long as I am not disturbed by it. Which sounds like a good rule for making and keeping good neighbors.

by Jim Wilwerding

Residents Warned of Phone Scam

A GPNA member received information that she wished to pass along to neighbors concerning a long distance telephone scam that has been occurring locally. According to the memo she received, people have been receiving telephone calls from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T service technician that was running a test on their telephone line. He stated that to complete the test they should touch nine(9), zero(0), pound sign (#), and hang up. Individuals who were suspicious contacted the phone company and were informed that by pushing 90#, you give the individual that called you access to your telephone line and allows them to place a long distance telephone call, with the charge appearing on your telephone bill. This scam appears to be originating from many local jails/prisons. The author of the memo called GTE Security and verified that this is definitely possible. **DO NOT** press 90# for **ANY-ONE**. It may give the caller access to your phone line to make long distance calls **ANYWHERE!** Neighbors should be aware that there are various phone scams that occur from time to time, and suspicious calls should be reported to the phone company immediately. Be careful who you give out information to over the phone!

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

Are you interested in
advertising in the Gifford
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 _____