



Gifford Park's Pride

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

December 1999

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

PKA Halloween House a Real Scream

The 5th annual PKA (Pi Kappa Alpha) Creighton University Fraternity-GPNA Haunted House was opened to Gifford Park neighborhood children on Thursday, October 28th. A group of approximately 240 kids toured the house from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., with younger children being allowed in first. About 20 PKA members dressed up in typical haunted house fashion, and provided the thrills and chills (which no doubt elicited a lot of screaming!) After going through the house, the youngsters were treated to a variety of "goodies" provided by GPNA volunteers. Some parents were overheard saying that the PKA Haunted House "was better than any \$8 haunted house" they had attended. Plans are already underway for next year, and the fraternity is thinking of asking a Creighton sorority for assistance.

The GPNA would like to thank Jason Wheeler from PKA who organized the event, and the following GPNA members who donated treats: Terry & Sue Wilwerding, Mike & Nadja Wilwerding, Jim & Kathleen Wilwerding, Jean & Kirk Peck, Brad & Virna Bogard, Chris & Sallie Foster, Mark & Sandy Saner, John & Jackie Lynch, Mike & Candy Bacome, Ron & Vicky Frey, and Leo & Marlene Wilwerding. Thanks also to the GPNA members who helped with "crowd control" for the evening: Jim Wilwerding, Mike Wilwerding, Chris Foster, John Lynch, and Brad Bogard. Thanks also to the individuals who wrote letters to Creighton University in support of this PKA project.



Neighborhood kids wait in line to enter the PKA Haunted House and meet a variety of ghosts and other ghouls inside.

Next Meeting

Thursday, December 2
7:00 P.M.



Holiday Banquet



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

See Page 3 for details on
the Holiday Banquet!

GPNA Announces Holiday Lighting Contest

The GPNA will be sponsoring a Holiday Lighting Contest that is open to anyone living in the Association's boundaries. All you have to do to enter is decorate your house with lights or other displays of the holiday season and make sure it's illuminated on **Sunday evening, December 19th**. A panel of judges will travel throughout the neighborhood and choose what they consider to be the three best displays. Each of the top three vote getters will be awarded a \$10 gift certificate to **California Tacos and More**. The purpose of the contest is to encourage residents to decorate their homes for the holidays which in turn brightens up the whole neighborhood. Start decorating now and get in the holiday spirit!



Happy Holidays from the GPNA!

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

GLEAN-UP

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

COMPLIANCE

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

COURTESY

Candy Bacom 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 Bacom 933-7506

PARK

Roger Freeman 557-2914

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

TOOL LENDING

Tom Rose 932-6191

WATCH GROUP

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

KELLOM SCHOOL LIAISON

Dana Carlton 346-4575

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 President's Column

I hope you all have had the opportunity to let the GPNA know if you plan to attend the annual Holiday Banquet December 2, 7:00 p.m. This wonderful banquet is hosted again by St. Joseph Hospital and is free to all current GPNA members. Invitations were also sent to other individuals and organizations which the GPNA regularly works with. We ask that you RSVP as soon as possible – call **Jean 344-0722, Sue 342-2795** or **Chris 342-6006**. It is a time for neighbors to enjoy a great meal and get together during the holiday season. Special thanks go to **Jean Peck**, who as Holiday Banquet Committee Chair organized the calling committee, sent out invitations, and made this year's centerpieces. The GPNA is very grateful to St. Joseph Hospital for being such a generous neighbor year after year.

Last month I mentioned steps the GPNA is taking toward the goal of safer streets, in particular 33rd Street. These steps generally include building relationships with individuals closest to the problems and in a position to do something about them. We have met with Police, City Code Enforcement, City Weeds & Litter, the City Prosecutor's Office, property owners, business owners and residents to work on solutions to familiar problems. Police have identified a number of individuals who cause many of the problems and who do not reside in our neighborhood. In some instances making property owners aware of specific incidents is enough to correct the problem. Unfortunately, other strategies need to be considered if the problems are on going. **Mark and Sandy Saner** have been very active meeting with landlords in the 33rd Street area.

Here are some other miscellaneous items worth noting. Plan to participate in this year's Holiday Lighting contest. GPNA volunteers will view neighborhood lights Sunday night December 19 – the top three displays will each receive a \$10 gift certificate to California Tacos. Encourage your neighbors to decorate. I recently attended a meeting with the Military Avenue Neighborhood Association (Hamilton St. to the Northwest Radial Highway). There was discussion about the Omaha Planning Department regarding an amendment to the Master Plan to allow the building of a large grocery store and a sizable free-standing drug store near the intersection of Military Avenue, Northwest Radial Highway, and Fontenelle Blvd. This is still a long way off at this point. At the last GPNA meeting, Subby Anzaldo told us Creighton University wants to close Burt Street east of 30th Street north of their campus for the purpose of adding greenspace. Jefferson Square Neighborhood Association is opposed to this plan.

Because of the holiday season, the December Executive Board Meeting has been cancelled. The January general meeting will be held on Thursday, January 6th, 7:00 p.m., at St. Joseph Hospital. The executive board will meet again on January 20th at the GPNA office.

A final note: the GPNA wishes everyone a safe and healthy holiday season! I am continually impressed by the dedication and commitment of the people of the Gifford Park neighborhood, not just GPNA members but also everyone who does their part to make our neighborhood a better place to live.

by Chris Foster



*The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
requests your presence at the*

11th Annual Holiday Banquet

*to be held
at 7 p.m. on December 2nd
at St. Joseph's Hospital
601 N. 30th Street
in the glassed-in (Becic) dining room
south of the cafeteria.*

*St. Joseph's Hospital graciously
demonstrates its support of the
GPNA by hosting this annual event
for members.*

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



SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL
AT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER



Tennis Lock In Set For December 3-4

The Omaha Tennis Association Junior Development Committee in cooperation with the City of Omaha is sponsoring a **Tennis Lock In** on **Friday, December 3** to **Saturday, December 4**. The Lock In will be held at the **Hanscom Tennis Center, 3200 Ed Creighton Boulevard**, and is open to students in 1st through 8th grade. The cost is \$25 per student, and is limited to the first 60 applicants. There will be tons of tennis, fun, and fitness activities, with food and drinks provided. Participants will need to bring a tennis racquet, sleeping bag, and comfortable shoes. Friday night check-in will be from 9:00 - 9:45 p.m., and Saturday morning pick-up will be from 6:30 - 7:00 a.m. To obtain a registration form, inquire about registration fee assistance, or for more information on the Lock-In, call **Chris Foster 342-6006**.

THANK YOU!

The GPNA thanks Loretta Zuck and Phil Franco in the Medical Copy Center at Creighton University. They make the copies of this newsletter each month, and they do a great job!



**CREIGHTON
UNIVERSITY**

NEEDED: HELP WITH NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

The GPNA is looking for anyone, any age, interested in delivering newsletters in the Gifford Park Neighborhood.

Call: 933-7506

Would you like to advertise in the Gifford Park Pride?
If so, Call 345-0125



For Emergencies,

Dial 911

**For Non-Emergencies,
Dial 444-5600**

What's Happening in the Neighborhood . . .

Principal **Jo Kubik** is initiating a mentoring program at Kellom Elementary School. Volunteers in this program would help students with activities such as reading, mathematics, flash cards, etc. during regular school hours. Timing of the sessions can be flexible to accommodate volunteer schedules. For more information, call **Jo** at **344-0441**.

The GPNA would like to thank City Councilman **Subby Anzaldo** for addressing the November general meeting, and offer our congratulations on his new position in the mayor's office. Thanks for all of your efforts on behalf of the Gifford Park neighborhood, Subby!

Congratulations to **Tracy and Angela Johnson** on the arrival of their baby boy **Max** born in October. Tracy is the son of **Loren Johnson** and helps his father manage **J'N'J Grocery**.

The GPNA would like to offer its sincere condolences to the family of Vice-President **Brad Bogard**. Brad's uncle **Bob Nice** passed away in November.

The GPNA would like to offer its best wishes to **Lisa Fairbairn**, former marketing analyst at St. Joseph Hospital. Lisa has accepted another position outside the hospital and will no longer serve as the contact person at St. Joseph's. Thanks, Lisa, for all your help in making the arrangements for GPNA meetings. **Karen Kealy** will be the new contact person.

Augustana Lutheran Church's next "Saturday Night Alive" contemporary jazz worship service, will be held **Saturday, December 18th, 5:00 p.m.**, at **38th and Lafayette**. The service, offered each third Saturday of the month, blends the spirituality of jazz with the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Come to worship and stay afterwards for refreshments. For information, call Augustana at **551-4728** or e-mail the church at augustan@novia.net.

The Cathedral Arts Project is sponsoring "Christmas at the Cathedral" featuring the Omaha Symphonic Chorus and Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra on **December 3 and 4 at 8:00 p.m.** at **St. Cecilia's Cathedral, 40th and Webster St.** There is no charge for admission.



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 _____

Membership Report

As of November 1999, there were 9 business, 50 single, and 76 family for a total of 135 paid memberships. If you are a former member and have not renewed your 1999-2000 membership, please do so today - don't enter the next millenium without being a Gifford Park Neighborhood Association member!

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