



Gifford Park's Pride

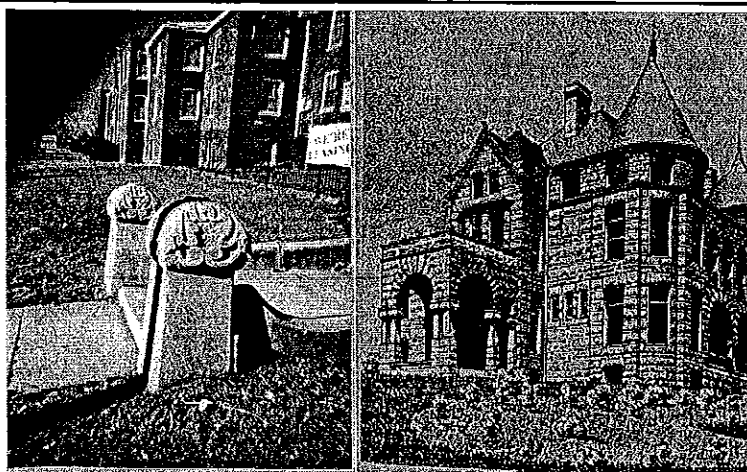
Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn and Play

February 2000

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Architectural Showcase Right Here in the Gifford Park Neighborhood

We had a good turnout for the January GPNA general meeting in which **Dr. Thomas Kuhlman** treated us to an "Architectural History of the Gifford Park Neighborhood". Thomas and his wife Mary are both Creighton University professors and also take a big interest in history. Dr. Kuhlman, who lives near 38th & Burt, shared his architectural expertise by presenting a



This stone entrance is all that remains of the old Yates Mansion near 31st & Davenport. Dr. Kuhlman said the Yates Mansion was as significant as Joslyn Castle when built in the late 1800's - it's ashamed it was demolished years ago.



An example of the wide variety of architectural styles present in the Gifford Park Neighborhood. This house is located at 3315 Cuming.

Next Meeting

**Thursday, February 3
7:00 P.M.**

Guest Speaker:

Pat Slaven

**Omaha Parks Department
Discussion of Park
Master Plan**

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

computer slideshow with about 35 photos highlighting 10 different architectural styles in our neighborhood. A handout of the presentation was provided to those attending so they could take notes and have examples of locations to check out. (We have handouts available if anyone is interested).

Dr. Kuhlman started his architectural tour showing many houses east of 33rd Street including the PKA Fraternity House and several large houses near 32nd & Davenport.

Dr. Kuhlman's goal was to educate us enough so that when we are walking in the neighborhood we notice and appreciate the great character and diversity of homes and buildings right here. Those of you who regularly take walks will now have a little more to pay attention to. And for those who don't take walks and are able, maybe Dr. Kuhlman's presentation will wet your appetite to learn more about the vast history and architectural styles of the Gifford Park Neighborhood.

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The President's Column

This is the time of year when we need to begin planning for the spring and summer events in our neighborhood. Many of you have volunteered for annual events such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Cleanup in April, Sun Dawgs in June and July, the Tennis Program in August. The GPNA is working on other programs such as Show Wagon, which is an annual youth talent show performed in parks – Gifford Park successfully hosted this event a few years ago and we are talking with the City about hosting it again. We would like to partner again with our good friends at **St. Joseph's Hospital** and put on another bike rodeo. Last year's event had a bike raffle, low-priced helmets, bike training, obstacle course and repair station. Also, we plan to work with the **PKA Fraternity** on the second annual baseball/softball clinic in the park. We would like to have the **PONY Softball League** and others play their games in the park. We have tentatively made plans to have a summer social event in the park, like the Gifford Park Day of a few years ago (past GPNA President **John Lynch** organized this event). Ideas about this event will be shared at the next meeting. I encourage everyone to volunteer in these and other events – I guarantee it will be worth your while ... or your money back! And please call me or any of the board members if you have other ideas for our neighborhood.

Speaking of planning, the neighborhood association is currently developing a park master plan with **Pat Slaven** of the City Parks Department. She is scheduled to be our guest speaker at the **February 3rd** general meeting. Pat will present diagrams of Gifford Park and we welcome your ideas and discussion. We have discussed tree-planting, greenspace, flowers, a walk path, lights, art sculpture and restrooms. Many of you probably remember the major improvements to the park in the early 1990's, due to the efforts of the neighborhood association. Keep in mind, Gifford Park is a city park that should be used and enjoyed by everyone. Our neighborhood has an opportunity to provide input to make the park even better.

In November, Subby Anzaldo mentioned that **Creighton University** has plans to close or significantly diminish Burt Street east of 30th Street to downtown. Cuming Street would probably be converted to two-way traffic. We all know the dangerous interstate entrance intersection on Burt Street – our neighborhood kids have to walk this route to Kellom. Creighton wants to make Burt Street greenspace for their campus and make it safer for students walking. The **Jefferson Square Neighborhood Association** (north and east of Creighton) says they are in favor of this plan. Also the proposed downtown sports arena and convention center would require changes to streets and properties near downtown (if the project starts). As many of you know Creighton University owns a number of properties in our neighborhood, particularly east of 33rd Street. They do a good job of maintaining the properties. What do they plan to do with them? What direction is Creighton looking to build? **Jim Willet, Associate V.P. with Creighton**, is scheduled to be our guest speaker in March, this will be a good chance to ask these questions.

A quick update on police activities. **Lt. Rich Swircinski** is now Command Lieutenant for our area. Several of us will meet with him soon to discuss current issues and problem-solving strategies well before the weather gets warm. We met with **Sgt. Steve Osier** and **Sgt. Dave Sedlacek** to provide information and

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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.

The President's Column *continued from page 2*

ask for continued enforcement. The GPNA's goal is for Police and residents to develop a good relationship so we can solve existing problems and even prevent future problems. This of course requires commitment from residents and Police. The GPNA Board recently submitted a Community Impact Statement to a Douglas County Judge against an individual who has caused significant problems around 33rd & California. The individual is currently in jail. The purpose of the Impact Statement is to let Judges know our neighborhood is serious about making our streets safer. Judges are required to read Impact Statements in preparation for sentencing. The GPNA is working with the **Douglas County Attorney's Office** and Police to monitor criminal cases involving individuals accused of crimes in our neighborhood.

I was a disappointed that we had little interest in attending the upcoming **Neighborhood Builders** workshop. This FREE program is a community effort among **Omaha's Weed & Seed Strategy**, the **University of Nebraska at Omaha**, various neighborhood associations, businesses and private citizens. The goal is to help build stronger, healthier, neighborhoods by assisting in developing positive leadership. The workshop will be held at **St. Joseph's Hospital every Saturday in February (5,12,19,26) 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** (those attending can skip lunch to save time). There is still time to register. I strongly encourage anyone interested to call me at **342-6006** for more information or call **Amy Krueger** at **595-1214** – we need to develop more people in our neighborhood who are interested in improving our area.

We again want to thank longtime **City Councilman Subby Anzaldo** for his excellent service to the Gifford Park neighborhood. We wish Subby the best of luck with his new position as liaison between the Mayor and City Council. The City Council will narrow 21 applicants (to fill Subby's vacancy) to five finalists to be interviewed for final selection in February. Hopefully the City Council will select someone with whom we can develop a good relationship.

A final thought for this month's article is my sincere appreciation for those who continue to volunteer their time to make our neighborhood a better place, particularly those who have made commitments to serve as GPNA Officers and committee chairs - keep up the good work.

by Chris Foster

Free Tax Help Is Here Again For the Sixth 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 will 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 5, 12, 19, 26 11 am to 1 pm
April 1, 8, 15 11 am to 1 pm
OR By Appointment

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call **551-3629** or **556-5355**.

Guard Lights Can Add Security

A guard light provides dusk-to-dawn lighting, offering an extra measure of security for your home. It helps eliminate shadows from your garage, driveway or walkways, and it discourages prowlers. It also can extend the amount of time you can spend on recreational or maintenance activities after dark. Guard lights are easy to obtain – you buy nothing and pay only for the electrical service. Guard lights are furnished, installed, owned and maintained by **OPPD**. They are available in 175-watt and 200-watt (commercial). You can have a guard light installed for \$8.66 per month plus tax for a 175-watt mercury-vapor lamp and \$11.65 per month plus tax for a 200-watt high-pressure sodium lamp. If an **OPPD** pole is not located in an area where a guard light would be beneficial to you, **OPPD** will set an additional pole and extend service within certain specifications for an additional \$.60 per month plus \$.40 per month for each additional electrical line installed. For more information on guard lights, or to initiate an order, call **OPPD's** customer account services at **536-4131**.



**For Emergencies,
Dial 911**
**For Non-Emergencies,
Dial 444-5600**

What's Happening in the Neighborhood . . .

Plan to attend the next general meeting on **Thursday, February 3rd, 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hospital. Pat Slaven, City of Omaha Parks Department**, will be our guest speaker. Pat will present initial ideas on a park master plan being developed. We need your input. Refreshments, courtesy of St. Joseph's Hospital, will be served.

The GPNA offers it's sincere condolences to **Bob and Virginia Hutton** and their family. Bob's mother passed away in early January in Oklahoma City. Bob and Virginia have always been very active in the GPNA.

Congratulations to **Mike and Nadja Wilwerding** for the birth of their son **Nate** in January. Mike and Nadja are very active in the GPNA.

Augustana Lutheran Church's next "Saturday Night Alive" contemporary jazz worship service will be held **Saturday, February 19th at 5:00 p.m. at 38th & Lafayette**. The service features the talents of outstanding musicians and singers who blend the spirituality of jazz, blues and gospel tunes with the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Come to worship and stay afterwards for refreshments. For more information, call Augustana at **551-4728** or E-mail at augustan@novia.net.

Christmas In April Omaha is accepting applications from low-income elderly and disabled homeowners who need home repairs but are unable to afford to hire the work done or do not have the physical ability to do the work themselves. This is a free program with the work done by volunteers and trade professionals. To qualify, homeowners must live east of 52nd Street, be 62 years of age or older or have a permanent disability, and meet income guidelines. All homes must be structurally sound, and there are limitations on the type of work that can be done. For more information, or to request an application, call **965-9170**.

Mark Saner is currently going through the Omaha Police Department's Citizens Academy. It provides an in-depth overview of the operations of the Omaha Police Department. The first class started January 18th and runs for 9 weeks. Mark's participation will bring additional experience to our neighborhood when working with the Police. Another session is planned for later this summer - we will provide detailed information when it becomes available.



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

We currently have 140 paid GPNA memberships for the current membership year. We urge you to send in your membership application as soon as possible. The cost is minimal - **\$8 for family; \$5 for an individual and \$25 for a business**. Many valuable programs are supported by your membership dollars. All the programs are aimed at improving the neighborhood — **our neighborhood**. Please take a moment now to send in your membership and show your support.

**For City Services,
Information, or
Complaints
Call:**

**Mayor's Action Office
444-5555**