



Gifford Park's Pride

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

April 2000

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

GPNA Spring Cleanup Set For May 6

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Spring Cleanup has been scheduled for **Saturday, May 6th**, from **10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the Gifford Park south parking lot. The cleanup is for all GPNA members and for those who donate time or money to the Association.

Items that will **not** be taken at the dumpster site are as follows: concrete, tree brush, yard waste, hazardous materials, paint, oil, or herbicides. Although tree brush will not be allowed at the dumpster site, it can be taken to the city's chipper site at **11th & Locust** on **April 15th and 29th**, and **May 6th**, from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** only. It has not been determined at this time whether tires will be accepted; see the May newsletter for details. For more information on the disposal of items not allowed in the cleanup, see **Additional Cleanup Information** on page 3.

A new policy will be in effect this year: a fee of \$5.00 each for disposal of couches and stuffed chairs will be assessed. As in past years, \$10.00 will be charged for each air conditioner or refrigerator.

If help is needed, volunteers will haul your trash for a small donation to the Association. If you need the hauling service, it is very important that you call one of the following numbers prior to the cleanup date: **Chris 342-6006** or **Mike 341-8224**.

As usual, volunteers are always needed to help out with the cleanup. If you own a pickup, and/or have some free time on May 6th, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please call one of the numbers above to volunteer.

11th Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 22nd
Noon (Sharp!)
Rain or Shine
at Gifford Park
Children Ages 12 &
Under

**Bring Your Easter Baskets
& Be Ready To Hunt!**

Next Meeting

**Thursday, April 6
7:00 P.M.**

**Guest Speaker:
Robert Sivick
District 3
City Council Representative**

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

Walking Neighborhood Watch Underway

We need people, male or female, young or old, who care about the Gifford Park Neighborhood and want to learn what happens in our neighborhood at different times of the day and night. We need to let our presence as a group be felt. This may just make us all more aware of the activities taking place in our area. The purpose is to walk and observe our neighborhood streets in a non-confrontational manner.

Last October we averaged about 20 people on three separate walks on 33rd Street. We felt it was very effective in showing support for our business district and residents who live along 33rd Street. With the weather warming up this is a great time to organize our Walking Neighborhood Watch. Remember, if you have any doubts about your safety, there is safety in numbers. By the time you read this newsletter we will have already participated on a walk along 33rd Street.

If interested call **Chris Foster 342-6006** or **Mark Saner 341-8939**.

GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Chris Foster 342-6006

VICE-PRESIDENT

Brad Bogard 342-2520

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jean Peck 344-0722

TREASURER

Sandy Sauer 341-8939

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**ADVERTISING**

Dar Swezy 345-0125

CLEAN-UP

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

COMPLIANCE

Ilea Wilwerding 345-1433

COURTESY

Candy Bacome 933-7506

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

MEMBERSHIP

Chris Foster 342-6006

NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Mike Bacome 933-7506

PARK

Roger Freeman 557-2914

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ilea Wilwerding 345-1433

TOOL LENDING

Tom Rose 932-6197

WATCH GROUP

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

KELLOM SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Dana Carlton 346-4575

The President's Column

Springtime in the Gifford Park Neighborhood is always busy. In fact, I'm running more behind schedule than usual so I will try to be brief with my notes and just hit the highlights; most of the details will be covered in the rest of the newsletter.

I've got good news and bad news. First the bad news. OPPD rejected our grant application for \$5,000 for tree planting in Gifford Park. We submitted very detailed plans provided by the City Parks Planning Department and thought we had a good chance to get all or part of the grant. However there are other opportunities that we will pursue to get funding for tree planting. The City will soon be making changes to a few existing park items – the old playground equipment in the east park will stay for now. Now the good news. Show Wagon, which is a youth talent competition, is coming back to Gifford Park in June and July. Sun Dawgs Youth Summer Program will again be in the park starting in June. St. Joseph's Hospital is planning another Bike Rodeo for our neighborhood in May. The GPNA is planning a one-day tennis blitz also in May. Other events coming up are the Easter Egg Hunt April 22 and Spring Cleanup May 6. The Pen-Pal program between the GPNA and Kellom students continues. We are still formulating ideas and possible dates for a Gifford Park Day. Election of GPNA Officers is coming up in June; please consider taking on a leadership position in our organization (the slate of officer candidates must be decided on by the May meeting). We wish to congratulate **Mark Sauer** for completing the 9-session Citizen Academy, which exposes participants to all aspects of the police department.

Plan to attend this month's GPNA meeting; **Bob Sivick** will be our guest speaker. Bob recently took over as our new City Councilman, replacing Subby Anzaldo. We plan to have a brief update on police activities in the area. We are also making plans to do something special at our May meeting. We plan to provide ice cream and focus on getting more parents and kids to attend the meeting – especially with a number of youth events coming up in May and June. Let us know if you have other ideas on this or any other matter.

And finally, at our March meeting, the GPNA recognized **Sue Wilwerding** and **Mike** and **Candy Bacome** for their outstanding dedication to producing and distributing this newsletter. If you didn't already know, Sue has been the editor for over three years and has never missed a deadline. Anyone who has produced a newsletter understands the difficult task of balancing appropriate content, various writers, grammar, last-minute changes, pictures and graphics, timing and a deadline - every month. It would be unfair not to mention Sue's husband **Terry** for his work with taking many of the pictures you see. Mike and Candy Bacome have done the job of newsletter distribution for over four years. Again, anyone who has done this job has a true appreciation of the time and commitment involved with seeing that during the odd-numbered months 1,500 newsletters get hand-delivered to most addresses in the Gifford Park neighborhood. Then on the even-numbered months, nearly 200 newsletters are stuffed, stamped, addressed and mailed to all GPNA members. Great job Sue, Terry, Mike and Candy!

by Chris Foster

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.

Neighborhood Maintenance Program To Begin Soon

The GPNA is starting a project to hopefully bring problem solving down to a block by block level. The project is called **Neighborhood Maintenance** and the goal is for each block to have a captain to document problems in their area. Each block captain will be provided a list of all property addresses along with the owner's name. Each property address will have a form to document problems such as criminal behavior, ordinance and code violations, weeds and litter, etc. The block captain will record information such as the date, issue, agency contacted, and action taken. This information can be very useful if we need to contact the owner (police and other agencies) to get a handle on chronic problem properties, especially with absentee landlords, of which our neighborhood has many.

Many thanks to **Betsy Noble** and **Jackie Lynch** for a lot of hard work to get this project going and providing a draft at the last GPNA meeting. The next step is to identify block captains; this is where we need your help. Betsy and Jackie have made the forms simple to fill out and maintain. Please call **Betsy Noble 344-3802** or **Chris Foster 342-6006** for more information.

What's Happening In The Neighborhood...

The tax deadline of April 17th is almost here, and that means there are only 2 more sessions for free help for basic tax returns: **April 8 & 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the GPNA office, 33rd and California. Call **551-3629** for more information.

The **11th Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt** will be held in Gifford Park on **Saturday, April 22, at noon**. Park cleanup will start at about 11:00 a.m., and distribution of candy and goodies will begin at about 11:30 a.m. Once again, **Shelly Rose** has graciously accepted the responsibility for organizing this event. Volunteers are needed to help clean the park, distribute the goodies, and help with crowd control. Come to Gifford Park, help out, and share in the spirit of the season.

The GPNA would like to thank **Jim Willett** from Creighton University, for speaking at last month's general meeting. Mr. Willett discussed campus expansion, the possible closing of Burt St., and Creighton's acquisition of property in the neighborhood.

Congratulations to Gifford Park neighborhood resident **Mary Kay Begley**, who was chosen to be chairperson of the MUD Board of Directors. Mary Kay has served on the board for 12 years.

Augustana Lutheran Church's next "Saturday Night Alive" contemporary jazz worship service will be held **Saturday, April 15th, at 5 p.m.** at the church located at **38th and 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 information, call Augustana at **551-4728** or E-mail at **augustan@novia.net**.

Show Wagon Returns to Gifford Park

Gifford Park will be the site of two Show Wagon performances this year. Some of you may remember when Gifford Park was a host site for this program nearly ten years ago. A district performance will be held **Tuesday, June 20**, and the regional finals are scheduled for **Monday, July 17**. Both performances are planned to begin at 7 or 7:30 p.m. Entry forms are available by calling **Christie Heights Community Center at 444-6280**. More information will be provided in upcoming newsletters and neighborhood meetings.

The Show Wagon program is a competition for youngsters ages 1-18 to show off their talents on stage, whether it be singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, juggling, magic tricks or any other talent performance. There are five different age divisions and participants can come from anywhere. Wouldn't it be nice to see talented young people from our own neighborhood participate? Mark your calendars and come out on both dates to enjoy an evening of music, dance and other talents at Gifford Park. Seating will most likely be on the east bank of the park, so bring your blankets and enjoy the show!

Additional Cleanup Information

If you have items to dispose of that will not be accepted in the GPNA cleanup, there are a couple of private companies in town that may meet some of your disposal needs. They are:

Carpet and carpet pad disposal
Carpet Pad Recovery
 6808 L Street
 call **331-1630** for more information

Bulky items, tires, and concrete
River City Recycling
 6030 South 60th Street
 call **731-0414** for more information

GPNA Watch Group Member Receives Award At OCCP Banquet

Terry Wilwerding received the 1999-2000 Gifford Park Patrol Volunteer of the Year Award at the Fifth Annual Recognition/Awards Banquet of the Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols held on March 21 at the Westside Community Education Center. Over 30 neighborhood associations and watch groups were represented at the dinner. Mayor Hal Daub and Police Chief Donald Carey presented him with a certificate in appreciation of his dedication to crime prevention as demonstrated by his participation in the Gifford Park Watch Group and the OCCP. Also honored at the banquet was Officer Mike Paul, who was nominated by the GPNA to receive the Officer Appreciation Award. Also representing the GPNA at the banquet were Harry Dirgo and Mark Saner.



Receiving recognition for their service to the Gifford Park neighborhood at this year's OCCP Banquet were Terry Wilwerding of the GPNA Watch Group and Officer Mike Paul of the Omaha Police Department. (Photo by Sue Wilwerding)

Hey Kids!



The 2nd Annual St. Joseph Hospital-GPNA Bike Rodeo will be held on Saturday, May 13, from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Look for more details in the May issue of the GPNA Newsletter!

You Can Do It.....

you can renew your GPNA membership now for 2000-2001, even though the membership year doesn't start until June 1. And if you'll be a new member and you join now, you'll be getting 14 months of membership for the price of 12 - what a deal! Just fill out the application on the left and send it in along with your membership fee (or bring it to the next meeting) and you're all set. If you are renewing, thanks for your support. If you are not a member, please consider joining - your membership helps pay for this newsletter, neighborhood cleanups, youth activities, and other worthwhile projects. Please join or renew your membership today!



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 _____

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