



Gifford Park's Pride

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

May 2000

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

GPNA Spring Cleanup Only Days Away

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

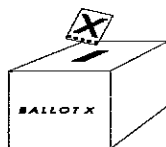
The following items will **not** be accepted at the dumpster site: concrete, tree brush, yard waste, hazardous materials, paint, oil, or herbicides. Tree brush can be taken to the city's chipper site at **11th and Locust** from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m. only on May 6**. Tires will be accepted at the cleanup - the earlier the better, since one run to the disposal site is being planned. A \$1.00 per tire handling fee will be charged. For information on the disposal of items not allowed in the cleanup, see page 3 of the April 2000 edition of the GPNA newsletter.

For large loads and disposal of couches or stuffed chairs, a donation to the Association would be appreciated. As in past years, \$10.00 will be charged for each air conditioner or refrigerator brought to the cleanup.

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 as soon as possible: **Chris 342-6006, Mike 341-8224, or Jim 551-1344.**

Plenty of volunteers are needed to help with the cleanup. If you can spare a few hours, please call the numbers listed above. The cleanup is a great way to meet your neighbors, enjoy being out on a beautiful spring day (hopefully!), and make a positive impact on the neighborhood at the same time. While at the cleanup you'll also be able to join the GPNA or renew your membership. Hope to see you there!

***Don't Forget To VOTE!
State Primary Election
Tuesday, May 9, 2000***



Next Meeting

Thursday, May 4

Agenda: Something For Everyone

- 6:45 P.M.:** Ice Cream & Cake Social
- 7:10 P.M.:** Youth Programs - Peg Watkins & Tom McGinn
- 7:25 P.M.:** Business Meeting
- 7:40 P.M.:** Break
- 7:45 P.M.:** State Legislative Candidates' Forum

**St. Joseph's Hospital
Becic (Glassed-In) Dining
Room**

Full Agenda Scheduled for May Meeting

Everyone is encouraged to attend the May 4 GPNA Meeting in the Becic Dining Room at St. Joseph's Hospital. The Becic Room is near the cafeteria and there will be signs to help everyone find the room. Parents are encouraged to bring their kids to learn about several upcoming youth programs in our neighborhood. **Peg Watkins**, City Recreation Supervisor, and **Tom McGinn**, City Recreation Coordinator, will be speaking about the Sun Dawgs Summer Youth Program, Show Wagon and other programs. Prizes will be given to the **FIRST 20 KIDS** attending the meeting. Come early because ice cream and cake will be served starting at 6:45 p.m. Informational flyers and sign-up forms for the Tennis Blitz, Bike

continued on page 3

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

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

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

The President's Column

Probably the most fundamental function a neighborhood association can do is to communicate information to people that is timely and appropriate to them. I believe our organization has always done a very good job of performing this function through the newsletter and neighborhood meetings. Hopefully people use this information to help them make good decisions that affect their family, friends and neighbors. Ultimately, this makes for a stronger community. Since our organization was founded in 1988, I believe the GPNA has been one of the strongest neighborhood associations in the city and has been a pioneer in a number of successful projects. However, one of my concerns is that our community may not reach its full potential unless we do things differently to draw more volunteers into the neighborhood association. More involvement and commitment from young families would go a long way toward reaching our potential as a neighborhood.

How do we get more families involved? It obviously requires more personal contact from all of us, both GPNA members and non-members, to help people feel welcome and encourage them to be more active in ways they are able. Our next GPNA general meeting will have opportunities for families and others to meet in a more social atmosphere - ice cream, cake and cookies will be served to all those attending. There will be a couple of speakers to present information on upcoming youth activities in our neighborhood, most of which are free. Prizes, including t-shirts, will be given away to the first 20 kids! With the election on May 9, we also scheduled a Legislative Forum for our meeting, with all seven candidates expected to participate. Please read the front page article for more details.

I would like to close by asking for your help in supporting our efforts around 33rd & California. There are ways you can get involved. First, participate in our Neighborhood Walks. We have held three walks during the past month. Showing we care about our area is a simple concept but very effective. Call **Mark** at 341-8939 or me at 342-6006 to find out the date and time of the next walk. Secondly, ride along with the GPNA Watch Group. They go out every Friday and Saturday nights from 11 p.m. to midnight or 1 a.m. The Watch Group observes and reports suspicious activity in our neighborhood. Call **Terry** at 342-2795 or **Mike** at 341-8224 for more details. And finally, please support our local businesses. Most have made a significant investment of time and money in our neighborhood.

Hope to see everyone at the May meeting!

by Chris Foster



**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE**



Mike 933-7506
Chris 342-6006

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

**Final Report on Tax Help 2000**

Once again, the GPNA is grateful to the IRS volunteers who provided free tax help in our neighborhood for the sixth year in a row. A total of 49 returns, 35 of which were electronically filed, were processed at the GPNA office, with two computers being used this year.

The GPNA thanks Jackie Foster, Pat Prochaska, Jan Bostick, and Linda Wilson for their generous donation of time and talent to the Free Tax Help Program!



May Meeting..... *continued from page 1*

Rodeo, Sun Dawgs, Show Wagon and other programs will be available – these events are free!

After Peg and Tom speak, we will have a very short business meeting, and then a State Legislative Forum with the seven candidates in District 9 will be held. State Sen. Shelley Kiel's decision to run for Congress has made this a very interesting race to fill her seat in the Legislature. The forum will start at about 7:45 p.m. with each candidate given approximately 3-4 minutes to talk about their platform and the issues. After all candidates have spoken, there will then be a short period of time for questions and answers. All seven candidates plan to be present: **Van A. Argyrakis, David Bywater, Thomas J. Dugdale Jr., Bob Kelly, Scott Knudsen, Chip Maxwell, and Michael J. Siderewicz.** The seven candidates are competing in the May 9th primary with the two candidates receiving the most votes advancing to the November 7 general election. The forum should conclude at about 8:30 p.m. Please plan on attending what should be a very interesting and informative meeting.

2000-2001 Membership Year Begins

The membership year for the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association officially runs from June 1, 2000 through May 31, 2001, and any membership purchased now will be good through May 31, 2001. It's a new beginning for Officers, Executive Board Members and residents. It is truly exciting to have new people volunteer to help. We should have several new officers to give the organization a great start.

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. Your membership helps pay for this newsletter, neighborhood cleanups and beautification projects, youth activities, social activities, neighborhood watch equipment, tool lending and many other worthwhile programs. Please join the GPNA today.

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.

Tennis Blitz Date Set

The GPNA will be providing a free 1 ½ hour tennis lesson for anyone (including families) on **Saturday, May 13, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** at Gifford Park. The rain date is the next day (Sunday) at the same time. Racquets and balls will be provided. As always we ask all participants to fill out a simple registration form and bring it to the lesson (a parent or guardian's signature is needed for youth). Also, if you have any old tennis racquets that you would like to donate to the Gifford Park Tennis program, or for more information, call **342-6006**. Incidentally, Kellom School is having a Tennis Assembly **Wednesday, May 10 at 10 a.m.** The Omaha Tennis Association has been a big help with supporting tennis events in our area.

Want to Advertise in the Gifford Park Pride? If so, call 345-0125

**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



Neighborhood Maintenance Program Organized

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 his/her area. Each block captain will be provided with 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 there are many in our neighborhood.

Many thanks to **Betsy Noble** and **Jackie Lynch** for a lot of hard work to get this project going. They presented a final draft at the April GPNA meeting. Since then, about 35 block books have been printed. 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 at 344-3802 for more information or if you are interested in being a block captain.

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, and we have had two walks so far this spring. 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.

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

Need Your House Painted? At No Cost!

You could have the exterior of your home painted at absolutely no cost by volunteers from Omaha area businesses, congregations, and service clubs. The 12th annual **Brush Up Nebraska Paint-A-Thon** is looking for low-income elderly and disabled homeowners whose houses need a new coat of paint. Homeowners who may be eligible can apply for this service by filling out an application form, which is available at any **Norwest Bank** or by calling **First Call for Help, 444-6666**. An independent selection committee of housing and human service agency professionals will review the applications. The application deadline is **June 5**. Those homes that are selected will be painted by a team of volunteers on **August 19**.

The Paint-A-Thon was established in 1989 as a community service to older adults and disabled homeowners who are unable to physically or financially paint their homes. Since the program began, volunteers have painted 1,279 houses, with a goal of 100 homes this year. The Paint-A-Thon is made possible through the financial support of a large number of area businesses.

Seventh Annual



FARMERS MARKET

Featuring fresh locally grown produce, flowers, herbs, baked goods, crafts and more!

SATURDAYS

MAY 13 - OCTOBER 14

8 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

OLD MARKET • 11TH & JACKSON STREETS

WEDNESDAYS

JUNE 14 - AUGUST 16

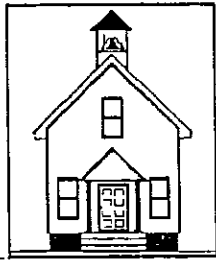
4:30 P.M. - 8 P.M.

OLD MARKET • 11TH & HOWARD STREETS

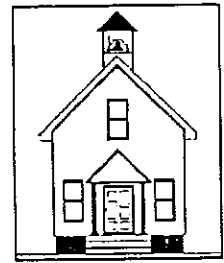
For more information, call 345-5401

Sponsored by McKillican Chiropractic, the City of Omaha, the Old Omaha Association, WOWT Channel 6, The New Mix 96.1, and Security National Bank.

Special thanks to Mercer Management and Blight Parking, Omaha Inc.



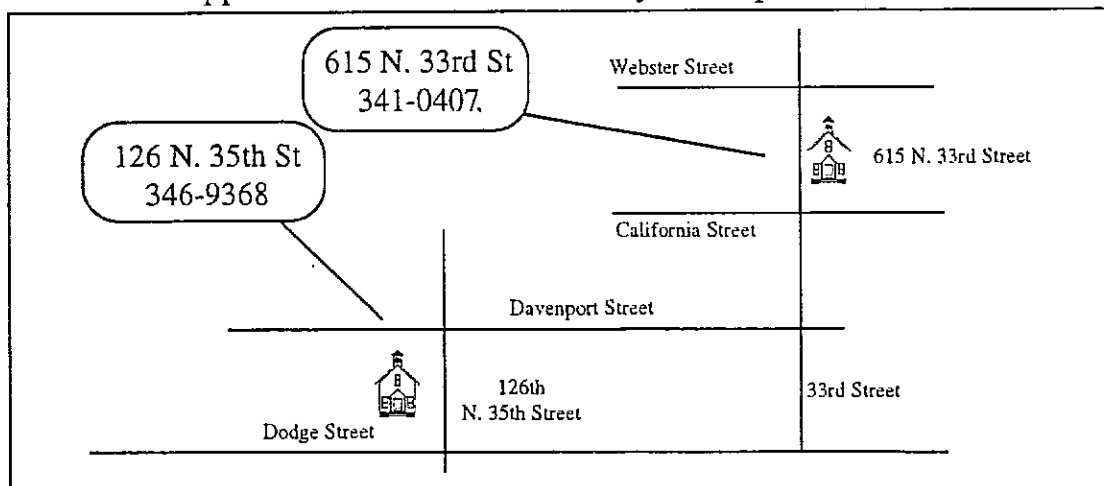
NEBRASKA CHILDCARE CENTERS*



Nebraska Childcare Centers offer:

- * Quality childcare for children ages 6 weeks thru 12 years
- * Developmentally Appropriate Activities
- * Safe, State approved transportation
- * U.S.D.A. approved food program including meals and snacks
- * Client transportation to these schools: Kellom, Walnut Hill, Field Club, Dundee, Harrison, King Primary
- * Saturday care at our corporate site

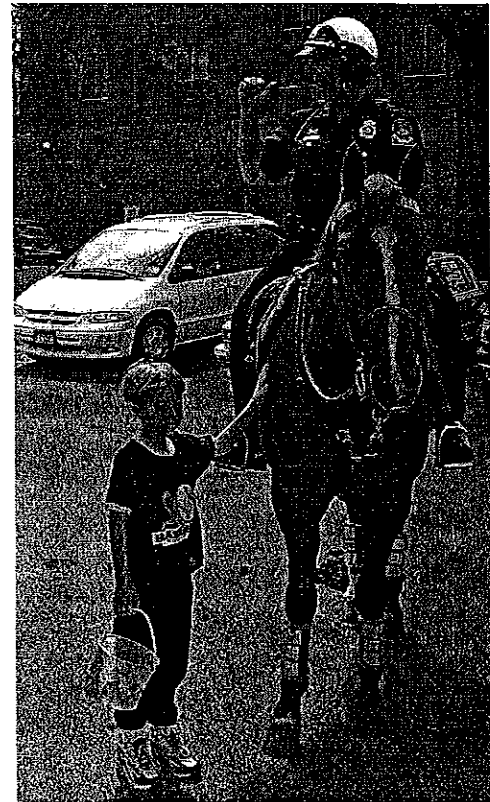
Appointments are not necessary so drop in for a visit



Another Fine Day For The GPNA Easter Egg Hunt

The 11th Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt brought out the best in our neighborhood again this year. On a picture-perfect spring day, Saturday, April 22nd, approximately 130 neighborhood children gathered in Gifford Park at noon. Volunteers spent an hour picking up trash in the park and "hiding" candy just before the kids filled their Easter baskets. As in the past, children were divided into the following age groups: 4 & under, 5-6, 7-9, and 10-12 year olds.

Special recognition goes to **Shelly Rose** who was in charge of collecting donations and organizing candy. Thanks to **JoAnne Askevics** who played the Easter Bunny again this year. Thanks also to **Loren Johnson** of **J'N'J Grocery** for his generous donation. Others making donations: **California Tacos**, **Chuck Kilgore**, **Baker's Supermarket**, **16th Street Furniture & Appliance** and **Target**. We appreciate the great turnout of volunteers who showed up to help. It was nice to see KETV cover the event. A special treat at this year's event was a surprise visit from two members of the Police Horse Patrol. And as usual, there wasn't a piece of candy left in the park!



*Photos by Terry
Wilwerding
and
Chris Foster*



(bottom left) The Easter Bunny (JoAnne Askevics) greets Jerry Preston and his young son Tucker at his first GPNA Easter Egg Hunt.

(top left) Three of the approximately 130 neighborhood youngsters anxiously await the start of the hunt.

(top right) This "hunter" takes time out from the action to meet one of the two horse patrol officers. The children were excited to see the horses come down the hill and walk through Gifford Park.

(bottom right) The action was fast and furious at the end of the countdown that officially starts the hunt.



SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL " BIKE RODEO "

WHEN: SATURDAY MAY 13TH

*RAFFLE FOR PRIZES

TIME: 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.

*HELMETS \$5.00
(TODDLERS - ADULT)

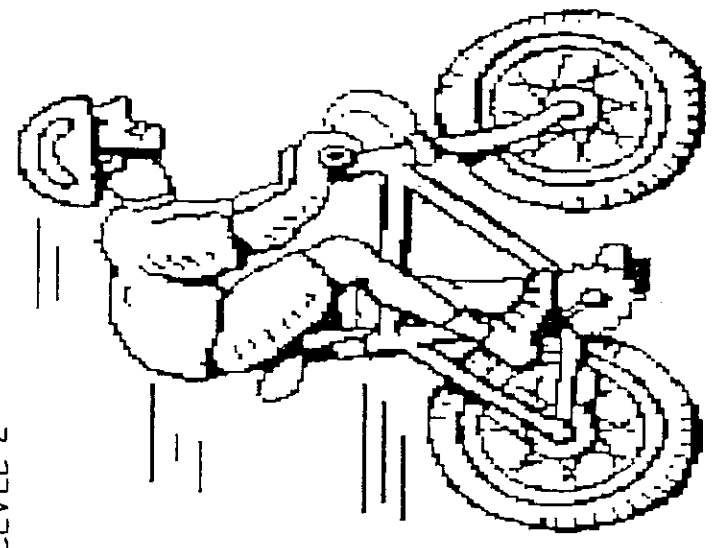
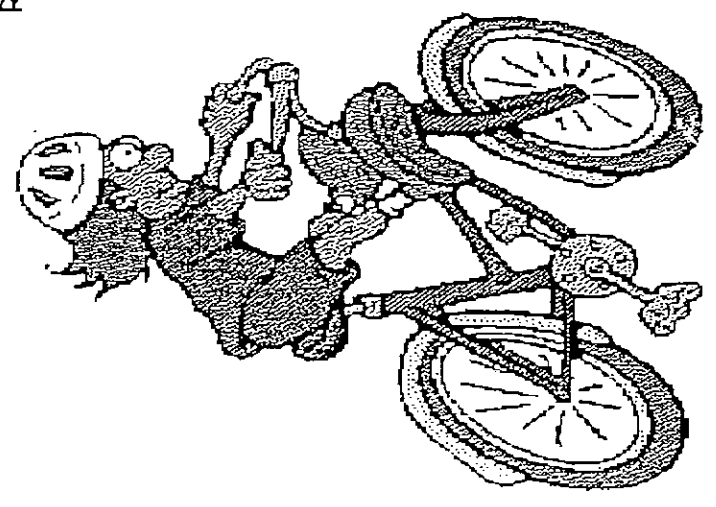
WHERE: Parking lot #9

(31ST & BURT STREET)

*OBSTACLE COURSE

*FIX-IT SHOP

RAIN: PARKING STRUCTURE - LEVEL 2



*COLORING BOOKS
& FREE PRIZES

*REFRESHMENTS

*LIFE NET DISPLAY

*MEDIBIKE DISPLAY

Show Wagon Coming 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 will begin at **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 youth 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!

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



What's Ha
Even though
was turned
Project s
City P.
Park



Happy Mother's Day!



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

What's Happening in the Neighborhood . . .

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saved the GPNA a lot of money over the last several years.

Some of us would like to consider ideas for a new GPNA Logo and mission statement that better reflect the character of this neighborhood association. We would like to use the new logo on hats and shirts that would be awarded to individuals performing certain levels of community service for the GPNA. If this program sounds familiar, it should. The GPNA used to give out V.I.P. (Volunteer Incentive Program) Awards a few years ago. It may be time to revisit this program along with creating a new logo. If you have any ideas, call 342-6006.

Augustana Lutheran Church's next "Saturday Night Alive" contemporary jazz worship service will be held **Saturday, May 20th, 5:00 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 the church at augustan@novia.net.

Don't forget to vote on **Tuesday, May 9th**. The polls are open from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Besides the race for the state legislative representative in our district, there are other important election races (presidential primary and senate) and issues, such as the proposed Downtown Convention Center and Arena, and the Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority (MECA). Call the Election Commissioner's Office (444-7200) with any questions concerning polling places or districts.

Calendar of Events in the Gifford Park Neighborhood

Spring Cleanup: Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Gifford Park

Tennis Blitz - Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Gifford Park

Bike Rodeo - Saturday, May 13, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. in parking lot on northeast corner of 32nd & Webster

Sun Dawgs - June 12 - Aug 3, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Gifford Park

Show Wagon - Tuesday, June 20 and Monday, July 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Gifford Park

June GPNA General Meeting - Thursday, June 1, 7:00 p.m. - election of officers for 2000-2001.

Watch Group - every Friday & Saturday night 11 p.m. - midnight or 1 a.m. (meet at GPNA office at 11 p.m.)



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

What's Happening in the Neighborhood . . .

Even though our grant application to OPPD for tree planting in Gifford Park was turned down, the GPNA is still pursuing other opportunities to get this project started, possibly yet this spring – we'll keep you posted. **Pat Slaven**, City Park Planner, has worked very hard for our neighborhood on the Gifford Park master plan and we greatly appreciate her efforts.

Thanks to **Robert Sivick**, our district's new city councilman, for being our guest speaker at the April general meeting. We appreciate his taking time out of his busy schedule to address our meeting and conveying our needs and concerns back to the council and mayor.

Please keep the family of **Loren Johnson**, owner of J & J Grocery, in your thoughts. Loren's wife Mary has been ill and the Johnsons can use your support. It goes without saying that the Johnson family has always been very generous with donations and support for many neighborhood events year after year.

The Omaha Community Foundation has approved a GPNA grant for \$500 to help defray the cost of the dumpster rental for the fall cleanup. A big thanks to **Jim Wilwerding** for writing the grant again this year – these grants have

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GPNA Boundaries

The boundaries of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association are the Interstate on the east, 37th Street on the west, Dodge Street on the south and Cuming Street on the north. Anyone living, working, or having an interest in this area is welcome to join.

Needed: Help With Newsletter Distribution

The GPNA is looking for anyone, any age, interested in delivering newsletters in the Gifford Park neighborhood every other month

Call: 933-7506

Neighborhood Problems? Where To Call For Help

Problem	Call	Agency/Department
Air Quality/Odor Control	444-6015/6016	Environmental Services
Animal Control	444-7800	Humane Society
Chuck Holes, Debris, Litter in Street, Curb Repairs	444-4919	Street Maintenance
City Park Problems	444-5900	Parks & Recreation Dept.
Emergency, Criminal or Suspicious Activity	911	Mayor's Hotline
Garbage Collection/Complaints/Recycling/Information	444-5555	M.U.D.
Gas Leaks, Water Line Breaks	554-7777	Mayor's Hotline
Graffiti to Report	444-5555	
Keep Omaha Beautiful	444-7774	
Legal Aid Society Tenant/Landlord Discrimination Issues	444-5055	Human Relations
Non-Emergency "Police Report Over the Phone"	444-5977	Your Call Will Be Returned
Nuisance Vehicles (Improperly parked, licensed, etc...)	444-5555	Mayor's Hotline
Rats, Raw Garbage, Open Refrig/Freezer in Yard	444-7481	Douglas County Health Dept.
Sewer Problems	444-5332	Sewer Maintenance
Sidewalks Broken or Obstructed	444-5283	Sidewalk Division
Snow Removal Complaints (24 Hour Line)	444-4919	Street Maintenance
Street Lights Out/Electrical Wires Down	554-6773	O.P.P.D.
Tenant/Landlord Issues	348-1060	Legal Aid Society
Traffic Signal Not Working	444-5160	Traffic Engineering
Tree Limbs/Hedges Blocking View of Traffic	444-5910	Forestry Division
Unsafe/Dangerous Building	444-5555	Mayor's Hotline
Vehicle Already Towed	444-5783	Impound Lot
Weeds Over 18", Yard Litter	444-5910	Weeds & Litter
Zoning Enforcement	444-5379	Alan Berns
Zoning Information	444-3426	Urban Planning