



Gifford Park's Pride

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

June 2000

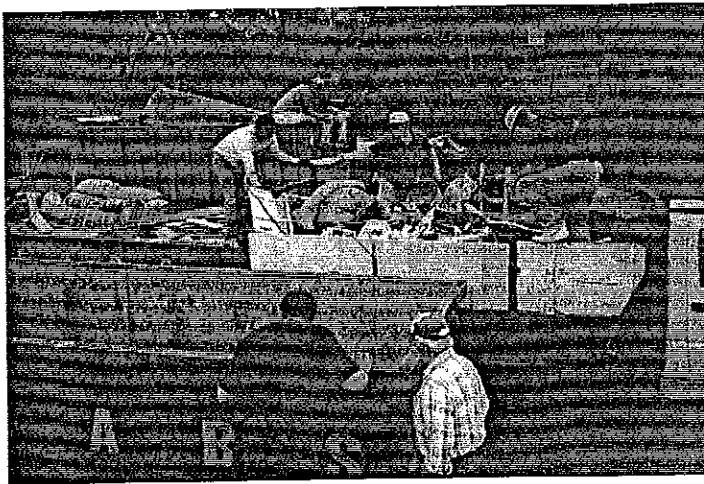
A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Cleanup Kicks Off Busy Month In The Gifford Park Neighborhood

The Gifford Park neighborhood was a bevy of activity during the month of May. Saturday, May 6th, was the annual spring cleanup in the park's parking lot. A total of 9 dumpsters were filled, 40 tires were collected, and at least 5 loads of scrap metal were hauled during the course of the afternoon. Over \$550 was collected in donations and membership dues.

It was great to see the number of volunteers present to help with the cleanup - especially some new faces - and Mayor Hal Daub made a guest appearance.

The GPNA would like to thank the City of Omaha and Keep Omaha Beautiful for supplying the dumpsters, and J'N'J Grocery and the California Bar for providing the hot dogs and beverages. And last, but not least, thanks to Mike Wilwerding, cleanup chairman, for organizing the event.



GPNA Officers To Be Chosen

The following GPNA members have volunteered to serve as officers for 2000 - 2001:

President:	Chris Foster
Vice President:	Peter Cihunka
Recording Secretary:	Vicki Frey
Treasurer:	Dana Carlton

This slate will be placed in nomination at the general meeting on June 1st, and a vote will be taken.

Reminder: You must be a GPNA member to vote!

Next Meeting

**Thursday, June 1
7:00 P.M.**

**Election of Officers
for 2000 - 2001**

**Speaker: Representative From
The Omaha Housing Authority
Topic: Section 8 Housing**

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

Note: No July Meeting!

GPNA Receives Tree Planting Funds

A good portion of the park master plan for Gifford Park may soon become reality. The GPNA received great news from representatives of the Community Enhancement Program (a cooperative program of the Nebraska Department of Roads, the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum) regarding our park plan. They have committed \$14,000 for tree and shrub planting in Gifford Park. The Omaha World Herald Branching Out Program will commit an additional \$3,500 for tree planting. This amount of funding will allow us to implement the most important component of the park master plan. Pat Slaven, City Park Planner, has worked very hard to develop the plan which included on-going input from the GPNA. Special thanks to Rob Parolek who initiated discussion of the park master plan last year. The work by all those involved will mean significant park improvements to be enjoyed by our community for years to come. We are currently getting bids for the project planting specifications. We are most likely looking at a fall planting. We have discussed having a "Gifford Park Day" to dedicate the tree planting this fall - we'll keep you posted.

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

As most of you know the last couple of months have been very busy in the GPNA. The Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Cleanup, Tennis Blitz, Bike Rodeo, Ice Cream Social and Candidates Forum at the May meeting, Watch Group and Neighborhood Walks, and the development of the Gifford Park master plan have all taken place recently. I want to thank everyone who participated and assisted with these and other activities. Your efforts are appreciated more than you know. I think most will agree it's good to finally get a short break from neighborhood activities so we can work on our own projects or take vacations. After all, this is a volunteer organization which we sometimes forget to realize with the hard work so many people put in, but I believe it's worth it.

With GPNA officer elections upon us I'd like to spend just a moment thanking our current officers who served the past year and in some cases two years. First, **Sandy Saner** served as Treasurer for the last two years as we saw our treasury funds continue to grow. Sandy has been very active with many of our activities. **Jean Peck** served as Recording Secretary for the past two years. This position requires attending every meeting, and I don't remember Jean ever missing a meeting – that's 12 general and 12 board meetings each year. And **Brad Bogard** who served as Vice President for the past year. Besides having a family and running the very successful California Tacos, Brad keeps watch in the business district, assisted me with setting up meetings and sharing ideas. His energy and enthusiasm help create excitement for our neighborhood. Thanks to all of the officers for unselfishly giving their time.

I also wish to thank **Jim Wilwerding** for his continued support as past president. Jim not only participates in just about every event, but he has helped me a great deal through my first year as president.

I want to get everyone up to date with other activities of the GPNA. We organized a meeting May 10 th with landlords and business owners to discuss problems and solutions around 33rd Street. There was a good turnout with the following solutions discussed: better lighting in the business district; better police enforcement; get more property owners involved; crackdown on permit and code violations; organize more neighborhood walks on 33rd Street; and hiring an off-duty police officer.

At our last GPNA board meeting we discussed at length the parameters for hiring an off-duty police officer for a few hours a week to provide additional police presence to the 33rd Street area. Details are still being developed, but generally speaking the business and property owners would pay for this service, particularly during higher crime months. The GPNA would commit some funds to this effort. One of the biggest problems we face is from the behavior and crime committed by individuals who don't even live in the neighborhood, but they apparently feel they can get away with it on 33rd Street.

We must also continue to organize and recruit more people for our neighborhood walks. This is especially true now with summer break for kids. The purpose is to let our presence as a group be felt by walking and observing our neighborhood streets in a non-confrontational manner. Thus far the walks have been very successful this spring. Please consider joining us on neighborhood walks; you will not regret the experience of meeting your neighbors and making a difference. Contact **Peter (341-7293)**, **Mark (341-8939)** or **Chris (342-6006)** for more information. Of course another way you can help is by participating in our neighborhood watch group. Volunteers drive around the Gifford Park neighborhood on Friday and Saturday nights from roughly 11 p.m. to midnight or 1 a.m. For more information call **Mike (341-8224)** or **Terry (342-2795)**.

by Chris Foster

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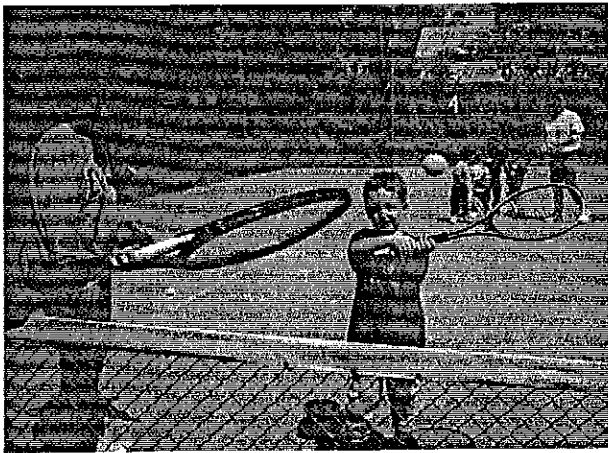
Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



Second Annual Tennis Blitz Hits Kellom, Gifford Park

Over 500 students and teachers were introduced to tennis at Kellom Elementary on Wednesday, May 10. **Ed Hubbs, Steve Hossack and Chris Foster** ran the clinic in the school gymnasium. Prizes were given out to both students and teachers who helped in the demonstration. Three days later on Saturday, May 13, Gifford Park hosted a free 1 1/2 hour tennis blitz which 40 kids attended. The GPNA provided racquets, balls and instructors. Many thanks to the instructors for their commitment to this event: **Chris, Jackie, Jenny and Willie Foster, Roger Freeman, Kirk Peck, Paul Johanek, Katie Keane, Ron Frey, Ed Trandahl and Jackie Taylor.** **Betty Slayden** again did a fine job of handling registration and prizes for the kids. Don't forget, tennis racquets and balls will be available for use at the Sun Dawg Shack this summer at Gifford Park. Also the GPNA plans to hold the annual summer tennis program in August - practice makes perfect!



What's Happening In The Neighborhood...

The GPNA would like to thank **Van Argyrakis, David Bywater, Thomas Dugdale Jr., Bob Kelly,** and **Scott Knudsen** for participating in the candidates' forum at the May general meeting. This forum provided an excellent opportunity for the voters to hear the candidates' views on a variety of issues.

The GPNA would like to welcome 2 new "residents" to the neighborhood. **Ava Rose**, baby daughter of **Rich and Lynn Mills**, was born May 10th and joins her sister **Emma** at their home on California St. Baby boy **Preston Shibata** was born on May 12th to **Eric and Ann Marie Noll**, who also live on California St. Congratulations and best wishes to both families!

First Central Congregational Church - United Church of Christ will be holding a Vacation Church

continued

What's Happening In The Neighborhood...

continued

School from **June 21st to June 23rd.** This program is open to both children and adults, and will run from **6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Stories about the biblical figures **Abraham and Sarah** will be featured. The church is located at **421 South 36th St. (36th and Harney).** For more information, or to obtain a registration form, call **345-1533.**

The Show Wagon's Coming To Gifford Park!

Tuesday, June 20th

7:30 p.m.

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the show!



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

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Beginning June 12- August 3

**No Cost Activities for kids
ages 6 - 15 include:**

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

**The Gifford
Park Sun
Dawg Shack
is the "cool"
place to be
this summer!**



Second Annual St. Joseph Hospital - GPNA Bike Rodeo A Big Hit With Area Kids

On May 13 following the tennis program, St. Joseph Hospital and the GPNA sponsored a bicycle rodeo in the hospital lot at 32nd and Burt St. Over 100 children attended the afternoon event. Besides hospital and neighborhood personnel, representatives from the Salvation Army disaster unit and the sheriff's bicycle patrol were on hand. Many bikes were repaired at no charge by **Larry Thorsen** from **Olympia Cycle** at 40th and Hamilton. Highlights included \$5.00 bike helmets, an obstacle course and traffic light training. The Life-Flight helicopter arrived and was open for viewing. Pop, snacks and gifts were provided by St. Joseph's. The highlight of the afternoon was a raffle for seven various sized new bikes, purchased by the GPNA. Many thanks to **Alvin Kobes**, **John Murphy** and **Diane Yetter** from St. Joseph's, and **Terry Wilwerding** and **Chris Foster** from the GPNA who helped organize and staff the event.



Proudly displaying their prizes are two of the lucky winners in the free bike raffle. The GPNA donated seven bicycles for the raffle this year. The GPNA would like to thank the K-Mart on 132nd and Maple for providing the bicycles at a very reasonable price. (Photo by Terry Wilwerding)

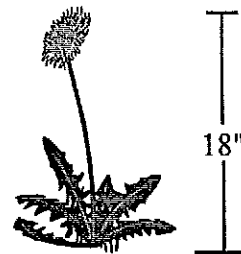
Now's The Time

To renew your GPNA membership! The 2000 - 2001 membership year starts June 1. Don't let your membership in one of the most active neighborhood associations in the city lapse - be a good neighbor and support the GPNA - and better yet, get involved in one of the many GPNA activities - with everyone's help we can make this neighborhood an even better place to live, work, learn, and play.

Weeds...how tall is too tall?

City of Omaha code states that weeds (or any vegetation) cannot be over 18" tall. The following steps can be taken if this code is violated:

- A complaint can be filed by anyone
- A City Inspector will send the property owner a 10 day notice to cut the weeds
- If the owner does not respond, the address is put on a mowing list
- Property will be mowed and the owner will be charged according to the size of job



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 _____

Mayor's Action Line
444-5555