



Gifford Park's Pride

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

September 2000

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Gifford Park Day To Be Held In 2001

Gifford Park Day has been moved to the spring of 2001. It was originally set for September with the anticipation of getting the tree planting project substantially complete before the event (as reported in last month's newsletter, the GPNA has received grants totaling \$17,500 for planting trees and shrubs in the park). However it will work out much better for everyone involved to move the event to the spring. **Indian Creek Nursery**, the firm that was selected to do the landscaping, expects to have the park planting project completed later in the fall. Gifford Park Day will be a social event to bring people together to celebrate and promote our neighborhood. Besides a tree dedication, preliminary plans include having a parade, food, games, clowns, sports, information booths, raffles, live music, arts & crafts, tug-a-war and other activities. The GPNA needs your help and ideas to make this a success. Please call Pete (341-7293) or Chris (342-6006) if you can help in any way.

New GPNA Logo Chosen

Congratulations to **Dana Carlton**, our new treasurer, for submitting the winning entry for the new GPNA logo. There were a total of nine logos submitted, including the current logo that has been used for the past ten years. Dana receives a \$25 gift certificate to **California Tacos**. She also created a color version of the logo. We plan to begin using the logo immediately on correspondence, newsletters, shirts, hats, etc. originating from the GPNA. Thanks to everyone who submitted entries for the logo contest.



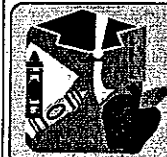
Next Meeting

Thursday, September 7
7:00 P.M.

Agenda

- 7:05 P.M. Tom Everson
"Keep Kids Alive -
Drive 25" Campaign
- 7:15 P.M. Business Meeting
- 7:30 P.M. Mike Owen
State Department of
Roads
Interstate Bridge
Reconstruction
- 8:00 P.M. Drawing for Omaha
Theater Comany
For Young
People Tickets
(See page 2 for
details)

St. Joseph Hospital
Dining Rooms A, B, and C



Back
to
School

Please
Drive
Carefully!

GPNA OFFICERS

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Chris Foster 342-6006

VICE PRESIDENT

Peter Cihunka 341-7293

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Victoria 342-0757

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Roger Freeman 557-2914

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Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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TOOL LENDING

Chris Foster 342-6006

WATCH GROUP

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

KELDOM SCHOOL HAIKON

Dana Carlton 346-4575

Calendar of Events

GPNA General Meeting – Thursday, September 7, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hospital

Neighborhood Walk (33rd Street and Gifford Park) – Friday, September 8, 7 p.m., meet at 33rd & Cass

Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale – Saturday, September 9, Gifford Park Neighborhood

GPNA Board Meeting – Thursday, September 21, 7 p.m. at the GPNA Office, 33rd & California

GPNA General Meeting – Thursday, October 5, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hospital (Legislative Candidates Forum)

Fall Cleanup – Saturday, October 28, in Gifford Park

GPNA General Meeting – Thursday, November 2, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hospital (guest speaker - Police Chief Don Carey)

Election Day – Tuesday, November 7

Watch Group – Every Friday and Saturday night, 11 p.m., meet at GPNA Office, 33rd & California

Neighborhood Walk Scheduled For September 8

The GPNA is asking everyone, male or female, young or old, who cares about the Gifford Park Neighborhood and wants to learn what happens in our neighborhood, to join us in our next neighborhood walk **Friday September 8, 7 p.m. at 33rd & Cass**, next to the Kum & Go. For this walk we plan to cover other areas of the neighborhood besides 33rd Street, which has been our primary focus this spring and summer. Public safety on 33rd Street remains our number one priority; however we also need to walk through the park and other areas. We have had at least two neighborhood walks each month since April; the last was a walk/cleanup on August 25. We feel the walks are very effective in showing support for our business district and residents who live along 33rd Street. It's a great chance to meet neighbors and get a little exercise along the way. If interested in being called for participating in future walks, please call **Peter Cihunka 341-7293**, **Mark Saner 341-8939**, or **Chris Foster 342-6006**.

Drawing For Children's Theater Tickets At September General Meeting

A drawing will be held at the end of the GPNA general meeting **September 7th** for tickets to two different presentations by the **Omaha Theater Company For Young People**. The tickets will be for **"Babe The Sheep Pig"** on **Friday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m.** and **"Hanky and Girlo"** on **Sunday, October 8, at 4:30 p.m.**

"Babe The Sheep Pig" is the play based on the book that sparked two hit movies, and is suitable for ages 4 and older. "Hanky and Girlo" is a contemporary version of "Hansel and Gretel" and is somewhat "scary", so it is suggested for kids ages 7 and older. Both plays will be presented at **The Rose, 2001 Farnam St.** The tickets are provided to the GPNA courtesy of **Mary Theresa Lawler**.

Please patronize our GPNA newsletter advertisers

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Mike 933-7506
 Chris 342-6006

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



GPNA Welcomes College Students

We have a large number of university students living in the area who are returning for another year of school. The GPNA has been working with the city and police to improve the appearance and safety of our neighborhood. The goal of the GPNA is to improve the neighborhood and make it a better place for **all** residents, and we would ask our new student neighbors to become a part of this effort.

The largest part of being a good neighbor is consideration for others. First we ask students to be considerate in terms of noise, especially after 10:00 PM. Many families in our neighborhood have children or go to work early. Parties are another problem. Unfortunately, parties always seem to end up bigger and noisier than first planned, and the police have been more active in enforcing noise and underage drinking ordinances. Another difficult problem is parking. Our neighborhood has barely enough parking (like school), so you may not always be able to park directly in front of your residence. Please do not park on lawns, across sidewalks or on the wrong side of the street (facing traffic). Besides making the neighborhood look bad, all of these are parking violations. Also, do not litter and help us keep our neighborhood picked up. Many of us pick up trash that we did not leave and we ask that you would help us by doing the same.

Finally, consider coming to one of our meetings and perhaps joining our association. A \$5.00 yearly membership will get this newsletter delivered to you every month, and you will meet your neighbors and many other wonderful people during our activities such as the neighborhood clean-up (we can always use more help) and walks. We welcome the students for the upcoming year, and we hope that you will help us continue to make the Gifford Park neighborhood a better place to live.

What's Happening in the Neighborhood ...

The GPNA was very sorry to hear the sad news of the recent death of **Bob Light**. Bob was very active with the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association for many years. He was also very active with Neighborhood Builders, Omaha's Weed and Seed Committee and other community organizations. His neighborhood spirit and leadership are a great example for all of us to follow.

The GPNA offers its best wishes to **Karen Kealy** as

continued on page 4

Fall Cleanup Scheduled for October 28

The GPNA Annual Fall Cleanup has been scheduled for **Saturday, October 28th**. This is a **member-only** activity, so **now** is a great time to join or renew your GPNA membership. The application is on page 8 - just fill it out, mail it in along with the appropriate dues, and you're a GPNA member!

The GPNA is looking for a new Cleanup Chairman starting with the Spring 2001 cleanup. There are only 2 cleanups per year. The primary responsibilities of the chairman are to order the dumpsters, organize the volunteers, solicit food and pop donations, and general supervision the day of the cleanup. If you are interested in this position or have any questions, call **Chris 342-6006** or **Mike 341-8224**.

Watch for more details on the Fall Cleanup in the October (members only) newsletter!

Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law

**4913 Underwood Avenue
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Community since 1937
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Proprietors



Historically Speaking... The Eccentric Man on 32nd Ave.

The following story is related in B.F. Sylvester's book The West Farnam Story

At 120 North 32nd Avenue stood the five bedroom, five bath house of Sarah W. Horbach, widow of John A. She had built the house to make a home for her daughter, Mary F. Bourke, and her grandchildren, Sarah, Anna, and Pauline, after the death of their husband and father, Captain John C. Bourke of the United States Army and graduate of West Point, class of 1869. As an enlisted man of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry in the War Between The States, he had won the Army (Congressional) Medal of Honor the first year it was authorized. This was for leading a charge at the Battle of Stone River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862, at the age of 16 years.

The Horbachs had come to Omaha in 1856 and first lived in a three room house on Thirteenth Street. Five years later, they went to Allegheny, Pennsylvania, for the birth of Mary. Returning, they crossed the frozen Missouri River on foot carrying the baby. Indians used to look in at the window of the Thirteenth Street house to see the white papoose, who was joined two years later by a brother, Paul W.

The Horbachs prospered in real estate and built a larger house at 1623 Douglas Street. As a widow, Mrs. Horbach sold it for \$52,000 to J. L. Brandeis & Sons, for their department store. When Mrs. Horbach died, the house on 32nd Avenue went to her son and daughter. The son, Paul, agreed to pay his sister and her girls \$40,000 if they would give him immediate possession, with contents. The offer was accepted and the Bourkes went to live in Washington, D.C.

Paul was a bachelor, described as handsome, attractive, and a cynic. Twice appointed to West Point, he said, "I don't think I'm going to like this place," and left each time. He went to a technical school where he was a brilliant student, and graduated as an electrical engineer, but worked only briefly. He is said to have developed some eccentricities, one of which annoyed tremendously the members of the Omaha Club, where he lived for a time. A frugal man, he used to bring in a sandwich from outside for his lunch, after which he would go to sleep on a couch in the reading room. When he became delinquent on his Club bill, the Club had the excuse they were waiting for to drop him from membership.

Horbach occupied two rooms of his house in the summer for a couple of years, but lived downtown in winter because the house was cold. He would not rent or sell the place. It is told that real estate agents would call up with, "We have a very nice family..." "No," he would interrupt, "I won't have riffraff in my house." The house stood empty for 30 years. Horbach died at age 83 (1946). While he had kept out the "riffraff," he was not successful against vandals, insects and other forces of decay. Item: Seven moth-eaten Oriental rugs had to be burned. The house no longer stands.

by Eva Swanson

GPNA Member Receives Korean War Veteran Medal

Bob Hutton, long time member of the GPNA, has recently received a commemorative pin for Korean war veterans from the office of Congressman Lee Terry. Bob received the Korean Service Medal with 5 stars and now awaits the Republic of Korea War Service Medal in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. This special medal was originally offered by the Republic of Korea in 1951, but at that time the U.S. military did not allow its members to wear medals issued by foreign governments.

A national program for belatedly honoring Korean war veterans from a half-century ago is now in place. At the time of the war, these servicemen did not receive much recognition when they returned to the States or came out of the service.

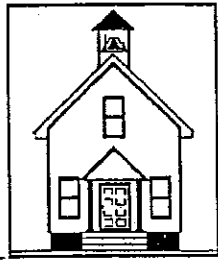
Congratulations on this award, Bob, and thanks for serving your country!

What's Happening in the Neighborhood ... *continued from page 3*

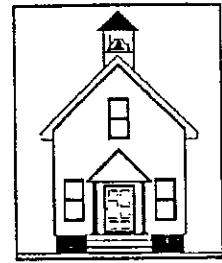
she begins a new job. Unfortunately, Karen will be leaving her Administrative Assistant's position at **St. Joseph's Hospital** to take on another opportunity in Omaha. She worked at St. Joseph's for 6 years. Karen has always made sure we had everything we needed for meetings, the holiday banquet and other functions. It has been great working with you Karen - good luck!

Two GPNA committees are looking for volunteers. The **Calling Committee** needs volunteers to make calls to people informing them of upcoming events and activities. For more information, call **Jean Peck (344-0722)**. The **Neighborhood Maintenance Program** needs block captains to monitor and document problems in their areas. For more information, call **Betsy Noble (344-3802)**.

A **Bemis-Joslyn Castle Neighborhoods Home Tour** will be held on **September 17th**, from **1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** The tour will cost \$8 per person and transportation will be provided by Ollie the Trolley. The Joslyn Castle will be part of the tour in addition to the neighborhood homes.



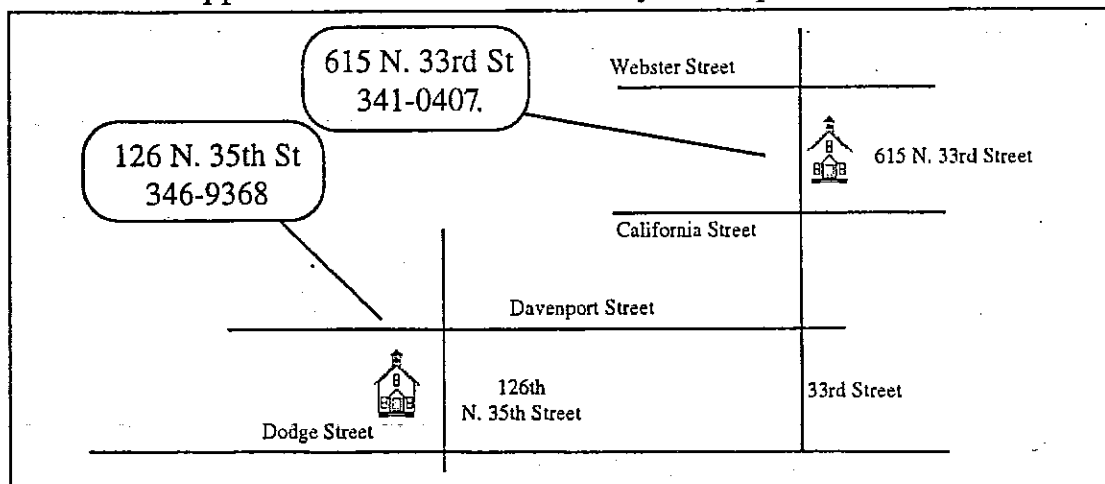
NEBRASKA CHILDCARE CENTERS*



Nebraska Childcare Centers offer:

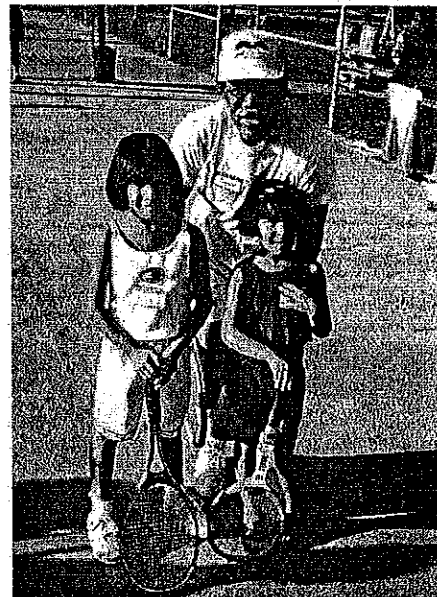
- * Quality childcare for children ages 6 weeks thru 12 years
- * Developmentally Appropriate Activities
- * Safe, State approved transportation
- * U.S.D.A. approved food program including meals and snacks
- * Client transportation to these schools: Kellom, Walnut Hill, Field Club, Dundee, Harrison,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

Appointments are not necessary so drop in for a visit



Tennis Program 2000 Highlights

The 7th annual GPNA Tennis Program had another great turnout in Gifford Park. This year we had more instructors than ever, averaging about 12 for each of the five sessions. They had their hands full with 40 to 45 kids per session. As in the past kids were divided into age groups so they could learn each of the basic tennis strokes including forehand, backhand, volley and serve. The kids then used their practice skills to win prizes during target practice at the end of each session. The last day featured awards and a pizza party. A BIG thanks goes to **Godfather's Pizza** again this year for donating 12 pizzas for the event! **California Bar** donated pop and neighborhood volunteers made delicious treats. Many thanks go to all the instructors - **Nancy Gaardner, Bob Gaardner, Roger Freeman, Laurie Bolte, Paul Williams, Ron Frey, Kirk Peck, Jackie Taylor, Vincent Shen, John Mahr, Jackie Foster, Willie Foster, John Dervin, Jenny Foster, Mike Miller, Paul Johanek, Tom Arkright, Katie Keane, and Ron Goodman.** Special thanks to **Betty Slayden, Jan Franks and Bette Tanner** for helping with check-in and prizes each week. Others helping with various tasks were **Jean Peck, Jim Wilwerding, Raquel Ayala, Jim Willwerth (Wilson Tennis), Marlene Wilwerding, Ed Hubbs and Steve Hossack (Omaha Tennis Association), Terry Wilwerding, Sue Wilwerding, Dana Carlton, Nadja Wilwerding, Brad Bogard, Greg Slayden, and Vicki Frey.**



Instructors Roger Freeman (above) and Ron Frey (below) with their students. (Below left) The group poses for a picture before the pizza arrives.



Bike Ride At Wabash Nature Trail

Thanks to long time GPNA members **Jim & Gina Kyler** and their family, 28 neighborhood kids and adults had a great opportunity to experience a bike ride on the scenic Wabash Nature Trail in Council Bluffs. The Kylers brought their bus (known as "The Pump") to Gifford Park at noon on Saturday, August 26, and loaded everyone and their bikes. Treats and refreshments were provided for everyone during the one and a half hour ride. After the ride, the GPNA provided ice cream for everyone at the Tasty Treat located at the trailhead. Even though it was very hot, everyone seemed to enjoy the experience. **Terry Wilwerding** had a great idea of using our Watch Group radios to communicate between the adults supervising the bike ride. Thanks to **Alvin Kobes and St. Joseph's Hospital** for donating 10 kids' bike helmets for this and future rides. Some of us are already thinking of another ride in the fall or spring! Thanks again to the Kyler family for an enjoyable day.



GPNA President Chris Foster supervises as "The Pump" is loaded with bicycles for the trip to the Wabash Nature Trail. Although it was hot, everyone had a great time (and some ice cream).

OPD'S Citizens Academy Taking Applications For Next Class

The Omaha Police Department's Citizens Academy started in March of 1998. It provides participants with an in-depth overview of the operations of the Omaha Police Department. Some of the topics covered are: Defensive Tactics, Firearms Safety, Officer Safety, Mounted Patrol, K-9 Patrol, Air Support (Helicopters), Chaplains Program, Metro Unit, and others. Each participant will have an opportunity to go on a "Ride-Along" with an on-duty officer, and to participate in other simulated police activities. **Participants must attend at least seven of the eight sessions to obtain the "Certificate of Participation."**

Participants must submit an application vowing they are at least 18 years of age, list their Social Security number, home telephone number, and current address. All applicants will receive a police background and criminal history check. Participant selection is based on review of past criminal and driving history, with individuals showing a propensity toward illegal activity being declined participation. The next class begins **Tuesday, September 26**, from 6 - 9 pm and runs for 9 weeks. The application deadline is **Friday, September 15**. For more information or applications, contact the **Police Community Resource Center, Crossroads Mall, 444-3478**, the front desk at the **OPD Central Station, 505 S. 15th St., 444-5889**, or the **OPD Training Unit, 3534 S. 108th St., 444-5601**.

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Closed Sunday



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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

Be A Good Neighbor - Obey Laws Concerning Dogs

The Omaha Police Department Community Resource Center receives numerous calls about dogs running loose, damaging property and barking. It's good to know what city ordinances Omaha has to control these situations.

Sec. 6-102. Running at large. It shall be unlawful for any person to allow or permit any dog which is owned, kept, or harbored by him to run or be at large in or upon the private premises of others or upon the streets, highways, and other public places of the city.

Sec. 6-103. Restraint. It shall be the duty of every owner in the city to keep his dog securely restrained by a chain or otherwise confined in or upon his premises in some enclosure.

Sec. 6-104. Dogs damaging property of others. Whenever complaint is made to the poundmaster that a dog, whether with or without a license tag, is at large and doing bodily injury, it shall be his duty to investigate such complaint. If upon such investigation it appears that there is reasonable cause for said complaint, it shall be the duty of the poundmaster to report all pertinent facts to the city prosecutor, who shall then undertake the proper disposition of the case. If the defendant is adjudged guilty of a violation of this section, the court may, in addition to the penalty provided for the violation of this Code, order such disposition or destruction of the offending dog as may seem reasonable and proper in the premises.

Sec. 6-107. Noisy Dogs. No person shall own, keep, harbor, maintain, or permit on any parcel of land or premises under his control any dog which by loud, continued, or frequent barking, howling, or yelping shall annoy or disturb the peace and comfort of the inhabitants of any neighborhood or interfere with any person or persons in the reasonable and comfortable enjoyment of life or property; provided, however, this section shall not apply to the animal shelter, veterinarians, and medical laboratories.

Reprinted from the OPD Community Resource Center Newsletter

Locations for Neighborhood Garage Sale

The neighborhood-wide garage sale will be held in the Gifford Park area on **Saturday, September 9th**. The following locations will be participating:

319 North 36th Ave.

3036 Cass St.

3562 Cass St.

147 North 31st Ave.

3555 California St.

3511 California St.

3605 California St.

3436 California St.

3403 Burt St.



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 _____

LOOKING FOR ...

volunteers to attend monthly meetings, participate in neighborhood walks, and contribute to the betterment of our area. Non-members and members welcome. If interested, please call 341-7293

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

444-5555