



Gifford Park's Pride

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

November 2000

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Counting On Your Vote

I hear it all the time. "Why should I vote? It won't make any difference. Who cares anyway?" In 1998, only 36% of registered voters went to the polls to cast their ballots. It was the lowest voter turnout since 1942. That means two out of every three Americans, 115 million eligible voters, simply stayed home. Many people explain their failure to vote by saying, "None of the issues seem to affect me *personally*." That's not the case this election year.

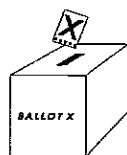
First, we have one of the tightest presidential races on record. It is only a week before the election and the polls still show the candidates neck and neck. Their views on Social Security, foreign policy, education, Medicare, taxation, affirmative action, national defense, gun control and the environment will affect the direction America takes in the 21st century.

Then there are the U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, and State Legislature positions along with judges and other elected officials. These candidates represent Nebraskans within the governmental system. The more we express our values and concerns through voting, the better our elected leaders will be able to represent us and our individual needs. Finally there are the Initiatives and Amendments. These can change the way we view our rights and the rights of others. They affect the way we live day to day.

You can play an important role in strengthening the voice that you and your community have on these issues. No one else can cast your vote. If you don't vote, you are letting others decide the future of your neighborhood, your state, and your country. Talk with friends and family about the issues and candidate's positions. Read the newspaper, pick up a sample ballot at the library, or look over a Voters' Guide (both sample ballots and Voters' Guides will be available at the November general meeting). Become an informed participant. Voting is important to our families and our community, and it's something almost everyone can do. This year, let your voice be heard. On Election Day, I hope to see you at the polls!

by Vicki Frey

**Don't Forget To
VOTE on Tuesday,
November 7!**



Next Meeting

Thursday, November 2
7:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker
City Councilman
Robert Sivick

St. Joseph Hospital
Becic Dining Room

Forum Allows Candidates To Express Views on Key Issues

At the October general meeting, voters from the Gifford Park neighborhood had an excellent opportunity to learn more about the two candidates for state legislature from District 9: **Chip Maxwell** and **Scott Knudsen**. The candidates' forum allowed those present to ask both candidates questions dealing with issues such as taxes, education, gun control, abortion, and crime. The GPNA would like to thank both candidates for taking the time to appear at the meeting and for their interest in the concerns of our neighborhood.



The candidates for state legislature, Chip Maxwell (left) and Scott Knudsen (right) take a break at the candidates' forum during the October general meeting.

GPNA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Chris Foster 342-6006

VICE PRESIDENT

Peter Cihunka 341-7293

RECORDING SECRETARY

Vicki Frey 344-0757

TREASURER

Dana Carlton 346-4575

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

There's no question the GPNA feels strongly about encouraging the people of our neighborhood to get involved with political issues affecting all of us. There have been candidate forums, articles in this newsletter, and information at GPNA meetings – all to help us become better-informed voters and a chance to confront issues with the candidates themselves. If you haven't taken advantage of these opportunities, that's unfortunate. However, we welcome everyone to attend the November 2 GPNA meeting, as we will have sample ballots and Voters' Guides (see article on page 1). Many thanks to our Recording Secretary **Vicki Frey** for getting this information for our meeting. There should be no excuses for not voting in this election.

Robert Sivick, our City Councilman who early this year replaced Subby Anzaldo, will be our guest speaker for the meeting. If anyone has questions in advance, let me know and I can e-mail them to Mr. Sivick, otherwise ask them at the meeting. Police Chief **Don Carey** was scheduled to speak but had to cancel due to a conflict. We appreciate Mr. Sivick agreeing to be our guest speaker on short notice. We also plan to have a short update from the police department regarding activities in our neighborhood. Once again, Mary Theresa Lawler has made tickets to the Omaha Theater Company for Young People available for a drawing at the meeting. I encourage everyone to browse the newsletter to catch up on activities and events happening in our neighborhood.

by Chris Foster

City of Omaha Code Enforcement Violations Chapter 48: Minimum Dwelling Standards of Exterior Dwellings

Listed below are some city code violations for dwellings. Be a good neighbor and find out why dwellings are not being kept up to code. Landlords and homeowners are required by law to keep dwellings up to code.

- Basement Entry:** Missing handrails, deteriorated sidewalks
- Chimney:** Missing mortar, broken or missing backplaster
- Doors:** Not weather tight, not rodent proof
- Down spouts:** Rusty, leaking, deteriorated, or missing
- Drain/Grade:** Fill dirt around foundation, fill low spots in grade
- Eaves:** Deteriorated, missing, peeling paint
- Egress/Sidewalk:** Cracked, broken, or upheaved
- Exterior Wall:** Peeling paint, missing siding
- Fence:** Deteriorated wood, collapsing
- Foundation:** Missing mortar, broken, or missing backplaster
- Gutters:** Rusty, leaking, deteriorated, missing
- Junk Cars on Street:** Subject to vehicle impound
- Junk Cars on Licensed Property:** Zoning violation
- Junk Cars on Unlicensed Property:** Subject to vehicle impound
- Porch:** Deteriorated
- Porch Steps:** Deteriorated, worn, upheaved, or missing handrails
- Retaining Wall:** On public sidewalk or alley only – not between two properties
- Roof:** Deteriorated, leaking
- Rubbish/Garbage:** In yard, around property – Weeds & Litter violation

continued on page 3

TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

Mike 933-7506

Chris 342-6006

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



You Can Make A Difference

I don't spend as much time as I used to on neighborhood association activities. Most of the time I probably don't spend 5 hours a month. I know Chris and some of the other officers spend 2 or 3 times that much, and I appreciate it.

I moved back into this neighborhood 17 years ago. Since that time I've seen many threats to the well-being of the neighborhood. Drug dealing and other crimes are the obvious causes of people giving up hope and moving out. Routine nuisances like loud parties, loud vehicles, litter accumulating on property, property not being maintained or lawns not being mowed, and junk cars are less severe, but over the long term can be equally persuasive arguments for moving where things are better. Every time people who care about the neighborhood move out and are replaced by people who don't, the neighborhood deteriorates a little. Few of us want to live in a neighborhood where that's happening. Fortunately, I'd say that the neighborhood is a better place to live now than it was 17 years ago and I believe the Association is the primary reason.

I don't need to list all the great things the Association has done for the neighborhood. If you read the newsletter you already know. What you may not know is that the vast majority of the things are done by a core group of maybe two dozen or so people. In some ways it's a little sad that, out of the hundreds of people who live in the neighborhood, these few people repeatedly bear the burden.

It's easy to say that things are going well, or that you're busy and don't have time, or you don't know the people involved, or you're not a joiner, or you don't like someone who is already involved, or plenty of other excuses. It's easy to let someone else spend the time and do the work and be responsible for making things better. But it's a constant struggle for that core group to stay motivated and active with so little participation from the general membership, especially considering the many people who live in the neighborhood and enjoy the benefits of the Association and don't even join, much less get involved. If you are reading this, and you are not a member, clip the coupon on the back page and send it in along with your dues. If you are a member, but don't come to the meetings or get involved in the activities, carefully consider the benefits you derive from the activities of the Association, and think about getting involved. That core group is friendly, motivated, and glad to see new faces. You can make a difference by spending as little as 1 or 2 hours per month. If it helps, consider your time and dues an investment in your future and the future of your neighborhood. Wouldn't it be great to look back from 2010 and say the neighborhood is better than it was back in 2000?

by Jim Wilwerding

Code Enforcement *continued from page 2*

Screens, Basement: Torn, deteriorated, or missing

Screens on Doors and Windows: Torn, deteriorated, or missing

Siding: Deteriorated, missing, peeling paint

Stairway: Broken, missing, deteriorated

Terrace Steps: Deteriorated, worn, upheaved, or missing handrails

Windows: Broken, not weather tight

These violations can lead to serious safety issues if left unrepaired. For more information or to report a problem, call the **Mayor's Action Line, 444-5555**.

US Mission Offers Needy Families Help This Christmas

The US Mission, a nonprofit interdenominational organization that helps the homeless and needy, has offered to provide assistance to five families in the Gifford Park neighborhood at Christmastime. According to **Peggy Flores**, one of the directors, US Mission is willing to provide needy families with their choice of a variety of items, such as winter apparel in sizes from newborn to adult, toys, books, school supplies, bedding, and other household items. A number of Christmas decorations will also be available. If you know of any families in the Gifford Park area that would truly benefit from this assistance, please call **Sue Wilwerding** at 342-2795 by **November 27**.

Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law

4913 Underwood Avenue
558-5000

Personal Injury Law
Worker's Compensation
Injury
Auto Accidents
Insurance Claims

What's Happening in the Neighborhood . . .

Please keep **Rich Exline** and his family in your thoughts. Rich's mother **Pearl** has been recovering from heart surgery October 16. Rich was one of the most active GPNA members when he and Pearl lived in the neighborhood near 34th & Cass. Even though Rich lives in Fremont he still helps out the GPNA when he can. Pearl has been at Immanuel Hospital and needs your prayers.

We want to thank the two State Legislative candidates, **Scott Knudsen** and **Chip Maxwell**, for providing a great forum at the October meeting at **St. Joseph's Hospital**. We had excellent questions from the estimated 35 people attending the meeting. The candidates' answers and discussions were equally impressive. Incidentally, both candidates showed up for our neighborhood walk and cleanup the following day, Friday October 6. A big thanks to **Peter Cihunka** for doing an excellent job moderating the forum.

Hope everyone saw the recent article in the **Omaha World-Herald's Metro Extra** featuring our Historian **Eva Swanson**. The article titled "Taking A Second Look" features a very nice picture of Eva on the cover. The article, written by **Sibyl Myers**, talked about the Neighborhood Builders Trolley Ride in September which toured the Gifford Park Neighborhood and other surrounding inner-city neighborhoods. The tour highlighted recent improvements and served as a lesson in local history as well.

Congratulations to **Brad Bogard** and the entire **California Tacos** team for a very nice review by the **Omaha World-Herald**. The review was very complementary of the restaurant's food, service and atmosphere that we in the neighborhood have come to know the last few years. Incidentally, have you noticed the new signs painted on the west side of the building? It really looks sharp.

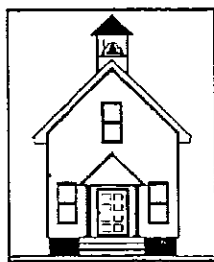
Indian Creek Nursery continues to plant trees and shrubs in the park with completion of the project expected later this fall. **Roger Freeman** has agreed to head up the City Adopt-A-Park project for Gifford Park. We have a number of volunteers for this project but would like more. The plan is to perform maintenance activities on a regular basis from spring through fall to keep our park looking good. Call **342-6006** to add your name to the list of helpers. **Gifford Park Day** is planned for April or May next spring – contact **Peter Cihunka** with ideas or to volunteer.

If you have participated in any of the past **Neighborhood Builders** programs, there is a Reunion Potluck on **Saturday, November 4, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the proposed **Greater Omaha Center for Neighborhoods, 49th Ave. & Farnam Street**. Please call **Lisa Brubaker**, Neighborhood Builders, at **595-1214** to RSVP or for more information on the proposed Center for Neighborhoods.

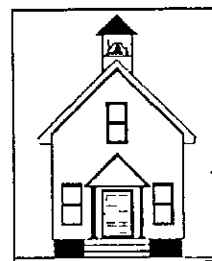
It's not too early to start thinking about our annual **Holiday Lighting & Decorating Contest**. Since the weather can turn cold and snowy in a hurry, it's a good idea to get those lights up soon when the weather is warmer. We will award prizes to the top displays, as judged by an "impartial panel of experts". We will announce the date for the contest in the December newsletter.

The GPNA is looking for volunteers to participate in the pen pal program with Kellom Academy elementary students. The program involves exchanging letters with Kellom students several times during the school year. This is the third year for the program headed by our Treasurer **Dana Carlton, 346-4575**. Dana has the student letters and will distribute them at the November general meeting. Please contact Dana if you are interested in participating in this project.

Don't forget - the City of Omaha's yardwaste collection ends on **December 1**, and won't resume again until sometime in the spring. Now is a great time to rake those leaves, gather branches, and clean up the summer flower and vegetable gardens.



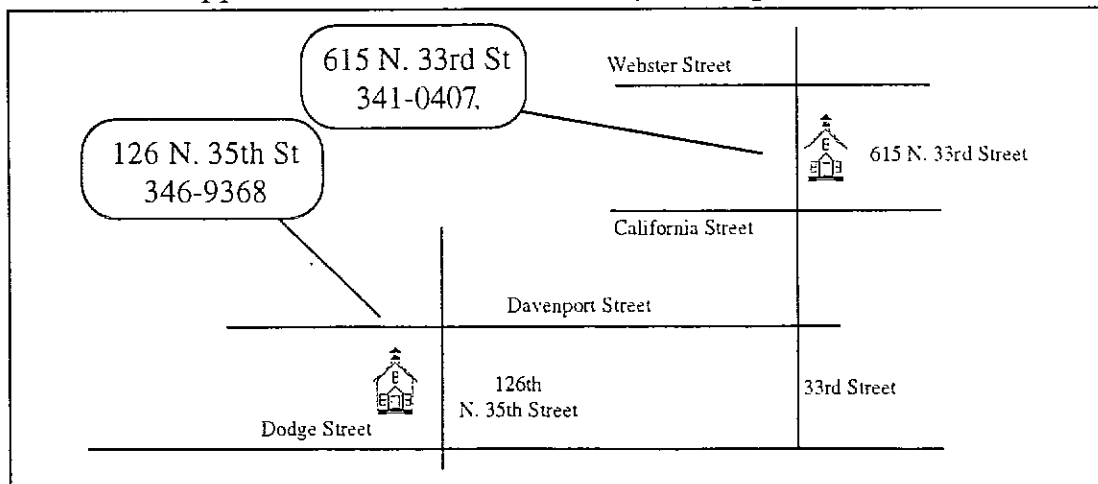
NEBRASKA CHILDCARE CENTERS*



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



Date For Holiday Banquet is December 7

What better way to start the holiday season than to attend the annual GPNA Holiday Banquet, hosted by St. Joseph Hospital. The dinner, which is held instead of the December general meeting, will be **Thursday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Becic (glassed-in) Dining Room**. The dinner is free to all GPNA members. If you would like to attend, please call **Jean Peck (344-0722), Sue Wilwerding (342-2795)** or **Chris Foster (342-6006)**. Please plan to attend!

**California Bar & Pkg.
510 No. 33rd St.**

Serving the Gifford Park Community since 1937
**Wayne and Peggy Hill,
Proprietors**



Neighborhood History Book Available Soon

The **History of 33rd & California Plus History of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association** is nearing completion. This illustrated book will be available for the very low cost of \$6.00 for a black and white copy or \$12.00 for a copy with color illustrations. The 35-page spiral bound book is currently being printed and will be available at the Holiday Banquet on December 7th. The book chronicles the businesses and people on 33rd and California from the early 1900's to the present. In addition, the book contains a history of the first twelve years of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. Don't be surprised if you find your picture on these pages! It was compiled by neighborhood historian **Eva Swanson** in collaboration with **Chris Foster**.

In order to know how many copies to print, please send in the order form printed below, or sign the reservation sheet at the GPNA November 2nd General Meeting. Any booklets paid for, but not picked up at the Holiday Dinner, will be delivered to your address.

Please reserve my order for **HISTORY OF 33RD & CALIFORNIA PLUS HISTORY OF THE GPNA**

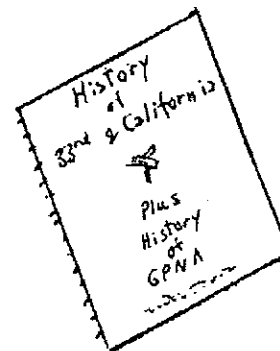
_____ Copies illustrated in color (\$12.00 each - tax included)
or
_____ Copies illustrated in black and white (\$6.00 each - tax included)

_____ Name (please print)

_____ Address

_____ City, State, and Zip Code

_____ Phone Number



Amount enclosed

Orders by November 15, 2000, please.

Mail to: Eva Swanson
3417 Webster St.
Omaha, NE 68131

Checks are payable to the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Scott Knudsen

District #9 Candidate

Nebraska Legislature

Mayor Bob Cunningham, Chairperson
Ron Kaplan, Finance Chairperson

Endorsements and supporters to date:

- * Metro Right-to-Life * Nebraska Right-to-Life * Nebraska Cooperative Council
- * Metro Omaha Builders Association * Nebraska State Education Association
- * Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry * Nebraska Trucking Association
- * Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation "Friend of Agriculture" designation
- * Property Owners Association of Omaha * Nebraska Grocery Industry Association
- * Nebraska State Homebuilders Association * Nebraska Professional Firefighters
- * Omaha Professional Firefighters Union, Local 385 * Omaha Police Union, Local 101

Education

- Schoolteachers deserve to earn more money.
- Schoolteachers must have more authority and administrative support in their classrooms.
- Administrative control must be shifted to the local level.

Crime & Public Safety

- More emphasis must be focused on prevention rather than detention
- Young people need to be provided with more positive choices.
- Businesses that allow illegal activity must be eliminated.
- Sub-standard housing can not be tolerated.
- Public servants with life-threatening jobs should be compensated at a greater rate, staffed at a level determined to better insure their safety and further protected by voluntary compliance to at least the minimum standards of the Occupational Safety & Health Act.
- Law abiding citizens deserve to feel safe and be safe in our community

Economic Development

- Nebraska businesses deserve special incentives to develop and implement mentoring and on the job training programs designed to improve the quality of life of the unemployed and underemployed Nebraska citizens.

Taxes

- Smaller government and less state administration & control will result in lower costs and lower taxes.
- Lower taxes can be achieved with less government, less duplication of services and functions, less administration and more efficiency.
- Greater efficiency will maintain and improve the quality of service and still allow for tax cuts.
- Property taxes can be cut with less state level involvement
- Income taxes can be cut when more wage earners contribute to the fund.
- More wage earners paying less taxes per person will create more discretionary income that will boost retail sales.
- Sales tax rates can be cut with greater retail sales that generate more sales tax revenue.

"A tax cut is not a tax cut unless you pay less money!"
.....Scott Knudsen

**Scott Knudsen for State
Legislature Committee**
113 South 54th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68132
(402) 991-3113 / (402) 680-7598
e-mail: scottknudsen@home.com
web site: www.scottnudsen.com

Deep Roots

Scott Knudsen was born in District 9. Scott's maternal grandparents lived near Elmwood Park & his paternal grandparents lived near Walnut Hill School. Scott's brother still lives in the home where their father was born in 1920.

Scott learned how to work at an early age at Knudsen's Grocery and his father's locker plant & BBQ restaurant located at 46th & Cumming streets.

Scott Knudsen's mother worked in broadcasting at KFAB radio in Dundee for nearly 30 years. Doris Knudsen Kavanagh married well-known radio personality Walt Kavanagh in 1993 at St. Stanislaus Church.

Scott & Sandie Knudsen were married in the Field Club area at the President Ford Birth site. Their combined family unites six grown children and five grandchildren. Sandie Knudsen is a wonderful wife, an extremely talented fine artist and a full supporting partner in Scott's legislative candidacy.

Work Ethic

Scott Knudsen is a proven leader and hard worker! Your vote for Scott Knudsen is a vote for all the deserving, hard working people of District #9.

Community Service

- 1997 Snowstorm Disaster Volunteer Coordinator
- Developed & directed a program to assist over 3500 elderly & disabled citizens using Zip Code Captains and Neighborhood Action Teams.
- Developed and directed the Neighbor-Helping-Neighbor, Block-by-Block Clean-up, Fix-up program.
- City of Omaha's Enterprise Community/Zone Coordinator
- Block Captain Dundee-Memorial Park Neighborhood Association.
- Former Mad Dads Street Patrol
- "1999 Cosmopolitan of the Year" awarded by the 1-80 Cosmopolitan Club of Omaha. A service club dedicated to helping to fund the important research in finding the cure for diabetes.
- Salvation Army volunteer Bell Ringer since 1985.
- Active Director Omaha South High School Alumni Association

Scott also served on the:

- Private Industry Council
- Weed & Seed Advisory Council
- Omaha Public School's Adult Basic Education Advisory Council
- First National Bank's Community Development Advisory Council
- Human Service Round Table; Capacity Building Task Team
- The City of Omaha's Capital Improvement Task Force.
- The City of Omaha's Development Review Committee.

Calendar of Events

Fall Cleanup – Saturday, October 28 at Gifford Park
PKA Haunted House – Sunday, October 29, 5 - 8 p.m.
 at PKA House, 31st & Chicago St.
November General Meeting – Thursday, November 2, 7
 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hospital
Election Day – Tuesday, November 7
November Executive Board Meeting – Thursday,
 November 16, 7 p.m. at GPNA Office, 532 N. 33rd St.
Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 23
Holiday Banquet - Thursday, December 7, 7 p.m. at St.
 Joseph's Hospital
Watch Group – every Friday and Saturday night, 11 p.m.,
 meet at the GPNA Office, 532 N. 33rd St.

California Tacos & More

Homemade Mexican Food

342-0212

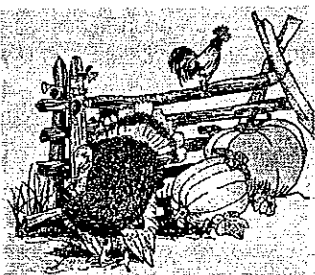
33rd & California Street

Dine In or Carry Out

New Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 11a.m. - 9 p.m.

Closed Sunday



*Happy
Thanksgiving !*

from the
Gifford Park
Neighborhood
Association



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



▲ Chip and Pam celebrating with Tomas and Oto, because the boys, whom Pam adopted from an orphanage in Guatemala, had just become U.S. citizens. Chip and Pam were married in June.

Chip Maxwell

An *Independent* Voice for You

"I have spent 26 of my 38 years in District 9, the Heart of Omaha. I want to be our eyes, ears and voice in Lincoln, where words and actions affect our lives and families in many ways."

I'll Work for You on . . .

- **Neighborhood Safety.**

With the help of neighborhood associations, I will pursue all options at the state level to help restore that familiar, small-town feel to the Heart of Omaha.

- **More Pay for Teachers.**

We have a strong school system in Nebraska, but too much of the education dollar goes to bureaucracy instead of to teachers and curriculum.

- **Tax Relief.**

Reduced spending is the key. State spending has increased far beyond the rates of inflation and population growth. That must stop if there is to be genuine tax relief.

- **Economic Development.**

We need to help struggling workers develop the skills needed for well-paying jobs, and help businesses remain strong enough to provide those jobs.

- **Pro-Life Issues.**

On Nov. 7 Vote

CHIP MAXWELL

LEGISLATURE

Top Ten Tips For Neighborhood Communication

Community Boards of San Francisco offers these 10 suggestions for managing conflict with neighbors, strangers, and friends:

1. **Talk Directly.** Direct conversation is much more effective than sending a letter, banging on the wall, throwing a rock, or complaining to everyone else.
2. **Choose a Good Time.** Try to talk in a quiet place where you can both be comfortable and undisturbed for as long as the discussion takes. Don't approach the other person as he or she is leaving for work or after you've had a bad day.
3. **Plan.** Think about what you want to say. State clearly what the problem is and how it affects you.
4. **Don't Blame or Name-Call.** Antagonizing the other person only makes it harder for him or her to hear you.
5. **Give Information.** Don't judge or interpret the other person's behavior. Instead, give information about your own situation and feelings, and how the person's behavior affects you.
6. **Listen.** Give the other person a chance to tell his or her side of the conflict completely. Relax and listen. Try to learn how the other person feels.
7. **Show That You Are Listening.** Although you may not agree with what is being said, tell the other person that you hear him or her and are glad that you are discussing the problem together.
8. **Talk It All Through.** Get all the issues and feelings out into the open. Don't leave out the part that seems too difficult to discuss.
9. **Work on a Joint Solution.** Two or more people cooperating are much more effective than one person telling another person to change. Be specific. "I will turn my music off at 10 p.m." is better than "I won't play loud music anymore."
10. **Follow Through.** Agree to check with each other at specific times to make sure that the agreement is still working.



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 _____

Help Wanted

The Calling Committee needs volunteers to make calls to GPNA members informing them of events such as the Holiday Banquet. Helping on this committee should not require a lot of time, and updated lists will be provided. For more information, or to volunteer, please call **Jean Peck** at **344-0722**.

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

444-5555