



Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 2001

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

October 20 Is Date For Fall Cleanup

The date for this year's annual GPNA Fall Cleanup is **Saturday, October 20**, from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in Gifford Park. As usual, the fall cleanup is for GPNA members only, or people who donate their time or money to the cleanup. There will be dumpsters for hauling trash, a membership and donation drive, scrap metal recycling, Halloween pumpkins, and a park picnic for the helpers. Volunteers are needed to provide pickup trucks for hauling, assist in packing and monitoring dumpsters, and help make pickups. The cleanup day is a great time for everyone in the neighborhood to take a look around their yards and streets and pick up trash and other debris - especially before the winter sets in. The net effect is a nicer looking neighborhood - one that we can all be proud of.

This year, the GPNA received a grant from **Omaha Weed and Seed** in the amount of \$655. This grant will be used to pay for dumpsters, food, and pumpkins. The GPNA is looking for someone to be the chairman of the two yearly cleanups, starting in the spring of 2001. If you are interested, please call **Peter (341-7293)** or **Chris (342-6006)**.

PLEASE NOTE: It is very important for you to call the phone numbers listed below **BEFORE** the day of the cleanup if you need a volunteer to pick up trash - we will prioritize hauling based on your call. The following items **WILL NOT** be accepted: tree brush, and appliances containing refrigerant (freon) - save them for the spring cleanup. Tires **WILL** be taken at the fall cleanup this year. A \$5 fee will be charged for sofas and overstuffed chairs. Please call **Chris (342-6006)**, **Peter (341-7293)**, **Jim (551-1344)** or **Terry (342-2795)**, for more information or if you can assist with the cleanup.

Next Meeting

**Thursday, October 4
7:00 P.M.**

**Guest Speaker:
Gotkuoth Kuich
Sudanese Community
Representative**

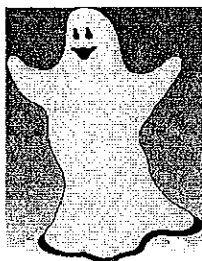
**St. Joseph Hospital
Dining Rooms A, B, and C**

A Heartfelt Message From The GPNA

The recent terrorist attacks on New York and Washington have illustrated how vital the efforts of firefighters, police, and emergency medical personnel are to the safety of a community during a crisis. Unfortunately it took this horrible tragedy to remind us that these individuals are truly heroes in every sense of the word. The GPNA salutes these brave individuals who risked, and in some cases, lost their lives to save others, and we support those firefighters, police, and emergency medical technicians in our own community whose job it is to serve and protect us, often risking their lives in the process. Their dedication and commitment to duty is greatly appreciated.



**Happy
Halloween!**



GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Peter Cihunka 341-7293

VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

RECORDING SECRETARY

Vicki Frey 344-0757

TREASURER

Dana Carlton 346-4575

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**ADVERTISING**

Bar Sweazy 345-0125

CLEAN-UP

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

COMPLIANCE

Jaco Wilwerding 345-1433

WELCOMING

Vicki Frey 344-0757

HISTORIAN

Lynn 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

Jaco Wilwerding 345-1433

TOOL LENDING

Chris Foster 342-6006

WATCH GROUP

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1644

KELLOM SCHOOL LIAISON

Dana Carlton 346-4575

The President's Column

GOD BLESS AMERICA! Thank you to all the firemen, policemen, city officials, and everyone who helps to keep our neighborhood safe. I also want to thank those of you who have assisted in keeping an eye on the neighborhood "hot spots". I asked for your help at the last general meeting and I think it has been paying off. Special thanks to those of you who take it upon yourselves to keep an eye on the above mentioned "hot spots".

As I continue to watch the coverage of clean up efforts in NYC and Washington DC, I keep seeing a couple of recurring themes that I think we all can learn from.

All Americans are affected by what happened, no matter what religion, race, or creed. All groups are pulling together in a combined effort. It is my belief that this will result in a stronger, more tolerant society. People are getting to know each other and learning about each other and each other's way of life. In the 09/23/01 edition of the **Omaha World-Herald**, **Gifford Park** made the front page. There was one caption that really made me proud. The caption read: "...Gifford Park, Omaha's most racially diverse neighborhood, stands in contrast to much of the rest of the metro area where residents are largely segregated". I suppose I could read that statement and say to myself, "That really presents some difficult challenges and hurdles to overcome". Or, I could read that caption and say, "WOW! What a world of opportunities!" I said before and I will repeat, if we want to become a better, safer, stronger neighborhood, we **MUST** learn about each other. To that end, we had guest speakers from the Mexican Consulate last month at our general meeting (Thank you **Ron** and **Vicki Frey** for doing the leg work). It was absolutely fascinating to learn about the Latino culture. It changed my perception of them and I learned about their perceptions of us. I invite all people, all races, all religions, all backgrounds to join us this month when we have a speaker who is Sudanese, **Gatkuoth Kuich**.

The other thing that has really moved me is the spirit of volunteerism brought on by the pride we have in our country, such as seeing people collecting money and medical supplies or kids writing cards and emptying piggy banks. Sometimes I think we tend to take for granted exactly what we can accomplish when we assert ourselves. I could not help but think about our organization. This organization exists because of the time we get from volunteers. I hear from so many different people that we are one of the strongest, best organized, and most active neighborhood associations in Omaha. I cannot help but be full of pride when I look at what we accomplish. I suppose I could sit on my laurels and just be happy with what we have done, but I will not. I believe this organization can be better; however, we can not do it with out some more help. We need new leaders, new ideas, and new members. If you would like to be an active part of something that is very rewarding and makes you feel really good at the end of the day, call me. I deeply appreciate the efforts and loyalty of the current membership - we do **GREAT** work, but there is more work to be done. We cannot do it without your help. If you have a special skill or talent, let us know. We will take all the help we can get. If you have an idea for a special project or function, let us know. We will be more than happy to support any idea that strengthens the neighborhood and coincides with the GPNA mission.

Lastly, I ask that each and every one of us remember in our prayers the lives that were lost in the Attack on America on September 11, 2001. **GOD BLESS AMERICA!**

by Peter Cihunka


**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE**


Mike 933-7506

Chris 342-6006

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



What's Happening In The Neighborhood . . .

The third annual GPNA Garage Sale was held on Saturday, September 22nd. A total of 17 addresses participated in the event. The neighborhood-wide sale was publicized in the **Omaha World-Herald**. A big thanks goes to **Vicky and Ron Frey**, who helped organize the event, distributed flyers and posted signs around the neighborhood. Thanks also to all those who participated.

If you've driven by 33rd and Dodge lately, you've probably noticed how different the corner looks. The **Baker Rents** building was demolished to make room for a parking lot. Baker Rents was a long-time fixture in the area, and has been a good neighbor to the GPNA by providing many donations over the years.

Congratulations to our own GPNA treasurer and Kellom School Liaison **Dana Carlton** on her recent marriage to **Rod Flint**. Dana and Rod are active members of the Association. Dana is currently the design chairman of the Omaha Symphony-ASID-MOBA Designer Showhouse, which is located at 93rd & Farnam, and is open from now until October 14th.

Congratulations also to GPNA neighbor **Dan Begley** on his retirement from the U.S. Postal Service after 45 years. A wonderful story about Dan's experiences as a postman, written by columnist Mike Kelly, was featured in the **Omaha World-Herald**.

Please remember **Wayne and Peg Hill**, proprietors of the **California Bar & Pkg.**, in your thoughts and prayers. Wayne is currently undergoing treatment for a recently diagnosed illness. Wayne and Peg are longtime supporters of the GPNA.

Saint Cecilia's annual parish festival, **CathedralFest**, will be held on **Sunday, October 7th**, from **noon until 6:00 p.m.** on the parish grounds at **40th and Webster**. Activities include a spaghetti dinner, ethnic foods, games & rides, crafts, plant and white elephant booths, and homemade items. A raffle will be held with the first prize being \$2500 and five second prizes of \$100 each.



The last official neighborhood walk of the season was held on Friday, September 14th. After enjoying the walk on a beautiful fall-like evening, participants gathered at California Tacos and enjoyed tacos and beverages, courtesy of Brad Bogard.

City Sprouts Fall Harvest Celebration And Community Garden Tour

City Sprouts, a community gardening project, invites you to a fall harvest celebration and community garden tour on **Saturday, October 13th**. The celebration will start at **3:00 p.m.** at the **40th and Franklin St.** demonstration community garden of the Orchard Hill neighborhood. Free food and beverages will be served. Come taste a sample of garden-grown goodness.

The free garden tour starts at 9:00 a.m., and will be ongoing until 3:00 p.m. New community gardens being featured are: The peace garden at **4734 N. 38th St.** within the Central Park neighborhood, the children's garden of North Christ Child Day Care Center at **2111 Emmet St.**, and the Gifford Park neighborhood community garden at **3416 Cass St.** Maps can be picked up at any of the sites to help you navigate from garden to garden. One guided tour will be leaving from the 40th and Franklin St. garden at 1:00 p.m. Come see the new community gardens in the area! For more information, call **451-7054**.

Creighton & The GPNA: Strengthening The Partnership

On September 13, **Terry Wilwerding, Chuck Kilgore**, and myself had a meeting with the President of Creighton University, **Father John Schlegel**. Many topics were discussed, but the main purpose of the meeting was to strengthen our already existing relationship. The meeting was very productive; we established contact names for projects going forward, Creighton identified groups who are already living in our neighborhood, and there was some discussion of Creighton's plans for the area west of the campus. This is a definite step in the right direction and I really appreciate the time everyone dedicated to the meeting.

by Peter Cihunka



7th Annual Haunted House

Where:
PKA House
3100 Chicago St.



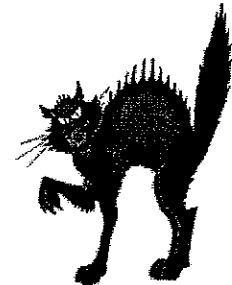
When:
Sunday, October 28
Ages 10 & under: 7 p.m.
All ages: 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

FREE!

hosted by:
Pi Kappa Alpha (PKA) Creighton Fraternity
Gifford Park Neighborhood Association



All Neighborhood Children And Parents
Are Welcome to Stop By For Refreshments
And Trick-or-Treats!



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)

E-mail Address: _____

Can we contact you for help on any of the following items? (please circle areas of interest).

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Cleanup/Beautification | Tennis Program | Block Captain | Tool Lending |
| Membership | Youth Activities | History | Newsletter |
| Neighborhood Walks | Park | Merchants | Newsletter Distribution |
| Social Activities | Tree Planting | Watch Group | Meeting Program |
| Landlord/Tenant Issues | Calling Committee | Public Relations | School Liaison |

WE WANT YOU !!!

We have some great people in this neighborhood who have a lot to offer. You know who you are! All you people who, when I talk to you, tell me you would love to help out then never show up. Can you spare a few hours a month? Look at it this way; in the average month, there are 720 hours. How hard would it be to give us 4 of those hours? We are looking to "hire" for the following positions: web site builder and maintenance, calling committee, and the 12-1 shift for the neighborhood patrol. Serious inquiries call Peter at 341-7293.

**Mayor's Action
Line
444-5555**