



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

January 2002

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## GPNA Honors Bob Hutton as 2001 "Neighbor Of The Year"

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association chose **Bob Hutton** as the "Neighbor of the Year" for 2001. The award was presented to Bob at the GPNA's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Banquet hosted by St. Joseph's Hospital on December 6. Bob is well known in the neighborhood as humble, unselfish, spirited, crafty, hard-working, and a man of great integrity. Knowing his great sense of humor, the neighborhood association kept the award a secret from Bob until the night of the banquet – he was quite surprised.

Bob and his wife Virginia have lived near 33<sup>rd</sup> and California for 40 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Bob taught heating and air conditioning for 34 years and automotive repair and refrigeration for 18 years at Universal Technical Institute in Omaha. Starting in 1994 he taught small engine repair and plumbing for Metro Community College for the Correctional Center, and in 1998 Bob received the Teaching Excellence Award from the College. Bob has been a volunteer with the Boy Scouts since 1968 and received the Award of Merit from the Boy Scouts of America in 1980, which is the highest award for a District volunteer.

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**Note: No January Meeting!**

**Next Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 7**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**St. Joseph's Hospital**

## Business Owner Wayne Hill Passes Away

**Wayne Hill**, a longtime neighborhood resident and owner of the **California Bar** near 33<sup>rd</sup> and California Streets, passed away at Lindenwood Nursing Home here in Omaha on December 11 after a long battle with asbestosis. He was 69 years old. Wayne is survived by his wife Peggy, his son and wife Nolan and Darleen, his daughter Sherry Knox; grandsons Wayne, Demery Wayne, and Doroyan; great-grandson Kyler; and sister Helen Redman.

Wayne was known as a person who loved his family very much, was good-natured, and enjoyed having fun. He was a man who cared very much for his country and community – he served as a U.S. Army medic in the Korean War, was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for 30 years, served on the Keep Omaha Beautiful board for 8 years, and he served as a scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts and received the Silver Beaver award. Wayne was also a member of the Elk's Club since he was 19, and served on a variety of different committees and positions, including ritual judge. The Elk's Club performed a very special ceremony at Wayne's funeral, saying many kind words and telling stories. Here in the Gifford Park neighborhood, Wayne and Peggy participated in neighborhood walks and kept watch on problems in the 33<sup>rd</sup> and California area, working with police on specific issues. They also helped provide refreshments for many of the GPNA's annual events. A couple years ago at the Holiday Banquet, it was

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**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**

Dar Sweazy 345-0125

**CLEAN-UP**

Mike Wilwerding 341-8224

**COMPLIANCE**

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

**HISTORIAN**

Eva Swanson 345-1707

**KELLOM SCHOOL LIAISON**

Dana Carlton 346-4575

**MEMBERSHIP**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**NEWSLETTER**

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

Mike Baconie 983-7306

**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

**WELCOMING**

Vicki Frey 344-0757

**The President's Column**

Tonight, I had a chance to do something I really enjoy: helping to judge the Holiday Lights Contest. It is a good opportunity for me to drive around the neighborhood and see how things are going, not to mention how things have progressed. Many people share my belief that things are improving all the time (that is not to say that things were terrible before). I know that is true because of the new people I met both tonight and while Christmas caroling last week. I saw it in their faces and heard it in their conversations.

I was born and raised in Omaha. I grew up in your traditional big family: four older sisters and one younger brother. I now have two brothers-in-law, three nieces, and two nephews. Growing up, my mother unknowingly instilled in me the concept of living in a home rather than a house. Those people, who invited me into their residences this evening, were inviting me into their homes. Those places were more than just four walls and a roof.

As I drove around tonight looking at lights, I could not help but think that there are a lot more homes in Gifford Park than there used to be. Sure, we still have "relatives" that visit our neighborhood from time to time who we don't want in our homes. Good news is that they usually don't stay for long. And as with all unwanted visitors, we can make them leave.

It is my wish that after reading this article, you will be prompted to get out into the neighborhood and have a look for yourself. I may be crazy; in fact, I know that some of you would say I definitely am. But I am not crazy for thinking that the neighborhood has improved.

I hope that this month's newsletter finds you in good spirits, your family is well, you had a good Holiday Season, and the Huskers are Number One (you knew I had to say something about the Huskers).

We are now in the beginning of a new year; a time to reflect on last year and plan to do better or as well this year. A time for the dreaded New Year's resolutions. I think it is a time for the Association to reflect on the previous year and evaluate ourselves. Can we do better? Of course we can. I am sticking to the three goals I laid out for 2001: 1. Improve conditions on 33<sup>rd</sup> & California. 2. Double the GPNA membership. 3. Improve relations with all members of our neighborhood. With the support of the GPNA membership and the entire neighborhood, I know that we can achieve these goals in 2002.

I look forward to 2002 being better than 2001, which says a lot because I think 2001 was pretty darn good. I look forward to seeing all of you in the New Year.

by Peter Cihunka

P.S. At this time, please keep our Armed Forces in your thoughts and prayers.

*Editor's note: If you have something that would be of interest to our neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for our monthly newsletter. Editorials must be approved by the GPNA Executive Board. Articles can be left at the GPNA Office; please include your name and phone number. Contact Sue Wilwerding (342-2795) or Chris Foster (342-6006) for information regarding the newsletter.*



**For City Services,  
Information, or  
Complaints  
Call:  
Mayor's Action Office  
444-5555**

## Bob Hutton . . . *continued from page 1*

Bob's work with the GPNA is also quite impressive. He spends a lot of time fixing lawnmowers for the neighborhood tool lending program. He always helps out with annual spring and fall neighborhood cleanups; usually he is one of the first to arrive and the last to leave. Bob attends nearly all GPNA meetings and is not afraid to ask our guest speakers the tough questions. He participates in nearly all of our neighborhood walks and is active with our new community garden project. Bob and his son Darrel also put up the Christmas lights in Gifford Park. Bob is a real solutions man, seeming to find a way to make things work when others give up. He has many friends inside and outside of the neighborhood. His wife Virginia says the quality that stands out the most is that "he likes helping others".

With all of Bob's accomplishments, we are particularly proud of Bob's service to our country. Bob recently received a Korean War Service Medal with 5 stars and also the Republic of Korea War Service Medal in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War. At the time of the war these serviceman did not receive much recognition when they returned to the States or came out of the service.

Congratulations on all of your accomplishments, Bob, and thanks for serving your country and your neighborhood!

*by Chris Foster*

P.S. Bob sent a thank you card to the GPNA with the following message:

"I am honored to have received the "Neighbor of the Year" award for 2001 - thank you. From the onset of the Association we have grown bigger and better as a collective group of concerned residents and I know we will continue to strive for a better neighborhood. With our resources and commitment, how can we fail? Let's all try to go that extra step this coming year."

## City Waste Collection Information Now On-Line

[www.wasteline.org](http://www.wasteline.org) is a new website listing all of Omaha's solid waste information, programs, and news. From the site you can sign up for the new e-mail notification service that will remind you of holidays observed by the collectors, and notify you if there are expected delays in collection due to weather. Other features include the ability to order a recycling bin and to request an elderly or disabled collection application.

## Olympic Torch To Pass Through Gifford Park Neighborhood

The **Olympic Flame**, which is on its way to Salt Lake City, site of the 2002 Winter Olympics, will be passing through Omaha and the Gifford Park neighborhood on **Thursday, January 10th**. Although specific details are not available at this time, preliminary plans indicate that torchbearers will begin carrying the Olympic Flame through west Omaha at approximately 3:15 p.m. and are expected to reach downtown Omaha at approximately 6:30 p.m. A staging area will be set up at Mutual Of Omaha for viewing the relay. The Olympic Torch Relay will be celebrated in conjunction with the Holiday Lights Festival Closing Ceremonies. The joint ceremony, which is to include fireworks, is sponsored by the Union Pacific Railroad and will be held at the **Gene Leahy Mall (14th and Farnam)** from approximately 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Citizens are encouraged to provide an enthusiastic welcome for the torchbearers by lining the route and cheering them on. Torchbearers were nominated by family members, friends, and colleagues who wrote an essay explaining how the nominee embodied the Olympic Spirit and provided inspiration to others and their community. 81 torchbearers were selected to carry the Olympic Flame on its journey through Omaha. Go out to see the Olympic Torch and be part of a once-in-a-lifetime event!

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

Serving the Gifford Park  
Community since 1937  
Peggy Hill,  
Proprietor



## Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law 4913 Underwood Avenue 558-5000

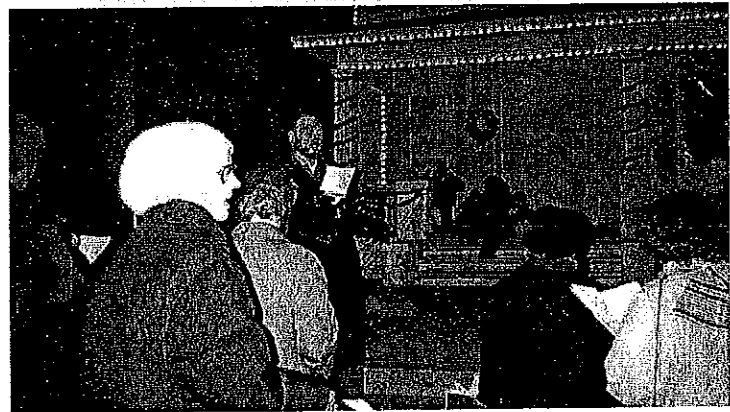
Personal Injury Law  
Worker's Compensation  
Injury  
Auto Accidents  
Insurance Claims

## Banquet, Caroling Put Neighbors in the Holiday Spirit

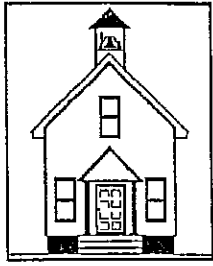
Over 140 people attended this year's annual **Holiday Banquet** hosted again by our great neighbor **St. Joseph's Hospital** on Thursday December 6. Special thanks to **Phil Gustafson, Carol McCormick, Patrice Pittman** and **Cathy Horne** with St. Joseph's Hospital for all of their help in making this event happen every year and for accommodating the large attendance. The turkey dinner was again outstanding! Thanks to those who donated the many door prizes: **Loren Johnson, Brad Bogard, Subby Anzaldo, and Dana-Carlton Flint**. And of course a big thanks to the Holiday Banquet Committee volunteers: **Dana Carlton-Flint, Peter Cihunka, Chris & Sallie Foster, Ron & Vicki Frey, Heather Nelson, Jean Peck, and Sue Wilwerding**. **Terry Wilwerding** was the Master of Ceremonies and also provided an excellent slideshow of this year's neighborhood events. And finally, **Ron & Vicki Frey** did a tremendous job making sure all the details were covered from start to finish for this year's banquet, and it showed with the best turnout ever!

About 35 people met at 33<sup>rd</sup> & California Friday night December 14 to go caroling in the Gifford Park neighborhood. Songbooks were provided and **Ron Frey** led the group as it made its way through the neighborhood, occasionally stopping by people's homes. The best part was after the singing; the group warmed up to a great sampling of holiday treats made by **Vicki Frey** with some help from **Sallie Foster**. We wish to thank **Brad Bogard** and **California Tacos** for letting the GPNA use the new addition for the gathering.

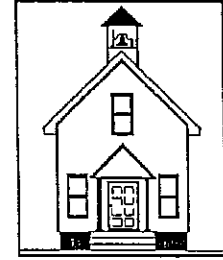
A very special thanks goes to **Ron and Vicki Frey** and their son **Erik** for their terrific efforts in recent neighborhood events. The Freys did most of the work and preparation for both the Holiday Banquet and the Holiday Caroling events in December. The banquet preparation started in late October and involved coordination of many people and details. The Freys had unforeseen challenges to make things interesting including Vicki getting ill, having jury duty, and then a bout of food poisoning. Ron was quite busy with a computer system conversion at work. They also had a new roof put on their house requiring them to move items from their upper floor to their first floor for several weeks. They were able to juggle all of this while keeping a positive attitude and great holiday spirit.



*Top left: Erik Frey and Dana Carlton-Flint greet GPNA members as they pick up their name tags.  
 Top right: Vicki Frey and Sue Wilwerding admire the beautiful table decorations made by Jean Peck.  
 Bottom left: The Thomas Heng family enjoys the delicious meal provided by St. Joseph Hospital.  
 Bottom right: Ron Frey leads GPNA carolers in song at one of their neighborhood stops.*



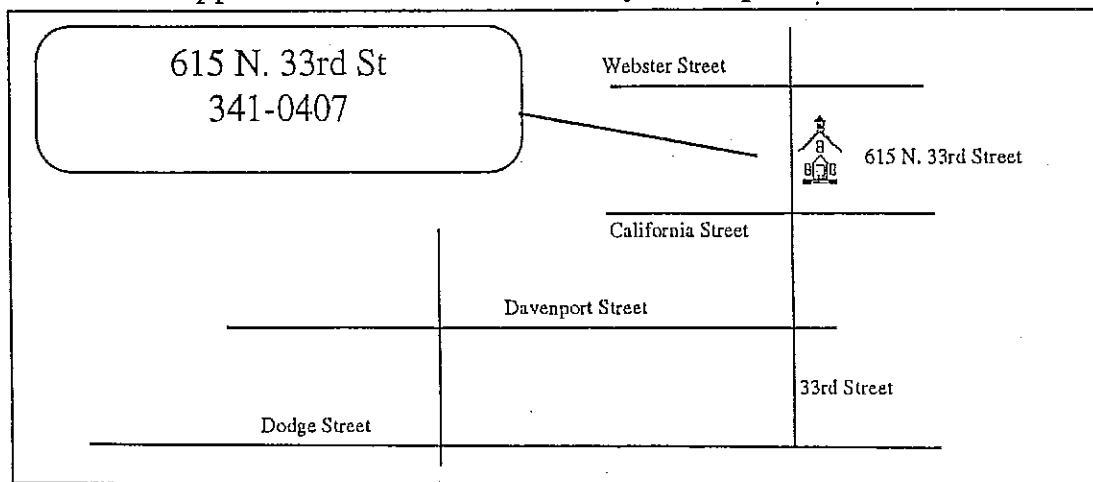
# NEBRASKA CHILDCARE CENTERS



# 341-0407

- \* 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 local schools
- \* We accept Title 20

Appointments are not necessary so drop in for a visit.



## Wayne Hill . . . continued from page 1

Wayne and Peggy who provided the videotape of the old business district in the 1940's and 1950's; it was very interesting.

Besides his love of family, country and community, Wayne liked boating, golfing, motorcycles, animals and especially dogs. He was also known for his practical jokes. But I found out from those who knew him well there was no joking around when it came to Nebraska football. Apparently, when Wayne and his mother got together to watch a Nebraska football game, things got quite rowdy! I think most of us can relate very well to this experience.

Please keep Wayne's family in your thoughts and prayers and especially his wife Peggy who continues to run the California Bar. We will miss you Wayne.

*by Chris Foster*



*Wayne and Peggy Hill's California Bar has been a Gifford Park neighborhood institution for many years. The GPNA is thankful for all of the generous support they have provided for many of the Association's activities. May you rest in peace, Wayne.*

## Fannie Mae Administers Neighborhood Investor-Owned Mortgage Loan Program

The Neighborhood Investor-Owned Initiative is a \$1.5 million pilot mortgage loan program that allows eligible residents to purchase a home within their neighborhood to be used as rental property. The program offers a variety of loan flexibilities, including a low 3% downpayment, to help new landlords become investors in their own communities. Residents have the opportunity to preserve the character of their neighborhoods while increasing their personal wealth. This focus of encouraging neighborhood investment, where residents care and protect their communities, can provide a "win-win" situation for the City of Omaha and its citizens. The Fannie Mae Nebraska Partnership Office makes this program available to lenders and customers who meet all eligibility requirements. Those eligible are homeowners with 12-month's residency in their current Omaha property who want to purchase 1 and 2-unit properties within a 3-mile radius of their home address and who live within the boundaries (east of 60th St. to the Missouri River, south of I-680 and north of Harrison St.) Applicants must meet Fannie Mae's underwriting requirements and be willing to participate in landlord counseling sessions. For more information, call Fannie Mae's Consumer Resource Center (1-800-7Fannie), or the Fannie Mae Nebraska Partnership Office (Cynthia Swoopes) at (402)963-0123

## 2001 Holiday Lighting Contest Winners

Another spectacular year for the Holiday Lighting Contest has come and gone. I had the privilege of assisting in the judging last year as well, and I can tell you this year surpassed last year. The neighborhood looks great! There is no doubt that when visitors drive through the neighborhood this time of year, they know that Gifford Park residents are very festive and have much to be thankful for. And the winners were:

3405 Webster St.  
3221 Cass st.  
3413 California st.  
3310 Webster st.  
3025 Webster st.  
\*\*\* Honorable Mention: Gifford Park (thank you to Chris and Sally Foster and Bob and Darrell Hutton)

There were several other houses that were well decorated; way too many to mention in this brief article. Gifford Park - you looked great!

*by Peter Cihunka*

## Looking to Buy or Sell Your House?



Call a realtor that lives and knows your neighborhood.

**Matt Mancuso**  
740-6929

**Century 21 Wear**  
391-5912

### *Your Neighborhood Realtor*

Call for a free market analysis of your home. I can value, sell and buy you a new home. For any of your real estate needs feel free to call me.  
Matt 740-6929/345-8611



## Christmas Tree Recycling Information

The City of Omaha Public Works Department - Environmental Quality Division is once again providing collection sites for Christmas tree recycling (the trees will be ground into mulch). Volunteers will be available at the sites from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Jan. 5 & 6 for those who need assistance unloading trees. Please remove the following from the tree before bringing it to the collection site: nails, ornaments, plastic bags, wires, tree stands, and lights. Wreaths and evergreen roping, or wire-connected strands of evergreen **will not** be accepted. Flocked trees are acceptable. The following three sites closest to the Gifford Park area are:

**Ak-Sar-Ben** (69th St. and Mercy Road entrance - east of entrance gate)

**Orchard Park** (66th Street north of Hartman Avenue)

**Brown Park** (U Street between 15th and 18th Streets)

The sites listed above will be open through **January 12** - please do not deliver trees after this date. In addition, the **City of Omaha Maintenance Facility** at 11th and Locust Street will accept trees, but only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **January 5 and 6**. Share the Christmas spirit and ask a neighbor if you can help them get their tree to a recycling site. Thanks for making Christmas tree recycling part of your holiday tradition.

## California Tacos & More

*Homemade Mexican Food*

342-0212

33rd & California Street

Dine In or Carry Out

### Hours:

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

Closed Sunday



## 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 . . .

The 16th annual **Cathedral Flower Festival** will be held on **January 26th and 27th** at **St. Cecilia's Cathedral, 701 North 40th St.** Local florists participate and fill the Cathedral with beautiful flowers and plants of all kinds, and a variety of musicians and vocalists perform as well. Admission is free. See the **Omaha World-Herald** for information on times the exhibit is open. The sights, sounds, (and smells) are a welcome respite on a winter's weekend!

In a celebration of the historical magnificence and beauty of the Joslyn Castle, the Friends of Joslyn Castle are sponsoring **At Home with George and Sarah Joslyn 2002**, a luncheon and self-guided tour of the Castle. Dockets will be available to share interesting and entertaining facts about George and Sarah's rich history. This event will be held on **Saturday, January 26th** and **Sunday, January 27** from **11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** (stop by before or after the Cathedral Flower Festival). Reservations are required at \$15 per person; call **558-9523** to reserve a seat. The funds raised from this event will be used to support the preservation, restoration, and ongoing community use of the Castle, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated local landmark.

Congratulations to the **Willie Foster** family (which includes **Chris & Sallie, Jackie, David & Kirstin, and Jenny**) for being named the **"Tennis Family of the Year"**. This award was bestowed on the family by the **USTA Missouri Valley Section** at an awards luncheon held in **Overland Park, Kansas**, in December. No wonder the GPNA Tennis Program is first class!

**Neighborhood Builders** will be holding its 6th annual Leadership Sessions each Saturday in **February (2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd)** from **8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at **St. Joseph Hospital's Becic Dining Room**. Topics include Building on Neighborhood Assets, Utilizing Community Resources, Planning & Effective Management, and Neighborhood Problem Solving. Neighborhood Builders is a joint community effort led by the Neighborhood Center, United Way, UNO, various neighborhood associations, businesses, and private citizens. The goal of this program is to help build stronger, healthier neighborhoods by assisting in developing positive leadership. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call **Joanne Singleton** at **561-7575** to register or for more information.

There is a **Disaster Recovery Tree Program** offered for trimming and/or removal of trees for owner occupied homes; taxes and special assessments must be current and income under 80% of the median income. Call **Norita** at **444-5177** for more information.



**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          |

## Snow Removal Information

A **Snow Emergency** means that no vehicles may be parked on the streets where you see an Emergency Snow Route sign. Crews will plow these streets first. If cars are left parked on an Emergency Snow Route during a snow emergency, the cars will be subject to a fine and may be towed at the owner's expense. Radio and TV stations will broadcast all necessary information.

Omaha's Municipal Code requires all sidewalks to be shoveled within 24 hours after a snow-storm. Walks left unshoveled may be cleared by City crews at the expense of the property owner. For more information, or if you have a comment or complaint, please call the **Street Maintenance Office** at **444-4919** (24 hour line).