



Gifford Park's Pride

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

October 2002

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Fall Cleanup To Be Held October 19

This year's annual GPNA Fall Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, October 19**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in **Gifford Park**. The fall cleanup is for **GPNA MEMBERS ONLY**, or people who donate their time or money to the cleanup. There will be dumpsters and a compactor for hauling trash, a membership and donation drive, scrap metal recycling, a Halloween pumpkin patch, police/safety information, Project Impact representatives, and hot dogs for the helpers. Volunteers are needed to provide pickup trucks for hauling, assist in packing and monitoring dumpsters, and help in making 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.

PLEASE NOTE: It is very important for you to call the phone numbers listed below **BEFORE** the day of the cleanup if you are unable to bring your trash to the park yourself and need a volunteer to help - 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 for \$1.00 apiece. A \$5.00 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 3
7:00 P.M.**

**Guest Speaker:
City Councilman
Jim Vokal**

**Creighton University
Medical Center
(St. Joseph Hospital)
Dining Rooms A, B, and C**

GPNA Garage Sales Prove To Be Successful Ventures

Nearly perfect fall weather made for brisk sales at the Gifford Park Community Garden garage sale fundraiser held Saturday, September 21. The event took in nearly \$500. The proceeds will go to the GPNA for the community garden project. The event was held on the garden site near 35th & Cass and was part of the neighborhood-wide garage sale that featured many other sites in the Gifford Park neighborhood. **Vicki Frey** did a great job again this year organizing the neighborhood-wide garage sale - it was a great success and gave our neighborhood positive exposure.

Many thanks to the hard-working volunteers and people who donated garage sale items: **Neil & Mary Liberty, Cynthia Shuck, Sister Joan Miriam Glaser, Eric & Annemarie Noll, Lin Stowell, Sharon Martens, Rod & Dana Flint, Jared & Eve Randone, Oscar & Mable Rogers, Jim & Vera Horton, Mike Caban,**

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**Gifford Park Neighborhood Kids: See
Page 4 For Haunted House Information**

GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Peter Cihunka 344-7294

VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Wilverding 342-2795

RECORDING SECRETARY

Ron Frey 344-0757

TREASURER

Dana Carlton 344-4675

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**ADVERTISING**

Dar Swazy 345-0125

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Chris Foster 342-6006

COMPLAINTS

Leo Wilverding 345-1433

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON

Jean Ped 344-0722

MEMBERSHIP

Chris Foster 342-6006

NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilverding 342-2795

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Lyle Randone 345-1177

NEWSLETTER MAILING

Mike Bacone 938-7506

PARK

Roger Breaman 557-2914

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Leo Wilverding 345-1433

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Cynthia Shuck 556-2090

TOOL LENDING

Chris Foster 342-6006

WATCH GROUP

Terry Wilverding 342-2795

WEEDS & LIMBS

Jim Wilverding 557-1344

WELCOMING

Vicki Frey 344-0757

The President's Column

Come one, come all to the Gifford Park October general meeting!

Attendance at the past few meetings has been below average and so this month I challenge all of you to attend. Our City Councilman **Jim Vokal** will be our guest speaker. There has been plenty going on in city government lately, so this meeting should be a good one.

Have you ever wondered what they do all day (our city officials, that is)? I am sure that crackers and caviar are involved somewhere, but what exactly did I vote for? What services are being conducted on my behalf? The United States is a representative republic which means we rely on our elected officials to speak, vote, plan, budget, and develop on our behalf. Have you ever wondered what makes them more qualified than you? Or me? Or your neighbor?

I am not trying to invoke the sarcastic side in all of you; you all don't need my help for that. Nor am I questioning Jim Vokal's credentials or anyone currently sitting on the City Council. What I am hoping to do is inspire more people to attend the meeting and perhaps inspire some people to get more interested in our city's government. All too often we take things for granted assuming that our government officials will watch over us and take good care of us. For the most part, we are lucky and they do take pretty good care of us, but just like crime prevention in our neighborhood, we are responsible for monitoring the actions of our elected officials.

So, in short, come to the October meeting, meet Jim Vokal, ask him the tough questions. As long as I have known him, he has not shied away from the tough questions.

This is my favorite time of year: Fall. Like spring, autumn is a time for new beginnings; shedding the leaves from the trees, kids going back to school, a nice cool breeze, crisp smell in the air, and gearing up for fall activities. We just concluded another successful GPNA Garage Sale, the Fall Cleanup is just around the corner, the Haunted House, Thanksgiving, and of course the Holiday Banquet. Now is the best time of year for outdoor activities: taking a walk in the park, a bike ride around the block, having a cook-out with the neighbors (I do not recommend cooking out on Saturdays when Nebraska plays this year), or just fixing up the house. My best autumn wishes to you and your family!

by Peter Cihunka

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 Wilverding (342-2795) or Chris Foster (342-6006) for information regarding the newsletter.

Childcare Now Available At GPNA Meetings

Perhaps you've wanted to attend a Gifford Park Neighborhood meeting in the past but were unable to do so because of young children in the home. Or maybe you've wanted to connect with other parents in Gifford Park who have children about the same age as your kid(s). In response to these concerns, the GPNA is starting a trial program that will provide free childcare (up to age 12) during the next two monthly meetings. Parents can register their children in Dining room D (follow the signs) at 6:45 PM, prior to that night's meeting. **Vicki Frey** and her 14-year-old son, **Erik**, will head up various age-appropriate activities and games for the kids. A snack will be offered. If you have any questions, call **Vicki** at 344-0757.

GPNA Garage Sales . . .

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Jan Franks, George & Sandy Jones, Jackie Foster, Chris & Sallie Foster, Jay Uzdill, Yolanda Hesben, Diane Kaye, Billy Dooly, Eva Swanson, and Leo Wilwerding. Also we wish to thank Duchesne Academy, Kellom and Yates Schools for use of some tables and chairs.

If you would like more information about the community garden, call 342-6006 or 342-1340. Also if you have any ideas about having activities or events at the community garden, please call.



Displaying some of the "fruits of their labors" at the GPNA Community Garden garage sale were volunteers Neil Liberty, Sallie Foster, Cynthia Shuck, Annemarie Noll, and Sharon Martens.

Cathedralfest Celebrates Connection To Community

St. Cecilia's Cathedral, 40th and Webster, will hold its 29th annual parish festival, **Cathedralfest**, on **Sunday, October 6th**, from **noon until 6 PM**. This year's theme is "Your Parish, Your Community", and will celebrate the St. Cecilia's parish family and its connection to the greater Omaha community. The festival will include games of chance, rides, and booths selling handmade items, books, plants, and other home and garden objects. A silent auction and White Elephant sale will open at 9 AM that morning. A Food Court, Italian Sausage Booth, and a Spaghetti Dinner will provide plenty of options to satisfy anyone's appetite. A beer garden with sports action on a big screen TV will also be open. Raffle tickets will be on sale for a drawing with a grand prize of \$2500 in cash, with five \$100 prizes. All are invited to Cathedralfest to come together and have a great time!

Midtown Community Reinvestment Study Update

In August we reported on a movement to do a master plan study of the midtown area including the Gifford Park neighborhood. Since July, a steering committee has met about five times to look into the feasibility of commissioning a master plan study. The steering committee has representation from **Mutual of Omaha, Creighton University, Kiewit Construction, UNMC, NHS, OPPD, Omaha Chamber of Commerce, All Makes Office Equipment, Mayor's Office, City Planning Department, City Council, Med-Center Merchants, Leavenworth Neighborhood Association, Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association, and the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association.** The targeted area is Saddle Creek Road on the west, Cuming St. on the north, about 20th St. on the east, and Center St. on the south.

Our last meeting was September 18 in which we further defined the scope of project and made some key decisions. All the meetings have been very productive and everyone on the steering committee is committed to improving the area both short-term and long-term. In addition, the neighborhood associations have met separately to define goals and priorities so we can focus on issues important to the neighborhoods. Down the road there will be opportunities for many of you to be involved with the master planning process. The commitment and involvement of the neighborhood associations is critical to the long-term success of developing a master plan and implementation of the plan when completed. This may be one of the best opportunities for all of us to be part of positive change for our area. Don't hesitate to call me at 342-6006 for more information on this project.

by Chris Foster

Tow Lot Cited For Zoning Violation

On Monday, September 23, the City Administration Board of Appeals told the owner of the tow lot (just west of 33rd & California) that they had 5 days to remove all vehicles from the property. The tow lot owner was appealing the case (notice from police to remove dead storage, unlicensed vehicles). The property is zoned R7 (residential) and so the tow lot business is in violation. The GPNA and other concerned neighbors sent letters in opposition to the tow lot operation. Because of the zoning, this operation should never have been allowed to locate there in the first place.



8th Annual Haunted House

Where:
PKA House
3100 Chicago St.



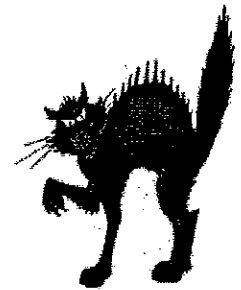
Look for flyers at California Tacos, J'N'J Grocery, and the GPNA office window for the date and time

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 Committees	Public Relations	School Liaison

**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE**

Mike 933-7506
Chris 342-6006

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



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

444-5555