



Gifford Park's Pride

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

November 2002

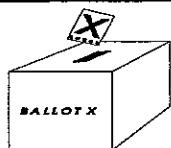
A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Creighton University Unveils Progress Of Master Plan To Communitites

The President's Community Advisory Board, of which our very own GPNA President **Peter Cihunka** is a member, is a focus group of neighborhood leaders responsible for giving community input to **Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.** President of Creighton University, on the continued growth and development at Creighton University as well as Creighton University Medical Center. The Community Advisory Board expressed interest in receiving information on the University's expansion efforts and the current phase of the campus master planning process. The President substantiates his commitment to the many surrounding neighborhoods by sending representatives out to make public presentations. The GPNA is calling a special meeting on **Thursday, November 14, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.** in the **Becic Room** at **Creighton University Medical Center** for our turn in the presentation circuit. **Dan Burkey**, Vice President for Administration and Finance will be our guest, accompanied by **Lennis Pederson**, Associate Vice President of Administration & Facilities Management Director and **Jim Willett**, coordinator for Creighton's Campus Expansion Project. Two of our GPNA board members got a sneak preview by attending Jefferson Square's presentation a few weeks ago. The predominant concern for Jefferson Square was the current widening and conversion to two-way traffic underway on Cuming Street from 30th to 15th Streets, the future of Burt Street and how both will affect city, local community, and University logistics. Another topic of interest to Jefferson Square residents was ascertaining the progress and character of Creighton's property-acquisitioning process. Creighton reiterated the importance of finding mutually advantageous solutions for both displaced landowners and its own growth.

continued on page 4

Don't Forget To VOTE!
General Election
Tuesday, November 5



Next Meeting

Thursday, November 7
7:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker:
Mayor Mike Fahey

Creighton University
Medical Center
(St. Joseph Hospital)
Becic Dining Room

Another Successful Fall Cleanup

This sounds like a broken record, but the GPNA "Cleanup Crew" did another bang-up job at this year's fall cleanup, held Saturday, October 19, in Gifford Park. The weather was cool, but mostly sunny skies made it a pretty nice day for all the activities in the park. The main event was of course the cleanup - we filled one trash compactor (**Dale's Trash Service**) and one dumpster (**Ken Labs Trash**). The other events included the pumpkin patch (over 100 pumpkins given away - provided by **Cirian's Farmers' Market** and **Hy-Vee**); pumpkin painting supervised by **Jan Franks**, **Brittney Rubek** and **Prenisha Barfield**; **Police Officer Juan Fortier** and a cruiser on site to educate the kids about public safety; **Kevin Fasana** with **Project Impact** gave away 60 T-shirts and talked to adults and kids about the dangers of guns; **Rodney Hay** provided us with great barbecue beef and pork (Rodney has won awards for his cooking!); **Loren Johnson** with **J'N'J Grocery** provided hot dogs again this year; **Lilly Estes** from **The California Bar** provided pop; we recycled a lot of metal; we

continued on page 6

GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Peter Cihunka 344-7293

VICE PRESIDENT

Jeff Wilwerding 342-2795

RECORDING SECRETARY

Ron Frey 344-0757

TREASURER

Dana Canton 346-4575

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**ADVERTISING**

Dar Sloczyk 345-0125

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Chris Foster 342-6006

COMPLAINTS

Lee Wilwerding 345-1433

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

REBELLION SCHOOL LIAISON

Jean Peck 344-2072

MEMBERSHIP

Chris Foster 342-6006

NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

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NEWSLETTER MAILING

Mike Peck 933-7506

PARK

Roger Freeman 557-2911

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Lee Wilwerding 345-1433

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Cynthia Shuck 556-2090

TOOL LENDING

Chris Foster 342-6006

WATCHGROUP

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

WEEDS & LITTER

Tim Wilwerding 561-1344

WELCOMING

Vicki Frey 344-0757

The President's Column

Once again, I am sitting back and reflecting on the purpose, mission, and goals of our neighborhood association. Specifically, I am focusing on my goals for this neighborhood and the leadership that I have provided over the last 1.5 years. I have placed a large emphasis on increasing the membership, opening our doors to all people, and public safety on 33rd and California St.

Membership is a revolving door in our neighborhood that would require three or four full time recruiters in order for the GPNA to reach its full potential. We are constantly hovering around 160 household and business memberships. The GPNA could easily have 300+ members.

I have stressed since the beginning the need to invite the many different cultures of our neighborhood into the GPNA. Until this happens and ALL the ethnic groups within our boundaries are represented and participating in the GPNA, I do not think we truly call ourselves a "Neighborhood" Association. As I discovered, this one task requires diligence, dedication, patience, and time. Believe it or not, not everyone sees things the same way we do. Imagine that!

To help improve public safety on our "most popular" street corner, I obtained a grant approved for surveillance equipment. As of today, the equipment is not installed but once it is it will help the Omaha Police Department and the GPNA to improve public safety.

As my term as President of the GPNA winds down, I want to thank everyone who has been a great help to me. I could not have been as successful as I was without all of you.

by Peter Cihunka

**Join or Renew Your GPNA
Membership Today!**

**Please Patronize
Our Newsletter
Advertisers**

**Childcare Now Available
At GPNA Meeting**

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 this monthly meeting. 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.

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.



**TOOL
LENDING
HOTLINE**

**Mike 933-7506
Chris 342-6006**

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



Chris Foster Dedicates Crime Prevention Award To Officer Paul

On Wednesday, October 30, at the Police Department's Community Resource Center, the Omaha Police and Fire Departments held their annual awards ceremony to recognize efforts to promote public safety. This year, yours truly was recognized for **Crime Prevention Citizen of the Year** for the Northeast Precinct. I cannot tell you how grateful I am to be part of the best neighborhood association with the best people you'll find anywhere, and I share this award with everyone who has been part of the GPNA over the years. I'd like to specifically thank **Captain Thomas Warren** and Crime Prevention Specialist **Stacy Henry** for being proactive with our neighborhood, including events like our National Night Out Block Party and the Fall Cleanup.

Police Chief Don Carey presented the award and talked about the great efforts by the GPNA over the years that matches the best of any organization in the city regarding crime prevention and public safety. He said because of our past efforts and strong organization, our neighborhood was selected a few months ago as the first Community Policing Project in the city. **Mayor Mike Fahey** and many others from the Police and Fire Departments were on hand.

One final note: I had the opportunity to speak for a minute, and as mentioned above, I accepted the award on behalf of the GPNA and said how proud I was to be part of a great volunteer organization. Then I dedicated the award to **Officer Mike Paul** who passed away in July. I told people what he meant and what he did for our neighborhood when he worked the 33rd & California beat. That meant a lot to me to share this with his fellow comrades, friends and even those who didn't know Mike.

by Chris Foster

2002 Holiday Lighting Contest

It's not too soon to begin thinking about how we can turn the Gifford Park area into a beautiful neighborhood for the holidays by putting up lighting and decorations. And once again, the GPNA will be holding its annual lighting contest. Any residential location within the boundaries of the GPNA is eligible to win a prize for the best holiday decorations. Judging is tentatively scheduled for the evening of **Thursday, December 19**. Last year, the neighborhood looked great - let's outdo ourselves this year!

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

Lilly's California Bar

510 No. 33rd St.

Serving the Gifford Park
Community since 1937

Lilly Estes,
Proprietor



Charles R. Kilgore Jr.

Attorney At Law

4913 Underwood Avenue

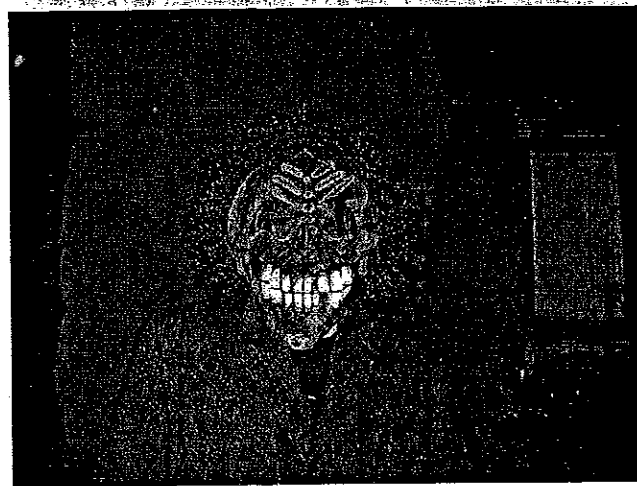
558-5000

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

PKA Haunted House A "Spook-tacular" Event

The 8th annual PKA Halloween Haunted House was held Sunday evening, October 27. The cool and damp weather added to the atmosphere as neighborhood children lined up to enter the creepy abode.

Volunteers for the event included Peter Cihunka, Jim Wilwerding, Chris Foster, Vicki Frey, Betty Slayden, Tiffany Slayden, Kayleen Slayden, William Slayden, and Jacob Slayden. Big thanks to members of Wolf Recovery House for crowd control and a big donation of candy and healthy treats. Many thanks to the GPNA volunteers who made goodies. And last but not least, thanks to the members of the PKA Fraternity for converting their residence into a spooky lair and staffing it with a wide assortment of ghouls and goblins. It was the general consensus that this year's effort was one of the best haunted houses PKA has put on in the eight year history of the event.



Top: Visitors to the PKA Haunted House are ushered in by a couple of scary doormen.
Bottom: One of the "residents" of the house

Creighton Master Plan . . .

continued from page 1

Issues relevant to Gifford Park will focus on the 1-10 year expansion plans west of 30th Street to 32nd Street bordered by Webster and California Streets to the north and south. These boundaries are under current consideration but are by no means the limit of future growth potential for the University.

Come find out what's in store for Creighton's expanding medical campus, ask questions about *who might be coming into our neighborhood*, what kind of services and amenities might Gifford Park be able to offer, how might this affect current property owners in the neighborhood, and how 33rd & California serves to benefit from public/private partnerships for new retail shops, restaurant owners, and entertainment possibilities. Please come participate and express what you would like to see in our own future growth and development for Gifford Park.

by Cynthia Shuck

What's Happening in the Neighborhood . . .

We're happy to report longtime GPNA member Mike Caban is doing well after recent surgery. Mike has been very active with the community garden project this year and made donations to the National Night Out Block Party and our fall cleanup. We wish Mike continued recovery.

Congratulations to City Councilman Jim Vokal on his marriage to Liz Perry on October 19th. We also appreciate Jim being our guest speaker at the GPNA October general meeting.

Gifford Park neighborhood residents Pablo Saavedra and his family just opened up their new business, La Tiendita, on the northeast corner of 33rd & California. They sell groceries, clothes, phone cards, music and many other items. They specialize in products from Mexico. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. everyday. The phone number is 342-1704. You may have seen Pablo's family and friends playing a lively game of soccer in Gifford Park on summer evenings. He and his family also participate and help with GPNA events. Also, Estilista Morrocco is a new hairstylist shop located on the east end of La Tiendita at 3228 California. Stop by and check out these two new businesses.

continued on page 8

GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN'S CHILDCARE II

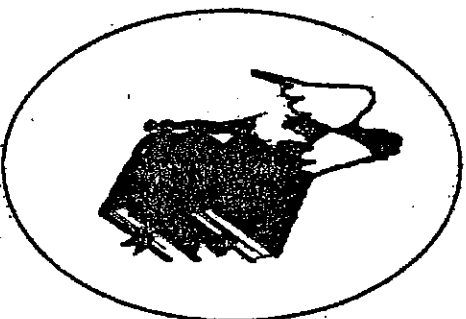
615 N 33RD STREET

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Toddlers 18 months-3 years
Preschool 3-5 years old
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CALL

(402) 614-0232

Corporate Office

(402) 342-7494

Closed on Sunday

Another Successful Cleanup. . .continued from page 1

received over \$300 in memberships and donations. In addition, the GPNA obtained a \$700 grant from the Omaha Community Foundation to help defray the cost of the cleanup. Volunteers included Lloyd Canfield, Bob & Virginia Hutton, Eve & Jarred Randone, Terry Wilwerding, Steve Wilwerding, Peter Cihunka, Jim & Kathleen Wilwerding, Billy Dooly, Mike Caban, Jim & Vera Horton, Jean Peck, Cynthia Shuck, Mike & Candy Bacome, Mike Wilwerding, Chris & Sallie Foster, Leo Wilwerding, Richard & Bonnie Kaster, Eva Swanson and members of the Wolf Recovery House. Thank you all!



Upper left: A big treat at this year's fall cleanup was provided by Creighton University Medical Center employee Rodney Hay: some of his award-winning barbecue pork and beef. Upper right: The kids had a great time painting their pumpkins in the "pumpkin patch". Lower left: Officer Juan Fortier let some of the kids see what it was like to sit behind the wheel of a real police cruiser. Lower right: Looks like the Maytag repairman was suffering from too much loneliness to fix this model - here Jarred Randone and Chris Foster get ready to load a dryer onto a truck and take it to Gifford Park's dumpster.

Community Garden Update

As we put the Community Garden to bed for the winter, I want to thank everyone who helped make this a great year. This was the first full year in operation (last year was spent preparing the land). Some of the good things that happened included our grand opening event May 4; assigning 18 garden plots that people planted with vegetables and flowers; creating theme gardens – Children’s, Pumpkin Patch, Okra Path, Herb, and Sun Dawg’s; building our tool shed in early June (and finally getting it painted a few weeks ago!); surviving a very hot and dry summer; having a pot luck dinner in late July; raising \$’s with a garage sale on site on September 21; and maintaining the garden duties. Thanks again for everyone’s support and involvement and we’re looking forward to even more “adventures” next year. Call 342-6006 or 342-1340 for more information on the Community Garden.

by Chris Foster

P.S. The GPNA Community Garden was selected for the **Wooden Nickel Program** at **Wild Oats Market** at **78th & Dodge**. Wild Oats gives back a five-cent wooden nickel for each shopping bag their customers re-use while shopping at their store. The wooden nickel may then be deposited into any one of three boxes, the total amounts of which are donated back to organizations whose mission and values are in harmony with their own - nourishing communities through education, healthy lifestyles, and being responsible stewards of the environment. Customers of Wild Oats can help the Garden and other organizations like ours earn wooden nickels, so **BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag)** to support Wild Oats, and thank them for supporting us.

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 . . . continued from page 4

GPNA President **Peter Cihunka** was able to get a grant for surveillance equipment to improve public safety. We have the equipment and would like to install it on 33rd & California. If anyone is interested in helping, please call 341-7293.

MTS Training, in partnership with the **Literacy Center For The Midlands**, has opened a location at **3610 Dodge St., Suite 110 W.** MTS Training seeks to help downsized and injured workers become more employable and provide them with the skills they need to get back into the workforce, working closely with government and non-profit agencies to provide this training for free. For more information about this retraining program, call **Annette Jensen** at **592-9669**.

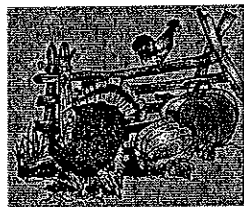
A reminder from the City of Omaha Public Works Program: yardwaste collection will end the week of **November 25-30**. It also would like to remind residents that Deffenbaugh will not collect Christmas trees as part of the garbage collection service this winter; collection sites will be available after Christmas for residents to take their used trees to for recycling.

Dates Set For Holiday Banquet, Caroling

'Tis *almost* the season - and the GPNA is making plans to celebrate the upcoming holidays by holding two events - the annual Holiday Banquet and neighborhood caroling party.

The **14th Annual GPNA Holiday Banquet** will be held on **Thursday, December 5th**, at **7 p.m.** **Creighton University Medical Center** has once again graciously offered to host the dinner, which takes the place of the December general meeting. The event will be held in the **Becic Dining Room** at the hospital and is free to all GPNA members. If you are interested in helping with the banquet or if you have any questions, please call **Vicki Frey** at **344-0757**. Invitations will be mailed in the next few weeks with reservation information. Since this is a members only function, now is the time to join or renew your membership - send in the application on the left with your dues today or bring it to the November general meeting. Don't miss this wonderful holiday event!

Last year was the first time that the GPNA organized a holiday neighborhood caroling party, and it was a great way to get everyone in the holiday spirit. This year, the carolers will gather at the corner of **33rd & California St.** on **Friday, December 13th** at **6 p.m.** and will spread their good cheer throughout the neighborhood. Refreshments will then be served at **California Tacos** immediately following the caroling. Everyone in the neighborhood is invited to come along and join in this jolly holiday activity. For more information, call **Ron** or **Vicki Frey**, **344-0757**.



Happy Thanksgiving!
from the
**Gifford Park
Neighborhood
Association**

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



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 |