



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

528 N. 32nd St., Omaha, NE 68131
341-4695



Chairman-Jim Windorski 341-4695

Vice Chairman-Chuck Kilgore 558-5000/341-2757

Secretary-Corky Grimes 345-3217

Treasurer-Ron Yates 558-6027

CHILDREN AND SAFETY

September, 1990

By Judi Caban

Schools will be reopening for the 1990-91 school year on Monday, August 27th. This means that once again our streets and sidewalks will be crowded with children walking to and from school.

As you drive through our neighborhood, please keep an eye out for our children. Although they are reminded repeatedly at school and at home about pedestrian safety rules, they ARE children and, as such, sometimes "forget" to look before entering the street. It is up to us, as adult drivers, to remember this and to make allowances for safety's sake when children are present.

GARAGE SALE A HUGE SUCCESS

By Garage Sale Committee

Ruth Windorski and Judi Caban

Farol Hendershot, Kathy Rose

The second GPNA "Garage" sale was a success. The committee wishes to thank everyone who helped in any way. Approximately \$1,200 in profits are the benefit to the Association for the hard work of this committee.

A special thanks goes to Loren Johnson of JNJ Grocery who donated all of the food and drink for the hot dog sale on Saturday, August 4th, and Sunday, August 5th. The Association, as well as the whole of the Gifford Park area have benefitted by Loren's generosity in the past year. Thanks again, Loren.

IRV YOUNG
OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SEPTEMBER 6, 7:00 P.M.
ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
SEMINAR ROOM
FREE PARKING

A sincere thank you from all of us also goes to Mr. Tom Bogard for the use of the air conditioned building at 33rd and California. Our only wish is that this Bogard Building could be a profitable business every day of the year. Thank you so much Tom.

We wish to thank everyone who donated items for the sale. There was a great deal of useful merchandise. We had a lot to sell. After offering all remaining merchandise to our neighbors, the rest was given to the Goodwill, simply because they offered the quickest pick-up. These are the people who donated merchandise to our sale: Laurina Leuck, Nancy Banks, the Yates PTA, Sylvia McCoy,

Evelyn Iams, Cub Scout Pack #335, Jack Manzer family, Loren Johnson, Dave Chambers, Mary McHale, Eva Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Gurney, Pearl Exline, Margaret Campbell, Rick Liddick and Heath, Leo Wilwerding, Chris Foster, Greg Welling, Judi Caban, Ron Yates, David Swisher, Fred Bruce, Elsie Anderson, Kathy Rose, Ruth Beckman, Nellie Petska, Jim O'Brien, John and Jackie Lynch, Tom Bogard, Virginia McRoberts, Ann Wachtler and Margaret Koperski.

The success of this event would not have been possible without the help of the many volunteers who spent many hours before during and after the sale. Those special people are Tim Hendershot, Ed Hendershot, Evelyn Iams, Carol Drain, Kris Lausterer, Ron Yates, Mike Caban, Dave Swisher, Ken Campbell, Harry Morgan, Rick Liddick and Heath, Ross and Kent Windorski, Leonard Clark and Eugenia Stevens.

Thanks to all of you!

COX CABLE NEIGHBORHOOD SALUTE

By Jim Windorski

Being selected as a judge for the Cox Cable Neighborhood Salute was an honor for me and a compliment for our neighborhood. It was a difficult chore as well. All judges received copies of entries of those neighborhoods throughout Omaha who had entered the contest. We were to rate each part of the entry form from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest. These results were tabulated by Cox. We then toured each of the five finalist neighborhoods on Ollie the Trolley.

After looking at all entries, Gifford Park should be proud of our neighborhood and our Association. Again this year the inner city is very strong as you can see by the finalists in the Cox Cable Neighborhood Salute.

THANKS TO JOHN AND JACKIE LYNCH

By The GPNA Executive Board

A very sincere and hearty thanks to John and Jackie Lynch for the terrific job they have done as co-chairs of the Public Relations Committee of the GPNA. The executive board regretfully received their written notice of resignation on July 28th. They both worked hard to maintain a newsletter of which all in our neighborhood can be proud.

We will continue our newsletter, but will sorely miss their help. If there is anyone out there who has expertise in the skills necessary to compile a newsletter, we could surely use your help!

Please contact any of the individuals listed at the top of the first page of this newsletter if you feel you can assist us. The pay is poor, but the satisfaction is priceless!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

By Chuck, Corky, Jim and Ron

As required by the revised Bylaws of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, the following persons have been appointed to fill vacant positions on the Executive Board: At-Large board members are John Lynch, Rick Liddick, Barb Schroeder and Leo Wilwerding; Corresponding Secretary, Ruth Windorski.

At-large members are elected annually and may serve an indefinite number of terms. Corresponding secretary is elected annually and may serve for two consecutive terms.

We welcome these members to the Executive Board and know their input and service will aid the common good of the GPNA. Welcome aboard!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP

By Mike Caban

During the second week in July, a group of GPNA members and other residents of our community informally gathered to walk through various streets in our neighborhood at night, and watch the activities that occur after most of us are asleep. It has been an enlightening experience to say the least. Every Friday and Saturday night since then, this group has assembled and walked throughout the neighborhood, fine tuning our approach to where we now feel we have a viable tool for the betterment of our community.

At the August meeting of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association motions were put forward requesting that the Association sponsor this group and it's activities, and that this project be the subject of an application by the GPNA for a small grant from the Peter Kiewit Foundation. Both motions were voted upon and approved by the membership.

Since that time, the group has been named the GPNA Neighborhood Watch Group, and a set of operating procedures as well as a Code of Conduct for members have been established. With the approval of the GPNA Executive Board, three 2-way radios have been purchased with Association funds for use by the Group. From the original group of walkers, an experienced core of committed team members has developed, that, although small in numbers, have proven their effectiveness on several occasions. I am proud to be a member of this group, and I encourage anyone who truly wants to do something for our community to join us on our walks.

Our motive is simple, we walk and watch to enhance the safety of our community and it's residents. The Neighborhood Watch Group is non-confrontational, proactive, and we don't spy on anyone.

We walk and watch - if we observe laws being broken, we call the police. We also, by our presence, hope to send the message that the responsible, law-abiding residents of our community will not willingly tolerate the use of our neighborhood for drug-dealing, drunken parties or other types of undesirable behavior. Membership in this group requires self-discipline, the ability to conform to rules, the commitment of a minimum of four hours of volunteer time per month, and a true desire to be of service to our community. IF YOU CANNOT LIVE UP TO THESE STANDARDS, THIS GROUP IS NOT FOR YOU! If, however, you ARE interested in joining us, please call me at 341-4722 or Ron Yates at 558-6027. We will be happy to answer your questions and/or to schedule your participation in one of our up-coming walks. Our schedule is limited at the present time, but as we increase in numbers, we will expand, so please, if you think you'd like to take part, call us. To obtain maximum effectiveness, we need more walkers.

We would also appreciate your cooperation in identifying problem areas in our neighborhood that should be included in our walk routes. If you see or hear of any continuing activity that is unlawful or disruptive, call us, and we will investigate the possibility of including your block on our route.

-- REMEMBER --

FOR INFORMATION ON THE
GPNA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP

341-4722
OR
558-6027

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

By Ruth Windorski

Membership in the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association stands at 203. These are the members who have renewed membership or joined the Association since the last walk-around newsletter: Tom Bogard, John Whalley, Patrick Taylor, Tim Hendershot, Lawrence and Jane Whelan, Pat Collins, Cindy Fenster, Melodie Anderson, Carolyn Tooley, Clara Schmidt, Mary Lou Eriksen, Dan and Mary Kay Begley, Roberta Jenson, Phillip Lazure, Robert and Cynthia Churchill, Tom Crowley, Mary Witley, Vic and Cathy Gutman, Henry Morgan, Roger and Sandy Freeman, Carol Ingalise, Chris Foster and Sallie Shelton, Leonard Clark, Thomas Bucy, Mrs. W. and Dan Kennan, Nellie Petska, VFW #247, Margaret Campbell, Emily Wagoner, Brian and Karen Kokensparger, Robert and Amy Jennum, Georgine Dibelka and John Thein.

We thank you for your support in our efforts. We encourage anyone interested in the Gifford Park area to join us. Numbers mean power and equal a louder voice in everything we attempt to do. Membership in the Neighborhood Association is an effective tool for stronger representation, whether it be between one another or to our elected officials.

Give membership in GPNA some thought - WE can make a difference. Membership cards will be included in the first mailed Members Only newsletter after membership is received.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

By Jim Windorski

Tuesday, August 7th, was Neighborhood Watch National Night Out. The event was observed by at least two of the Neighborhood Watch groups in our association. After an evening of relaxing, games and visiting, we came away with the feeling of knowing our neighbors much better. By knowing our neighbors we all will become better neighbors. Porch lights were on throughout our area from 8 to 10 p.m. in observance of National Night Out. Thank you to all who participated.

TREASURERS REPORT

By Ron Yates

Balance 7/23/90	\$2,062.72
New Memberships (20)	60.00
Donation (Chris Foster)	25.00
Donation (Drug Free)	11.00
Garage Sale	<u>1,321.95</u>
	\$3,480.67
Post Office	25.00
Radio Shack	337.74
Jackie Lynch	2.10
Thrifty Nickel	9.35
Omaha World Herald	74.16
Judi Caban	<u>15.47</u>
Balance 8/24/90	\$3,016.85

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GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Date _____

ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PER PERSON - MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JUNE 1, 1991
Make checks payable to GPNA.
Mail to Ruth Windorski: 528 N. 32nd St., Omaha, NE 68131.

NEIGHBOR OF THE MONTH

By Ron Yates

One year ago, in July, 1989, the GPNA started the Neighbor of the Month Committee. On the first anniversary we have chosen a couple who has a forty year head start, Ed and Farol Hendershot. The Hendershots are in their 42nd year together. Ed has lived in our neighborhood forever. He first lived on 36th Street and attended St. Cecilia's Grade School. Farol attended Yates School through 8th grade and both attended Technical High School a couple of years apart. After serving in WWII with the Coast Guard, Ed returned to Omaha and discovered Farol, a clerk at First National Bank who worked part time at the American Legion Club. The results of this union are three boys, one girl and twelve grandchildren. Farol and Ed have served on the Clean-up Committee and Garage Sale Committee. Ed is also a member of the Park Committee and more than once they have donated the use of their sons! Volunteers like the Hendershots are hard to find.

Our August Neighbor of the Month is Ed Osterhaus. Ed is our very good friend from American Printing at 3229 California Street. For those of you who don't know, the Association receives an excellent rate on printing costs for the newsletter, flyers and other printed material.

American Printing has been at their present location for over twenty years. The business was founded in 1911 across the street from Technical High School on Cumming Street. Ed, a 1952 Tech High graduate, has served his country aboard the air craft carrier, the U.S.S. Hancock. He and his bride of thirty years have five children, three daughters and two sons. Ed has stayed late and worked on short notice to make sure the Association newsletter is out on time. Ed, thanks for your interest, concern and efforts.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Senator John Lindsay

This fall, voters will be asked for their approval for several constitutional changes. In the coming months, I will focus on these proposals, this month taking a close look at two of the ballot issues.

Proposition 2 would empower the Legislature to establish an intermediate Court of Appeals below the Supreme Court. Nebraska's current judicial structure has had a temporary court of appeals to deal with the backlog of cases awaiting review. This backlog is a result of more complex laws, a greater incidence of litigation and an increase in criminal prosecutions. Proposition 2 would maintain the right to an appeal to the Supreme Court for murder cases and cases of constitutional interpretation. The Legislature would determine, by statute, the avenues of appeal for other court cases. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I heard much testimony regarding the backlog of cases - a backlog that can delay judicial decisions for up to two years, causing injurious delays for hundreds of persons affected by those cases. That testimony convinced me that some action needs to be taken. I supported the 37-4 vote to place the measure on the fall ballot for voter approval.

A second measure, Proposition 4, would strengthen the Post-Secondary Coordinating Commission. This Commission would be given greater authority in coordinating programs, curricula and planning for the state colleges and universities. I had the opportunity to serve on the 1989 study commission that conducted an extensive examination of the governance of Nebraska's state colleges and universities. Proposition 4 is, I feel, a positive step in correcting some of the disjoint planning that presently occurs. As such, I also supported putting this constitutional measure on the ballot.

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Editorial Page is a new feature of the GPNA Newsletter. Readers are welcome to submit their letters to any Executive Board member prior to the Executive Board meeting held the third Thursday of every month. The Executive Board has final approval for all editorials appearing on this page. Full name and address must be included on all letters submitted. The views and opinions stated are not necessarily those of GPNA or the Executive Board.

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

By John Heaston

As a student renter who resides in the Gifford Park Neighborhood, I am concerned with the lack of constructive dialogue between long time residents and student renters. It appears some long time residents resent renters because of the parties, the noise, etc. If lines of communication were established, many of these problems could be circumvented and positive steps could be taken towards improving the neighborhood. However, I believe that if the status quo remains, the problem will only worsen with the influx of students and the start of school.

I don't pay rent and take on all the other costs of living so that uptight neighbors can dictate my lifestyle. Likewise, I can appreciate the concern over the littering and the noise. Let's open some lines of dialogue, other than the police or eviction notices, so that we can address these problems. I am not part of a conspiracy to decrease property values, but a renter and resident of this neighborhood and I expect to be treated as such.

I am just asking that we explore what we can constructively accomplish, rather than spending so much time on condescending monologue. I am proposing more involvement by renters in neighborhood activities. With the backing of the neighborhood association, arrangements can be made between renter and landlord for the improvement and continued maintenance of property.

I am also asking for a little understanding and communication from my neighbors, so that we can all have a good time.

PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP

By Corky Grimes

Recently many of our meetings have focused around the subject of "Pride of Ownership". In terms of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, it goes much deeper than simply maintaining one's own property. It seems to strike at the heart of what each speaker has stressed when addressing our monthly meetings: taking responsibility for our own circumstances and doing something about them.

Never has "if it's going to be, it's up to me" been more appropriate than it is in our present circumstances. We all need to assess our own part of the neighborhood and demand and expect a level of participation from all home dwellers, whether they rent or own. It is up to us to discuss this among ourselves and, if necessary, make phone calls to the respective authority. Then continue to make our phone calls until we see results. City Hall has demonstrated to us that their services are limited and "the squeakiest wheel gets oiled first".

It starts with us. Let's set the example and then ask our neighbors to do the same. One house at a time. Nothing is insurmountable when it is taken one step at a time.