



Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

528 N. 32nd St., Omaha, NE 68131



Chairman - Jim Windorski 341-4695
Secretary - Corky Grimes 345-3217

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

Treasurer - Ron Yates 558-6027
Corresponding Secretary - Ruth Windorski 341-4695

Members-Only Mailing

October, 1990

NEIGHBORHOOD REFERRAL

By Barb Schroeder

While reading last month's newsletter, published by the Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association, I came across an article which caught my interest. This association has started a barter/trade co-op among their neighborhood members. This would involve starting a networking system, listing services which can be provided by our members. These services include painting, papering, car mechanic, roofing, lawn care, plumbing, electrical, etc. If you have services to provide and are interested in becoming available for neighborhood members, please call Barb Schroeder at 342-0869. I will start a file of available people to keep on hand for future reference.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORKS

By Sue Huntley

Hello! We are your new neighbors. We live on 31st Street and attend Creighton University. With only a month into school, we are just settling in. Being new in the area, we were unaware of the Neighborhood Watch. We are excited to discover there is such a program.

Meeting some members of the Neighborhood Watch and learning about its origin, we have come to respect and understand the many functions of your organization.

We will be more than happy to assist this organization in any way. Also, feel free to come to us with any questions, suggestions, or complaints you may have.

Although we are only temporary residents in the neighborhood, we would like you to understand that we want to live in harmony among you and not cause any undo anxiety. Thank you.

NEXT MEETING:

CANDIDATES' FORUM AND
JOINT MEETING WITH THE
JOSLYN CASTLE NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY AND
COUNTY TREASURER

OCTOBER 4, 7:00 P.M.

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
SEMINAR ROOM
FREE PARKING

LET'S CLEAN UP!

By Jim Windorski

Fall mini-cleanup will be held on Saturday, October 22. GPNA will furnish a 20 cubic yard dumpster for use by our members in readying the neighborhood for winter. The dumpster will be located in the park parking lot. We will clean up the park and other littered areas in our neighborhood.

Anyone having items such as large appliances or furniture that they wish to dispose of but have no way to do so may call any Association officer listed on the top of page 1 of this newsletter.

Please come to the park on Saturday, October 22nd, and help in this worthwhile effort. Many hands make the load a lot lighter! See you there.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Chris Foster. We wish you many years of wedded bliss. Chris and Sallie, very active in our neighborhood walk group, were married recently.

FRESH LOOK AT AMERICAN PRINTING

Sure does look great, Ed! Every morning during the past hot spell, Ed could be seen with paint brush in hand painting the front of American Printing. The colors chosen blend with his neighbors, Kilgore's and the drug store building. This project began early this summer when GPNA members readied the building for finish painting by scraping and priming it.

We hope this fresh look is catching and others in the business district follow suit and give their places of business a facelift. Surely wouldn't hurt anything.

VOTER REGISTRATION

By Jim Windorski

Voter registration will be held October 4th, 6:30 to 8 pm, at the Yates School open house, 3260 Davenport St.

Persons who have moved (even if only next door), changed their name (marriage or divorce), changed political party, or have reached the age of 18 since the last election, must either register or re-register to vote in the November election.

We feel making this opportunity available in our local public school is a service to all of our neighbors. If per chance any of our members are trained registrars and would like to help in this endeavor, please call Jim at 341-4695.

Also call if you wish further information. If enough interest is shown in registration, we may plan to have further dates and times for registering our neighbors.
YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

By Jim Windorski

A special thank you to Cynde Yates for so willingly helping us put together the newsletter last month. We sincerely appreciate it, Cynde — knowing what a busy lady you are.

Brian and Karen Kokensparger have answered our cry for help with the GPNA newsletter. This is a very heavy responsibility and we wish to thank them very much. It is amazing how much talent we have in our neighborhood. Another fine example of neighbor helping neighbor.

216 AND COUNTING!

By Ruth Windorski

Welcome to these GPNA members. We look forward to hearing from each of you in the coming months.

John Thein, Richard and Donnalee Lewis, Daryl and Jeanie Roberts, Erick and Marie Youvan, Keith Lytle, Sue Garcia, John Zegar, Dr. Harold and M. E. Gifford, Marinette Narce-Kuzeppa, and Madaline Fennell have joined our ranks since the last newsletter was distributed. Our membership is as varied as the addresses of our members. We have numerous members in other parts of Omaha as well as Kansas, California, and Iowa. Again, thanks to each of you for your support.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Ron Yates

Balance 8/24/90	\$3016.85
CU Printing (newsletter)	<u>80.00</u>
Balance 9/24/90	\$2936.85

KEEP NEBRASKA BEAUTIFUL PAINT-A-THON

GPNA participated in the Nebraska Paint-a-thon. Our group painted a house located at 1515 North 35th Street. The leaders of the GPNA team were GPNA member Kris Lausterer and his friend, Mike Schartz. Kris enjoys volunteering for projects that show immediate results. He also has some very civic-minded friends. A hearty and much deserved thanks to Kris and Mike.

Saturday, August 18th, was preparation day. The house was scraped and primed in the necessary areas. Approximately 10 people worked on this part of the project.

Then on Saturday, August 25th, a large group of people gathered to paint the house. Many of these volunteers were friends and family of Mike. Chuck Kilgore, of Kilgore's Sandwich Shop, donated a 6' sandwich and drinks for all who were working at lunch time.

The GPNA was very fortunate to have such a group of dedicated and professional people bearing our banner in the Paint-a-thon.

**SECTION 8:
THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF HUD, PHA, OWNER, AND FAMILY FOR THE
SECTION 8 EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM**

Key: HUD — Housing and Urban Development PHA — Public Housing Authority (Omaha Housing Authority) Owner — Property Owner Family — Tenant

- . The PHA does not act as the landlord, as it does in the Public Housing Program (e.g., the PHA is not responsible for tenant selection or screening).

OVERVIEW:

- . To administer the Certificate Program, PHA's enter into contractual relationships with three parties: HUD, the owner, and the family.
- . The roles and responsibilities of HUD, the PHA, the owner and the family are defined in the Federal regulations and in the legal documents which the parties execute in order to participate in the program.

THE ROLE OF HUD:

- . HUD has four major responsibilities:
 - Develop policy, regulations, handbooks, notices, and other guidance which interpret housing legislation.
 - Allocate housing assistance funds.
 - Provide technical assistance and training to PHA's.
 - Monitor PHA compliance with program requirements and production goals.

THE ROLE OF THE PHA:

- . The PHA serves as contract administrator for HUD and has four broad areas of responsibility:
 - Certifies and re-certifies tenants;
 - Approves units and leases;
 - Pays Housing Assistance to Owner;
 - Monitors program performance and compliance with federal and local rules.

THE ROLE OF THE OWNER:

- . The owner has the following major responsibilities:
 - Tenant selection and leasing.
 - Compliance with the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Contract (form HUD 52535) and program lease.
 - Normal landlord functions during the lease term (e.g., maintenance, rent collection).
- . Owner responsibilities are defined in the HAP Contract, the Lease, and 24 CFR Part 882.

THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY:

- . The family:
 - Provides income and family information needed to permit the PHA to verify and certify eligibility and calculate rent.
 - Searches for housing.
 - Pays tenant portion of the rent and adheres to lease requirements.
 - Cooperates with the PHA in annual inspections and reexaminations.
- . Family obligations are defined in the Certificate of Family Participation (Form HUD-52578), in the Lease, and in 24 CFR Part 882.

This information was furnished by Joyce Beasley, Section 8 Supervisor, O.H.A.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Leo Wilwerding

Now is the time to get started on our fall cleanup and fixup. Cool temperatures make this more inviting. Painting, caulking, plus tightening up of doors and windows can go a long way in reducing high heating bills. Studies show that the average house has at least one complete air change each hour just from leakage through small cracks. Some houses are much worse. You can see why it pays to seal them up. A few dollars spent on caulking, paint, weather-stripping and putty, will be quickly repaid in lower heating bills.

Also, work done now on our yards will pay big dividends in April. Raking, mowing, trimming, tilling, planting and picking up litter now will make our homes more attractive all winter and beautiful in the spring. Discount houses and lumberyards have good prices on trees and shrubs. It's also the best time to be planting bulbs. Imagine those trees, shrubs, tulips, crocuses, lilies and peonies in the spring! Your home can be a showplace! How does it measure up now? Be a good neighbor and a plus instead of a minus in our neighborhood.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY

By Brian Kokensparger

Though it's only nearing the end of September, and the leaves haven't started turning yet, it's not too early to start thinking of Christmas. Though it's too early to get out the eggnog and mistletoe, take a little time right now to think about how our neighborhood might celebrate Christmas together.

I know our December meeting is a Christmas dinner and party; a great event that will, hopefully, continue for a long time. But what about pulling together a few bills for a needy family? What about Christmas caroling? How about decorating your house or putting up a tree as a way of beautifying the neighborhood? How about helping our elderly neighbors shovel the snow from their sidewalks? How about a fundraiser?

Growing up on a Christmas tree farm in Ohio, I have seen many groups succeed in selling Christmas trees for profit. In fact, for many of the groups, it is their major fundraiser of the year. Maybe our group could sell Christmas trees as a way to raise money and also celebrate the Christmas

season together. Perhaps this could become a yearly tradition; as the sales grow from year to year, it would not be unreasonable to suggest that the Christmas tree could be as much a sign of unity and prosperity in the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association as a bell-ringer is for the Salvation Army.

My family tree farm in Ohio has a choice selection of Christmas Trees available, at a reasonable price. If our group is interested, we could begin selling them this year. But it will take a lot of planning and organizing, so we have to act fast. With the possibility of two to three thousand dollars of profit, the Christmas Tree Sales proceeds could go a long way in providing food and toys for needy families, or a long-awaited office for the neighborhood association.

Either way, it's not too early to begin thinking about the way we can celebrate Christmas together as a neighborhood. Let's put our minds together and celebrate "A Neighborhood Christmas."

EDITORIAL CORNER

WE NEED HELP!

By Mike Caban

I first of all want to commend all the dedicated participants in our group for a job well done. The long hours, the patience, and self-discipline you have all displayed have already paid off. They know we're out there now, and the difference is notable. Keep up the good work, and thanks for sticking with the program up to this juncture. I wish I could tell you that we have added another ten walkers to the team, but I can't. I wish I could tell you that all you need to do is your four hours per month, instead of the sixteen that most of us are doing at the present time, but I can't. I wish I could tell you that the Association membership has responded enthusiastically to the requests for more volunteer walkers, but I can't. All I can say is that your work in this project is productive, vital, and that finally some of us in the G.P.N.A. are doing something other than idle chatter, on an ongoing basis.

WE NEED HELP! The G.P.N.A. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH has already made a noticeable difference in the 33rd Street business corridor, and several other areas, but our numbers are too few to do what we know can be done to truly ensure the safety of our entire area. We need your help. Give us four hours of your time, and we'll guarantee they'll be productive, worthwhile hours. That is but two evenings a month, and in return we'll all benefit in the knowledge that our children, our elderly, and the whole community will be more secure.

Readers are welcome to submit their letters for the Editorial Corner 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 in this section. 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.

THE OTHER SIDE

By J. Sager

(This letter refers to the letter "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" by John Heaston in the September, 1990, issue of the newsletter.)

Enclosed is a check to join the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. Speaking for myself and immediate neighbors, we are the "uptight neighbors" dictating John Heaston's lifestyle, of drunken parties, defecating and urinating on our lawns during all hours of the night. For Heaston to call residents in this area "uptight neighbors," is the height of arrogance.