



# Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

528 North 32nd Street

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

December, 1990

### 2ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

by Judi Caban

Again this year the GPNA is sponsoring a Christmas Decorating Contest for Association members only. At the November Association meeting, members approved the use of GPNA funds for the following prizes: first place — \$25.00, second place — \$15.00, and third place — \$10.00.

Last year's winners, Mike and Judi Caban, Jerry Rieger, Leo Wilwerding, and Ron Yates, will serve as judges, and will not be eligible for this year's contest.

If you wish to participate, please contact Judi Caban (341-4722) by Sunday, Dec. 16. Judging of unlighted entries will take place during the day sometime from Monday, Dec. 17 to Wednesday, Dec. 19. Judging for lighted entries will be done between 7 and 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 19. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Association meeting on Jan. 3, 1991.

### LOW INTEREST LOANS AVAILABLE

by Ruth Windorski

There is an opportunity available for people to save both money and energy with 5% interest loans for improvements. Mr. Jim Landen, of Security National Bank, says this program is not being used to the extent that it is available. An applicant does not need to meet any income guidelines as is the case with many low-interest loans.

Some of the improvements that qualify include: heating and cooling systems, water heaters, replacing windows and doors, insulation, refrigerators and freezers, dishwashers and clothes washers, and some lighting fixture replacements. There are certain specifications that are applicable to some of the listed items.

Home owners may borrow up to \$10,000, apartment owners up to \$37,500, small businesses and non-profit organizations up to \$100,000.

Andy Smith, at Security National Bank (344-7300), would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Security National is a member of G.P.N.A., and where the Association banks.

**\*\*NOTE CHANGE OF PLACE & TIME\*\***

**NEXT MEETING:**

**HOLIDAY BANQUET  
(R.S.V.P. ONLY--341-4695)**

**\*DECEMBER 6, 6:00 P.M.\***

**ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL  
CAFETERIA (GLASSED-IN AREA)  
FREE PARKING**

**ADMISSION: ONE CAN OF FOOD FOR  
THE NEEDY**

**\*\*NOTE CHANGE OF PLACE & TIME\*\***

### OH CHRISTMAS TREE, OH CHRISTMAS TREE, WHERE CAN WE RECYCLE THEE?

by the Omaha Public Works Department

Sites have been set up again this year to accept Christmas trees for recycling. The sites closest to our neighborhood are Aksarben (69th and Mercy Road entrance only, in lot immediately east of the guard station), Fontenelle Park (42nd Street between Ames and Paxton Boulevard, lot by ball diamond) and Spring Lake Park (13th and "J" Streets, ball diamond parking lot). Collection locations will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. the weekends of December 29 and 30, and January 5 and 6. Please remove all wire, nails, and tree stands as they can damage the chipping equipment. It's OK to bring trees shedding needles in tree bags or wrapped in a sheet so they don't get all over the car, but remove the wrapper at the recycling site. The chipped trees will be used as a mulch on nursery stock or as a covering on outdoor trails. If you place the tree on the curb for collection with the garbage, it is buried in the landfill, serving no useful purpose whatsoever. Give that beautiful tree some dignity; recycle it so it can spend the rest of its life as "Merry Mulch!"

GPNA is organizing a "pickup patrol" to take the trees to one of the sites. Members may bring their trees to the Gifford Park parking lot on January 5th. If you cannot get your tree to the parking lot, please call Ed (341-0475) before Jan. 4 so a pickup of your tree can be arranged.

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## GPNA PRIORITIES

As the year comes to a close, take a moment to think back over the year and consider how we have done in regard to the following priorities, which were set in September of 1989:

- a. Newsletter
- b. 33rd and California Business District
- c. Neighborhood Watch
- d. Gifford Park
- e. Code Enforcement
- f. Neighborhood Pride
- g. Social Activity

The Executive Board invites your comments, pro and con, which will be printed in next month's editorial corner (see page 4 for Editorial Corner guidelines).

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## HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

*by Jim Windorski*

As the most joyful time of the year approaches, let us all remember it is better to give than to receive. Gifts sometimes come in different forms, shapes, sizes, and meanings.

In our midst are many needy people. Some need acceptance, some need friends, some need clothing, shelter or food, some need help with the simple tasks of everyday living. If each of us gives to another in some small way, ours will be a better place to live. Put simply, we all need each other.

As we go about our busy daily lives — stop long enough to give a little bit of yourself to someone else. A smile and a greeting, a friendly wave to someone you meet, a helping hand to someone in need, a shoulder for someone to lean on, or an ear to hear another's words: all very simple gifts but so badly needed in this world of hurry and haste.

I wish to use this opportunity to wish a very blessed and peaceful Holiday season to the most wonderful people on earth, the people who live and work in the Gifford Park area.

A new year filled with only good things is sincerely hoped for each of you.

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## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

*by Ruth Windorski*

The close of 1990 shows the membership in GPNA at 227. We wish to extend a warm welcome to these people and businesses who have joined our ranks the past month: Norman Swanson, Lan-Ken Realty Group, Nancy Banks, Dennis Dorotiak, Shirley Lippold, Bucky's Amoco, and Security National Bank — Jim Landen.

Thank you for your interest and support.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

*by Mike Caban*

The GPNA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP is a committee of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. Our mission is to help keep our community a safe, and peaceful place for all. The Peter Kiewit Grant we applied for was turned down, I'm sorry to say, but the GPNA membership approved funds for us to purchase magnetic signs for our vehicles, and have vests made for the group. Thank you to the Association for your cooperation and support. Once again, I want to extend an invitation to anyone interested in the Neighborhood Watch Group to contact either myself, Mike Caban (341-4722), or Ron Yates (558-6027) for information. If you suspect any illegal or disruptive activities in your area, contact us.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

*By Ron Yates*

Balance 10/22/90	\$2,557.95
New Memberships (6)	18.00
Donation (Drug Free)	4.00
	\$2,579.95
Shook (6 magnetic signs)	181.16
Creighton (Newsletter)	80.00
Marlene Wilwerding (vest material)	122.84
Balance 11/22/90	\$2,195.95

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Windorski 341-4695  
*(Chairman)*

Chuck Kilgore 341-2757  
*(Vice-chairman)*

Ron Yates 558-6027  
*(Treasurer)*

Corky Grimes 345-3217  
*(Secretary)*

Ruth Windorski 341-4695  
*(Corresponding Secretary)*

### At-large Board Members

Barb Schroeder	342-0869
Rick Liddick	345-2476
Leo Wilwerding	345-1433
John Lynch	345-9624
Mike Caban (Neighborhood Watch)	341-4722
Brian Kokensparger (Newsletter)	558-3834

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# HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS!

Invitation to GPNA members and their children:

See Santa arrive on Life Flight at 6 pm  
Saint Joseph Hospital (north parking structure)  
Wednesday, December 5th

Dinner special 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria

Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the east lobby near the cafeteria.

Also enjoy free pictures with Santa, art activities, and treats galore!

Please make reservations by calling 449-4460.

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## REDUCE THE OPPORTUNITY OF BURGLARY

*by Crime Victim Assistance Unit of OPD*

1. Lock all your doors and windows. Install dead bolt locks, pins in your windows, and a peephole in your house door.

2. Leave a light burning upstairs and downstairs. Exterior areas of your home should also be lighted.

3. Use a timer to switch lights on and off if you are away.

4. Never leave notes on your house doors for family and friends. Burglars look for easy targets, and a note is a signal that no one is home.

5. Join a neighborhood watch program. Neighbors looking out for each other are the best deterrent to burglary.

6. If you think prowlers are in your home, don't enter. Go to the nearest neighbor, call the police, and watch your home until the police arrive.

7. Valuables should be engraved with an Operation ID Number, which is assigned by the Community Crime Prevention Unit of your local police department.

8. Never open the door to a stranger. Require proper identification.

9. Stop milk, paper, and other deliveries "until further notice," whenever leaving town.

10. Have a neighbor pick up your mail and advertising circulars daily. Also, arrange for lawn care.

11. Keep trees and shrubbery near the house trimmed. Don't give the intruder a place to hide.

12. Have a Home Security Survey completed by your local police department.

## WINTERTIME REMINDERS

by the Office of the Mayor

Omaha's Municipal Code requires all sidewalks to be shoveled within 24 hours after a snowstorm. Walks left unshoveled may be cleared by City crews at the expense of the property owner. We need your cooperation to keep your sidewalks passable for children and others.

It is also against City law to shovel snow off private property into an alley or street.

If you have a comment  
or complaint  
regarding snow removal,  
please call the  
Street Maintenance Office  
(444-4919 — 24 hour line).

# EDITORIAL CORNER

*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 OF THE COIN

by Judi Caban

Brian Kokensparger's article in last month's Editorial Corner bothered me. At first I couldn't quite figure out why — I agree in principle with most of what he had to say. After thinking it over however, I feel that a little more needs to be said on the subject of kids and parents in our neighborhood.

I don't know Mr. Kokensparger, but his assumption that all children who misbehave once in awhile have parents who don't care, plus his insistence that parents should know what their children are doing at all times leads me to guess that either he doesn't have children, or has children that are not yet old enough to be out unsupervised. On behalf of all of us who think that we are at least fair-to-middling parents, I feel I must tell him that no matter how good the home influence, no matter how well we teach our children, sometimes they are going to do things that we don't approve of. That's part of the growing-up process. Yes, as parents it IS our "duty" to help our children learn the standards of behavior that they will need to be responsible members of society, but please, just because a child acts in an inappropriate manner once in awhile, don't assume that he or she "doesn't know any better" due to poor parenting. After many years in parent-teacher work, I can assure you that most parents DO care, and are doing the best they can. Parents today need all of the help and support

they can get for this difficult job of parenting, that unfortunately in many cases must be learned "on the job." It is my belief that education for parents should have just as high a priority in our society as education for children.

The second thing that bothers me is the focus on the children who misbehave. This neighborhood has many, many children who do not usually fall into this category. Children who serve their neighbors as babysitters and snow-shovelers, children who serve their school as Safety and Fire Patrol members and cafeteria workers, children who care for siblings, do housework, run errands, help at park cleanups. Children who are a true joy to their parents and all who know them. We have children in this neighborhood who live with conditions every day that would traumatize many adults, yet these children continue not only to function, but to grow and learn. Let's all take the time and effort to notice and comment on THESE kids, too. They deserve it!

I applaud and support the concern for our children's safety that is shown in Brian's article, and as I mentioned, I agree with many of the things he had to say. But, as we work to solve the problems he spoke of, we should also remember to take a look at "the other side of the coin!"