



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
September, 1991

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**At Large Board
Member:**
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341-0475

**At Large Board
Member:**
Rick Liddick
345-2476

**At Large Board
Member:**
Barb Schroeder
342-0869

**At Large Board
Member:**
Leo Wilwerding
345-1433

NEXT MEETING:

**SEPTEMBER 5
7 p.m.**

**ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
GLASSED-IN AREA OF CAFETERIA**

FREE PARKING

Guest: Sharon Smith, Director -- General Assistance

Third Annual GPNA Garage Sale Coming Soon
by Mike Caban

We are gearing up for one of our major yearly fundraisers, and **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. We need donations of garage sale items (mainly clothing, furniture, small appliances, pots and pans, dishes, and other household items). This sale will help us meet our yearly budget obligations, and also helps provide needed items to many in the community at an affordable price.

WE NEED YOU to volunteer space to store donated items, or your time, either labeling, or setting up the items on the day of the garage sale, or selling, or hauling. We need you to help in any way you can.

If you have anything to donate, if you have room to store garage sale items until the day of sale, if you can help label and set up items, if you can help sell, or if you can help haul items, we need you to call Mike Caban at 341-4722.

The Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, September 28, 1991. Look for us on 33rd and California.

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GPNA Watch Group

by Mike Caban, Watch Group Chairman

On Sunday, August 4th, Wayne and Peggy Hill, owners of the California Bar and Package Liquor Store, treated the Watch Group and our families to a most delicious picnic at Gifford Park. Wayne is a Watch Group member, and on behalf of the entire group, I want to thank him and Peg for the outstanding meal they provided for us. Thanks to Judi, Dottie, and Sallie for the great desserts, too. Everyone who attended had a great time.

This is one of the PARTY SEASONS for young adults in our area. Let's show them we care about our Neighborhood, and about them. Walk with the GPNA WATCH GROUP. Drunk Drivers are a hazard to themselves and all of us. Loud, out of control parties are one of our targets. Participants tend to disregard the rights of our neighbors. They tend to result in littered streets in their aftermath. The consumption of alcohol by young people is a major cause of violence, and drunk driving in the Gifford Park area. If you want to help, call Mike Caban at 341-4722 for information on the GPNA WATCH GROUP.

Proposal for a New Committee

by Tom Rose

I believe we should explore the possibilities of forming a committee to help homeowners with general repair of their homes, such as minor plumbing, electrical, air-conditioning, landscaping, and etc. This committee would look into such aspects as a tool exchange program, advice from knowledgeable neighbors, and help with larger projects. We have a vast resource in our people and I feel that this program would not only unify our neighborhood, but improve the quality of life for those people who need repairs, but lack the tools or expertise to complete the job.

Neighbor of the Month

Anyone wishing to nominate a person for Neighbor of the Month can contact Tom Rose at 341-3955 before the 15th of each month.

Newsletter Report

By Brian Kokensparger

Thanks to all who submitted articles and editorials this month and last. By putting our ideas and concerns into print, we are literally putting them on the line, which is the first step toward effective action. It is very encouraging to see the commitment and care coming through in these articles.

If you are a member and have not been receiving a newsletter during the members-only mailing, or if you live in the neighborhood and have not received a newsletter during the walk-around, please let me know at 558-3834.

Remember this: Gifford Park's Pride succeeds because the GPNA does. Keep up the good work!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!!

**BECOME A GIFFORD PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
MEMBER!**

FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW.

**GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

ANNUAL DUES -- \$5 (Single), \$8 (Family), \$25 (Business/Institutional)

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JUNE 1, 1991

If paying by check, make checks payable to GPNA

Mail to GPNA: 3225 1/2 California St., Omaha, NE 68131

Neighborhood Tool Lending is Here!

by *Chris Foster*

Do you have projects around your yard and home that you'd like to get done but don't have the tool? Well, you live in the right neighborhood. Starting now, the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association has put together an inventory of common and not-so-common tools available to people in the neighborhood. There is a minimal fee of \$3/day per tool for maintenance and/or replacement. Here's how the neighborhood tool lending works:

1. If you live in the Gifford Park neighborhood and need to borrow a tool, call Ed Hendershot (341-0475), Jim Windorski (341-4695) or Chris Foster (342-6006).
2. You DO NOT have to be a member of the Association, and no dues are REQUIRED.
3. Please give us 24 hours notice.
4. You may be required to give us a reference (such as a neighbor).
5. When you pick up the tool(s), you must sign a tool lending form for our records. This form contains a personal injury disclaimer to protect us against liability.
6. A maintenance fee of \$3/day for most tools will be assessed.
7. You will be shown briefly how to safely operate the tool(s) if necessary.
8. Please provide your own safety protection (gloves, eye protection, and etc.).
9. You are expected to return the tool(s) on time in the condition you borrowed them.

Some of the tools we now have available for lending are: lawn mowers, rakes, shovels, hedge clippers, hand saws, chain saws, ladders, brooms, and other tools for yard, carpentry, painting, electrical, plumbing, and more. If you can think of it, we can probably find it — TRY US! We want our neighbors to have easy access to these tools that might otherwise be difficult to store or find. The tool lending program is for homeowners, renters, landlords, and businesses that live in the Gifford Park neighborhood who would like to borrow tools to help themselves or their neighbors.

Home Safety Program for Latchkey Children

by *Gayla A. Baker, Salvation Army*

This fall, the Salvation Army will be starting a Home Safety Program for latchkey children and comfort phone line called "Phone Friends." A latchkey child is someone between the age of five and thirteen who is home during the day or evening without direct adult supervision. Volunteers are needed to run this important program that was previously developed and piloted by the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Junior League of Omaha. If you would like to help with this program, please contact volunteer Services at 554-5875.

Historian Needed!

by *Judi Caban*

The GPNA needs a historian, that is, someone who will be responsible for collecting and preserving material pertinent to the GPNA such as newsletters, flyers, news clippings, photographs, etc. These would be kept in a notebook or scrapbook provided by the GPNA, and would belong to the Association. If you would be interested in serving as GPNA Historian, please call Ron Yates (558-6027) or Judi Caban (341-4722) for more information.

Until a Historian can be found, these materials are being kept in the Recording Secretary's book. We have most, but not all of the publicity generated by and about the GPNA since its beginning. For example, we do not have the following GPNA newsletters:

Any issues before December, 1989

January and February, 1990, and

June, 1990.

If you have copies of these issues, or any GPNA-related news clippings or photographs that you would be willing to donate to the Association, or to let us copy for our records, please contact Judi Caban (341-4722).

A Child's Eye View of Traffic

by Judi Caban

To fully understand why traffic is difficult for children, we must position ourselves at their level. Do so at a curb by dropping down to your knees. Parked cars are blocking your view of oncoming traffic. A yellow light flashes and you assume it will turn green for you. You step out. After all, you can't see any approaching cars.

Screeching tires and a blaring horn bring you to a halt. The light turned red instead of green. Luckily, the driver spotted you and jammed on his brakes.

For a child, this could present a complex traffic situation resulting in injury or death. Many adults do not realize that a child is not a small adult. Until children reach 9 or 10 years of age, they cannot make logical lifesaving decisions. Some reasons for this follow.

Young children have one-third less peripheral vision than adults, as well as less height. As a result, a child running into the street with his attention focused on something in front of him literally may not be able to see an approaching car.

Children cannot always discern whether something is moving. That is why we remind them to look left, then right, then left again. In their mind when they first looked left, the car was frozen in space and time. They have to learn to discern movement related to traffic.

Children have difficulty separating what's real and not real. Quite often, small children see cars as living creatures. Many 5 and 6 year olds think that cars will "see" them when they are on the street.

Children cannot fully understand complex decision-making, such as judging distance, speed or gaps in traffic. Many times a child will let a slower car pass and dash out into the street after seeing the next (faster) car approach.

Children interpret traffic signs and signals literally. To an adult driver, "Children Crossing" and "Children Playing" signs mean caution, but children might interpret them to mean it's OK to cross here.

I have heard people say, "I can't understand why she ran into the street, she's old enough to know better," or "He MUST have seen that car." Many adults do not understand that children are unpredictable and age can't be used as a reliable yardstick.

So, as you get behind the wheel, remember: **Children are NOT small adults!** Please be alert for the youngsters around you, and try to take a "child's eye view of traffic!"

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.

Strength in Numbers

by Leo Wilwerding

As individuals, we complain to the police, city hall, our council representative, or public works. We may get action. However, chances are the result will be much less than we would get if we approach these folks as members of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. That's why it's important for everyone to be a member.

While we sometimes tend to look at minuses instead of pluses, the fact is the Association has had a tremendously beneficial effect on our neighborhood. Look around you and see the results — better law enforcement, less weeds and litter, less illegal parking, fewer loud parties and better kept homes. There is strength in numbers. Be a part of the group. Help yourself and help your neighbors.