



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

March, 1991

EASTER EGG HUNT

The GPNA will sponsor its second annual Easter Egg Hunt at Gifford Park on Saturday, March 30, 1991. The hunt will get underway at 11 o'clock and last for approximately one hour. Details for this will be announced in the neighboring businesses later in March.

Loren Johnson, of J-N-J Grocery, has kindly donated eggs and candy for this fun event. We heartily thank him for being so generous again this year. The Easter Bunny will also put in an appearance at the hunt.

We hope that all neighborhood children will join us on that day. Bring your baskets, ready to hunt.

SPRING CLEANUP

With Spring just around the corner, it is time to start thinking about our Spring Neighborhood Cleanup. Although there are some changes in the works for this project, few if any, will effect the GPNA. We are, as always, looking for people to help on this important day in our neighborhood.

There are limited funds budgeted for this project, so we must be very careful in the manner in which we take advantage of the cleanup program. In the past we have used cleanup day for a lot of things, such as all forms of recycling, street cleanup, membership even, picnic in the park, to name some of the things that have been tied to Spring Cleanup.

We have tentatively set Saturday, April 13, as our day for giving our neighborhood its Spring cleaning. Watch your April newsletter for firmer details. This is the one time each year that we can have help in our efforts to make ours a cleaner, safer, and more attractive neighborhood.

Chris Foster will chair this event. Persons may volunteer to help by contacting Chris at 342-6006.

NEXT MEETING:

MARCH 7
7 p.m.

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

Guest: Senator John Lindsay
Nebraska Legislative Dist. #9

NICE THINGS HAPPEN TO GIFFORD PARK RESIDENT

by Eva Swanson

Last month, the GPNA newsletter reported that Elmer Valentine Swanson was about to celebrate his 100th birthday. This month, we can report the nice things that happened during a week of celebration. First of all, the GPNA newsletter prompted a World-Herald story on the 100th birthday. This story generated a response from a former neighbor on Webster Street, Mrs. Louis Blumkin, who sent a check for \$100 to the GPNA in honor of Mr. Swanson and his daughter, Eva. Many other old friends and neighbors sent greetings.

On February 13, an "open house" was held for friends from Augustana Lutheran Church, and on February 17 an "open house" was held for close neighbors. During this event, a Key to the City of Omaha was presented to Elmer by Councilman Subby Anzaldo, Jim and Ruth Windorski presented a "life membership" in GPNA, and Mr. Cleo Robinson, Jr., Worshipful Master of Nebraska Lodge #1 of the Masons, presented Elmer's 70-year membership pin. Many cards and beautiful flowers were received, including several bouquets from relatives in Sweden. In all, it was an exciting week and Elmer sends his thanks to all who made it possible.

GOT YOUR THINKING CAP ON?

by Corky Grimes

It was suggested to the GPNA Executive Board that we consider renaming our newsletter and that we develop a new logo that can be used on our correspondence, newsletters, and other documents originating from the GPNA.

The Board agreed that this was an excellent suggestion. Now we need your ideas! Join us at our next general meeting, to be held March 7th, and give us your thoughts. We are going to continue collecting all entries until the April general meeting, at which time we'll put all the logo ideas and new newsletter names to a vote.

Any and all entries can be forwarded, at any time, to Corky Grimes, 3508 California Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (phone: 345-3217). So put your thinking caps on and send us your best titles and artwork. Be an important part of GPNA as we continue to grow into the 1990's.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Ruth Windorski

We welcome Woody Daily and Mary Kenkel to our association. These members bring our total to 234.

During the past month, we have received a request to have a name removed from the membership roles. These requests are to be expected, I suppose, but one would not think that moving from the neighborhood would remove all interest in what goes on here. On the other side of the same coin, this association received a \$100 donation in honor of lifetime member, Mr. Elmer Swanson, from Fran Blumkin, who spent her entire growing-up years in our neighborhood.

We express our sympathy to Mrs. Gerald Sweeney on the death of her husband, Mr. Gerald Sweeney. Mr. Sweeney was a member of the GPNA, as is Mrs. Sweeney. Our sympathy is sincerely extended to Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wilwerding and family, hardworking GPNA members. Mrs. Wilwerding's mother passed away recently.

GPNA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP

by Mike Caban, Chair

We want to thank the Association for providing the funds we requested to buy our new scanner, the base station, and antennas for three base station operators. Two of the three antennas are in place, and we are actively seeking a reliable, fourth base station operator. The requirements for BASE are: to interface with the walkers, and/or vehicles on duty, make calls to 911, monitor the scanner and communicate pertinent information to the group, keep a log on the events of that evening, and relay any pertinent data to police when asked to do so by the group. This is the most important part of our program, and if you are interested, contact myself or Ron Yates, and we will fill you in on how and when you can begin training.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Isaac "Woody" Daily II to our group. This young man and his family have recently become members of our community and the association, and has already been an asset to the GPNA Neighborhood Watch Group.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Ron Yates

Balance 1/27/91	\$1,693.01
Donation (Drug Free)	26.00
Donation (Blumkin)	<u>100.00</u>
	\$126.00
Post Office (Stamps)	50.00
Creighton (Newsletter)	100.00
Radio Shack (Supplies)	252.77
Ron Yates (Base Station)	<u>70.00</u>
	\$472.77
Balance 2/24/91	\$1,346.24

**GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

ANNUAL DUES -- \$3.00 PER PERSON -- MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JUNE 1, 1991

If paying by check, make checks payable to GPNA

Mail to Ruth Windorski: 528 N. 32nd St., Omaha, NE 68131

NOMINATING AND ELECTION PROCESS OF GPNA

by Jim Windorski

It is time to start thinking about the nomination and election of officers for the 1991-92 year in the GPNA.

The requirements for office as stated in our bylaws are:

1. Must be a member in good standing of GPNA (dues paid)
2. Must have attended at least 4 GPNA meetings in the past year (June 1 to May 31).

A nominating committee will be formed in March to find people to fill the offices to be vacated this year. They are: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

Recording Secretary and Board Members at large may also be nominated, but those persons holding these offices are eligible for re-election.

Any member may nominate someone for an office if such a person meets the requirements to hold office; you may also nominate yourself.

Our election of officers takes place at the June membership meeting; this is the annual meeting of the Association. Officers and committee chairs should have an annual report prepared for this meeting.

OMAHA RE-LEAF 1991

from a pamphlet put out by the Omaha Forestry Division

This is an annual tree planting project to beautify the streets of Omaha. It has been developed to help the citizens of Omaha purchase quality trees for planting along the streets. Proper tree placement will create an example for others to follow. Trees provide a buffer from street noise, clean the air, block the wind, and can increase property value as much as 20%. Thus, trees in our City are an invaluable resource which should be constantly renewed.

This is how the program works: Each winter, the Forestry Division takes applications for the planting of several varieties of trees selected for desirability as street trees. For a fee of \$30.00 each, the City of Omaha will deliver and plant a bare root street tree. This charge covers approximately half the expenses incurred in planting one of these eight to ten foot, bare root trees. There is a limited supply of trees.

Property owners who want a tree or trees planted in the spring of 1991 should fill out and return an application (available from the Forestry Division). After the application is received, and the site is approved, the applicant must then pay \$30.00 per tree to the Forestry Division, City of Omaha. For additional information, contact the Forestry Division (444-5543).

GPNA SURVEY RESULTS

Listed below are the results from the survey distributed at the beginning of the year. Next to those results are last year's results for comparison.

ITEM	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
A. Satisfaction with trash and garbage collection	8	8
B. Confidence in fire protection	9	8
C. Confidence in area schools	5	7
D. Satisfaction with efforts of the Association	9	9
E. Satisfaction with our city council representative	6	8
F. Satisfaction with the mayor's office	4	7
G. Police protection	5	7
H. Police response time	4	7
I. Police courtesy	5	8
J. Traffic law enforcement	4	7
K. Noise ordinance enforcement	2	5
L. Police control of noisy parties	3	6
M. Parking law enforcement (street/front yard)	2	5
N. Obsolete and junk car enforcement	2	6
O. Street snow removal	2	6
P. Sidewalk snow removal enforcement	3	4
Q. Littered property enforcement	2	5
R. Dilapidated property code enforcement	2	4
S. Satisfaction with the area as a whole	8	7
T. Handling of barking dogs — Humane Society	4	6

OVERALL AVERAGE FOR THIS YEAR: 4.5
OVERALL AVERAGE FOR LAST YEAR: 6.5

NEIGHBOR OF THE MONTH

Our JANUARY NEIGHBOR OF THE MONTH is the American Armed Forces. These men and women are the finest soldiers in the world today. This is an all-volunteer service and without them, their fathers, and grandfathers, where would we be today? What language would we be speaking? Washington, Lincoln, Grant, and Kennedy are products of the military. Our past, present, and future leaders have or will come from the services. The American soldier, our sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and neighbors — let's support them.

VOLUNTEER PARK RANGERS

from a letter by Bernie Tracy, Omaha Parks Dept.

Please help me in recognizing the efforts of the Park Rangers, whose voluntary time and personal expense have undoubtedly proved a valuable service to Omaha. I would like to ask that each neighborhood organization sponsor a citizen from their organization to help assure the continued success of this program.

As a result, the park in your area can be given the special attention that it needs and deserves. But without your help, this great service may not continue.

Help us ensure that your parks are patrolled and kept free of crime. Contact me at 444-5738 anytime of the day or night. An answering machine is on 24 hours a day.

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.

YOU GOT A PROBLEM?

by Ron Yates

If you have ever heard this, you do have one. This is a challenge issued by young adult males wandering your streets in large groups. You may also have heard it from a young businessman operating an unlicensed bar for teenagers in a house with one bathroom. Cars are parked on sidewalks, blocking driveways, or in yards. Property vandalism is occurring such as broken windows, damaged fences and litter in streets and yards. If that is what's bothering you, you do have a problem!

Below is a list of solutions:

Move
Stay off the street
Pull your blinds
Pretend it is not your problem

Alternatives are:

Form a Neighborhood Watch Group
Call appropriate city agencies
Request and expect the appropriate agency to solve your problem.

Numbers that may assist you are:

Neighborhood Watch Program — 444-5772
Mayor's Action Line — 444-5555
Gang Hotline — 444-7900 (8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.)
Suspected Drug Activity — 444-5681
Council Member Subby Anzaldo — 444-5525

Remember: These folks are paid to serve you. Officers and Executive Board Members of GPNA will be glad to assist you in any way they can.

THE HARD WORK OF FREEDOM

by Mike Caban

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush asked us to do the hard work of freedom. He said that if you can read, teach someone who can't. If you have enough to eat, share it with someone who doesn't. What he spoke of was that which has made this country the envy of the world. The hard work of freedom was born during the first cold winter in 1625, when our Puritan forefathers and mothers were forced to work and support each other to survive in the wilderness. It is our first cultural legacy, and has continued for three hundred plus years.

I see it when I drive around with the GPNA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH. Increasing numbers of flags appear on the homes of my neighbors every week, in support of our troops overseas. It is apparent at Yates School during Spring Carnival, and at fund-raising events, when our community gives of their time and resources so our children may have field trips to the Zoo, the theater, and museums; for some, their only exposure to cultural events. And during the holidays, when our association, school, and businesses get together to make an otherwise drab winter a time of joy for needing families in our midst.

We have our share of obstacles to overcome, there is no doubt. But the hard work of freedom going on, right here, in the Gifford Park Neighborhood, will continue until we prevail, of this I'm confident.