

# This GPNA Newsletter is Getting a New Letterhead! Come to Thursday's Meeting and have your say!

Chairman - Jim Windorski 341-4695    Vice-chairman - Chuck Kilgore 558-5000/341-2757    Treasurer - Ron Yates 558-6027  
Secretary - Corky Grimes 345-3217    Corresponding Secretary - Ruth Windorski 341-4695

May, 1991

## Being a Good Neighbor

by Leo Wilwerding

Spring is a good time to talk about being a good neighbor. With warm weather, we have a lot more contact than during the winter. The question arises, what makes a good neighbor? What would you say? Maybe the best definition is someone who does not infringe on the rights of others and is supportive of them. What are these rights? Would these be a clean, attractive, safe, peaceful and quiet place in which to live? It probably would come pretty close. As a good neighbor, how do we affect these rights?

Do's and Don'ts: Do take care of your property — clean up, fix up, plant, mow, weed and paint. Do watch out for others, particularly the elderly and children — watch over neighbor's property when they are away. Do be considerate in keeping noise down. Do be responsible for reporting violations of the law and insisting on enforcement. Do participate in efforts of the Neighborhood Association. Don't let your dog bark at length (the law says five minutes). Don't play loud music (what is music to your ears may be very irritating to others — the law says it should not go beyond your property). Don't litter, park inoperative cars on your property, or let junk accumulate.

By cooperating and showing consideration for others, we can improve the quality of life in our neighborhood and maintain property values. How we act impacts on the entire area. Don't be a klutz — be a good neighbor!

## Renaissance Center Dedicated

excerpts from a World-Herald article  
in the April 22, 1991 Morning Edition

The building at 36th and Cuming Streets, once a medical facility, is now regarded by Salvation Army officials as a house of God.

Now dubbed the Renaissance Center, the building was dedicated Sunday in a ceremony that marked completion of yearlong effort to bring to Omaha the largest of the Army's American social-services facilities.

...  
... The new space allows for expansion in these social programs:

- . The emergency homeless shelter, from 40 to 50 beds.
- . Living space for pregnant teens, from 20 to 30.
- . A program that houses mothers of infants while teaching them parenting skills, from a capacity of four to six.

New programs are also slated.

## NEXT MEETING:

**MAY 2**  
**7 p.m.**

**ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL**  
**Seminar Room**  
**Free Parking**

**Discussion of Proposed Budget**  
**Nomination of Officer Candidates**

## Many Thanks

from an Appreciative Neighbor

There had to be a number of sore bones and muscles on the Sunday morning following clean-up day, judging by the length of hours and hard work on the part of the group of volunteers who helped to clean up the neighborhood. I have been a resident of this neighborhood over 75 years, and of course, have noticed many changes over that period of time — most not for the better. But it was good to see how many joined in, both young and old, and helped to make the clean-up such a success. The dampish, cool weather failed to dampen their ambition and enthusiasm. If only everyone would keep their yard and home looking neat all year round and not waiting until the Annual Clean-up Day to do it, the area would give a much neater appearance and it would not be an eyesore - one you are ashamed to have your friends visit.

## Salvation Army Applies for Permit

by Jim Windorski

The Salvation Army has applied to the Omaha planning board for a conditional use permit to allow care of Federal work release prisoners at their facility at 3612 Cuming Street.

The hearing on this application will be May 1st, 1991, in the Legislative Chambers (LC Level) of the Omaha/Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street. The hearing begins at 3 p.m. Please refer to Case #C7-91-63.

When the Salvation Army approached this association before moving into our neighborhood, they assured us the work release and alcohol and drug treatment facilities would not be located at this campus.

If you have any questions about this use of the Renaissance Center, please contact Jim Windorski at 341-4695.

**GPNA Proposed Budget for 1991-92**  
by the Budget and Finance Committee

<b>A-NEWSLETTER</b>	
1-Printing	\$600
2-Postage	\$300
<b>B-SOCIAL ACTIVITY</b>	
1-Easter Egg Hunt	\$25
2-Pumpkins	\$75
3-Awards	\$50
4-Baseball Team (Sponsorship)	\$150
5-Christmas Gift to St. Joseph Hospital	\$125
6-Christmas Baskets	\$350
7-Christmas Lighting Contest (Prizes)	\$50
<b>C-WALK GROUP</b>	
1-Supplies	\$200
<b>D-FALL CLEAN-UP</b>	
1-Materials	\$300
<b>E-GARAGE SALE</b>	
1-Advertisement/Supplies	\$150
<b>F-GENERAL FUND</b>	
1-Executive Board	\$100
2-Miscellaneous	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2975</b>

**Nominees To Be Named At Next Meeting**  
by Judi Caban

At the GPNA meeting to be held on Thursday, May 2, 1991, the Nominating Committee will place the following names into nomination for election as officers and at-large Executive Board members of the GPNA:

- For the office of chairman: Ron Yates
- For the office of vice-chairman: John Lynch
- For the office of recording secretary: Judi Caban
- For the office of corresponding secretary: Ruth Windorski
- For the office of treasurer: Eugenia Stevens
- For the office of at-large board member: Leo Wilwerding
- For the office of at-large board member: Barb Schroeder
- For the office of at-large board member: Richard Liddick
- For the office of at-large board member: Ed Hendershot

All of the above nominees were selected unanimously be the committee and, to the best of our knowledge, satisfy all qualification for nomination as given in the Bylaws.

**Increase in Dues Approved by Membership**  
by Ruth Windorski, Membership Secretary

At the April 4th meeting of the GPNA, members approved the following increases in dues for the 1991-92 membership year. These increases are effective immediately:

Single member	\$5.00
Family (2 voting members at same address)	\$8.00
Business or Institutional (2 votes/membership)	\$25.00

In going over expenses we find it is not possible to continue such a minimal membership fee. Cost of printing and mailing the newsletter alone is over \$4.00 per member based on membership of 230.

We hope these increases don't discourage you from becoming, or continuing to be, part of our association. Get involved in your neighborhood. We welcome the support of each of you.

Don't forget dues must be paid by the June meeting if you wish to participate in election of officers.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
By Ron Yates

Balance 3/26/91	\$1,193.74
Refund (Central Waste)	10.00
Salvage (Clean-up)	115.03
Donation (Celean-up)	90.50
Membership (13)	51.00
Donation (Drug-free)	8.00
Donation (Tanner)	10.00
	<u>\$284.53</u>
Walgreens (Envelopes)	6.73
J-N-J (Easter Program)	17.64
Pony Baseball	125.00
	<u>\$148.37</u>
Balance 4/22/91	\$1,329.90

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

## Spring Clean-up

by *Chris Foster, Clean-up Committee*

Did everyone who participated in the Gifford Park Neighborhood Spring Cleanup have the same feeling I had at the end of the day? The feeling of sore, achy bodies all over, but also a feeling of great pride for our many neighborhood volunteers who made this a real team effort on a less-than-ideal weather day to work. The cleanup started at 8 a.m. and finished about 5 p.m. Saturday, April 13th.

Here is a recap of the day's events:

- filled 9 dumpsters (20 cub. yds each) and 5 City trucks
- hailed 3 full flatbed truckloads and 2 other truckloads of trees and brush to Fontenelle Park, where they were recycled into free wood chips by the City of Omaha
- collected \$115 in recycled aluminum and scrap metal
- hailed at least 15 appliances to an appliance recycling center
- sold memberships totalling \$31 and collected other monetary donations.
- collected garage sale items that were given away to people in the neighborhood
- cleaned many of the street sewer drains that frequently get clogged with trash
- helped countless neighbors haul trash away that would not be easily done without the Spring Clean-up and neighborhood volunteers
- chowed-down 200 hotdogs and lots of pop and chips at the picnic in Gifford Park

The Gifford Park Neighborhood would like to thank the City of Omaha for providing dumpsters and city trucks for trash hauling and chippers for recycling trees and brush into wood chips. Our neighborhood tried to help the City and do our part in the clean-up by monitoring dumpsters at all times and separating recyclable items like trees and brush for the chipper. We tried to keep track of the volunteers who donated time, trucks, food, and encouragement during the clean-up. There are some names that didn't get on this list that we missed, and I apologize for this because everyone who helped deserves recognition for a job well done.

## Tau Kappa Epsilon Says Hello

by *Ron Timm and Joseph A. MacFarlane*

Hello! We, the men to Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity (3321 California) would like to take this time to introduce ourselves and to thank you for making us feel so welcome in our new residence. We had examined several houses in the Omaha, area, and found that the present location suited our needs for a reasonable price. We have met several citizens of the Gifford Park association in the various activities that you have hosted. We helped with the neighborhood clean-up program and will be assisting in the "walk program" as soon as we finish with finals.

Our fraternity was founded on January 10, 1899, at Illinois Wesleyan University in the small midwestern town of Bloomington. Its purpose was "to aid college men in mental, moral, and social development."

J-N-J Grocery—Loren Johnson (200 hotdogs)  
 7-11 Store—Whitney Johnson (pop)  
 Hubert Reuss (Curbs, 36th Ave., and dumpster site)  
 Jerry Reiger (heart and soul)  
 Barb Schroeder (food)  
 Leo Wilwerding (monitor dumpster)  
 Roger Freeman  
 Jay Hinchman  
 Lawrence and Jane Whelan (truck)  
 Terry Wilwerding (dumpster help)  
 Ed & Farol Hendershot (truck and bathroom)  
 Tim Hendershot (truck)  
 Tom and Kathy Rose (truck)  
 Ron and Cynde Yates (truck and sewer crew)  
 Jim Windorski (truck and appliances)  
 Ruth Windorski (monitor and membership)  
 Ross and Kent Windorski  
 Mike Caban (dumpster help)  
 Judi Caban (monitor and picnic)  
 Don Hamre-Kiewit (flatbed truck)  
 Jerry and Jackie Flood (city help)  
 City of Omaha (dumpsters/chipper)  
 Cindy Smilley (Keep Omaha Beautiful)  
 Chad and Chris Balkovic  
 Pike House Fraternity  
 TKE House Fraternity  
 Delta Epsilon Fraternity  
 Patrick Watson  
 Todd Olsulfka  
 Steve Washa  
 Don Wilson  
 Larry Schwatka  
 Ronald Serralta  
 Myron Lewis (7-11 alley)  
 Corky Grimes (flyers)  
 O'Leary Brothers (36th and Cass alley)  
 Sharon Walters & Scouts (31st Ave.)  
 Lt. Stangel (House Arrest help)

I cannot say enough about you volunteers who worked very hard to help clean up not only their own property but also other property that is owned and occupied by selfish people that don't seem to care about even keeping their own property picked up and kept up. Maybe the efforts of our volunteers were seen or felt by some of these people and encourage them to keep up their own property starting now.

Since this winter day in 1899, Tau Kappa Epsilon has grown to over 280 chapters in the United States and Canada, and has initiated such men as President Ronald Reagan, Robert J. Dow (Vice-president of Marketing, Marriott Hotels and Resorts), George Halas (former owner-coach of the Chicago Bears), Merv Griffen, Danny Thomas, and countless other leaders in every walk of life throughout the world.

Epsilon-Epsilon was colonized at the University of Nebraska-Omaha in the 1960's, with current members employed in various occupations throughout the city. If you have any questions pertaining to Tau Kappa Epsilon, feel free to call the house (341-6325) and ask any of the three occupants in the house; Ron Timm (president), Todd Griffith (treasurer), or Chuck Valgora (house manager), and they will do their best to answer any questions that you might have.

# EDITORIAL CORNER

## Human and Civil Rights Under Attack

by Mike Caban

As a member of this community I feel I must speak out on a concern that I've had for some time now. Distasteful as it is for me to speak negatively, it must be said because we as a community have to be honest with each other or we will cease to live in peace, harmony, and equality. I'm concerned about our rights. Yes, our human and civil rights are under attack right here in our own neighborhood. The right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is being trampled on 33rd Street, and it's time this abuse came to a stop. As a member of the GPNA Watch GRP I have witnessed harassment of citizens by street thugs who assume ownership of the public right of way, and have no respect for the elderly, women, or children, or for that matter, themselves. These predators bully the good people of this neighborhood with their foul insulting language, and threats. They think the laws of decency do not apply to them or that somehow, because they have no self-respect, the rest of us must tolerate their abhorrent behavior. Many of our neighbors do put up with this violation of their rights. Why? Because they are afraid. Because bullies thrive on fear and apathy. Because the rest of us ignore the problem and would rather hide inside our cozy little homes and make believe this isn't happening. It's easy to do. So, if you avoid that area, no one will bother you. Today we surrender 33rd Street to these punks. What will they take tomorrow, our wallets, our cars, our children? What kind of an example are we to the youngsters in this area? That bullying tactics work? It's a sad state of affairs when a mother walking her child home from school has to detour five blocks out of her way, to avoid being sexually harassed and terrorized by this mob of low life slugs who fester on 33rd Street. Unfortunately, the GPNA WATCH GRP can't be there 24 hours a day, every day of the week. We do what we can with what we have, and it isn't enough. It's apparent the landlords who allow this abomination to occur from their properties are as loathsome as the leaches they permit in their buildings. But before we point fingers of blame, let's take a look at what we are doing. We are as much to blame, because this is OUR neighborhood, and WE are the ones who need to stand against this threat, as a community, united, and determined to expel this infestation that is growing every day, and eventually will take over the entire area if we continue to sit by and let it happen. Unlike other editorialists, this one is not anonymous. I sign my name, because I have the strength of my convictions, and I'm not one who intimidates easily.

*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.*

## Reply to Anonymous Editorial in April Newsletter

by Jackie Lynch

Hiding behind anonymity certainly makes it painless to point fingers and judge people. I'm not so sure I even want to live in a neighborhood where someone feels a church "just doesn't fit." What does that mean? What makes a church "fit?"

I'm curious as to why the Executive Board would give its approval to print an anonymous editorial letter. According to the procedures of submitting an editorial (as stated in each newsletter), the person must include their full name and address. Frankly, if a person can't publicly stand behind their opinion, how much is that opinion worth? Certainly not enough to take up one-third of the newsletter!

And what does "endorsed by Jim Windorski" mean? Is that a stamp of approval or agreement with the content of the letter? Is that supposed to make me feel better about hearing for the umpteenth time about furniture in yards, junk cars in yards, dumpsters on sidewalks, etc.? Does anyone realize the IMAGE this newsletter presents to new members of the community or outside our neighborhood? I personally am tired of hearing about all the negative aspects of the neighborhood. We know what they are and we are trying to change them; enough said.

We should be giving some public "kudos" to those neighborhood businesses and landlords that are trying to earn a living in our neighborhood and be a good neighbor at the same time. Operating a successful small business is no small task, even in optimum circumstances. Our neighborhood has a convenience store, a bar, a laundromat, a restaurant, etc. Many neighborhoods don't have these businesses and are actively seeking them!

Let's be a little more thankful for all those positives we do have.