



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
August, 1991

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

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

NEXT MEETING:

AUGUST 1
7 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL -- SEMINAR ROOM

FREE PARKING

Good Things are Happening in Our Neighborhood!

by Leo Wilwerding

Many young families who have moved into the neighborhood have been doing a beautiful job of fixing up their homes. Drive around the neighborhood and notice the outstanding houses in every block.

Other good things happening include the great positive effect resulting from the Neighborhood Walk Group, which has spent hundreds of hours patrolling our streets. Loud parties and large gathering of youths have decreased dramatically.

Enforcement of parking laws has also been markedly improved.

Gifford Park has a new sign, has seen a high level of usage by ball teams and show wagon events. The park is looking its best in years. Properties along 33rd Street have been and are undergoing significant remodeling. The neighborhood cleanups have been extremely successful in reducing litter and improving the appearance of the area. In short, we have all sorts of things to be proud of regarding the accomplishments of the G.P.N.A. and its members.

Believe it — things are looking up in our neighborhood!

Inside this issue . . .

- Watch Group updates rules and procedures (page 2)
- Fund raising ideas needed (page 2)
- Omaha Effort Blue Bag Program for newspapers, too! (page 3)
- Editorials (page 4)

G.P.N.A. Watch Group Report
by Mike Caban

The G.P.N.A. Watch Group met on 7/12/91 to review and update our Rules and Procedures, and to discuss the rotation schedule for Base Station operators, now that we have an adequate number of volunteers for that position. I want to thank all the members who attended the meeting, and helped us with the work. I also want to welcome all the new walkers who have recently joined us, and extend to them a heartfelt — THANKS — for their concern, and contribution to the safety and well being of the Gifford Park Neighborhood. The recent increase in our numbers is encouraging, but we can always use more help. If you are interested in DOING something, please call me at 341-4722.

**GPNA WATCH GROUP CALENDAR
FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1991**

	Dates									
	F	S	F	S	F	S	F	S	F	S
Aug.	2	3	9	10	16	17	23	24	30	31
Sept.	6	7	13	14	20	21	27	28		

Time: 11 p.m.-1 a.m.

New meeting location is --
36th and Webster Street Parking Lot
Beginning on August 2nd

This is the normal schedule for August/September, but be prepared for an occasional date change. I will call you in advance.

Your Ideas Wanted

by Jerry Rieger (Budget and Finance Chair)

We would like to have ideas for raising money for the G.P.N.A. We are planning a pancake feed for September or October, and a chili supper in the winter. We will also need volunteers for all functions. We would like to start a list of people that we could count on.

Newsletter Update
by Brian Kokensparger

Thank you for your submissions. Each one is a valuable part of our newsletter. Keep them coming.

Thank you to all the people who distributed newsletters during the July walk-around. Not only do you get the word out to each and every member of the neighborhood, but you are also a visible presence of the G.P.N.A. The continuing success of the newsletter is resting on your shoulders. We always need more distributors — if you would like to donate an hour or two of your time every other month, please contact my wife, Karen, at 558-3834.

Our members-only mailing this month was done with computer-generated labels. Please check your label to make sure all the information is correct. Any corrections should be sent to Ron Yates. A special thank-you to Cynde Yates, who maintains and prints the mailing labels.

Our deadlines for the September newsletter are Thursday, August 22 (the day of the board meeting) for editorials, and Monday, August 26 for all other matter. You can turn in your editorials and articles at Kilgore's (3225 and 1/2 California Street) during regular business hours.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Jerry Rieger

Balance 6/30/91	\$1,225.22
Cox Cable Award	100.00
Memberships	366.00
Donations	<u>124.00</u>
	\$590.00
Post Office (Stamps)	58.00
Creighton (Newsletter)	80.00
Radio Shack (Batteries Radio)	53.93
Office Depot (Envelopes)	<u>38.18</u>
	\$230.11
Balance 7/25//91	\$1,585.11

G.P.N.A. WATCH CAPS FOR SALE

Sixteen G.P.N.A. Watch Caps for Sale (Members Only)

\$8 each.

Call Mike Caban (341-4722) for more information.

What About Monthly Newspaper Collection? *from "The Omaha Effort Progress Advisory"*

There are still some residents setting their newspapers out at the curb, all nicely placed, in brown grocery sacks. Newspaper collected curbside will only be recycled if it is contained in blue plastic bags. The blue bag indicates to the people at the recycling center that recyclables are inside, and protects the paper from being contaminated by the garbage.

Picking up newspapers at the curb has been a longstanding tradition in the City of Omaha. Did you know we have one of the oldest curbside newspaper collections in the country, starting in 1973? So what happened to the monthly collection?

December 31, 1990, the City of Omaha was paying a contractor \$29.30 per ton to pick up newspapers at the curb on a monthly basis. Another contractor was being paid \$10 per ton to receive and market the newspaper. Bids opened in June 1990 to replace those contracts would have increased these costs considerably. If the lowest bids had been accepted, the total cost per ton would have been \$70 per ton, or an increase of \$30.70 per ton.

Fortunately, we had another recycling program that could do the job. The Blue Bag program could collect and process the newspaper for less than \$52.00 per ton. Depending on the amount received for the newspaper when marketed, this cost could be even less because the City shares 50% in revenue received from the sale of the material.

The Blue Bag program also eliminated chances for confusion that may have occurred if newspapers were collected on a different day than garbage and yard waste. One of the complaints we received most often from residents about the monthly curbside newspaper collection was that it was monthly. If the once a month collection day was forgotten or missed because you were out of town, you had to wait until next month to get rid of your newspapers. If you forget next month or . . . oh well, you get the idea.

Another problem with the old program came into play when it rained. The wet newspapers were very difficult to market. The cellulose insulation manufacturers will not take newspaper that is or has been wet. The wet newspapers also increased the collection costs (wet newspapers weigh more than dry ones) by contract. Newspapers are protected in blue bags under the current program.

Speaking of markets, there seems to be some confusion as to the quality and marketability of the newspaper collected in blue bags. The newspaper recovered from blue bags is sold to deinking mills as number 8 ONP; this is the highest value grade of printed newspaper. The "Omaha Effort" recycling bags and contents survive the trip just fine!

If you haven't tried the Omaha Effort Blue Bag program for newspaper recycling, please do. Blue carry-out bags from supermarkets bearing the "Omaha Effort" logo have been authorized for use with newspapers.

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.

Reconsider the Age Limit

by Steve Fuhrer

There are a few issues that I would like to discuss, but unfortunately, I cannot make the meetings, as I am sure many others can't because of evening jobs.

My main concern for writing this letter is the age limit for a child to go on the nightly walks. It really upsets me that we allow these young people to face such potential dangers. We all know the trouble spots, and that anything could happen. It would break my heart if a child was hurt or killed, "for nothing at all." I have lived and worked in the neighborhood for the past 9 years. I think we should reconsider the age limit. It's dangerous enough for the adults! Let the children grow up first.

A Good Feeling With the Neighborhood

by Denise and Marie Pohl

We moved into this beautiful neighborhood just in the early month of April of '91. Yes, my 3 year-old daughter and I took to the "Gifford Park" area just as naturally as any one person would alone. I was impressed with the neighbors—very caring and understanding. I just wanted to leave with you this note to the readers of your newsletter, it's a good feeling with the neighborhood in an active part of living in such a good area.

Response to "A Concern"

by Ron Yates

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is a voluntary organization. Although we have a limited membership, we attempt to serve the entire population within the association boundaries. Membership is encouraged, but, of course, not required. Those individuals who are not members receive the same benefits and services as members. One does not have to be a member to be recognized as Neighbor of the Month, or participate in Christmas Sharing, Pumpkin Patch, Neighborhood Cleanup, Easter Egg Hunt, or any other program put forth by the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association.

The G.P.N.A. does not levy taxes, nor does it establish the cost of food or medicine. It is unfortunate that these costs are continually increasing. Many of us also feel frustrated by these escalating burdens.

The costs for preparing the newsletter and operating programs far exceed the dues paid per member. If membership dues were to reflect operating costs, dues would be approximately five times greater than they are currently. We are continuously seeking fund raising ideas and would welcome suggestions. In the past, funds have been raised by competing for awards, holding garage sales, raffles, recycling items obtained through the neighborhood cleanup and by donations.

The increase in membership dues was discussed and approved by members attending a general membership meeting. It was felt that the increased rate was not inordinately high as to prevent individuals from belonging to the Association. The G.P.N.A. encourages all individuals in the neighborhood to participate in the activities of the Association whether or not they are members. Ask the husbands, wives, children, and babysitters of our volunteers how much time is spent in the G.P.N.A. effort. The benefits and improvements provided to the Gifford Park area by volunteers would be difficult to price.

Membership too high? At these prices it's like finding a diamond ring in a box of corn flakes.