



GIFFORD PARK'S PRIDE

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

FEBRUARY 1994

GPNA OFFICERS:

President:

John J. Lynch, Jr. - 345-9624

Vice President:

Judi Caban - 341-4722

Recording Secretary:

Cynde Yates - 558-6027

Corresponding Secretary:

Kathy Rose - 341-3955

Treasurer:

Vonda McEachern - 341-7346

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Budget and Finance:

Vonda McEachern - 341-7346

Community Devel. Corp:

Chuck Kilgore - 341-2757

Clean Up:

Chris Foster - 342-6006

Courtesy:

Candy Barone - 344-3233

Gifford Park Day:

John Lynch - 345-9624

Historian:

Eva Swanson - 345-1707

Membership:

Kathy Rose - 341-3955

Office:

Jackie Lynch - 345-9624

Pride Distribution:

John Lynch - 345-9624

Pride Production:

Open

Park:

Mike Caban - 341-4722

Program:

John Lynch - 345-9624

Public Relations:

Ron Yates - 558-6027

Social Activities:

Open

Tool Lending:

Ed Hendershot - 341-0475

Volunteer Incentive Program:

Vonda McEachern - 341-7346

Watch Group:

Ron Yates - 558-6027

Weeds and Litter:

Leo Wilwarding - 345-1433

NEXT MEETING:

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3
7:00 P.M.**

**ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
DINING ROOMS A, B AND C**

GUEST: TO BE ANNOUNCED

FREE PARKING

NEW COMMITTEE OPENINGS ANNOUNCED

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association needs volunteers to Chair two association committees: Newsletter and Social. These positions require the following:

Newsletter - This committee does the computer layout and design of the monthly newsletter. Articles and advertisements, as well as committee reports and editorials are delivered to you for inclusion in the newsletter. And never fear . . . previous committee chairs are always available for assistance.

Social - This committee oversees the various social activities presented by GPNA, including but not limited to the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Pumpkin Giveaway, and Holiday Banquet. Again, able assistance from the membership is available.

If you are interested in either of these positions, or if you have an interest in any other area of GPNA service, please contact John Lynch at 345-9624, or any other GPNA Officer.

WATCH GROUP REPORT

Dear Family of Hank Thompson:

We know this letter is late, and we must apologize for not doing what could have been done.

We, the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association Watch Group (G.P.N.A.) noticed Lomas Gang graffiti in the summer of 1993. The graffiti was photographed and the Omaha Police Division and their Gang Unit notified. Graffiti was discovered in the area again on Saturday, January 15th. We also met with Gang Unit Officers in November, 1993. Large Parties in a home located near 35th and Cass Streets were noticed and reported to the Omaha Police Division. The Watch Group also visited with parents who said they were bothered because it was said that some children in the neighborhood may have gang ties. Our Watch Group is not empowered to make arrests or to investigate incidents. All we can, and will, do is report observations to the O.P.D.

If we had done a better job of relaying our concerns to the police, this may not have happened. If parents could do a better job . . . If schools could do a better job . . . If the Omaha Police Division could do a better job . . .

We are very sorry that this tragedy occurred.

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FREE TAX HELP COMING SOON

Mark your calendars for free tax assistance coming to our neighborhood. An IRS representative will be available to answer questions and help prepare basic tax forms on the following dates and locations:



Wed, Feb. 2	6 - 8 PM	Yates School
Sat, Feb. 5	11 AM-1 PM	GPNA Office
Sat, Feb. 12	11 AM-1 PM	GPNA Office
Sat, Apr. 2	11 AM-1 PM	GPNA Office
Sat, Apr. 9	11 AM-1 PM	GPNA Office



EDITORIAL SECTION

All members are invited to submit articles for the editorial section. They must be signed and submitted to an Executive Board Member by the third Thursday of the month. The views expressed in this section do not necessarily represent the views of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association or its Executive Board.

CHILD CARE FACILITY
by Ron Yates

Suppose a self-declared brain surgeon approached you and asked that you endorse a procedure that he or she intends to perform. When asked if he or she had done this procedure before, the answer was 'No, but I know a nurse who works in surgery'.

This, or something very similar, happened at our last G.P.N.A. general membership meeting. A gentleman who apparently has no qualifications, education or experience in child care, intends to open a 24-hour child care center at the building that housed the Arctic Circle. He discovered that he needed a waiver. Knowing what a caring neighborhood we are (spelled s-u-c-k-e-r), he asked that we endorse his application. This man is an individual who is unknown by others in the neighborhood and has never run a child care facility. After about ten minutes of conversation, a motion was made to support his efforts, and it passed.

This writer admits that he knows nothing about child care; however, warehousing up to thirty children in a building about the size of my garage with no outdoor play area, four feet from busy 33rd Street, with both the entrance and the emergency exit on the same side of the building and no off street parking will mean that all children will be off-loaded on the street. Perhaps I am being too harsh with the members who attended the meeting, but the regulatory agencies should never have allowed it to get this far.

Great building . . . wrong use!