



Gifford Park's Pride

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn and Play

April 1996

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association



Even the snow and cold couldn't dampen the spirits of this neighborhood youngster at the Easter Egg Hunt held in Gifford Park.

Snow Adds Bit of 'Challenge' to Easter Egg Hunt

It was quite a scene in Gifford Park for the seventh annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt held Saturday, March 30, at noon. Rain in the morning changed to sleet then to snow just as the nearly 100 neighborhood kids with their Easter baskets waited for the countdown to start. The snow added a little more of a challenge to the hunt. Instead of taking the average five minutes for the kids to find all the goodies, it took nearly eight minutes - guess the snow didn't cause too much of a challenge after all. This year's event was organized by the GPNA and the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Betty Slayden was committee chairperson and called on many volunteers to help make it a success despite the wintry weather:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Greg Slayden | Eddie Meekins | Mike McGrath |
| Cynde Yates | Tom Noonan | John Stevens |
| Ron Yates | Josh Dingmon | Fred Batts |
| Shannon Moreau | Tom Kirchner | Justin Benton |
| Kevin Campbell | Mike Broshnehon | Jeremy Oberbrecking |
| Ted Franco | Brian Boemon | Bart Brandenburg |
| Bill Tjaden | Kai Kawasusi | Zach Swerzewski |
| Jon Duval | Bernie Masker | Mike Bruchas |
| | | Cory Drake |

Special thanks also goes to Loren Johnson of J'N'J Grocery, Ken Marten of Little Debbie and Jerry Pitt of Columbo Candy for their efforts in providing candy and toys for the kids.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 4th
7:00 P.M.

St. Joseph's Hospital
Dining Rooms A, B, & C

FREE PARKING

Spring Cleanup Date Set

The date for this year's Spring Cleanup is set for Saturday, May 25th. Events planned are Neighborhood Cleanup, Dumpsters in Gifford Park, Recycling, Picnic in the Park and Membership Drive. Once again the City of Omaha will provide us with dumpsters in Gifford Park and operate several chipper sites for tree brush. The focus of the Spring Cleanup is for everyone to clean up and beautify our yards, streets, alleys, parks and vacant lots. Make the effort to get your neighbor involved and offer to help. The GPNA will have trucks and volunteers on cleanup day.

- Seven satellite sites will be open to anyone on two Saturday's - April 13 and April 20, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The nearest locations are Park Maintenance Headquarters (1523 South 24th Street), Elmwood Pool Parking Lot (606 South Happy Hallow Blvd.) and Public Works Yard (2601 Lake Street). Items NOT accepted at these sites are yard waste, hazardous materials (paint, herbicides, etc.), tree brush and tires.
- There will be a Recycling Center open for all citizens at Ak-Sar-Ben (63rd & Center Street) each Saturday from April 13 - May 25, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Items accepted: metal, appliances, batteries, reuse items for Goodwill and Salvation Army, magazines, glass, plastic

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GPNA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ron Yates 558-6027

VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Foster 342-6006

RECORDING SECRETARY

Barbara Remmen 341-8331

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Cynde Yates 558-6027

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Candy Bacome 344-3233

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MEMBERSHIP

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NEWSLETTER

Chris Foster 342-6006

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Ron Yates 558-6027

OFFICE

Jean Peck 344-0722

PARK

Mike Bacome 344-3233

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anne & Linda Chapman 348-0464

TOOL LENDING

Ed Hendershot 341-0475

WATCH GROUP

Ron Yates 558-6027



**TOOL LENDING
HOTLINE**

Tom 341-3955

Ed 341-0475

Ron 558-6027

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



This photo, taken in 1953, shows Wayne Hill on the left with his mother and father, June and Joe, along with his niece, Nancy, in front of the California Bar.

Historically Speaking... The California Bar

The California Bar claims 59 years in the same location on 33rd Street, a claim rivaled only by the California Drug Store. The Bar at 510 North 33rd was opened in 1937 by the present owner's father, Joe Hill, together with his brother, Tony Hill. Joe and his wife, June, and their family lived in the apartment above the bar. Joe died in 1977 and his son, Wayne, together with his wife, Peggy, took over the business and now reside in the apartment. Actually, Wayne started working in the store at age 16. He joined the Army during World War II and came back to work full time. The store was expanded in 1958 by converting the next door shop into a package store.

The California Bar was a popular meeting place for neighbors during World War II. With gas rationing and a general lack of places to go and things to do, people came to the bar to socialize and watch TV. First to see the new black and white TV and later to watch TV in color.

Wayne has many stories to tell, like the time his father, Mrs. Connie Wilson from the California Beauty School, and another man hoped to make a fortune by marketing a product that would straighten hair. The concoction was bottled and ready for market; however the enterprise ended abruptly when the first experimental user lost all her hair!

Another time a very nice couple were served at the bar and the man asked Joe if he knew who they were. Joe might have recognized them had they been TV stars, but these folks were radio stars — Fibber McGee and Molly Jordan

The Bar was a popular place for politicians to gather and talk. Wayne particularly remembers John Cavanaugh and Red Munnely. Joe Hill once ran for a political office, but he was defeated. Sometimes jazz artists playing in the auditorium of the old Tech High would patronize the Bar on their breaks. In May of 1987 the California Bar celebrated its 50th anniversary. Wayne and Peggy sent letters to many old customers as could be found, inviting them to a special week of celebration. The week turned out to be a busy one with hundreds of old and new patrons coming out for the occasion.

Wayne is a great volunteer around town. He was recently honored by Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB) for his volunteer efforts during the past year, particularly with the Bakers/KOB Charity Gold Classic. The GPNA is proud to salute both Wayne and Peggy.

by Eva Swanson

What's Happening in the Neighborhood...

Plan to attend the next meeting at St. Joseph's Hospital, **Thursday, April 4th, 7 p.m.** We will discuss the upcoming Spring Cleanup, nominating committee report and other items. As always St. Joseph's provides great refreshments for your enjoyment!

Those of us attending the last GPNA general meeting at St. Joseph's Hospital (March 7th) may remember **Bob Hutton** receiving a phone call during the meeting. The call turned out to be from his wife, **Virginia**, who told him she was not feeling well. Bob immediately left the meeting to check on his wife at home. Within minutes they were back up to St. Joseph's Hospital after determining she was having a heart attack. We are glad to report Virginia is doing well and we hope she has a speedy recovery.

Brad and Virna Bogard, owners of **California Tacos & More**, are the proud parents of their first child, **Janine Audrey**, born March 10th and weighing 7 lbs even. Congratulations Brad and Virna!

Congratulations to GPNA member **Tom Rose**. Tom, who teaches at Metro Tech Community College, was recently nominated for an award for outstanding teamwork. This is not surprising to those of us who know Tom, he has demonstrated his leadership skills many times with the GPNA over the years.

The GPNA officially welcomed **O.P.D. Sgt. Lonzale Ramsey** at our last meeting. He comes to the Northeast precinct (Dodge St. to Lake St., 42nd St. to the Missouri River) from the Northwest precinct. Sgt. Ramsey grew up in our neighborhood and went to Central High School, so he knows our neighborhood well. We look forward to working with Sgt. Ramsey in the future.

The GPNA was recognized by the **Omaha Citizen Patrol Coalition** at an awards banquet on March 28th. The GPNA received an award for being the 'Oldest' Omaha neighborhood group patrolling the streets. In addition, **Ron Yates** was honored for having the most number of hours for any volunteer patrolling the streets in Omaha.

Omaha CrimeStoppers has an upcoming fundraiser, 'Run to Take a Criminal Off the Street', **Sunday, April 21st**. This event is a 3 mile fun run and walk and will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Walk & Run Fitness (78th & Cass St.). Entry fee is \$14 which includes a T-shirt. All proceeds will go to support the fight against crime and help with CrimeStoppers' rewards to solve crimes in our

community. For more information contact **Walk & Run Fitness** at 398-9807. What a great way to get exercise and help fight crime at the same time.

Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB) is providing a program called 'Ecology Day Camp for Kids' for 4th, 5th and 6th grade kids this summer, **June 17-21, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** The cost is \$45 per student. This week-long Ecology Day Camp is designed for young people to learn about the world they live in. Planned trips to the recycling center, the planetarium, Missouri Waste Plant and Fontenelle Forest along with games and much more are events for all. Call KOB at 444-7774 for more information.

The **GPNA Executive Board** recently sponsored a dinner at **California Tacos & More** to help network and share ideas among City officials and surrounding neighborhoods with common concerns. The dinner was held in place of the normal Executive Board Meeting **Thursday, March 21st**. Guests invited included representatives from the **City of Omaha, Omaha Police Department, Omaha Community Resource Center** and other neighborhood associations. Everyone enjoyed themselves and made new friends - and the food was delicious.

Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB) is encouraging everyone to plant red flowers as part of their 'Grow Big Red' project in celebration of the Nebraska Cornhuskers repeat National Championship.

Only two more dates are available to take advantage of **FREE** tax help at the **GPNA Office** located next to J'N'J Grocery, 33rd & California Street. **Everyone is welcome!** So far 21 people have received assistance from I.R.S. representatives **Jackie Foster, Pat Prochaska** and **Jan Bostick**. Free tax help will be available on the following two Saturday dates: **April 6 & 13 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** For more information or to schedule an appointment call 551-3629.

The third year for the **Omaha Farmers Market** will take place again in the Old Market. Produce of all kinds, flowers, honey, bedding and house plants, prepared foods, ethnic groceries and arts and crafts are among the products to be offered at the Market, which opens **Saturday, May 11th at 11th & Jackson Streets, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**, and will run every Saturday morning through October 12th. The Market is a non-profit organization, professionally managed by **Vic Gutman & Associates**, with the support and cooperation of the **Old Omaha Association**. For more information, call **Jan Ihrke** at 330-6967.

Trees Trees Trees

The GPNA, in a effort to promote tree planting in our neighborhood, has purchased twenty 3' to 6' oak and maple trees from the **Arbor Lodge Foundation**. Spring is a great time to plant trees. These trees will be made available to GPNA members on a first come, first serve basis for \$5 per tree. This is less than our cost! Anyone interested please call Leo Wilwerding, 345-1433.



Spring Cleanup Date Set *continued from page 1*

#1 & #2, aluminum and ferrous metal, cardboard and newsprint/newspaper. Tires will be accepted but there will be a small fee.

- Tree brush and branches no larger than 6" in diameter must be taken to one of the following chipper sites between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays, April 13-May 25:

Levi Carter Lake Boathouse
Parking Lot
13th & Cornish Boulevard

Spring Lake Park
Parking Lot
14th & I Streets

The GPNA would like to extend our thanks and continued support to **Mayor Hal Daub**, the **City of Omaha** and **Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB)** for their efforts with the Spring Cleanup. For more information contact **Chris Foster (342-6006)**, **Terry Wilwerding (342-2795)** or **Ron Yates (558-6027)**.

**For City Services
Information or
Complaints, Call:**

Mayor's Action Office

444-5555

Yard Waste Pickup Now in Effect

As of April 1, Deffenbaugh, the City's waste hauler, will pick up yard waste on its regular collection schedule. There is no limit to the number of bags or bundles that may be placed at the curb, but there are some restrictions on size of bundles. Sticks no longer than 2 inches in diameter should be bundled, and bundles should be in 4-foot or smaller lengths. Use twine or string to tie the bundles. Cans marked with the YW or yard waste paper bags, but not grocery sacks, must be used for other yard waste, such as leaves, twigs and small branches. The yard-waste program continues through late November.



GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

532 N. 33rd Street, Omaha, NE 68131

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please print clearly)



Membership year: _____ *(Membership year runs from June 1 through May 31)*

Type of membership: Single (\$5) _____ Family (\$8) _____ Business (\$25) _____

Name of business _____

Name _____
(Last) (First)

Spouse _____
(Last) (First)

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Telephone Number: _____
(Home) (Work)

In case of an emergency notify: _____
(Name) (Address) (Phone No.)

May this information be included in the GPNA Neighborhood Directory? Yes _____ No _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Gifford Park Pioneers?

There has been some talk about changing the name of this newsletter from *Gifford Park's Pride* to something else. One idea talked about is *Gifford Park Pioneers*. What do you think? We want to have a name that better describes the character of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. *Pride* is very good but is there a better name out there? We plan to discuss this item at the April general meeting and would appreciate anyone's input.