



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

May 1996

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## New Membership Year

### *Membership Drive in Full Swing*

June 1st will mark the beginning of another GPNA membership year. It is a new beginning for Officers, Executive Board Members and residents. It is truly exciting to have new people volunteer to help. We will have several new officers to give the organization a GREAT start!

My name is Cynde Yates and I am the Membership chairperson. I have great hope of increasing our membership this year. Our membership year runs from June, 1996 to June, 1997. If you have been a member and supported the GPNA in the past, we appreciate your support and hope you will renew your membership. If you have not been a member, I encourage each of you to consider joining. **Your membership helps pay for this newsletter, neighborhood cleanups and beautification programs, youth activities, social activities, neighborhood watch equipment, tool lending and many other worthwhile programs.** Please join the GPNA today - your membership will be good through June, 1997.

I believe the GPNA should reach out to new residents and inform them of our group, interests and efforts. I am working on developing a "New Resident Packet" to be provided to new people in our area. To do this I need your help. Please let me know the address of any new residents in your block. You can call me at 554-7888 during the day, or 558-6027 in the evening. You may also inform any GPNA Officer.

In addition, it would be nice if all members would act as ambassadors of the neighborhood association by greeting and welcoming new people. If we hope to become a better neighborhood, we also need to revert to old-fashioned values. We need to take the time to be there for one another; to look out for and protect one another. We need to support the GPNA, attend meetings and help guide the direction of the area in which we reside. We need to encourage our neighbors to also participate. It doesn't have to take much time. Try to make a difference. Together, we can.

*by Cynde Yates*

**See GPNA Membership Application on Page 6  
Please Join Today!**

### Next Meeting

**Thursday, May 2nd  
7:00 P.M.**

**Guest Speaker:  
To Be Announced**

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

**FREE PARKING**

## 1996 Spring Cleanup Means No Excuses

If you don't get rid of your junk and trash this spring, don't blame the City of Omaha or Keep Omaha Beautiful. They have made available many opportunities for everyone to participate in spring cleanup and recycling even if you can't come to our neighborhood's cleanup site - see details below.

The date for this year's Spring Cleanup for our neighborhood 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,

*continued on page 6*

### Mini-Cleanup May 4th, 9 - 11 a.m.

The GPNA will be cleaning up our Business District area. **Everyone** is welcome to help. Just come down to 33rd & California St. and bring brooms, rakes and shovels (we will have some of these items if you do not have them). For details call Chris Foster (342-6006) or Ron Yates (558-6027).



## 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

### TREASURER

Marlene Wilwerding 345-1433

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### C.D.C.

Chuck Kilgore 341-2757

### CLEAN-UP

Chris Foster 342-6006

### COMPLIANCE

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

### COURTESY

Candy Bacome 344-3233

### HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

### MEMBERSHIP

Cynde Yates 558-6027

### 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



## Historically Speaking... The Grass Shack

For 17 years, from 1947 to 1964, the Grass Shack at 3229 California was a "home away from home" for many students at Creighton University. At the same time it was a good place for a quick lunch or dinner for the bread man, the Pepsi man, the grocer down the street and students on their way home from Tech High. Jack and Alice Kaya opened the cafe about three years after their release from an internment camp for Japanese Americans in Jerome, Arkansas. Prior to WW II the Kayas had been living in Los Angeles where Jack had a 10-cent Cafe and where Alice attended a fashion design school. In Omaha Jack, an excellent cook, first worked in the kitchens at the Blackstone Hotel, but soon found a building for his own cafe on 33rd and California. There were living quarters to the rear for the family and for Alice to do her dress making and alterations. Alice had already gained many customers from Mutual of Omaha and word spread that she was very good.

The Grass Shack was one of the first Japanese restaurants in the Omaha area. Hawaiian and other oriental students at Creighton were some of the best customers. These men and women lived in rooming houses and apartments in the area and depended on Jack and Alice Kaya for cooking to their tastes and pocket books. Mrs. Kaya recalls that many times the students would have to put their very modest meal checks on the "cuff" until their loans or money from home would come in. She said that without fail they paid up as soon as they could.

The Grass Shack served breakfast, lunch and dinner, using a lot of rice. This was relatively inexpensive and, in fact, many of their dinners cost only 55 cents. In spite of very small profits and with the help of Alice's sewing they routinely closed for two weeks each summer so the Kaya family could drive to a lake in Minnesota for a week of fishing and relaxation and, on their return, a week of cleaning and preparation for the next season. They made a change of location to Countryside Village where they opened as the Mt. Fuji Inn in about 1964. They later moved to 7215 Blondo where the Mt. Fuji Inn is still in operation opening each evening at 5 o'clock. The Kayas had four children and now have five great grandchildren. Mr. Jack Kaya died in 1982 and now a daughter, Jackie Shindo, is the manager with help from her mother, Alice.

by Eva Swanson

## Trees Available

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.

The GPNA is also making available many (about 75 total) cedar tree seedlings for free. Contact Mike or Candy Bacome at 344-3233 for details.

**Come One,  
Come All!**  
to the  
**Yates School  
Spring Carnival!**



**Saturday, May 11th  
Noon to 3 p.m.**

**at Yates School,  
3260 Davenport Street  
(Rain or Shine)**

**Food! - Games! - Prizes!  
Fun for All Ages**

**A Neighborhood Tradition for  
Over 50 Years!**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

*Proceeds benefit the students of Yates  
School through the Yates PTA.*

## What's Happening in the Neighborhood...

Plan to attend the next meeting at St. Joseph's Hospital, **Thursday May 2nd, 7 p.m.** The scheduled guest speaker is to be announced. We will also discuss the upcoming Spring Cleanup, nominating committee report which will include the recommended slate of officers and other events. As always St. Joseph's provides great refreshments for your enjoyment!

**California Tacos & More** has extended their business hours. Owner **Brad Bogard** says the restaurant, located at 33rd & California, will now be open EVERY DAY, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., except Friday and Saturday, when they will be open until midnight. He also plans to add additional menu items.

Congratulations to **Kirk and Jean Peck** who gave birth on April 2 to their second child **Michaela Marie** weighing 6 lb. 9 oz.

**Boy Scout Troop 125** from Yates School recently went on a Spring Camp-O-Ree at Camp Wakonda, April 19-21. It was a great experience for the boys, even with one stormy night. The troop sold hot dogs prior to the camp-out to raise money. They are planning another camp-out May 17-19. Meetings are Monday nights, 6:30-8:00 at Yates School. The Scouts want to thank **J'N'J Grocery, California Tacos & More, the GPNA, the Troop parents, Terry Wilwerding, Greg Slayden and Rich Exline.**

**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 third year for the **Omaha Farmers Market** will take place again in the Old Market. Produce of all kinds, flowers, eggs, birdseed, 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.

The GPNA wishes to thank I.R.S. representatives **Jackie**

## Charles R. Kilgore Jr. Attorney At Law

4913 Underwood Avenue

558-5000

Personal Injury Law  
Worker's Compensation  
Injury  
Auto Accidents  
Insurance Claims

## California Bar & Pkg. 510 No. 33rd St.

Serving the Gifford Park  
Community since 1937  
Wayne and Peggy Hill,  
Proprietors



**Foster, Pat Prochaska and Jan Bostick** for volunteering to give our neighborhood free tax assistance the last three months - they helped 26 people.

In January the GPNA applied for a cash award to help us purchase computer equipment for our neighborhood association. *Midwest Living Magazine* was giving out the prizes as part of their **Hometown Pride Awards.** Unfortunately we were not selected as one of the winning entries.

Remember to vote Tuesday, May 7th!

## Neighborhood Project Needs Videos, Photos

At a recent GPNA meeting, the idea of compiling a visual history of GPNA was raised. I agreed to collect and put together video segments taken at GPNA events. As space permits, it might also be interesting to include pictures of the Gifford Park area institutions of the past. If you have video or pictures that you would like to have included, please call me at 551-1344. As I tend to go to bed early, please call before 9:00 PM. I can accept video in VHS or VHS-C, Beta, 8mm or Hi-8 format. It would be very helpful if you would include information with your video about who is in the video, what the event was, when it took place, etc. Similar information about pictures should also be provided. All video's and pictures will be returned after being copied. Also, as I am just beginning to learn about putting together video, if someone out there has experience in this area and would like to provide assistance please let me know. If the project turns out well, copies of the resulting tape will be made available to interested members at minimal cost.

by Jim Wilwerding

## Set An Example For Others

One thing of great importance that we probably seldom think or hear about is EXAMPLE. More than likely, nothing we do impacts on our children and others as much as our example. The old saying, "Don't do as I do, do as I say", just doesn't work very well as an educational tool. We pay a great deal more attention to how people act rather than what they say to us. Think of the parents who lie, steal, cheat and fail to fulfill their responsibilities, yet expect their children to turn out well, or blame others for the failure instead of themselves. It is always surprising to see the number of folks who can be very critical of others but gloss over their own faults. Most of us probably fall into this trap more often than we know, or at least would be willing to admit.

What sort of example do we set? To our families, our neighbors, our relatives, our coworkers and all others. What kind of example are we in our neighborhood? Do we paint our house, mow our lawn, rake our leaves, plant flowers, keep noise down, watch our neighbors property, restrain our pets, don't litter, pick up litter, shovel our walks and in general obey the laws of our city? It is pretty unreasonable to blame city services, the policy, the government and everybody else when we fail to do our part to make our city and neighborhood a better and safer place in which to live!

**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND SET A GOOD  
EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW.**

## College Surplus Sale

*When:* Thursday, May 16 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Friday, May 17 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday, May 18 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*Where:* Nebraska College of Business  
3636 California Street  
553-8500

*What:* Various school and office equipment including computers, desks, chairs, partitions, electric typewriters, calculators, school desks, misc items.

**CASH ONLY**

## A-n-K Babysitting



Call for Information:  
341-3955 or 342-4358

## California Tacos & More

*Homemade Mexican Food*  
342-0212

33rd & California Street  
Dine In or Carry Out

*Now Open New Summer Hours!!!*

Mon - Thur: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fri - Sat: 11 a.m. - Midnight

Sun: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.



*California*  
**Tacos  
&  
More**

## **EDITORIAL CORNER**

*The views and opinions stated are not necessarily those of the GPNA or the Executive Board.*

### **Response of 911 Call**

*by Ron Yates*

On Saturday, April 20th, 1996, I called 911 at approximately 11:55 p.m. to report two very large and noisy parties. Both of these parties, located at 201 N. 36th Street and 3320 California Street, were observed by Watch Group members. Several violations were noticed including, but not limited to, M.I.P., parking violations, drunk driving, noise, open containers, littering, public urination and it also appeared that they were charging admission at 201 N. 36th Street. The 911 operator, later identified as #32, advised me that they would be "sending several officers to both locations". The usual response is it may be up to two hours before they can send a car. Not having seen a car or hearing a dispatch by 2 a.m. I can only assume that this operator was trying to be cute.

The Gifford Park Watch Group has over 4,000 hours of volunteer service and we do not make frivolous calls. To be treated this way by someone who will not prevent as much crime in his entire career as we can in one week-end just by being there, was uncalled for and unnecessary. With recent increases in our neighborhood of street people, gangs, graffiti, and gun fire, Operator 32 needs to be trained on how to field calls or consider choosing another career, perhaps entertaining at a comedy club.

For information on  
GPNA Activities, Call:

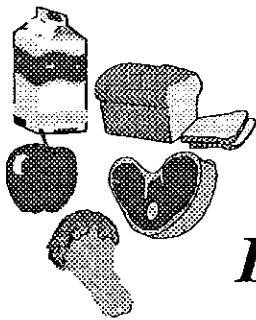
**492-9955**

**Wait For Tone,**

**Then Dial:**

**6866**

*Editor's note: If you have something that would be of interest to our neighborhood, we encourage you to submit an article for our monthly newsletter. Editorials must be approved by the GPNA Executive Board. Articles can be left at the GPNA Office; please include your name and phone number. Contact Chris Foster at 342-6006 for information regarding the newsletter.*



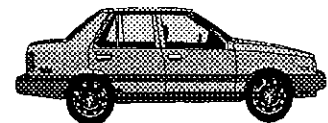
## **J'N'J GROCERY STORE**

*Fresh Meats -- Fresh Produce*

*Friendly Service*

**3301 California Street -- 422-1058**

**WE DELIVER!**



**7:00 AM - 10:00 PM Monday thru Thursday**

**7:00 AM - 11:00 PM Friday thru Saturday**

**8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Sunday**

## Ready To Say Good-bye To Your Old Car?



Put Some "Good" In The Good-bye! Donate your used car to the **National Kidney Foundation's Cars Program**. The funds can help save lives. We'll arrange a **free pickup** and you may qualify for a tax deduction. Call **1-800-488-CARS (2277)**.

The program is a community service/fund raising endeavor, helping area residents get rid of unwanted or abandoned vehicles. The funds raised support the Kidney Foundation's efforts to prevent, treat and cure kidney and urinary tract diseases. Cars, trucks, boats, buses - running or not - are wanted. Pickup is free!

## Spring Cleanup...continued from page 1

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.

- **Four satellite sites will be open to anyone on EACH Saturday in May, 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 in May, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Items accepted: metal, appliances, batteries, reuse items for Goodwill and Salvation Army, magazines, glass, plastic #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 EACH Saturday in May:**

**Levi Carter Lake Boathouse  
Parking Lot  
13th & Cornish Boulevard**

**Spring Lake Park  
Parking Lot  
14th & I Streets**

- **Curb & Street Sweeping** is planned for our neighborhood the week of May 13-19. The Public Works Department asks that residents sweep down their driveways and sidewalks to assist them in retrieving sand, gravel and salt from entering our sewer waste stream.

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)**.



### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Paint-A-Thon/ Brush-up Nebraska



Need Your House Painted? At No Cost! You could have your house painted at absolutely no cost by volunteers from area businesses, congregations and service clubs. If you are over 65 or permanently disabled and meet financial guidelines, you could qualify. Apply today. Phone First Call for help, **444-6666** for an application, or stop by any **Norwest Bank Office** in Douglas or Sarpy County to pick up an application. Application deadline is **June 5**.