



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

July 1996

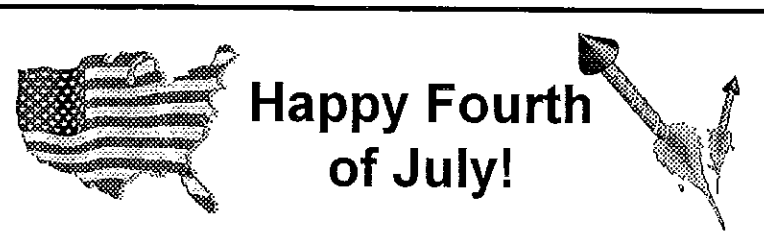
A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association



Workers for Swain Construction Inc. are making good progress, shown here moving the last pile of concrete near 31st and Chicago Streets.

## Major Street Repair Moving Ahead

The first major street repair project in many years in our neighborhood is well underway. Phase I will be completed sometime this summer, it encompasses nearly all streets between 33rd Street on the west, Dodge Street on the south, 29th Street on the East, and California Street on the north. Phase II is planned to cover the area east of 33rd from California to Cuming. **Swain Construction** is doing the work that includes replacing all of the existing curb, replacing any drop style curb inlets, and resurfacing the streets. We have assigned our own **Harry Dirgo** the task of Chief Inspector for the project and will provide weekly progress reports. The GPNA has been asking for street repair for many years and would like to thank the **Public Works Department** for getting us on the list this year.



## Happy Fourth of July!

See GPNA Membership Application on Page 8  
**Please Join Today!**

Please Note Next  
General Meeting Will  
Be Thursday, July 11  
(No Meeting July 4!)



**Next Meeting**

**Thursday, July 11  
7:00 P.M.**

**Guest Speaker:  
To Be Announced**

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

**FREE PARKING**

## OPD Efforts Appreciated



On Thursday, June 27, the **Omaha Police Department** set up their second recent street surveillance at 33rd and California Streets. The operation was lead by **Sgt. Barry DeJong** and included more than half a dozen police officers and cruisers, and also radar. Tickets were issued for a wide variety of violations including speeding, loud mufflers, loud music, drinking while driving, improper vehicle registration and insurance, parking and other violations.

Operations like these raise the awareness of the people driving through our neighborhood. It sends a message that we care about our community and its image. Our area has seen first hand how seemingly minor crimes and violations, for example littering and parking violations, have directly and indirectly led to more serious crimes such as those involving gangs and drug activity. It is like the "broken

*continued on page 8*



**GPNA OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Mike Bacome 344-3233

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Barbara Remmen 341-8331

**TREASURER**

Jean Peck 344-0722

**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**

Mike Bacome 344-3233

**OFFICE**

Marlene Wilwerding 345-1433

**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



**Lots of Summer Activities For Kids In Gifford Park**

The City of Omaha Sun Dawg summer fun program for kids ages 3-17 (and parents too) is in full swing now through August. Activities include sports, games, reading, arts and crafts, computers, the Playground of Champions and more. The purple and yellow shack in Gifford Park has been alive with many of these activities. For more information, stop by the Sun Dawgs Shack, or call 444-4FUN.

Congratulations to Stoffel and Tyffaney in a jump-roping contest in Dawg program. This qualified televised city-wide contest in which Courtney and Tyffaney!



Gifford Park's own Courtney Slayden. They were champions Gifford Park as part of the Sun Dawg program. This qualified them to participate in the KMTV-televised city-wide contest in which Courtney won FIRST place. Way to go Courtney and Tyffaney!

Gifford Park has been selected as one of the sites for the Sun Dawg "Youth Tennis Learn To Play" program. Current dates and times are: Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 8-26, 11 a.m. -12 noon, in Gifford Park. The program is free for all kids and tennis racquets and balls are provided. This is a great chance to practice before the GPNA Tennis Program starts in August (see related article in this issue).

**GPNA Tennis Program Coming In August**



Dates and times have been set for the third annual GPNA Tennis Program for all kids ages 6 to 15. The program will be each Wednesday in August (Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28) from 6 to 7 p.m. in Gifford Park. Tennis instructors, racquets and balls are supplied and the program is FREE. More information will be available at J'N'J Grocery, California Tacos & More and the GPNA Office later in July. Contact Chris Foster at 342-6006 if you have questions.

**Prevent Crime With More Light**

OPPD offers a "dusk-to-dawn" light program for a very reasonable monthly rate to anyone wanting more light around their property. For \$8.66 per month, OPPD will install and maintain a 175 watt mercury vapor light to an OPPD owned pole, or \$11.65 for a 200 watt high-pressure sodium light. OPPD will, under some circumstances, add an additional pole (if it's within 100 feet of an existing pole). This additional pole will add \$1 to the monthly cost of the light. The cost is added to your monthly electric bill. Light is one of the most effective ways to deter crime.

**Neighborhood Tool Lending Is Five Years Old**

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Tool Lending Program has been in operation for five years. Its goal is simple: provide people in our neighborhood the opportunity to rent tools for a nominal fee (mainly to cover maintenance costs). Everyone can benefit - you DO NOT have to be a GPNA member to take advantage of this program. Many people in our area have no space to store tools or do not have access to certain tools or cannot buy many tools. The neighborhood itself benefits when people use the tools to take care of their home and property.

Ladders, rakes, shovels, saws and garden tools are just some of the tools available with the program. Lawnmowers have been the most popular to rent. Many thanks go to Bob Hutton and Mike Bacome for maintenance of our mowers at little or no cost. For more information call the numbers listed in the adjacent ad.

## Goals Set For Coming Year

Following are general goals established by the GPNA Executive Board.

- ☞ Work with Police to provide a safe environment for our neighborhood.
- ☞ Increase membership - explore new methods.
- ☞ Increase number of volunteers and assign specific jobs.
- ☞ Continue to ask for action by City on code enforcement of all types, and develop best avenues of communication with them.
- ☞ Continue using newsletter as valuable communication tool with our neighborhood.
- ☞ Improve GPNA office environment.
- ☞ Include more appreciation events for volunteers.
- ☞ Continue spring and fall cleanups.
- ☞ Specific efforts to gain still better public relations image - newspaper, TV, letters to officials, owners, landlords. Work with local businesses and institutions.
- ☞ Highlight areas in which to enhance enforcement: sub-standard property, rental as well as owner occupied; traffic law enforcement, speeding, licensing, noise, parking, vehicle storage; weeds, litter, brush over walks, street repair, snow removal.
- ☞ Maintain and enhance contacts with Mayor and City Council representative.
- ☞ Work with adjacent neighborhood associations to improve overall area image.
- ☞ Expand tool lending program.
- ☞ Continue to work toward best possible conditions and appearance of park.

These goals will make for another challenging year while offering many opportunities for everyone involved. The GPNA needs your talents. If interested in becoming involved, or just to get more information, please contact any GPNA officer or committee chair (see page 2).



**CREIGHTON  
UNIVERSITY**

*Special thanks to  
Loretta Zuck and  
Creighton University  
for your help  
with our newsletter.*

## 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**



## Lawn Mowing Service

Call Rich: 341-4388

(8 a.m. to 6 p.m.)



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

Everyone is encouraged to attend the July general meeting at **St. Joseph's Hospital, Thursday, July 11, at 7 p.m.** (\*\*Note the date change because of the holiday). As always there will be plenty of refreshments. We also wish to thank St. Joseph's Hospital for the prizes at the June meeting.

A special thanks to business neighbors **Pat Glass** and **Brian Glass** of **Baker Rents** who donated a canopy to keep us dry during the Spring Cleanup in May. The canopy was donated to us on short notice over the Memorial Day weekend. Baker Rents has been serving Omaha for 40 years and they carry party rentals and convention supplies. They are located on the northwest corner of 33rd and Dodge Streets.

We also want to thank the **Omaha Police Department** for assigning the Police Bike Patrol to our neighborhood starting in early July. This type of patrol in many ways can be more effective than vehicle patrol, especially considering the large amount of foot traffic in our area. The Watch Group has been considering our own bike patrol operation - contact **Ron Yates** at **558-6027** for more information.

Have you seen the new sign above our GPNA Office at 33rd and California Street? It was painted by GPNA member **Jean Peck** in June - and it looks great! The old sign was getting old and quite dull. The new sign is a better reflection of the energy that our many volunteers have.

The **City of Omaha** has indicated they will plant a flower bed in Gifford Park next spring. We may need volunteers to help water and maintain the flower bed once planted, call **Mike Bacome** at **344-3233** or **Leo Wilwerding** at **345-1433** if interested.

**California Tacos & More**, 33rd and California Street, is offering complimentary soft drinks to people on the GPNA Watch Group during their patrol. For more information about the Watch Group, please read the related article on page 6.

**Boy Scout Troop 125** from Yates School has scheduled another camping trip for **July 21-27** at **Camp Eagle**. For more information about this or any other Boy Scout event, call **Mark LeFlore** (431-9272), **Greg Slayden** (345-9033), or **Rich Exline** (341-4388).

There will be a free outdoor jazz festival at St. Cecilia's on Saturday **July 13** from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Bring a lawn chair, refreshments will be available.

*Graeve Law Office*  
**Shurie R. Graeve, Attorney at Law**  
 3528 Dodge Street, Suite 17  
 Omaha, Nebraska 68131-3145  
 (402) 341-0996 fax (402) 341-3996  
*Engaged in the General Practice of Law*  
*Civil & Criminal*

*R & W*  
*Creative Solutions*

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*Public Relations Consulting Services*

*Nanci Walsh*

551-0827

## *California* **Tacos & More**

*Homemade Mexican Food*  
**342-0212**

33rd & California Street  
 Dine In or Carry Out

*Now Open New Summer Hours!!!*

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

Fri - Sat: 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.



## Hats Off To City of Omaha, KOB

The City-wide Spring Cleanup seems to get better each year. From the GPNA's perspective, the efforts of the people from the **City of Omaha** and **Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB)** were outstanding again this year. Special thanks to **Ed Aldmeyer**, Chief Field Inspector for the City of Omaha, and **Cindy Smilley**, KOB, for organizing this huge project. Thanks also to **Paul Dunn** and **Tim Burns** with the **Public Works Department**. And finally, thanks **Mayor Hal Daub** for supporting this invaluable program, it means a great deal to our neighborhood. Hopefully we can do it again next year.

## A Word of Thanks

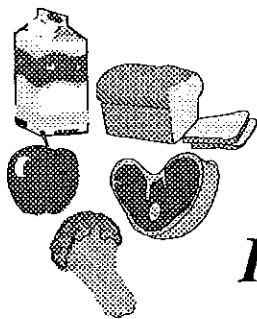
The GPNA extends a heartfelt thanks to advertisers who have either renewed, upgraded, or for the first time purchased yearly ads in our newsletter. We are fortunate to have businesses in our community that support our efforts, and continually strive to meet the needs of this neighborhood. Show that you appreciate them by patronizing their businesses and utilizing their services. Let them know that you saw their ad in the GPNA newsletter, and that you are proud to have them as neighbors. **SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!**

## Digitronix, Kiewit Donate Computer

**Digitronix** and **Kiewit** each donated a few spare components, enough to make a decent computer for our needs. **Eric Rost** and **Rick Limpach** of **Digitronix** put the system together for a very small fee. **Digitronix** has been in business since 1979 and is located at 9005 F Street. They handle computer systems for business or home. They specialize in nearly everything: sales, service, programming, supplies, networks, etc. with quality products at low prices. (This newsletter was produced using **Digitronix** equipment). The donated computer will be used for our membership database and many other functions.

WOULD YOU LIKE  
TO ADVERTISE IN  
THE GIFFORD PARK PRIDE?

*If so, Call:*  
558-6027

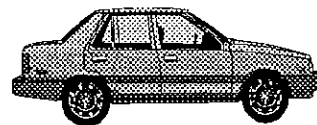


## J'N'J GROCERY STORE

*Fresh Meats -- Fresh Produce  
Friendly Service*

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

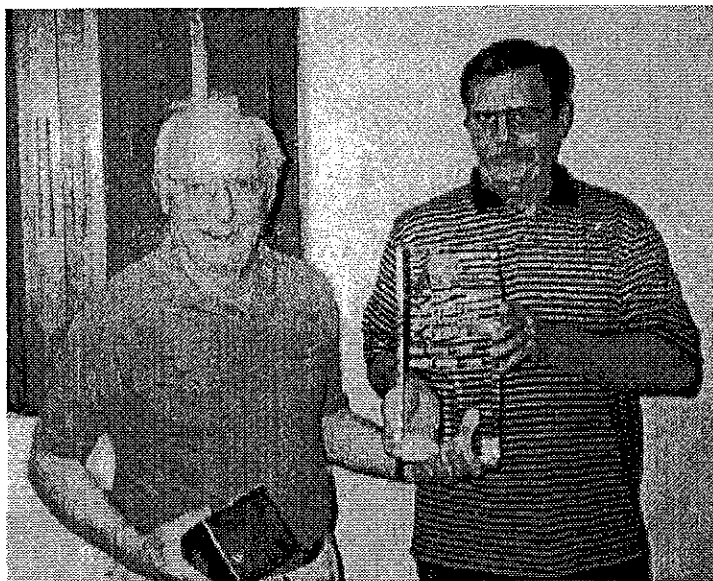
**WE DELIVER!**



**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**



Ron Yates and Harry Dirgo proudly display a new award called the "Everest Survivor's Award". Their names are the first two to be engraved on the award. To get your name on this award you must achieve a very special plateau of volunteer work with our community. Ron and Harry have each logged over 1,000 hours with the GPNA Watch Group! We are currently preparing to display this award at California Tacos & More.

### Election of New Officers

Election of officers was held at the general meeting of the GPNA, June 6. The results of the election are as follows:

President	Leo Wilwerding
Vice President	Mike Bacome
Recording Secretary	Barbara Remmen
Treasurer	Jean Peck

The new officers will serve until June 1997. We wish these officers success in the coming year, knowing theirs is not an easy load.

### NOVA Awards Presented

Neighborhood Outstanding Volunteer Achievement Awards were presented to the following GPNA members for contributions to the Association and the community.

New Member(s)	Linda & Anne Chapman
Experienced Member	Bob Hutton
Business Member	Brad Bogard (California Tacos & More)
Leadership	Cynde Yates

**Congratulations!**



### Watch Group Awards

Even though we printed the following names and hours last month, these are outstanding and worth reprinting. Watch Group awards were presented to the following members along with total cumulative hours of neighborhood patrol since the beginning of the GPNA Watch Group:

Ron Yates .....	1122
Harry Dirgo .....	1061
Terry Wilwerding .....	407
Rich Exline .....	367
Betty Slayden .....	174
Greg Slayden .....	100
Tom Rose.....	16

Ron Yates and Harry Dirgo were honored for their incredible accomplishment of over 1,000 hours logged!

### Watch Group Report

The GPNA Watch Group is beginning its seventh year of observing and reporting on our neighborhood streets with this mission: "We are here to help maintain a healthy, safe, and wholesome environment for ALL the people who live in our neighborhood. Our intent is NOT to bother our neighbors, but to ensure our neighbors are not bothered by those who corrupt our community. As a committee of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association we invite you to walk with us and attend our monthly meetings and participate in the betterment of our community."

The Watch Group has a few guidelines for participation. Besides preventing crime, the Watch Group is a great way to meet your neighbors, discuss ideas, get to know the area better, and get exercise when we have enough volunteers to walk. There has even been talk of a bike patrol. Call Ron Yates at 558-6027 for more information.

## Historically Speaking... What's In A Name?

*Editor's note: Eva Swanson is taking a well-deserved break from her Historically Speaking column. Recently I have had requests to reprint the following article (written by Eva a few years ago) about the names of our streets.*

Do you live on a named street between Dodge and Cuming? Ever wonder how it got its name? A little research at the Omaha Public Library revealed the following bits of history:

**DODGE** - A 1926 publication claims this street was named in honor of General Grenville M. Dodge, chief engineer in building the Union Pacific Railroad. A 1917 publication, however, recorded that Dodge Street bears the name of Augustus C. Dodge. He introduced the bill in the U.S. Senate that resulted in the organization of the Territory of Nebraska in 1854.

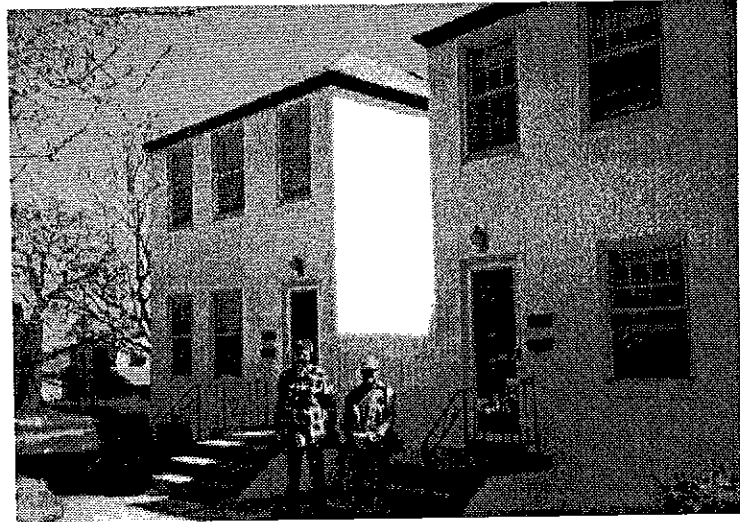
**DAVENPORT** - Named by a group of bankers from Davenport, Iowa, who opened a branch banking house in Florence. The street was named in honor of their home town and also honors a leading family of that city.

**CHICAGO** - Chicago, Illinois. "Chicago, Davenport, and Omaha" were on the direct line of travel to the gold fields.

**CASS** - Named in honor of Lewis Cass, Secretary of State in Presidents Buchanan's cabinet. He ran for President of the U.S. in 1848 but was defeated by Zachary Taylor.

**CALIFORNIA** - Said to have been named because of the gold seekers of the early 1850's landed near the foot of this street. They crossed the Missouri River on the "Lone Tree" ferry and continued their way west via "California" Street.

**WEBSTER** - Named in honor of Colonel E. Daniel Webster, private secretary to Marlin H. Seward, the Secretary of State. Col. Webster was instrumental in organizing the Republican Party. He died in 1852, two years before Omaha



*Jeff Erickson and Elmer Ochsenbein, pictured here in front of their apartment buildings located on the southeast corner of 36th and Burt Streets, are our 'Landlord(s) of the Month'.*

### Landlord(s) of the Month...

#### Jeff Erickson and Elmer Ochsenbein

This month The Outstanding Landlord Award goes to Jeff Erickson and Elmer Ochsenbein. Jeff and Elmer own the apartments at 3525 and 3527 Burt and 719 and 721 N. 36 St. These apartments are on the southeast corner of 36th and Burt and are painted in matching colors. The apartments have a very neat appearance and the yards are always trimmed and well kept. Jeff and Elmer said that they are considering purchasing more property in the neighborhood. Congratulations to Jeff and Elmer as the July GPNA landlords of the month.

We are looking for other good landlords in our neighborhood, so if you have a landlord that you would like to nominate for this award call Terry Wilwerding at 342-2795

*by Terry Wilwerding*

was platted. The street led to and from the Webster Street depot.

**BURT** - Named in honor of Francis Burt, first territorial governor of Nebraska. He died of colonitis in Bellevue on October 18, 1854, only 12 days after his arrival in the territory.

**CUMING** - Named in honor of Thomas B. Cuming, second territorial governor of Nebraska, who succeeded Francis Burt.

*by Eva Swanson*

*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.*

