



Gifford Park's Pride

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

April 1998

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Dates Set for Spring Clean-Up; Garage Sale

This year's Spring Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, April 25th, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The City of Omaha will provide dumpsters which will be located in Gifford Park, and the GPNA will have trucks and volunteers available to load and haul trash and refuse. The purpose of the Spring Clean-Up is for all neighbors to clean up yards, streets, alleys, vacant lots, and the park. Make the effort to get involved and offer your assistance - it's a great way to meet YOUR neighbors and help to make YOUR neighborhood a beautiful place to live! For more information, or to volunteer, contact Chris Foster (342-6006), Terry Wilwerding (342-2795), or Leo Wilwerding (345-1433).

The GPNA's 2nd Annual Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, April 18th, starting at 8 a.m. The sale will be located at the Duchesne Academy parking lot (northwest corner of 36th and California). Since this sale is a major fund-raising project, the Calling Committee will be contacting members to donate usable items (no clothing) and for volunteers to help staff the sale. To volunteer, donate items, or for more information, call Leo Wilwerding (345-1433) or Jim Wilwerding (551-1344).

9th Annual GPNA Easter Egg Hunt

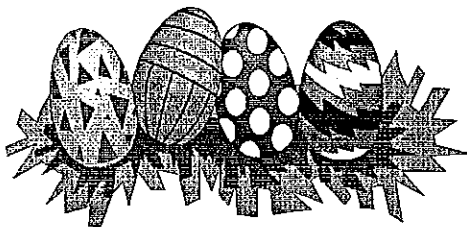
Saturday, April 4th

Noon (Sharp!)

Rain or Shine

at Gifford Park

Children Ages 12 & under



Bring Your Easter Baskets
& Be Ready To Hunt!

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 2
7:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker: Mel Beckman
Augustana Cornerstone
Foundation

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

FREE PARKING

Farewell, Rich!



Rich Exline, a long time active member of the GPNA, has moved out of town. Rich was responsible for record-keeping for the neighborhood watch, participated in the patrols, worked with the 33rd Street merchants to keep litter cleaned up and weeds under control, attended many of our meetings, and could be counted upon to help out with many of our projects, such as the cleanups, garage sale, and Easter egg hunt, as well as weed control and graffiti removal in the park. Rich was also active with the Salvation Army, and ran a yardwork and snow-shoveling business in our area. Needless to say, he will be greatly missed. Thanks for all your help, Rich, good luck, and we hope to see you in the future.

GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Bacome 344-3233

RECORDING SECRETARY

Shirley Bates 345-8430

TREASURER

Jean Reck 344-0722

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**ADVERTISING**

Dar Sweazy 345-0125

CLEAN-UP

Chris Foster 342-6006

COMPLIANCE

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

COURTESY

Gandy Bacome 344-3233

GRAFFITI

Maureen Calabro 345-7238

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

LITTER - BUSINESS DISTRICT

Rich Exline 341-4388

MEMBERSHIP

Chris Foster 342-6006

NEWSLETTER

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Mike Bacome 344-3233

PARK

Mike Bacome 344-3233

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anne & Linda Chapman 348-0464

WATCH GROUP

Rich Exline 341-4388

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

A Message From The President

Well, spring appears finally to be getting here. By the time you read this, I expect most of the snow will have melted, and we will be getting into what is probably our busiest time of the year.

Our first big event in April is the Easter Egg Hunt, to be held the first Saturday of the month. In cooperation with J&J Grocery, we will provide candy and toys for children in the area. As in last year's event, children will be divided into groups by age, so everyone gets a good chance of getting some treats. We will be talking about this event at the meeting, and will need some volunteers to work a few hours the morning of the event to distribute the prizes, organize the children, and keep things under control. The children always seem to have a great time, so I hope some of you will be able to help out.

The second big event is the garage sale. We will be talking about this at the meeting also. We are looking for donations of usable items to be sold at this event to raise money for future association activities. We will also need volunteers to help pick up items and work at the sale. I spent most of the day at the sale last year, had a lot of fun, and met quite a few of the other members that I didn't know, so I would recommend your participation in this event also. **Leo Wilwerding (345-1433)** is the person to contact if you have a donation to make or want to help out.

The next event will be tree planting. An article elsewhere in this issue (page 3) provides details. I expect to get one of the trees myself, and hope we can find takers for all 50 trees. Certainly some of the attraction of our neighborhood comes from the wealth of mature trees. Particularly where trees were damaged or destroyed by the storm, we need to provide replacements, which is the intended goal of the program. If the location of the tree is in the street right of way and meets the requirements stated, be sure you get your name and address on the list at the meeting. We will also be talking about transporting and planting trees for those unable to do so themselves, so if you would like a tree but can't haul it or plant it, be sure to contact one of the officers, or bring it up at the meeting. I will be generally in charge of the organizing the acquisition of trees, so you can call me if you have questions or want to get involved.

The last big planned event will be the cleanup, scheduled for Saturday the 25th, which is during the last weekend of April (hopefully with this late date we'll avoid the possibility of snow). As usual, we will be taking calls for people who need trash picked up and hauled to the dumpster site, and will need volunteers to work doing pickups, doing some cleanup in the park, and providing general labor. Though plans are not yet firm, I expect we will be serving lunch to the workers as we have in the past. **Chris Foster (342-6006)** is managing the cleanup effort this spring so if you want to help out, get in touch with him. Despite the amount of physical work, the cleanup is usually a lot of fun, so plan on being there.

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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 Sue Wilwerding (342-2795) or Chris Foster (342-6006) for information regarding the newsletter.

From the Desk of the President

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We will also be starting our membership drive in April, though it will be an ongoing process. If you are a current member, you are invited to renew your membership now (even though the new year starts June 1). If you are not a current member, memberships started now will be effective through May of 1999. The association has usually done a luke-warm job of recruiting members in the past, but we are planning to take a more active attitude in this year, which will mark our tenth anniversary.

It has been good to see **Officer Mike Paul** back on the streets again. As you may have heard, Officer Paul suffered a minor injury which temporarily put him behind a desk. During the interim, it seemed like we saw a lot more vehicular violations in the area. Apparently he is hard at work again to remedy the situation, for which he has our support and thanks.

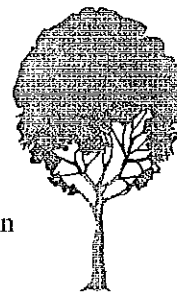
Now that the snow is melting, or perhaps gone, all of the litter that was covered is now exposed and blowing around. I have kept busy picking up trash blowing into my yard (and some that is dropped by people passing by). I hope you also will make the effort to keep our neighborhood clean and attractive. One of the best ways to see that our neighborhood is preserved and improved is to attract people into the area that believe in maintaining and improving property. It is unlikely that these people are attracted by yards covered with litter.

We are still looking for candidates for the positions of vice-president and treasurer. There seems to be perception among members that being an officer entails vast amounts of work, time and responsibility. Potential candidates can rest assured that the responsibility rarely rests on any one person. I would imagine that either of these positions could be accomplished in two or three hours per month. Working as president, I probably don't spend more than five or six hours per month. If you believe the goals of the association are important, please consider getting involved.

As you can see, we will have many topics to discuss at the April meeting. I hope you plan on attending.

by Jim Wilwerding

Free Trees Available Soon



As many of you may have read in the paper, there are a couple of programs available this spring for free trees.

The first program requires that you pick up and plant the tree yourself. Coupons will be distributed which can be redeemed at **Mulhall's Nursery** (120th and Maple) the week of **April 17-24**. These trees will be in pots, and are supposed to be 6 to 7 foot trees. The varieties available are red oak, burr oak, swamp white oak, white oak, pin oak, English oak, ginkgo, hackberry, sugar maple, white ash, and linden. We will have 50 coupons, which will be distributed at the April meeting. If we have enough interested parties, we may organize a group pickup, where a couple of people can go out in pickup trucks and get the trees, and deliver them to individual houses. If we don't have takers for all 50 coupons, the extras will be turned back in to the city, as other groups expressed an interest in obtaining more than the original number of coupons allocated to each association.

The second program available provides trees planted by the city. These trees must be planted in the street right of way, which is generally within 15-20 feet of the curb. The trees may not be planted within 3 feet of pavement, 35 feet of an intersection, 15 feet of a power pole, within 45 feet of an existing tree, or under power lines. Varieties available are green ash, honey locust, red oak, white oak, catalpa, black cherry, American linden, schnard oak, sycamore, ginkgo, hackberry, sugar maple, swamp white oak, tulip tree, black walnut. The request list will be at the April meeting, and the list needs to be turned in by April 24. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to get on this list, please call **Jim Wilwerding** at **551-1344**.

These programs are an excellent opportunity, at no cost to us, to replace damaged trees and to add trees to our neighborhood.

Last Chance for 1998!

Free Tax Help for basic tax returns

April 4 and 11 (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

at the GPNA Office

33rd & California St.

Call 551-3629 for Information



Artist At Work



J. Rome and his assistants Brandon and Deandre Sturgeon are busy creating another one of their colorful holiday scenes for the window at J and J Grocery. Neighbors and those passing through the area keep track of the seasons by watching the delightful and imaginative paintings change during the year. His artistic talent is admired by many!

What's Happening in the Neighborhood ...

Everyone is encouraged to attend the next general meeting **Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m.**, at **St. Joseph Hospital**. There will be many important items to discuss concerning the **Spring Clean-Up, Garage Sale, Easter Egg Hunt, and Free Tree Program**. The guest speaker at the meeting will be **Mel Beckman** from the **Augustana Cornerstone Foundation**, which is a program designed to rehabilitate housing in this area. Come early, meet your neighbors, and enjoy the refreshments. Many thanks to State Legislative Representative **Shelley Kiel**, who spoke at our last meeting.

"Rags," a cooperative effort between **Duchesne Academy and Creighton Prep**, will be performed from **April 2 through April 5** in the **Duchesne Auditorium**. Curtain times will be **Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.** with a **2 p.m. matinee on Sunday**. "Rags" takes place in **New York City** during the great immigration of the early 1900's. It closely examines the lives of a group of Jewish immigrants who are trying to create a new life for themselves after fleeing the persecution so prevalent in Eastern Europe. A cast and crew of more than 40 students will take part in the production. Admission is \$5 for students and \$6 for adults.



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 _____