



# Gifford Park's Pride

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

June 1998

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

## Membership Drive Begins

June 1 marks 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!

Our membership year runs from June, 1998 to June, 1999. 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, we 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, 1999.

We believe the GPNA should reach out to new residents and inform them of our group, interests and efforts. We are working on developing a "New Resident Packet" to be provided to new people in our area. To do this we need your help. Please let me know the address of any new residents in your block. You can call me at 342-6006. You may also inform any GPNA Officer.

In addition, it would be nice if all members 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 participate also. It doesn't have to take much time. Try to make a difference. Together, we can.

## Nominating Committee Report

The following individuals have been selected as the proposed slate of officers of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association for the 1998/1999 year-long term:

President	Jim Wilwerding
Vice-President	Chris Foster
Recording Secretary	Jean Peck
Treasurer	Sandy Saner

These names will be placed in nomination at the June meeting for a vote, so please plan to attend.

**Reminder: You must be a GPNA member to vote!**

## Next Meeting

Thursday, June 4  
7:00 P.M.

## Election of Officers

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

**Note: No July Meeting!**

## Watch Group Activities

The GPNA Watch Group is beginning its ninth 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. We have even had our own bike patrol. Call Terry Wilwerding at 342-2795 for more information.

## NOTICE

During the spring cleanup we lost one of our walkie talkies. These are small Radio Shack radios with GPNA written on the back. We use these radios for many of our activities. If you have seen one of these radios, you may return it to a member or leave it at JNJ or California Tacos. We would certainly appreciate having it back.

**GPNA OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Mike Bacome 344-3233

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Shirley Bates 545-3460

**TREASURER**

Jean Pack 344-0722

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS****ADVERTISING**

Dar Swerzy 545-0125

**CLEANUP**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**COMPLIANCE**

Jes Wilwerding 345-1483

**COURTESY**

Candy Bacome 344-3233

**GRAFFITI**

Maureen Calabro 345-7238

**HISTORIAN**

Eva Swanson 545-1707

**MEMBERSHIP**

Chris Foster 342-6006

**NEWSLETTER**

Sue Wilwerding 342-2795

**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

Mike Bacome 344-3233

**PARK**

Mike Bacome 344-3233

**PARKING VIOLATIONS**

Jenny Wilwerding 342-2795

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Anne &amp; Linda Chapman 348-0464

**TOOL LENDING**

Tom Rose 341-3955

**WATCH GROUP**

Jenny Wilwerding 342-2795

**WEEDS & LITTER**

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344

## A Message From The President

I am sure that those of you who attended the May meeting agree with me that the Duchesne building was well worth touring, with its many points of architectural interest, the chapel being the most impressive, in my opinion. Certainly the museum presented many informative photos of the history of Duchesne. Equally impressive is the educational program provided by the staff. Our thanks to Sheila Haggas and Mary Duffy for extending their hospitality to our group. If we have sufficient interest, perhaps we can schedule another tour in the future for those who were unable to attend.

Looking ahead, we will have the election of officers at the June meeting. The Nominating Committee has identified candidates for the four elective positions. Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the meeting. Nominations will then be closed and a vote taken, if needed.

As we had previously discussed, neither the executive board meeting nor the general meeting will be held in July. We do anticipate providing a newsletter that month.

One of the Association's two-way radios was taken at the cleanup in May. We would like to have it back. We are not especially interested in who took it. If you know who might have it, kindly encourage them to return it. They can drop it off at California Tacos, or give it to one of the members to bring to the meeting. I don't imagine that the radio serves any purpose for the person who took it, since you need at least two to use them. Certainly the Association needs to have the radios for our various functions.

As you may have read in the paper, the Association has received a grant of \$510 from the Omaha Community Foundation to help pay for the dumpsters for the fall cleanup. As you may know, the dumpsters for the spring cleanup are paid for by the city, but the association has, in the past, paid for the fall cleanup dumpsters from our treasury. The grant helps ease the cost considerably.

We had also requested funds to buy a printer for use by the volunteers who organize and prepare the newsletter for publication. As you may have noticed, some of the pictures haven't printed too well. A better printer would allow for better pictures, which would improve the quality of the newsletter. Unfortunately we did not receive a grant for this. We are currently investigating the cost and utility of the printers available, and will discuss this and vote on whether to spend the money at a future meeting. I believe that we have one of the best newsletters of the neighborhood associations, and also believe that the newsletter is a vital link to those in the neighborhood who are not members or who are unable to attend meetings. Improving the quality of the newsletter would improve the effectiveness of the Association. Considering the state of the treasury, which received substantial boosts from the garage sale and the cleanup, I think we can afford to spend the money, especially since the printer would last many years.

Also at the June meeting, I would like to try something new. As you may have

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### TOOL LENDING HOTLINE

Tom 341-3955

Mike 344-3233

Chris 342-6006

Ron 558-6027

Mowers - \$5

Rent for most tools - \$3



## From the Desk of the President

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noticed, on the inside page of the newsletter we list people who survey the neighborhood and handle complaints about weeds, litter, junk cars, etc. I am sure that some problems are overlooked. If you know of a problem in one of these areas, and would like to have it reported, please write down the pertinent details on a piece of paper and bring it to the meeting with you. We will then distribute the problems to the appropriate people for reporting. Please include in your note the address, the problem (weeds, litter, junk car), and if possible your name and phone number, so we can get back to you if we need further information. Please be as specific as you can, especially concerning vehicle violations (brand of vehicle, color, license number, if any).

While surveying the neighborhood I am pleased to see so many people taking excellent care of their property. It seems I see more gardens and nicer lawns every year. Thanks to all of you who put in the work to improve your property, and thus improve the neighborhood.

*by Jim Wilwerding*



## City of Omaha Parks & Recreation Sun Dawg Summer Fun Youth Program

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Beginning June 15 - August 6**

No Cost

Activities include:

**Fun, sports, games, reading, arts  
and crafts, trips,  
camp programs, swimming and  
more.**

**Registration is Friday, June 12  
at the  
Gifford Park  
Sun Dawg Shack**

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

The GPNA would like to thank **Duchesne Academy** for hosting the May general meeting. **Sheila Haggas**, Head of School, and **Mary Duffy**, Principal, were involved in making the arrangements. Thanks also to Mrs. Duffy for conducting the tour, especially after a busy day at school. It was exciting to discover the "treasure" that exists in our own neighborhood!

Congratulations to **California Tacos** owner **Brad Bogard** and his wife **Virna** on the latest addition to their family, **Benjamin Steven Bogard**, born April 20. Brad and Virna also have a 2 year-old daughter **Janine Audrey**.

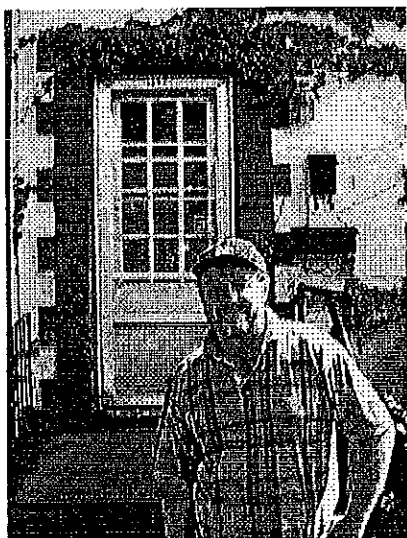
Congratulations to longtime GPNA member **Bob Hutton** for earning the 1998 Part-time Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching. Bob teaches classes in small engines and plumbing at Metropolitan Community College.

We will miss longtime and long-distance GPNA member **Robert Foster** of Bow, New Hampshire who passed away March 15 at the age of 85. Robert was the grandfather of **Chris Foster**. Robert and his wife Margaret gave generous donations toward the annual summer tennis program in Gifford Park.

Longtime resident **Margaret Campbell** recently passed away this spring. You may remember Margaret was featured in our newsletter and the Omaha World Herald a couple of years ago when someone tried to steal her purse near 33rd & California. The person trying to steal her purse was run down and caught by some good samaritans working on a house nearby. Margaret lived at 32nd and California.

The City of Omaha is offering Learn to Play Youth Tennis Lessons sponsored by the Metro Omaha Tennis Alliance and Tennis 1-2-3. Beginner, Advanced Beginner, and Advanced Intermediate classes will be offered, and three different sessions will be available. Fees will be charged depending on the number of times the class meets. Partial scholarships are available on a need basis. The closest location to the Gifford Park area is Dewey Park. For more information, call 444-4980. For information on any of the summer recreation programs, call 444-4FUN.

## Landlord of the Month



Our featured landlord this month is Ken Martens, who owns the four apartments on the Southwest corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> and Burt. Ken has owned these apartments since 1994. The apartments are nicely painted, the lawn is neat and the walks are shoveled in the wintertime. Ken was mowing the lawn the afternoon that I caught him for this picture. In recognition of his well kept property, the GPNA honors Ken Martens as the June Landlord of the Month.

*by Terry Wilwerding*

## Neighborhood Tool Lending Is Seven Years Old

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Tool Lending Program has been in operation for seven 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. 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 at \$5. Many thanks go to **Bob Hutton** and **Mike Bacome** for maintenance of our mowers at little or no cost. The GPNA is always looking for additional tools or mowers that anyone would like to donate for the tool lending. For more information call **Tom 341-3955**, **Mike 344-3233**, **Ron 558-6027**, or **Chris 342-6006**.

*Have a Safe and Fun Summer!*

## Weeds...how tall is too tall?

City of Omaha code states that weeds (or any vegetation) cannot be over 18" tall. The following steps can be taken if this code is violated:

- A complaint can be filed by anyone
- A City Inspector will send the property owner a 10 day notice to cut the weeds
- If the owner does not respond, the address is put on a mowing list
- Property will be mowed and the owner will be charged according to the size of job



**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 \_\_\_\_\_