



# Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

528 North 32nd Street

Omaha, NE 68131



Chairman - Jim Windorski 341-4695

Vice-chairman - Chuck Kilgore 558-5000/341-2757

Treasurer - Ron Yates 558-6027

Secretary - Corky Grimes 345-3217

Corresponding Secretary - Ruth Windorski 341-4695

November, 1990

## CU PARKING LOT AND MEDICAL BUILDING UPDATE

by Jim Windorski

Demolition of properties purchased by Creighton University for the parking lot and Medical Building is underway. Huge piles of earth cover the corner of 32nd and Webster.

Neighbors on Webster Street or Burt Street who feel you are being offended in any way by the construction in the 30th to 32nd, and Burt to Webster streets area, may call Mr. Jim Willett at 280-3073. The university is sensitive to neighborhood concerns.

Plans are to have the west end section of the parking lot completed before the fall freeze.

## SECOND ANNUAL HOLIDAY BANQUET

Our GPNA Holiday Banquet will be held on December 6, starting at 6 p.m. It will be held in the glassed-in area of the St. Joseph Hospital cafeteria. Our meeting for December will be the banquet.

All St. Joseph's Hospital asks of us is that we RSVP by November 29th. Thank you St. Joe's. . .

As part of our spirits of giving for the holiday season, the GPNA is asking a minimum of one can of food per member as admission to the banquet. The food will be given to needy families in our neighborhood by our holiday sharing committee.

Make plans now to attend. RSVP by calling Ruth Windorski at 341-4695. Please refer to the December newsletter for children's holiday activities.

**ELECTION DAY is Tuesday,  
November 6th.  
Make your opinion count:  
VOTE!**

## THE SECRET IS OUT!

By the time you receive this newsletter, the new official park sign should be in place at the northeast entrance to Gifford Park, on 33rd and Cass. Thank you to the City of Omaha Parks, Recreation, and Public Property Department. Now everyone will know the name of "that pretty little park" in our neighborhood. It has been a secret for so many years.

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF PLACE\*\*\*

## NEXT MEETING:

## HOLIDAY PLANNING VIP PROGRAM

**\*NOVEMBER 1, 7:00 P.M.\***

**ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL  
ROOM #6712  
FREE PARKING**

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF PLACE\*\*\*

## ABOUT YOUR NEWSLETTER

by Jim Windorski

This issue of the GPNA newsletter contains some important pages. It is assembled so the phone number page may be pasted by your phone. The page for writing down your observations if you see anything unusual in your block is for your convenience and to assist you in becoming involved in helping to make our neighborhood just a little more aware. By being more aware, ours will be a safer neighborhood.

Should you have problems you feel may need the help of the GPNA, always feel free to call me at 341-4695. I will always try to help.

## BABA YAGA TO VISIT BEMIS PARK

*A Special Item from our Bemis Park Neighbors*

Story telling is an art old as the history of man, and many of man's stories have been about witches. Omaha, Nebraska, is the home of a 600 year-old witch, Baba Yaga, who tells stories for children and their families. Baba Yaga is going to be in Omaha on November 11, performing her stories at the Augustana Lutheran Church, 38th and Lafayette Ave., at 3 p.m.

Baba Yaga's appearance in Omaha is made possible through the sponsorship of the Touring Program of the Nebraska Arts Council, a state agency, and under the sponsorship of the Bemis Park Neighborhood Association.

## FALL CLEANUP REPORT

by Chris Foster

This year's fall cleanup (Saturday, October 20) turned out better than we had anticipated due to decent weather and many neighborhood volunteers. Our neighborhood filled two 20 cubic yard dumpsters provided to us by Central Waste. Thanks to John Lynch, we paid only \$125 per dumpster. Ed Hendershot provided pumpkins again this year. 7-11 gave us coffee — that kept everyone moving. Ruth Windorski and Judi Caban served coffee, roasted hot dogs and marshmallows, and kept everyone organized. Mad Dads provided doughnuts, rolls, hot dogs, and pop for everyone during the afternoon. KOB (Keep American Beautiful) gave us brochures, stickers, pins, and balloons. Special thanks to Ruth Windorski for making and distributing flyers and helping during the week of the cleanup. We want to thank Anthony Tempesta and members of the Pike House Fraternity for the great job they did cleaning Gifford Park and some of our streets in the area. Several volunteers sacrificed their trucks. They were: Ron Yates, Rick Liddick, Ed Hendershot, and others. We separated recyclable items (iron, aluminum, bottles) and donated them to the Mad Dads. The Gifford Park Neighborhood should be proud of our cleanup effort and the other events that went on that day. It was much more than a cleanup, it was a day of working together, seeing neighbors, meeting new friends, and having a great time together. Thanks to all of the neighbors who helped make our cleanup a success: Leo Wilwerding; Ron Yates; Tony Tempesta (and the Pikes); Ed and Farol Hendershot; Harry Dirgo; Mike and Judi Caban; Jim, Ruth, Lance, Ross, and Kent Windorski; Rick and Heath Liddick; J.J. Walling; Chad and Chris Balkovec; Chris Reich; Timmy and Eddy Hendershot; and all those who somehow escaped mentioning.

## SPECIAL THANKS

by The Executive Board

Special thanks to Chris Foster for a bang-up job in organizing the Fall Cleanup. As his report shows, it was a huge success. His report doesn't show that we couldn't have done it without him. Good work, Chris!

### FALL BACK!

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour this Sunday, October 28, and enjoy that extra hour of sleep!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Ron Yates

Balance 9/25/90	\$2,936.85
New Memberships (14)	42.00
Donation (Hendershot)	20.00
Donation (Drug Free)	14.00
Donation (Cleanup)	7.00
Donation (for Neighborhood Watch)	<u>2.00</u>
	\$3,021.85
Judi Caban (Workshop)	20.00
Post Office (Stamps)	50.00
Walgreens (Envelopes)	4.21
Mike Schartz (Paint-a-thon)	53.19
Jim Windorski (Paint-a-thon)	16.50
Ed Hendershot (Pumpkins)	70.00
Central Waste (Dumpster)	125.00
Central Waste (Dumpster)	<u>125.00</u>
Balance 10/22/90	\$2,557.95

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Ruth Windorski

Membership in the GPNA is now 220. The following neighbors have joined the association since the printing of our last newsletter: Mike Schartz, Brad Bogard, Max Bogard, and Pat McVaney.

The cost of membership is \$3.00 per year, which hardly covers newsletter expenses. As members you will

receive a newsletter each month. If you do not receive an issue, please call it to my attention at 341-4695. A lot of things can happen in the distribution or mailing of newsletters. It is our goal to have these in the hands of our neighbors by the weekend preceding our general GPNA meeting, held the first Thursday of each month.

### GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES -- \$3.00 PER PERSON -- MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JUNE 1, 1991**

If paying by check, make checks payable to GPNA

Mail to Ruth Windorski: 528 N. 32nd St., Omaha, NE 68131

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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

by Chuck Kilgore

For the last several months, the Board of the GPNA has met weekly with various representatives of area institutions, including: Creighton University, Boys Town National Research Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital, and Omaha Public Schools. The purpose of these meetings has been to develop a plan among the area institutions and the GPNA to revitalize the GPNA neighborhood. The plan that was proposed to the institutional representatives suggests the creation of a Community Development Corporation briefly outlined as follows:

1. Board to consist of GPNA board members and representatives of Creighton University, Boys Town National Research Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital, and Omaha Public Schools;
2. Each institution shall provide combinations of grant money, loan guarantees, and loan subsidies.
3. Possible projects to be proposed:
  - a. 33rd and California Street commercial store front rehabilitation project;
  - b. Center to provide day care services to area employees and residents;
  - c. Project for orderly student/fraternity and institutional employee housing development;
  - d. Project to provide convenient and adequate parking facilities to service 33rd and California business district;
  - e. Joint venture project between St. Joseph Hospital and the neighborhood laundry or dry cleaners;
  - f. Joint venture project between St. Joseph Hospital and the neighborhood drug store;
  - g. Development of a fifteen (15) year comprehensive expansion plan for the area institutions;
  - h. Implementation of a marketing plan to stimulate private investment; and
  - i. Rehabilitation of 33rd and California Street business district, including sidewalks, diagonal parking, street lights, and landscaping.

At this point, Creighton University and St. Joseph Hospital have approved the basic Community Development Corporation concept. If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like a complete copy of the CDC proposal, contact me or another board member.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

by Mike Caban

Thank you to all the people who showed up Saturday, October 20th. Although the rain and the cold conditions made it an uncomfortable outing, I think our presence that night was especially meaningful. To those who walked with us for the first time, I hope it was a positive experience, and one that will encourage you to join the Neighborhood Watch Group. We feel we have made a difference, and apparently many of our community members do, too. I invite anyone interested in being a part of this pro-active effort to call either myself, Mike Caban, 341-4722, or Ron Yates, 558-6027, for details about our rules and walk schedule. If you have reason to believe that drug dealing, or any other criminal activities, are being conducted on your block, let us know and we will target these areas on our walks.

**If you would like to nominate someone for Neighbor of the Month, please contact Ron Yates at 558-6027. The person does not have to be a member of GPNA to be nominated!**

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## NEIGHBOR OF THE MONTH

Our September Neighbor of the Month is Harry Dirgo. Harry has lived in the Gifford Park area for over 48 years at the same address. When Harry was a teenager, he learned to fly, and after service in the first peacetime draft, became a flight instructor. In 1964 he started working as a private pilot for many of the Omaha area's large corporations. Harry has flown everything from 2,700 H.P. Loadstar down to a 40 H.P. Taylor craft. In 1982, Harry dropped his flaps and slowed down. Still flying today but not as much. Finding time, Harry has worked on the original clean sweep, helped with clean up, delivers the newsletter, and is a key person in the Neighborhood Watch. Welcome aboard, Harry. We hope you enjoy your flight.

Landlords -- who needs them! Well, when they are like John Thein, we do. John, our October Neighbor of the Month, came to Omaha in 1975 to teach art at Creighton University after receiving a Bachelor's degree from the Layton School of Art and an MFA from the University of Iowa. In 1985, John discovered two four-plexes in the Gifford Park area and selected carefully-screened tenants. This past summer, John has added patios between the units and done a great deal of landscaping. Five years of hard work is paying off for John, his tenants, and the neighborhood. Thank you, Professor Thein.

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## VOLUNTEER INCENTIVE PROGRAM PROPOSAL

by Mike Caban

I submit for your consideration, the above-mentioned program to stimulate participation in the various volunteer activities of our organization. Program dynamics to be structured as see fit. I have outlined some criteria that may be used to implement such a program, for example:

1. Fifty accumulated hours of participation in one or more of our activities.  
AWARD — Ball cap with GPNA logo, or T-shirt with logo.
2. One hundred hours of participation in one or more of our activities.  
AWARD — Silk jacket with GPNA logo and "VIP 100" patch.
3. Each additional hundred hours over one hundred hours of participation in one or more of our activities.  
AWARD — Sew-on patch (a chevron, for example)

These awards to be presented at a yearly dinner/banquet or special meeting held specifically for the purpose of Honors and Awards to members, organizations, community people, and/or businesses that have done outstanding work for the GPNA and our neighborhood.

# EDITORIAL CORNER

*Readers are welcome to submit their letters for the Editorial Corner to any Executive Board member prior to the Executive Board meeting held the third Thursday of every month. The Executive Board has final approval for all editorials appearing in this section. Full name and address must be included on all letters submitted. The views and opinions stated are not necessarily those of GPNA or the Executive Board.*

## CHILDREN NEED SUPERVISION

by Brian Kokensparger

Almost every day I see a whole band of young children running, unsupervised, through the neighborhood. They don't care about whose yard they invade, and whose possessions they destroy. Their parents don't seem to care, either. In the last couple of months alone, these children have damaged my wooden gate, taken items from my yard and not returned them, trampled my flowers, etc. Shouting "Cowabunga," and other Saturday morning cartoon gibberish, they savagely curse each other and destroy anything that crosses their paths. Any attempt to reprimand them is met with sneers and back-talk.

They're not bad kids — they just don't know any better. The point is: These children are not being supervised by their parents.

If the matter was only a few trampled flowers and repair of a gate, it wouldn't even be worth mentioning. But my greatest concern is for the children's safety. First, many of the yards in our neighborhood are not "child-protected;" tools and other dangerous objects, if unattended for even a moment, can mean a life-threatening injury if they fall into the wrong hands. Although the children are wrong for trespassing, no one wants to see

an injury. Secondly, unsupervised children are a target for emotionally unstable people who wish to do them harm. Finally, these children need to learn that there are limitations and rules under which they must live; if given free reign to run and spoil where they may, where will they learn the discipline to face the tough challenges ahead?

For all of you parents out there, I sincerely urge you to supervise your children. Know where they are at all times, and what they are doing. Teach them to respect other people's property and privacy. And, yes, let them know there are consequences that come along with destruction and vandalism. But this isn't just up to the parents. Let's all take it upon ourselves to be aware of the children in our area, and if the children are not respecting other people's property, do not hesitate to find out the identity of the parents of these children. Encourage those parents to do their duty. If that doesn't help, take matters to the neighborhood association or even to the authorities.

When it comes to the safety and well-being of our children and our neighborhood, getting involved is not causing trouble — it's avoiding it!

OMAHA POLICE DIVISION

SUSPECTED NARCOTICS ACTIVITY INFORMATION

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT USE ONLY
Control No.
Date Received

Date Reported Agency Forwarded To
Report Received By Date Forwarded
Agency Forwarded By

DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION INVOLVED: On The Street House Apartment Building Business
Address Color of Building
Number of Floors Telephone No.
Apartment Number

IDENTITY OF PERSONS SELLING: Unknown
Name Age Sex Race
1.
2.
3.

DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE(S) INVOLVED: Unknown
Year Make Color License State
1.
2.

TYPE OF DRUGS INVOLVED:

METHOD OF OPERATION:
Most Active Days of the Week:
Most Active Hours of the Day:

Selling To: Anyone Only Persons They Know Unknown
Other
Selling From: Unknown Hole-in-the-Door or Wall Direct to Customers
Buyer's Approach is: Front Door Porch Rear Door Side Door
Specify

Comments:

SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION:
The identity of persons reporting suspected drug activity is kept in the strictest of confidence. Would you be willing to speak with a detective about your information:
Yes No Name Phone No.

Source Notified of Disposition:
Date Time By

Call:
Crimestoppers
444-5681
Narcotics Unit (OPD)

Please return completed form to:
Department of Public Safety
1819 Farnam Street, Suite 306
Omaha, NE 68183

## WATCHING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MAKING A REPORT TO YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

The number to call when reporting suspicious activity is 911.

Give the Police Telephone Operator:

Your name and address

The reason for the call.

The location of the activity.

The description of the suspect and any vehicle involved.

Be sure to make a written note of as many of the below as possible. The Operator may not want all of the information below at the time of receiving the call. Keep the information for the Officer when he arrives.

Do not hang up until the Operator has all the information required and you are told to do so. Description should include:

**SUSPECT:**

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Hat \_\_\_\_\_  
 Race \_\_\_\_\_ Glasses \_\_\_\_\_  
 Height \_\_\_\_\_ Complexion \_\_\_\_\_  
 Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt-type, color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hair \_\_\_\_\_ Jacket-type, color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eyes \_\_\_\_\_ Pants-type, color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Beard \_\_\_\_\_ Shoes-type, color \_\_\_\_\_

**VEHICLE**

Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make \_\_\_\_\_  
 Body Style \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 License Plate No.  
 and State \_\_\_\_\_

**SUSPECT:**

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Hat \_\_\_\_\_  
 Race \_\_\_\_\_ Glasses \_\_\_\_\_  
 Height \_\_\_\_\_ Complexion \_\_\_\_\_  
 Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt-type, color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hair \_\_\_\_\_ Jacket-type, color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eyes \_\_\_\_\_ Pants-type, color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Beard \_\_\_\_\_ Shoes-type, color \_\_\_\_\_

**VEHICLE**

Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make \_\_\_\_\_  
 Body Style \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 License Plate No.  
 and State \_\_\_\_\_

**SUSPECT:**

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Hat \_\_\_\_\_  
 Race \_\_\_\_\_ Glasses \_\_\_\_\_  
 Height \_\_\_\_\_ Complexion \_\_\_\_\_  
 Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt-type, color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hair \_\_\_\_\_ Jacket-type, color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eyes \_\_\_\_\_ Pants-type, color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Beard \_\_\_\_\_ Shoes-type, color \_\_\_\_\_

**VEHICLE**

Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make \_\_\_\_\_  
 Body Style \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 License Plate No.  
 and State \_\_\_\_\_

## WHO TO CALL WITH NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEMS OR FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

**For questions or information regarding the  
Gifford Park Neighborhood Association,  
call Jim Windorski, at 341-4695**

Holes, debris, or litter in street . . . . .	Street Maintenance (444-4919)
Street/Stop Sign down or missing. . . . .	Traffic Maintenance (444-5160)
Garbage not picked up. Info on newspaper pickup . . . . .	Solid Waste (444-5238) or Watts Truck Line (592-7310)
Weeds over 18" or litter. . . . .	Weed and Litter (444-5910)
Broken or obstructed sidewalk. . . . .	Sidewalk Division (444-5283)
Street light out or electrical wires down . . . . .	OPPD (554-1900)
Gas leaking, waterline breaks, or fire hydrants . . . . .	MUD (554-7777)
Abandoned cars. . . . .	Vehicle Impound Division (444-5782)
Crime or vandalism. . . . .	Police Division (444-5600)
Neighborhood Watch Program. . . . .	Community Serv. Police Div. (444-5772)
Rats, yard litter, open refrigerator/freezer in yard. . . . .	Douglas County Health Dept. — 444-7481/444-7482
Trailers or cars parked on front lawns. . . . .	Permits and Inspections (444-5350)
Problems with empty buildings, vacant houses, deteriorated garages, occupied dilapidated houses. . . . .	Code Enforcement Div. (444-5371)
Handyman Program (seniors and handicapped). . . . .	Housing Dept. (444-5219)
Suspected drug activity -- Crimestoppers . . . . .	Narcotics Division OPD (444-5681)
Snow removal . . . . .	Street Maintenance (444-4919)
Hedges or tree limbs blocking view of traffic. . . . .	Forestry Division (444-5925)
Sick, injured, strayed, or dead animals. . . . .	Humane Society (571-0501)
Problems with city parks, pools, golf courses or recreation centers . . . . .	Parks and Recreation Dept. (444-5900)
City sewer stopped up. . . . .	Sewer Maintenance (444-5332)
Creighton University student concerns . . . . .	Stephanie Wernig (280-2718) or Jana Martin (280-1784)
Improperly licensed vehicles. . . . .	Police Division (444-5888)
In need of "No Parking" or other signs. . . . .	Traffic Engineering Division (444-5250)
Handicap parking stickers. . . . .	City Clerk (444-5556)
Cox cable TV complaints. . . . .	City Council (444-5520)
Police Division North Sector. . . . .	Captain (444-5648)
Complaints against Police Division. . . . .	Patrol (444-5888)
Street construction problems or complaints. . . . .	Construction Engineer (444-5220)
Community Services. . . . .	United Way (444-6666)
County Information. . . . .	Douglas County (444-7000)
State Ombudsman (Information). . . . .	Toll Free (1-800-742-7690)
Federal Information. . . . .	Local number (221-3353)
Major city events or attractions. . . . .	Tourism/Convention Bureau (444-4660)
Yates Elementary School. . . . .	(978-7183)
Council member, District 3. . . . .	Subby Anzaldo (444-5525)

**For information about city services or complaints, call Mayor's Action Line, 444-5555**

