



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

PARTY TIME

Gosh, one morning we got up and discovered it is time for the holidays! In spite of all the many holiday celebrations coming up, the one we're thinking about is our annual FPNA Christmas party at President Nate's house. And he knows how to put on a good party, so don't miss it. He promises us all manner of sweets (nothing healthy--after all, it is the season of excess), wine and cider, and Absolutely No Business of Any Kind. Most of us have visited Nate's home in the past and know the treat that is in store. In addition to the 18-20 decorated Christmas trees and other festive décor, we will feel we have actually stepped back in time when we enter his door. So, mark your calendars for Friday, December 4th, at 126 Park Avenue 7:00 p.m., put on your best clothes or at least a pair of clean jeans, and don't miss this one. We don't expect to meet his resident ghost, but if we do we will be sure to call her Ma'am because she likes to be treated with courtesy.

OTHER CHRISTMAS STUFF

Two days following the above celebration, we will be able to enjoy the annual Council Bluffs Historic Preservation Alliance Holiday Homes Tour, which will take place right here in our own neighborhood. Five homes are getting ready for visitors even as we speak. Three homes are close together on Park Ave. and two additional homes are located on Fifth Ave. and Clark Ave., just over the hill from us. The tour hours are from 2:00-6:00 p.m., Sunday, December 6th and may be followed by an event at the 1892 German Beer House in the 100 block of Broadway (although this hasn't yet been confirmed). Cost for the tour is \$15 for one or \$25 for two. However, if you are willing to volunteer to stand in one of the homes for a two-hour shift, your tour cost will only be \$5, a terrific bargain. Sharon Babbitt is in charge of staffing for the tour and already has commitments from 33 volunteers, with more expected. She may still be able to squeeze you in if you are interested in volunteering. But, volunteer or not, you won't want to miss this opportunity to tour yet more historic homes and soak up all the exciting holiday decorating ideas you are sure to see. You may purchase your tickets at any of the homes on the tour, and the money raised will be used by the CBHPA for worthy projects dealing with historic preservation. Here are the addresses of the homes:

200 Park Ave.; 211 Park Ave.; 233 Park Ave.; 528 Clark Ave.; 203 Fifth Ave.

CBHPA has generously given us \$300 in exchange for our work on the tour. We can always use money.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A DIRECTOR?

We voted to increase the number of Directors on the FPNA Board to seven. This means that we will vote for five new Directors at our annual meeting in January that will be held January 9th at Kyle and Cindy Muschall at 332 Glen Avenue. Three Directors' terms will expire and the additional two new positions will have to be filled.

Continued On Pg.3

MICHELLE'S MESSAGE

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns

164 Park Avenue

Neighbors it looks as though we will be only minimally successful in trying to save our geraniums for next year. After my September message, I noticed a few baskets had been taken into "protective custody" and I thank those who managed to outsmart Mother Nature. I certainly did not have that same forethought. Dave tells me he took down 6 pots and is going to try to keep them going through the winter. Who would have thought that we would have frost and snow so early in the year?

I'm looking forward to seeing the holiday ribbons on the poles, the wreath on the pump-house and hoping everyone will get charged up for a little friendly competition when it comes to holiday decorating. Every house within our boundary is eligible, members and non-members alike, including those of you on Grandview Avenue. So, start working on your holiday decor, the winning design will receive \$100 as well as the addition of their name and address to the traveling plaque.

"We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobiles rather than by the quality of our service to mankind"

Martin Luther King Jr.



Let's Get X-Mas Started

Come participate in the festivities with our annual FPNA Holiday Celebration. Nate Watson will be hosting our gala event on December 4th. at 7:00 p.m. 126 Park Avenue. Bring your good cheer and we'll supply the fun.

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By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Continued From Pg.1

The two remaining Directors were voted in last year for two-year terms, so they will remain on the Board for another year. Maybe the people filling the expiring terms will want to run for re-election or maybe they won't, but nevertheless we must vote for a total of five. There are two ways to place your names on the ballot. (1) Notify Secretary Chad Fent in writing at least thirty days in advance of the annual meeting that you wish to run (e-mail is acceptable); or (2) announce your willingness to run at the annual meeting by either nominating yourself or having someone do it for you.

After the five Director positions have been filled, all the Directors will hold a private meeting where they will vote for the officers for the year; President will be selected first, followed by Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The incoming President will then select the folks he/she wishes to head the various appointed positions, subject to approval by the new Board. PLEASE NOTE: the general membership votes for the Directors ONLY, not the President or other officers. You can see how important it is to choose your Directors wisely, as you are placing your trust in them to continue to lead the FPNA into an even brighter future.

EXTERIOR CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

It is time to think about the FPNA 2009 Christmas Exterior Decorating Contest. The winner will receive \$100 and their name on the traveling plaque, so this is no fluffy little contest--we're talking about Real Prizes!! You don't have to formally enter, just decorate the exterior of your home to the best of your ability. Lights are not necessarily required, though always a nice touch. The Directors will be the judges. The winner must be willing to have a photo taken for publicity purposes. The date of judging will be named at the Christmas party, but you can be sure it will be before Christmas, oh, duh.

CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to our own Kyle Muschall for winning big time in the sixth annual photo contest sponsored by the Bluffs Arts Council. He cleaned up by winning Best of Show, adult; first place in the nature category; and second place in the people category. Way to go, Kyle!

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO

Congratulations to the new residents Jason and Sarah Query, 232 Park Ave., on the recent birth of their baby boy. We welcome their new son into the world and also welcome them into our neighborhood. It is a good one in which to raise a family—ask any of us!

HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW

More new stuff keeps appearing around the neighborhood. We've seen some new and well done siding, a new paint job, a new front porch floor, and a new garage foundation, all at various locations from Huntington to Park to Glen. Well done, neighbors.

CITY COUNCIL WIN

Kudos to our neighbor, Melissa Head, for winning a seat on the City Council at the recent election. She ran a clean campaign and received a boatload of votes. Hats off to her!



October Meeting Minutes

**October 16th FPNA meeting minutes at Cindy Ostronic's
420 Glen Ave – 7pm**

Outside People in attendance – representative from the Neighborhood Center and Jay Kathol.

Nate Watson – President of FPNA

1. First order of business – 3 proposals reviewed in September Meeting – voted on and passed.
 - 5 board members to 7 board members
 - Separation of Treasurer and Secretary
 - Annexation of Grandview
2. Thursday, 29th, Forum for City Council Candidates meet at Library's Main Room from 7-8:30
3. Holiday Homes Tour – Talk to Sharon Babbitt to volunteer for a 2 hour shift and receive a discount on the tickets to view the other homes
 - a. 3 homes are on Park
 - b. 1 on Clark
 - c. 1 on 5th Ave
 - d. FPNA is going to be given \$300 by the CBHPA for helping coordinate the event and provide volunteers – (this is the exact amount we need for the filing of the 501(c)(3) status designation – which means we can accept donations and they can deduct from their taxes)

Chad Fent – Treasurer/Secretary of FPNA

1. We currently have \$1180.60 in the Bank with 2 outstanding bills under 50 each
2. 48 paid houses to date
3. Place an article or filler note about any new memberships paid from now going forward will count for the remainder of this year and be good for all of next year.
4. We had a great garage sale last year – look to make it an annual event.

Nate Watson

1. FPNA is first NA to be published by Iowa West Foundation – “Making Connections – 2008 Annual Report by Iowa West Foundation”
2. Great picture of Nate ☺
3. Newsletter Publisher and Editor received thanks and acknowledgment from as far away as Sarpy County. Thanks to Kyle and Tracy.
4. Motion to pay \$50 to the DNA as our ‘share’ equal to all other associations was passed
5. Second annual lighting contest will take place. Needing volunteers to be on the committee for judging
 - a. Prize will be \$100

Continued On Pg.6

Team UP For Safety

The Omaha Fire Department Fire Chief Mike McDonnell and Neighborhood Center team up for safety

The Omaha Fire Department will be visiting participating neighborhood associations with the assistance from the Neighborhood Center. The Omaha Fire Department will supply residents in need with Carbon Monoxide Alarms and batteries while supplies last at no cost. Also on the agenda will be free smoke alarm sign up, winter / holiday fire safety topics, “Address It Now” and open floor discussions.

“Address It Now” is an ongoing public safety program sponsored by the Neighborhood Center. Neighborhood associations are encouraged to compile a list of homes in need of address numbers and the Omaha Fire Department will help those who are unable to affix them to their homes do so.

Neighborhood associations interested in participating or follow up questions should be directed to the Omaha Fire Department's Public Relations office at 444-4097 to make arrangements.

**“It has been
my
experience
that folks who
have no vices
have very few
virtues”
Abraham
Lincoln**

PRESIDENTIAL PARDON

By Borgna Brunner and Mark Hughes

Submitted by Tracy Dreessen 126 Park Avenue

The Turkey that lives to see another day!

Origins

Each year since 1947, the National Turkey Federation and the Poultry and Egg National Board have given a turkey to the President of the United States at a White House ceremony. Since then, presidents have been more likely to eat the turkey rather than give it a reprieve. A notable exception occurred in 1963, when President Kennedy, referring to the turkey given to him, said, "Let's just keep him." It wasn't until the first Thanksgiving of President George H.W. Bush, in 1989, that a turkey was officially pardoned for the first time.

Confusing the Practice

Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush have continued the pardons begun under the first Bush. Some confusion about the true origin of this practice has crept into recent presidential speeches though. One story claims that Harry Truman pardoned the turkey given to him in 1947, but the Truman Library has been unable to find any evidence of this. Another story claims the tradition dates back to Abraham Lincoln pardoning his son Tad's pet turkey.

From Frying Pan Park to Disneyland

What's certain is that since 1989 a turkey — and its alternate — have been pardoned each year. An alternate is chosen just in case the first bird is unable to perform its duties. For fifteen years through 2004, the turkeys were given to Kidwell Farm, a petting zoo at Frying Pan Park in Herndon, Virginia. The turkeys would receive a last minute pardon before arriving, and were then led to their new home at the Turkey Barn after enduring a turkey "roast" full of poultry humor and history. In 2005 and 2006, however, the turkeys were flown to Disneyland in California where they served as honorary grand marshals for Disneyland's Thanksgiving Day parade. After that, they spent the rest of their lives at a Disneyland ranch. A spot in sunny Disneyland seems immensely preferable to a place called Frying Pan Park if you happen to be a turkey who has just escaped from becoming the main course of someone's Thanksgiving feast.

The People's Choice

On Wednesday, November 26, 2008, President Bush gave two turkeys named Pumpkin and Pecan a last-minute reprieve. The two hail from Ellsworth, Iowa, and were raised under the direction of National Turkey Federation Chairman Paul Hill. The American public was allowed to vote for the turkeys' names on the White House web site. 2007's turkeys were named May and Flower, 2006's were Flyer and Fryer; 2005's were Marshmallow and Yam; and 2004's were Biscuit and Gravy.

RECEIVE A FREE ENERGY AUDIT

A home energy audit, \$150 VALUE!, is the first step in saving energy, increasing your home's comfort and saving on your utility bill. A professional energy auditor will provide you with recommendations for increasing the efficiency of your home. Sign up today to receive a FREE Home Energy audit from Black Hills Energy.

To learn how to save energy around your home, schedule a free home energy audit from Black hills Energy by calling 888-567-0799 or visit www.BHEHowTo.com

**"Wisdom is not a product of schooling but
of the life-long attempt to aquire it"**
Albert Einstein

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

Isn't it wonderful all of the beautiful home-improvement projects going on in our neighborhood? It is a positive sign that more and more folks are willing to invest time and resources into our part of the community. As I'm sure you have, too, I have received several positive comments from various people from all over town, and beyond, about our neighborhood. It is not uncommon for me to be stopped in my path to receive unsolicited praise for our neighborhood's efforts. It is humbling to be part of the current leadership team, remembering of course that the praise truly belongs to all of us, as each and every one of us plays our part, so I am quite glad to pass along the praise to whom it is truly intended. Congratulations, and thank you!

Our annual Holiday Party is coming up, on Friday, December 4, 2009, at 7PM at my house (126 Park Avenue). Though primarily geared towards our neighborhood, various local dignitaries and community leaders have also been invited, and please know that this is an event at which all our residents, especially the children, are invited. I have added a few more trees to the display, to keep it interesting, and I can assure you that there will be nothing healthy, whatsoever, on offer, but sweets galore! A generous donation of a good amount of wine has been made by my next-door neighbor, Diane Franks, too. I hope each and every one of you can make it!

In addition, our annual Decorating Contest will again take place this year. I hope everyone does his or her part to enliven our neighborhood for the holiday season. Annual possession of the traveling trophy and a \$100 prize certainly are also incentives to participate!

Finally, my time at the helm of our neighborhood is about to draw to a close, and I am so glad to see so many talented people stepping forward to run for leadership positions. Please consider a run for office. Never doubt that a small group of people can make a difference, as the saying goes, 'for that is the only way it has ever happened', and how so true that really is. Best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving!

October Meeting Minutes

Continued From Pg.4

- b. Name/House number engraved on the traveling plaque
 - c. Picture taken for the newsletter
 - d. Requirements will be published in an article
6. Holiday Party will take place at Nate's on Dec 4th – NO BUSINESS ONLY FUN
 7. January 9th will be date of next FPNA meeting – Kyle and Cindy to host
 - a. Voting for new board will take place
 - b. Details will be published in next newsletter

Katie Fent – Member

1. Experienced a situation at her home with out Chad there and needed numbers of neighbors to call for help.
2. Need for Directory was discussed – a notepad was passed around for all who wish to be on the list only to be distributed to members

General Discussions –

1. New Baby Boy at house on Park – Kyle to make card if Tracy/Sharon finds out their name
2. Flower baskets mostly down but mostly ruined. Will Dallas Johnson come thru next year?
3. Cindy Ostronic offered to donate for next years flowers
4. Sharon Babbitt reminded everyone the BOWS are COMING!! ☺
5. The Grant for the neighborhood signs will be decided upon by the Pot. Co. Community Foundation (PCCF) at their November meeting.
6. The National Historic Places designation was sent back to the State Level for further research but is now back on track. We should hear about this approval sometime in the New Year.

Business portion of meeting adjourned 8:40 pm.



Your Invitation To The

BLUFFS ARTS COUNCIL 2009


Festival
of Trees
Gala

Saturday, November 21st, 2009

at Harrah's Convention Center Grand Ballroom

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Have cocktails amidst the holiday trees while Michael Walker, vintage vocalist sings the songs you love. Find your favorite tree and bid on it. Look for the perfect "thank you" gift or holiday present for your dear friends . . . they'll be on the silent auction tables and we can even giftwrap them for you. And you can buy a tree for yourself or to give as a gift . . . It's the perfect shopping experience!

Cocktails, viewing and entertainment start at 6:30 with a delicious dinner for joyful people starting at 7:30 p.m.

The oral auction starts at 8:30 p.m. with Scott Moore . . . very unique items for very special people.

\$75 per person or \$750 for a table of 10

Call 712-328-4992 to make your reservations or go online to www.bluffsfestivaloftrees.org by Nov. 18



DATES TO REMEMBER

November 21st
Bluffs Arts Council 2009
Festival of Trees Gala Event

December 4th
F.P.N.A. Holiday Party

December 6th
Council Bluffs Historical
Preservation Alliance
Historic Home Tour

January 9th
F.P.N.A. January Meeting
(Directors Election)

FALL WEATHER PROOFING

Small efforts that can make a big difference to reduce energy consumption.

Lower your water heater to 140° if you have a dishwasher, or to 120° if you do not have a dishwasher.

Move your refrigerator out from the wall and vacuum its condenser coils once a year, unless you have a no-clean condenser model. Your refrigerator will run for shorter periods with clean coils.

Trim bushes or plants near the outdoor air conditioning unit so air can circulate.

Keep storm windows closed when the air conditioner or furnace is running.

Visit blackhillsenergy.com to learn other simple, no-cost ways you can save this heating season.

THE Fairmount Press
 The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association
 126 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
fairmountparkna@aol.com

Tracy Dressen	Editor
Kyle Muschall	Publisher
Nate Watson	President
Michelle Muchler-Burns	Vice President
Chad Fent	Secretary/Treasurer
Amy Dixon	Special Representative
Sharon Babbit	Board Member (2010)
Kyle Muschall	Board Member (2011)
Chad Fent	Board Member (2010)
Nate Watson	Board Member (2011)
Michelle Muchler-Burns	Board Member (2010)

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**Have an Opinion?
Please Share!**

We welcome any submission from a member that constructively furthers a topic of current public interest. Of course, opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association or its membership. Any submission must be received by the first day of the month for inclusion.



Yes! I want to be an active member of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association. Please find enclosed a check for annual dues in the amount of \$20.00 per household.

My Name and Spouse's/Significant Other's Name: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numer: _____ Email Address: _____

Remit to: Chad Fent, Secretary Treasurer, 439 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503



Yes! I want to purchase a Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association banner.

Please find enclosed a check for the Banner fee of \$10.00

(Or additional amounts of _____ for additional banners totaling _____.)

You must be a paid member to purchase a banner

My Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numer: _____ Email Address: _____

Remit to: Michelle Mutchler-Burns, Vice President, 407 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503 or to Sharon Babbit, Board Member, 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503