



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

ANNUAL MEETING

Yes, we have meetings all year long but our Annual Meeting is the one that is required by our By-Laws. Kyle and Cindy Muschall (332 Glen Ave.) will open their home for this event on Jan. 9th and will supply the tons and tons of food required for the big crowd that we just know will be there. What? You weren't planning to attend? Well, think about this—we will be electing the Directors who will lead the FPNA for the next year and if you want to have a say in our organization you must be there to say it. Besides, one of our purposes is to bring neighbors together and this is one of the best ways in which to do it. So, listen up! Be there!

January is the time to pay our measly \$20/year dues, too. Without these dues, FPNA is limited as to what it can accomplish, so we are hoping all present members will renew and new members will join. You must be a paid up member to vote, as well. This charming, excellent and informative newsletter is given to all free of charge, but most everything else costs money, so please do your part. Okay, enough arm twisting for now.

NEW DIRECTORS

As explained in last month's newsletter, we will be electing five Directors this time around because we added two additional positions to our Board. Nominations will be taken at the Annual Meeting. Perhaps some people have already notified our Secretary, Chad Fent, about their desire to run (in writing, 30 days prior to the meeting), but, if not, people may be nominated at the meeting itself. If you always had a secret yen to be one of the movers and shakers, now is the time to step forward.

BOWS UP

Have you noticed the bright holiday color in the neighborhood lately? Some of it comes from the colorful bows hanging from many of the utility poles on every street. We utilized last year's bows and added 18 new ones to the mix. We admit, last year's bows are somewhat weather worn but they are trying hard to look festive. The Board has authorized money for enough ribbon to make, we hope, bows to hang from every pole on every street next season. The ribbon has been purchased and a bow making party will be held sometime next spring or summer—look out, we'll be coming for you! Thanks go to the hanging committee—Kyle and Cindy Muschall, Mike and Linda Ring, Dave and John Huggins, Nate Watson and Sharon Babbitt. And mustn't forget those three pick-ups, without which we couldn't have done it.

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MICHELLE'S MESSAGE

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns

164 Park Avenue

Happy Holidays

In the November Newsletter, I wrote about how I was looking forward to a little “friendly” competition from the Holiday decorating contest; however, I never anticipated we’d be enjoying such a beautiful display in our neighborhood; it will be tough to decide the winner. I imagine that most everyone would have put up a Holiday display whether \$100 and the traveling plaque was on the line or not, but the extra incentive surely doesn’t hurt.

I’m sure I’m not the only one who feels this neighborhood has an amazing reputation, I see “Random Acts of Kindness” on a daily basis. After the tremendous snowfall a neighbor was out clearing the walk in front of his home with his snow blower. I wasn’t surprised that he continued on and cleared the walk in front of neighboring properties; however, we really didn’t expect that he would keep going to the alley, then cross the street and clear our side of the street as well. He told me he enjoyed doing it. It was incredibly cold and blustery and I couldn’t imagine that being fun. We appreciated it far more than words can express. Being neighborly is about how we come together to help one another, it seems that perhaps picnics and parties may be our reward.



Photo by Bill Mann

Former Resident Returns Home

Eleanor Lutz poses in front of 200 Park Avenue, Sharon Babbitt’s home, Eleanor’s former residence. During the CBHPA Home tour, Eleanor confided that she had been born in Sharon’s bedroom in 1919.

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By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

DECORATING CONTEST

At this writing, judging hasn't yet taken place to choose the winner of the 2009 Exterior Holiday Decorating Contest, but it is going to occur any day now. Your Directors will be the judges and will not be eligible to win themselves so they will be completely unbiased. This is not about lighting alone, nor is it about quantity. We are looking for tastefully done combinations throughout the homes' exteriors. The winner will receive \$100 and their name engraved on the traveling plaque. So, if you see a vehicle full of shady looking characters driving slowly down your streets, please don't call the police. It will only be your stalwart Directors doing one of their jobs. Look for the article in the next newsletter announcing the winners and the honorable mentions, and good luck to all.

CBHPA HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR

The Holiday Homes Tour sponsored by the Council Bluffs Historic Preservation Alliance has come and gone and we hope you were able to take the tour of the five beautifully decorated homes. Each home offered the public something different and each was inspiring in its own way. In addition to all the finery, a few interesting stories emerged. Eleanor Lutz arrived at Sharon Babbitt's home to announce that she had been born in Sharon's bedroom in 1919; she made it up the stairs with help from her son and others and looked things over, finally stating that the bed was in the "wrong" place (see photo on page 2). Then a couple walked into Kelly Prine's home and was able to answer many of Kelly's questions about changes made to her home because they were the ones who had made them over during their 18-year residency. And, just about the time Steve Gorman was beginning to decorate his and wife Chris's eleven trees and extensive outdoor lighting, he had an accident and had to undergo knee surgery. Their neighbors stepped forward and completed it all for them so they could remain on the tour—now that's what it's all about, folks.

More than 300 people completed the tour and the CBHPA netted \$3,000 to continue their valuable preservation work. In addition, three homeowners have already shown interest in opening their homes for next year's event. The CBHPA traditionally features five or six homes at each of their yearly Holiday Homes Tours.

PARTY MEMORIES


Our annual FPNA Christmas party was held once again at the home of President Nate Watson. Nate furnished all the sweets and Diane Franks donated the wine for the event. The trees and other décor were lovely, as usual—how many trees were there? Twenty? Thirty? But what does it matter, it was all beautiful and provided a great jump start to the season. The surprise of the evening occurred when the annual "Person of the Year" award was given to your humble correspondent, and it can truthfully be said to have been unexpected. Thank you!

Nate has graciously opened his home for our annual Christmas party every year so far, and we'd like to think that the precedent has been set and he will do it in perpetuity. Let's all think positively about that one! (see photos on page 7).



New Orleans New Year

Let's Start 2010 @ff with some Louisiana Flavor



*We're electing new board members,
Contributing to dues and forming
Committees for the coming year. If
that's not enough of an incentive to
join we'll have some good ole' fashion
"Nawlins" cooking.
Gumbo, Red Beans & Rice, Corn Bread,
BBQ Pork, Beignets and plenty of
Tabasco sauce to be had. A good meal
with good friends. So come on and share
in the fun*

*Saturday January 9th, 7:00 p.m.
332 Glen Avenue*

BECOME A MEMBER

By Tracy Dreessen

126 Park Avenue

We know that lots of you may be reading our newsletters each month wondering, “What exactly are the ‘PERKS’ of being a member of our Neighborhood Association?”.

We have had a couple of years to become established with our neighborhood and the city. Our neighborhood has come a long way from just a few households starting things off to the 48 households who are now members of the FPNA. We encourage everyone to join in the fun and take part in making our neighborhood better. Let us point out some of the great advantages of jumping on board!

1. **Getting** to know your neighbors by coming to monthly meetings held in people’s homes.
2. **Looking** out for one another.
3. **Working** together for something good.
4. **Voting** in board members right from your own neighborhood, or even running yourself! Board members play a key role in taking our requests to the City council, and acting as our voice.
5. **Volunteering** for neighborhood clean up and beautification projects.
6. **Helping** to fund neighborhood projects with yearly dues.

As you can see, the list could go on and on. Please see the cutout in our newsletter for submitting your dues and JOIN IN



**“The Best thing about the
future is that it only
comes one day
at a time”
Abraham
Lincoln**



HANNAH!! HOMEWARD BOUND

By Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

Ed and Lori Hassett at 207 Park Avenue had family visiting from Virginia smack dab in the middle of our Midwest snowstorm. One of the family, Hannah, a yellow lab either caught the scent of one of our areas many deer or was just overwhelmed by the amount of snow and decided to have an adventure for herself and ran off. Dogs will be dogs after all. Ed got worried when she didn’t return when called. It wasn’t like Hannah to be gone for so long. After a search in the bitter cold Ed turned to technology and our Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association.

Contacting the publishers of the newsletter, Ed was looking to broadcast that the pooch was missing in action. A quick alert email sent to our F.P.N.A distribution list elicited the exact response needed. Ed and Lori received a call that Hannah had been corralled and they went to retrieve her. Although chilled to the bone Hannah was safe with family and was headed back east the following day.

What a great example of someone being a good neighbor, helping out when needed and doing the right thing. I’m proud to call this my home.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

It has been an exciting year for our neighborhood! Who can forget our Independence Day Picnic, flower baskets, holiday bows, professional-quality monthly newsletter, street cleanups, free-dumpsters weekend, get-togethers, candidate forum, yard sale, inclusion of the folks on Grandview, holiday decorating contest, holiday homes tour, holiday party, preparation for historic designation, laying the groundwork for tax-exempt/tax-deductible status, and a myriad of other fine events and happenings? We also managed to maintain the lowest membership price of any neighborhood in Council Bluffs, not having raised the "tax" one penny this year, yet at the same time have managed to build a reserve of approximately a thousand dollars, and yet do all the things mentioned, above, and much more. It has been a year that has witnessed the passing of beloved neighbors, and the birth of new ones.

It is exciting to see all the wonderful holiday decorations throughout our neighborhood at the present time, though of course the real joy of the season is the simple fact that we are all so very close, not only physically within our little valley, but also personally. Yes, we have much for which to be thankful...each other. Let us never forget that the true value of life is having made a difference, and having had a good time doing it, together.

On a personal note, it has been a great privilege to have served as your president. It has been an honor to have helped lead the initial, informal effort (September 2007-April 2008), the Interim Board (April-December 2008) and the First Board (2009) of our neighborhood association. I hope that I have played a small part in establishing a structure upon which future leaders can improve. Someone given the trust of any organization never does anything as important as passing the torch to the next generation. One full term is more than enough for any person. Rest assured that I will continue to play my part, albeit in a supporting role, as it should be; I will also continue in the leadership of the Downtown Neighborhood Alliance, continuing to help strengthen existing neighborhoods, and help foster new ones, all around us, in the strong belief that nothing is ever so helpful to the success of our neighborhood than the success of those around us, too.

The state of our neighborhood is strong, and with all of our help it will continue to be so. It is my sincere hope that you and your family have a wonderful holiday season and New Year.

Warmest regards,

Nate Watson

FPNA Member (2007-forever)

FPNA President (2008-2009)



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 9th
F.P.N.A. January Meeting
(Board Elections)

February 19th
F.P.N.A. January Meeting

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bring in your family, friends, or neighbors to volunteer as a group or come in individually. Special projects welcome!

Volunteer Opportunities

Cooks

Meal Servers

Van Drivers

Child Care

Activity Coordinators

Donation Sorters

Please contact Volunteer
Coordinator Tiffanie Teeple
712-323-4416
tteeple@themicahhouse.org

The MICAH House is an emergency family homeless shelter. Their mission is to provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment for families and single women who are experiencing the crisis of homelessness



1415 Avenue J
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

Pictures from the F.P.N.A Holiday Party 09



THE Fairmount Press

The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

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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)

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.

COPIES PROVIDED BY THE



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