

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

Mark Hansen	Special Representative
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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.

DEMOLITION SET TO BEGIN



Many of you may have noticed the front loader heavy equipment at 401 Park Avenue. The City of Council Bluffs is preparing to demolish the structure due to its' advanced state of neglect and disrepair.



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



BOOKS WANTED

We are currently undertaking a drive to create a resource library at the new Neighborhood center located at 536 East Broadway. We are asking if any members have books, journals or catalogs they would like to donate to assist historic homeowners in remodeling or renovating their homes. This would be a great asset to the Neighborhood center and would be a great start to their mission. If you have any you would like to donate, please contact Jill Struyk who is heading up the project from the Wickham Neighborhood Association at jillstruyk@cox.net and she will arrange to pick them up or they can be left on her front porch at 219 Carson Avenue

Renewed Funding

The Greater Omaha Neighborhood Center has received renewed funding in the amount of \$30,000 from the United Way of the Midlands. The Greater Omaha Neighborhood Center was instrumental in helping establish a Council Bluffs branch to assist fledgling associations in their efforts to organize themselves. If you see any members of the United Way staff or members of the allocation committee, please extend a Thank You.

The Path to an Historic District

By Mary Lou McGinn

Honorary F.P.N.A Member

The Volunteer research on the properties in the proposed Park Glen Historic District is completed, thanks to the willingness of the homeowners to share information about the history of their homes and the neighborhood. I met so many wonderful people with such great spirit and pride and enthusiasm; your district is truly a beacon to light the way for other neighborhoods to follow. I cannot remember another volunteer effort that was more rewarding. As I've said many times, it was like reading a good book. Thank you so much for your cooperation and assistance.

While we were deep in our research here, Tallgrass Historians' was taking the required archival photographs, identifying the architectural style of each property, and conducting further historical research.

Phase II is presently underway. Leah Rogers of Tallgrass Historians, the consulting group responsible for writing the nomination, provided this schedule: "First draft" of nomination to submit to the State Historical Society (SHSI) for staff review is February 9, 2009. Submittal of final draft for Sate Nominations Review Committee (SNRC) review is April 1, 2009. At that time, the final draft is also submitted to the local CLG Historic Preservation Commission for review and property owners are contacted by the State via a letter.

The actual SNRC review meeting date is June 12, 2009. At that time, they will review the nomination and vote for forwarding it on to the Park Service (NPS) for final listing. I will have to wait a couple of weeks after that meeting to get a copy of the review minutes and the review items submitted outside of the meeting. Then I will need to revise the nomination based on those review comments. The final nomination is submitted back to SHSI for forwarding to the NPS, which then has 60 days to review and list. However, Tallgrass' part is done once the final nomination is sent to SHSI.

Therefore, a final deadline date for submittal of the final nomination to SHSI will be July 12, 2009, but I will certainly try to get it turned around as fast as I can once I receive the minutes from SHSI.

Reading through the process makes one realize that the designation of a Historic District is not taken lightly by the National Park Service or the State Historical Society. The fact that Council Bluffs already has two commercial districts and two neighborhoods as well as eighteen individual properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places speaks well of the rich history we have in our own back yard.



YOUTH ART AUCTION

On January 29, 2009, the Neighborhood Center will hold its annual Youth Art Auction at the Mutual of Omaha dome from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Cocktails and light hors d’oeuvres will be served. What a wonderful opportunity for you to own an original work of art for an affordable price. You can bid on your favorite piece from chosen art work submitted by artists from grades elementary through high school. OPS, Millard, District 66, Elkhorn, Council Bluffs, and Omaha parochial schools will be represented.

President’s Corner

By Nate Watson 126 Park Avenue

Several neighborhoods around us are starting to organize. All of which, I am aware, are using ours as a model. Though I normally talk more about our group, specifically, in this monthly update, I thought you might be interested in knowing our impact on the areas adjacent to us. For example, the wonderful folks next door to us on 5th Avenue are organizing the “Gilbraltar” NA. Their boundaries include 5th Avenue to Third Street, the remainder of Highschool that is not FPNA, Turley, Clark, Glenridge Circle, and parts of Willow and Bluff. Oakland Avenue has reorganized into the “Lincoln-Fairview” NA. They have decided formally to include streets adjacent to Oakland Avenue too. In essence, they are our “mirror” NA, north of Kanessville. The Dodge House area is in the early stages of organizing. I have heard the name “General’s Row” bandied about, but nothing is official yet. South 8th Street remains basically an untapped opportunity, previous efforts stymied by the lack of “buy-in” from the significant percentage of absentee landowners in the area. Various other neighborhoods outside of the historic periphery are organizing, including folks off of McPherson Avenue. I look forward to anticipated active participation from the new CB office of The Neighborhood Center. As always, Ron Abdouch and his staff are quite invaluable. I look forward to working with Ryan Willer, the new outreach coordinator for the CB Office. Finally, the downtown business/residential district has organized, as “Main Street Council Bluffs”. I serve on their ad hoc board. We are in the process of drawing boundaries and getting things going. MSCB has been fortunate to secure up to \$50,000 in startup money, which has aided the process immensely. The group is in the process of obtaining some professional consultant help. I hope to include a handy reference map of all of the new areas in the next month or two. As you can imagine, some of the boundaries are still in flux, but things are shaping up nicely. In 2009, therefore, I see our efforts continue to improve not only our own neighborhood, but our community, too. Exciting! Please stay involved!

RESTORE OMAHA

Register now for Restore Omaha, a conference to promote the practice of historic restoration and to provide educational opportunities and information to the public and professionals. Some of the conference topics include preservation basics, porch restoration, hands on plaster, effects on development on historic neighborhoods, and many many more. The conference begins Friday night February 27 with a reception from 7 to 10 p.m. at Prouty Place Dos 4825 South 25th Street, Omaha Nebraska. The conference will run Saturday February 28th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community College South Omaha Campus at 27th and Q Street.

For attendance fees and to register go online to www.restoreomaha.com or call Hanne Kruse at 402-457-2241.

Second Fridays

Come and enjoy Wine, Art, Food, and prizes!!! The businesses surrounding Bayliss Park are founding a monthly event that, with patronage, will grow into a tradition of art, wine, and shopping for downtown Council Bluffs. The first Second Fridays generated more than 50 people. The event is held the second Friday of every month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- 109 Pearl Street – One Market Building Features:
- Wines of Kings Crossing Vineyards and Sugar Clay Winery and Vineyard
 - Bayliss Bistro, Rock Speaks Gallery
 - Harvest Studios, Frame Gallery
 - Gypsy Gallery Food & Art! Featuring the art of Terry Troxel and Cynthia Gehrie
- 107 Pearl Street – Quarterhouse Bar Features:
- Karaoke Night and \$1 off 1 drink for participants of 2nd Fridays
- 500 Willow Ave – Park Building Features:
- Gade Insurance – Open House
 - Copperhorse Curiosities
 - Prairie Crossing Winery and Vineyard
 - Danish Countryside Vines and Wines
 - Re-Creations jewelry & hats
 - The art of Patrick Barton

NEIGHBORHOOD BUILDERS 2009

Once again this year it is time to think about joining us for the 2009 edition of Neighborhood Builders. The session will be held each Saturday in February from 8:30 to 12. Neighborhood builders is a community effort led by the Neighborhood Center, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, neighborhood associations, businesses, foundations, and private citizens. The goal of Neighborhood builders is to help build stronger, healthier neighborhoods in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties by assisting in developing positive leadership. If you are a new board member of a new neighborhood association or taking the lead in a well-established neighborhood, we strongly encourage you to attend. This will be a great opportunity to network with other neighborhood leaders and other officials. You may attend as an individual or as part of a team, but don’t miss this opportunity. The registration deadline is Friday January 23, 2009. You may download a copy of the registration at www.unomaha.edu/ncenter. If you have further questions please call

Ronald Abdouch at 402-561-7582

A Message from Michelle

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns Vice President 407 Glen

FPNA members, I hope each of you have had a wonderful holiday season. Taking the time to reflect on 2008 and how grateful I am for family, friends and neighbors. I want to share with you that our neighborhood association continues to make me proud of where we live and blessed to be part of this wonderful organization. Something tells me that I’m not alone. We are welcoming new members and renewing current memberships both of which tell me that we are doing something right! Looking toward 2009, we are talking about meetings, neighborhood clean-ups, spring flowers and picnics. I can’t wait! I also want to assure everyone that the banners are indeed coming. I know 6 or 7 of you that have paid and waited so very patiently all this time. For those that don’t know the story, our payment was mailed last September and traveled around the Midwest for more than 3 weeks, stopping in Carol Stream, Illinois, twice! We were considering a stop payment, when Pete called me in mid October and told me it had finally arrived in Massachusetts. Pete also shared the information on all the different postmarks and that somewhere along the route; the envelope had been opened so it was taped and stapled shut. It takes 2-3 weeks for the sublimation process and shipping and because of the delay; they didn’t make it to me before my class started. If I may speak for Sharon and myself, I think we both have had more commitments than time.... But again, I assure you, they are coming!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 29th. Youth Art Auction
- February 27th. F.P.N.A February Meeting
- February 27-28th. Restore Omaha
- February 7, 14, 21, & 28th Neighborhood Builders
- April 4th. F.P.N.A April Meeting