



A Cry for Help from Mother Earth

By Marie Huggins

150 Park Avenue

We all worry about the effects of global warming on our planet. Why not do something about it? By using power more efficiently, we reduce our carbon emissions, thus slowing down the pace of global warming and, in turn, saving money. Here are some tips from "Cool Congregations" to help us solve this growing problem. More tips will follow in the months to come.

LIGHTING

1. Buy energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs for your most-used lights. CO2 reduction (by replacing one frequently used bulb): about 180 lbs. /year.
2. Turn off unneeded lights. CO2 reduction: 380 lbs. /year.
3. Replace halogen lamp with compact fluorescent lamp. CO2 reduction: 475 lbs. /year.
4. Light your Christmas tree with LED lights rather than incandescent. CO2 reduction: 122 lbs. /year.
5. Replace outdoor incandescent Christmas lights with LED. CO2 reduction: up to 2300 lbs. /year.

HOME APPLIANCES/GADGETS

6. Replace old fridge (at least 10 years old) with ENERGY STAR fridge. CO2 Reduction: 2300 lbs. /year.
7. Unplug/dispose of old fridge in basement. CO2 reduction: 2500 lbs. /year.
8. Replace old clothes washer (at least 10 years old) with new ENERGY STAR clothes washer. CO2 reduction: 850 lbs. /year.
9. Replace dryer with ENERGY STAR front load model. CO2 reduction: 500 lbs. /year.
10. Line dry clothes in summer. CO2 reduction: 780 lbs. /year.
11. Run your dishwasher only with a full load. Use the energy-saving setting to dry dishes. Don't use heat when drying. CO2 reduction: 200 lbs. /year.
12. Use a manual push mower. CO2 reduction: 80 lbs. /year.
13. Need a new TV? New VCR? Select ENERGY STAR models. CO2 reduction: 65 and 33 lbs/year respectively.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

2008 paying members: **44**
2009 paying members (so far):
21
2009 renewals (within count of
21): **15**
2009 new members (within 21):
6

Projects funded:

1. Holiday Decorating of light poles and water pump station.
2. 2008 summer get to know you picnic.
3. Holiday decorating award and travelling plaque.

Free Immunizations

If you have any questions regarding possible free immunizations, please contact

Tanya or Rachel
at

712-328-4666

with the Council Bluffs Health Department to find out more information.

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A Cry for Help from Mother Earth

GETTING AROUND

14. Whenever possible; walk, bike, carpool or use mass transit.
CO2 reduction (for every gallon of gasoline you save) 20 lbs.
15. Check the inflation in your car's tires monthly. Increases fuel efficiency.
CO2 reduction: 250 lbs. /year.
16. Change your car's air filter according to manufacturer's specifications.
CO2 reduction: 200 lbs. /year.
17. Yearly engine tune-up and maintenance. CO2 reduction: 1500 lbs. /year.
18. Buy a hybrid car. Average driver saves \$3750 per year. CO2 reduction: 16,000 lbs. /year.

**"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."
Theodore Roosevelt**

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.

President's Corner

By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

Are you a "Gold" person? Perhaps you are "Blue", "Green", or "Orange", instead? Lest you think I have run off onto a tangent, which, yes, I am one to do; I wanted to share with all of you the message of the most-recent Neighborhood Builders program, which many of your Board attended this past Saturday.

You see, most of the morning we engaged in an exercise to figure out which type of personality each of us has. There were only four options from which to choose (hence, the color names, above). Once each of us was separated into our respective groups, each group tried to determine its strengths and needs, amongst other things. Then, each group shared with the other groups, to try to learn how it is that each group sees the world. In other words, each group essentially spoke a different "language", and it was only through learning how each expressed itself did each of the groups really understand each other.

Why is this important? It is important because the exercise reminded me that, in any group, there will be folks of all personality types. It is important to remember that not everyone expresses her thoughts in quite the same way. In other words, each of us must make an effort truly to understand what others are saying.

And, yes, this is the point: Each of us brings a different perspective, a different talent, to our neighborhood, and, in the end, all of us have the same ultimate goal of a stronger one. In the end, through the diverse strengths that each one of us brings to the neighborhood, we will succeed. I have been privileged to witness this truth manifest itself in many ways in our neighborhood, and it does not hurt to stop and remind ourselves of simple truths every once in a while.

Out of many, one.

EVICTED!

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

On the cold and blustery afternoon of Sunday, January 25th, a family living on Park Avenue was unceremoniously evicted from their home without a warning of any kind. This large family of ten has been left homeless; with nothing left to do but search for other lodgings in the rubble, up nearby trees or into nearby basements. Okay, enough jokes. This homeless family (of raccoons) was last seen running away from the remains of the house at 401 Park after D&D Construction began demolishing it.

The property has been the subject of controversy ever since the City of Council Bluffs began proceedings to take possession of the empty house from owner David Lucas. The house was considered beyond redemption by city officials. Even people specializing in restoring older homes said it could not be salvaged. There was nothing of value left in the house.

It was a bittersweet moment as some members of the FPNA watched it fall, glad that it was finally gone but sad that a once-proud Victorian had, literally, bit the dust. It took only a few minutes to flatten the structure, which had once stood on a beautiful corner at Park and Pomona in our historic neighborhood. The lesson is that a house, no matter how grand or well built, cannot stand for long without care and attention. We hope this is the only historic home in our neighborhood that will meet its demise in this way.



Photos by: Kyle Muschall

COLLUSION OF LIES

A Monthly Op-Ed by Chad Fent

439 Glen Avenue

At times, there can be a great deal of confusion surrounding what is happening in our financial markets. The remedies proposed by Congress, the US Treasury, and the Federal Reserve rarely do anything to clear up the confusion. It is my intention to try and help explain the mess we find ourselves in, offer insights (read: predictions), offer solutions, and most importantly, to arouse poignant thought and questions regarding the validity of the actions taken by specific parties. Though, as with anything else, I must add this disclaimer: The views reflected in the articles you will read are not necessarily those of your elected board of directors, nor the editors of this newsletter. This is simply meant to be an opinion column, and is not intended to be investment advice.

You might have heard this phrase uttered recently: "The Federal Reserve is about as Federal as Federal Express." If you haven't before, well, now you have. Sound ridiculous? It is, but probably not in the way that you think. The Federal Reserve is absolutely *not* an arm of the government. It is absolutely, positively, a private bank. Would you like proof of that? Here is a list of the primary shareholders: Rothschild Banks of London and Berlin, Warburg Banks of Hamburg and Amsterdam, Lazard Brothers Banks of Paris, Israel Moses Seif Banks of Italy, Chase Manhattan Bank (Rockefellers) of New York, former Lehman Brothers Bank of New York, Kuhn Loeb of New York, and Goldman Sachs of New York. From this point on, I will not capitalize the F or R when referring to

"the fed".

It might interest you to know; that the present fed is not that old, relatively speaking. The Federal Reserve Act was passed on *December 23rd*, 1913. In fact, the entire bill was written by bankers (see aforementioned list) and was pushed through Congress by their political pal, Nelson Aldrich - who later became related to the Rockefeller family by marriage. Why was the Act passed? I am really going to skim over this, but the short of it is, the entire passage was precipitated by the banking panic of 1907. So, the banks were just trying to protect themselves, right? Wrong. Bankers set the panic of 1907 in motion (Oxymoronic yes). JP Morgan, a financial luminary at the time, used his influence to have stories published that a prominent bank was insolvent, which was a lie. Eager to protect their deposits, people withdrew their money, forcing banks to call in loans. It became a self-fulfilling prophecy. So, the lie beget the panic, the panic beget Congressional investigation (led by Aldrich), the investigation beget the passage of a bill, all in the name of making sure another panic did not occur (but which always do, begetting ever more un-constitutional regulation). Dig deep here. A banker created the lie, a friend of the bankers (Aldrich) led the investigation, bankers wrote the bill, Aldrich then pushed the passage (on a date when most of Congress was out), and Woodrow Wilson signed the bill into law. Wilson, by the way, had already agreed to sign the bill into law for campaign contributions. Who does the Federal Reserve Act benefit?

Bankers. Now you might be asking yourself, if the Act was signed into law, why doesn't that make it part of the government? Because the "law" was written with the specific intent that it not be an arm of the government. Further, the federal reserve has no oversight. That's right, no oversight. Nobody audits their books. They answer to no one. You might see the reserve chairman, Ben Bernanke, grilled by Congress from time to time, but he is absolutely not accountable for any of his actions to Congress. It is a dog and pony show-a diversion.

Let's move on. In December, I touched on an idea that I wouldn't call cash, or federal reserve notes, money. The reason I did that is simple enough, and now is the time to explain it. The reason that I don't call federal reserve notes "money" is because it is not. According to our Constitution, only gold and silver can be money as stated in Article 1, Section 10. This was circumvented by the Federal Reserve Act. Since the federal reserve is not a part of the government, the "state" is not issuing notes at all. Most assume that we went off the Gold Standard during the Nixon administration, but this is not precisely correct. In fact, Franklin Roosevelt declared the US Federal Government bankrupt in the Emergency Banking Act of 1933, 48 Stat. 1, Public Law 89-719. In the EBA, US citizens were told that they had to turn in their gold bullion to the Federal Government, or face prison terms of up to 10 years. It was legalized confiscation of the little wealth the people had left. Nixon actually had very little left to do to

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ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

This begins the first installment of a monthly column about happenings in our neighborhood. We welcome your input, friends, because we can't publish what we don't know about.

FPNA FEBRUARY MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, February 27th, at 7:00 p.m., at 445 Glen. Refreshments will be served. Owners Terry Dowell and Karl Allen will open up their post-Civil War Gothic Revival home and share with us many of its historic and interesting features. The rear grounds of the house once contained a three-story stable and coach house. That is gone now and in its place is an addition to the house itself containing the former front desk from the demolished Ogden Hotel, which once stood on the corner of Park and Broadway. We will also see Karl's first class collection of Civil War books arrayed on the library shelves there. Dick and Lucy Graeme, former owners of the house, are well known activists and historians in Council Bluffs. Lucy's family formerly owned the Ogden and this explains why that unusual artifact now resides on Glen Ave.

Of course, the main purposes of our meetings are to conduct business and visit with one another, but let's face it; don't we also want to get inside our wonderful and historic homes? (You didn't read that here!) See you all on the 27th!

GARAGE SALE

Bob Pashek and Bill Mann are planning to hold a garage sale (minus the garage) some Saturday and Sunday during May or June. They have suggested that their sale be enlarged to include others in our neighborhood who would also like to participate. Neighborhood garage sales have been held in other areas of the city with success. Their idea is that each family who wishes to join in can display an identifying "balloon or other object" in their yard on one or both of the days. In that way, buyers will know where to go. Bill and Bob, who live in the Tullys Mansion on Park, probably have stuff hidden away that the rest of us would kill for, and their stash may help to draw more buyers to the neighborhood. They propose that a certain percentage of the sales can be donated to the FPNA. More on this as spring arrives.

BIG TRUCKS

As this is being written, the big dump trucks belonging to D&D Construction are hauling away what was once the house at 401 Park. This debris has to be taken to the land fill in Malvern and workers must make sure each truck is filled to the brim in order to minimize trips. Goodbye, 401.

CONDOLENCES

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Marjorie McKee, mother of FPNA member Betty McKee, 209 Park. Marjorie had been a resident in our neighborhood for more than sixty years and lived in the historic Tostevan house. She posed on her front porch, pretending to drink tea, when the CBHPA had photos taken for their 2007 calendar. Marjorie had a ready smile and an infectious laugh. She was game for any new adventure. We offer our condolences to Betty for her loss; our loss, too.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 14th
Valentine's Day

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

May 9th
F.P.N.A May Meeting

NEED FREE TAX ASSISTANCE?

If you or someone you know needs some assistance with their tax returns, free tax preparation and free e-file are available at:

The Center
located at
714 South Main Street.
Their phone number

(712) 332-1437.
They will provide assistance
1/26/2009 thru 4/15/2009.

Hours are M-F,
10 AM to 6 PM
and Saturday
10 AM to 5 PM.
No appointments needed.

OUR NAME IS GETTING OUT THERE

By Tracy Dreessen

164 Park Avenue

An article was written recently in a publication of "Neighborhoods" put out by the Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha that devotes a whole article on our association. The article written by Randy Vest describes not only the fast improving appearance of our neighborhood, but also our accomplishments as well as our goals for the future of FPNA.

Randy interviewed FPNA President, Nate Watson, who gave an amazing description of what we hope to accomplish in our neighborhood. Making our neighborhood into a close-knit community that interacts with each other has always been at the core of everything we try to do. Taking note of which neighbors need help with yards or picking up their paper while they are out of town, make a huge difference. The small things like hosting semi-annual clean up days in the spring and in the fall, hanging flower baskets in the summer and bows in the winter, and finally building friendships as we host our monthly meetings in each other's homes. These kinds of things help to keep crime from entering our neighborhood, not to mention the visual affects it's having!

Randy also compliments Kyle Muschall, graphic designer and FPNA Board Member, for his creativity in designing our group's logo. With a membership roster already at 40, the banners that were designed from Kyle's efforts are in high demand. Kyle has also headed the efforts in giving our own newsletter a fabulous new make-over! I have heard nothing but good things about our new layout.

I strongly recommend everyone try to read the article written by Randy Vest titled "New Life: Neighborhood Association Impact Evident on Stately Neighborhood". It is published in the "Neighborhoods" Winter 09 publication. You can pick up a copy at the offices of The Reader, who publishes the magazine, at 2312 M Street Omaha, Nebraska. I'll end this article by sharing with you Nate's last quote for his interview with Randy. "When you go out walking, you know all your neighbors, all of their names," he says. "You see people with their kids, their pets. The quality of life is better. It's more like a community now."

COLLUSION OF LIES

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completely sever the tie of the US dollar to gold. But the difference was, the people now *knew* that inflation was baked into the cake. Before 1933, a dollar bill actually said it was redeemable for gold. Now it simply says it is legal tender. But what is backing it?-Absolutely nothing. A federal reserve note is a debt obligation of the United States government. Read that again. The US government is in perpetual debt servitude to a privately owned and run bank that answers to no one. This is no joke. You must understand, every federal reserve note created, from thin air (or computer keystroke), is then lent to the US government at interest. The debt can never be repaid. It is a perpetual pyramid of debt. Look at the back of a dollar bill. I have yet to verify this, but it is my theory that the pyramid and the all Seeing Eye on the back of a dollar bill represent the federal reserve (the eye) and the pyramid is the ever-expanding debt that is our "currency cash". Let this sink in. The debt can never be repaid under this system. A pyramid scheme like this is also known as a Ponzi scheme. Bernard Madoff was famously busted for his Ponzi scheme. How long before we bust the federal reserve for their Ponzi scheme? Gold and silver have stood the test of time as a store of value. They have been universally recognized as a medium of exchange, and accepted widely for millennia. In fact, they are two of the few unifying goods of all time. No matter what your religious beliefs, no matter what your political preference, gold and silver have always been an honest means of exchange. Paper has not. No fiat paper currency has ever stood the test of time. Is it far too open to manipulation by the wants of a few? When you control currency, you have all the power. Mayer Amschel Rothschild is quoted as saying, "Give me the power to create a nation's money, and I care not who creates its laws." The jig is up. Wake up everyone, it's time to force out the federal reserve and reintroduce honest money!

IN MEMORY OF



Marjorie Monica McKee, age 85, passed away January 26, 2009.

Marjorie was born in Rock Island, Ill., on June 4, 1923, to Charles and Loretta (Lalley) Correll. She graduated from St. Francis Xavier High School and married Charles McKee in 1949.

Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband, Charles, in 1992; parents, brothers, Robert, Al, Gene and John Correll; sisters, Ruth Ratajick and Mary Correll.

Marjorie leaves behind her children and spouses, Elizabeth McKee of 209 Park Avenue, Mike McKee and wife Diane, Robert McKee, all of Council Bluffs; grandchildren, Kyle and Sarah McKee; twin sister, Madyline Adams, of Council Bluffs; step sister, Dolores Jarboe, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and step brother, John Trigg, of Florida.

Father Chuck Kottas, Pastor, presided over memorial services held at Meyer-Woodring Funeral Home on January 27th. Family has suggested memorials to the Phoenix House and St. Peter's Church.

**"The task ahead of
us is never as great
as the Power behind
us"**

Anonymous

A Message from Michelle

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns Vice President

407 Glen

Many of you may have knowledge of H. H. Field and Justice Joseph R. Reed. Some may be aware that Nate resides in the former home of H. H. Field and me, the former residence of Judge Reed. You may also be aware that Field and Reed co-wrote The History of Pottawattamie County, making the chance meeting and co-founding of this Neighborhood Association even more ironic for Nate and I. A few months ago, when a friend informed me that he owned an original set of Field and Reed's books and asked if we were interesting in purchasing them, we didn't think twice. Upon opening the cover of our treasured find, we noted that the books had belonged to a Mrs. Meyers at 401 Park Ave. Last week, after the home at 401 Park Avenue was razed, I began leafing through the books, wondering if perhaps there would be a clue to the homes' original owner. The books contain a biographical index and there was one entry by the last name of Meyers. The following is an excerpt from The History of Pottawattamie County. Keep in mind the books were written in 1907.

FERDINAND MEYERS.

"Following his marriage, Mr. Meyers resided for a short time in Lafayette, Indiana, and then came to Council Bluffs in 1866. Here he began cabinet-making, which he followed for several years and subsequently he engaged in carpenter work for some time. In connection with his brother-in-law, Mr. Fuss, he was afterward connected with a number of different kinds of business in the city until he decided to give up all hard work. He then entered the employ of the government and for several years was a letter carrier in Council Bluffs. He died February 23, 1898, and his death was a matter of sincere regret to many friends. He held membership in the Grand Army post and he gave his political support to the Republican Party but was never an office seeker. His interest in public affairs, however, was deep and sincere and led to his active co-operation in many movements for the public good. In fact he was at all times as loyal to his country and her welfare as when he followed the old flag upon the southern battlefields. Mrs. Meyers and her children are all members of the First Presbyterian church here. She owns a nice residence "on the hill" at No.401 Park Avenue, where the family resides."

According to the books, Mr. Meyers married Miss Emma Fuss in Lafayette, Indiana, sometime after he returned from the war in 1865. He and Mrs. Meyers had fifteen children and twelve, Clara, Ida, Emma, Laura, Katherine, Adele, Ferdinand, George, Nina, Virginia, Maud, and James were still living at the time the books were written. Albert Julia and Arthur all deceased prior to 1907.

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
Mark Hansen	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.

Second Fridays

Come and enjoy Wine, Art, Food, and prizes Friday February 13th. 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 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Art:

The Center-The Artist's Co-Op

One Market Building-Brian Tate, Margaret LaBounty, Cynthia Gehrie & Sam Haugh

Park Building- Steve Kilen, Mary Mancuso, Michael Shearer & Leonard Johnson

Wine:

The Center-Prairie Crossing & Kings Crossing Vineyard and Wineries

One Market Building- Kings Crossing Vineyard and Wineries

Park Building- Breezy Hills Vineyard and Winery

Shopping:

One Market Building- Bayliss Bistro, The Frame Gallery, The Gypsy Gallery, The Harvest Gallery, Flowers by Bradley's Floral, & Rock Speaks Studio

Park Building- Re-Creations form the Edge, Copper Horse Curiosities, Flowers by Bradley's Floral, Macrame by Nee Nee, Gade Insurance

Union Pacific Railroad Museum- Gift shop and Special Lincoln Exhibit

Quarterhouse Bar-Karaoke Night and \$1 off 1 drink for participants of 2nd Fridays



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