

## MAIN STREET IOWA MAIN STREET COUNCIL BLUFFS

Article/Photo By Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

Over two hundred engaged citizens turned out April 9<sup>th</sup> during two town hall meetings held by the Main Street Council Bluffs Organization to discuss revitalizing downtown Council Bluffs.

Terry Poe Buschakamp, a neighborhood consultant with Main Street Iowa, cited the group's mission "...to improve the social and economic well being of Iowa's communities by assisting selected communities to capitalize on the unique identity, assets and character of their downtown area."

The event was hosted in the Bayliss Park Hall where food and drinks were served along with a healthy dose of enthusiasm by Julian Caldwell; the MC. Brainstorming sessions were interspersed with a call and response dialogue to get the crowd engaged and the ideas flowing.

Now anyone that reads this newsletter knows we've had investments in the infrastructure of downtown Council Bluffs. New sidewalks, the refurbished Carnegie building that is the Union Pacific Museum, and our magnificent

Bayliss Park stand at the forefront of those endeavors. What we need now is people. People getting involved, people activated, motivated and willing to voice their ideas on change and follow thru with commitment.



What was important to the crowd assembled; economic development, event planning, historic preservation and "going green" to name only a few. Now the Main Street Iowa approach is not to "throw money" at the issue. They assist people to get organized and improve the business by design and promotion. The program offers guidance and knowledge transfer but the work, the drive, the persistence and the determination needs to come from the people, people in the neighborhoods. The way for this to work is not a top down effort or a bottom up effort but a mutual effort by everyone that has a stake in their community, in

their neighborhood and in their home. So, I encourage everyone to take part in the next town hall meeting which will be held in 90 days to see what the next steps can be and what can become of your downtown.

# President's Corner

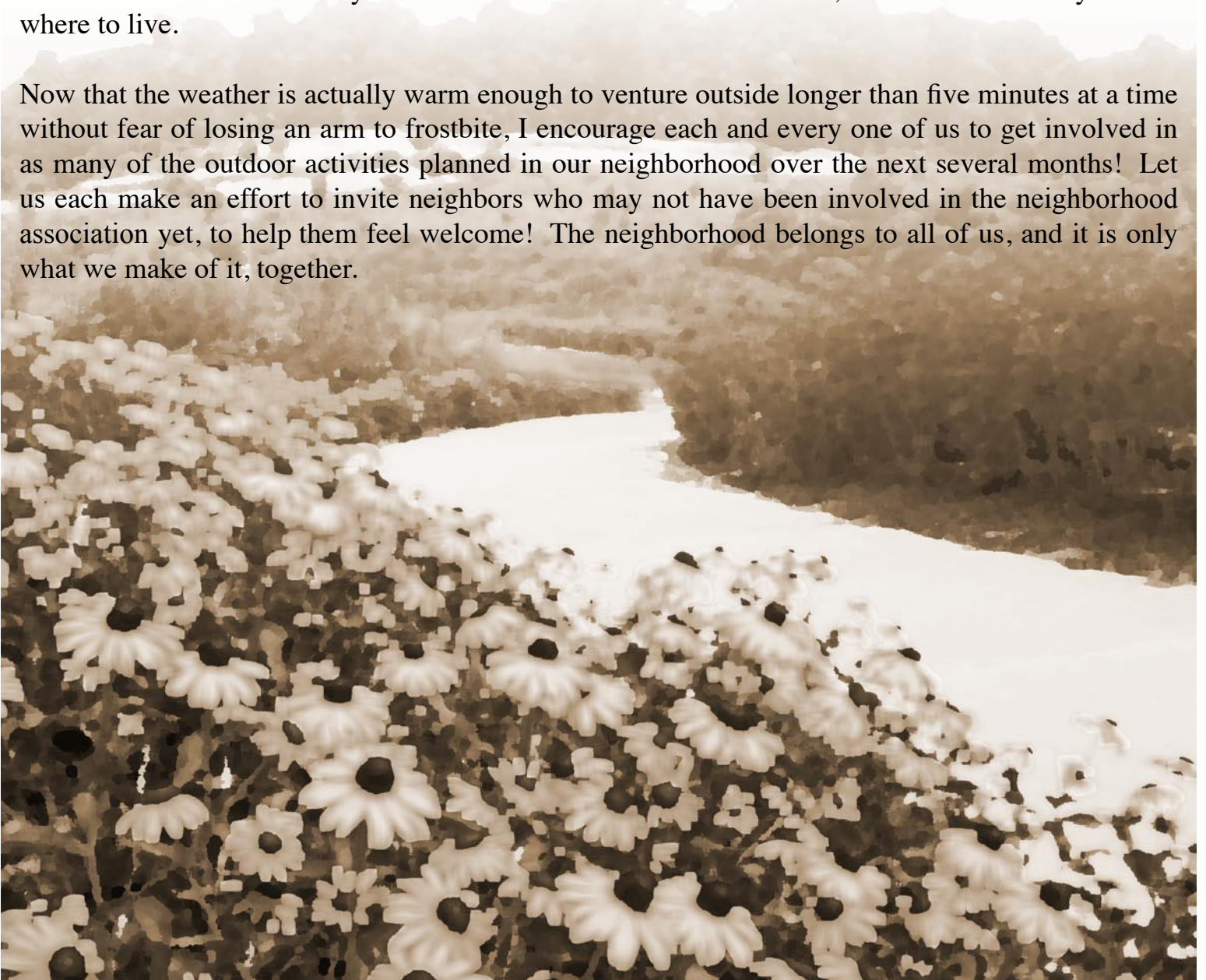
By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

**N**eighborhoods are the building block of a successful, vibrant community. Our neighborhood has truly been in the vanguard of the effort to organize constructive efforts to preserve historic elements, yet also, more importantly, to restore a sense of cohesiveness and pride. In a word, community.

Words cannot express how excited I am to see folks, young and old alike, out walking the many paths and sidewalks in our neighborhood. I can plainly see that the future of our community is bright. Every time I see a small child with her parents, enjoying the sights and sounds, and every time I see a neighbor taking the time to check on another neighbor, or to lend a hand, I am reminded why I choose to live here. One may not be able to choose where one is born, but one can certainly choose where to live.

Now that the weather is actually warm enough to venture outside longer than five minutes at a time without fear of losing an arm to frostbite, I encourage each and every one of us to get involved in as many of the outdoor activities planned in our neighborhood over the next several months! Let us each make an effort to invite neighbors who may not have been involved in the neighborhood association yet, to help them feel welcome! The neighborhood belongs to all of us, and it is only what we make of it, together.





# ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

## MEETING INFO

It's time once again to think about our next FPNA meeting, which is May 9<sup>th</sup>, and what a fun way it will be to welcome spring! Mark your calendars for 4:00 that afternoon in the beautiful patio behind 151 Park, a Victorian mansion to rival any seen in the City. Bob Pashek and Bill Mann will treat us all to grilled hamburgers and brauts, while we will bring the side dishes, desserts and drinks—everything we will need for a super celebration. No, we will not be dancing around a maypole but we hope the good fellowship will more than make up for any disappointment you may feel about that.

The Tulleys Mansion, as we like to call it, was built by Col. Lysander Tulleys in 1877. Col. Tulleys was a Civil War veteran and a peer of General Dodge. His home has undergone many changes over the years, not all of them good. Finally, after a long stint as a boarding house, Bob bought it and threw out a dozen or more window air conditioners and other debris. He and Bill have slowly brought the house back to its original grandeur but it is still a work in progress. We all know how that goes.

If the weather doesn't permit us to meet outside on May 9<sup>th</sup>, mark your calendars for May 16<sup>th</sup> as a "rain date"—same time, same place, same deal.

## SUMMER PICNIC

At the last meeting, we talked at length about plans for our annual summer picnic on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. In fact, the discussion became so intense that our president decided to refer the planning to a committee of five volunteers. This picnic is even more important than usual because we have invited members of the other neighborhood associations to join us for the fun. We will hold the event at Lookout Point in Fairmount Park, which is at the top of Park Ave. nestled at one of the entrances to the Park itself. There is plenty of shade available, along with picnic tables, toilets and parking. Never fear, though, because that idea of roasting a complete hog was nixed! More on this as time goes by, but be sure to save time for this event!

## NRHP

The nomination for our neighborhood to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places is proceeding through channels and is expected to be approved by July 12<sup>th</sup>. When the process is completed we hope to receive our certificate accompanied by great fanfare: maybe the mayor, maybe the press, and maybe money (well, maybe NOT money, but all the rest). More as we know.

## CELEBRATE CB

This annual event, which used to be known as Pride Day, will take place on May 17<sup>th</sup>, and will feature the Pride Parade and lots of other events in and around Bayliss Park. Following the parade, a walking tour of one of our historic neighborhoods will begin at the 1854 Snow House at 233 Fourth St., and continue into the Willow/Bluff/Fifth Ave. area. Prior to this event, many areas will be involved in a massive street clean-up, including our own neighborhood. See elsewhere for more details.

## ENERGY REBATE

Interested in replacing your furnace, boiler, insulation, doors, water heater, add a setback thermostat or just have furnace/boiler maintenance performed in your homes? Then you should take a look at the possible rebates available through Black Hills Energy in 2009. This could save you some substantial money if it is something you have to replace anyway or have routine maintenance performed. For more information or to download additional applications visit [www.blackhillsenergy.com](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com) or call the toll-free Energy Savers plus hotline at 1-888-567-0799. Note, Black Hills Energy will do FREE energy audits for you, but the audits are only required for the rebates on insulation and doors.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

May 9th

F.P.N.A May Meeting

May 17th

Celebrate CB

July 12th

F.P.N.A Summer Picnic

July 12th

National Review for F.P.N.A  
Historical Places Designation

September 12th

F.P.N.A September Meeting

October 23rd

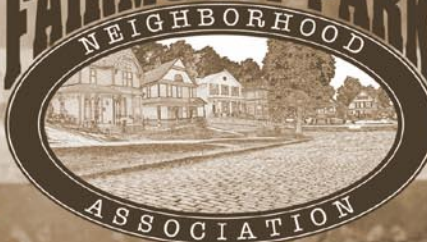
F.P.N.A October Meeting

Continued On Pg.5

# DO YOU HAVE DUST IN YOUR TRUNK

WE'LL THEN GET IT OUT OF THE GARAGE  
AND ONTO THE STREET OR INTO THE YARD

## JOIN THE FAIRMOUNT PARK GARAGE SALE FOR FUN AND PROFIT



WE'D LIKE TO INVITE EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO PARTICIPATE. WE WILL BE PLACING ADS IN THE LOCAL PAPERS THROUGHOUT THE METRO AREA, ON CRAIG'S LIST AND GETTING THE WORD OUT. SO IF YOU'D LIKE TO THROW YOUR LOT IN WITH US WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU. PLEASE CONTACT:

KYLE MUSCHALL  
KMUSCHALL@COX.NET  
323-4047

OR TRACY DRESSEN  
TRACYDRESSEN@YAHOO.COM  
515-8535

WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND ANY SPECIAL ITEMS OF INTEREST. WE'D LIKE TO HAVE A MAP FOR THE PATRONS SO THAT THEY CAN BE SURE TO FIND ALL THE HIDDEN TREASURES.

SO DUST OFF THOSE THIGH MASTERS AND POLISH UP THE BIG WOODEN FORKS. THIS COULD BE JUST THE SORT OF STIMULUS PACKAGE YOU NEED. TO HELP COVER THE COST OF ADVERTISING WE WOULD ASK THAT EACH PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLD DONATE WHAT THEY FEEL IS APPROPRIATE



# ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Continued from Pg.3

## NEIGHBORHOOD SIGNS

As many of you know by now, the FPNA has applied for a grant from Mutual of Omaha to pay for some unique signage to identify some of our most historic homes. The signs, designed by Bill Mann, will appear in the yards of the 20 homes that the Tall Grass Historians (in their recent study of our neighborhood) have said would qualify for individual recognition by the National Register of Historic Places. The grant was submitted in March and we will not know until June whether or not it is approved. We are excited about all the possibilities that having these signs will bring to our neighborhood. At last, something that visibly identifies us as a historic district! A sketch of the proposed sign will be available at the meeting in case you are interested in seeing it.

## A FRIEND OF OURS

The Alegent Health Mercy Hospital Foundation recently honored four community leaders with the 2009 Heritage award, and one of them is our friend Mary Lou McGinn. Mary Lou, community activist and retired nurse, received recognition in the health/medicine category. She has been involved in a number of community organizations, too numerous to mention here, but was made an honorary member of the FPNA for her research work in helping our neighborhood to become eligible for the NRHP. Congratulations to Mary Lou for receiving the Heritage award for 2009, and thanks for being our friend.

## A BABY

By the time you read this, Baby Fent should have come into the world and be resting peacefully at home with Mom and Dad. Yes, Katie and Chad are having their first child; somewhere we heard the words “the first of many” but maybe we just imagined that. Congratulations to the Fents!!

## TOO MANY MEETINGS?

Several new neighborhood associations have been formed recently, or are in the process of doing so. In addition, some downtown business districts are in discussions about organizing. Also, many of us attended a meeting sponsored by Main Street/Council Bluffs (MSCB), which was about proposed improvements to Council Bluffs' downtown areas. The list goes on and on. For those of you who may wonder WHY, here is a quote from former President Ronald Reagan that seems appropriate to this situation—and the world, come to that:

“To sit back hoping someday, some way, someone will make things right is to go on feeding the crocodile, hoping he will eat you last—but eat you he will.”

## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Get out your calendars and mark these dates down because you don't want to miss a single one of our upcoming meetings. We thank these homeowners in advance for their generosity in opening up their homes to FPNA. We know it is a lot of work, but because we are all panting to get into any and every historic home we can, we will continue to hold our meetings in private homes until we run out of places to meet—and then we'll simply start over.

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., Saturday, home of Wayne Anderson

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 p.m., Friday, home of Cindy Ostronic

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m., Sunday, home of Nate Watson



## It's Really What's For Dinner

From the Editor Tracy Dreessen

164 Park Avenue

One thing we all have in common is the everlasting question of "What's for dinner?" Well, let me just put that to rest with a few suggestions for a healthy summertime meals.

### Try this on the GRILL:

- Marinate boneless skinless chicken breast with BBQ Sauce, Garlic Powder, and a tsp of Vinegar. Shake off excess sauce, Grill to your liking. 1 minute before taking off the grill, brush on rest of sauce.
- Wrap a small wet red potato with the top cut open in tin foil. Inside the potato, add a little promise butter, pepper, and onion if you like. Seal the foil leaving a little space for steaming to occur. Place the potato on the grill and cook for about 30 to 40 minutes. Yummy!!

### Try this as a Veggie side to the above:

- Steam fresh or canned green beans with a can of Basil, Garlic, and Oregano diced tomatoes mixed in.

### Try this as a substitute for the grilled potato:

- Boil whole grain pasta noodles until done. Chill with cool water. Drain. Add fresh cut tomatoes, black olives, cucumbers, green peppers, and Zesty Italian Dressing.

### For Dessert try this:

- Fresh strawberries on top of angel food cake with a low fat cool whip.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER



# A Message from Michelle

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns Vice President

407 Glen

## WE TAKE OFFENCE

“We Take Offence” (to quote Nate Watson, however it’s actually “we take a fence”)

On a chilly Saturday in mid March, several neighborhood association members drove to the former Micah House site on So. 7<sup>th</sup> St. That wonderful old iron fence had been given to Nate and me, by HGM, the new owner and Architect firm adjacent to the site. We received the approval to obtain the fence after Nate made a phone call to HGM. They were extremely eager to preserve it, but didn’t know who would be interested in it. We were the first to request it, so it was ours! We found out that several others had expressed an interest, offering to buy it, even “upping their ante”, but Kim at HGM remained true to his word.

Trying to loosen nuts and bolts proved to be an impossible task. We knew going in that this would not an easy object to remove, but thanks to a ‘saws-all’, a gas powered generator, and a determined crew, we got the job done. We cut the metal plates that held the sections together. Just slightly larger than a ‘Band-Aid’, we thought they might be easily reproduced.

As we were removing the fence, of course, people were eyeing it-and us. I was wondering why someone didn’t call the police (after all, we could have used the help!).

Loading sections into Kyle and Cindy’s truck was heavy work. I’m confident it will all be worth it when, later this season, it reappears across the front of the properties at the historic H.H. Field House and the historic Reed House. It will be just one more thing that ties our homes and our neighborhoods closer together.



Photos by: Cindy Muschall



# THE Fairmount Press

The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

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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!

**W**e 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.

**"If you think every day is a good day, just try missing one"**  
**Cavett Robert**

**"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals"**  
**Zig Ziglar**



**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