

THE

Fairmount Press

The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

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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.

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THE

Fairmount Press

The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

New Vol. 2 Issue 7  
JULY/AUG 2009

DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW C.B.

By Meg Hartman 517 Huntington Avenue

Let’s put it to the test

- Before he was president, Abraham Lincoln came to Council Bluffs to inspect a section of land on which he had made a loan. During his visit, he spoke with Grenville M. Dodge concerning the construction of a railroad to the Pacific. From a wooded bluff they gazed across the broad Missouri River valley. Four years later, after Lincoln had become president, Council Bluffs was designated the eastern terminus of the first transcontinental railroad and General Dodge was named its chief construction engineer. The Lincoln Monument at Oakland Avenue and Lafayette commemorates this visit. In what year did Lincoln and Dodge meet in Council Bluffs?
- Who wrote the first journals about the Loess Hills area? Was it:
  - Lewis and Clark
  - Native American Indians
  - Or Mark Twain
- Broadway United Methodist Church is one of the oldest organized congregations in C.B. It was founded in what year?
  - 1847
  - 1850
  - 1855
- The worst fire in the city’s history occurred December 3, 1925 when the elegant Grand Hotel succumbed to a raging inferno. The fire originated with an explosion at the Continental Furniture Company on the east side of Pearl Street, a block south of Broadway. It was determined that a boiler exploded and ignited the blaze. In all, how many buildings were destroyed by the fire?
  - 3
  - 5
  - 7
- The Ruth Anne Dodge Memorial, the bronze sculpture located near Fairview Cemetery, was created by Daniel Chester French between 1917 and 1920. The sculpture is the interpretation of a dream described by the wife of Grenville Dodge on the three nights preceding her death. What is French’s most widely known work?
  - The seated Lincoln in Washington
  - The Washington Monument
  - The Jefferson Memorial



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



# MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Park Avenue

Neighbors, I'm working on a project for the Council Bluffs Historic Preservation Alliance. It's a Halloween event and I need your help. So, tell me about your house, do "things go bump in the night"? Have you lost something, only to have it mysteriously reappear? Is there someone home besides your family?

What the Council Bluffs Historic Preservation Alliance has in mind is a "Haunted Tour". I'm arranging to have a paranormal research group, Nevermore Paranormal, set up and record activity in homes where occurrences of supernatural nature are reported. There is no cost to the homeowner as Nevermore Paranormal is a non-profit organization. They will record, analyze and detail the activity they find. The tour will be held as Halloween approaches and our plan is to have Ollie the Trolley transport the tour goers around to the various homes that were investigated. CBHPA volunteers will tell them what the residents have seen or heard and then share what Nevermore Paranormal found during their examination.

The tour goers will view your home from the outside, only. I'm looking for a total of 3-4 homes to include on the tour; I have one confirmed volunteer so far. If you can help, please give me a call! Thanks.



# FADING MEMORIES

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Our summer picnic has come and gone, and we aren't thinking about it much any more, except for the good time we all had and the smooth way things came together. Even Mother Nature cooperated—we didn't think 'She' was going to when it started pouring down rain an hour or so before starting time, but we all gave 'Her' a good talking-to and 'She' decided to behave herself.

We can't say goodbye to the subject of the picnic until we acknowledge the HARD WORK that went into the planning and executing of it all. You know, when we attend an event and everything goes well, we don't usually think about what's going on behind the scenes, but we have experienced it first hand and now we know. Our picnic committee and other FPNA volunteers deserve many thanks for all that they did. Months of preparation and coordination occurred before the big day. Bob Pashek worked harder than three men in making so many arrangements ahead of time, including securing a \$20 gift card from Super Saver for chicken; Carol Maddox found so many items we needed that we began to wonder if magic was involved; Amy Dixon arranged for the barbeque and stored it at her house until the proper time; Sheri Hansen paid for the good Rotella's buns, and arranged for Sam's Club to donate \$20 toward our event; Cindi Ostronic made all the flower arrangements for our tables and used her connections to get the flowers wholesale; Katie Fent manned the sign-in table and brought Rory along for the entertainment of all who attended; and everyone who donated hundreds of bottles of water. At the last minute, when we saw we were running short of money, volunteers such as Michelle Mutchler-Burns and Chad Fent forked over cash for ice and a guest book. Then there were all those flyers and invitations designed and printed by Kyle Muschall. You see, the list is never ending!

And those canopies! What a job setting up and taking down that was for Kyle and Cindy Muschall, Mike Dreessen, Chad Fent, and Nate Watson, with help also from Dave Huggins. We can't close until we acknowledge the \$450 grant we received from the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation; Nate submitted the application to the Neighborhood Center and they responded with a check in the nick of time!

I've probably left some folks out, such as Bill Mann, Mallory Huggins, Betty McKee and Maxine Gotto (well, guess I didn't leave them out after all), and I'm sure there are many others. Please know that your help was appreciated. But next year? DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!!!

# JOIN THE BBL

The Bancroft Bayliss Loop (BBL) is a community forming bicycle ride and cultural exchange engaging artists and cyclists between the Bancroft Market in Omaha Nebraska and the Bayliss area of downtown Council Bluffs Iowa.

Each Saturday artists and cyclists gather at the Bancroft Market to depart on a ride of the BBL. The ride, roughly 12 miles, travels a route that explores the Omaha riverfront, the Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge, a beautiful natural landscape along the Missouri River, historic downtown Council Bluffs and many friendly residential neighborhoods on both sides of the river.

Midway through the ride, we stop at Bayliss Park in downtown Council Bluffs Iowa to picnic, or eat lunch at the Bayliss Bistro, a coffee shop and deli or La Carreta Rosa, a great Mexican restaurant.

## When:

Saturdays at 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

## Where:

Start and End at the Bancroft Street Market, 10th and Bancroft, Omaha NE. We ride through Omaha and Council Bluffs

## What you need:

A bike, a helmet, lunch or lunch money

## More Info:

[www.bancroftbaylissloop.com](http://www.bancroftbaylissloop.com)

## email

[bancroftbaylissloop@hotmail.com](mailto:bancroftbaylissloop@hotmail.com)

## Facebook Fan page:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/The-BBL-Bancroft-Bayliss-Loop>



# OPERATION: CLEAN SWEEP A SUCCESS

By Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

Towering over the empty lot between 171 and 177 Glen the dumpsters for the neighborhood clean up arrived early on the Saturday morning of June 20<sup>th</sup>. Provided by the Neighborhood Center for use by all of the Neighborhood Associations the dumpsters provided an opportunity for everyone to clear out some of the debris and trash that can pile up as we go about our daily routine. There were plenty of volunteers doing “dumpster duty” to help load the trash and ensure only approved material was deposited. John and Dave Huggins along with our President Nate Watson, Vice President Michelle Mutchler-Burns and Special Representative Amy Dixon were there to assist folks as they parted with their junk and to make the hard work enjoyable. Ron Abdouch and Ryan Willar from the Neighborhood Center were also on site getting their hands dirty and seeing the progress as the bins filled up. They even allowed the dumpsters to remain until Monday so that folks



would have a chance to take advantage of this opportunity and do some cleaning. Operation Clean Sweep was a success and we look forward to our Fall clean sweep to tidy



LET'S TAKE A **FIELD TRIP**

FOR OUR NEXT F.P.N.A MEETING

FRIEND OF OUR ASSOCIATION,  
WAYNE ANDERSEN HAS GRACIOUSLY  
OPENED HIS HISTORIC HOME TO HOST OUR MEETING  
WE HAVE LOTS TO DISCUSS SO WE  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

SEPT. 12TH 7:00 P.M.  
301 SOUTH 8TH STREET

# ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt 200 Park Avenue

## IT'S A DATE

Or if it isn't, it should be- our next meeting, of course. After a summer when we got together for our picnic and not much else, we have set the date for the FPNA meeting and hope to see a large crowd at 7:00 p.m., September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 301 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Yes, we know it's not in our neighborhood, but when we enter that large old house which dominates its historic block, we will know we are in for a treat. Wayne Andersen, owner and friend of ours, has opened his historic home for our enjoyment. Known as the Farnsworth House, it was built in 1885-86 and still features its Victorian ambiance. Wayne would say it still “needs work” but we say; good, that means it hasn't been “remodeled” as so many homes of this era have been. We will see six fireplaces; oak, mahogany and butternut woodwork; fancy plaster ceiling; warming oven in a radiator; original incrusts; and even the original carpet in the front hall, reception room, and front parlor. (Now, I ask you, how many homes feature separate “reception rooms”.) Please leave all the children old enough to walk at home with the babysitters because Wayne says his home isn't prepared for the sort of activity children provide. He will appreciate our consideration.

Attendance at this meeting is important for other reasons as well. There are a few important matters the membership must ponder on, which involve changes to our by-laws. If we want to have a “say” in the business of our association, we have to be there to “say” it. Please make the effort.

## THOSE NEIGHBORHOOD SIGNS

Are in the news again. As you may remember, our request for a grant from Mutual of Omaha to make the signs identifying 20 of the most historic homes in our neighborhood was denied by Mutual. We have a line on another source for grant money and are confident that our request will be approved, provided we meet one criterion. That criterion is that we must have a 501(c) (3) nonprofit designation from the IRS, or else find some organization that does have this designation to act as our fiscal agent. This can be a church or similar entity. We are working on this and hope to locate a fiscal agent shortly. But this wrinkle in our otherwise smooth path toward getting these signs, or any other grants we may apply for, brings up the question of whether or not we should apply for the above IRS designation (we are eligible for it) sooner rather than later. Be prepared to talk about this at the September meeting.

## WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?

An actual living Eiseman showed up at the old homestead a few weeks ago! As most of us know, Dave and John Huggins have been working for a couple of years (we heard that it seems like a lot longer than that) restoring 134 Park Ave. to its original glory. One evening, while Dave was up on the scaffolding, William Eiseman, age 92, and his two sons drove up. They were on the grand tour to see all the locations

Continued On Pg.8

# 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  
tteple@themicahhouse.org

The MICA 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

# DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 12th  
F.P.N.A September Meeting
- October 16th  
F.P.N.A October Meeting
- December 6th  
F.P.N.A. Holiday Party



# The Year is 1909

By Cynthia Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

This will boggle your mind, I know it did mine!

The year is 1909.

One hundred years ago.

What a difference a century makes! Here are some statistics for the Year 1909:

The average life expectancy was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower

The average wage in 1909 was 22 cents per hour.

The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year ...

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year,

A dentist \$2,500 per year,

A veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year,

A mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at HOME.

Ninety percent of all doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION! Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND the government as 'substandard'.

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

Five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza

2. Tuberculosis

3. Diarrhea

4. Heart disease

5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30 !!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write.

Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health." ( Shocking? )

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.!

Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years.

IT STAGGERS THE MIND

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

Happy summer to all! Of course, it has finally decided to warm up a bit. Though, those of us who pine for autumn will not soon be disappointed.

I wanted to write to you this month about the Board's recommendation to you that we go to a 7-member Board, starting next January. Our neighborhood association has grown by leaps and bounds, and it is our opinion that increasing the size of the Board by 2 persons would allow even greater participation and input. Most neighborhoods of our size have 7- or 9-member boards. A total of 3 seats are up for election this January anyway, so this would result in 5 seats being up in January, though the person who won a seat but came in fifth would serve a 1-year term (to keep the Board on a split turnover; meaning, it is currently 3-2, and would become 4-3, year on year). Of course, the final decision on something this important is for the general membership to make.

The Board also has an additional recommendation, namely that, starting next January, the officer roles of Secretary and Treasurer be separated, so that a single person does not have to perform both roles. Again, as the neighborhood association has continued to grow, it is asking quite a bit for a single person to juggle our ever-increasing financials and recordkeeping duties. Again, though, the final decision on this point is also for the general membership to decide.

Our Bylaws require that any amendment such as these must be passed, if at all, by majorities at 2 successive general meetings. Each suggested amendment is voted on separately. Believe it or not, we only have 2 regular meetings left this year, in September and October. Per our normal custom, there is no general meeting in August or November, and December's meeting is the holiday party (at which no business is allowed, only fun!). So, please let this serve as notice of the suggested changes, and I look forward to hearing your opinions on the matter.

Please do look forward to our September meeting, which for the first time will be a field trip, of sorts, out of the neighborhood. The Farnsworth-Tinley-Andersen Mansion, on South 8th Street, has graciously been offered for our use by our friend, Wayne Andersen, the President of Bayliss West Neighborhood Association (BWNA), the newest member of the DNA. I am not kidding when I say that it is my favorite residence in all of town, with all due respect to all others, even more so than the Dodge House. Do not miss seeing it!

The Annual Fall Cleanup will also occur, yet to be announced, amongst other things. The DNA continues organizing itself, and now contains FIVE neighborhoods; it will elect officers soon.

I continue to be amazed at the fine restoration projects going on in our neighborhood, as well as the ever-improving landscape. It is absolutely wonderful to see all our folks taking so much pride in our surroundings. I also take great pleasure in seeing all the families and people out walking. Our neighborhood is ever so strong! Thank you for your part in our effort.

## Music in the Park

Produced by the Bluffs Arts Council,  
C.B. Parks & Recreation Department  
Presented by Iowa West Foundation,  
Music Performance Trust Fund, &  
Ameristar Casino

All concerts and movies held at  
Bayliss Park.  
6:30—8:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights

**August 12**

Pattie Dee Plus 3

Piano Favorites

**August 19**

USAF Raptor

Rock & Pop

**August 26**

Adams & Cooley

Vocal Standards

## Do You Think You Know Council Bluffs?

Continued From Pg.1

Answers:

1.) 1859

2.) A

3.) B

4.) B

5.) A

**"Make  
Failure  
your  
Teacher,  
not your  
Undertaker"  
Zig Ziglar**

**YOUTH  
ART  
AUCTION**

The Date has changed for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Art Showcase and Auction. The beautiful Security National Bank will host this year's art auction in their amazing conference space featuring a wall of windows overlooking the lake. The reception begins at 5:00 p.m. along with the opening of the silent auction and a demonstration by the students of the Kent Bellows Studio along with musical entertainment provided by select school students. The live auction will begin at 6:00 p.m. by celebrity auctioneer Scott Moore. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

April 1, 2010  
Security National Bank  
1120 South 101<sup>st</sup> Street  
Omaha, Nebraska  
For more information contact:  
Jennifer Bober  
Neighborhood Center  
Development Coordinator  
402-561+7581  
jobber@mail.unomaha.edu

**ALL THE NEWS  
THAT'S FIT TO PRINT**

By Sharon Babbitt  
Continued From Pg.3  
200 Park Avenue  
where William's grandfather, Simon, had once lived. Dave and John had a nice chat with Bill and got their pictures taken. Bill provided history about Simon and his brother, Henry, which had previously not been known. For instance, the two brothers (who were always together apparently) immigrated to South Dakota, where they traded in furs with the Sioux Indians; Simon knew George Armstrong Custer personally (before he was done in by the Sioux, of course). Their next stop was Council Bluffs, where they opened their store. After losing the store, they pulled up stakes and headed to Salt Lake City, where they bought a silver mine, and were instrumental in starting the first railroad between Ogden and Salt Lake City. Bill was happy to see his grandfather's home being restored, and we are all happy to know these historic tidbits.

**OUR FLOWER BASKETS**

Were mentioned during a recent presentation at the Library about historic houses of Iowa. Molly Naumann, an architectural historian, spoke about several interesting old homes in our state, and our city in particular. She had numerous slides and many of them depicted Park Ave. residences. She told about the importance of neighborhood associations and noticed our flower baskets when she was touring our neighborhood with the students from her class. This is one more example of how something that seems relatively minor can make such an impact. Maybe, just maybe, Ms. Naumann will mention neighborhood associations and flower baskets in the next speech she makes somewhere.

**WHO KNEW THAT**

All those architectural details were hidden under the coat of white paint on Chad and Katie Fent's house at 439 Glen Ave.! We're not just talking about fish scale; we mean the real deal, right down to the phases of the moon highlighted in between by glorious suns—wow!! Drive by and check it out.

**MOVING RIGHT ALONG**

Our October meeting will be held at the home of Cindi Ostronic—another feast for the eyes because Cindi is a professional interior designer and her home reflects it. A few weeks later, early in December to be exact, our annual Christmas party will be hosted by our President, Nate, in his beautiful Victorian. Nate begins preparing for Christmas along about October, so this will be really fun. Watch for the dates in our current events column.

**"Politics is more difficult  
than physics"  
Albert Einstein**

**LET'S GET COOKING**

By Kyle Muschall  
332 Glen Avenue

Do you have that casserole that you're famous for or that side dish that you bring to all the family functions or that dessert that everyone raves about? Now is the chance to share it with your friends and neighbors. We're starting a "Let's Get Cooking" section of the newsletter and we're putting the call out for recipe submissions. Now the fare doesn't have to be fancy and it doesn't have to take hours to prepare but that's up to you. We're looking for those delicious eats that everyone can enjoy whether it's the main dish, side dish, dessert, beverage, or snack. We want that grub that's just right for breakfast, lunch or dinner so send them in. Be sure to include a little history on how you came across the recipe or why you like it so much. Was it handed down to you from your folks, did you see it in a cook book or did you put a spin on a tried and true standard and make it your own.

You can make submissions by email to:  
tracydreessen@yahoo.com or kmuschall@cox.net

Or drop off the recipes off at:  
164 Park Avenue or 332 Glen Avenue.

To inaugurate the new section for the newsletter I thought I'd kick things off with a simple recipe that was one of the very first I learned how to prepare an authentic German beef stroganoff. This isn't your low-cal version; real sour cream all the way. I find the recipe simple and quick to prepare and the result is a delicious hardy meal, so "Let's Get Cooking".

**AUTHENTIC BEEF STROGANOFF**

- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 lbs. beef tips               | 1 tsp. garlic           |
| 1 medium onion-Chopped         | 1 tsp. nutmeg           |
| 1/2 lbs. mushrooms-sliced      | 1 tblsp. beef base      |
| 1 1/2 cups sour cream          | salt & pepper to taste  |
| 3 tblsp. butter or cooking oil | 16 oz. wide egg noodles |

- Cook wide egg noodles according to package
- In a large skillet melt butter/oil and saute beef tips on medium heat until brown and tender approx. 10-15 minutes stirring often
- Add onions and mushrooms and saute until tender for about 5 minutes
- Add sour cream, garlic, nutmeg, beef base and salt & pepper to skillet
- Mix to combine ingredients and heat thru for about 5 minutes
- Serve over wide egg noodles and be sure to utilize the sauce to coat the noodles
- Serves 4



# CELEBRATING OUR INDEPENDANCE

Council Bluffs Neighborhood Associations gathered on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> for a beautiful summer time picnic at Fairmount Park. The gathering was put on by the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association for the newly formed Downtown Neighborhood Alliance or DNA as some have come to know. To put on such an outstanding event took several long hours of planning by a special group of volunteers within the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association. We want to express our gratitude for pulling off such a beautiful event.

We had a traditional style picnic complete with bouquets of flowers on linen covered picnic tables. We enjoyed our flags displayed by Abraham Lincoln's Color Guard and a musical solo by Malory Huggins - Flute Player. After which, we all joined in reciting our Nation's Pledge of Allegiance. The weather couldn't have been nicer after a brief rain shower typical of hot July weather.

Guests brought their favorite side dishes for all to enjoy. The main dishes were supplied by Fairway and Super Saver of Council Bluffs. Donations were also received by Sam's Club. There was a great turnout that included the Police Chief, City Council Person, and the Parks Director. The Parks Director displayed their plans for Fairmount Park's upcoming renovation for all to see.

Thanks go to all those businesses that helped with donations and to all the people who attended for a wonderful time had by everyone.

Article by Tracy Dreessen

Photos by Kyle Muschall