

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbit

200 Park Avenue

MERRY CHRISTMAS

What???? It isn't even Thanksgiving yet!! Well, that's all true enough, but Christmas is relentlessly coming despite all this wonderful warm weather we've been having. And with the Holiday approaching, it's time to turn our attention to the FPNA annual party. (See, there is a reason for all this premature Holiday talk!)

Nate has once again volunteered to host this important milestone in our year. Drive by his home at 126 Park Ave. and you'll see he's already been busy with his outdoor décor; what you don't see is that his freezer is now full of Christmas cookies as well. If he's begun decorating his 22 or more trees, he hasn't said so, but we know all will be in readiness for us when we show up on his doorstep at 7:00 p.m., December 3rd. He asks us to bring along a favorite potluck dish so that we can have a real Holiday feast and not just pig out on cookies and wine. So, this time it will be "real" food to go with the "cookies and wine." What a way to begin our December festivities! Please come.

EXTERIOR CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

It is time to think about the FPNA 2010 Christmas Exterior Decorating Contest. The winner will receive \$100 and their name on the traveling plaque, so this is no fluffy little contest--we're talking about Real Prizes!! You don't have to formally enter, just decorate the exterior of your home to the best of your ability. The Directors will be the judges. The winner must be willing to have a photo taken for publicity purposes. The date of judging will be named at the Christmas party, but you can be sure it will be before Christmas, oh, duh.

ARCHITECTS HAVE COME AND GONE

On Friday evening, November 5th, representatives from the Iowa Architectural Foundation, a nonprofit group, met with several FPNA members in the Fellowship Hall of the Broadway Methodist Church. Christian Lutz and Ed Soenke spoke for the IAF and presented their final suggestions for beautifying and unifying our neighborhood. Doug Adamson, a landscape architect who worked on the study, was not there but his work was well explained by Ed. Their study laid out short and long-term goals FPNA can consider in the future--things like an interpretive center, entrance enhancement, and ways to beautify our streetscapes. Our desire to unify our diverse neighborhood was taken into consideration, just as we'd asked. We will be receiving a DVD containing their recommendations and architectural drawings soon, and at that time we will arrange to show it at a meeting in the near future. This is important stuff as it affects us all. Decisions about whether or not to accept all, part, or none of their recommendations should be made by FPNA as a group.

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*Let's Celebrate the Holidays
the*



*Would like you and your family to
join us in our annual holiday festivities
at 7:00 p.m. on Friday December 3rd.
at 126 Park Avenue. We are having a
potluck this year so please bring that
favorite dish, dessert or cookie recipe you
are famous for.*

*We look forward to seeing you and
your good cheer.*

Sincerely, FPNA

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Mark & Shari Hansen are happy to announce that the adoption of Johnathan will be final on November 20, 2010. We would like you to join us that day for an open house from 2pm-5pm. 322 Glen Ave.

“The first time we saw him was like a dream come true. No we didn’t give him the gift of life.
Life gave us the gift of him.”



**“The difference between a Big Shot and a Little Shot is that a Big Shot is just a Little Shot that kept on shooting”
Zig Ziglar**



Prevent Theft of your Vehicle

Several Thefts from motor vehicles are reported to the police department every week. Many more may go unreported because the amount of loss is insignificant to the owner. Theft from auto remains, year after year, one of the most frequently occurring crimes in the United States.

Why does it happen and how can it be prevented?

Vehicles are easy targets and often contain property attractive to thieves. Even the most amateur thief can stroll through residential neighborhoods and parking lots and find plenty of opportunity. These crimes are motivated by the criminal's need for a few dollars to buy drugs or to live on for a few days. This short-term gain for the thief can translate into weeks of effort toward putting your affairs back in order. Theft from vehicles may leave you with the inconvenience of replacing property, making reports to your insurance company and the police, repairing damage to your vehicle, and the frustration of losing your valuables.

Help the Omaha Police Department reduce this crime in our community by taking these simple steps.

Locking Up

Never leave your car unlocked or the windows open. Leaving your car unlocked is an open invitation for a thief to help himself. Even leaving your window open a small space can be enough for a thief with the proper tools to unlock and open your car.

Lock your car every time you leave it unattended, including short stops at locations such as your home, gas stations, or convenience stores. It is very common for a theft to occur during the few moments you might be inside a building and your car is not in your view.

Never leave your keys anywhere in or on the car. If your car is broken into, the keys can be used to take your car. Home or office keys and any identifying paperwork or ID left in the car can lead a thief to your home or business.

Do not leave personal property in clear view. Cellular phones, day planners, briefcases, backpacks, laptop computers, purses, wallets, gym bags, shopping bags, packages, credit cards, and money are the most common items thieves look for. A thief may not know what is in a bag, but will be willing to break a window or door lock to find out.

If you do have to store property, place it in the trunk so it is not visible to the opportunist. Even better, stow it prior to arriving at your destination so you are not seen putting it away when you arrive.


If you use a removable stereo or faceplate, take it with you rather than stowing it. Most thieves assume you've placed it somewhere in the car such as under the seat or in the glove box.

Record serial numbers. Record serial numbers of your personal property. Keep a written record of serial numbers for pagers, cell phones, stereos, etc. If these items are lost or stolen, the serial numbers can be listed in a national, stolen property computer system and your property returned to you if it is located.

Property can also be engraved. Property can also be engraved with your driver's license number preceded by the two-letter state identifier, for example CA for California. You should NOT use your Social Security Number.

Parking

Avoid leaving your car in an under-used or unattended lot. A frequently used lot means more witnesses so a theft is less likely to occur. If you are parking at night or will be returning to your car after dark, park where the area will be well lighted. Stay away from areas that are concealed, obscured or remote.



HOLIDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ON THE CHARLES E. LAKIN HUMAN SERVICES CAMPUS

Serving the community, collaboratively, and ensuring a human service legacy for generations to come.

- **The Salvation Army Bell-Ringing Season** starts Friday November 5th. To sign up to volunteer go to: www.registertoring.com or call (712)328-2088
- **Faces of Our Future (FOOF) Dinner** at Boys & Girls Club Friday November 19th 6-9pm– volunteers needed earlier for set up as well
- **Thanksgiving Dinner** for Campus Clients at Boys & Girls Club Tuesday November 23rd 5:00-6:30pm You can help prepare or serve, we also need help prepping the 22nd
- **Serve Thanksgiving Dinner** at MICAH House, Thursday November 25th 5:30-6:00pm
- **Buck Sale Day** at Boys & Girls Club Thursday December 9th 3:00-6:00pm –Volunteers needed for set up as well
- **Holiday Decorating** at MICAH House, the first week of December
- **Ice Skating with children** from the Boys & Girls Club Tuesday December 14th 4:00-7:30pm
- **Campus Christmas Party** needs volunteers to hand out cocoa and do crafts with kids Tues. December 21st 4:30-8:00pm
- **The Salvation Army Toy Shop** December 21st-22nd 9am-4pm
- **Holiday Gift Wrapping** for campus clients the week of Christmas
- **Donate Blood to American Red Cross** donation times:
Blood Donation: Mon. 12:30-6:30pm & Tues. 11am-5pm
Platelet Donation: Tues:8:30am-3:30pm Wed. 6:30am-1:30pm
- **Adopt-A-Family** from MICAH House or Heartland Family Service

For more information or to volunteer for any of these events please contact Tiffanie at (712)323-4416.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

As we know, our neighborhood is comprised of streets containing many turn-of-the-century residences, such as Park and Glen Avenues, and streets containing architectural examples of 50-60 year old residences, such as Huntington, Test, Pomona and High School. One of their suggestions for short-term goals was to plant ornamental trees on the public spaces between streets and sidewalks (otherwise known as “parkings”). Along with these trees would be not-too-tall poles containing solar or LED lighting and places for banners and hanging baskets for plants. Coincidentally, the City of Council Bluffs has begun a free tree-planting program and every resident should have received a post card describing this program. We think this could be a way to begin implementing one of the important recommendations of the IAF at no cost to us. Imagine ornamental trees lining our streets, just as in days of old (only then it was elms that succumbed to disease). These ornamentals would not grow so tall they would interfere with utility lines. We have contacted the Parks Department to see if we can work out a neighborhood-wide way to start “phase one” of IAF’s suggestions. However, each and every one of us can take a proactive role in making positive changes to our environment by individually contacting the Parks Department to see whether or not our own little pieces of geography can support one or more of the free trees on offer. Please call 328-4650 or e-mail sbeck@councilbluffs-ia.gov LETS MAKE IT WORK, FRIENDS!

THE LAST WORD

Population boom, that’s what it is. Okay, maybe that’s an overstatement, but recently some little people have come to reside in our neighborhood. Mark and Shari Hansen have finalized the adoption of their little boy and are inviting us all to a grand celebration of the occasion (see elsewhere in this newsletter). Congratulations to Mark and Shari! And in September, Joseph and Nicole Josselyn welcomed into the world twin daughters. Wow, imagine taking care of not just one, but two, newborns along with their two older adopted children! Nope, can’t imagine it. Congratulations to Joseph and Nicole! Incidentally, Nicole has her hands full and, even though her mother has come to help out, it would be a nice thing if any of our capable neighbors would lend a helping hand from time to time. That’s what we do and, incidentally, what makes our neighborhood the wonderful place it is.

Until next time.....Sharon

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 3rd.
FPNA Christmas Party
126 Park Avenue 7:00 p.m.

December 18th
Neighborhood Christmas Carollers
8:00 p.m.

January 15th
FPNA January Meeting
332 Glen Avenue 6:30 p.m.



Tree Planting Program

Various partners in Council Bluffs have come together to bring a new program called Heart of the City to the community. The program allows residents to request a tree to be planted on public property in neighborhoods. All trees and the associated planting costs will be paid through donations from Black Hills Energy, MidAmerican Energy, Council Bluffs Trees Forever, Iowa Western Community College and the Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation Department. "We wanted to develop a program where we could affordably plant new trees all over the city," said John Batt, assistant director of Parks and Recreation. "Thanks to generous donations from various partners in the program, residents can request that a tree be placed in front of their house at no cost to them." The Heart of the City program has been developed in an effort to beautify local neighborhoods with trees. The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for residents of Council Bluffs to have a tree planted in their front parking or side parking. "This program offers an opportunity for residents to take an active role in beautifying their neighborhood," Batt said. Trees can only be placed on public property, and the public property must be bordering a residential property. Public property is typically defined as the green space between the sidewalk and the curb. Residents can call the Parks and Recreation office to set up a free inspection. If no problems are uncovered during the inspection, the Parks and Recreation Department will then forward an application to fill out requesting the type of tree to be planted. To request a tree-planting inspection, contact Skyler Beck at sbeck@councilbluffs-ia.gov or (712) 328-4650.

Carollers in the Neighborhood

Dan McGinn of 199 Glen Ave will be hosting the Pottawattamie County Attorney's office party on Dec 18th. Under the direction of Matt Wilber, the signing attorneys and their office staff will be caroling up and down Park and Glen. They will begin caroling at 8pm.

Dan suggests if you would like the group to stop at your home then turn on your porch light. No promises they will make every house.



Save the Date! 2010 

FESTIVAL of TREES

FRIDAY ★ SATURDAY ★ SUNDAY
*November 19 * 20 * 21*
Harrah's Convention Center
Presented by the Bluffs Arts Council
Buy Your Tickets Online Now At www.Bluffs Festival of Trees.org

General Festival Admission
Saturday, Nov 20th 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday, Nov 21st 10 am to 5 pm
Adults \$8 Children Ages 2-12 \$3
Children Under 2 Are Free

Special Events
Friday, November 19
Family Fun Night 6 pm to 8:30 pm
Games, Dress-up, Crafts and More!
\$5/individuals or \$20 max/family

Saturday, November 20
Christmas Classics Breakfast 8:30 am to 10 am
Join Frosty, Rudolph, and All Your Christmas Friends
\$15/adults \$10/ages 2-12 Under 2 Free

Reindeer Games 10 am to noon
Feed and Pet Live Reindeer!
Free with Festival Admission

It's a Wonderful Night! 8:00 pm to 9:30pm
Dinner, Cocktails, Impact on the Arts Awards, Art Auction
\$60 per person or \$600 for a table of ten

Sunday, November 21
Designer Awards Presentation 4 pm to 5 pm
Prizes for the Best Tree Designers of 2010!
Free with Festival Admission

THE Fairmount Press
 The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association
 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
fairmountparkna@aol.com

Sharon Babbitt	President
Kyle Muschall	Vice President/ Publisher
Tracy Dreessen	Secretary/Editor
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Tracy Dreessen	Board Member (2012)
Nate Watson	Board Member (2011)
John Huggins	Board Member (2012)
Carol Maddox	Board Member (2012)
Maxine Gotto	Board Member (2011)

**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: John Huggins, Treasurer, 206 Park 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: Sharon Babbitt, President, 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503 or John Huggins, Treasurer, 206 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503