



## ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbit

200 Park Avenue

### MEETING UPDATE

Listen up, people!! The most important meeting of our year is about to happen. Yes, an entire year has gone by and it's time for our ANNUAL MEETING. If we didn't have another meeting, we would be required to have this one, especially since it is the one where we have the privilege of voting for some of our Board members. The two-year terms for our Directors are staggered so that there will always be experienced Board members in the mix, along with the new folks.

The terms of the following Directors expire in January: Nate Watson, Kyle Muschall, and Maxine Gotto. (All those other characters will remain on the Board for another year.) We will nominate as many candidates as we wish, including the above three, vote for our three favorites by written ballot, and the nominees who get the three highest number of votes are the winners. This is a very important deal because our Directors speak for us and they must have the intelligence and good sense to make decisions that will benefit the FPNA for the next year and beyond.

By now, you are probably all jazzed up to attend this meeting, right?! Good, because we are all jazzed up to see you there. Come to Kyle and Cindy Muschall's house at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> and bring your appetites, I hear Kyle has a Chili Feast in store. You all know the place because Kyle and Cindy have hosted the annual meeting since the dawn of creation but, just in case, it is 332 Glen, right around the corner from all of us, so you can't use the excuse that it was too far away for travel.

One final but important point to tell you is that the privilege of voting in FPNA is given to members only. This means that dues should be paid before casting your all-important ballots. Dues are still a mere \$20 per year as we know better than to raise them in these difficult financial times—nope, no raising taxes, er, dues, for us. We keep operating expenses low so we can save up for the big stuff later on, like banners for poles, and some of the stuff the architects recently designed to enhance our neighborhood.

### PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Our Person of the Year (POTY) for 2010 is Nate Watson and his beautiful plaque was presented to him at the recent Christmas party. (Kyle designed it, as he does most everything else FPNA requires.) There are so many reasons why Nate deserves this award—he helped found the FPNA and it was his legal expertise and leadership ability which placed us on the straight and narrow road to the success that we now enjoy. He could easily have been awarded this honor before

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## WINE POACHED SALMON

by Terri Allen 445 Glen Avenue

5 to 6 Thick salmon steaks  
White Wine or Champagne  
2 to 3 small leeks or green onions  
2 tbsp Herbs de Provence  
1 lemon, sliced thin  
Parsley sprigs for garnish

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Line the bottom of a glass baking dish with the salmon steaks
- Pour wine/champagne over salmon just to barely cover
- Sprinkle leeks and half of the Herbs de Provence over the salmon
- Place in oven for 20 minutes
- Sprinkle remaining half of Herbs de Provence and bake for another 15 minutes
- Check for doneness with fork. Meat should flake in chunks with little give
- Move the salmon to a serving platter and dress with lemon slices and parsley

# LET'S SPICE UP THE NEW YEAR

We're electing new board members, contributing to dues and forming committees for the coming year.

To top things off we'll have a  
TexMex Chili Feast for everyone to enjoy.  
Won't you share in the FPNA festivities.

JANUARY 15TH  
332 GLEN AVENUE  
6:30 P.M.



# Q&A ON CITY'S NEW SNOW POLICY

By Teri Dowell

445 Glen Avenue

**H**ere are some commonly asked questions to the city concerning snow removal. It does address owners responsibility to clear sidewalks and the odd-even days for parking your car in case of a snow emergency. One thing I noticed is you should not be shoveling snow from your driveway back into the street--even if the snowplow put it there.

**Question:** When and how will we know a snow emergency is in affect?

**Answer:** Public Works will monitor winter weather information with an automated weather DTN, Iowa D.O.T observation sites, and local and national weather media. Every attempt will be made to notify residents of a SNOW EMERGENCY DECLARATION by 3:00 PM the afternoon before. The declaration will then go into effect and be enforced at 8:00 AM the following morning and will remain in affect until emergency streets are cleared. Residents will be notified through local media, radio, television and at times the City's CODE RED ALERT system of emergency declaration.

**Question:** What does a SNOW EMERGENCY DECLARATION mean to residents on snow emergency routes?

**Answer:** No parking will be allowed on these streets until the declaration has been lifted or the street is plowed from curb to curb.

**Question:** Will the snow emergency affect all residents or just residents who live on snow emergency routes?

**Answer:** A SNOW EMERGENCY DECLARATION will at first affect streets that are currently marked as snow emergency routes only. These are main thorough streets, schools, hospitals and high traffic areas such as shopping and downtown areas. These streets are well marked with snow emergency route signs. A list of snow emergency routes is available on the City website (ORDINANCE 9.34.030). Snow emergency routes are first priority for plows.

**Question:** When will the even/odd parking ban take effect and how much time will I have to move my car?

**Answer:** The even/odd-parking ban would not go into effect until emergency routes are completed. Residents will be notified through the media when the even/odd ban will go into effect. Every attempt will be made to notify residents of an even/odd parking ban declaration by 3:00 PM the afternoon before. The declaration will then go into effect and be enforced at 8:00 AM the following morning and will remain in affect until the streets are cleared.

**Question:** I am not sure I quite understand what even/odd parking requires from me. Can you explain more clearly?

**Answer:** The mandatory even/odd ban on parking requires alternate parking on even days on the side of the street with addresses ending in even numbers only. On odd number days, parking is allowed on the side of the street with addresses ending in odd numbers only.

**Question:** Is even/odd parking mandatory and what are the consequences if I do not move my vehicle?

**Answer:** The even/odd parking ban is mandatory to all residents. The parking ban (ORDINANCE 9.34.010) will be strictly enforced. The resident will be responsible for any tickets or towing expenses incurred.

**Question:** I live in a cul-de-sac; how does the parking ban affect me?

**Answer:** The even/odd-parking ban includes mandatory no parking in cul-de-sacs on either side of the cul-de-sac. Residents may park in the street leading into the cul-de-sac following the even/odd parking ban restrictions.

**Question:** I live on street with parking on one side only; what do I need to do when even/odd is declared?

**Answer:** The policy only affects streets that currently has parking on both sides and will have no impact on streets where parking is allowed only on one side.

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# FPNA Holiday Party 2010



Photos by Kyle Muschall

## Q&A SNOW POLICY

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**Question:** What is the City's responsibility for removing snow from resident's sidewalks, driveways, mailboxes and alleys?

**Answer:** The City's responsibility is to plow the streets and keep them open to traffic. Sidewalks adjacent to private property are the responsibility of the property owner. Due to the location of some sidewalks and the amount of snow being moved, there may be occasions where the plowing operation may deposit additional snow onto the sidewalks. It is still the responsibility of property owners to remove all snow from sidewalks. City snow-plows will not clear private driveways. Snow placed in driveways by City plows is the responsibility of the property owner to remove; snow from a private driveway may not be placed on a city street. It is the resident's responsibility to clear snow around the property's mailbox to assure delivery of mail. The resident is also responsible for assuring that the mailbox is property installed behind the curb line and able to withstand snow-clearing efforts by the City. The City does not plow or remove snow from alleys or alley approaches. Due to the narrow paths and locations of structures along alleyways, City equipment cannot safely and efficiently plow alleys.

**Question:** If I have a question concerning snow whom can I call?

**Answer:** You can call Public Works Operations Division with questions pertaining to snow in streets at 712-328-4641; regular hours of operation are from 7 AM-3 PM, Mon-Fri. If you have a concern about snow not cleared from a sidewalk, call the City Right-of-Way office at 712-328-4636, 8 AM-5 PM, Mon-Fri.



## 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 or email Dan at [dan.mcginn@pottcounty.org](mailto:dan.mcginn@pottcounty.org). No promises they will make every house.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

**"If you can dream  
it, then you can  
achieve it. You  
will get all you  
want in life if  
you help enough  
other people get  
what they want"**

**Zig Ziglar**

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By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

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now, but, as past President, he was probably too modest to suggest it. So we have done it for him—congratulations, Nate, and Thank You!

## EXTERIOR HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

The FPNA continues to sponsor a contest for the best exterior holiday decorating and, along with it, a hefty \$100 in cash and the winner's name engraved on our traveling plaque. The plaque can be displayed in the winner's home for the entire upcoming year and the money can be spent however—maybe for more Christmas decorations at all the after-Christmas sales! But, seriously, this is important recognition and also carries with it a photo of the winning home in the January newsletter, which is distributed throughout the metro area. The Board does the judging and this precludes them from being considered for the contest. They will make their decision the week before Christmas. The award will be presented before New Year's Eve. Last year, there were so many worthy contenders that we also recognized two or three runners-up; however, the winner is the only one who gets the cash. A preliminary look around the neighborhood in the evening reveals quite a light show, but we have tried to view things in daylight as well; thus the winner should look good both day and night, if possible. Best of luck to all contenders!

## PRESERVE COUNCIL BLUFFS HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR

This tour, sponsored by Preserve Council Bluffs (formerly known as Council Bluffs Historic Preservation Alliance), took place on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, and was a huge success. Four homes and one business—the Chamber building in the 100 block of Broadway—were on the tour. Among them was 150 Park Ave., owned by Dave and Marie Huggins. This home is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. All the homes were decorated magnificently for the season, but the Huggins home was unique in that it had been rescued from the brink of condemnation by the homeowners, who were there to answer questions from the many folks who took the tour. Thank you, Dave and Marie, for opening up your home for this event. It took twenty years to restore and several weeks to decorate for the holiday, a labor of love for sure.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Each year Nate has opened his home to the FPNA for our annual Christmas party, and it appears to have become a welcome tradition. This year we got to enjoy his 23 trees decorated with beautiful ornaments and all LED lighting, and a potluck to die for. In the past, Nate has furnished all the food and drink, which then consisted of cookies and other sweets, wine and punch. This year he suggested bringing real food and was overheard to remark, while chowing down on all the many selections, that he believed a potluck should become the new custom.

## IMPACT ON THE ARTS AWARD

At the recent Festival of Trees sponsored by the Bluffs Arts Council, five artists were recognized for their excellence with Impact on the Arts Awards. Among them was our own Margaret LaBounty, who recently moved to Park Avenue with her husband, Jon, a science teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School. Margaret is an internationally famous artist, winning many awards worldwide, as well as being the creator of Second Fridays Downtown, a creative art walk. Congratulations to Margaret for winning this award. We are proud she has chosen our neighborhood for her residence.

## ODDS AND ENDS

Remember to listen for the Christmas carolers who will be singing in our neighborhood on December 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:00 p.m. The carolers are attorneys from the Pottawattamie County Attorney's Office and are coming to our neighborhood under the sponsorship of Dan McGinn, one of our newest residents. If you would like to hear them sing in front of your

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# 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.

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By Sharon Babbitt  
Continued From Pg.6

200 Park Avenue

home, please turn on your porch light. No guarantee they can make it to every home though, but they will try.

Have you noticed that Christmas bows have appeared on many of our utility poles? We would like to see them on every single pole and if the winter doesn't beat them up too badly, we may be able to salvage enough that, when added to the ones we will make next year, we can place them everywhere. Thanks to Kyle and Cindy for hanging all of them (they were on a roll), and to Linda, Tracy and Sharon for making them. The ribbon needed for next year's creations has already been purchased (on sale, naturally), so it is a sure thing for 2011.

### THE LAST WORD

The holiday season has descended upon us and we're all just so happy, tra-la-la. Aren't we? Well, I am and maybe you are, but there are no doubt a few among our neighbors who could be broke, sick or alone. The kindly thing to do is to notice these folks and do what we can to help them out, or at least bring a little good cheer where it is needed. Remember, also, to be on the lookout for those in need if bad weather shows its ugly head as it did last year. Transportation to doctor appointments or the grocery store would be a fine and easy way to show we care. We can already claim many helpful neighbors who clean snow from sidewalks and driveways out of the goodness of their hearts. Our neighborhood can't claim these good Samaritans exclusively because these folks can be found throughout Council Bluffs—a good place to live.

Until next time.....Sharon



**THE Fairmount Press**  
 The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association  
 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503  
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Sharon Babbitt	President
Kyle Muschall	Vice President/ Publisher
Tracy Dreessen	Secretary/Editor
John Huggins	Treasurer
Amy Dixon	Special Representative

Sharon Babbitt	Board Member (2012)
Kyle Muschall	Board Member (2011)
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!**

**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.

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**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