



## ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

### BE THERE!!

Our next meeting is coming up at 7:00 p.m. on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 211 Park Ave. Melissa Head will be our host and promises us a Valentine's Day theme. We don't know what this means but we're hoping there won't be too much kissing involved. Maybe candy instead. Melissa says she will furnish all the food treats required so we only need to bring ourselves.

Which brings up a point, which hasn't been discussed much lately—that of food for our meetings. We have somehow evolved into meetings in which the hosts have been furnishing all the food. This is wonderful, of course, but by no means is it a requirement for hosting FPNA meetings. It is okay to let others help out, say with cookies and other snacks (we all love them). Hosting these meetings doesn't have to be a chore.

### NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION

Our new Board of Directors met recently and one of the goals we have set for ourselves and our neighborhood is that of beautification. This could mean anything but, trust us; we aren't talking about your weekly or monthly visits to the hairdresser. Beautification has already been implemented with flower baskets during the warm months, holiday bows in winter, and neighborhood-wide clean-ups, but there is a lot more that can be done. Our neighborhood will be seen by many more area visitors in the future when we receive our National Register Historic Neighborhood designation, and when the renovation of Fairmount Park has been completed. What will they see as they drive and walk our streets?

We are jump starting all this beauty with a new awards program we're calling "YARD OF THE MONTH." Each month beginning in May and ending in August we will be naming a front yard (not the back—who can see that?), which we will judge to be the nicest looking one for that month. Maybe it will be the one with, for example, the best looking flowers or perhaps the most attractive lawn ornaments, or the one with the most tastefully placed shrubbery. We are extending this awards program over four months because, as all horticulturists know, what looks good in May might be a little tired by August. The judging will be done by the Directors because, as is our policy, they will not be eligible to win. The award will be a photo (taken by Kyle) in our newsletter, which is read by hundreds in the metro area. There will be no monetary award for this program, but we will continue to award \$100 to the winner of our winter exterior holiday decorating contest.



# LET'S GET COOKING

By Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

These were a big hit at the January FPNA meeting. If you like pecans then feel free to add more. Hope you enjoy.

## YUMMY PECAN PRALINES

1 cup brown sugar	2 tablespoons butter
1 cup white sugar	1 1/4 cups pecan halves
1/2 cup evaporated milk	1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

- Generously grease a large baking sheet
- In a sauce pan over medium heat, combine both sugars and milk and bring to a boil
- Stir in butter, pecans and vanilla
- Heat, without stirring, to between 234 and 240 degrees F (112 to 116 degrees C), or until a small amount of syrup dropped into cold water forms a soft ball that flattens when removed from the water and placed on a flat surface.
- Remove from heat and let cool 5 minutes
- Beat until thickened, then pour immediately onto a prepared surface and let rest until firm and completely cool before cutting.

SHOW  
THE

# LOVE

FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By joining us at the F.P.N.A Meeting  
February 19th at 7:00 p.m.  
211 Park Avenue

Our host Melissa Head will be serving up  
hot chili and scrumptious cornbread  
to warm our hearts during this cold weather

# ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt  
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

The Pottawattamie County Community Foundation has granted our request for funds to create twenty signs marking the most historically significant of all the historically significant homes in our NA. The Broadway Methodist Church acted as our fiscal agent in this matter and has turned over to FPNA the money to get the project under way. Bill Mann and Bob Pashek are the artisans who will build these signs using vintage wood trims. They will be one-of-a-kind and will certainly set our neighborhood apart from all others in Council Bluffs. The signs will start popping up this summer. This is Neighborhood Beautification in capital letters, my friends!

## A BUSY TIME IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

A number of events are planned for this year and it looks like we will be having nonstop fun. The neighborhood-wide garage sale will be a reality once again. A July picnic is in the works, too. A new and unique FPNA directory is being created and will be for sale for a small sum. Why, we might even have an ice cream social, or will that be just more than a body can bear! Melissa is our new Events Chairman so, hey, complain or compliments to her☺.

## IDEAS FOR GRANTS

Now is the time when organizations put out the call for grant applications. If we were to apply for a grant this year, what would we ask for? If you have any ideas won't you please bring them to the next meeting? We have received two grants in the past, for our signs and for help at last year's picnic, and this is a good way to enable FPNA to meet some of its goals. Let's hear from you.

## BLOCK OF BUILDERS

During the month of February, the Neighborhood Center is sponsoring a four-weekend seminar to educate the leaders of the neighborhood associations in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area in all the simple and complex ways of running NAs. Several representatives of FPNA are attending. We thank the Neighborhood Center for making this service available to all, free of charge.

## BENEFITS

Everyone who lives within the boundaries of FPNA enjoys many free benefits, from receiving a monthly newsletter to enjoying the beauty of the flower baskets and bows and even the free trash clean up. On the other hand, nothing is really "free," including what has just been described. Paper, flowers, fertilizer, watering devices, ribbon—it all costs money and must be paid for by FPNA. Yes, here it comes! We get our money from those neighbors who step up to the plate and pay their dues. Don't you want to be counted among these responsible folks? Please say YES by sending your measly \$20 to Treasurer John Huggins, 206 Park, soon. Michelle is our Membership Chairman and her goal will be to increase the paid membership wherever possible. Let's help her meet or even exceed this goal, and thanks.

## A LOSS

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, one of our neighbors, Jimmie Bolton, passed away from the effects of diabetes. He was a young man who had been ill for a long time; however, he maintained a cheerful attitude and was an inspiration to his family and friends. Our sympathy goes to his mother, Zelma, and if she needs anything at all, we are here to help.

Continued On Pg.7

# January Board Meeting Minutes

By Tracy Dreessen

126 Park Avenue

First Board Meeting of 2010 – Held on January 20th, at the home of FPNA President – Sharon Babbitt  
Board Members in attendance – Sharon, John, Nate, Carol, Kyle, & Tracy  
Guests invited – Michelle (Head of Membership Committee) & Melissa (Head of Special Events/Fund Raising) & Amy (Special Representative to DNA)

## Start Time 7:00pm

Sharon began by getting everyone's opinions for Goals for the Neighborhood for 2010. Brainstorming began by all:  
Historic signs will be up this year. If we need additional funding for beautification projects, there are places to get grant money – Pepsi sponsors Neighborhood Grants, etc.

Yard of the month discussed

Holiday decorating contest was discussed

Flower baskets – Michelle checking back with Dallas Johnson – Do we want flowers on every other pole? Need additional hooks, longer screws

What to do about Wickam Neighborhood? They currently get 17 baskets of our total 65 (Watering tool is \$129.)

Tracy made motion, Kyle & Nate second – All unanimously voted for the following:

Wickam is expanding so they can get their own baskets

Ask Dallas Johnson for 75 baskets just for FPNA

Michelle will write the request  
Motion was amended to include more hooks for the additional flower baskets and longer screws

Christmas Bows will be on every pole 2010

Holiday decorating contest was revisited – Do we keep original plan to hand out \$100 and the existing traveling plaque? All agreed

Yard of the month was revisited – Yard would be recognized in Newsletter with a picture of the house

Months of May, June, July, & August

Kyle motion, Carol second – All voted unanimously

Neighborhood signs revisited – Bill & Bob need ½ of the money up front to begin construction of the new signs. \$2000.

Nate made motion, Carol second – all voted unanimously

Names on signs should be what gave historic value

Sharon to check write up

Head of Special Events Committee – Melissa Head

She will visit with neighbors to schedule the monthly meetings and help coordinate/help with food ideas  
Melissa is hosting Feb.

Possibly Bill & Bob to possible host May

July picnic?? Where to have – Fairmount Park or a Block Party  
Possibly by Carol's house

Melissa to check with the City to see about closing street and cost  
Possible fund raising events  
2nd Annual Garage Sale  
Ice Cream Social  
Selling of FPNA Directories

Kyle to change date on membership form in newsletter to add the current year

Treasurer – John – needs to pay \$50 to DNA (dues), \$70 approx to pay for newsletter paper

Head of Membership committee – Michelle Mutchler-Burns

Michelle proposed a membership packet for new comers packet to include:

Free membership for remainder of the current year

Gift Certificates for pizza, movie, etc.

Carol to help bake

Michelle will put together sample and let board vote

Special Representative to the DNA – Amy Dixon

Discussed the \$50 from every NA  
Discussed the DNA's website which will include a link to a page for each NA

Kyle brought sample directory  
Includes picture of persons house

Nate suggested a small picture of family with house

Possibly charge \$2.00

**End of Board Meeting 8:40pm**



# A Guide to Community Acronyms

There is a lot going on in our corner of the world and sometimes when we talk about all the activities we start to use a group or organization's initials or acronym. We thought we'd provide a list of all those organizations that are helping to make you're hometown a great place to live.

<b>CB</b>	Council Bluffs, also known as City of Council Bluffs
<b>NC</b>	The Neighborhood Center
<b>NC/CB</b>	The Neighborhood Center, Council Bluffs Office
<b>NC/O</b>	The Neighborhood Center, Omaha Office
<b>NA</b>	Neighborhood Association
<b>HA</b>	Homeowners Association
<b>BD</b>	Business District
<b>WEA</b>	West End Alliance
<b>RPNA</b>	Roberts Park Neighborhood Association
<b>CRNA</b>	Crown Rd Neighborhood Association
<b>MHNA</b>	McPherson Hills Neighborhood Association
<b>LLNA</b>	Locust Lodge Neighborhood Association
<b>DNA</b>	Downtown Neighborhood Alliance
<b>BWNA</b>	Bayliss West Neighborhood Association
<b>FPNA</b>	Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association
<b>GNA</b>	Gibraltar Neighborhood Association
<b>LFNA</b>	Lincoln-Fairview Neighborhood Association
<b>WNA</b>	Wickham Neighborhood Association
<b>ICNA</b>	Indian Creek Neighborhood Association
<b>GCBD</b>	Government Center Business District
<b>OTBD</b>	Old Town Business District
<b>CBHPA</b>	Council Bluffs Historic Preservation Alliance
<b>SFD</b>	Second Fridays, also known as Second Fridays Downtown
<b>MSCB</b>	Main Street, also known as Main Street Council Bluffs
<b>PCCF</b>	Pottawattamie County Community Foundation
<b>PCDC</b>	Pottawattamie County Development Corporation
<b>IWF</b>	Iowa West, also known as Iowa West Foundation



# Keep Kids Alive Drive 25

Across the country communities are calling for action to make neighborhoods safer. Individual families, businesses, police departments, schools, even entire cities and states are proclaiming May 1<sup>st</sup>. "Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 Day".

Make it a day of special activities and educational opportunities. Encourage families to put Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 signs in their yards. Hold block parties to get everyone involved. Hand out literature, window clings and key chains at businesses. Build community. Save lives.

Help make everyone more mindful of the need for safer driving in our communities. For a free activity guide, sample letter to elected official, press release and media kit, and to order yard signs and other reminder items visit

[www.KeepKidsAliveDrive25.org](http://www.KeepKidsAliveDrive25.org)

**"The better part of one's life consists of his friendships"**

**Abraham Lincoln**

## SO LONG...FOR NOW

Our neighbors, Barb and Ron Neal, are moving temporarily to Japan. Although it is only a temporary relocation, it will last for many months, stretching into maybe three years. They love their historic home at 231 Park Ave. and don't want to relinquish ownership if they don't have to. Their desire is to rent it out, if possible. If not possible, their only other option is to sell it. Either way, they have asked for our help. Does anyone know of a reliable family wishing to rent or buy a large, historic family home in our wonderful neighborhood? If so, please call Ron at 242-7876. We wish them all the luck and hurry back.

# IN MEMORY

Reprinted from the Nonpariel with permission from the Family

**J**ames Dale Bolton (334 Glen Avenue) was born February 5, 1956 to James Byron and Zelma Louise (Blue) Bolton. Jim passed away on Friday, January 16, 2010. His health had been failing and his death was quick and merciful.

Jim was the third of 4 children. His dad and sister Janice preceded him in death. He is survived by his mother Zelma, sister Jacquie Peregoy, brother John and many nephews, nieces and grand nephews and nieces.

Jimmy had an extended family of friends. Jimmy saw many of these friends on a regular basis at the Goldmine bar and grill. The Goldmine bartenders, cooks and patrons were good friends to Jim and took a lot of teasing and practical jokes from him. They gave it back in full measure. Friend Mike Van Scoy was a lot of help to Jim as Jim's health failed.

Jimmy liked to follow sports, game shows and cooking shows on TV. He enjoyed reading his Nonpariel and Sports Illustrated; he liked an occasional wager or sports pool. He was an excellent cook and he loved to share his creations with friends and family. He made the best soups, chili, barbecued ribs and feather bones, spaghetti sauce and 'whatever sounded good.' He recently made a great pasta salad.

Jim enjoyed playing sports in his youth. His favorite was baseball which he started as a small boy with his dad as one of his coaches. Jim liked his garden and was proud of his 2009 crop of tomatoes and peppers. There was 2 feet of snow in his garden the day before he passed and Jimmy joked, "My snow peas look good, don't they?"

Jim took care of his Mom and she took care of him. In Jim's last year, he discussed his belief in Jesus with his family. Jim will be missed, but he's gone on to a better pace with no illness or suffering.



# DATES TO REMEMBER

February 15th  
Presidents Day

February 19th  
F.P.N.A. February Meeting

April 10th  
F.P.N.A. April Meeting

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**B**ring 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  
tteeple@themicahhouse.org

The MICAH 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

# Tax Season '10

**F**ree tax preparation and free e-file will be available throughout the tax season in Council Bluffs at the Iowa Works site located at 300 West Broadway. You can also receive a full range of additional services and opportunities. The Iowa Works site opens the week of January 25th!

## VITA PLUS SITES OFFER THESE SERVICES (SOME SERVICES NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE):

Free bank accounts: get your refund faster and safer through direct deposit!

Free credit reports and personal advising: certain days only

Financial Education Seminars: Learn something new while you're waiting!

Refund Splitting: Spend Some, Save Some and Invest Some of your refund

Visits by other professionals in the community, referrals for other services and information to help you and your family.

**Important Notes:** In extreme weather, our sites may close. Contact 2-1-1 or check for cancelations on the TV stations and websites in Omaha.

What to bring to ensure your tax preparation process goes as smoothly as possible:

- Social security cards or ITINs for self, spouse, and dependents.
- Photo Identification
- Copy of 2008 tax returns (especially IA state return)
- All W-2 and 1099 forms (Interest, Dividend, Miscellaneous, retirement, SSA, State (G))
- Child care provider info (Name, address, EIN/SSN) and amounts paid
- For direct deposit, bank account and routing number.
- Property tax receipts and mortgage interest statements, Closing Statement on new homes
- For Itemized Deductions: medical expenses, charitable contributions, 2008 State refund
- Education expense receipts
- Gambling Winnings
- Energy Credit Certificates of Authenticity, Sales Tax Receipts on New Cars,
- Both spouses must be present to sign return or in case of divorce/separation, may need spouse's name and SSN (Alimony/Filing Separate)

# EVEN MORE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

Continued From Pg.3

## EVER HEARD THIS ONE?

One way to get rid of those ice dams on roofs: Fill panty hose with rock salt and place it on the ice dam. The ice will melt, so we're told. Of course, we're not told how to explain the bizarre appearance this unusual remedy is bound to create.

## THE LAST WORD

How many times has it been said that this winter is the worst ever, etc.? I'm sorry to say that I may be revealing a secret better left unsaid, but when I was a kid winters like this were commonplace. Gosh, we didn't have snow blowers and 4-wheel drives back then--long, long ago in that galaxy far, far away. But what we did have were good friends and families who helped out with shoveling and errands when needed. Well, guess what? We have that even today; everywhere we look we see sidewalks and driveways being shoveled by helpful neighbors so that the rest of us can function in this awful winter. I know I speak for all of us when I say THANK YOU. Until next time...Sharon

---

**"The world is a dangerous place not because of those who do evil but because of those who look on and do nothing"**  
**Albert Einstein**

**THE Fairmount Press**  
 The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association  
 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503  
[fairmountparkna@aol.com](mailto:fairmountparkna@aol.com)

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.

**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