



## ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbit

200 Park Avenue

### NEXT MEETING

We know you are wondering where and when! New residents Harvey and Teri Kunik, 167 Glen Ave., have been wanting to meet their neighbors and have taken the generous way of doing so by inviting all of us to their home for the next meeting on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. We have told them what to expect and they still want to do it, so be there to welcome them to our wonderful neighborhood! They have opened their arms to a number of children over the years, some their own and some adopted, and moved into this house so they would have plenty of room for their family. The house is one of those spacious and convenient four-square Victorians that are so prevalent in any old neighborhood such as ours. It features the original colonnades and other woodwork (never painted), ceiling fixtures, and anaglypta faux finished to look like leather. The house, built in 1913, is located in the old Bebbington Place sub-division, and has, amazingly, been home to only three families during its lifetime.

Teri promises drinks and treats for our enjoyment and insists on providing it all herself. Please be there to say "hello" to our new friends.

### GARAGE SALE

One of our first orders of business will be to make decisions about the 2010 garage sale. Do we want to have another one? Which weekend will be best? Who wants to participate? What about an accompanying bake sale? How many more questions can we come up with that will need to be answered before we can proceed? Although this subject will be addressed at the FPNA Board meeting which will be held in the next few days, we appreciate and need your input. Please email your suggestions to Melissa at [issy1997@aol.com](mailto:issy1997@aol.com), or Kyle at [kmuschall@cox.net](mailto:kmuschall@cox.net) or otherwise bring them to the upcoming meeting. And thanks.

### PICNIC

What would the summer be without a neighborhood picnic, and this summer will be no different. Beautiful Lookout Point is right here in our neighborhood and is calling our name, so we are almost "compelled" to answer the call! Our picnic will take place early in July (date to be announced shortly) and will be for just us this time. We envision it as a relaxed time, with friends visiting friends, and good food cheerfully prepared and shared by our warm-hearted neighbors. This is one of the qualities that distinguishes the FPNA from many other groups to which we might belong.

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# ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

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It could be that our designation to the National Register of Historic Places will have arrived by then. If so, our picnic can also be the logical place to be presented with the good news. Stay tuned.

## NEIGHBORHOOD SIGNS

Our application to the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation for a grant to build twenty signs identifying our most historic homes (in an area replete with historic homes—how could we choose?) was approved and we received the \$4,415.00 required for the work. Kyle created several color studies for the Directors to choose from and a very beautiful design was chosen (it was passed around at the last meeting for all to see). Bill, Bob and Sharon pondered over placement of the lettering identifying the homes and now everything is set to move forward. We hope to have them installed by late summer. What an addition to our neighborhood these will be!!!

## HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

At one of the sessions of the Block of Builders seminar recently sponsored by the Neighborhood Center, one of the speakers advised Neighborhood Associations to utilize their strengths in raising funds for their NAs. What does this mean? Simply put, our biggest strength (besides our members themselves) is the historic nature of our area. We've got the historic homes and an interested public who wants to see them. If we sponsor a tour of some of our historic homes, which will not compete in any way with the tours held by the CBHPA but will only enhance them, we may gain some very favorable publicity for our neighborhood while building our treasury at the same time. Watch for more about this idea as the Board irons out the details.

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**PEOPLE GET READY**

**THE FARMHOUT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**2010 GARAGE SALE IS APPROACHING**

We would like to invite everyone in the neighborhood to participate. We will be placing ads in the local newspapers throughout the metro area, on the web and will have ample signage/flyers/maps to get the word out.

All the folks last year commented on how wildly successful their sale was and how wonderful it was to see the neighborhood so active.

If you are interested in making some walking around money

Please contact:  
**Kyle Muschall**  
kmuschall@cox.net  
712-323-4047

To cover the cost of advertising we are asking each participating household to donate what they feel is appropriate

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By Sharon Babbitt  
Continued From Pg.2

200 Park Avenue

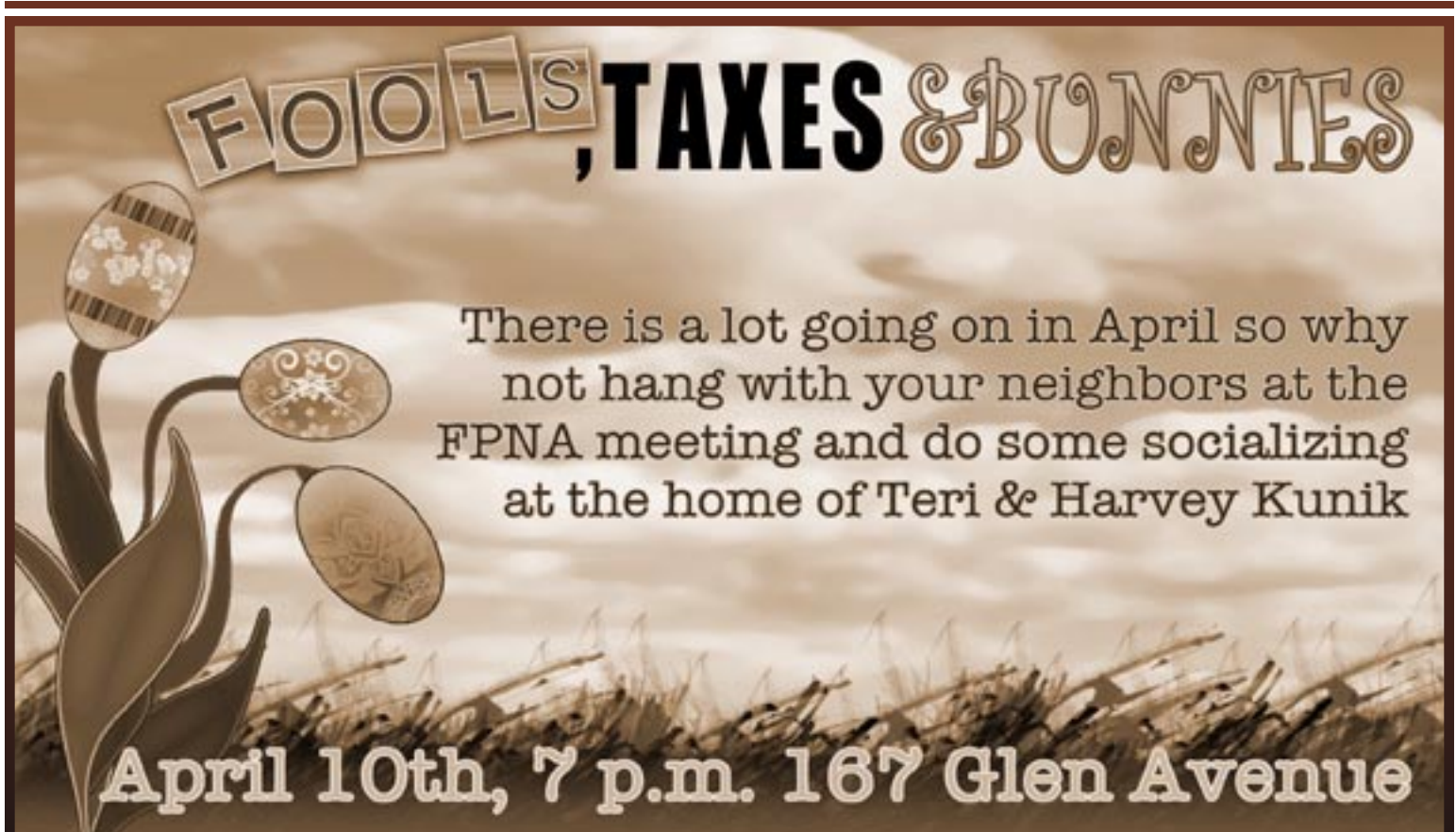
## FPNA BOARD MEETING

Following the general meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Directors met to discuss a couple of items of business. We approved Michelle's draft of the welcome letter to new residents. We discussed at length the subject of the flower baskets and decided to postpone any final decision on that matter until more discussion can be had with Dallas Johnson and others.

## THE LAST WORD

Some people may think that the definition of "Neighborhood Beautification" means painting, planting and generally cleaning up. All these definitions are true but, in the larger sense, garbage and the lack thereof, can also be included. Nearly every homeowner in our NA is conscientious about putting out the garbage on pick-up day and about generally keeping discarded foodstuffs out of the hands (or paws) of marauding critters. But if they don't, here's what to do. Call Karen Olson of the CB Public Health Department directly (328-4666); she is assigned to our territory, keeps a record of calls and says that, if someone calls with a complaint and speaks to anyone other than her, she will not have a record of it and will not be able to note how many times a complaint has been made about an offending property. In other words, it won't get the same results if you call the mayor or any other city official. We recently found this out when we as a Board resolved to confront the Health Department en masse about the unresolved garbage buildup at 120 Park Ave. Karen was very helpful, got the garbage removed, and kept us informed of every step. We love it when problems can be handled in a non-confrontational way and friendly relationships can be maintained.

Until next time.....Sharon



**FOOLS, TAXES & BUNNTIES**

There is a lot going on in April so why not hang with your neighbors at the FPNA meeting and do some socializing at the home of Teri & Harvey Kunik

**April 10th, 7 p.m. 167 Glen Avenue**

# MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By Carol Mattox

225 Huntington Avenue

**E**leanor Jacobs has lived in the Fairmont Park Neighborhood for eighty-five years. Eighty-four of those years were at 441 Park Avenue. In fact, she was born in the house at 441. Six generations of Eleanor's family lived in the house. Before her family bought 441 in 1917, they rented a house at 411 Park Avenue. Her uncle and father rented a room in the house at 447 Park Avenue and while he was living there, he met Eleanor's mother. Her mother lived in the house from 1917 until her death in 1994. They paid \$2800.00 for the house at 441 Park.

The home at 441 Park Avenue produced many soldiers for the wars we've had since 1917. Uncles, fathers, sons and grandsons have been involved in WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, and now, the Afghanistan War. Two deaths have occurred in the house as well as 3 births. Throughout the years, daughters, sons, uncles, grandchildren and several other members of Mrs. Jacob's family have lived near her or with her. To this day, there are still several members of her family living in our neighborhood. Her present home is at 312 Park Avenue.

Eleanor walked to Washington Elementary School everyday. There were no snow days. She remembers walking home from school for lunch everyday. Children were not allowed to bring lunch to school unless there was a note from their parents stating that someone wouldn't be home to feed them. She went to Washington through the eighth grade. Then she went to Bloomer for ninth grade and to the old AL on Fifth Avenue for high school.

On her way home for lunch from Washington School, Eleanor had to pass by the Quaker Bakery. They started their baking about 11:30 a.m. and the wonderful smells of bread baking were very hard to pass up at noon. She also went past the Woodward Candy Factory where the present Ogden Place strip Mall is located. The Ogden Hotel was also on the corner of Park and Pierce.

Fairmont Park memories include the zoo, swan pond, and ice skating on swan pond in the winter on the lower part of the park. The upper part of the park was not a picnic area. It was just a lookout point to overlook the city. When Eleanor was young the children could go to Fairmont Park alone, but by the time her children came along, she did not let them go there unsupervised. Kirn Field was built during the Depression in the 1930's. All the men had to eat for lunch were potato peelings. During the World War II days, Eleanor walked to work at the Howard Defense Plant. The first plant was located by the present location of the YMCA.



Downtown Council Bluffs was especially beautiful during the Christmas Holidays. Around Thanksgiving the stores would cover their windows with butcher paper and put beautiful decorations in their windows behind the paper. The day after Thanksgiving they would take the paper down and everyone would go downtown to see all the displays in the windows. They would have a parade with Santa Claus. The newspaper would have numbers in the paper that people tried to match at the different stores to win prizes.

She does feel that this winter has been one of the worst she can remember. She said they did not plow the streets in the early days, so kids went sledding right down the middle of the road and it was a lot of fun. When they first lived on Park Ave., the streets were made of wooden blocks covered in Creosote. Then they put bricks in and now of course, it is black topped

in places. When they put the bricks in and took out the wooden blocks people grabbed as many of the wooden blocks to burn in their wood stoves. In the fall, the men would rake the leaves into the middle of the street and have huge bonfires. With no television, the kids were out all the time playing in the street or telling ghost stories.

Eleanor remembers going to A Pure Food Fair at the old City Auditorium. It was put on by the Pure Food Store. Her mother filled out a ticket and they had a drawing for a \$5.00 bag of

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# The Legend of St. Patrick

Many of the stories about Patrick are based only on legends. One of the best-known tales tells how he charmed the snakes of Ireland into the sea so that they drowned. Different tales tell of his standing upon a hill, and using a wooden staff, drove the serpents into the sea, banishing them forever from the shores of Ireland. One legend says that one old snake resisted, but the saint overcame it by cunning. He is said to have made a box and invited the reptile to enter. The snake insisted the box was too small and the discussion became very heated. Finally the snake entered the box to prove he was right, whereupon St Patrick slammed the lid and cast the box into the sea. While it is true there are no snakes in Ireland, chances are that there never have been snakes since the time the island was separated from the rest of the continent at the end of the ice age. As in many old pagan religions serpent symbols were common, and possibly even worshipped. Driving the snakes from Ireland was most likely symbolic of putting an end to that pagan practice.

According to another tale, Patrick used a three-leaf shamrock to illustrate the idea of the Trinity. Many people believe the shamrock came to be the traditional symbol of Ireland as a result of this legend. Today, his feast day, March 17th is celebrated as a national holiday in Ireland.

St. Patrick also introduced the Roman alphabet and Latin literature into Ireland. After his death, about 461AD, Irish monasteries flourished as centers of learning.

Compton's Encyclopedia adds that despite a constant threat to his life, Patrick traveled widely, baptizing, confirming, preaching and building churches and monasteries. Patrick succeeded in converting almost the entire population of the island. His "Epistola" pleads the case of the Christian Irish at the hands of their British conquerors. Patrick's writings have come to be appreciated for their simplicity and humility.

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## MEET THE NEIGHBORS

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groceries. With the prices back then, it was a really large sack of groceries.

One of Eleanor's claims to fame was in 1920, her father's car was stolen and hid in a garage on Fifth Avenue and used in the Great Train Robbery. Her father walked by the garage everyday on his way to work, but didn't know it was there. Another claim to fame was that one of daughters of the owners of the Woodward Candy Factory went to school with Eleanor and everyone always invited the girl to their parties because she always brought a box of candy. Eleanor said, "That was really good candy."

Eleanor has four children, ten grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. She describes her years on Park Avenue in Council Bluffs as a good life. Her 85 year residency on Park Avenue makes her one of our most seasoned residents of Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association. Eleanor has many stories to share (and some she doesn't want to share). It was my pleasure to have her give me her view of life on Park Avenue.

## 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)

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**"The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important"**  
**Martin Luther King Jr.**

# When to call 911

## Information from the Neighborhood Center

Determine when it is appropriate to dial the 911 emergency line comes down to these few basic guidelines:

1. Call if you need to see a law enforcement officer immediately. Those staffing the 911 phones are responsible for dispatching officers, so the quickest way to get help is to call the line directly.
2. Call if you have been involved in any type of an auto accident, if you have a crime to report to police or if you are in immediate danger.
  - a. A person whose car has stalled on the highway in dangerously cold weather or whose car is blocking traffic, for example, needs to dial 911.
  - b. A person whose car stalled on the side of the road in fair weather would be wiser to call a tow company.
3. Call if you have a medical emergency.
  - a. This can range from difficulty breathing, a broken bone, and chest pain to an open bleeding wound.
  - b. People, who are sick or injured but not in immediate danger, should call a private ambulance service or someone with a car.
4. Call if you see smoke. Dialing a non-emergency number will slow response time.
5. Call if you see persons lurking in shadows or prowling near autos or homes.
6. Call if you see juveniles drinking, anyone racing in a vehicle, or driving recklessly.
7. Call if you see vandalism or fights in progress. (Graffiti should be reported, as well as descriptions of those who are putting up the graffiti).
8. Call if you suspect any drug activity.
9. Lost or disorientated elderly/mentally unbalanced persons should be reported.
10. Call if you are unsure whether you have a 911 emergency on your hands.
  - a. Look and listen for breaking sounds, gunshots, screaming, open or broken doors and windows as well as any other suspicious activity.
11. It is better for officers to find out there is nothing wrong than to let a crime be committed.

**"People often say that  
motivation doesn't last.  
Well, neither does bathing-  
that's why we recommend it  
every day"  
Zig Ziglar**

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# DATES TO REMEMBER

April 1st  
April Fool's Day  
April 4th  
Easter  
April 10th  
F.P.N.A. April Meeting  
April 15th  
Taxes Due  
May 22  
FPNA May Meeting

## Leprechaun

The Leprechaun is an Irish fairy. He looks like a small, old man (about 2 feet tall), often dressed like a shoemaker, with a cocked hat and a leather apron. According to legend, leprechauns are aloof, unfriendly, live alone, and pass their time making shoes. They also possess a hidden pot of gold. Treasure hunters can often track down a leprechaun by the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. If caught, he can be forced (with the threat of bodily violence) to reveal the location of his treasure, but the captor must keep their eyes on him every second. If the captor's eyes leave the leprechaun (and he often tricks them into looking away), he vanishes and all hopes of finding the treasure are lost. Legend has it that you can find the leprechaun and his pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.



# Tax Season '10

Free 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 cancellations on the TV stations and websites in Omaha.

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

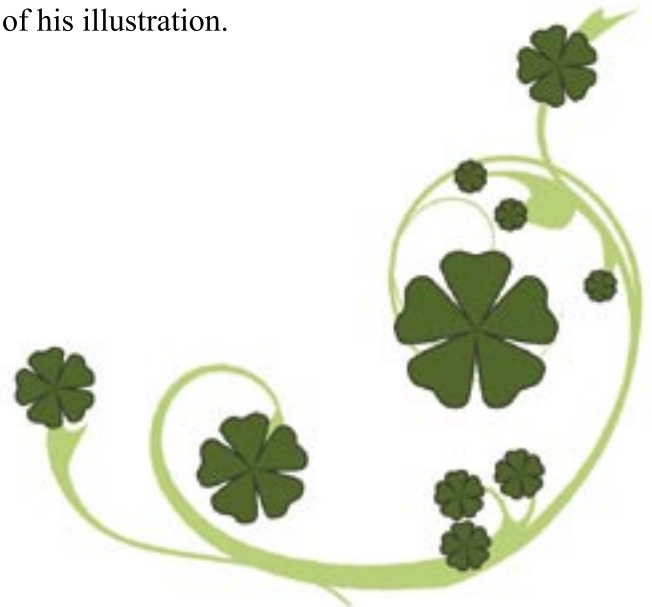
- Social security cards or ITINs for self, spouse, and dependents.
- Photo Identification
- Copy of 2008 tax returns (especially IA state return)
- All W-2 and 1099 forms (Interest, Dividend, Miscellaneous, retirement, SSA, State (G))
- Child care provider info (Name, address, EIN/SSN) and amounts paid
- 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)

## THE SHAMROCK

The shamrock (at one called the "Searoy" is a type of small herb with leaves made up of three leaflets, and is the common name for any of several three-leafed clovers native to Ireland. The Irish have considered shamrocks as good luck symbols since earliest times, and today many people of other nationalities have adopted that belief. It has become the national symbol of Ireland, because of the legend that St. Patrick used it to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity.

Preaching in the open air on the doctrine of the trinity, he is said to have illustrated the existence of the Three in One by plucking a shamrock from the grass growing at his feet and showing it to his congregation. It symbolizes the cross and blessed trinity.

The legend of the shamrock is also connected with that of the banishment of the serpent tribe from Ireland by a tradition that snakes are never seen on trefoil and that it is a remedy against the stings of snakes and scorpions. The trefoil in Arabia is called shamrakh and was sacred in Iran as an emblem of the Persian triads. The trefoil, as noted above, being a sacred plant among the Druids, and three being a mystical number in the Celtic religion as well as all others, it is probable that St. Patrick must have been aware of the significance of his illustration.



**THE Fairmount Press**  
The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503  
fairmountparkna@aol.com

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Kyle Muschall	Vice President/ Publisher
Tracy Dreessen	Secretary/Editor
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**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