



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

DON'T MISS THIS ONE

Our next meeting will be on May 22nd at 4:00 p.m., in the beautiful patio surrounding “The Mansion” at 151 Park Ave. Everyone recognizes this landmark and everyone, naturally, wants to get inside, but, wait, we will enjoy the beautifully landscaped grounds only this time around. Owners Bob and Bill have graciously opened up their park, er, we mean yard, for the second year in a row, so if you missed last year’s meeting there, make it a point to attend this time, or you will be sorry. We don’t plan to shoot you or anything—just that you will be sorry.

They have told us their plans for food at this meeting. They will supply the burgers, buns and condiments, fried chicken, potato salad, cold drinks, dessert, and maybe a fruit salad, and the plates and utensils. We will supply the rest. What? Anyway, bring along some special potluck dish you would like us all to try and we will have a feast for kings and royalty. See you there!

BUSY, BUSY

Never let it be said that we in the FPNA aren’t active! The next few months will feature so many events that we get dizzy thinking about it, and tired planning it. Actually, we don’t get dizzy or even tired because we have so many volunteers to help out with things that nobody has time to get tired, and those who were dizzy to begin with can’t blame it on the FPNA!

First up is the GARAGE SALE, which will take place the weekend of June 5-6. Kyle, Tracy, and Amy are spearheading the committee under the wing of Events Chair Melissa, and they have things well in hand. Several folks signed up to participate at last weekend’s meeting, and there are probably many more of us out there who won’t want to miss this opportunity to clean out our attics, basements and garages (if we are lucky enough to have them) and make a little cash. FPNA will take care of the advertising and signs; we ask only for a small donation from your proceeds to cover the costs. Please let Kyle know if you plan to join in.

After a month’s respite, we can look forward to our annual PICNIC, to be held at Lookout Point at 4:00 p.m., July 10th. Lookout Point is one of the most beautiful locations within the city limits and we are honored to have it right on the fringe of our neighborhood. This year’s picnic will be for our neighbors and friends alone, but if we get word that our National Register of Historic Places designation has been finalized, we may use this opportunity, when so many of us will be together, to accept our official notification. Meanwhile, we will make our plans for a blow-out potluck where we will get together just for fun—no business! Several folks volunteered to help at the picnic while we were meeting last weekend. If you want to be among them and didn’t have a chance to mention it before, please let Melissa know so she can count you among the helpers—and thanks.

Continued On Pg.4

**"The bud is
on the bough
again, the
leaf is on
the tree"**

**Charles
Jefferys**



PEOPLE GET READY

JUNE 5-6 **THE FARMHOUT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION** **JUNE 5-6**

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

SIGNS . . . SIGNS . . . SIGNS !

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

We are fortunate, in addition to our wonderful neighbors; our neighborhood has so many wonderful homes. Have you ever thought “I wonder how old that house is, or who once lived there?” Soon, many of our homes will feature a wonderful hand crafted lawn sign that is being created as I write. Last year, I began collecting the signatures that will serve as the agreement between the homeowner and the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association, allowing the sign to remain as a permanent addition to the lawn. I’ll continue gathering those signatures, now that the weather is warming.

Although the following information is not new, I feel it’s important to revisit. Last year, we talked about the quest for our National Historic District designation and the fact that our homes do not need to be individually listed in order to display a National register of Historic Places plaque. For the most part, the homes that receive a lawn sign would be those that are considered “individually eligible”. As we discussed before, homes that are considered “individually eligible” display characteristics that would make them eligible for listing because of architectural style, a person of importance residing there, or an event of importance occurred there.

If, or shall I say, “when” our Historic District is named, those homeowners may chose to display a plaque denoting that their home is considered “Individually Eligible” as a historic property in the Park-Glen Historic District in addition to the signage that will be made for their yard. There are 20 homes that are eligible for this honor and many more homes that are considered “contributing” toward the Historic District nomination, meaning you are also eligible to display a plaque. There are countless plaque manufacturers on the web which would allow the homeowner to be as plain or as elaborate as they choose. Keeping in mind that we have 3 properties that are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places in our Neighborhood, there are many, many more that could display a badge of honor, as well. We anxiously await the decision.

RAMEN - BROCCOLI SLAW

Dressing:

1/2 cup Sugar
1/3 cup White Vinegar
1/2 cup Vegetable Oil

Salad:

1 bag Broccoli Slaw Mix (12oz.)
2 pkg. Ramen noodles (3 oz.)
1 small onion diced fine
1 cup shelled roasted sunflower seeds
1 cup slivered almonds, toasted

- For the Dressing whisk sugar and vinegar in medium bowl until Sugar dissolves.
- Gradually whisk in vegetable oil then Flavor packets from the Ramen noodles.
- For the salad crush the Ramen noodles and then combine with the remaining salad ingredients.
- Drizzle dressing over the top and toss until well coated.
- Refrigerate salad, covered, for at least 30 minutes or up to two hours.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

Finally, (and you thought we were done) we are planning a new event for September, our first HOMES TOUR. The date is set for Sunday afternoon, September 19th, and will feature a tour of five homes in our district, which have undergone renovations or are in the process of doing so. Our theme is “home improvement” and will give visitors a unique chance to see what homeowners have done to renovate their homes and to learn how it is done. This will be a fundraiser for FPNA. At the same time, it will be a wonderful chance to educate the public about home renovation and, incidentally, about our historic neighborhood. We are hoping to also feature a guided walking tour, concentrating on some of the little known facts and events of the past—there are always those who have never heard the story of the lynching, you know. More details as the summer progresses.

PROGRESS ON NEIGHBORHOOD SIGNS

Our artisans, Bill Mann and Bob Pashek, are progressing so fast on the 20 signs they are making that our heads are swimming. If you were to enter their shop, you would be in awe at the sight of all the sign parts setting about in various stages of painting, lettering and assembly. Colors have been adjusted and re-adjusted by Bill, and, after choosing the lettering style, Bob has been painstakingly cutting out each letter. They have devised an ingenious way of placing the letters on each sign (tedious work). Bill spends so much time on his lathe that he doesn't even have time to talk, and that alone is an event worth noting, perhaps as a new national holiday. But, seriously, we will be very proud of their work and the homes that these signs commemorate, once this project is completed. We estimate that they will be ready and installed sometime in July.

LITTER, LITTER, EVERYWHERE

After this winter ended, we were left with the memory of all that snow and cold—and now we see all the litter that was left behind once spring arrived. We are cooperating with Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful by picking up the litter in our neighborhood and the surrounding parks. The city has provided us with the trash bags and will pick up the full ones on Monday, April 19th. We are not having a party event for this clean-up but, rather, each person who takes a trash bag or two will be on their own to grab that trash out of the streets and in the parks and will take their full bags to the empty lot on Glen located right behind John's yellow house on Park (it is his vacant lot and it no longer has a street number, so we are trusting that you all know where it is—remember last year's dumpsters and you will nail it). Please don't put your bags there until the afternoon/evening of April 18th because John doesn't want raccoons and other critters to have many days to work over those bags before they are picked up.

THE LAST WORD

We only have a few tidbits left, promise. Your Board has been hard at work planning and deciding stuff, trying to earn the salaries they have been paid. One important decision was to file for our 501(c)3 IRS nonprofit designation now rather than later. There are long and complicated reasons for making that decision but we felt we were justified in spending the \$400 now for this filing. Forty flower baskets will soon be appearing on some of the utility poles throughout the district, and thanks to Michelle for arranging for this donation from Dallas Johnson and also for propagating vines to fill in around the geraniums. Our first Yard of the Month award will be made by the end of May and the picture of the winning yard will appear in next month's newsletter. The new street sign project being planned by the DNA and the City is progressing and may include new poles as well. Finally, we wish to thank Harvey and Terri Kunik for hosting our April meeting. They provided some wonderful food and asked a friend who plays violin in the Omaha Symphony to play background music during the meeting. It was memorable and we welcome them to our group of active participants of FPNA.

Until next time.....Sharon



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

Have you noticed we have new neighbors? Our neighbor at 421 Glen moved in last fall, however with the 2009-2010 Winter, who knew? Our homes' former Carriage House at 410 Park is now owned by a St. Bernard and a Black Lab and their humans. Our little puppy Bailey has befriended them.

I have delivered membership packets to several homes, taking the opportunity to personally welcome those who were home. Our membership packets have blossomed into something fantastic! (Notice the flower reference?) The packets are literally stuffed full of great things and a special thanks to Clark from Quizno's (and upper Glen), for providing a \$5.00 Quizno's certificate! Other fun things include a Bredeaux refrigerator magnet, a scratch pad from CopyCat, a cute wire whisk and discount card from the Kitchen Emporium and some great information such as the Neighborhood Directory provided by the Neighborhood Center, just to name a few things. The packets also came with a Welcome Letter and a FREE first year's membership in the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association, what better way to welcome new folks to the neighborhood?

IN REMEMBRANCE



"He Left this world fighting a battle he could NEVER win"

On Thursday, April 1st, six-month old Xander Caden Query passed away. His short life was full of the love that all his parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, relatives and friends felt for him. His parents, Jason and Sarah, moved into our neighborhood only a short time before Xander was born, so he knew the embrace that an old house can bestow. Xander has left his imprint not only on his loved ones but also on the place he called home for a little while. His short history lives on. Our hearts reach out to this little guy's family. If you would like to send your sympathy to Jason and Sarah, they live at 232 Park Ave. We want them to know that we are here to help, comfort and know them.

EARTH DAY

Earth Day promotes environmental awareness and calls for the protection of our planet.

Earth Day 2010

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Earth Day is a name used for two different observances both held worldwide annually. While some people celebrate Earth Day around the time of the vernal equinox, others observe the occasion on April 22 each year. Earth Day aims to inspire awareness of and appreciation for earth's environment. It is currently observed in more than 140 countries around the world.

What do people do?

The April 22 Earth Day is usually celebrated with outdoor performances, where individuals or groups perform acts of service to earth. Typical ways of observing Earth Day include planting trees, picking up roadside trash, conducting various programs for recycling and conservation, using recyclable containers for snacks and lunches. Some people are encouraged to sign petitions to governments, calling for stronger or immediate action to stop global warming and to reverse environmental destruction. Television stations frequently air programs dealing with environmental issues.

Public Life

Earth Day is not a public holiday and public life, with regard to transport schedules and opening hours for schools and businesses, is not affected.

Background

The April 22 Earth Day, founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson, was first organized in 1970 to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water and soil pollution.

Some people prefer to observe Earth Day around the time of the March equinox. In 1978, American anthropologist Margaret Mead added her support for the equinox Earth Day, founded by John McConnell. She stated that the selection of the March Equinox for Earth Day made planetary observance of a shared event possible.

Symbols

Symbols used by people to describe Earth Day include: an image or drawing of planet earth; a tree, a flower or leaves depicting growth; or the recycling symbol. Colors used for Earth Day include natural colors such as green, brown or blue.

The "Earth Flag", which was designed by John McConnell, has been described as a "flag for all people". It features a two-sided dye printed image of the Earth from space on a dark blue field, made from recyclable, weather-resistant polyester. Margaret Mead believed that a flag that showed the earth as seen from space was appropriate.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 15th
Taxes Due

April 22nd
Earth Day

May 22
FPNA May Meeting

June 5th-6th
FPNA Garage Sale

July 10th
FPNA Summer Picnic

September 19th
FPNA Home Tour

FREE CONCERT

United States Air Force
Heartland of America Band-
New Horizons

WHEN

Tuesday, April 27th – At Noon

WHERE

Council Bluffs Public Library
WHO

The United States Air Force Heartland of America Band's NEW HORIZONS clarinet ensemble honorably represents more than 325,000 Air Force professionals around the world who diligently watch over the skies protecting and defending all those who cherish freedom.

For more information visit them at
www.HeartlandofAmericaBand.af.mil

Sponsored by the
Bluffs Arts Council

DNA UPDATE

By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

The Downtown Neighborhood Alliance (DNA) met at the Senior Center on April 6th. Ron Abdouch of the Neighborhood Center was a guest and announced a new volunteer program in which the NC will be partnering with a large metropolitan corporation to furnish volunteers and expenses for helping neighborhoods in both Council Bluffs and Omaha. Applications to be included in this program are due by May 5 and any work will be done during September.

Sandy Hull of Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful was also a guest and explained the various programs the City is doing to participate in the clean-up campaign this spring. Olde Towne NA (formerly known as Government Center NA) will hold a community picnic this spring, date to be announced.

The street sign project is moving forward but it was decided to include the costs of poles to hold the new street signs into the process, the thoughts being that new signs should be hung on new poles for uniformity throughout the historic neighborhoods.

The three proposed designs for DNA logo were further discussed; one design was chosen but with suggested modifications to lettering and background.

“Teaching should be such that what is offered is perceived as a valuable gift and not as a hard duty”
Albert Einstein



THE BASKETS ARE COMING

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns
407 Glen Avenue

Are you ready? The baskets are coming! Yep, it's confirmed. The flower baskets for 2010 will be picked up from Dallas Johnson Greenhouse on Thursday, May 9. A special thank you goes to Justin Todd and all the staff at Dallas Johnson for donating (and caring for) our baskets. We'll be adding a bit of trailing greenery, a baggie to the bottom of the pot and a shot of time-release fertilizer; however rest assured they'll be up for Mother's Day! In case those of you on Grandview were worried, yes, we have some for you too. With the expansion of the neighborhood boundary and membership, we expanded our request for baskets to 40, and they agreed!

These flowers are going to be used to the Taj-Mahal treatment that Dallas Johnson provides and although I'll be around to water them; they have been used to drip irrigation and being watered several times a day, so feel free to water them yourself. We can't over-water them! When the water immediately runs out the bottom, they are DRY! (This is because the water is running out between the dry soil and the pot.) And disregard the rain, most of the rainwater never makes in into the soil. So grab your neighbor and start planning. Some of our best baskets have been cared for by several neighbors at once.



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 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)
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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