



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbit

200 Park Avenue

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION

Where, you say, have you read that term before? If you guessed that it was the goal of the new FPNA Board when it took office back in January, then you win the prize. But it would be better to say that we ALL have won the prize because that goal is beginning to be a reality. Just look around, starting with the flower baskets that are dotting our neighborhood with their spots of red geraniums, courtesy of Dallas Johnson, and Michelle and Brian who put them up and are watering them.

But if you open your eyes a bit wider you will get a peak at the first group of our much anticipated neighborhood signs!!!

The first ten signs were installed by Dave and Kyle just a few days ago. They were carefully integrated into the landscape of each of the lucky homes they are designed to commemorate. They actually glow as the sunlight bounces off their shiny paint and copper caps. They were easy to install, or so it seemed to those who were NOT doing the heavy lifting. The remaining ten signs will be in the ground soon, but even with only the first half of them installed, they are already garnering much praise and publicity. Iowa West Foundation plans to picture them in their annual report and has already sent a professional photographer around to take pictures. Many thanks to Bill and Bob, who designed and constructed them, and to Dave and Kyle, our team of installers.

Next, in our lineup of beautiful things, is our first Yard-of-the-Month award. Your hard working Board considered several front yards in their perusal of the neighborhood. Many are worthy and may win their own photo in the newsletter in the coming months, but this month's winner is the yard at 420 Glen Ave., belonging to Cindi Ostronic and John Kmiecik. It is obvious they both work hard to make their yard, both front and back, shine like the gem that it is. Congratulations, Cindi and John!! (Photo on Page 4)

Continuing on (yes, there is more), in a few months we will be able to see a refurbished Kirn Park. You can read more about this elsewhere in this month's newsletter, but we must thank Carol Mattox for spearheading this project and for working with officials from the Parks Dept. and the volunteer team from Mutual of Omaha. We can consider Kirn Park as part of our NA if we want to, can't we?

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KIRN PARK THE STORY SO FAR...

By Tracy Dreessen

164 Park Avenue

May 10, 2010-The application for a grant for Kirn Park was sent into the Neighborhood Center the grant was written to help with brush and tree removal in the fence line and scraping and painting of the building and bleachers.

May 12, 2010-Word was received from Ron Abdouch., Omaha Neighborhood Center coordinator that our grant project was in line for final review.

June 1, 2010- Larry Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation and Public Property and John Batt, Assistant Director of Parks met with Carol Mattox and John Huggins and several people from Gibraltar Neighborhood Association at Kirn Park to talk about the possible grant and the help the city would furnish for the work to be done at Kirn Park through the grant. A possible future plan for Kirn Park was discussed.

June 7, 2010 Carol Mattox received an email from Mr. Larry Foster containing the following message:

Mr. Foster had talked to Mayor Tom Hanafan

- ◆ The city of Council Bluffs will provide the necessary paint and paint supplies for the Kirn Park improvements.
- ◆ The City of Council Bluffs will properly prepare the stadium and the building for painting by scraping, crack filling and block pointing.
- ◆ Iowa West had agreed to recommend an architect experienced in historic color selection to work up a color scheme for the painting.
- ◆ A limited number of tools for brush removal would be provided, with hopes that volunteers will be able to provide some tools
- ◆ Removal from Kirn Park of brush and other materials will be provided by the City of Council Bluffs.

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GET INTO THE SPIRIT
FPNA INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC

Join us for our annual Summer celebration with your friends and neighbors. The FPNA will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks if you will bring your favorite side dish, salad or dessert. We look forward to seeing you there.

JULY 10TH 4 PM
LOOKOUT POINT

UPDATE FROM THE DNA

By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

On behalf of the Downtown Neighborhood Alliance (DNA), of which your neighborhood association is a member, I wanted to give you an update of current activities and items of interest. This list is not exhaustive by any means, though contains a snippet of current matters. First of all, DNA represents the downtown quadrant of the City on the Mayor's Neighborhood Cabinet. I am quite proud to say that the heart and soul of neighborhood activities and initiatives are performed by each neighborhood, and this will always remain true. DNA is a way by which each independent neighborhood may share ideas, challenges, and pool our clout to achieve certain things that each of our neighborhoods could not do on its own. This effort could not succeed without the hard work of your Special Representatives, by which each full member neighborhood has a voice and an equal vote on the DNA Board.

A major project, across parts of each neighborhood currently a full member in DNA, is obtaining historic street signage (black and white), with room for neighborhood-specific logos for those neighborhoods that might wish to personalize signage. Kyle Muschall has been the chair of the Signage Committee, on which also sits Michelle Mutchler-Burns and Jill Struyk. The committee has been working for over a year. The committee has obtained the approval of the relevant federal highway administration, a condition required by municipal code. This took considerable time and effort, including color mock-ups done by Kyle, and the committee is to be commended. Each neighborhood counted the number of signs that exist and would need to be replaced, and cost estimates have been prepared; potential sources of funding have been reviewed and approaches made; all relevant portions of the City bureaucracy have been approached, including Community Development and Public Works. The City has not yet given its seal of approval, officially, though a majority of the administration and a majority of the Council have indicated support, and we are currently in talks with the City administration regarding logistics and consent. Your Special Representatives have indicated that is a priority interest, and continued efforts shall be made to see the plan through to successful completion.

100 Block: Matt Johnson (Barley's) is the current president of the informal association that has been meeting monthly in the historic 100 block of West Broadway; they are in the process of getting to know one another, as well as determining how best to work to continue to improve the area. We have been in touch with them, we shall stay in touch with them and continue to offer advice and support, and we look forward to some possible community events before the season is out. We have written a letter to the City, agreeing with 100 Block that the contractor should be required to correct the huge flower beds, and go back to the plan that was approved, which would allow room for pedestrians and outdoor dining. 100 Block is within the boundaries of DNA, though not yet an official member.

Bayliss West: BWNA is having an organizational meeting on June 17th, including a representative from the police department, regarding neighborhood watch. They are attempting to reorganize, as it has proven a bit of a challenge to get significant involvement. We have every confidence, and DNA is helping organize the effort.

Bayliss Central: BCNA represents the area including Bayliss Park and the Haymarket, and is primarily made of the small business owners and a few residents. They recently had an organizational meeting amongst themselves and DNA, and expect to have a picnic in the near future. They are not a member of DNA, but are within the boundaries, and we look forward to an application in the near future.

Fairmount Park: FPNA recently obtained a grant for historic signs in front of the 20 homes deemed individually eligible on the National Register; most of the neighborhood, itself, recently was added to the National Register; FPNA also obtained two trash barrels at Lookout Point in Fairmount Park, itself, as part of its project to ensure that people have a place to throw their trash while at the park. FPNA recently had a garage sale and bake sale in the neighborhood, and it went well. The annual picnic is July 10th. "Yard of the Month" awards are being given during the warmer months.

Continued On Pg.5

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

SUMMER PICNIC

Our next meeting will coincide with the summer picnic on July 10th (funny how that happens). Melissa, our Events Chair, will be calling a meeting of the volunteers very soon, so expect to hear from her if you are one. Our picnic will be only for our members and friends this year and will be held at the beautiful Lookout Point once again. Time will be Saturday, July 10th, 4:00 p.m. When final plans have been made, you will all be notified by e-mail, flyer or Pony Express, but no matter what, be thinking about those delicious foodstuffs you are sure to want to show off to your friends and neighbors when the time comes.

PART WITH YOUR MONEY

We know times are tough right now, but we hope you will consider FPNA when deciding how to part with some of your coin. If you haven't yet paid dues for 2010, we would appreciate your support; dues remain at a low \$20/year. A few banners are still stored in our supply room and they are a mere \$10—a nice way to proclaim your support for your NA. Finally, we are taking orders for the historical document prepared by the Tallgrass Historians for our NRHP designation. This document contains a description of each home in the historic section of our NA, as well as a comprehensive history of our area. This 108-page tome is available for \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers, and would make a wonderful addition to your library.

THE LAST WORD

It was a dark and stormy night. The wind howled. Tree limbs blew down and debris flew. Police cars blocked roadways and utility trucks raised their buckets high in the air. Okay, okay, so it wasn't a movie set but, instead, a true event during one of our recent overnight storms. A utility line was down and extending across the street, but it could have been a dangerous situation if it hadn't been for a law enforcement officer on duty in the overnight hours, and a utility worker on call during the storm. This makes me think of all those folks who don't work the regular 9-5 jobs, but who keep things working for the rest of us while we are snug in our beds. So, to all the policemen, firemen, doctors, nurses, utility workers, and even those guys who blow the train whistles at 2:00 a.m., we thank you. Until next time.....Sharon



420 Glen Avenue: Cindi Ostronic and John Kmiecik

Photo by Kyle Muschall

UPDATE FROM THE DNA

By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

Continued From Pg.3

The flower baskets are all up throughout the neighborhood. Mutual of Omaha is in final talks with FPNA, concerning a possible project to clean up and repaint Kirn Park; the City is working with historical experts to ensure a proper paint scheme for the grandstands; this project is in conjunction with Gibraltar NA. It might be possible to get lighting installed to allow residents to use the park in the evenings, for the only way to “disinvite unwelcome guests” is to take back our common spaces by lots of us being there and using the spaces for proper purposes; also, exercise and neighborly interaction are certain to be welcomed; stay tuned.

Gibraltar: GNA has been busy with the coordination of a Brick Committee, to elicit people’s view regarding brick streets, and to see if and how they might be saved or restored. GNA is partnering with FPNA for the restoration of Kirn Park.

Lincoln-Fairview: LFNA has obtained a grant from Iowa West for a study of Lafayette Street, to see what improvements could be placed there. LFNA has also made recent application to swap out its existing banners for new ones that include its entire neighborhood, after its recent expansion. LFNA is also in final talks with Mutual of Omaha about a possible major cleanup of Fairview Cemetery. It can be reported that the Mayor has agreed to place funding in the budget for road repairs within the cemetery; regular road-use money cannot legally be used for this purpose, but a three-year commitment is now in the budget to restore at least the main roads from monies from the general treasury; a few of the lesser-used roads may be closed, but the main ones are budgeted to be restored; currently, a decision is being made as to the type of surface to be used. This latter point has been a major point of interest of LFNA, and it is wonderful to see that joint efforts to obtain it have been successful.

North Eighth Street: North Eighth Street is the area generally around Children’s Square, which is the area north of West Kanesville and south of Avenue G, from the bottom of the hill from LFNA, west to about 8th Street. They are starting to organize, with the use of meeting facilities at Children’s Square and the organizing help of DNA. Though not a member, this area is within the boundaries of DNA.

Military Avenue: Military Avenue has had informal associations, and some are now looking at perhaps a formal neighborhood association. This neighborhood is within the boundaries of DNA, at its northwest extremity.

Wickham: WNA has recently undergone a major expansion, now taking in Franklin Street and adjoining streets. WNA has again placed flower baskets throughout its neighborhood, and is looking toward possible projects in the intermediate future.

Like I said, this list is not exhaustive, but is a sampling of the activities of the various neighborhoods within DNA, as well as of the DNA, itself. The effort continues to grow and succeed, to help neighborhoods prosper and find their proper voice. Please know that our model is being successfully employed by other neighborhood alliances, near and far. We are a trendsetter. Our people are active and engaged.

Finally, the DNA Board meetings are held monthly, on the first Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 PM at The Center. Though the Special Representatives get their instructions from their respective neighborhood boards, the public are invited to attend and to speak. We look forward to your continued efforts on behalf of your neighborhood and your alliance.

Regards, and on behalf of the DNA Board

Nathan R. Watson, President Sheila Graham, Vice-President

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By Carol Mattox

225 Huntington Avenue

As the writer walked down the dead end street she was struck by the quiet and beauty of the area. What a wonderful secluded area Test Street is. Most people seem to find it by mistake. Fortunately for the Aneys, (199 Test Street) they have called it home for 22 years. They were drawn to the house because of the “camping” atmosphere in the middle of town with the modern conveniences of beds and air conditioning. Howard loves to watch the deer (I assured him we will all send a few to him), while Mary loves the trees. The house and neighborhood offered a place for their children to play, a big kitchen for Mary to bake and cook and a large garage for Howard to use for car repair.

Mary is a teacher with the Council Bluffs Community School District. She teaches at Hoover School, but will be at the Ninth Avenue School next year while renovations are being done. She teaches first grade. Howard is an automotive machinist, who works mostly with engines. The Aneys have two children, Emily, who has been married to Shawn for three years and Jonah. Emily is also a teacher in Bellevue. Jonah works at Hy-Vee and is in a band which the Aneys enjoy at different sites in the Omaha and Council Bluffs area.

The neighborhood seems quieter in recent years. They reminisced about the changes they have seen. When their children were younger, the neighborhood seemed alive with noises that children make. There were bike riders and basketball players in the street. Kids were out until they were called inside because of darkness. Mary likes the new addition of the hanging potted plants.

One of Howard’s favorite pastimes is watching how people leave the dead end street. Some of their methods are not too welcome, such as when people drive up in their yard to turn around. Many times the Aneys have witnessed people unaware that their street was a dead end come right into their driveway and wonder how to turn around to get back out. Last year when Broadway and Pierce were both closed at times, it happened even more often. One lady even came up to the door to ask Howard to turn her car around for her! Howard also enjoys motor sports, car shows and reading car magazines. He is always looking for a new grilling recipe.

Mary has many interests. She tutors during the summer months, which she really enjoys. She belongs to a book club; which she will host this month. She loves to bake; desserts are her favorite (she does a great job on rolls and pies- the writer knows because she has been the recipient of these items). Mary collects Desert Rose dishes and serving pieces and family quilts. Both Mary and Howard like antiques, which is a fairly new interest for them.

The Aneys did not think they were very interesting people, but the writer thought their story was very appealing and she learned some things during her interview. The neighborhood is full of surprises. Thank you, Mary and Howard.



Garage Sale 2010 Wrap Up

By Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

The rain may have put a damper on the start of the 2010 FPNA garage sale and caused a late start but by 9:30 a.m. the drizzle died off and the folks started to come out. For our second go round we had a good and steady amount of traffic for most of the morning. The patrons seem to arrive in small waves, which gave us enough time to straighten up before welcoming the next group. It is always nice to see the neighborhood active and bustling with people. We had a total of 10 locations this year with approximately 18 participating households.

The FPNA is proud to have helped provide our neighborhood with a venue where folks could dispose of their excess and make some additional money.

The Bake Sale went fabulous again with Michelle Mutchler-Burns helping the table up by the Glen Pump House and being assisted throughout the day by her son Matthew, Wayne Andersen (Friend of the FPNA) Nate Watson and Diane Franks. Lots of folks contributed bake sale items, beverages and ice this year with Amy Dixon's bars being of particular gooey goodness. Michelle stated that she sold half the pan even before she had them unwrapped.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated this year and for their donations to cover the expenses of printing and advertising. I hope all your sales went well and I look forward to next year's event.



KIRN PARK UPDATE

By Tracy Dreesen

164 Park Avenue

Continued from Pg.2

◆ Neighborhood Association members meeting with Mr. Foster felt a Master Plan for Kirn Park would be helpful. Mr. Foster is reviewing possible costs and options to initiate a Master Plan.

June 8, 2010- John Batt, Assistant Director of Parks, Carol Mattox, Ryan Willer, Outreach Coordinator of the Neighborhood Center in Council Bluffs, and William B. Davis, Head of Community Affairs for Mutual of Omaha, met to review the objectives of the grant. At this time the grant was accepted. Mr. Davis will try to obtain volunteers to work on priming, painting the bleachers and building and removing shrubbery at Kirn Park. Some members of our board have expressed interest in assisting with this painting and shrubbery removal. If you would like to help with this endeavor, Mr. Davis said you are welcome to participate.

June 12, 2010 More information will be given as events unfold. If you would like to express your thanks to Mr. Larry Foster for his attention to Kirn Park, please email him:

lfoster@councilbluffs-ia.gov

I hope everyone is as excited as I am about this project!



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Sharon Babbitt	President
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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!**

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