



## ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbit

200 Park Avenue

### PICNIC FUN

Our annual FPNA picnic has come and gone and it was loads of fun. Nearly forty folks came bearing food and good cheer. Melissa arranged with the City's Parks Department to clean and mow Lookout Point and it was done to perfection. What a wonderful place and right at the border of our NA! It can't get any better than this. So many good natured people helped with setting up and taking down, cooking and otherwise making things go right that it would take too much space to name them all, but you know who you are! A special mention should be made of Bill and Bob, who donated two of their superb food protectors for this event and beyond—yes, these two items are now the property of the FPNA and are stored in Kyle's garage. B&B, you got a big ovation for your generosity, even though you weren't there to hear it. Thanks!!

### HOME IMPROVEMENT TOUR

This fund raiser will be held on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, and it's not too early to begin our plans. Kyle has designed a flyer to promote the event and we hope to pass them out to everyone in town and maybe even everywhere on the planet. Well, we won't go that far but it will be necessary to get the word out in every way possible in order to insure a good turnout. You will be hearing much more about this project in the next several weeks. First off, though, please consider volunteering to help. We figure that about twenty volunteers will be needed just to be in the five houses involved in the tour. Because our focus will be on how to get the job done when renovating and remodeling, our homeowners will be needed to answer all the questions we are expecting. The rest of us must be present in the homes for security and other reasons. We know how it works as we've done these things countless times. Please let Sharon or Nate know of your desire to volunteer. Remember, if we don't hear from you, you will hear from us!!

### LOST AND FOUND

Here is a story that illustrates perfectly what our NA is all about. Recently, a dog was discovered, lost and alone, on Test Street. Her rescuers contacted Kyle, who put out the information on our neighborhood mailing list. Long story short, the desperate owner was found and the two were reunited. A happy ending thanks to the cooperation of caring neighbors.

Continued On Pg.4

# Welcome to the Neighborhood

By Tracy Dreessen

164 Park Avenue

There is a new neighbor at 199 Glen Avenue. Dan McGinn is the son of Mary Lou McGinn, a member of the Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association. Mary Lou and Joe, Dan's dad, own 199 Glen (you probably have noticed all of the workers fixing the place up) and will be renting to Dan who is a single dad. Dan has two sons who will be visiting often. John is 14 and will be a freshman at Saint Albert High School this fall. Andrew is 12 and attended the summer picnic with Dan and Mary Lou on July 10th. Dan would like the neighborhood to know that Andrew is autistic. Andrew is a special education student at Oakdale School in District 66 in Omaha. He will be entering the 6th grade.

Andrew's autism affects his ability to interact with his peers. His behavior is good, but he does need to work on boundaries. Recently, on a visit to 199 Glen, Andrew visited the neighbors by knocking on the door and asking to come in; while Dan was moving some furniture into the house. Fortunately, the neighbors recognized Andrew's autism and got him back home. Andrew is pretty shy around other kids and wary of crowds. Andrew loves movies and will often recite "movie previews". He also likes to ride his bike and you will probably see him with his dad on his bike at Kirn Park. We welcome the new family to the neighborhood!

**"The  
value of a  
man resides  
in what he  
gives and  
not in what  
he is  
capable of  
receiving"**

**Albert  
Einstein**

## ALERT

Pay Attention to This! One of the first things we as an organized neighborhood accomplished was to set aside a couple days a year where we help pick up trash in our yards and curb sides. So far it has worked pretty well and the act of keeping our neighborhood clean has helped keep people motivated to continue those efforts beyond the 'designated' clean-up days. However, there are some potential dangers in doing this as one Massachusetts neighborhood found out. People are finding home-made bombs in mailboxes and in their yards, just waiting for you to pick it up intending to put it in the trash. But, you'll never make it!!! It takes about 30 seconds to blow after you move the item. These 'home-made' bombs look like ordinary trash, a pop bottle, or clear plastic container carelessly discarded. That is why is very important to be aware of what you are picking up. Whenever you are in doubt in the least little bit, PLEASE call 911. It isn't worth a child or anyone for that matter getting hurt over someone's deadly prank. For further information on this, please go to the below link and read about true incidents that have already occurred this year.

<http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/bottlebomb.asp>





# FPNA July 2010 Picnic

Photos by Tracy Dreessen and Melissa Head





By Sharon Babbitt  
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

## YARD OF THE MONTH AWARD

This year we are recognizing four yards in our new awards program for best Yard of the Month. Each month, during the season, your stalwart Board scopes out the neighborhood to try to narrow down the many choices for what they consider the best yard for that month. Our second winner is 438 Huntington. Homeowners Bob and Mary Eicher have cultivated more than 150 varieties of hostas in both their front and back yards and all areas in between. Yes, you read it correctly—150!! Bob modestly insists the hostas belong to Mary, while she does the same for him, insisting he does most of the work. Their team effort has produced a garden worthy of Better Homes and Gardens. How do they keep the deer away? As we all know, it is a constant struggle, but this year Bob is using an animal repellent called Shotgun by Bonide, a granule product available from Bomgaars. Seems to be working.

## THE LAST WORD

One of the more unique ways to try to scare away the deer occurred recently at a location which shall remain nameless, involving someone who shall remain anonymous (for obvious reasons). This person was photographing an especially magnificent deer at just about dawn, while wearing nothing but a pink nightie complete with spaghetti straps. Shall we say this person was “of a certain age”? The deer was not scared away, but the people who were driving by and pointing at the scene appeared to be somewhat startled! Let’s hope their surprise was merely seeing the deer and not.... The moral of this story is never to tell your humble correspondent anything you’d rather not be published!

Until next time.....Sharon



438 Huntington Avenue: Bob and Mary Eicher

Photo by Kyle Muschall

**COME JOIN US  
FOR OUR  
FPNA MEETING**



**AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>  
7:00 P.M.  
433 GLEN AVENUE**

## **ART EXHIBIT**

### **GRANT WOOD CORN ROOM MURAL EXHIBITION OPENING!**

Come to this 2-Day event beginning on July 21st at the Bluffs Towers (The former Hotel Chieftain) at 38 Pearl Street. An Exhibition of conserved Mural fragments held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of their removal from the former Hotel Chieftain.

Help decide whether or not to implement 'Main Street Iowa' here this year. As the sponsoring entity, MS-CB (Main Street –Council Bluffs) knows that there are a whole lot of folks out there who need a good listening-to. We need you to come out, speak up, and say go or no.

Please join us at any one of three discussions (same topic), shown below. R.S.V.P. to (712) 310-6257 or for more information go to

<http://www.iowalifechanging.com/community/mainstreetiowa/>

to see the Main Street Iowa's 20 Year Report.

Tuesday, July 13th at 'The Center' 714 S. Main Street  
from 5-7pm

Tuesday, July 20th at 'Barley's' 114 W. Broadway  
from 5:30-7pm

Tuesday, July 27th at 'Bayliss Park Hall' 530 First Avenue  
from 5:30-7pm

**"Most people  
are about as  
happy as they  
make up their  
minds to be"**

**Abraham  
Lincoln**



# MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By Carol Mattox

225 Huntington Avenue

Harold and Frances Beck, 198 Glen Avenue, have lived at their present address since 1958. That is 52 years! They chose their home on Glen Avenue because they needed more room for their growing family. Frances' mother lived in the area and they knew some people on High School who told them that the neighbors were good people. The Becks think that our Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association has really been good for our neighborhood. At the yearly picnics, they enjoy meeting new people.

The early neighborhood had several boys for playmates for the Beck's sons and a few girls for their daughter. The children always played in the Beck's yard until some boys moved into a house down the street with a bigger yard and then the fun moved to that bigger yard. The downtown area was very close in the early years; it wasn't far to Benos, Iowa Clothes and later the Philips Department store when the children needed clothing for school. Some of their children even had jobs at the theatre in the Omni Center.

Family means a lot to the Becks. They have six sons and one daughter. Two sons live in Council Bluffs, one son lives in Sioux City, 2 children live in Colorado and one son and his family live in Crescent. Their children attended Iowa, Iowa State, and Creighton. The Beck family went on many camping trips when their children were young. They saw the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Estes Park and Gettysburg. There are fourteen grandchildren. Every year Harold has his family reunion at Kirn Park.

Harold is a history buff and loves to take pictures. He was in the Korean War for two years. Mr. Beck had a career with Northwestern Bell/US West before he retired. Now he tends a large garden of fruit trees, raspberries, tomatoes, cucumbers and flowers. Frances cans the crops such as the cucumbers into pickles. She dearly loves children. She has babysat children from the age of twelve. Her hobby is her grandchildren.

Harold and Frances were very active in the acquisition of the Kirn Park in 1990 for the city of Council Bluffs from the Council Bluffs Community School District. Several businesses offered contributions as well as some of the alumni who were Frances and Harold's classmates. The Becks and several of their neighbors went door to door, wrote letters to friends and classmates to raise the needed \$42,000 to add to the donations for the total cost of the auction price of \$72,000. They had a benefit concert and sold baked goods. The fundraising effort was so successful; they were able to raise nearly \$45,000. The neighborhood was brought together in this effort to save the historic piece of ground. So if you see Frances and Harold let them know that you appreciate their earlier efforts to save this unique park that was the site of the first Council Bluffs High School.

Thank you, Frances and Harold Beck; it was great to get to know a little more about you.

Carol Mattox



# Have You Seen Me?

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

I hate to say “everyone’s flocking to our neighborhood”, however.....

Those who travel to our neighborhood via 5th Avenue may have seen this guy, in fact, someone came to my house last week, concerned that one of my “flock” had escaped. Not mine, I called Nicole Josselyn, thinking it was one of hers.

It turns out that this is a Chucker Partridge. According to the Avian expert at the Zoo, she’s received several reports of sightings in the Council Bluffs area. They are wild Partridges, however, there is report of at least one breeder on our side of the river. Apparently “ours” travels to the corner of 5th and Glen Avenues from Turley Avenue, to admire his reflection in the paint of the dark colored car and truck that park there.

He can’t fly very well; no, he’s not injured, they are ground-dwellers and seed eaters. So, if you have seen “Chuck” in your area and have any bird seed to spare, consider putting it down in an old, divided dog dish, if you have one. (The other side makes a great place for water, too.)

## THANK YOU

Charlie, the little lost dog, has been returned safely home to her owner Christina Quigley up on Huntington. Thanks to Mary and Howard Aney for taking her in and keeping her safe until she could be safely returned home and thanks to Amy Dixon for putting the pieces together. What a great neighborhood.

## Are You Missing Something?

At the May Meeting held at 151 Park Ave at the Home of Bob Paschek and Bill Mann a beautiful metal bowl (green and yellow) that held a wonderful marshmallow dessert was left behind. Please stop by and pick it up.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

August 22nd  
F.P.N.A. August Meeting

September 19th  
FPNA Home Tour

October 23rd  
F.P.N.A. October Meeting

October 15th-17th  
October 22nd-24th  
Christmas Boutique

## 411 On Heart Attacks

Bayer is making a new crystal aspirin to dissolve under the tongue. They work much faster than the tablets for heart attack sufferers. A little about heart attacks:

There are other symptoms of a heart attack besides the pain on the left arm.

One must also be aware of an intense pain on the chin, as well as nausea and lots of sweating, however these symptoms may also occur less frequently

There may be NO pain in the chest during a heart attack. The majority of people (about 60%) who had a heart attack during their sleep did not wake up. However, if it occurs, the chest pain may wake you up from your deep sleep.

If that happens, immediately dissolve two aspirins in your mouth and swallow them with a bit of water.

Afterwards CALL 911- say “heart attack!”- say that you have taken 2 aspirins. - phone a neighbor or a family member who lives very close by- take a seat on a chair or sofa near the front door, and wait for their arrival and DO NOT lie down

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 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503  
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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