



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbit

200 Park Avenue

PARTY TIME

Finally, we can mention Christmas and not feel we are getting ahead of ourselves. Our annual Christmas party will take place on Saturday, December 3rd, 4:00 p.m., at Nate's home at 126 Park. This early date was selected so that it wouldn't interfere with any other holiday parties you may attend. No business discussion, that's the unspoken rule, only good food and friendly conversation. Please bring some special eatable because Nate says he's been so busy with that other little project he hasn't had time to bake his usual hundred batches of cookies. We will forgive him this time, considering.

A visit to this lavishly decorated home is sure to put us all in a festive mood, so don't miss it! You will be able to say you were actually in a home containing 25 or more Christmas trees—that's not likely to happen often.

SECURITY CAMERA

The security camera that was purchased with PCCF grant money and pledges from concerned residents of both FPNA and GNA was installed at Kirn Park on October 18th. Things have been quiet up there lately, so it appears the camera is doing its job. Thanks, again, to all you generous people.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY

Yes, that's the motto of the U.S. Army Ranger Corps, exemplified by our own Wilbur (Punch) Gallup, who lives on Huntington with his wife Harriet. Punch honored all veterans when he was chosen as Grand Marshal of the recent Veterans' Day Parade.

He was a member of the renowned Darby's Rangers in WW II, and truly did "lead the way" during the invasion which marked the end of that terrible war. Thank you, Punch, for your service. We are proud that you are our neighbor.

CAN WE CALL YOU?

A few nights ago, some low-life fugitive from justice was sneaking around in the yards between Park and Test. The police were after him and, happy to say, he was apprehended. BUT, meanwhile, attempts were made to notify the nearby neighbors about the activity and we found that we were woefully short of phone numbers. The FPNA Board has talked for a long time about compiling a current list of contact numbers of all our residents (not just FPNA members), and this incident is a reminder of the urgent need to stop talking and get going on this project. We hope everyone will provide this information when we ask for it. It is not an invasion of privacy—it is a matter of safety.

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Mayor's Neighborhood Cabinet Notes

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

7:00 a.m.

- City is into the budgeting process
- Residential properties down 5% in value, but state valuations are going up
 - Overall valuation will increase from about 47% to 50% because of the state increase, not because of the City, so taxes will increase according to this
 - Commercial properties are already at 100%
- Council Bluffs accounts for 96% of the sales tax revenue in Pottawattamie County
- \$42 million is the early projection for total costs of flood repairs and flood prevention
- Groundbreaking for new Plumrose (cold cut) facility was on Tuesday
 - Could bring in about 100 jobs
- There are currently 15 projects lined up for emergency street improvements
- Meeting on Monday night with some residents on wet side of levy (Emil Ln, Dog Bite Ln, etc.)
 - Issues in the area with property valuations not matching what homeowners expect/want for their homes
 - Residents seem more upset with the Corps, but the Corps were not at the meeting, and the meeting was not for the purpose of discussing the Corps
- Anybody with any amount of damage is encouraged to apply to FEMA for individual assistance
 - Call to apply: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) (If you have a speech disability or hearing loss and use a TTY, call 1-800-462-7585 directly; if you use 711 or video relay service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362)
 - Apply online: www.disasterassistance.gov Smartphone: m.fema.gov.
 - FEMA Disaster Recovery Center open Monday thru Friday 9 AM to 6 PM; closed Saturday & Sunday
 - ⊙ Red Cross Building , Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus, 705 North 16th Street, Council Bluffs
 - ⊙ Register before visiting a DRC by calling toll-free 1-800-621-3362
- Ron Abdouch, Neighborhood Center, discussed a Bellevue meeting involving Activate Omaha that discussed possibly holding "Ciclovias" in parts of the metro area
 - Basically, larger areas are closed off to traffic, and opened up to any other mode of transportation (e.g., biking, walking, etc.) to encourage activity and community activities; you can think of them as very large block parties with a focus on activity and community.

"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals"
Zig Ziglar

Is it True that Thanksgiving was invented by Harper's Bazaar?

From "The Straight Dope" by Cecil Adams

Right idea, wrong magazine. Thanksgiving as we know it today — at least on the scale we know it — is largely the creation of Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of Godey's Lady's Book, one of the first women's magazines. Mrs. Hale spent 36 years browbeating public officials high and low before finally getting Thanksgiving declared a national holiday in 1863.

But first a little history. What we now think of as the original Thanksgiving took place in the fall of 1621 at the Plymouth colony in Massachusetts, with the Pilgrims and some 90 Wampanoag Indians on hand to chow down, play volleyball, and exchange native diseases. (No joke — an earlier tribe of Indians had been wiped out by European-imported smallpox.) The occasion came to be a semiofficial holiday among New Englanders, one of many such celebrations held throughout the colonies at various times of the year.

The idea of holding a national Thanksgiving, however, was slow to catch on. The Continental Congress scheduled the first one for Thursday, December 18, 1777, to celebrate the defeat of General Burgoyne at Saratoga. In 1789 George Washington proclaimed a one-time-only day of thanksgiving for Thursday, November 26, to celebrate the new Constitution. But his successors let the idea drop. Thomas Jefferson, for one, considered proclaiming holidays "a monarchical practice" and paid no attention to Thanksgiving during his

term of office.

Enter Mrs. Hale. A native of New Hampshire, she became obsessed with the idea that "Thanksgiving like the Fourth of July should be considered a national festival by all our people." Her opening salvo was her first novel, *Northwood*, published in 1827. An entire chapter was devoted to a detailed description of a Thanksgiving dinner complete with stuffed turkey and pumpkin pie. In 1846, nine years after she became the editor of Godey's Lady's Book, she launched a crusade to make



Thanksgiving an official holiday. Every fall the magazine would editorialize on the subject, meanwhile running high-cholesterol but probably pretty darn tasty recipes for such things as "Indian Pudding with Frumenty sauce" and "ham soaked in cider three weeks, stuffed with sweet potatoes, and baked in maple syrup." Mrs. Hale also wrote hundreds of letters to influential people urging them to support her cause.

Her efforts continued up through the Civil War. In 1861 she asked both sides to "lay aside our enmities on this one day and join in a Thanksgiving

Day of Peace." The appeal failed, but eventually, some believe, she was able to pitch President Lincoln in person. Whatever the case, Abe finally issued a National Thanksgiving Proclamation on October 3, 1863, setting aside the last Thursday of November as the official day.

Thanksgiving continued to be proclaimed annually by the president this way until 1939, when Franklin Roosevelt blithely declared that Thanksgiving that year was going to take place on the third Thursday of November. Crass commercialism was the chief consideration — FDR hoped to woo retailers, who complained that they needed more time to "make proper provision for the Christmas rush" and incidentally cram in a few more shopping days. FDR's move outraged Republicans and quite a few football coaches throughout the country, who claimed that not only was FDR trampling on sacred national traditions, he was screwing up the bowl game schedule.

For two years, people celebrated Thanksgiving on one of two different days, depending on their political inclinations. In 1941, however, Congress got into the act by officially declaring that Thanksgiving would thenceforward fall on the fourth Thursday of November.

Two weeks later FDR declared World War II. And you thought NIXON was a sore loser.

Let's Celebrate the Holidays



Would like you and your family to join us in our annual holiday festivities at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday December 3rd. at 126 Park Avenue. We are having a potluck this year so please bring that favorite dish, dessert or cookie recipe you are famous for.

We look forward to seeing you and your good cheer.

Sincerely, FPNA



HOME SAFETY TIPS FOR THESE HARD TIMES

Tip Number One: Understand what's going on. The motto of a recent election campaign was, "It's the economy, Stupid!" Well, that's one of the important reasons why people are experiencing more burglaries and home invasions now.

Tip Number Two: Definitions. A burglary is a break-in when nobody is home. A home invasion is a break-in when someone is home. Not that it matters. It is a violation of your space either way.

Tip Number Three: Don't rely on someone else to protect you and yours. The police do the best they can but they enter the scene After an incident and not Before.

Tips Number Four through.....

Lock your doors with deadbolt locks. They don't have to be fancy ones. A simple deadbolt can be a bolt that goes into the wood frame of your door. A better one is a bolt that will go into a steel sleeve inset into your wood frame. Even deadbolts aren't a 100% guarantee because a burglar can break the door frame and enter, but it's still better than an ordinary lock.

Install motion detector lights that shine onto the back of your house. Burglars will get in from the back where they can't be seen. Lights on your front porch are nice but won't do much to illuminate the vulnerable spaces hidden in your back yard. Criminals don't like to be seen and will choose the most secluded location to enter your home.

Get a dog. A barking dog is more of a deterrent than a biting dog. A yapping dog could be one that barks at a twig falling from a tree (not much help) but a true barking dog barks for a good reason. Burglars will usually avoid homes where dogs live.

Keep your doors locked even when you're home. It may not be friendly but it's safer.

Pay attention to your routine. You can bet that criminals are paying attention if they intend to help themselves to the contents of your home. If you're going to be gone overnight, prepare your premises to look as though you're home. Close your blinds and put a timer on at least one lamp. Shut your garage door whether your car is there or not. Make arrangements to collect your mail or stop your mail, and don't let the newspapers lie around for days.

Install a security system, although they are expensive. An inexpensive one will sound an alarm but will not call the security company. Even that is enough if you follow the next tip.

Know your neighbors. They will notice when something is amiss, and, remember, that's a two-way street, so return the favor.



CHRISTMAS BOWS

In the next couple of weeks, this year's edition of our Christmas bows will begin appearing on the utility poles throughout the neighborhood. The bow makers are grinding them out as fast as they can. Linda and husband Mike will be hanging them, with some help (we hope). Linda thinks FPNA will at last be able to keep its promise of a bow on every pole.

THE LAST WORD

Congratulations to Nate Watson for winning a seat on the City Council after the recent election. Nate, his friends and family, all worked to help him get elected and we're happy about the outcome.

Until next time.....Sharon

TURKEY TRIVIA

At the heart of the celebration of Thanksgiving is the idea of 'giving thanks' but the main attraction of this festival is the tradition of family gathering for sharing the Thanksgiving dinner and eating turkey on this holiday. It is well known that the turkey has a delicious history and it is considered as the favorite bird of the Americans. But there are even more interesting and fun facts about this bird, which can surprise you.

Turkeys originated in North and Central America.

Usually the turkeys are found in hardwood forests with grassy areas but they are capable of adapting themselves to different habitats.

Turkeys spend the night in trees.

You can easily see a turkey on a warm clear day or during light rain.

Turkeys fly to the ground at first light and feed until mid-morning. Feeding resumes in mid-afternoon.

Turkeys start gobbling before sunrise

and generally continue through most of the morning.

The field of vision of wild turkey is so good that it is about 270 degrees.

The wild turkey has excellent hearing.

A spooked turkey can run at speed up to 20 miles per hour.

A wild turkey can run at speed of up to 25 miles per hour.

A wild turkey can fly for short distances at up to 55 miles per hour.

Domesticated turkeys or the farm-raised turkeys cannot fly.

Turkeys were one of the first birds to be domesticated in the America.

The male turkeys are called 'tom', the female turkeys are called 'hen' and the baby turkeys are called 'poult'.

The male turkeys gobble whereas female turkeys make a clicking noise.

The male turkeys gobble to attract the female turkeys for mating. The gobble is a seasonal call made during the spring and fall.

A mature turkey generally has around 3,500 feathers. The Apache Indians considered the turkey timid and wouldn't eat it or use its feathers on their arrows.

According to an estimate, during the Thanksgiving holiday more than 45 million turkeys are cooked and around 525 million pounds of turkey is eaten.

About ninety-five percent of American families eat turkey on the Thanksgiving Day whereas fifty percent eat turkey on Christmas holiday.

Almost fifty percent of Americans eat turkey at least once every 2 weeks.

According to the National Turkey Federation about twenty-four percent of Americans purchase fresh turkeys for Thanksgiving and seventy percent purchase frozen turkeys.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FPNA December Meeting
Dec. 3rd 4:00 p.m.
126 Park Avenue
Pot Luck

FPNA January Meeting
January 14th.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB VOLUNTEER

The Boys & Girls Club of Council Bluffs is in need of volunteers to work specifically with their younger members to help them with reading, writing and math. Scheduling is flexible but volunteers are most needed between 2-5PM on Mondays and 4-6PM Tuesdays through Friday. This is a great opportunity to truly affect the lives of children in our community. It is also perfect for students wanting to go into education or work with youth, or for anyone who enjoys children and having fun. If you have any questions about this volunteer opportunity please feel free to call or email Tiffanie Teeple.

Tiffanie Teeple
Campus Coordinator
Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus
1415 Ave. J Council Bluffs, IA 51501
Phone: (712)323-4416
tteeple@themicahhouse.org



HELP NEEDED IN APPEAL FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Local and state officials have partnered to gather and submit further flood damage information as part of an official appeal to the federal government for flood assistance. All citizens in Pottawattamie County, whether you live in Council Bluffs, Carter Lake, Crescent, or in the unincorporated portions of the county affected by the flood, are encouraged to report flood damage to private property that has occurred from May 25th to the present. Even if you can't physically inspect your property, please report your probable damages based on the conditions at your property.

Citizens can report their damage at the county web site, www.pottcounty.com, and click on the "DAMAGE REPORTING TOOL" link. You may upload any pictures you have on the damage reporting tool. Residents without computer access can call 712-328-4672 to report damage. Phones will be answered from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. You can also email pictures directly to pott.ema@pottcounty.com Please provide the property address with the pictures emailed and a number to contact you if we have any need for further information.

Emergency Management Officials stress that the public needs to be an active partner in the damage assessment process during our appeal. This will provide the best information to FEMA in hope that they will authorize the Individual Assistance Program for our citizens.

THE Fairmount Press
 The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association
 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
fairmountparkna@aol.com

Sharon Babbitt	President
Kyle Muschall	Vice President/ Publisher
Tracy Dreessen	Secretary
John Huggins	Treasurer
Terri Dowell	Editor
Maxine Gotto	Special Representative

Sharon Babbitt	Board Member (2012)
Kyle Muschall	Board Member (2013)
Tracy Dreessen	Board Member (2012)
Nate Watson	Board Member (2013)
John Huggins	Board Member (2012)
Carol Mattox	Board Member (2012)
Linda Ring	Board Member (2013)

**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 \$12.00

(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