



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

MEETING FACTS

It's meeting time once again. Save the date of March 3rd, 7:00 p.m., and plan to attend and officially welcome Dan McGinn to our neighborhood! He has offered his home at 199 Glen for our use for the evening. Dan jumped right into the swing of things by volunteering for a shift at the Preserve Council Bluffs Christmas Tour (he helped out at 150 Park), placing his home on the FPNA Home Improvement Tour last Fall, and now allowing us to invade his home for our next meeting. Don't you think we should show our appreciation by showing up? Good! Please bring a little snack food (cookies, chips, etc.) to share and remember to take your shoes off at the door if it is messy outside.

The home at 199 Glen is a Four-Square and may have been built in 1926. Edna Kline, prominent Council Bluffs business owner, lived in the home for decades, but by the time it had been acquired by the McGinns it looked pretty dated and shabby around the edges. Since then, the interior has been completely renovated and brought up to present time and the exterior has undergone much-needed repairs. It now stands on its corner as one of the nicer homes in a neighborhood of nice homes, and we are grateful for the vision of the homeowners in bringing it into the 21st century.

MOTTO

Here's a quote that applies to the McGinns and to all the rest of us who repair, renovate, restore and preserve our neighborhood: "The Earth has already paid the price for one house. Take care of it." (Julie Riley, Restore-Connect)

FACEBOOK

Mark Hansen volunteered to design a Facebook page for the FPNA and is moving swiftly toward its completion. When it is up and running, we will let you all know. We thank Mark for his hard work and dedication to the FPNA by coming up with this project on his own—didn't even have to be asked!

IT AIN'T EASY

Applying for a 501(c)3 nonprofit designation from the IRS, that is. We sent in our application several months ago and we thought every syllable was a pearl—but the IRS didn't agree and returned it. We have re-written our narrative and hope it will pass muster this second time. Keep your fingers crossed.

Continued On Pg.6

Free Tax Preparation

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 cancelations on the TV stations and websites in Omaha and Council Bluffs.

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 2009 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, 2009 State refund

Crispy Seasoned French Fries

by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

2 1/2 lbs. russet potatoes, peeled

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 tsp. garlic salt

1 tsp. onion salt

1 tsp. salt

1 tsp. paprika

1/2 cup water, or as needed

1 cup vegetable for frying

-Slice potatoes into French fries and place into cold water so they won't brown while you heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat.

-Sift the flour, garlic salt, onion salt, salt, and paprika into a large bowl.

-Gradually stir in enough water so that the mixture can be drizzled from a spoon.

-Dip potato slices into the batter one at a time and place in the hot oil so they are not touching.

-Fry until golden brown and crispy, about 3 to 4 minutes.

-Remove and drain on paper towel.

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@themicahouse.org



**"The Secret
to Creativity
is knowing how
to hide your
Sources"
Albert Einstein**



CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION MARCH 4 - 5

Spend a weekend with national and local experts to learn how to restore, renovate and preserve older properties.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 4
OPENING RECEPTION**
The Ambassador Apartments
111 S. 49th Ave.
7 - 10 p.m. • Cost: \$15

The Ambassador is currently going through a major renovation to bring it back to its original, 1928 glory. Come enjoy great food and drink and a chance to tour several of the planned apartments.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5
CONFERENCE**
Metropolitan Community College South Omaha Campus
27th and Q Streets
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. • Cost: \$25 in Advance/\$35 at the Door



Keynote address by Rudy Christian, executive director of the Preservation Trades Network. Christian will speak on the importance of conserving our rich heritage of classic architecture while building for permanence and sustainability for future generations.

- 16 educational sessions. Topics include Bradbury and Bradbury wallpapers, researching the history of your house, roof restoration and high velocity systems for older buildings.
- Lunch, morning and afternoon breaks, and a Restoration JAM! at the end of the day. A great opportunity to gather ideas and solutions from other property owners and from the 25 businesses and organizations exhibiting at the event.

For further information and to register call Nicole Malone at 402-968-3349 or visit



www.restoreomaha.org

The conference is made possible with support from Metropolitan Community College, the Omaha Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, B.G. Peterson Co., Omaha City Planning Department, The Reader, The Architectural Offices and a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Proceeds from Restore Omaha go toward providing educational opportunities to teach current owners of older homes and the next generation of craftsmen preservation and restoration techniques.

How Come February Only Has 28 Days

By Cecil Adams

Courtesy of "The Straight Dope" by Cecil Adams

A widely believed — but possibly erroneous — story has it that February is so short because the Romans borrowed a day from it to add to August. August was originally a 30-day month called Sextilis, but it was renamed to honor the emperor Augustus Caesar, just as July had earlier been renamed to honor Julius Caesar. Naturally, it wouldn't do to have Gus's month be shorter than Julius's, hence the switch.

But some historians say this is bunk. They say February has always had 28 days, going back to the 8th century BC, when a Roman king by the name of Numa Pompilius established the basic Roman calendar. Before Numa was on the job the calendar covered only ten months, March through December. December, as you may know, roughly translates from Latin as "tenth." July was originally called Quintilis, "fifth," Sextilis was sixth, September was seventh, and so on.

To meticulous persons such as ourselves, Randy, having the calendar run out in December and not pick up again until March probably seems like a pretty casual approach to timekeeping. However, we must realize that 3,000 years ago, not a helluva lot happened between December and March. The Romans at the time were an agricultural people, and the main purpose of the calendar was to govern the cycle of planting and harvesting.

Numa, however, was a real go-getter-type guy, and when he got to be in charge of things, he decided it was going to look pretty stupid if the Romans gave the world a calendar that somehow overlooked one-sixth of the year. So he decided that a year would have 355 days — still a bit off the mark, admittedly, but definitely a step in the right direction. Three hundred fifty five days was the approximate length of 12 lunar cycles, with lots of leap days thrown in to keep the calendar lined up with the seasons. Numa also added two new months, January and February, to the end of the year. Since the Romans thought even numbers were unlucky, he made seven of the months 29 days long, and four months 31 days long.

But Numa needed one short, even-numbered month to make the number of days work out to 355. February got elected. It was the last month of the year (January didn't become the first month until centuries later), it was in the middle of winter, and presumably, if there had to be an unlucky month, better to make it a short one.

Many years later, Julius Caesar reorganized the calendar yet again, giving it 365 days. Some say he made February 29 days long, 30 in leap year, and that Augustus Caesar later pilfered a day; others say Julius just kept it at 28. None of this changes the underlying truth: February is so short mainly because it was the month nobody liked much — a judgment with which I heartily concur. Frankly, if the Romans had cut it down to 15 minutes, it wouldn't have bothered me a bit.



U.P. EXHIBIT

The Union Pacific's Abraham Lincoln Collection is on display January 18th thru March 2011 at the Union Pacific Railroad Museum. This collection ranges from silver, furniture, photography, documents and relics from the President's funeral. This Lincoln Collection is held in trust, by Union Pacific, for the American people. The Union Pacific Railroad Museum is proud to be stewards of this great collection and piece of America's past.

The Lincoln Collection is being presented in conjunction with the Durham Museum's "With Malice Towards None" Library of Congress exhibit which is nationally sponsored by Union Pacific. The Library of Congress exhibit includes two items from the Union Pacific Lincoln Collection.

To encourage visitors to see both exhibits, Union Pacific is sponsoring bus transportation between the Union Pacific Railroad Museum and the Durham Museum on Saturdays and Sundays beginning January 29th, 2011. Bus transportation will continue on the weekends through February 27, 2011; including President's Day, Monday February 21. The Union Pacific Railroad Museum will be open extended hours until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on February 21st. The extended hours will in effect from January 29th to February 27th, 2011. There is no admission fee charged to visit the Union Pacific Railroad Museum.

Union Pacific has longed recognized its connection to the Nation's 16th President. Abraham Lincoln created Union Pacific in 1862 by signing the first Pacific Railway Act. In 1866, Union Pacific purchased Lincoln's Presidential railcar with its furnishings which was used to transport the President's body to Springfield, Illinois for burial in 1865. Union Pacific discovered the silver from the Presidential car in 1922 in a company vault which resulted in the creation of their Museum recognizing the national importance of the company to American History. The Union Pacific Railroad Museum is located at 200 Pearl Street Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Regular Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday thru Saturday. Please call for more information 712-329-8307 or go online at www.uprrmuseum.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FPNA March Meeting
March 3rd. 7:00 PM
199 Glen Avenue

FPNA April Meeting
April 15th 7:00 PM
206 Park Avenue

FPNA May Meeting
225 Huntington

specials TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 22

local art \$0
a generous portion of fresh
perspective tossed with raw talent

live music \$0
an artfully blended assortment of notes
come together to delight your palate

supporting the arts \$0
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS EAT!
eat at one of our participating locations on February 22
and they donate a portion of their proceeds to the BAC
view locations and get more information at
WWW.BLUFFSARTS.ORG

BAC Dine Out for the arts sponsored by DOLL DISTRIBUTING

**"Few are those who see
with their own eyes
and feel with their
own hearts"
Albert Einstein**

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By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

BOARD MEETING

Those seven characters that comprise the FPNA Board of Directors met in January to begin the business of the new year. Among the topics for discussion were: grant applications; membership drive; garage sale; home improvement tour; neighborhood directory; electronic archives; new committees; meeting places and dates; re-write of IRS nonprofit application; public opinion surveys; and eating cookies. In-depth explanations of some of the decisions are as follows:

Grant Applications: We want to apply for one of the new CURB grants and hope we can begin implementing some of the IAF recommendations from their study of our neighborhood last fall. Kyle volunteered to research the cost of solar-lighted poles which would also provide hangers for flower baskets and holiday bows. (Kyle will report on his findings at the upcoming meeting.)

Yard Sale: We decided to make the yard sale a biennial event instead of an annual one. The reasons were that the 2010 sale had fewer participants than the previous year and that more and better items could be offered for sale if we allow time to accumulate them.

Home Improvement Tour: We decided to hold it for a second year because it had been so successful the first time around and it is a great fund raiser. (See more below on this subject.)

New Committee: We created a Public Works Committee and Nate was named as chairman, with Michelle as vice-chair. Its purpose will be to coordinate FPNA's charitable activities.

Neighborhood Directory: We will include every resident in the FPNA in the updated Directory because this information is needed for emergency purposes.

HOME IMPROVEMENT TOUR

Last year's tour included four homes in various stages of renovation, from the nearly complete to the completely gutted. We are looking for at least four, preferably five, homes to include in this year's tour. Two homeowners have already volunteered their homes, both of which are in the process of renovation. We are looking for volunteers to complete our roster. Remember, the more torn up you are the more interesting you will be to the public, provided you can be there and explain your vision and your methods. Naturally, we won't turn down any house that is completed, provided it went through the required mess to get to that stage. Please let Sharon know if you wish to be included.

DUES ARE DUE

Yes, it is that time once again to dig into our pockets for FPNA dues, which remain at \$20 per year per household. At this writing, 18 households have paid. Dues continue to dribble in at a slow but steady rate, so keep those checks coming. FPNA can't pay its operating expenses without you. Part of our goal is to save some of our money for the big projects that loom on our horizon as well. We will not send the Dues Police after you, but we hope that you will support FPNA without threat of arrest. Thank you.

RESTORE OMAHA

The Restore Omaha Conference and Exhibition will begin Mar. 4th with a reception to be held at The Ambassador Apartments, 111 S. 49th St., Omaha, 7-10 p.m. Tour this building, which is being restored to its original 1928 glory for only \$15. Follow up with the Conference the next day, Mar. 5th, at the Metropolitan Community College South Omaha

Fit To Print

Continued From Pg.6

Campus, 27th and Q, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; pre-registration cost (before Feb. 18th) \$25, after that it is \$35. Learn all you need to know about old house rehabilitation. The DNA will have a table at this conference promoting our neighborhoods, including us, so attend the Conference and learn something--and be sure to check out the table.

HOLIDAY BOWS

A word of praise for our new Holiday Bows Chair, Linda Ring. She and husband Mike took this season's bows down a few weeks ago—before they got too beat up by winter weather. Linda managed to salvage 48 bows for use again next year and is prodding her volunteers to begin making more for the upcoming holiday season. The ribbon has been purchased and is ready for the talented hands of anybody who wants to take a stab at it. Our goal of a bow on every pole looks like a good possibility this time.

THE LAST WORD

A couple of weeks ago I spotted the First Robin of the Year! Yes, some robin made a grave error in judgment and started its journey north a little early. I immediately performed the wishing ritual, something I'm told may be exclusive to Council Bluffs. Do any of you know this ritual, or is it known only to people "of a certain age"? If you know about it, please let me know at the upcoming meeting and we can perform it together! This will prove two things—that you aren't ashamed to pretend to be a kid again, and that you have actually read this newsletter to the end.

Until next time..... Sharon

A vertical poster for a St. Patrick's Day event. The background is a light brown color with a pattern of dark brown floral and leaf motifs. The text is arranged in a top-to-bottom flow. At the top, it says "don't you feel LUCKY" in a mix of fonts, with "LUCKY" being the largest and most prominent. Below that, it says "When you ARE with friends & neighbors". Further down, it says "join us for the fpna meeting" in a smaller font, followed by "March 3rd 7:00 pm" in a large, stylized font. At the bottom, it says "199 Glen Avenue please BRING A SNACK TO share". In the bottom right corner, there is a small illustration of a glass of beer with a shamrock on the rim and a leprechaun's foot in a shoe nearby.

don't you feel
LUCKY
When you ARE with
friends & neighbors

join us for the
fpna meeting
March
3rd 7:00 pm

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

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
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| 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 \$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