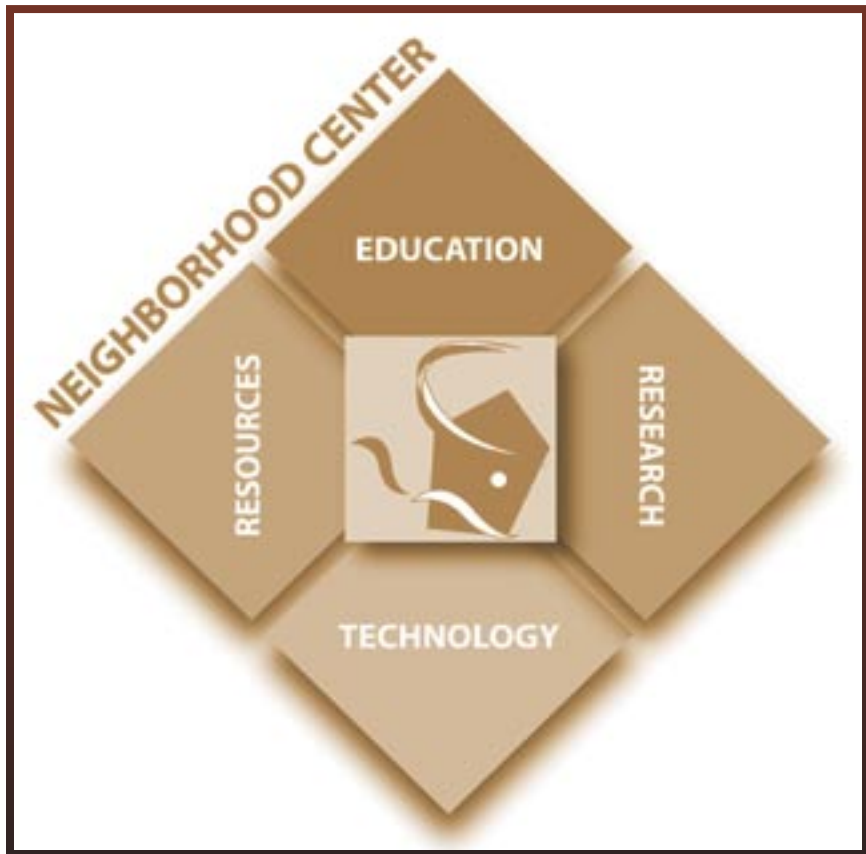


THE Fairmount Press
 The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association
 200 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
 fairmountparkna@aol.com

Sharon Babbitt	President
Kyle Muschall	Vice President/ Publisher
Tracy Dreessen	Secretary
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**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.



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

MEETING FACTS

Time is speeding by and our April meeting is upon us. John has offered to host the meeting and asks us to bring snacks—he will furnish the liquid. Please show yourselves at his house at 206 Park Ave. at 7:00, Friday evening, April 15th. If you don't have your taxes done by then, you are in trouble.

Larry Foster or his representative from the Parks Department will be on hand to tell us about the City's plans for Kirn Park. We are all interested in hearing about this, especially as we are already invested in the paint job on the stadium. The City plans to join the rehabilitation of both Kirn Park and Fairview Cemetery into one project and is requesting a large grant to begin this giant undertaking. We support them all the way and hope that a large crowd will come to this meeting.

The CURB grant application is due on that date as well, and we will have a report.

WHAT DOES THAT BOARD DO, ANYWAY?

The FPNA has been fortunate from its very inception to have active Directors, who toil away, striving to make our neighborhood a better place. We met last week, and here is an abbreviated report on what was decided:

Date for picking up trash at Lookout Point, following along in our plan to "Adopt Lookout Point," is set for Saturday morning, May 7th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful will furnish the trash bags and will take care of their disposal. We hope to interest the Nonpareil in our efforts and maybe get a little publicity for our NA. Please bring gloves and wear long sleeves and pants, as we may be scrambling up and down the ravines. FPNA will furnish drinks and chips for the occasion.

FPNA will participate in Clean Sweep, the City's program to pick up trash in downtown and also in the neighborhoods. This event occurs on Tuesday evening, May 17th. Our job will be to pick up the trash in the streets of our neighborhood and deposit the trash bags at the designated drop-off point. Then we can amble down to Bayliss Park for hamburgers cooked and served by the Mayor and City Council members.

Preparation for the CURB grant application is taking up most of our time and effort at the moment, as this application is

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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

ORIGIN OF APRIL FOOL'S DAY?

The Straight Dope

By Cecil Adams

The origin of April Fool's Day is uncertain, but there are lots of theories. The most commonly heard one has to do with the switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. Here's how Charles Panati tells it in Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things (1987):

Throughout France in the early sixteenth century, New Year's Day was observed on March 25, the advent of spring. The celebrations, which included exchanging gifts, ran for a week, terminating with dinners and parties on April 1.

In 1564, however, in beginning the adoption of the reformed, more accurate Gregorian calendar, King Charles proclaimed that New Year's Day be moved back to January 1. Many Frenchmen who resisted the change, and others who merely forgot about it, continued partying and exchanging gifts during the week ending April 1. Jokers ridiculed these conservatives' steadfast attachment to the old New Year's date by sending foolish gifts known as poisson d'avril, or "April fish" (because at that time of year the sun was leaving the zodiacal sign of Pisces, the fish)....

Years later, when the country was comfortable with the new New Year's date, Frenchmen, fondly attached to whimsical April Fooling, made the practice a tradition in its own right.

There's a small problem with this story and a big one. The small problem is that the Gregorian calendar wasn't introduced until 1582. (For what it's worth, the Encyclopedia Britannica tells a substantially similar story using the correct date.) The big problem is that the story seems to be mainly conjecture. If there's any primary evidence to support it we haven't seen it. Not all countries adopted the Gregorian calendar at the same time--England, Scotland, and Germany didn't do it until

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Chicken Cashew Salad

by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

2 cups Shell pasta	2 cups Celery, chopped
1/4 cup Brown sugar	1/2 cup Green bell pepper, chopped
1 cup Creamy salad dressing (Miracle Whp)	1 Onion, chopped
2 tsp. Lemon juice	3 Boneless Chicken breast halves, cooked
1 tblsp. Distilled white vinegar	and cut into bite-sized pieces
1/2 tsp. salt	1 cup Cashew halves

- Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil.
- Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente.
- Drain and rinse with cold water.
- In large bowl, combine brown sugar, salad dressing, lemon juice, vinegar and salt.
- Toss dressing mixture with cooked pasta, celery, green pepper, onion and chicken.
- Chill until ready to serve.
- Mix in cashews just before serving.

Looking for Books

By Michelle Mutchler Burns

407 Glen Avenue

A small group of us discovered an ongoing need for books in the jail library. We've taken on a project to collect as many books as possible throughout the month of March and provide a bulk donation directly to the correction center librarian (Barb at the jail) at the end of the month.

All reading levels are needed. I have listed specific book needs below, but anything is appreciated.

Thanks for your help.

Book Need (paperbacks and hardbacks):

All reading levels (3rd Grade through College)

All Languages

Books about different career fields

Civil procedure and constitutional law

Westerns

National Geographic

Graphic novels and comic books

Non-fiction best-sellers

Books about and for different religions

Authors always in demand:

Stephen King

John Gresham

Dean Koontz

Dan Brown

J.K. Rowling

Ken Follett

Janet Evanovich

Mary Higgins Clark

Stephanie Myer

James Rollins

R. A. Salvatore

I am asking for your support by donating any unwanted books you may have to this effort. I'd be happy to pick them up from you. Give me a call or send an email to make arrangements for specific time and location.

712-322-1448
gopack8763@aol.com

LEMONADE DAY

Omaha Metro Area Lemonade Day introduces kids to entrepreneurship! This Metro area event encourages kids to start a lemonade stand and sell their lemonade to the entire community. National Lemonade Day and Lemonade Day Omaha Metro will take place on Sunday, May 1st, 2011, although kids can participate at any time.

For more information, contact **Jessie Bowman**, Lemonade Day Omaha Metro Coordinator at: 402.457.7148 or jessie.bowman@ci.omaha.ne.us You can also visit the national website at

www.lemonadeday.org

The national website indicates that the Omaha Metro is signed up, but its individual webpage is not yet ready.

Black Brown Coalition

Black-Brown Coalition of Greater Omaha Presents Jerry Deichert, University of Nebraska at Omaha, College of Public Affairs and Community Service speaking about THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC IMPACT - What We Can Learn From the 2010 Census, on:

April 19, 2011

7:30 -8:30 am at the

CASA Conference Center,

2412 South St. Mary's Avenue

(NW corner of 24th St and St. Mary's Avenue).

For reservations or for more information call 402-561-7570 or e-mail ravaldez@unomaha.edu



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Continued From Pg.1

due by April 15th. The Board chose sidewalk repair as the most urgent need in the neighborhood. Directors have toured the neighborhood counting the number of sidewalk sections in need of repair. Volunteers were asked to go from house to house obtaining signatures of nearly the entire neighborhood approving this large repair project. Cracks and buckles appear in nearly every sidewalk fronting nearly every house, but not all of them will be able to be repaired, if we get this grant, because the cost will be too great. However, we will do our best to convince the CURB folks that this is a serious need. We hope they will agree. When we know, you will know. Keep your fingers crossed.

FLOWER BASKET TIME

Once, again, FPNA will be hanging flower baskets on utility poles throughout the neighborhood. Michelle is Chairman of the Flower Basket Committee and is already starting seedlings at her house. Details will be available at the upcoming meeting. Remember, this project involves us all and our flower baskets are calling the names of every resident who looks outside and sees one hanging nearby. What are they saying? Water, water, water!

THE LAST WORD

Remember that old television series of long ago, when the announcer would drone on about the millions of stories in the city and this is "one of them"? It came to my mind when I recently heard about "Punch" and Harriet, who live in one of those charming cottages on Huntington Ave. Punch, who could probably tell a million stories by himself, lost the use of one eye in a parachuting accident when he was an Army Ranger in his early life. He managed to get along just fine with only one eye, and was able to look at his beautiful wife, Harriet, and, well, life was good. Then the other eye began to fail until he could no longer drive, and, worse, couldn't see Harriet. Well, he recently underwent a corneal transplant and a miracle happened—he can read again, drive again, and, best of all, admire Harriet again. Congratulations to both Punch and Harriet! We're glad there is a happy ending to this story.

Until next time.....Sharon

ORIGIN OF APRIL FOOL'S DAY?

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the 18th century. Yet the April Fool's tradition is said to have been well established throughout Europe by then. There were celebrations of foolishness before 1582. Those close to April 1 include (I'm relying on the EB here) the ancient Roman festival of Hilaria, celebrated March 25, and the Holi celebration in India, which ends March 31. Going farther afield we have the Roman winter solstice celebration of Saturnalia, which by medieval times had evolved into the Festus Fatuorum (the Feast of Fools). This was celebrated mostly in France and was suppressed, interestingly, in the 16th century, around the time Gregorian-calendar theory has April Fool's Day starting.

Wish we could be more definite. But we won't fool you by telling you we have the facts when we don't.

"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex. It takes a touch of genius and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction."

Albert Einstein

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

FPNA April Meeting

April 15th 7:00 PM

206 Park Avenue

Adopt Look Out Point Clean Up

May 7th. 9:00 AM

Clean Sweep

May 17th Evening

FPNA June Meeting

June 2nd.

225 Huntington

Warm Weather is here
Let's have a meeting

Friday April 15th.
206 Park Avenue
7:00 p.m.

Beverages will be provided but
please feel free to bring a snack

RESTORE OMAHA 2011

By Michelle Mutchler Burns 407 Glen Avenue

If you missed the 6th annual Restore Omaha Conference and Exhibition, you missed a lot!

The conference kicked off Friday evening, March 4th at the Ambassador Apartment Building in Omaha. The apartments are currently being renovated to bring them into the 21st century while retaining their 1928 characteristic ironwork and tile work. The highlight of the building is the two, two-story units. About an hour into the tour, we lost most of the power in the building, leaving little more than cell phone flashlights (and of course, the bitter cold). Interestingly, no one really complained, many thought it led to the ambiance of the occasion, of course, the catering from Brandeis didn't hurt!

This is the second year that Council Bluffs was represented at the Conference. The Downtown Neighborhood Alliance (DNA) and Preserve Council Bluffs both provided informational tables about what we have on this side of the river. It was a wonderful sight to see folks learning about our neighborhoods (many of whom for the first time). We continue to build friendships with our neighbors in the extended community!

The conference opened Saturday morning, March 5th and featured keynote speaker Rudy Christian who spoke of the importance of preserving our current residential and commercial buildings and encouraging trades educators to promote restoration, not just new construction. We had the opportunity to attend programs featuring window, wood and brick conservation. Historic hardware and the favorite, Bradbury and Bradbury wallpapers, among many more.

The day ended with the annual Restoration Jam; homeowners talking about their pet projects, what went well, what didn't and what they would do differently. All this, lunch and snacks too, for \$40.

I even had my 5 minutes of fame, talking about our new boiler, wiring and exterior paint, ending my presentation by telling the audience to mark their calendar for October 2, 2011, when the Restore Omaha tour comes to Council Bluffs!

