

THE

Fairmount Press

The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

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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.

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ALL THE NEWS THAT’S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt200 Park Avenue

MEETING FACTS

Do we want to step back to 1933? Sure we do! Carol Mattox will be our host for a nostalgic trip back to movie drive-in days when she prepares sloppy joes from an authentic recipe straight from the Council Bluffs Drive-In, to celebrate the anniversary of the first drive-in theater opening in Camden, New Jersey in, yes, 1933. How cool is that?? So, bring your favorite side dish and your date for an outdoor meeting event on June 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in Carol’s front yard at 225 Huntington Ave. We will not only enjoy Good Cook Carol’s food but also her location that will make you think you are living in the woods instead of in the heart of the city. Don’t miss this one!

We’ll be talking about our annual summer meeting at Lookout Point (formerly knows as our picnic), the home improvement tour, and other neighborhood concerns.

CLEAN SWEEP COUNCIL BLUFFS

This clean-up event will take place on Tuesday, May 17th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. In case of rain, it will be postponed to Wednesday, May 18th, same time, same place. FPNA will be participating in this clean-up this way: Meet at the Pump House at the top of Glen Ave. to pick up your trash bags and gloves (better bring more gloves if you have them). We will fan out in teams and clean the trash from the streets and parkings of our entire neighborhood, and, boy, is it needed! We will place our filled trash bags in the vacant lot on Glen Ave. next to 171 Glen and the City will pick them up from there. When we’re done, we can walk down to Bayliss Park to enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs prepared by our Mayor and City Council—how often do we get to do that?! FPNA has done the trash thing for several years now, but this year we are coordinating our work with that of the rest of the City and getting fed for it to boot. Thanks, Tracy, for coordinating this activity for FPNA !

AND SPEAKING OF TRASH!

Wow! Did you see the pile of stuff we found at Lookout Point at our first official “Adopt Lookout Point Day” on Saturday, May 7th? Twenty folks showed up with gloves on, including two friends from GNA, and we spread out all over the ravines and other areas up there. We dragged up trash and glass galore, wood studded with nails, the springs from an old car seat, a studded snow tire, and (get this) a mattress and headboard. The pile was humongous and photos were taken as proof. Cindy Christensen from the Nonpareil stopped by to take a photo or two and we thank her. Other pictures were taken (See pages 4 & 5) by our own home-grown crew. Refreshments were served. The weather cooperated and so

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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

THE POWER OF GLUE

By Sharon Babbitt and Nate Watson

Often folks look back to the past, even the recent past, and think of those days as “the good old days,” but were they? Before 2007, the idea of a neighborhood association was just that, an idea. Did we really need one? And why?

Think back, for instance, to that time when we were trying to get the City Council to re-zone our neighborhood to R-1 from its R-2 and R-3 status. There were many reasons why we failed, but one of them was that we didn’t speak with one voice. We were asked point blank whether or not we had a neighborhood association and the answer was that we did not. Clearly, something had to be done.

Enter the early crusaders with their far-sighted vision. Yes, their vision was clear and they were armed with expert legal help, but, even so, agreements were hard to come by. Compromises had to be made before the by-laws could be written and ratified by the membership. The resulting document conforms to the requirements of the State of Iowa and has officially been filed with them. Then, when we obtained our 501(c)3 tax exempt status with the IRS, we had further requirements to meet. Let’s make it clear—these requirements do not allow us to become an enforcing body of any kind.

By majority agreement we cannot tell anyone what color to paint their house, or how often to cut their grass, or what style of garden shed they must place in their yards—nothing like that. What we can do is find ways to cause historic signs to be made which are the jewels of the neighborhood; arrange for much needed sidewalk repair which benefits everyone; organize people into cleaning crews to remove the unsightly trash from parks, streets and sidewalks; maintain

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Mayor’s Neighborhood Cabinet Notes

By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 7:00 a.m.

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) will probably be cut, but don’t know the amount yet
 - These grants are used to rehab homes and for housing projects, and the City may lose staff in this area due to cuts
- New highway bill from the state includes cuts to the program
 - Likely to extend the life of the interstate projects in Council Bluffs (Interstates 80 and 29)
- Commercial property taxes
 - Projected \$20 million in losses if Governor Branstad’s plan goes through
 - Right now there are also different proposals from house and senate in addition to Governor Branstad’s plan
 - There will be changes in this area, just don’t know what yet
- 36% casino gaming tax proposal from still on the board from Governor Branstad
- Current City budget not likely to be affected by state changes, but budget changes would be likely for next year
- Outdoor dining proposal for downtown in C-3 and C-4 zones only
- Urban farming/community garden proposed on the corner of Broadway & N 1st by Broadway Methodist Church
 - City Council is looking into other possible locations in the area due to traffic density in the area
- Old Holiday Inn off of Nash Blvd is gone and most of the trees have also been removed
 - City has put \$415,000 into this site, total investment will probably reach \$1 million
 - Future site plans are still in the works
- Preserve CB organized a cleanup for a vacant home on the corner of Kanessville and North 1 Street
 - Lincoln/Fairview Neighborhood Association
 - This is believed to be the oldest home in the neighborhood and different organizations are looking to preserve and restore the home/property
- The City is considering natural gas docking station for City vehicles, buses, cabs, and would even be open to personal vehicles
 - Too expensive to convert current vehicles to natural gas, but may start to purchase new natural gas vehicles when older models are replaced
- City is in the process of submitting a grant request to the Iowa West Foundation combining Fairview Cemetery and Kirn Park renovations

SAVOR THE FLAVOR

The Bluffs Arts Council is joining Doll Distributing and seven pubs on the historic 100 block of West Broadway to offer a tasteful craft beer event on

Saturday, May 14th, from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.

For a donation in advance (\$20) or at the door the day of the event (\$25), your contribution will get you a commemorative glass, samples of craft beer, fine wines, and food pairings at each of the seven venues plus live musical performances and the work of local artists. Cost is \$18.00 for BAC members.

Participating pubs are Barley’s, 1892 Bier Haus, Beer and Loathing, Fiddlin’ Monkey, Glory Days, T’z, and Venue. You can make your donation online by visiting www.bluffsarts.org and clicking on the Savor the Flavor link. Tickets will be mailed to you. Or call 328-4992 to purchase with your credit card. Check in with your tickets at the table located on the street at the Passageway (mid-block).

**“Everything
I am or ever
hope to be, I
owe to my
Angel Mother”
Abraham
Lincoln**

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

did the volunteers—in fact, it couldn't have been better. This is just one way we have demonstrated our love and concern for our neighborhood and our park. WAY TO GO MY FRIENDS!! Trash bags were furnished by Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful, so thanks to them as well.

HOME IMPROVEMENT TOUR

Although this tour won't take place until September, now is the time to plan, plan, plan. So far, we have four homeowners who have volunteered their homes for this fund raiser for FPNA, but one of them may have to pull out. We are presently negotiating with another pair of homeowners (well, okay, twisting their arms) but haven't gotten a firm commitment yet—and you know who you are! This is really a fun thing to do and brings the whole neighborhood together to show off our skills at home improvement (and they are legion), as well as demonstrating the friendliness and knowledge of our many volunteers. We have heard excellent comments about last year's event. Any money we earn is being guarded jealously in the hopes of one-day acquiring banners and/or maybe entrance signs. Contact Sharon if you feel compelled to open your home. Remember, this is a "home improvement" tour and nobody expects everything to be finished.

SECURITY CAMERA

We are in the beginning stages of trying to get a grant to acquire a security camera for Kirn Park. Preliminary plans are for the FPNA and the GNA to submit a joint grant. Many of us are aware of the activities taking place at Kirn Park (and we don't mean hiking and playing ball). The Parks Department brought the traveling security camera to the park and it has done wonders, but the operative word is "traveling." One day it may have to move on. A permanent camera is needed. If we are successful, and we think we will be, this is one more way we are making a positive impact in the lives of our residents.

Until next time.....Sharon

THE POWER OF GLUE

Continued From Pg.2

a distribution list which serves the dual purpose of notifying the entire neighborhood of weather and other emergencies—the list goes on.

There is also a social aspect to our neighborhood association. What good is that, some might ask? Let us count the ways! Get to know our neighbors for safety reasons and just to be friends. Join together to voice our complaints as well as our praises. Help our elderly in times of need, and keep our eyes on our children to keep them safe and out of trouble. Make our area a place where people will want to live and raise their families. And much more.

Finally, we promote togetherness, which is the glue that bonds our family--our neighborhood—and makes us strong so that these days will be worthy to be called "the good old days" in the future.



C.B. POLICE DEPT. PAR UNIT

The mission of the Police Area Representative office on the police department's web site is to, "develop partnerships, solve problems, and improving the quality of life for our citizens, which enhances and promotes the Department's overall goals."

These partnerships include neighborhood partnerships; so if you have any neighborhood crime issues, please do not hesitate to contact the PAR office. If they are not aware of the issue, they can't assist. Even if you call 911 or talk to a reporting officer after witnessing a neighborhood crime issue, please still contact the PAR office to make sure they are aware of the situation.

There are 4 PAR districts in Council Bluffs, and all but Area 4 currently have an officer assigned to them. To see the PAR districts, go to www.cbpolice.org/police2.asp. All phone contact information is on that website. If you are unsure whom to contact, just call;

Sergeant Mark Galvan at 712.329.1856
or e-mail magalvan@councilbluffs-ia.gov.

or contact Community Resource Officer

Mark Alba at 712.329.1825

"If you have a point to make don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time, a tremendous wack "
Winston Churchill

DATES TO REMEMBER

Savor the Flavor
May 14th
3:00-8:00 p.m.

FPNA - CB Clean Sweep
May 17th 5:30 p.m.
Glen Pump House

FPNA June Meeting
June 2nd 6:30 p.m.
225 Huntington

COUNCIL BLUFFS CLEAN SWEEP

Over 200 volunteers are expected to participate in Clean Sweep on Tuesday, May 17th. Groups, families and individuals of all ages are invited. Volunteers will be provided trash bags and directions to an area downtown or near downtown to pick up litter.

After the clean up, the Mayor and City Council will serve hot dogs, chips and beverages to the volunteers. Bring friends, family, neighbors or co-workers! Free hot dog, chips & beverage for volunteers approx 7:00 p.m. Tote bag gift for all volunteers.

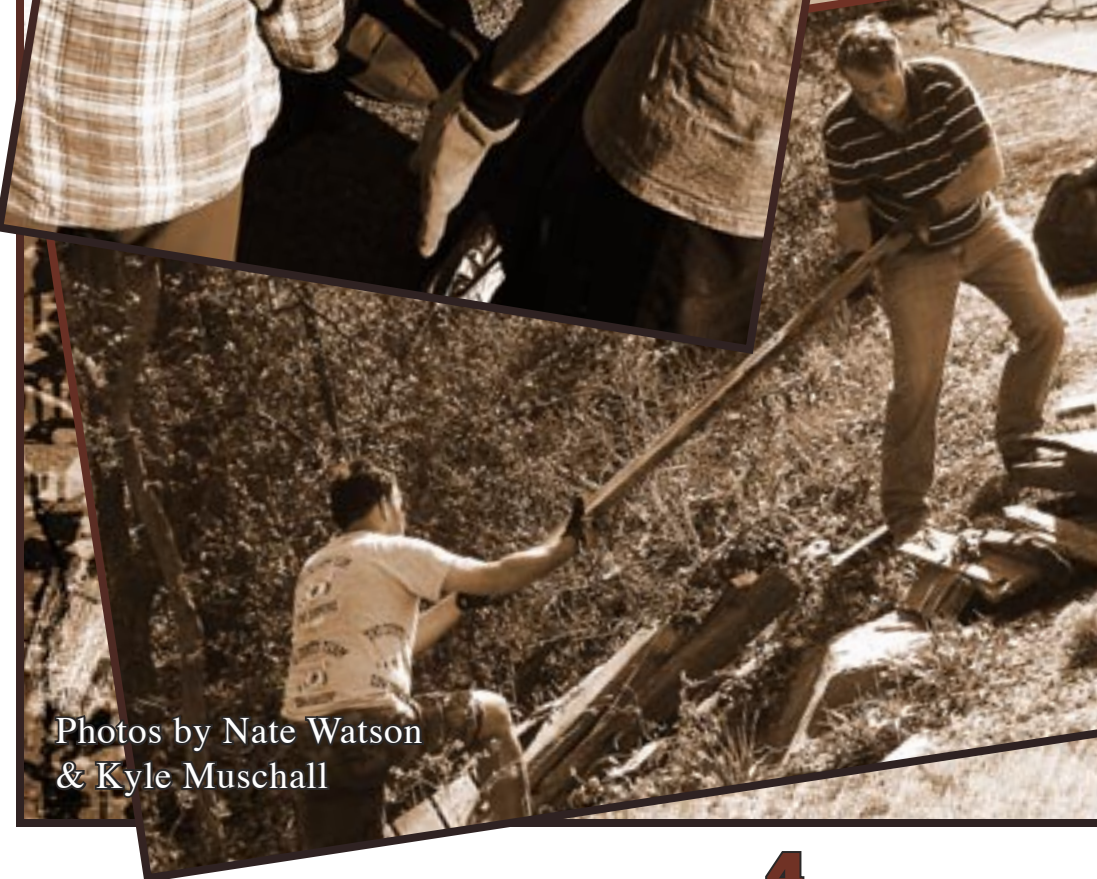
Volunteer registration and check in starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by the cookout around 7:00 p.m. The rain date is Wednesday, May 18th.

Register to volunteer for Clean Sweep litter pick up at www.keepcouncilbluffsbeautiful.org or call 328-4974.



FPNA 2011 ADOPT LOOK-OUT POINT CLEAN UP

THANK YOU ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED



Photos by Nate Watson
& Kyle Muschall