



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

LET'S HAVE FUN AND MAKE MONEY

On September 18th the FPNA is putting on its annual Home Improvement Tour, our only real fundraiser, and expects to have fun doing it. Four homeowners have opened their houses to the public (thank you, friends), and posters have been placed in at least 34 businesses throughout the area. We're shooting for a small article in the Nonpareil and an announcement in the Neighborhood Center's on-line newsletter. Beyond that, we hope that you, our friends and neighbors, will talk about the event everywhere you go! This tour is unusual in that we aren't presenting completely renovated homes for the public to exclaim about but, rather, homes in the process of renovation so the public can see how things are done and what they look like before and after. Homeowners will be on hand to explain. Last year's tour received rave reviews and we hope for the same this time around.

The four homes on the Tour are:

164 Park Ave., front-gabled Queen Anne Victorian, newly painted exterior featuring four coordinating colors; wood floors throughout; remodeled bath with claw foot tub and peg leg sink.

167 Glen Ave., charming four-square; leaded glass piano window; butler's pantry; newly renovated bath with original tiles; columned entry; spacious rooms; interesting staircase configuration.

322 Glen Ave., Colonial Revival four-square; oculus windows; extensive exterior repairs; large rooms; wood floors throughout; original swinging kitchen door; landscaped lot.

332 Glen Ave., Free Classic Queen Anne; two-story sleeping porch; originally built as a two-family side-by-side, now converted to single-family; fireplace; wood floors; remodeled chef's kitchen.

A number of folks have agreed to volunteer for the Tour, but we need more, more! Please consider offering your time for two-hour shifts in one of the above-mentioned homes. It isn't hard work and you will enjoy mingling with the public and helping out your NA. We only require you to be clean, dependable, punctual and alive. If you meet these requirements, please let Sharon know immediately by calling 323-5912 or e-mail at sbabbitt2@cox.net. Many thanks.

Continued On Pg.6

Mayor's Neighborhood Cabinet Notes

Tuesday, August 9, 2011
7:00 a.m.

- \$8.145 million has so far approved by City Council for flood infrastructure repairs
 - City has spent 8.5 million to date
- Two more sewer collapses discovered last week, still an ongoing concern
- Most of the money spent on flood-related repairs has gone to contractors
- City estimates that at this time about \$185 per person has been spent on the flood
- The City has been very happy with the National Guard response in the area, and the National Guard has been very effective
- 15% has been cut from community block grants and the City will be losing a position because of this
- Gayle Malmquist from the Community Development department has retired and Rose Brown has filled her position (promoted from within)
- Landlords can now work on their own properties, can pay \$50 per year to be able to do so, and this will save them money overall since they won't have to hire contractors for projects valued at up to \$2,000
- Foreclosures still expected to continue to rise in the area
- There was discussion of some homes that the City has acquired, but they haven't been able to find anybody to rehab the homes
 - This is an ongoing problem leading to houses sitting vacant as it is hard to find people who will rehab the homes
 - The houses are condemned for any number of reasons (e.g., health code/building code violations), but then they can't find anybody to rehab the homes and the demolition process (for homes that are determined to not be able to be rehabbed) is a lengthy and expensive process.
- City has had to cut more grass on private property this year
- A neighborhood representative noted that there is graffiti on the pedestrian part of Avenue G viaduct (not visible from the road because of the barrier)
- The planned improvements to Fairview Cemetery and Kirn Park are not likely to happen if the City does not get a REAP grant



DATES TO REMEMBER

Missouri River Flooding
Roundtable Discussion
Sept. 9th 1:00-3:45 pm.
IWCC Loft Hall

FPNA Home Improvement
Tour
Sept. 18th
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Restore Omaha
C.B. Tour
October 2nd

FPNA October Meeting
Oct. 6th 7:00 p.m.
445 Glen Avenue

**"Try not
to be a
person of
success
but rather
a person
of virtue"**

**Albert
Einstein**

**FPNA
Meeting**

**Oct. 6th 7:00pm
445 Glen Ave**

**Lite Refreshments
will be served
but feel free to
bring a snack to share**

DISCUSSION: MISSOURI RIVER FLOODING

Governor Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Reynolds will be holding a public roundtable discussion regarding the Missouri River flooding on

Friday, September 9, 2011
from
1:00 – 3:45 pm.

The meeting will be located at Looft Hall on the Iowa Western Community College Campus.

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

NEW LOCATION
A BEAUTIFULLY RESTORED VICTORIAN HOME
AT
206 PARK AVENUE
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

OCT. 14-16, 2011 10-7 EACH DAY
MEET-THE-ARTISTS PREVIEW
OCT. 13, 2011 6-9 P.M.
FEATURING WINE FROM PRAIRIE HAWK WINERY

*ORIGINAL WORKS FROM
12 AREA ARTISTS*



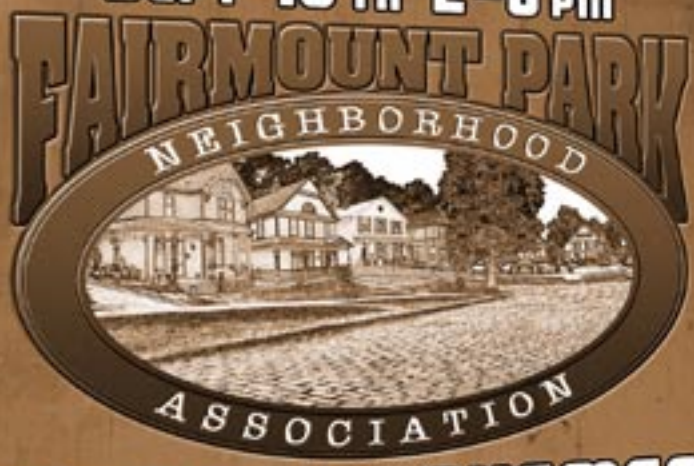
**HOLIDAY AND HOME DÉCOR,
JEWELRY, ACCESSORIES,
SOAPS AND MUCH MORE!**

*A ONE-OF-A-KIND HOLIDAY
SHOPPING EXPERIENCE*

CALL SHARON AT 323-5912 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Free Walking Tours

SEPT 18TH 2-6 PM



HOME IMPROVEMENT TOUR

Come see renovation in all stages
View homes in the Park Glen
Historic District of Council Bluffs
164 Park 167 Glen
322 Glen 332 Glen

\$10 PER PERSON
\$15 FOR TWO

RESTORE OMAHA IN C.B.!!!

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

You've probably heard the term before or wondered what exactly Restore Omaha is. To quote a fellow committee member, "we are a scrappy group of volunteers who just happen to enjoy older buildings". We help preserve, restore and maintain pre-1950 buildings by educating the public on topics such as why it's more cost-effective to rehab an existing structure than to raze it and build something new in its place.

Twice a year we hold events, which are open to the public; a fall tour and a spring conference. This year's tour is being held here in Council Bluffs on Sunday October 2, from 12-5. Why is Council Bluffs on the Restore Omaha tour? Well, we are promoting Council Bluffs' wealth of wonderful architectural structures and the fantastic mixed re-use of several of our commercial buildings. We want to bring people across the river and show off our assets, such as the Squirrel Cage Jail, the Union Pacific Museum, and the Dodge and Bersheim houses. While you're in the neighborhood, take a tour inside the Primmer's Home, a.k.a. the former Girl Scout House. We also have the recently restored, 2011 Preservation Award winning Creston House and will have on display the artifacts they "unearthed" during their restoration.

The Hughes-Irons Building, 149 W. Broadway, serves as the starting point for the tour. It's 100% occupied and we get a tour of a couple of the apartments and a sneak peek of Dixie Quick's Public House, which opens mid to late October. We also have the International Harvester Artspace Lofts on the tour. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. If you're wondering if this is going to be mostly commercial buildings, nope. We have four south 8th street Victorian Homes open to tour as well.

We are also featuring some "windshield" tours; the Brigant's home, the Creek Top Cottages and the homes in the 400 block of Park Avenue, right in our own back yard. We know there must be someone who sees the value and significance of these homes, not to mention the second floor view! The cost is \$10 a person, \$15 for two.

Check out our website, www.restoreomaha.org for updates on the tour and the Spring Conference and its opening reception.

August Yard of the Month



198 Glen Avenue Harold & Francis Beck

Photo by Kyle Muschall

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Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

CAMERA FOR KIRN IS ALMOST A REALITY

The Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF) has approved our grant application for a security camera for Kirn Park and we have deposited their \$5,000 check. The camera costs more than that so we asked for pledges from you all to make up the difference, along with equal help from the Gibraltar Neighborhood Assn. We found that the actual cost of the camera was less than originally estimated, so we were able to reduce the pledges accordingly. Most of your pledges have been received by our Treasurer, John, but a few are still outstanding. If yours is among them, please get your check or cash to John (206 Park) right away so we can order the camera. Our Treasurer is such a bully that he won't allow us to order it until the money is in hand. He's watching out for us.

THE COLOR'S GOOD NOW

After a little problem with the colors for our latest batch of membership flags, the new and perfect little banners have arrived. We will be offering them to our members soon. Wouldn't it be great to see these classy flags flying in every member's front yard? What a sight! Thanks to Kyle for his selfless work on this frustrating task.

SIDEWALK REPAIRS HAVE BEGUN

All our ducks are finally in a row to begin repairing the sidewalk sections identified by FPNA as most needing repairs. As you all know, the CURB grant for this project did not allow us to do all the repairs we'd wanted to do. The contractor surveyed the neighborhood and chose to repair some of the bad spots on Park and Glen Aves. He said he hoped we could get another grant next year to start on all the rest. We'll have to wait and see, but we are grateful to be able to do what we can for the time being. Thanks to Carol for working to get this project underway.

MEETING FACTS

The next FPNA meeting will be on Thursday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m., at the home Terri Dowell and Karl Allen, 445 Glen. Light refreshments will be served but feel free to bring along a cookie or two to add to the feast. We hope that the Thursday evening time will attract those of you who can't make it to a meeting at any of the other times, so let's turn out in great numbers. Hey, Terri and Karl's house is plenty large enough to accommodate the expected crowds! Besides, don't we want to secretly continue our tradition of snooping inside as many of our fine old houses as we can?! Admit it, we do.

THE LAST WORD

Best of luck to our friend and colleague, Nate, who has decided to run for City Council. While FPNA isn't allowed to participate in politics, we can individually support Nate in his quest, if we so desire. Election day is November 8th, in case you'd like to know. Moving right along to another subject, my Schwan man, Jon, loves our neighborhood and is full of questions about the houses. His latest question pertained to the boarded up houses on upper Park. After he heard the story, he said, "If you're educated, you can change history by changing the future." That is so profound, I think we should steal it for our motto. Until next time.....Sharon



2011 FLOOD NOTICES

On August 30, 2011, the City of Council Bluffs cancelled its Alert Level 1 status, and the City Flood Call Center closed. Residents should use the following numbers to report an incident or to obtain additional information:

Street, storm water, and sanitary sewer issues
Public Works at 712-328-4641

Building repairs, inspections and permits
Building Division at 712-328-4625

Mold questions and solid waste issues
Public Health at 712-328-4666

Recreational trail closures
Parks and Recreation at 712-328-4650

Additionally, the Iowa National Guard has officially discontinued its levee patrol and monitoring role in Council Bluffs as of August 30th.

MAIN STREET FARMER'S MARKET

Main Street Farmers Market is located on Main Street in downtown Council Bluffs, Iowa. It was started in 2010 to help the area grow and prosper. They are sincerely committed to a sense of community and thus wanted to support the local efforts in the area. Join them May through September each year for some of the most awesome produce, eggs, cheese, honey, baked goods, art, flowers and information about the local community and the efforts to make positive changes in the way we live.

Location:

Corner of Main Street & 9th Avenue. Council Bluffs, IA

When:

Every Thursday (thru September). 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Contact Information:

mainstreetfarmersmarket@gmail.com

www.mainstreetfarmersmarketcb.com

July Yard of the Month



211 Park Avenue Melissa Head

Photo by Kyle Muschall

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 \$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