



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbit

200 Park Avenue

HOME IMPROVEMENT TOUR, GOOD AND BAD

We had our 2011 Home Improvement Tour on Sunday, September 18th. The sun was shining—about five minutes before the end of the tour—and the rest of the time it rained. No doubt the depressing day kept attendance down. Forty souls trekked through the neighborhood anyway, and we thank them. We also appreciate the hard work of the homeowners and other volunteers. The premise of our Tour (home improvement) was exemplified by the fine work the homeowners put into their homes, and those who went on the Tour learned a lot.

TWO GRANTS, TWO RESULTS

FPNA received a CURB grant for \$8,000 to make some sidewalk repairs to the neighborhood. We're told that in the world of concrete this doesn't go very far, but it did allow our contractor to replace about 50 sections of sidewalk. The contractor's work was hampered by the fact that, under our present sidewalks, there lurked the remnants of earlier walks that had never been removed, and even a section of brick walkway that was probably laid about 125 years ago when the City constructed a 12 ft. wide brick promenade leading to Fairmount Park. A few homeowners bit the bullet and arranged for further repairs to their walkways and driveway approaches. All in all, it was a positive experience. We hope we can get grants in the future to continue these worthy improvements.

FPNA also received a PCCF grant for \$5,000 to help purchase a security camera for Kirn Park. The remainder of the cost for the camera was divided in half and paid for by pledges from both Fairmount Park NA and Gibraltar NA. The camera is now in the hands of the Parks Department. We expect it to be installed any day now and will do our best to generate some publicity when that happens. After all, this hard work and cooperation between NAs and the City should be shouted from the rooftops!

NEW BANNERS

Our new supply of membership banners is ready and waiting for you! The design is the same but the color is more brilliant than our last batch. The cost is \$12 apiece and can be purchased at any FPNA meeting, or from Kyle (who has the banners) or any other Board member. Just give us a holler. We'd love to see the banners sprouting up and down every street.

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Mayor's Neighborhood Cabinet Notes

Tuesday, September 13, 2011
7:00 a.m.

- The City has brought a company in to assess flood damage
 - City will pay up to \$500,000, but they expect to get the amount back in value
- The City has had 17 sewer collapses accounting for around \$4.6 million
 - An additional 14 possible sewer collapses are being monitored
- There are six damaged pump stations account for around \$4.5 million
- Some culverts were plugged to prevent water from backing through them due to water pressure
- Around 92,000 tons of sand blankets along the levy system will need to be removed
- Annually, the City spends about 1.5 million on levies for maintenance
- Our area still hasn't been approved for FEMA funds, but we are still trying to appeal
- The City saved about \$250,000 by buying/reselling bonds
 - The City was able to get AAA numbers even though they only have a AA+ rating
- About \$11 million in cash reserves has been spent on flood
- Home sales aren't bad right now, considering the circumstances
 - Mortgage companies had stopped financing in west end areas because of the flood, but this is starting to be lifted
- Discussion of a new planned neighborhood on Franklin Ave
 - The City discovered that they need to change how they are looking at water runoff/holding ponds in new developments
- Plumrose is building a new plant in Council Bluffs, which should bring fairly good (higher wage) jobs, including more engineering positions
- Discussion of a possible Wal-Mart south of Nash Blvd off of N 16th (old Gordmans)
 - Wal-Mart wants \$5 million in tax breaks for the project, and the City is trying to determine what a reasonable amount would be, if anything
- The City estimated about \$219,000 worth of volunteer labor for the flood



DATES TO REMEMBER

Second Fridays
Downtown Celebration
October 14th.
5:00 p.m.

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



**"Love is the
only force
capable of
transforming
an enemy into
a friend"**

**Martin Luther
King Jr.**

Best wishes to you

THINK BLUE

According to the 2010 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, Iowa currently ranks as the 19th healthiest state in the nation. Though that puts us in the top half, it's not good enough. Together, let's take Iowa to the number one position by 2016. It's a bold and unprecedented goal to jump 18 spots in just five years, but if anyone can do it, Iowans can.

If you're with us, start somewhere to walk and take a pledge to act. We're kicking off our Healthiest State Initiative with a Start Somewhere Walk.

We are asking all Iowans to walk for one kilometer (7.5 blocks), wherever they are. You can form a walk with co-workers, religious groups, civic organizations, students, your neighborhood, or your community at large.

Sign up now by taking your pledge at
www.IowaHealthiestState.com

One of the centerpieces of the Healthiest State Initiative is the Blue Zones Project, a collaboration of Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Healthways. Blue Zones are geographically defined areas around the world such as Sardinia, Italy; Okinawa, Japan; and Loma Linda, California, where people reach age 100 at rates 10 times greater than in the United States.

We'd like to transform some Iowa towns into Blue Zone Communities, where people "Live Longer, Better." The Blue Zones Project will ignite a community-by-community movement to improve the well-being of Iowa communities through the application of learnings from the Blue Zones and from Healthways' research from the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index.

To help with this transformation, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield has committed \$25 million to bring national experts to ten Iowa communities over the next five years. These experts will work alongside local leaders to implement a road map to change their communities so that their residents may live longer, healthier and more productive lives.

The more people we can have take the pledge to walk the better our chance of becoming a Blue Zone – be sure to take your pledge at www.IowaHealthiestState.com

SECOND FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN C.B.

Second Friday's Downtown Art Walk October fundraiser is joining with the Squirrel Cage Jail on October 14, 2011. Art and Adventure in historic downtown Council Bluffs.

The Squirrel Cage jail, located at 226 Pearl street is the only three story revolving jail in the U.S.A. Many of the infamous prisoner's signatures and their dates of incarceration remain on the walls.

Adult and Youth artists will be showing at this location. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and children under 12 are free on this day only.

Come join in the celebration.

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

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



RESTORE OMAHA IN C.B.!!!

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

I want to thank the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association volunteers and attendees for your contribution in making the Restore Omaha Historic Restoration Tour a huge success. Who would have thought that we would have nearly 375 people tour these 10 sites.

The weather was absolutely perfect as we opened five single-family residences; four marvelous "Victorian Row" homes, 295, 301, 309 and 413 So. 8th St. and the former Girl Scout House at 526 So. Third St.

In addition, there were several commercial restoration projects and local attractions. Where else could you pay just \$10 to tour all those homes, plus have admission to the Squirrel Cage Jail, U.P. Museum, 2011 Preservation Award winning Creston House, Hughes-Irons Building and the wonderful artists lofts at the Harvester Lofts building all on one day? If that weren't enough, we also arranged for half price admission to the Dodge and Bersheim Houses and offered some drive-by sites, including the homes in the 400 block of Park Ave, the tiny Bergant Home and the Creek Top Cottages.

Oh, and did you see that tractor? The International Harvester Lofts building also featured a newly restored 1939 International Harvester tractor and thanks to Jerry and Joyce Mez of Avoca for bringing that bit of nostalgia to us. I'm told that tractor rolled out of that IH building in 1939. How cool is that?

Communitcy Financial Planning

Saturday, Oct. 15, from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., Metropolitan Community College's Fort Omaha Campus, Swanson Conference Center, 32nd & Sorenson Parkway. This event will have a number of workshops and an opportunity for a free private financial consultation with experts from the Financial Planning Association and highly qualified CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER professionals. The entire event is free! There are no strings attached - volunteering financial planners will not pass out business cards, marketing materials or sell products or services. For more information or to register, visit

www.financialplanningdays.org/omaha or call 1-877-861-7826.

Pumpkin Bars by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

4 eggs	1 tsp. baking soda
1 2/3 cup vegetable oil	1 tsp. salt
1 (15 oz.) can solid pack pumpkin	3 oz. package cream cheese
2 cups all-purpose flour	2 cups confectioners' sugar
2 tsp. ground cinnamon	1/4 cup butter, softened
2 tsp. baking powder	1 tsp. vanilla extract

- In a mixing bowl beat eggs, sugar, oil and pumpkin.
- Combine flour, cinnamon, baking powder, baking soda and salt.
- Gradually add to pumpkin mixture and mix well.
- Pour into ungreased 15 in x 10 in x 1 in baking pan.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 25 - 30 minutes.
- For icing beat cream cheese, sugar, butter and vanilla in bowl.
- Add enough milk (1 tblsp.) to achieve spreading consistency.
- Spread over bars.

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By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come on—already? Yes, because that will be the time of our next FPNA meeting. Nate has jumped at the chance to once again show off his 27 decorated Christmas trees (or maybe more by now). The time will be 4:00 p.m., place 126 Park Ave., date December 3rd. It is Pot Luck this year so bring your favorite dish that you want to showcase. More on this as the time gets closer—and it is closer than you think.

THE LAST WORD

Change. It can be exciting or sad, but it is a constant in this Universe of ours. Several new folks have moved into the neighborhood and several have left. Diane Franks, the Fents, the Jocelyns, Debbie Olsen, Sharon Mark—all have recently moved or passed away. New folks have arrived and we need to make it a point to welcome them. This is a friendly place and we want them to be glad they came here. And, take names, will you? Using someone's name to say hello is better than saying, hey, you.

Until next time.....Sharon

HALLOWEEN TRIVIA

Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the Fall harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.

Jack o' Lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed-out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.

Pumpkins also come in white, blue and green. Great for unique monster carvings!

Halloween was brought to North America by immigrants from Europe who would celebrate the harvest around a bonfire, share ghost stories, sing, dance and tell fortunes.

Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America.

The ancient Celts thought that spirits and ghosts roamed the countryside on Halloween night. They began wearing masks and costumes to avoid being recognized as human.

Halloween candy sales average about 2 billion dollars annually in the United States.

Chocolate candy bars top the list as the most popular candy for trick-or-treaters with Snickers #1.

Halloween is the 2nd most commercially successful holiday, with Christmas being the first.

Bobbing for apples is thought to have originated from the roman harvest festival that honors Pomona, the goddess of fruit trees.

Black cats were once believed to be witch's familiars who protected their powers.

THIS & THAT

Add a half-cup of fabric softener to one gallon of water to create a cleaning solution for paint-brushes. Every two hours, swish your brush in the solution for ten seconds. Paint slides right off the bristles. And if you spill paint onto carpet while painting, get it out with fabric softener and a dry-vac. In addition, your house may smell like fresh mountain air, or whatever.

When parking your cars on the street, remember to leave 5 ft. between your car and driveway entrances or fire hydrants. In our crowded neighborhoods, this may seem like a waste of parking space but it's the law, and also courteous to homeowners who can't see to get out of their driveways when your car is in the way. To say nothing of the unfortunate event of a fire.



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
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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