



FPNA: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

By Sharon Babbit

200 Park Avenue

This past year has flown by, it seems, and we can't remember what happened last winter, let alone last month. So, a review of our activities is in order, as proof (as if we needed any) that we have been busy. Here goes:

Our grant application for a security camera for Kim Park was awarded by PCCF in the amount of \$5,000. We needed an additional \$1050 so we teamed up with Gibraltar NA to make up the difference. Residents from both NAs made the necessary contributions and the camera was installed in October.

Our grant application for sidewalk repairs was awarded by CURB in the amount of \$8,000, not much in the world of concrete but enough to get some of our sidewalk sections replaced for greater safety in the neighborhood. This work was completed by the end of October.

The IRS gave us our 501(c)3 nonprofit status last spring, after a lengthy process of paperwork.

Our first Adopt-Lookout-Point cleanup took place in the spring. Twenty volunteers worked in the ravines up there and removed truckloads of old trash.

Four yard-of-the-month awards were given during the spring and summer months.

One exterior holiday decorating award was presented in December.

Our second home improvement tour was held in September, with moderate success.

FPNA members volunteered to work during this summer's flood catastrophe, as well as many other volunteer opportunities during the year.

Our goal of holiday bows on every utility pole was achieved. At least 40 flower baskets were placed around the neighborhood.

Finally, the derelict houses on the 400 block of Park Ave. got some promising attention by officials from both the City and Iowa West Foundation. We hope to be able to report good news on that front during 2012.

ALL THE NEWS THATS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

That was the theme of this month's annual meeting, hosted by Cindy and Kyle Muschall. First, before any business was transacted, we gobbled up a delicious amount of food, all prepared by our hosts, except for that one concoction brought in by Carol Mattox—it looked so beautiful we were almost afraid to eat it. We overcame our fear, however, and ate everything in sight. Then down to business.

The 2011 Exterior Holiday Decorating Award (plaque and check) was presented to Harold and Fran Beck, and well deserved. The Treasurer's report was given by outgoing Treasurer John Huggins, and dues were collected from all present. Several members took advantage of the low price of the Preserve Council Bluffs tour booklet we offered for sale. There are still a few remaining copies, and at \$3.00 per booklet they are a real bargain. A report on the accomplishments of FPNA and its members was given by outgoing President Sharon Babbitt. Then on to nominations and election of Directors for the four open positions on the Board. Here are the results:

Four people were nominated to fill the four empty seats. They were: Sharon Babbitt; Dave Huggins; Carol Mattox; and Michelle Mutchler-Burns. There were no more nominees and these folks were approved by acclamation. Note that Directors carrying over to this new year were: Kyle Muschall, Linda Ring, and Nate Watson.

The meeting was then adjourned and the first meeting of the new Board immediately followed, whose main purpose was to elect new officers and name committee heads.

FIRST BOARD MEETING WITH FPNA'S NEW DIRECTORS

Election of new officers was first on the agenda. Our new officers for 2012 are:

President, Kyle Muschall; Vice President, Linda Ring; Secretary, Carol Mattox;
Treasurer, Dave Huggins.

Committee heads were appointed as follows:

DNA Officer, Naomi Leinen; DNA Special Representative, Sharon Babbitt
Newsletter Editor, Terri Dowell
Summer Meeting in the Park, Amy Dixon
Garage Sale, Kyle Muschall
Welcoming Committee, Michelle Mutchler-Burns
Holiday Bows, Linda Ring
Flower Baskets, Michelle Mutchler-Burns

Now that these all-important selections have been made, the real business of the FPNA will begin when the Board meets next time.

DUES ARE DUE

Yes, friends, it is time to dig into your pockets once again and cough up your dues, which continue to be \$20/year. With this money, FPNA funds their many activities during the year and does its best to save what it can for even bigger things to come. Please make out your checks to FPNA, or cash is always good, and get your payments to Dave Huggins, 150 Park Ave. Please support your NA—it supports you.

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FOR THE BIG GAME

This tangy dip with a kick is perfect for all your rowdy friends during the Super Bowl Buffet. It's best with celery.

Buffalo Chicken Dip

by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

2- 10.oz cans chunk chicken-drained	1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
2- 8oz. packages of cream cheese-softened	1 bunch celery, cleaned and cut into 4 in. pieces
1 cup ranch dressing	Snack Crackers
3/4 cup tabasco sauce	

- Heat chicken and hot sauce in a skillet over medium heat, until heated through.
- Stir in cream cheese and ranch dressing. Cook, stirring until well blended and warm.
- Mix in half of the shredded cheese, and transfer the mixture to a slow cooker.
- Sprinkle the remaining cheese over the top, cover, and cook on Low setting until hot and bubbly.
- Serve with celery sticks and crackers.

savor the flavor in the snow



a tasteful celebration of craft beer, fine wine, gourmet food, art & music

Saturday January 21st 4-8 pm

Businesses of the 100 Block of West Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA



purchase tickets online at
www.bluffsarts.org
or call (712) 328-4992 for more information
BLUFFS ARTS COUNCIL

\$20 tickets
\$18 for BAC Members
\$25 at the Door

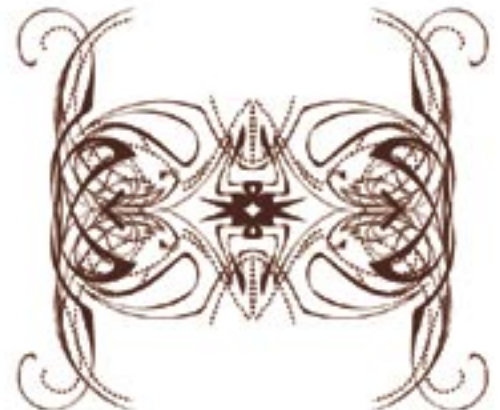


must be at least 21 years of age please drink responsibly



Mayor's Breakfast

The Neighborhood Center's Mayor's Breakfast will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2012, 7:30 a.m. at the Tip Top Ballroom in Omaha (1502 Cuming St).



RESTORE OMAHA IS HERE AGAIN!

Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

Mark your calendar for March 3rd and 4th; it's Restore Omaha's 7th annual restoration conference and expo.

Did you know it's far more cost effective to rehabilitate an existing structure than to tear it down and build a new one in its place? Restore Omaha, a group of volunteers dedicated to preserve, restore and maintain pre-1950 buildings is now in it's 7th year of educating the public on the importance of preservation of older properties.

Our opening reception will be held on Friday evening, March 3rd at Urban Village; the buildings located at Park Avenue and Leavenworth Streets in Omaha. They are currently being rehabilitated and expect to be available to rent in the next few months.

The reception starts at 7:00, on the 3rd floor of the Barnard building with wine and hors d'oeuvres. Then, approximately every 30 minutes, we will depart on a guided tour of Urban Village and the Clarinda building, about a block east. The Urban Village developer has been working with the nearby Avanza Food Store to create an updated streetscape and a mural on the exterior of the grocery building.

The conference starts on Saturday morning at 9:00 and will feature an expo of local vendors who specialize in products for older homes and the people who love them, as well as contractors and various neighborhood and preservation groups. This year's conference will feature Patricia Gay, director of the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans. She will discuss their unique architectural history and how it has been affected since hurricane Katrina.

Throughout the day, we feature interactive and informative breakout sessions scheduled. Past conferences have featured topics such as historic hardware, historic neon signs, window re- glazing, sash cord repair and wood conservation, just to name a few.

We end the day with our Restoration JAM! This is where homeowners just like you tell us about their projects; what worked, what didn't, what they learned and what they would do differently and before and after photos are welcome!

All this for \$50 and we provide food throughout the day, too! Can't make it to both? No problem! We have priced the reception and the conference and expo separately. Check out our website www.restoreomaha.org for details.



The President's Corner

Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

My first official act as the new President of the FPNA, notwithstanding the formations of the current standing committees, is to resurrect the "President's Corner" column initiated by our first FPNA President Nate Watson, now City Council member.

While this column is by no means meant as a replacement for Sharon's "Fit to Print" column, I will attempt, from time to time, to bring up topics, themes or ideas that I feel are relevant and timely for our association.

I want to take a moment to thank Sharon for her time as President and for that matter Nate as well. It is the diligent and steadfast examples they set that pushes me to want to continue in their stead.

As Sharon's "Year in Review" article has clearly indicated the Association has had a busy year and I think 2012 will be no different. Looking forward, we plan to pursue grant money to continue the sidewalk repair project. The funds that we qualify for makes this a multi-year project but that just shows our determination and resolve to follow thru on much needed safety improvements in our neighborhood. We will also be looking to upgrade our flower basket installations. The intent is to procure larger, longer hooks and sturdy, permanent baskets.

We've also been approached by Sarah Arnold to assist us on building an FPNA website. Sarah is a former resident of the neighborhood and still honorary member of the FPNA. She didn't move far away, over to Clark avenue, and wanted to give back to the association in something she specializes in for the kindness and support the FPNA showed her and her family during a particular rough time a couple of years ago. We appreciate greatly Sarah's willingness to volunteer her time and knowledge to help further the Association's identity.

In line with our 501c3 status that was granted in 2011, we will be looking for projects or events that the FPNA can lend its volunteer resources to. These are causes that are sometimes within the Association's boundaries like our "Adopt-Look-Out-Point" clean up effort that was a great success in its inaugural effort in 2011 and that will continue in 2012. We want to expand our volunteer efforts to include projects that are outside the FPNA and will benefit other organizations and the community as a whole. If you have any input or suggestions on this topic feel free to contact myself at kmuschall@cox.net

I look forward to supporting the FPNA as its new President and all the challenges and opportunities that it brings. Thank you for your time.

CRIME INFORMATION

Visit the Council Bluffs Police Department website

www.cbpolice.org/avenues2.

to view crime information that reflects written reports by the officers of your police department in a given time frame (just click on the "Crime Information" links to open up the reports as PDF documents). There are five sections on the PDFs that are broken up to show case number, date and time report was written, general location of the incident, the district the incident occurred, and a description of the incident.

The Council Bluffs Police Department hopes the citizens of Council Bluffs find this information useful in keeping their neighborhoods safe. Remember if you see something say something.

If you see a crime in progress please call 911, if the crime has already happened (shed broken into) you can call the non-emergency number 712-328-5737. This phone is answered by

**"I never
think of the
future. It
comes soon
enough"
Albert
Einstein**

MEETINGS

Who's up for hosting? You know what I mean. Invite us into your homes, let us bring food and look around—that's all it takes to make everyone happy, even you. We need volunteers to host upcoming meetings during the year. Talk to Sharon about scheduling and don't be shy.

THANK YOU

I have had the privilege of serving as President for the past two years and I thank you all for your support. This is a great organization and will continue to grow under the new President and Board. The Fit column will continue to be written by me, with All The News That's Fit to Print, so keep me posted, people! Love, Sharon

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

7:00 a.m.

- Meeting with Art Hill, Director of Finance, City Finance Dept. due to Mayor Hanafan being sick and out of the office
- Between \$22-25 million in permanent repairs that need to be done from the flooding
 - About 1/6 of this amount will come from the city, 10% from the state, and the remainder from FEMA
- Overall damages from flood have been fully assessed
- Emergency measures taken over the summer from the flooding totaled to about 11.5 to 12 million
 - 1.5 to 2 million of this will likely be the final cost to the city
- Budget, fiscal year ending 2013
 - no changes yet fiscally at the state level, same framework as the past
 - property valuations have all been lowered by 5% in Pott county, state rollback has increased from 46% of valuation to 50%, so taxable valuation should be about 1% decrease from last year
 - payroll increasing 2-4%, benefits going up faster, IPERS (IOWA Public Employees' Retirement System) having 16% increase, health insurance 5-6% increase, police/fire going up ~15-16%, this is going to amount to about \$700,000, calling it a \$700,000 challenge to the City to make up for this amount
- Mid-America Center has been losing money, looking at ways to address this, possibility of Caesar's taking possession, but still in contract negotiations
- Ordinance passed to charge misdemeanor for intentionally lying on official City documents, including landlord self-inspection forms
- Discussed the possibility of insurance options under the City for things like hanging flower baskets on utility poles, will look for a progress report on this at the next meeting

"Things may come to those who wait. But only the things left by those who hustle"
Abraham Lincoln

DATES TO REMEMBER

Savor The Flavor
In the Snow
January 21st. 4-8 p.m.
100 Block of West Broadway

Super Bowl XLVI
February 5th

Restore Omaha
March 3-4

FPNA March Meeting
March 24

Mayor's Breakfast
March 29
TipTop Ballroom 7:30 a.m.

150th Anniversary

By Karl Allen

445 Glen Avenue

The 150th anniversaries of the Civil War are proceeding. 150 years ago, four Iowa regiments (2nd, 7th, 12, and 14th) were in Paducah KY, poised for orders from General Grant. They did not know that by mid-February they would be heroes of the Battles of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. With them went the 1st Nebraska, which many western Iowans had joined.

Council Bluff's own regiment, the 4th Iowa, and Col Grenville Dodge, were camped in southwest MO, at Lebanon. General Curtis, their commander, wrote "It is very cold; about 4 inches of snow on the ground; so the crust will not form hard enough to bear the teams, while it forms a terrible resistance to wheeling."

On January 27th, 1862 Gov. Kirkwood of Iowa reported to Secretary of State Seward about secession sympathizers, just south of us, in Fremont County, Iowa. Loyal union men in Atchison County, Missouri were angry that their enemies were being sheltered by pro-Confederates across the border in Fremont County. Both sides were taking the law into their own hands, and the governor feared it might become a "small border war".

For a little perspective, in 1812, only fifty years earlier, Iowa became part of the new Missouri Territory, created after Louisiana became a state. In charge of the Territory was Gov. Clark, of Lewis and Clark fame. In February 1912, 50 years after the Civil War, Teddy Roosevelt announced that he would oppose President Taft for the Republican presidential nomination.

Secrets from a Convicted Burglar

Installment No. 2

Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.

Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard the other day. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.

Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.

If it snows while you're out of town, those virgin snow drifts are a dead giveaway that you went out of town without asking your neighbors to create car and foot tracks in and around your house. Thanks.

I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)

More next month.....

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

Kyle Muschall	President/Publisher
Linda Ring	Vice President
Carol Mattox	Secretary
Dave Huggins	Treasurer
Terri Dowell	Editor
Sharon Babbitt	Special Representative

Sharon Babbitt	Board Member (2014)
Kyle Muschall	Board Member (2013)
Nate Watson	Board Member (2013)
Dave Huggins	Board Member (2014)
Carol Mattox	Board Member (2014)
Linda Ring	Board Member (2013)
Michelle	Board Member (2014)
Mutchler-Burns	

**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. Please Contact the Editor.

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: Dave Huggins, Treasurer, 150 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: Kyle Muschall, President, 332 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503 or Dave Huggins, Treasurer, 150 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503