



ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbit

200 Park Avenue

LET'S SAY HOWDY

To Rob and Brianna Stoddard, who have volunteered to host our March meeting at their digs at 439 Glen (former home of Chad and Katie Fent). Rob and Brianna have chosen the date of Saturday, March 24th, at 3:00 p.m. for their first hosting efforts. We're told that Brianna loves to cook (always welcome news) and is planning to prepare some hearty finger foods along with beverages. The rest of us can bring all the usual side dishes—the perfect repast for a chilly Saturday afternoon. As they are new to the neighborhood and have already joined the FPNA, let's show them we're happy to make their acquaintance by showing up.

Other folks have volunteered to host meetings later in the year and, along with the rest of the events that are in the works, our calendar is full. Details as time goes on.

CALLED TO ORDER

The FPNA Board met on February 8th at President Kyle's home. Kyle, being a chef, prepared practically a complete meal for us, or maybe those chocolate brownies just seemed like a complete meal unto themselves. Anyway, we got down to business and talked about the following:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Adopt Lookout Point; Clean Sweep neighborhood clean-ups; Micah House; Broadway Methodist Food Pantry. The two clean-up opportunities are an ongoing project for FPNA and will continue at the appropriate times this spring. The Broadway Food Pantry was a favorite as this Church has been helpful to us in the past and is more or less in our territory. Marie Huggins will be asked to furnish details as to what is needed and we will take it from there.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

PCCF (Pottawattamie County Community Foundation) has increased their limit to \$10,000 and the Board decided to ask for something big and important for the neighborhood. We settled on large identifying banners, which will hang from utility poles. Once the research has been done, we will prepare our grant request. Further grant opportunities are scheduled to appear later in the spring; discussion will commence once those grants have been announced.

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CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

By Nate Watson

126 Park Avenue

It has been a busy month on the City Council. In an effort to help you stay better informed about what is going on in your City, I intend to write regularly to you. I hope to continue to hear back from you -- and often.

The former location of Lyle's Tire, right next to Broadway Methodist Church, is on its way to being rezoned back to the same, traditional downtown zoning as the rest of the 100 Block. This year, for the first time, at least five locations on the 100 Block will have outdoor dining, generally in between the planters and inside tasteful, uniform partitions. Some of the planters will have to be shortened a bit, but the layout should stay pretty consistent. I hope you will take part in this attempt to bring family-appropriate evening and weekend life back to our downtown! Little shops cannot compete if we don't go there, you know!

The Public Art Commission is almost a reality, and the original proposal was changed to match what most people said they wanted differently. It will have 9 members, with 4 seats reserved for various art and engineering professionals, and 5 seats reserved for residents of Council Bluffs. The Commission will be responsible to recommend what public art should be commissioned, and where it should go. The Council will have the final responsibility to decide what and where, subject to you showing up and letting us know what you think!

Allowing auction houses to open shop in areas such as (West) West Broadway, North 16th Street, and Valley View was voted down, but allowing them to take place in industrial areas is likely to be allowed.

The old Chieftain Hotel is going to be completely renovated, and according to National Register guidelines. It will continue to serve our residents of a certain age and abilities. This effort is due in large part to a conscientious developer and historic tax credits that have now been approved.

Look ahead to the Mayor's budget proposal, and please do let us on the City Council know your thoughts on anything of concern or interest to you. Being on the Council is what a person makes of it, and I ask for your help to do the best we can -- together -- for our beautiful community. Our neighborhood is an important part of this effort.

Regards,
Nate

"Now is the only time there is. Make your now wow, your minutes miracles, and your days pay. Your life will have been magnificently lived and invested, and when you die you will have made a difference"

Victor Hansen

LET THE GOOD TIME ROLL!!

Mardi Gras means “Fat Tuesday”, the culmination of the season between Christmas and Lent. It is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday being Feb. 22 this year. Tuesday is the last chance to party before the abstaining and fasting of Lent begins.

Mardi Gras has three colors associated with it. They are; violet which symbolizes justice, gold for power and green for faith. It is traditionally celebrated with a parade led by a captain, during which trinkets or throws are tossed to the crowd. The slogan is “Let the good times

roll” or “Laissez les bons temps rouler”.”



There are two foods associated with Mardi Gras, gumbo and

King cake. Gumbo is a spicy chicken and sausage stew, eaten at the end of the day. King cake is actually a sweetened yeast bread usually baked in a ring shape. The cake is frosted with gold, green and purple icing which date back to 1872. The maker of the cake hides a token in the cake.

They can be dried red beans or a figurine of a baby, representing the Christ child. The cake is cut and shared and the finder of the hidden treasure is said to enjoy good luck for the coming year. The recipient may also be expected to bake the cake or throw the Mardi Gras party the following year.

JUDGING HISTORY

History day is in need of judges. According to History Day web site, “more than half a million students grades 6-12 participate in History Day nationally. Students choose historical topics related to the theme of Revolution, Reaction and Reform and conduct extensive primary and secondary research.

After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries.” These are then evaluated on a local level called History Day on Saturday, March 24.

Locally this translates into about 200 junior and senior high students bringing their finished products to the Council Bluffs Library to be judged. Training for judges is held from 8-9AM with the actual judging from 9-12. Judges are needed to decide who will represent Southwest Iowa at the state competition.

If you are interested in judging the event or have any questions, please call Terri Dowell at 325-0105 by March 1. For more information on History day visit www.nationalhistoryday.org Feel free to pass along this information to any one you know who would make a good judge.

Legislative Coffee

Legislative Coffees are designed to give all Chamber members, public officials, and citizens an opportunity to hear the latest news from the Legislature and to have their questions and concerns heard.

9:00 –10:30 a.m. Woodrow Wilson Middle School 715 N. 21st Street Council Bluffs, Iowa. Again, these are open to everybody, and there is no cost to attend. Dates are as follow;

- February 25
- March 10
- March 24

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 its 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 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.

FOR THE FPNA MARCH MEETING

MARCH 24TH
3:00 P.M.
439 GLEN AVENUE

LET'S MEET

BRIANNA AND ROB STODDARD
ARE HOSTING THE MARCH GET TOGETHER.
LITE SNACKS AND BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED
LET'S BRING SOME SIDE DISHES AND DESSERTS TO
ROUND OUT THE EVENT

The President's Corner

Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

Volunteering is intended to promote good or improve the quality of life. It is considered an altruistic activity. There are numerous reasons people volunteer; to develop a new skill, to meet others, to fill a need, to contribute to a cause that they believe deeply in.

As part of our 501c3 designation the FPNA board is seeking volunteer opportunities both inside the neighborhood association and outside of our organization.

Within the FPNA we are planning the neighborhood clean up to coincide with the Celebrate C.B. week in early May. It does give a sense of accomplishment to scour the neighborhood streets for those unsightly bits of detritus that detract from the beauty of our surroundings and then retire to Bayliss Park for some hot dogs, chips and some good conversation.

Our Adopt-Look Out Point event, where we remove the trash and debris accumulated at one of our city's highest altitudes, will be scheduled in early April. We don't want the under brush to get too high in the ravines so that all that trash can be hauled up the banks. We are also looking to put the finishing touches on the Kirn Park Stadium's paint job. Carol Mattox will be contacting the City Park's department to assist in scheduling that event. We are investigating an FPNA directory to make available to everyone within our boundaries so that in case of an emergency folks have a name and number to contact

Outside our association there are many causes and groups that are always in need of assistance. Given that we're a pretty organized bunch we want to do our part in making our city realize its' full potential.

We've got contacts with local churches to help stock their food pantries. Look for an upcoming article in the newsletter on this specific subject and how each of us can personally contribute to this most worthy endeavor.

We are also researching how, as the FPNA, we can lend our numbers and our unique skill sets to projects or organizations. Habitat for Humanity and Heartland Family Services are two groups that we have contacted to see where opportunities will arise that we can help fulfill their needs.

Many hands make light work. Every little bit helps. Those adages are more true today given the tough economic realities we all face. Time is the one thing we seem to have the least of but when given is probably the most cherished. If you are looking to develop a new skill, to meet new people or want to contribute to a cause I personally urge everyone reading these words to consider giving a little bit of your time, energy and talents in the coming year to volunteering. Thanks 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

**"Without love
benevolence
becomes
egotism"
Martin
Luther King
Jr.**

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

NEW FPNA WEB SITE DESIGN

Sarah Arnold, honorary FPNA member and former resident of Park Ave., has offered her services to FPNA as a professional web site creator. She is working with Kyle, and in-depth suggestions were made by the Board as to what should be included in our newly designed web site.

NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY:

Plans are under way to create a directory system to include the entire geographical area within our boundaries. So far, two volunteers have stepped forward to work on this project. The benefits of being linked to urgent and timely information that is pertinent to our neighborhood are immense.

DNA REPORT

The newly named officers and special representatives of the DNA are:

President: Sheila Graham

Vice President: Naomi Leinen

Secretary: (Open)

Treasurer: Mark Petersen

Special Reps: FPNA, Sharon Babbitt; GNA, Bud Dew; LFNA, Jimelle Moreno

Topics discussed at the February meeting included the DNA table at the Restore Omaha Conference on March 3rd; a thank-you event for flood workers to be held during the one-year anniversary of the 2011 flood; possibility of a neighborhood disaster preparation seminar to be presented by the Red Cross; reports from the special representatives on activities in their respective neighborhoods; and other miscellaneous discussions.

DUES ARE DUE

Our annual dues of \$20 are crying out to be paid. If you have already done so, we thank you. If you have just forgotten but intend to pay, why not write that check to FPNA today and get it to Treasurer Dave Huggins, 150 Park Ave., while you're thinking about it? Please remember that your NA is looking out for you. We are not the dues police and promise not to hound you again; we know that won't be necessary anyway, as we are all responsible folks.

TRASHY NEIGHBORHOOD??

People, people! Have you looked around lately? Trash, trash, everywhere. We know it isn't us throwing all that (unmentionable) stuff around, but it is us who have to look at it and live with it. Operation Clean-Sweep will not occur until April or May. Meanwhile, those bottles and cans, pizza boxes, even an entire plate of spaghetti complete with fork with which to eat it (ugh), have been seen on our walks through the streets of our fair neighborhood. Why not do the right thing and pick this stuff up, even if we didn't throw it there? This stuff might not be in our yards yet, but after one big March wind, guess what happens? And one final word about dog doo. Dog gone it, if you have a dog, take along a plastic sack and pick up after it. And if you don't have a dog but one likes to dirty your yard anyway, remember this—dogs will go again and again in your yard if it looks like toilet facilities for them, so you would be smart to pick this stuff up yourself, instead of inviting it to occur over and over. Too bad we don't live in a perfect world.

RIBBON CUTTING

Newest City Councilman and our friend, Nate Watson, has taken a suite of offices at 414 Park Building, corner of Willow and Main/Pearl, for the purpose of meeting with concerned citizens two times each month. The CB Ambassadors will hold a ribbon-cutting event, complete with refreshments, to christen the new rooms on Saturday morning, February 18th, at 9:00 a.m. The office will then continue to be open for business for the first time, from 9:00 to noon that same day. Please drop by to see the new space and to congratulate Nate on fulfilling one of his campaign promises.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nate Watson Councilman Office
Ribbon Cutting
February 18th. 9:00 a.m.

Restore Omaha
March 3-4

History Day
and
FPNA March Meeting
March 24

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



Secrets from a Convicted Burglar

Installment No. 3

I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.

To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.

I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

A good security company alarms the window over the sink, and the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom—and your jewelry.

A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at faketv.com)

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