

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. Please Contact the Editor.

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FOOD DRIVE FOR BROADWAY METHODIST

By Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

DON'T TOSS OUT THAT PLASTIC BAG

It is time to give back. Our neighborhood is going to have a food drive for the Broadway Methodist Church located at Broadway and South First. This is one that every single resident of our neighborhood can help with.

The church maintains an emergency food shelf to meet the short-term needs of people who have nowhere else to turn. They also run Phillip’s Cupboard, which is located in the basement of the church, and provides non-food items to people in need. Donations of paper products, cleaning products, laundry supplies, diapers, and personal hygiene supplies are always in demand.

The goal is to have everyone fill that bag with unused non-perishable food items and non-food items. We will have two designated pick up days **Saturday May 19th and Saturday May 26th**. We would request that everyone donating items place the filled plastic grocery bags on their front porch so that it is easily viewable from the street **before 11:00 a.m that morning**. FPNA volunteers will then make the rounds throughout the neighborhood to collect the filled plastic grocery bags. We will then deliver the donated items to the Church office to help stock their shelves.

This gesture is a small way to thank the Church for the continued, tireless work they do for our community and as a personal thank you from the FPNA for providing assistance to us in the past.

As president of the FPNA I urge everyone reading this article to take note, to mark your calendars and as you are doing your weekly grocery shopping or clearing out your pantry shelves to consider that there is always someone right here within our community that needs a helping hand. Together, we each can make that small commitment to fill that plastic grocery bag with non-perishable food items and non-food items and give back to our neighborhood and our community.

Thanks for your time.



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

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

HAWAIIAN PUNCH

Hey, you don't have to travel all the way to Hawaii to enjoy a luau. You can come on up to 225 Huntington for our next FPNA meeting, hosted by Carol Mattox, who is planning one—luau, that is. Well, okay, you won't be able to swim in the surf but you can enjoy pulled pork sandwiches and gaze at those brave souls who come dressed in Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts (we suggest those with good legs show them off in the skirts-- maybe Mike Ring, or Dave, or Kyle, or Karl, or Nate, or John or John or Jon, or...note that no females have been mentioned, yet). Please bring a side dish of your choice and your favorite drink. Carol says she is planning a few surprises and even a door prize or two, but we are sure that no surprises can be more surprising than the view described above. And it is certainly no surprise that Carol always provides an enjoyable atmosphere in her beautifully landscaped outdoor surroundings. Remember, May 31st, 7:00 p.m., 225 Huntington, and no need to shave your legs, guys.

ANOTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Historic General Dodge House is in need of volunteers. Some of their volunteer opportunities require a little training and if you are really serious about helping out close to home, there is no better way to do it than to lend them a hand. But, if you would like to help them out without taking advantage of their training programs, there are a couple of ways you can do so. The first event that could use our presence is their old fashioned Fourth of July Celebration on, naturally, July 4th from 10:00-3:00 on the Dodge House grounds. The second event, in even more need of help, is Railroad Days on July 14-15, 9:00-5:00 both days. This event is expected to draw 2,500-3,000 visitors, and volunteers are desperately needed to help direct the crowds in order to facilitate an enjoyable and orderly experience for all. If you decide to participate in this worthy cause, please let them know you are from FPNA. We care.

POLES AND BANNERS

When, oh when, will we stop talking about these and start installing them! The answer to that question is that we don't have an answer yet....but we will. The PCCF grant application is done but some of the ancillary documentation still remains to be completed. We won't mention the subject again until the application has finally been submitted. But, one last thing should be said before we put the subject down for a nap—special thanks go to Ryan Willer of the Neighborhood Center's Council Bluffs office for helping with the on-line application. Your humble correspondent is, shall we say, rather inept in the world of technology, but Ryan is not, and many hours and many mistakes were avoided because of his kind assistance.

PEOPLE AND OTHERS IN THE NEWS

Al Hudek is one of our own, a neighbor living on Park Ave. and supporter of the FPNA. Also, and perhaps more importantly, he is a superb mathematics teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School (winner of the 2008 Nelson Family Excellence in Teaching Award). Today's story is that he donated the \$5,000 monetary award that came with it to the Jefferson Statue Project, helping the school to achieve the necessary funding for the creation of a 7-ft. statue of Thomas Jefferson for the school's lobby. Thank you, Al, for your generous support of your school and your community.

Wilbur (Punch) Gallup is another newsworthy person from the neighborhood. Punch just celebrated his 90th birthday, a noteworthy achievement in itself, but Punch is also one of the dwindling number of WWII survivors who stormed the beaches of Normandy with his fellow Army Rangers and helped turn the tide of that War. Happy Birthday, Punch, even if these wishes are a few days late.

And, finally, Lady Daga and her manager (aka Onya and Kinley) recently appeared in a fashion show to benefit the Midlands Humane Society. While Kinley looked handsome in his new tuxedo, the real knockout was Lady Daga, wearing an original outfit of black and white sparkles topped with a stunning hat of purple and black feathers. Humble as always, Lady Daga and Kinley cared not a fig for the fashion runway, preferring instead to notify everyone that they would rather be anywhere else. Kinley, we are sorry to report, went so far as to "relieve" himself on the cooler in the back room. Naughty boy. Still, they did show their community spirit and that of their erstwhile handler, Amy Dixon, and for that we commend them.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Celebrate C.B. Clean Up
May 15th 5:00 p.m.

FPNA Food Drive
Pick Up Dates
May 19th & 26th.
Prior to 11:00 a.m.

FPNA May Meeting
May 31st 7:00 p.m.

FPNA Garage Sale
June 9th 8a.m. - 3 p.m.

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted”

AESOP



Spring
is
Here

Let's meet at the home of Carol Mattox for the May FPNA meeting. Carol is having a Luau theme so wear your grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts. She will provide pulled pork as the main dish so let's bring all those favorite side dishes and desserts to round out a great meal. We'll discuss the latest news and the plans ahead for our neighborhood.

May 31st 7:00 p.m.
225 Huntington

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

By Nate Watson

The month of April was a busy time on the City Council. First of all, to date we have received \$4.25 million in reimbursement from the Federal government in flood-related expenses. We reasonably expect this number to rise to approximately \$10 million by the end of June. Bottom line, we expect all but about 21% of the flood-related expenses to be reimbursed by the Federal government and the State of Iowa. A considerable amount of paperwork has had to be completed for us to obtain reimbursement, and we are years ahead of other cities in obtaining reimbursements because of the hard work of your City. This helps us keep your tax rate from being raised. Stay tuned.

We have approved certain tax incentives for a major expansion by Google, which will bring into the City land all the way to the Mills County border. This land will now be ripe for increased high-tech development, which increases our tax base and quality jobs opportunities for our residents.

With regard to potential regulation of satellite dishes, we have decided not to take up the issue until the courts have decided challenges to municipal regulations in other cities in the country. In short, a threat of litigation by the satellite dish companies has convinced us to allow the cities with existing regulations to bear the costs of finding out whether it is permissible for us even to consider regulating them. It seems sensible to wait to see if we can even regulate them, before deciding if it is a good idea to do so.

Urban gardening is now officially here. Backyard gardens at people's houses, as well as the backyards of places such as churches, remain exempt from regulation. What this new ordinance does is allow folks to seek a permit to garden in other places, including currently vacant City lots. Before this ordinance, gardening in those places was not allowed by City Code. An important thing to keep in mind is that adjoining property owners and neighborhood associations have to provide consent to any proposed garden subject to the ordinance, otherwise the garden cannot happen. In other words, neighborhoods have gained yet another power over their own area of our City.

126 Park Avenue

You should soon see the improvements to Fairview Cemetery take place. Iowa West Foundation has funded half of this project, and you have funded the other half. This public green space is not only the final resting place of many who made our City what it is today, but also is the park area for a considerable portion of the central quadrant of our City. Major thanks are due to Lincoln-Fairview Neighborhood Association, working in conjunction with Parks & Recreation, and its department head, Larry Foster, for coming together to facilitate a plan both pleasing and fiscally responsible.

Finally, you may have noticed considerable progress on the construction of River's Edge Park, near the Pedestrian Bridge. The weather has allowed accelerated construction, and it should be finished by the end of August, at this pace. Many cities have had to cut funding to their parks, but we have maintained adequate funding for your public spaces. It is very important for our residents to have good, quality places to play, particularly with their children. A good quality of life is key to keeping our people, particularly our talented young people.

As always, I have office hours from 9am to noon on the Saturdays before Council Mondays, in Suite 414 of the Park Building, 500 Willow Avenue, directly across from

FPNA ON LINE!!

We've joined the digital age. The official Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association website is finally up and running. We've been working these last few months constructing and loading content on the site. I want to extend a very heartfelt thank you to Sarah Arnold who has been lending her Web Design expertise to this project so that we can establish a web presence. Without her generosity this endeavor would never have been realized. So visit our site, add it to your favorites, leave a comment and let us know what you think.

www.fairmountparkna.org



150th Anniversary

By Karl Allen

445 Glen Avenue

April, One Hundred Fifty Years Ago, during the Civil War, thousands of Iowans were camped in Corinth Mississippi. They were heroes. They were also prisoners of war.

The Battle of Shiloh was fought on the 6th and 7th of April. The Confederate attack caught the Union army, including the 3rd, 6th, 7th, 11th, 15th, and 16th Iowa infantry regiments, completely by surprise. Smaller units had to fight on their own until higher officers figured out what was going on. As a result, a two-division chunk of the army, containing those Iowa regiments, was cut off. After fighting with great bravery all day, they were eventually forced to surrender.

We know now that these men did a lot to save their entire army. Their stand stalled the Confederate attack, helping the army to survive and win the next day. But 150 years ago, as you read this, thousands of Iowa soldiers didn't know if they were heroes or not. They were disarmed, under guard, on very short rations (as was the defeated Confederate army), mourning the loss of many friends and generally wondering what was next. For most of them, what came next was a journey to improvised POW camps in Macon, GA; Montgomery AL, or Selma AL.

Fortunately, for many of them, things turned out well. Union and Confederate governments worked out the details of a POW exchange. In June of 1862 some 2000 privates were sent north on parole, anticipating their exchange. These Iowa soldiers re-entered Union lines by way of Huntsville and Nashville.

**"May the good
Saints
protect you
and bless you
today, and
may troubles
ignore you
each step of
teh way "**

**Irish
Blessing**

FPNA 2012 LOOK OUT POINT CLEAN UP

