

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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ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt200 Park Avenue

SEPTEMBER MEETING

After a little summer hiatus, we are now getting back into the groove with our first meeting of the fall. Hosts will be Dave and Marie Huggins, 150 Park Ave., and the time and date are Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5 p.m. Drinks will be furnished; we bring the food of our choice. Now that school has started, it’s a bit hard to find a compatible date, what with sports and music activities. We hope this date will allow us to squeeze in time for FPNA as well as all those other things.

The Calvin House at 150 Park is one that we will all want to explore, even if we’ve been there before. It is one of the few in our neighborhood that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places on its own merits. It was once home to Dr. Stageman, who carried on his practice there for decades before, during and after the Great Depression. Then it fell into the usual trap that few large houses around here can avoid—apartments! After many years of blood, sweat and treasure, it is now a shining example of what a Victorian home ought to be. Please join us there, if not for the food and company, then at least for the snooping. See you there!

FPNA BOARD MEETING

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, the Directors met at President Kyle’s house for food. Oh, and to discuss association business, too.

The brick streets initiative, of which we are a part, was discussed in detail. The good news is that the City is cooperating with the neighborhoods with regard to repair of the existing brick streets, and has agreed to replace the bricks whenever work has to be done which involves the streets themselves. This is an ongoing discussion between the neighborhoods and the City, but the door has been opened and our brick streets have a brighter future now than they had in the past, thanks to cooperation involving FPNA, GNA, the Dodge House, and the Public Works Department.

The CURB Grant and PCCF Grant for poles and banners were discussed at length. We have been awarded a CURB Grant and are applying for the PCCF Grant. The Board approved the expenditure of enough funds from our treasury to pay for one of the poles. Details follow below.

Discussion was had on the necessary maintenance for the neighborhood signs, and the Christmas Decorating Award of \$100. These two subjects were tabled and will be taken up again at the next Board meeting.

Kyle presented several design ideas for the banners to hang from our entrance poles. One was our particular favorite, with one or two modifications. As soon as he finalizes the design, we will be able to order six of them, and our neighborhood unification dream will begin.

Continued on Pg.6



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

# Mayor's Neighborhood Cabinet

Ryan Willar

Neighborhood Center

Tuesday, July 10, 2012  
7:00 a.m.

- City closed out the fiscal year
  - Received 99.3% of projected tax dollars
  - Ended with slightly higher revenue than projected
  - Retail sales tax fairly consistent from previous year, which was good considering the economy. Also showed that residents were spending their money locally.
  - Expenditures ended at less than projected
- \$9 million has been received from FEMA for the 2011 flooding of the \$16 million that has been spent
  - The City is hoping that FEMA will cover 85% of the \$16 million, but 60% is seen as a more likely end result
  - There has been no tax increase from the flooding
- No changes have been made from the state yet, but there is still concern from the City with the governor and legislature looking to lower commercial property taxes, in which case the City would expect a loss of revenue.
- There is a healthy county initiative taking place in Pottawattamie County (Live Well Pottawattamie County), and neighborhoods will need to get involved to help get the information out and advise
- The regular holiday lights that have been in Bayliss Park in the winter are up in the air at this point. The lights need replaced, and funding is an issue, so unless somebody steps up in that area, there may not be lights this coming winter.
- The City has jurisdiction of a 2-mile radius around City limits. The City hasn't done anything with that jurisdiction yet, but the City is now looking at controlling planning, zoning, and building permits in that 2-mile radius to control things like runoff that end up affecting areas within the City limits. The new regulations would be driven by Environmental Protection Agency rules.
- Reminder: fireworks without a permit are illegal in Iowa. The City and police are still getting several calls on fireworks.

## MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET

Every Thursday 5:00 - 8:00 pm through September 27 on the corner of 9th Avenue and Main St. The Main Street Market seeks vendors who sell produce, wines, jams, jellies, baked goods, and arts and crafts (all processed food vendors must be State of Iowa certified). For more information or questions about the Main Street Market contact

Valerie Ware at 402.679.6366  
or email  
mainstreetfarmersmarket@gmail.com

**"To get to know a country, you must have direct contact with the earth. It's futile to gaze at the world through a car window"**  
**Albert Einstein**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Black Squirrel Triathlon  
Saturday, August 25  
Lake Manawa State Park  
7:15 AM

DNA Rock-n-Roll Up Your Sleeve  
to Help the American Red Cross  
August 27 6:30 AM-6:30 PM

FPNA September Meeting  
Sunday September 23rd  
150 Park Avenue 5:00 PM

**"May your days be many and your troubles few. May all God's blessings descend upon you"**  
**Irish Blessing**

## DEALING WITH DROUGHT

By Terri Allen 445 Glen Avenue

I came across this informative article online. The author, David Robson, is a Horticulture Educator with the University of Illinois. With recent drought conditions and hot temperatures, landscape plants have become water-stressed. The most noticeable landscape element is the lawn. Instead of a lush green color, many lawns have already gone dormant, turning a greenish-yellow to straw-brown. When grass is under heat and drought stress and goes dormant, leaves will die and turn straw color. However, it's more important to look at the crowns and root systems to determine the true state of the grass. Peel the leaves away slowly and look for the green crown at ground level. Roots should be a white to gray color. Once soil temperatures climb above 70 degrees, root growth ceases on cool-season grasses such as bluegrass, ryegrass and the fescues. Fortunately, lawns are equipped for hot dry conditions. Instead of wilting and dying like many plants, they simply go dormant if they have become established for a year. Like a hibernating bear, a dormant lawn does not need food or water. When conditions are more ideal, usually in September, the grass will awaken and turn green. That being said, a lawn still needs some water during the summer, or it will progress from dormancy to death. A lawn that is watered through the summer will result in a green, lush appearance. On the downside, a lush, green lawn is also more inviting to insects such as white grubs and sod webworms. And, turf grass diseases are more common. While these responses may point against watering during the summer, a newly sodded or seeded lawn may need to be watered throughout the summer to reduce drought stress and to prevent the plants from actually dying. Lawns with a thick thatch layer are also more prone to dying and thus may need the watering. Thick thatch can be controlled in the fall with de-thatching machines and aeration. A healthy lawn with little or no thatch would be better able to go through summer in its dormant state. As a basic rule of thumb, lawns need at least one third inch of water every three weeks during the summer in order for crowns and roots to remain active. The turf won't be green and lush, but it will recover quickly when more water and cooler conditions return. You won't need to mow a dormant lawn often. Weeds may invade, but they can be controlled by digging or spot-treating with a herbicide.





**LET'S TARGET  
OUR NEXT FPNA  
MEETING**

**Sept 23 5:00 p.m  
150 Park Ave**

**Dave & Marie will provide  
beverages and snacks  
bring along that favorite  
treat to share with  
your neighbors**

# FIT TO PRINT

Continued From Pg.1

The business owners in the 100 block of Broadway are tentatively planning to sponsor outdoor street dances and have asked for input from the neighborhoods abutting this business district. A meeting will be held soon and the Presidents of the downtown neighborhood associations will represent our interests at this meeting.

No firm date has been set for our October FPNA meeting. We will skip the month of November because, as always, the annual Christmas party/meeting will be held on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m., at Nate Watson's house. More on this as the time gets close. We have always felt that there was no need for a meeting in November when the December one falls so early in that month.

## POLES AND BANNERS, OH, MY

Now we have news on the pole/banner project, some of it good and some of it not quite so good. We've been talking about this subject ad infinitum so no need to explain it in detail again. Let's start right in with the CURB grant. We asked for enough money to buy three poles, which would be installed at some of our entrances, and also enough to order the custom banners to hang thereon. CURB awarded us enough money to buy ONE pole, and the banners. We will take what we can get, so accepted the grant amount and will be ordering the banners and the pole very soon.

Then we switched our attention to applying for a PCCF grant. Their monetary limit is \$5,000. This would be enough money to buy TWO poles and some left over. The Board decided at the above-mentioned meeting to add to this amount from our treasury in order to buy THREE poles using this source. If we get approved by PCCF for the entire amount requested, then we will end up with a total of FOUR poles (one from CURB and three from PCCF and the FPNA treasury); we have five entrances but we'll worry about the fifth one at a later time. In order to make this happen, we will have to take \$1747 out of our FPNA treasury, or 76% of what we have in the bank. The Board unanimously agreed that this project (identifying and beautifying our entire neighborhood) has been our long term goal since 2009, and is the main reason why we've been saving our money.

It is very exciting to think that we are finally going to begin implementing some of those recommendations the Iowa Architectural Foundation presented to us as long ago as 2010. It is taking a long time but we have never taken our eyes off the prize.

# The President's Corner

Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

I want to thank the intrepid folks who braved the hot and humid weather on July 14th and joined the FPNA for our July meeting at Look Out Point. While we had just a spat of rain during set up it wasn't enough to cool the place down. Everyone brought excellent side dishes and desserts to go with the chicken. While the adults relaxed under the shade of one of the big oak trees for some engaging conversation, the kids partook in some lively water fights with super soakers. To check out the photos of the event turn to pages 4 and 5 of this news letter or check out the FPNA website [www.fairmountparkna.org](http://www.fairmountparkna.org) and look in the Photo Gallery.

Rick and Sarah Shivley (406 Glen) were both injured in a car accident in Missouri on 7/14. Rick sustained a concussion and broken toes. Sarah has a shattered ankle. They both had surgery on Tuesday 7/24 and returned to Council Bluffs on Friday of that same week. Neither will be able to drive for several weeks as they recover. I want to share how proud I am that folks stepped up and provided a helping hand when needed.

Cindy and John Ostronic (420 Glen) took care of the Shively's dogs and watered their lawn. Paige Ryan (400 Glen) went grocery shopping when the Shively's arrived back home and the FPNA set up a Caring Bridge Meal Support Planner to provide meals to the Shiveleys' as they heal from their injuries. A Caring Bridge Support Planner is an on-line calendar that helps family and friends coordinate care and organize helpful tasks, such as bringing a meal, taking care of pets and other needs. We are utilizing it to provide meals over the next few weeks to the Shivley family. Several of you signed up immediately when the email for volunteers went out to become impromptu cooks.

The Shivleys have a relative that is staying with them to assist with the day-to-day tasks around the house while they get better. Rick and Sarah are in good spirits and were very appreciative and impressed that the neighbors are brining in food and helping as much as they can. So once again Thank You to All who are helping out the Shively Family. It gives me a sense of pride to live in a neighborhood that takes care of each other.

# JULY YARD OF THE MONTH



325 Glen Avenue Pat and Dorothy Guinan

Photo by Kyle Muschall



# FAIRMOUNT PARK JULY PICNIC 2012

