



Visit us Online at [www.fairmountparkna.org](http://www.fairmountparkna.org)

## ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbit

200 Park Avenue

### NEXT MEETING

Here we go again with another of those darned meetings! Really, it's not that bad, is it? FPNA plans its meetings about every couple of months, taking August off, so that makes it about five times a year, not really that many.

Anyway, the next meeting will be Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at 200 Park Ave. Bring some snacks, like cookies, cheese, crackers, veggies. Drinks, hot and cold, will be furnished. Your host will be your humble correspondent.

The Queen Anne Victorian at 200 Park Ave., while not fancy or large, has an interesting history. It is lucky to exist at all, since the City had planned to place a street connecting Park and Glen to run approximately through the living room and entrance hall of said house. They were prevented from doing so by a lawsuit in 1890--now you know why the first two blocks of Park and Glen are so unusually loooong. The house anchors one corner of what was pretentiously called "Bebbington Place" by its original owners, George and Luzerba. When they died, their only surviving daughter divided the property, which encompassed land on both Park and Glen, into small lots. While no City building codes from that time were violated, the resulting houses are *practically joined at the hip*.

Please come to the meeting and see rooms full of do-it-yourself home improvements—stenciling, flooring, painting, plumbing—you name it. We'll expect you.

### THOSE POLES AGAIN

They're here! Our five poles were delivered one day before the last big snow, good for those who had to lift them off the delivery truck, down a long driveway and into the basement at 134 Park, where they await installation when the weather permits. We have just one word to say Oh, My! well that was two words but it could have been tons more if we'd had the space. They are magnificent and elegant, and are going to mark this neighborhood as the gem it is. We thank Kyle, Jeremy, John and Dave for their muscles.

### MONEY

They say love makes the world go round but money is probably the power behind love and everything else. And FPNA is no exception. Friendship is key but money pays the bills and gets the projects done. FPNA has benefited from several

Continued on Pg.6

# French Toast Casserole

by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

5 cups bread cubes

4 eggs

1 1/2 cups milk

1/4 cup white sugar, divided

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 tablespoon margarine, softened

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

-Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

-Lightly butter an 8x8 inch baking pan.

-Line bottom of pan with bread cubes.

-In a large bowl, beat together eggs, milk, 2 tablespoons sugar, salt and vanilla. pour egg mixture over bread. Dot with margarine; let stand for 10 minutes.

-Combine remaining 2 tablespoons sugar with 1 teaspoon cinnamon and sprinkle over the top.

-Bake in preheated oven about 45 to 50 minutes, until top is golden.

## VALENTINE FUN FACTS

-More than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are sold for Valentine's Day each year.

-On average, men shell out \$130 each on candy, cards, jewelry, flowers and dates. That's more than double what women commit to spending.

-About 8 billion candy hearts will be produced this year; that's enough candy to stretch from Rome, Italy to Valentine, Arizona 20 times and back again.

-About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged in US each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

-Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.

-Women purchase 85% of all valentines.

-In order of popularity, Valentine's Day cards are given to teachers, children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.

-73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.

-In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

-The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.

-Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day candy box in the late 1800s.

-Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.

-In Medieval times, girls ate unusual foods on St Valentine's Day to make them dream of their future husband.

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

The Historic Preservation loan program is designed to assist eligible homeowners located in specific target areas in and around the downtown area to make repairs to their property. This program is in conjunction with the Housing Rehab Program.

Eligible repairs include exterior improvements (such as gutters, roofing, painting, siding, retaining walls, concrete work and window replacement) and interior improvements (such as electrical, plumbing and mechanical system updates). The architectural integrity of the homes assisted through this program shall be preserved. The program is operated on a first come, first served basis until all funds are expended or committed.

Eligibility is based upon the number of persons in the household and the yearly income of everyone living in the household. Properties which have received funds under the City's rehabilitation or ownership programs are not eligible to receive assistance for 20 years.

All properties assisted through the Historic Preservation Loan Program shall remain as single-family, no conversions to multi-family use will be allowed. Rental properties and homes purchased on a land sales contract are not eligible. The CD Forbearance Loan, CD Forgivable Loan and CD Principal Only Loans are all loans available through the current Housing Rehab Program. For more information contact:

The Community Development Department at (712) 328-4629.

## The President's Corner

**Kyle Muschall**

**332 Glen Avenue**

For this month's column I wanted to share news concerning the Neighborhood Center. On February 6, 2013 the Neighborhood Center board voted to discontinue the Neighborhood Center's Omaha operations and devote the organization's full resources to further develop its four-year-old outreach program in Council Bluffs. The decision follows an extensive evaluation by the NC board that concluded that the NC has fulfilled its original mission to help develop neighborhood associations throughout Omaha. The NC board believes the infrastructure, partnerships and strategy are now solidly in place to support a more extensive effort in Council Bluffs to replicate the NC success in Omaha.

While many of us will feel a sense of sadness that the NC will be closing its Omaha office we can also reflect on the exciting milestone in the NC's life and celebrate their accomplishments and lasting impact over the past eleven years. KMTV news ran a story on this event on their February 16<sup>th</sup> broadcast that featured the homes on Park Avenue prominently and interviewed Nate Watson, who chairs the NC board, is on the FPNA board and one of our City Council persons. If you go to [www.kmtv.com](http://www.kmtv.com) and search for the article "The meaning of Neighborhood Watch" you will find the full article. I am hoping the video segment will be posted shortly.

A tidbit of behind-the-scenes-production for the news story, our own intrepid reporter, Sharon Babbitt, was concluding her interview with the Hoag's on the Clay tile roof story when Nate arrived in a rush and kindly coerced Sharon to speak with the KMTV reporters as well. Sharon enumerated on all that the NC and the neighborhood associations do for our community. Unfortunately her portion was edited out of the broadcast. While she considers it a blessing of not being on camera I'm sure we all would have liked to see her television debut.



# RARE OR JUST UNUSUAL?

A Clay Tile Roof Story By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

On the corner of Park Ave. and High School stands a hefty Italian Renaissance home built in 1923 by Fannie and Max Krasne, of People's Store fame. Mr. Krasne made their architect-designed home strong to hold up the massive pyramidal hipped clay tile roof, the only one of its kind in this neighborhood. There were a few clay tile roofs built in the City then, but none were of this high profile or color. The red clay would probably have looked like a beacon to an airplane, if Council Bluffs had an airport in those days.

Clay tile roofs have been around for centuries and red is the predominant color. Due to their weight, extra roof support systems are required. It is estimated that a roof of this type can last 100 years or more before needing major work. The majority of them are found in temperate climates such as Southern California, the desert Southwest, and Florida, where there is less danger from severe weather conditions—such as HAIL.

We have now come to the crux of the matter as pertains to our neighborhood clay tile roof. After surviving for eight decades or more, it was suffering. The felt underlayment was deteriorating with age, and two hail-storms had punched holes in the tile. Squirrels discovered the holes and moved in. Surprisingly, the structure which supported the clay tiles was in good shape, but leaks from rain had damaged the ceilings in four of the home's upstairs rooms. Owners Rob and Georgie Hoag had had enough. They struggled with their insurance company for 15 months before convincing them of the need to replace the roof. The cost was the sticking point but an agreement was reached to use Renaissance Roofing, Inc., from Chicago, because of their low bid of \$85,000. Gulp.

This company specializes in reclaiming tiles from other buildings. They used a combination of the existing tile and decorative caps plus recycled tile from a building in Chicago. They waterproofed the internal structure of the roof, replaced the valleys and other areas with new copper, and designed a new cap for the chimney. They took time out to shovel snow for several surrounding homeowners and to snack on Georgie's homemade cookies, and still finished the job in three weeks in the dead of winter.

Thus, the title of this story, "Rare or Just Unusual," has many meanings.



Photos by Kyle Muschall

# DNA NOTES

Feb. 7th Conference room in the Park Building.

In attendance: Ryan, Naomi, Mark, and Nate.

Website~ DNA has one and I will try to update it this weekend.

On that note the Neighborhood Center Website should go live Mid-Year.

Reminder it's dues time for Neighborhood's and it is still \$50, thanks.

Gunn School Neighborhood? Are they formed...loosely....

Discussion on a 100 Block discount coupon or card for neighborhood members....waiting to hear back from Donna with the 100 Block.

LFNA~ Progressive Dinner, Phase 2 on the cemetery project to start soon.

Mark is working on a city listing of city owned property in DNA.

I will check with some realtors for a list as well.

Restore Omaha is Sat. Mar. 1st, if you can help man our booth please let me know by email at [naomileinen@yahoo.com](mailto:naomileinen@yahoo.com) thanks. It is from 8am to 4:30pm.

Tinley Neighborhood still looking for their own space.



**"We Grow Great by Dreams"**

**Woodrow Wilson**



# FIT TO PRINT

## Continued From Pg.1

grants since its inception and each and every one of them required us to contribute our funds as well. While FPNA does sponsor some fundraisers (garage sale, home improvement tour), the majority of our funds come from (we have to say it) DUES. Without your dues, we're dead in the water. Several people paid their \$20 at the January meeting, and a few prior to that and since then, but if you haven't done so, won't you please take the time to do it now? Please make your checks payable to FPNA and send to Treasurer Dave Huggins at 150 Park Ave., or drop into his mailbox. Your NA thanks you.

## FPNA BOARD MEETING

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, the Board met at President Kyle's house, with six Directors present. Discussion was had on the following: FPNA Directory; volunteer opportunities; grant applications for more poles; upper Park Ave. committee; watering methods for flower baskets; brick streets initiative; the City's plans for updating Kirn Park; Lookout Point clean-up; hosting for future meetings; possible dates for summer picnic. No date for the next Board meeting was set.

## DNA UPDATE

The Downtown Neighborhood Alliance will have a table at the Restore Omaha event on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. An important component of the display will be an updated listing of properties for sale within the DNA territory, and possibly a list of City owned properties as well. This information has been requested by attendees to the Conference in years past and could generate buyer interest, you never can tell. Our own Naomi Leinen is President of DNA and plans a thought-provoking table-scape.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to ALHS senior Mallory Huggins for winning first place in the Southwest Iowa Division of the Victor Borge Legacy Piano Competition. This win entitles Mallory to a \$1,000 check and the honor of playing her piano selection on Victor Borge's first piano, which was made specially for him and has been recently restored; it now resides in the Danish Museum at Elkhorn, Iowa.

Condolences to Mike Ring on the recent loss of his mother, Phyllis, who passed away on January 27<sup>th</sup>. No matter the age or circumstances, it is always wrenching to lose a loved one. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy, Mike and Linda.

## HELPFUL HINT

Spray your snow shovel with a no-stick cooking spray, such as PAM, and snow will not accumulate on your shovel's blade.

## Legislative Coffee 2013

Legislative Coffees are designed to give all citizens an opportunity to hear the latest news from the Legislature and to have their questions and concerns heard. 9:00am – 10:30am at Woodrow Wilson Middle School Auditorium (715 N 21st St). Remaining Dates :

February 23  
March 9  
March 23  
April 6

To the Fairmount Park Neighborhood  
Association

Thanks to all for the cards, prayers and  
food during the loss of my mother. Linda  
and I are lucky to live around such good  
neighbors and friends.

Mike Ring  
504 Glen Avenue

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Restore Omaha  
March 1-2

March FPNA Meeting  
March 14th 7:00 p.m.  
200 Park Avenue

Look Out Point Clean Up  
April 13th 9:00 a.m.

## RESTORE OMAHA 2013

**R**estore Omaha Volunteers are needed. Our 2013 Conference and Reception are literally around the corner. I am continuing to schedule volunteers for both the Friday, March 1st reception, being held at the newly-renovated Scottish Rite building and our Saturday conference, March 2nd at Metropolitan Community College South Omaha Campus. I am scheduling two to three shifts (3-4 hours) for each event. Friday evening 6:00 and 8:30 shifts and Saturday from 7:30 or 8:00 A.M. through our deconstruction; exact details will follow.

Our reception volunteers may be asked to direct patrons with parking, sign them in and guide them as they tour the Scottish Rite building. Our Saturday volunteers are needed to set up and serve food, sign in attendees, assist vendors with set up, direct attendees to and from break-out sessions, proctor the sessions and help with tear-down at the end of the day.

As usual, those volunteering will be invited to attend the remainder of the conference for free. Please contact Michelle Mutchler-Burns at 712-322-1448 or email [gopack8763@aol.com](mailto:gopack8763@aol.com) with questions!

## MSCB Promotions Committee

**B**ringing Main Street to Council Bluffs (MSCB) is seeking members for their promotions committee, and they would love for neighborhood residents to be involved.

Some details about the committee are below. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, contact Valerie Ware at [iowairis@aol.com](mailto:iowairis@aol.com) or 402.679.6366.

The purpose: Develop a marketing strategy, enhance the community's image, provide assistance at events, develop special events.

Internal tasks: Draft a committee work plan, analyze existing promotional calendars and events, develop a promotional strategy based on market analysis, develop an advertising strategy.

External tasks: Create a logo/brand for MSCB, produce a printed calendar of events, produce a business directory, develop an image-enhancement ad campaign, develop holiday promotions and decorations, develop retail tie-ins to existing events; add fresh promotions/ads, new activities.

## TREE PLANTING 2013

**V**arious partners in Council Bluffs have come together to bring a new program called "Heart of the City" to the community.

This program allows residents to request a tree to be planted on public property in neighborhoods. All trees and planting costs will be paid through donations from Black Hills Energy, MidAmerican Energy, Council Bluffs Trees Forever, and the Council Bluffs Parks, Recreation and Public Property Department.

The Heart of the City program has been developed in an effort to beautify local neighborhoods with trees. The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for residents of Council Bluffs to have a tree planted in their front parking or side parking.

Trees can only be placed on public property, and the public property must be bordering a residential property. Public property is typically defined as the green space between the sidewalk and the curb.

Residents may call the Parks and Recreation office (712) 328-4650 or E-mail Skyler Beck [sbeck@councilbluffs-ia.gov](mailto:sbeck@councilbluffs-ia.gov). to set up a free tree-planting inspection. If no problems are uncovered during the inspection, the Parks and Recreation Department will then forward an application to fill out requesting the type of tree to be planted. Trees will be planted Spring or Fall of 2013.

**THE Fairmount Press**  
 The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association  
 332 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503  
[www.fairmountparkna.org](http://www.fairmountparkna.org)

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

Sharon Babbitt	Board Member (2014)
Kyle Muschall	Board Member (2015)
Nate Watson	Board Member (2015)
Dave Huggins	Board Member (2014)
Carol Mattox	Board Member (2014)
Linda Ring	Board Member (2015)
Michelle	Board Member (2014)
Mutchler-Burns	

**Have an Opinion?  
Please Share!**

**W**e 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