

THE

Fairmount Press

The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

332 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
www.fairmountparkna.org

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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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Visit us Online at www.fairmountparkna.org

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

FOURTH OF JULY PICNIC

What, you say? Yes, we missed the deadline for our annual picnic at Lookout Point, but we were busy and it was hot. By popular request, we postponed this celebration until cooler weather comes, so you can expect it to occur in September. We'll let you know when we know.

ARTIST SIGNS FOR KIRN PARK

The Parks Department and the Public Arts Commission held several meetings to discuss the kind of public art the citizens wanted for six of the public parks in the City, Kirn Park being one of them. Several of our members attended these meetings and weren't shy about giving their opinions. Unanimously, everyone said they wanted something that would echo the historic nature of Kirn. The preferred design features white, hexagonal tiles placed on a concrete base. It will feature the name of Kirn Park, as well as some artistic detail (either a duplicate of the reveals in the stadium, or Art Deco style flower stems). We have been assured by experts that these tiles will be grouted with a product that will make them weather and vandal resistant. This design will be the one going forward for approval by the City Council at their meeting on Monday, July 22nd, at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. We strongly recommended that everyone attend. If we show up in numbers, we will send the message that *we care and are watching*.

YARD OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE

The vote is in and it is unanimous—the June Yard of the Month Award goes to 311 Park Ave., homeowners Greg and Vicki Myers. We liked the beautiful lawn, well balanced plantings around the front porch, and the patriotic bunting that went up in honor of the National Holiday. In addition to the photo of their winning yard, which can be found in this newsletter, Linda presented them with a potted plant and award certificate of her own design. Congratulations to Greg and Vicki, and thanks for doing your part in beautifying our neighborhood.

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT

We wish to thank the following for their support of the FPNA and its mission:
New members: Greg and Vicki Myers, Rob and Georgie Hoag, thanks for joining
Regular members: Melissa Head, thanks for renewing.
WHOSE NAME WILL APPEAR NEXT MONTH? YOURS??



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

The President's Corner

Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

June was a busy month for the FPNA. The Kirn Park Renovation Rally was a smashing success, figuratively and literally. We had a great turn out by both the FPNA and GNA neighborhoods.

I first want to thank the GNA for overseeing the catering of the event. Larry Foster, head of the C.B. Parks Department, has been instrumental in not losing focus on the Kirn Park improvements. Larry's commitment has seen the project move forward with demolition set to begin in July.

I also want to recognize Skyler Beck from the Parks department who we've worked with directly to help organize and promote the event. It was his idea to have everyone take a swing at the old shower building that is set to be demolished. What a great way to kick off the renovation.

Mayor Tom Hanafan spoke about all the people who've worked on the improvement project these past few years and even though it was delayed because of the 2011 floods the vision for the park was never lost.

Jerry Mathiasen, senior vice president at the IWF, conveyed that "...neighborhood transformation is a top priority for the foundation and this project fits right into that type of priority," He also added that "This will have a real positive impact on the community."

Nate Watson, City Council member and FPNA board member rounded out the list of speakers by emphasizing "even with strong city backing and assistance from the IWF, without the persistence of the neighborhood associations and their members, the project would have never come to fruition".

The architecture plans from HGM are stunning. They call for a new concrete driveway and parking lot that allows for better traffic flow. A high curb and PVC (faux) wrought iron fence to separate the track from cars. There will be an Art Deco steel enclosure for portable restrooms and an improved athletic field and track with updated landscaping and irrigation. I want to thank all who attended the event it was great way to spend a Saturday afternoon. For photos from the event see pages 4 and 5 of the newsletter.

The other important event was the completion of the first phase of the FPNA Identification Poles and Banners. This project has been a long-term goal of ours.

Back in 2009 we participated in a design session with the Iowa Architecture Foundation (IAF). While there were many good ideas from the IAF the banner/pole/flower basket seemed to catch everyone's attention and that is what we chose to focus on.

It has taken a few years to reach this point. We first needed to build up our treasury while still undertaking other improvement and beautification projects around the neighborhood. We now have poles/banners and flower baskets installed at the entrances to our neighborhood that will help strengthen a sense of belonging and empower neighbors to actively participate in the neighborhood and the community.

I first want to thank The Pott. County Community Foundation (PCCF) and CURB (Creating the Ultimate Residential Beautification). Without the assistance of these organizations this would not have been possible. The FPNA very much appreciates their continued commitment to helping organizations like ours achieve the goals we set for ourselves, our neighborhood, and our community.

For the FPNA volunteers that made it all happen I want to thank grant writer Sharon Babbitt, who poured over the applications and helped communicate our intent in the best possible terms. To the installation crew, Dave Huggins, Mike Ring and myself who dug, poured concrete, set anchor bolts, got muddy, got drenched but persevered. To Michelle, who will be the caretaker of the flower baskets so that they continue to inspire and impress all who visit our neighborhood.

This is only the first phase, we have more installation locations planned so the hard work isn't quite done. But now that we kind of know what we are doing it might not be so painful. For photos from the installation and event see pages 6 and 7 of the newsletter.



FPNA Banner Pole Celebration



FPNA Banner Pole Installation



Photos by Kyle Muschall

THE VELVETY LAWN

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Greg and Vicki Myers, 311 Park Ave., were awarded the Yard of the Month prize for June, partly because of their outstanding, almost supernatural, velvety lawn. It always looks the same, summer after summer—velvet smooth. Is there a magic genie at work here? I wanted to know, so I asked.

The first ingredient, the homeowners assured me, was the type of grass in their yard, both front and back. It is Zoysia, a kind of creeping lawn grass that, once established, forms a thick mat of roots that won't allow weeds to get a foothold. Zoysia is the last grass to get green in the spring and the first to get brown in the fall, but its advantages far outweigh these disadvantages.

Their lawn was started from plugs shared by another homeowner nearby, and has grown over time into what we see today. Even though it is relatively easy to care for, it still needs attention. Greg and Vicki have aerated and treated for grubs in the past, and have watered and fertilized when needed. In fact, they credit their generous watering a summer ago with the fact that their Zoysia still looks good while many similar lawns are struggling or have even died this season.

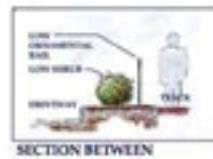
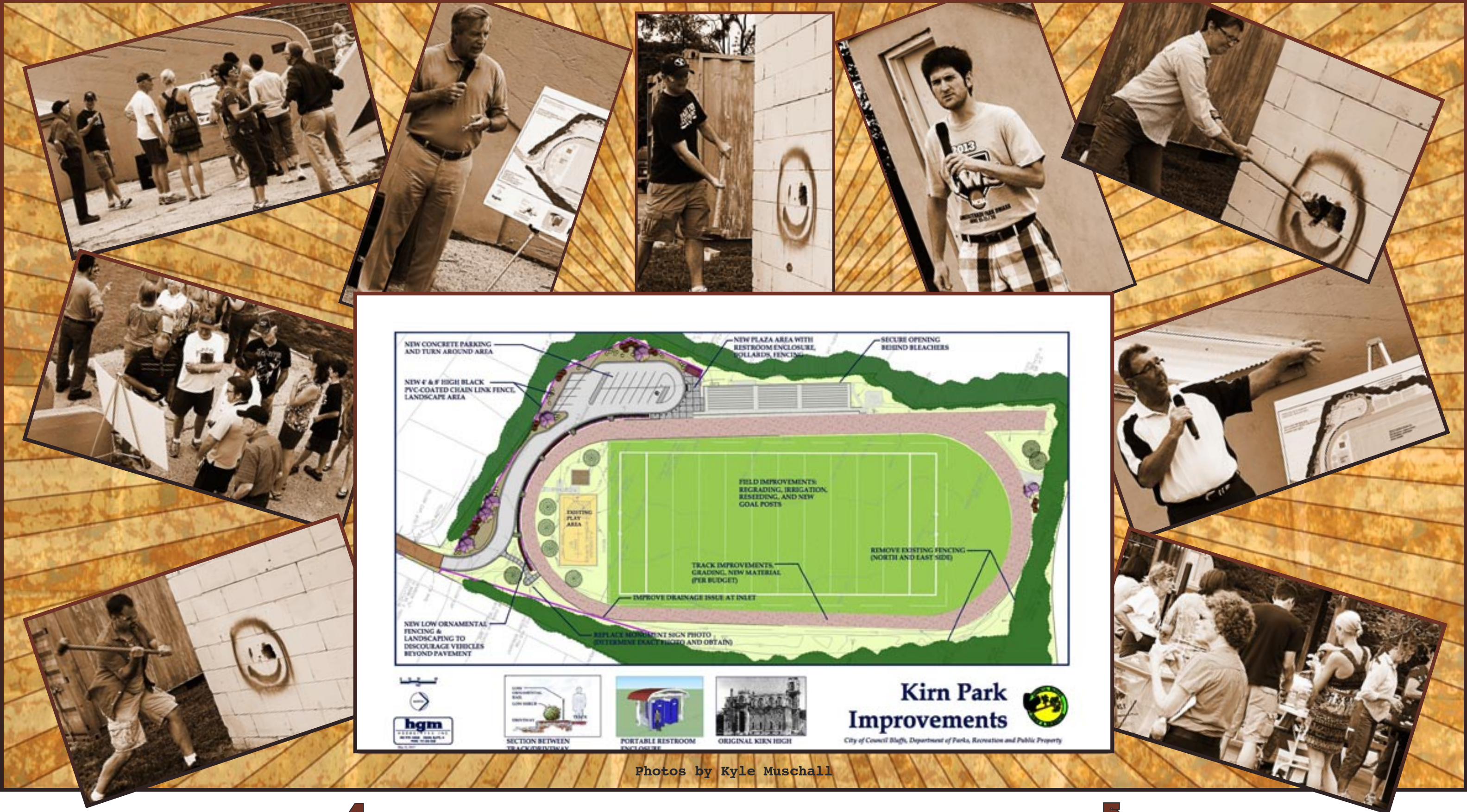
It is apparent that the secret of their success is not a magic genie but old fashioned attention and hard work. Still, I do believe I caught sight of what could have been that genie walking toward the sprinklers as I was leaving. Maybe not.



311 Park Avenue Greg and Vicki Myers

Photo by Kyle Muschall

KIRN PARK RENOVATION RALLY 2013



**Kirn Park
Improvements**

City of Council Bluffs, Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Property



Photos by Kyle Muschall