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ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

JULY YARD OF THE MONTH AWARD

For our July YOTM, we chose the yard at 114 Park Ave., owned by Cindy and Tony Lainson. (Photo on Pg. 3) Cindy and Tony's flower beds across the front of their house always look good, year after year, especially at the early part of summer. This year, they added a treat for the eyes by acquiring a half-lot to the side of their property and tastefully landscaping it with trees, flowers, bushes and grass. It is a pleasure to look at it as we travel past and we thank them for enhancing the neighborhood in this way. Remember the wreck of a house that was there before? Neither do we... .now. Once again, Linda has prepared a container of plants and a certificate of her own design so the homeowners will remember their award when winter has closed them down.

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT

We wish to thank the following for their support of the FPNA and its mission:

New member: Marilyn Abbott—thanks for joining

Regular members: Mike & Angie Long; Mark & Sharon Peters—thanks for renewing.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP!!!

THE BAKERY

At 215 West Broadway, in the Ogden strip mall, is still on its way, report owners Mathew and Karris Mattox. A few problems were encountered with the utility installations but all is cleared for take-off now, and soon we will be able to get our fresh baked bread and other goodies only steps away. The new establishment will be called "The Mad Ox Bakery," which is a nice play on their last name.

OLD AND WORN OUT MEMBERSHIP BANNERS

Are needed by Sharon Babbitt for some handmade creation or other. She says she will make one of her art dolls out of these old banners, no matter how badly beat up they may be, and raffle it off as a fundraiser for the FPNA pole project. Take a look at your banner, and if it is in need of replacement, you can acquire a new one for \$12 by contacting Kyle Muschall (kmuschall@cox.net) and throw your old banner on Sharon's front porch at 200 Park instead of into the trash bin. We know Sharon, and her creation promises to be unique but not necessarily "beautiful." After all, we in the neighborhood have been called "Rogues" in the past, an epithet that we thoroughly embrace.

The President's Corner

Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

I didn't have room in last month's newsletter so I'm using this month's to relate how well the June FPNA Food and Clothing Drive went for the Care and Share House on 600 Main Street. We collected numerous items from all over the neighborhood on two separate Saturdays. I want to personally thank Andre and Melissa Vandervelde (328 Glen Avenue) they donated three large garbage sacks full of clothes and shoes. That was very much appreciated.

We ended up with four large boxes of clothing and three medium boxes of food for the Care and Share house that we dropped off in early July. Margarite Goodenow, who owns the building and is a board member of the Care and Share program run by the United Methodist Church, received the donations and gave us a tour of the facility and related all the programs that they offer.

We were all immensely impressed at the dedication and determination that the Care and Share house consistently shows in providing food and clothing to those that are in need. The Care and Share house maintains a full food pantry as part of their program and the food that is donated by individuals and organizations like the FPNA is intended to supplement the food pantry offering. They also have an area where all the clothes, shoes, furniture and house hold items are displayed for purchase by individuals and families during store hours.

I want to thank everyone who donated this year. You seized this opportunity and chose to give back which will make a difference to folks right here within our community.

On another topic, The Art in the Park Sign update. Joel Damon (Art Curator) has presented the final recommendations to the Public Art Commission who voted to accept those recommendations. This vote then went to the City Council on July 22nd with no issues from the City Council. The Artists are gathering the final costs to provide back to the Parks Department.

If everything goes well, the Parks and Recreation Department is still hoping to install the signs in the fall. The participation and interest by all the neighborhoods at each of the public meetings showed that our contribution and insights were very helpful to move this project along and get to where we are right now.



NC CLEAN UP

The Neighborhood Center is planning two more clean-ups of West Broadway, August 10th and September 14th, from 7-9am both days.

Refreshments will be provided to volunteers. If you're interested in helping please RSVP to (712) 355-3800 or e-mail us at info@neighorodcenter.net.

If you could help on one our both days for any amount of time we would appreciate it! The meeting place for both mornings is in front of the Hughes Irons Building, which houses the Chamber and Dixie Quicks.

TROLLEY TOURS

The Trolley Tours of Historic Council Bluffs, presented by Preserve Council Bluffs, are scheduled on the 4th Thursday of every month through October.

Boarding on Ollie the Trolley begins at 5:30pm, except for October when it will start at 5pm to accommodate the time change.

Tours are approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

The boarding site is 200 Pearl Street, in front of the Union Pacific Railroad Museum.

To purchase tickets call 712-328-4992, Monday through Thursday, 9am-4pm. Tickets are \$10/person, only available in advance, and are non-refundable.

Don't miss out!

FARMER'S MARKET

The Main Street Farmer's Market is open every Thursday evening through September 26th, 5-8pm on the Historic 100 Block of West Broadway.

Listen to phenomenal local musicians. Watch talented local artists at their craft. Peruse fresh produce and baked goods in the beautiful historic downtown.

The market is an activity of MSCB, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to revitalizing downtown Council Bluffs.



114 Park Avenue Cindy and Tony Lainson

Photo by Kyle Muschall

GO **BIG** OR GO HOME

Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

That's the motto we *must adopt—yes, must adopt*—for the next one, or even two phases of our identification poles project. FPNA has just submitted a grant application to the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF) asking for five more poles to continue our biggest project ever, those beautiful 14 ft. tall poles that began sprouting up in June. Admit it, you love them (everyone does) but they do look lonely with only five of them growing in this large area. **They need company and we're going to give it to them, correct?** Your answer has to be a resounding **YES!!!!**

Now that your attention is riveted to this page, we have to talk about the nitty gritty—how are we going to accomplish this? It won't be easy but we can do it if everyone pulls together on the same team. Remember what Margaret Mead once said, sort of: "A small group of people can make a big difference."

Our past grants have mostly been "*free of charge.*" No more. Because of these prior grants, we were moved into another category, that of ponying up our own money. That's what we had to do when we asked for the next five poles because this grant requires a 50% matching contribution from our treasury. We have been carefully conserving our money for several years now, knowing that just such a situation was in our future, and the Board felt this would be money well spent.

Those dang poles are costly (everything is that's worth something), and some serious fundraising is on the horizon. We are asking everyone to pay your dues if you haven't done so already, or to join the FPNA and show your support in this way. However, as you can see from the cost explanation below, it will take more than dues to pay for this, and the Board has appointed a fundraising committee whose mission it is to find the money needed to finish phase two (the next five poles) and even to move forward toward our final destination of 15-20 poles total. This number is needed to make the impact necessary to tell the world that we belong together, one united neighborhood. Don't you agree? The FPNA Board agrees and these seven people, alone, have pledged over a \$1,000 toward this fundraising effort. If you are interested in donating please contact Sharon Babbitt at sbabbitt2@cox.net or Kyle Muschall at kmuschall@cox.net. Things just don't happen without effort, my friends. Decades from now, our poles will still be standing, proudly proclaiming who we were and who we will be-- and we are the ones who will have done it.

Below is a behind-the-scenes explanation of the "Preserving Our Legendary Environment" aka POLE project. It is complicated and expensive, but we are ready for the challenge. Our beautiful and much-loved neighborhood deserves it, and so do we.

BUDGET FOR POLE PROJECT

Sternberg 14' poles Qty 5 @ \$1727.00 =	\$8,635.00
Includes banner arms, plant hanger and hardware	
Freight cost Qty 5 @ \$40.00 ea. =	\$200.00
FPNA identification banners Qty 5 @ \$103.00 =	\$515.00
Press set-up fee	\$25.00
Flower baskets Qty 5 @ \$35.00 =	\$175.00
Concrete, forms and rebar Qty 5 @ \$76.00 =	\$380.00
Auger rental to bore footing holes	\$75.00
TOTAL COST FOR 5 POLES	\$10,105.00
PCCF GRANT	\$5,000
FPNA TREASURY	\$2,575.00
DONATIONS	**\$2,530.00

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION FROM FPNA:

Work with Printer to set up new Print Run (by resident artist 3 hrs. @ \$25/hr)	\$75.00
Preparation of grant application (24 hrs. @ \$22.14/hr)	\$531.36
Legal advice/forms by resident attorney (5 hrs. @ \$50.00/hr)	\$250.00
Installation of poles and accessories (4 people, 4 hrs. ea. @ \$22.14/hr. total 16 hrs.)	\$354.14
Start seedlings, grow, care for and arrange flower baskets (2 people, 16 hrs. ea. @ \$22.14/hr, total 32 hrs.)	\$708.48
TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION OF FPNA	\$1,918.98

**This amount still has to be raised from donors.

SAVE MONEY= SAVE ENERGY

by Marie Huggins

150 Park Avenue

Whether or not we agree on the reasons for climate change, as old home-owners, we can all agree that our homes eat money. To find extra money in our current budgets, here are some simple, low-cost, energy-saving tips to help us all achieve our home restoration goals.

-The small choice between using cold water and hot water to run a load of laundry makes an enormous difference. Hot wash cycles use 90% more energy without getting your clothes any cleaner. On top of that, the hot cycle makes colors fade and wears out your clothes more quickly.

-Set your computer to sleep automatically after 15 minutes of inactivity and turn it off when you're done checking e-mail, surfing the internet or posting to Facebook for the day. You'll save energy in the amount of \$25-\$75 each year.

-Buy energy-efficient compact fluorescent (CFL) or LED bulbs for your most-used lights. I've found the generic brands may be less expensive than name brand, Energy Star rated bulbs but these cheaper bulbs don't last as long and often emit a harsh light. In the long-run you're better off to spend the money on the Energy Star branded bulb for a longer bulb life and softer lighting. The energy saved will still pay for the cost of the bulb in as little as 2-3 months. Also, replacing bulbs in in-frequently used spots like closets or rooms you don't use won't generate much savings; pick your most-used bulbs to start.

Remember, CFL bulbs contain mercury, and though the amount of mercury is much less than the amount of mercury emitted by the coal burned to fuel a normal incandescent bulb, CFLs must be disposed of safely. CFLs don't belong in the trash. Council Bluffs has a fabulous Recycling Center that will accept used CFLs and dispose of them in way that is safe for everyone.

Look for more money / energy savings tips in the next news letter and feel free to share any you and your families use too!

NEWS LETTER DELIVERY SYSTEM HOW AND WHY

by Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Back in the day, practically before time began, a decision was made that we wanted every single household in our territory to receive a monthly newsletter. This had to mean paper copies because we didn't know everyone's electronic address and didn't want to leave anyone out. Not only did we want the news to spread, we also wanted to encourage membership.

We divided up our vast geographical location into smaller bits and looked around for some unsuspecting volunteers, er, I mean willing volunteers. Believe it or not, turnover with these volunteers is quite small, considering that they have to trudge about in all weather conditions and up and down mountains of hills, valleys, and stairs.

The Postal Service doesn't want non-postal items left in mailboxes, so the volunteers only do that when nobody is looking, or they are exhausted and desperate. Discussions often take place about sending out our newsletters via e-mail only as this would save on paper and printing costs but the stumbling block has always been those unknown e-mail addresses. Therefore, our volunteer delivery folks soldier on month after month, doing their best, passing out the paper editions.

So, hats off to these unsung workers, who have been on the job for months and even years. The names of those who haven't thrown in the towel are listed below, in alphabetical order. When you see them on the job or off, please give them a big Thank-You for their contribution!!

Sharon Babbitt; Amy Dixon; Tracy Dreessen;
Diane Emsick; Carla Evans; Carol Mattox;
Kyle Muschall; Cindy Ostronic; and Linda Ring.

They may have some stories to tell---watch for those in future issues.

FPNA Board Approved Cake

This Rhubarb coffee cake was served at the July Board meeting and got such rave reviews that I was threatened with bodily harm if I did not share it with the world at large. I hope you enjoy

Rhubarb Coffee Cake

by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

2 1/2 cups all purpose flour

1 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 cup butter, softened

1 1/2 cups granulated sugar

1 egg

1 tsp. vanilla extract

1 cup butter milk

3 cups chopped rhubarb

1 cup packed brown sugar

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Topping:

1 cup granulated sugar

1/2 cup butter, cut into pieces

3/4 cups evaporated milk

1 tsp. vanilla extract

-In a small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt; set aside

-In a mixing bowl, cream butter and granulated sugar until light and fluffy

-Beat in eggs and vanilla

-Gradually add flour mixture alternately with buttermilk, beating until combined

-Fold in rhubarb

-Spread in a greased 13inx9in pan

-Combine brown sugar and walnuts, sprinkle over batter

-Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean

-For the topping, in a small saucepan combine granulated sugar, butter and evaporated milk

-Bring to a boil

-Boil for 3 1/2 minutes

-Remove from heat and add the vanilla; mix well

-Poke holes in warm cake with a fork

-Pour topping over cake and cool on a wire rack

KIRN PARK RENOVATION UPDATE

By Skyler Beck

Resource and Project Coordinator C.B. Parks, Recreation & Public Property

We are excited about the upcoming rehab project at Kirn Park and wanted to update you on where we are at. On July 22nd, the City Council accepted the low bid from Anderson Construction, a local contractor. Work will begin immediately with the removal of the old restroom building later this week. Also immediately, the turf on the football field will be sprayed and tilled to make ready for irrigation and seeding in the early fall.

It is important to note that construction of the park will eventually result in closure of the entrance road into the park. No public vehicles will be allowed into the park; likely for the rest of summer and into the fall due to construction and removal of the upper roadway. The track and playground will remain open as much as possible but caution is advised as large equipment vehicles will be on the track and throughout the park. Runners and park-goers can expect to see large trucks, dirt hauling, etc. on the track's surface which may also impact access to the playground and the condition of the track.

We anticipate the road and overall rehab project to be completed by mid-November. Thank you for your help in getting to this point and we look forward to the completion of this project. Please share this information with those in your neighborhood associations and especially those who live closest to the park. Thanks.



Photos by Kyle Muschall

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 332 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
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!**

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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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