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ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

THE FUNDRAISING TRAIN HAS LEFT THE STATION

FPNA has just learned the good news that we have been awarded \$5,000 from the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF) for our next round of identification poles. Yay!!! This means that work has to begin to complete this second phase of our poles project, not only the ordering of poles and other stuff and putting our installation crew to work, but (here it comes) getting down to the serious business of finding the rest of the money to make this all happen.

In the August newsletter, we laid it all out—what we already have and what we need. We explained that, in addition to the \$5,000 grant, we must spend \$2,500 of FPNA funds and find an additional \$2,500 from other sources. These poles are expensive and five of them, along with all the extras like concrete, cost upwards of \$10,000. We can do it, though, and it is worth it because we all agree that these poles are a quality product that will enhance our neighborhood for decades.

Many of us have paid our dues or joined the FPNA for the first time (the most recent ones named below), and many more of us have made donations (again, named below). Our donation total to date, including not only money already received but also pledges for future contributions, is \$1,775. All this has come from private individuals—we haven't even begun our campaign in the public sector yet! Thanks to all! If you wish to donate, or pay dues, please send your money and information to Dave Huggins, Treasurer (150 Park) or Kyle Muschall, President (332 Glen). Sharon Babbitt (200 Park) is spearheading the Fundraising Committee, so, naturally, she'll also be happy to oblige you.

DONATIONS OR PLEDGES (not in any particular order)

Joe and Mary Lou McGinn	Jill Struyk	Nate Watson
Dave and Marie Huggins	Melissa Head	Al Hudek
Kyle and Cindy Muschall	Carol Mattox	Sharon Babbitt
Betty McKee	Mike and Linda Ring	John Huggins

DUES PAID

Jeff and Stephanie Gorman (thanks for joining)
Will Reger and Elizabeth Hostetter (thanks for renewing)
Kent and Janelle Coker (thanks for renewing)

FRIENDS OF THE FPNA, WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

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The President's Corner

Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

Lots to share this month so I will jump right into it. The Brick Street Initiative is progressing. This is the long-going effort to maintain the historic brick streets in our neighborhoods. We've partnered with the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association and the C.B. Public Works department to target trouble areas for repair and replacement. They've completed another round on 5th Avenue, especially the dip right before the large concrete pad toward the top of the street just before the Kirn Park entrance. That particular area has been leveled out and now a smooth transition is in place instead of the bone jarring "good morning" that we've become accustomed to.

Speaking of Kirn Park. The renovation is progressing as planned. The construction company has closed off vehicle admittance to the park, which is wise, but pedestrian traffic is still allowed for now. They've removed the old shower building completely, graded the ball field for proper drainage and added a rich layer of topsoil. Additionally they started to excavate and grade the new parking area and vehicle entrance. It is very exciting to see the changes in the park. See the photos on page 7.

Our annual Christmas Party will be on December 7th this year at 200 Park Avenue starting around 6:00 p.m. Sharon Babbitt has wrested hosting duties from Nate this year as she was bound and determined to show her festive holiday decorations. Really, we tried to stop her because of her other commitments with the Holiday Boutique and the PCB Holiday home tours but she would have none of it. Sharon will be providing hot apple cider and Nate, not to be out done, is going to bring a bounty of his famous Holiday cookies for everyone to enjoy. His secret, he uses twice the butter and vanilla as a rule of thumb and in this avid cook's opinion you can't go wrong with that approach, at least that is what my appetite tells me.

Don't forget to vote on Nov. 5th for the Mayoral and City Council Election. There will be a Mayoral debate on Tuesday Sept. 17th at Barley's in the historic 100 Block of Broadway starting at 5:30 p.m. If you are concerned and involved about the direction our city is taking, and I know you are, I'm sure I will see you there.

There is only a couple of more Thursday nights Farmer's market (5-8 p.m.) in the historic 100 Block of Broadway. The market will end September 26th before the seasons turn. It is quite enlivening to see all the activity and foot traffic as people enjoy the crafts, produce and restaurants fair.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Council Bluffs has been selected to host the third leg of an upcoming series of meetings called, “Community Conversations.” The goal is to educate Iowans and to build stronger communities.

Representatives of the organizations sponsoring the meetings titled “The People Have the Power: Making a Difference in Your Community” said the series will feature three interactive and informative meetings that introduce participants to the tools for becoming engaged, informed citizens and building strong communities. Topics covered during the meeting will include how to participate in local government meetings and obtain public records, as well as First Amendment rights to free speech, petition and assembly.

The meeting in Council Bluffs will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn on Thursday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. The meeting, which is expected to last about 90 minutes, is open to the public, and attendance is free.

The series is being sponsored by a coalition made up of the Iowa Newspaper Foundation, the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and the National Freedom of Information Coalition. The Council Bluffs meeting will be hosted by The Daily Nonpareil.

According to The Nonpareil’s publisher, Tom Schmitt, the series is a new idea and is aimed at helping the average citizen understand their rights and be better prepared to deal with local government entities.

Attendees will receive a “toolkit for democracy” complete with resource material. The toolkit will include the latest edition of the Open Meetings, Open Records Handbook; information about the newly-formed Iowa Public Information Board; contact information for national, state and local officials and resource offices; tips for attending open meetings; tips for obtaining public records; voter registration forms; and sample public notice request letters.

For additional information, visit empoweringiowans.com or contact Kathleen Richardson, Iowa Freedom of Information Council, at (515) 271-2295 or kathleen.richardson@drake.edu



400 Huntington Avenue Mike and Angie Long

Photo by Kyle Muschall

COUNCIL BLUFFS MAYORAL DEBATE

MSCB and the Downtown 100 Block will be sponsoring an upcoming Council Bluffs Mayoral Debate between Candidates Matt Walsh and Brent Siegrist.

The Mayor Debate has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 17th, at 5:30pm at Barleys on West Broadway. The debate will be moderated.

The reason why you are receiving this e-mail is because the debate will focus on Downtown Council Bluffs, and the neighborhoods immediately around Downtown Council Bluffs.

If you are interested in submitting questions, please contact Joshua Barbee at joshua@mscb-inc.org. The moderator will review and select the questions to ask the candidates. The questions must be in regards to Downtown Council Bluffs (and the neighborhoods immediately around Downtown).

Please forward this e-mail out to anyone who may be interested in attending the debate. MSCB also want to recognize and give a special thanks to Matt Walsh and Brent Siegrist for agreeing to participate in the debate.

MSCB is very excited about this debate, and they hope everyone join them at Barleys on Tuesday, September 17th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Preserve Council Bluffs is planning a “work day” at the Bregant House on October 5 and they are inviting the neighborhood associations to help. They want to work on some of the general maintenance; wash down the exterior, wash windows (inside and out) possibly strip wallpapers and prep for the re-creation of the original kitchen. They will need to relocate the stove and the refrigerator, take out the remaining cabinets, etc. It’s still in the planning phase but they are thinking 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and we will update you as the details are set.

The second event is the annual Holiday Home Tour taking place from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 8th. We have 5 homes, the B’nai Israel Synagogue and Council Bluffs City Hall on our tour this year! The homes are spread out through Park/Glenn, 3rd Street/Willow and Lincoln/Fairview historic neighborhoods. We need volunteers to assist the home owners with the folks who tour their homes. We need to station volunteers throughout each home to answer questions and monitor flow. It looks like we need about 40 volunteers to cover two shifts at each location. Each shift will be 2 hour longs and that time goes quickly given the number of folks we usually have attend the tours.

Again, would you please communicate this request to your association members and if they would like to volunteer, have them contact Jim Kieffer at jkiefferjr@cox.net or at 712-256-0923 if you wish to volunteer.



SAVE MONEY= SAVE ENERGY

by Marie Huggins

150 Park Avenue

Lighting is critical for comfort and security, but it can account for up to 15 percent of your annual electricity costs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Reducing lighting energy use is one of the fastest and most effective ways to lower your utility bill. There are a number of things you can do to improve the energy performance of your home lighting, including the following:

Turn off lights in any room you are not using and throughout the house when no one is home.

Instead of lighting an entire room, focus low-power light where you need it (task lighting). For example, try using a portable lamp for your home office, or use under cabinet lighting in your kitchen.

Use high-efficiency fluorescent tube lights in garages, work rooms and laundry rooms.

Carefully clean light bulbs and fixtures regularly to maximize light output.

Take advantage of natural light during the day by opening blinds, shades and other window coverings.

Use three-way lamps; they make it easy to save energy by reducing light levels when bright light is not needed.

Install dimmer switches; reducing the intensity of light in a room saves energy. However, make sure the dimmer is compatible with the lamp it is controlling.

Replace low-efficiency incandescent bulbs with Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). They use less energy and last up to 10 times longer.

Use high-performance, light-emitting diode (LED) lamps for decorative lighting, holiday lighting and under kitchen cabinets.

New LED lamps are available in general purpose (Omni-directional) and directional (recessed cans, spot and track

lighting) offering superior light quality and energy savings. Put the right LED lamp in the right socket.

Think lumens not watts

When shopping for light bulbs, think lumens not watts. Lumens measure the light output of a bulb, while watts measure the amount of energy they use. For decades, consumers have purchased bulbs based on watts. In today's lighting market—with a variety of energy-efficient lighting products available—it is more economical to compare lumens rather than watts.

Visit www.midamericanenergy.com/ee to learn how MidAmerican Energy Company can help you save even more money on your energy bills.

Source: <http://www.energystar.gov/>

DATES TO REMEMBER

Council Bluffs Mayoral Debate
September 17th 5:30 p.m.
114 West Broadway

Community Conversations
September 26th 7:00 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn
2702 MidAmerica Drive

PCB Work Day Bregant House
October 5th. 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
517 Fourth Street

PCB Holiday Home Tour
December 8th. 1:00-5:00 p.m.

FPNA Holiday Party
December 7th 6:00 p.m.
200 Park Avenuez

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

YARD OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST

For our final Yard of the Month for 2013, we have chosen the front yard belonging to Mike and Angie Long, 400 Huntington. The weather hasn't been very cooperative for this entire growing season—either too cold and rainy or too blistering hot and dry—but Mike and Angie have combined their live plants with their sculptural accessories to present a well balanced appearance from the street, despite whatever the weather throws their way. The inviting Adirondack chairs first caught our eye and when we looked further we knew we had a winner. As usual, Linda has presented them with a certificate and potted plant in honor of our esteem.

DOG DOO, WE'VE ALL STEPPED IN IT

Our neighborhood is a welcoming place for dogs, either the homegrown ones or visitors from around the area who seem to enjoy walking our streets. We are good neighbors and are polite and friendly to these dogs and their human owners. We want this "good neighbor policy" to continue but when we step in the unwanted deposits left behind by inconsiderate owners, our good will is hard to maintain. Therefore, we wish to call to the attention of all dog owners that there are two City ordinances that apply to you. City ordinance 4.20.140.b prohibits allowing a dog to deposit feces on property other than that of the owner without picking it up. City ordinance 4.20.140.h requires owners to pick up feces deposited by their dog on their property at least once every 24 hours. Failure to comply with these ordinances carries a fine of \$750 plus \$85 court costs for the first offense. The fine jumps to \$1,000 for the second offense. Come on people! Picking up dog doo is easy and could save you some serious money.

(The information on the City regs was provided by John Labounty.)

Italian Chicken Skillet

by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

1 tablespoon olive oil	1 (28 ounce) can Italian-style diced tomatoes
4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cubed	8 ounces small seashell pasta
2 cloves garlic, chopped, or to taste	5 ounces fresh spinach, chopped
1/2 cup red cooking wine	1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

-Heat the olive oil in a large skillet with a lid over medium heat, and cook and stir the chicken and garlic until the chicken is no longer pink in the center, 5 to 8 minutes.

-Pour the wine and diced tomatoes with their juice into the skillet, and bring to a boil over high heat while scraping any browned bits of food off of the bottom of the pan with a wooden spoon.

-Stir in the shell pasta, and return to a boil.

-Cook uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the shells have cooked through, but are still firm to the bite, about 10 minutes.

-Spread the spinach over the top of the pasta, cover, and simmer until the spinach leaves are cooked, about 5 minutes.

-Sprinkle the mozzarella cheese evenly over the skillet, and simmer until the cheese has melted and the pasta is bubbling, about 5 minutes.

KIRN PARK RENOVATION UPDATE



Photos by Kyle Muschall

THE Fairmount Press
 The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association
 332 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
www.fairmountparkna.org

Kyle Muschall	President/Publisher
Linda Ring	Vice President
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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