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ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Let's just skip over the Thanksgiving holiday for now and move right ahead to Christmas and the *FPNA CHRISTMAS PARTY!!* After all, Thanksgiving is celebrated in the cozy comfort of home, surrounded by family and friends, but our *FPNA party*, now that's another matter altogether.

As we've mentioned in a prior column, our location and host have been changed for this time around. Nate, who has hosted our parties since the beginning of time, has other priorities this year and Sharon has stepped forward to provide the location for 2013. No, she won't have 27 trees to dazzle us (not enough room even if she were so inclined), but she does have an obsession for ornamentation and promises to place baubles into every nook and cranny of her Victorian Queen Anne "cottage." Can you guess how many? More than a hundred? More than a thousand? Hint: One nine-foot tree took a month to decorate...just saying.

Our party will begin at 6:00 p.m., Saturday evening, December 7th. The location is 200 Park Ave.. The lights will be on and the food will be to die for because all of us will be providing it; there will be coffee and hot apple cider to warm us up as well. Sharon's house, built in 1897 by Luzerba Bebbington, has been renovated to include energy efficient goodies like low-e-glass windows, refinished floors and trim, walls that have been faux painted, stenciled and wallpapered, and plenty of how-to advice in case you're interested.

Please come and, oh, bring your family and friends if you wish. We don't mind standing and sitting elbow-to-elbow—in fact, we welcome it. We might even step next door to 206 Park and look around the Christmas Boutique, which will also take place that weekend. We know somebody with a key.

NOW HERE'S A HAPPY DEVELOPMENT

An anonymous benefactor has just donated \$1,400 toward FPNA's pole project!! We welcome donations of any amount but this one was a shocker! While our benefactor has asked to remain anonymous, we certainly thank him/her (gotta remain neutral) for this generous gift. This gives a big boost to our fundraising campaign for the pole project but there is still more to accomplish. Every little bit helps, even renewing your FPNA membership or getting a neighbor to become a new member gets us further to our goal.

Continued On Pg.6

The President's Corner

Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

The Kirn Park Renovation appears to be in the final stages of completion. The rounded corner section of the curb at the front entrance to the park has been replaced along with plantings in the small area along the wall. The driveway and parking has been poured and set all the way to the stadium along with the parking stalls being painted. The enclosure for the restrooms has been completed and is awaiting installation of the port-a-john's.

The new black cyclone fence has been erected around the perimeter from the south entrance to the stadium. The black decorative fence has also been installed around the south bend of the track to divide the driveway and track with landscaping along the bottom. Of particular note, the pass-thru's along this fence are paved with the red brick that was removed from the original driveway.

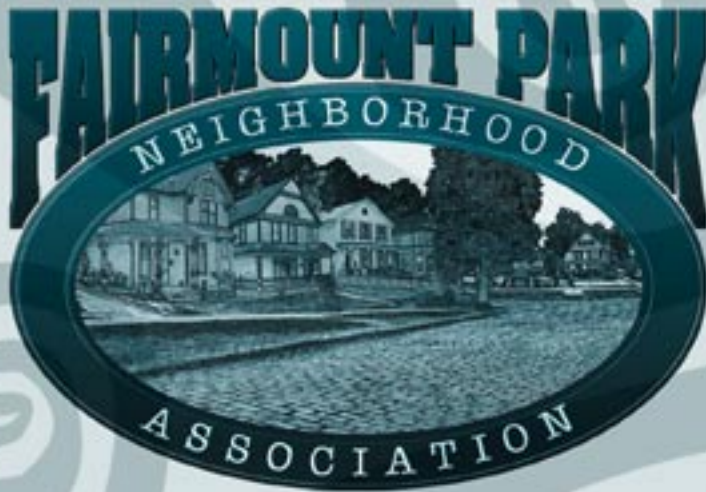
The grass is coming in strong on the field and looks like it will be well established in time to survive the winter months. There are just a few tasks left to be completed like finishing burying some irrigation lines, laying final pavers and some last bit of landscaping to finish the project. We'll be delaying the grand opening celebration till next year for some warmer weather but check out the photos on page 7 of this newsletter or better yet take a quick detour up to the park, the entrance is now open to vehicles, and enjoy the revamped setting of historic Kirn Park.

On another topic, I had the opportunity to attend the Neighborhood Center Fall Meeting on Saturday Nov. 9th. The proceedings were hosted by Nate Watson, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Center, C.B. City Council member, and board member of the FPNA. The turn out was great. There was representation from numerous Neighborhood Associations, new and established, from all over Council Bluffs. Mayor-Elect Matt Walsh and new City Council member Al Riggenberg were also in attendance. Omaha was also present with an officer from the Omaha Neighborhood Association and a board member of one of the Neighborhood Associations just south of the Old Market.

After introductions, a meet and greet and a breakfast buffet we broke into groups to participate in an Asset building activity given by "Promise Partners" Jessica Simons. This was a chance to learn more about individuals within each of the neighborhood associations and focus on working together with a network of people to accomplish goals. I then gave a short presentation about project management to expose organizations on the tools and techniques used in the business industry to help groups initiate, plan, execute and finish project that help achieve unique objectives.

Nate ended the meeting with an overview of Neighborhood Alliance structures, the challenges that they all face and the lifecycle that organizations go through. I think everyone came away with the sense that there are people, organizations and government entities that are truly committed to making Council Bluffs a great place to live.

*Let's Celebrate
the Holidays*



*Would like to invite you
and your family to join us
in our annual holiday
festivities at 6:00 p.m. on
Saturday December 7th at
200 Park Avenue.*

*We are having a potluck
this year so please bring
that favorite dish,
dessert or cookie recipe
you are famous for.*

*We look forward to seeing
you and your good cheer.*

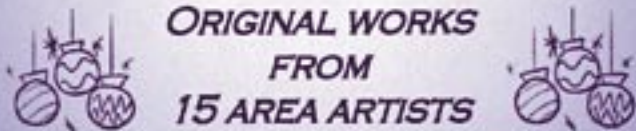
Sincerely, FPNA

**ANOTHER
CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE**

LOCATED IN
A BEAUTIFULLY RESTORED VICTORIAN HOME
AT
206 PARK AVENUE
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

DEC. 7-8, 2013 10-5 EACH DAY
MEET-THE-ARTISTS PREVIEW
DEC. 6, 2013 6-9 P.M.
FEATURING WINE AND HORS D'OEUVRES

THIS HOME WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE DEC. 8TH
PRESERVE COUNCIL BLUFFS CHRISTMAS
HOMES TOUR, SO WATCH FOR CROWDS THAT DAY.



**ORIGINAL WORKS
FROM
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HOLIDAY AND HOME DÉCOR,
WEARABLE ART, SOAPS, LAVENDER,
AND MUCH MORE!

*A ONE-OF-A-KIND HOLIDAY
SHOPPING EXPERIENCE*

CALL SHARON AT 323-5912 FOR MORE INFORMATION

**DODGE HOUSE
HOLIDAY TREES**

Experience the Dodge House (605 Third Street) with hundreds of lights shining from the beautifully decorated trees. The opening day is Sunday, November 24th from 1 to 5 p.m. The house will remain decorated for the holidays through Tuesday, December 31st. Also check out www.dodgehouse.org for all the other Christmas activities that the Dodge House has planned this Holiday Season.



**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

The Dodge House Holiday Trees
November 24 1:00-5:00 p.m.
605 Third Street

Christmas Boutique
December 7-8 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
206 Park Avenue

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

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

**"Your life
is what your
thoughts
make it"**

**Marcus
Aurelius**

Did the Pilgrims land on Plymouth Rock because they ran out of BEER?

The Staight Dope

By Cecil Adams

You heard right, more or less: The Mayflower colonists decided to settle at Plymouth because they were running low on beer. In an age when so many have lost their moral compass, it's comforting to know that people in the old days had their priorities straight.

Pretty much everything you think you know about the Pilgrims is wrong (including their being called Pilgrims—that term didn't catch on until centuries later), so it's not surprising the beer angle slipped under the radar. Here's the story, assembled with the help of my doughty research assistant Bibliophage:

On November 9, 1620 [November 19 by modern reckoning], after 64 days at sea, the Mayflower sighted Cape Cod. You may inquire: What sort of idiot would sail across the north Atlantic at the height of storm season? The voyagers probably asked themselves the same question. They'd initially left Southampton, England, in August, but one of their two ships, the Speedwell, sprang a leak. Repair attempts failed, and by the time the travelers had consolidated themselves on the Mayflower, a month had passed. Then they spent an extra couple weeks under sail due to bad weather, arriving just in time for winter. That was problem one.

Problem two was that Cape Cod was not where the colonists were supposed to be. Their patent from the Virginia Company of London authorized them to establish a plantation between 38 and 41 degrees north latitude; the tip of Cape Cod was just north of 42 degrees. The group dutifully attempted to sail south, but shoals and contrary winds kiboshed that idea. Some now spoke of splitting up. Contrary to what we imagine, the colonists weren't united by religion. Of the 102 passengers, around 40 were Separatists (i.e., separated from the Church of England), a like number were regular folks recruited by the London merchants who underwrote the expedition, and the balance were hired men, servants, and so on. Finding themselves at odds in a legal no-man's-land, the colonists drafted the Mayflower Compact. The 41 who signed it on November 11 included no women but were otherwise pretty cool, consisting of Seps and non-Seps, masters and servants, all bound by the realization that has animated every republic

since: If we don't stick together we're wolf chow.

The question remained exactly where the colonists should set up shop. Looking at the map now, you'd think a little bird would have twittered: Boston! You can found Boston! Apparently not. The choice came down to someplace called Anguam (probably near the present town of Ipswich), or else what the ship's navigator called "Thievish Harbor," in the direction of what's now known as Plymouth Bay. The latter being closer, the colonists headed there and found the location promising, in part because the land had been cleared earlier by Native American farmers who then conveniently died due to European-borne pestilence. The voyagers weren't disposed to be fussy: "We could not now take time for further search or consideration, our victuals being much spent, especially our beer, and it being now the 19th of December" (Mourt's Relation, 1622, commonly attributed to colonists William Bradford and Edward Winslow). Plymouth it was.

Beer was a dietary mainstay in those days. Chances are the beverage in question was "ship's beer," a not-very-alcoholic concoction that, along with the even weaker "small beer," was drunk in formidable quantities during the colonial era (upwards of a quart per day seems to have been a typical ration). Undoubtedly an advantage was that, unlike more perishable foodstuffs, ship's beer would keep during long voyages and, having been boiled, was likely purer than ordinary water.

The colonists used up their beer by Christmas. At first the ship's captain gave them a little out of the crew's supply, but when sickness, possibly scurvy, began felling the travelers (about half died that first winter), things got ugly. "As this calamity fell among the passengers that were to be left here to plant, and were hasted ashore and made to drink water that the seamen might have the more beer, and one in his sickness desiring but a small can of beer, it was answered that if he were their own father he should have none" (Bradford, History of Plymouth Plantation, circa 1650). The captain relented when his own men began getting sick too, evidently not wanting it to be known to history that, in addition to being late, lost, etc, he was the SOB who hogged the beer.

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

POLE PROJECT UPDATE

Six more poles were ordered and we expect delivery about November 22nd. Concrete footings were poured and anchor bolts installed a few weeks ago and the concrete has had time to harden before the poles arrive. In this way, even if the ground should freeze, they can be mounted. More banners have been ordered as the Board didn't think the poles should stand naked for the winter. Flower baskets will come later this spring. We will ask for 3-4 more poles in the CURB grant application that is in the process of being prepared. Hopefully, we will receive this grant which will help us to complete this project and move on. Hooray, one of these days you won't hear endlessly about these poles! But you must admit, they are great and enhance our neighborhood in a classy way. If we've named someone twice, or misspelled a name, or left someone out, shame on us, but let us know so we can correct things. Meantime, thanks again.

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF FPNA:

DUES:

Mad Ox Bakery
Howard and Mary Aney
Bill and Coleen Somers

DONATIONS:

Carol Mattox
Anonymous

Sweet Potato Casserole

by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

4 cups sweet potato, cubed	1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup white sugar	1/2 cup packed brown sugar
2 eggs, beaten	1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt	3 tablespoons butter, softened
4 tablespoons butter, softened	1/2 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup milk	

- Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
- Put sweet potatoes in a medium saucepan with water to cover.
- Cook over medium high heat until tender; drain and mash.
- In a large bowl, mix together the sweet potatoes, white sugar, eggs, salt, butter, milk and vanilla extract.
- Mix until smooth. Transfer to a 9x13 inch baking dish.
- In medium bowl, mix the brown sugar and flour.
- Cut in the butter until the mixture is coarse.
- Stir in the pecans. Sprinkle the mixture over the sweet potato mixture.
- Bake in the preheated oven 30 minutes, or until the topping is lightly brown.

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
Carol Mattox	Secretary
Dave Huggins	Treasurer
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Amy Dixon	Special Representative

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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