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## ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

### SOMETHING NEW FOR MARCH

It's time for another membership meeting and the Board chose to do something a little innovative and different this time—get together at The Mad Ox Bakery located in the Ogden Place strip mall, which is a hop, skip and jump down the street from our NA. We will meet at the bakery at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and stay until they kick us out at 11:00 a.m., closing time, unless we can talk them into letting us stay a bit longer. Okay, we won't push it. But it is a chance to choose from a delicious array of bakery and breakfast goodies and support a local business at the same time.

By the way, Matthew and Karris Mattox, and their bakery, are dues paying members of the FPNA. They didn't have to join, so let's go to the bakery and let them know how much we appreciate all this.

### POLES PROJECT, PHASE THREE

Or maybe it's Phase two-thousand-and-three. It certainly seems like it. However, it will soon wind down with the installation of the third and final phase of our Identification Poles Project. The last four poles have been ordered and will arrive later this spring. Their locations have been chosen and we tried to spread them out strategically so that a pole can be seen in every location in our NA. We realize that the entire area would look terrific with a pole every few feet or so, but, alas, finances will not permit this kind of over-kill.

We received grants from both PCCF and CURB, and contributed substantially from our dues and donations. We thank everyone for their support. These beauties look so good that we secretly wish other NAs would jump aboard and get poles of their own, but that's out of our control. Meanwhile, let them be green with envy. After all our hard work, we have become experts in every facet of this kind of thing and freely offer our assistance to one and all, when they are ready.

Continued On Pg.6

# The President's Corner

**Kyle Muschall**

**332 Glen Avenue**

The City of Council Bluffs will be holding a public hearing March 10th at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to hear input for proposed West Pierce Street reconstruction. The improvements will be just west of 1st. Street and continue to just east of the Glen Avenue entrance into our neighborhood.

Ostensibly, the city is coordinating the Pierce street reconstruction with PCDC and their development of a new 3-story mixed use building next to the Hughs-Irons Building on the 100 Block of Broadway. This will allow the city to re-locate the utilities more efficiently and eliminate access issues during the project. The pavement along this stretch of street is in poor condition and the underlying infrastructure dates back to the 1950's. When contracts are awarded the city is currently scheduling construction to begin in May of this year.

What does this mean to the neighborhood and the business on Pierce? The city has given assurances that Lyle's tires and Council Bluffs Glass will have access, from 1st Street or Glen depending upon the particular stage of the project. Access to Park Avenue from Broadway has not been addressed yet by C.B. Public Works though the FPNA has been in contact with them for updates. I will let everyone know when I have more information.

Our first FPNA volunteer project will be assisting in the "Laundry Love Project". FPNA Board Member Terri Dowell is part of the committee that is organizing the event with Promise Partners Pottawattamie County's Alliance for Youth. The Laundry Love Projects are opportunities to help people who are struggling financially by assisting them with doing their laundry. The mission is to take Laundromats and convert them into hubs of relief, granting reprieve to those living in oppressive poverty through aid in education and support.

The Laundry Love Project will provide the quarters and detergent for guests to wash and dry their clothes. The project is teaming with the Broadway Wash house at Broadway and North 18th Street. The event will be

held Thursday April 10th from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed from the FPNA to help staff the event for the duration. Jobs to do: register the attendees, take them to their machines to get loaded and deposit coins, serve food, and offer child activities.

As Terri gets more information on the effort the FPNA will be looking to fill the volunteer roster needed to make this Laundry Love project a success and help address and respond to the common concerns of all our residents of Council Bluffs. I urge anyone that can contribute their time and energy to this worthy project to do so. If interested in volunteering please contact FPNA Board member Terri Dowell at [allen-dowell.4@cox.net](mailto:allen-dowell.4@cox.net).

Following closely, is the FPNA clean up of Look Out Point. We had to scrap last year's event due to the weather so I am sure that the park needs some much needed debris and trash removal. The clean up will be on April 19th at 9:00 a.m. Bring gloves and sturdy shoes for scrambling up and down the banks.

Live Well C.B. will be providing the trash bags for the event as well as hauling off what we clear out. The adage is never truer that many hands make lite work so please mark your calendar and join us for donuts and juice as we take some time to tidy up our park.

One last reminder, we'll be having our FPNA Garage Sale this year. We are thinking the first part of June. When I have more details I will get that information out to folks so that you can plan to cash in on the clutter in your basements, attics, and garages. Let's hope the weather cooperates.

# NEW MOBILE METERED PARKING SYSTEM

Council Bluffs Launches New Mobile Payment System for Metered Parking. With the launch of Passport Parking, residents and visitors have the option of making their parking transactions by mobile phone. The City of Council Bluffs announced a new way to pay for parking at City parking meters. Visitors and residents will soon be able to pay for parking at all City-owned parking meters with their mobile phone. Through an agreement with the City of Omaha, residents will also be able to use the system

to pay for metered parking in Omaha, with Omaha residents having the same option in Council Bluffs. For those who would like to continue to pay with coins, that option will remain unchanged. "The City of Council Bluffs chose Passport Parking because residents have asked for other payment options such as credit cards for parking meters," said Mark Franz, City Traffic Superintendent. "This provides that option. It even provides parking reminders that your paid time is about to expire. Having Omaha implement the same system was an added and welcome benefit." "I love that we can bring new options to the customer such as extending a parking stay and merchant parking discounts – who doesn't love free parking?" said Brandon Rivard, Executive Vice President at Passport Parking. To use the mobile pay system, customers first set up an account for free via the Passport Parking Mobile



Pay app or voice system. Once securely registered, motorists can pay for parking by using the mobile app, calling a toll-free number, or by text message. The mobile app is available for both iPhone and Android smart phones. Motorists can also select the option to receive text message alerts and reminders 5 minutes prior to the expiration of their parking session. Additionally, drivers who use Passport Parking's mobile pay technology will be able to log in using their Facebook accounts to find

nearby businesses that offer validation. After visiting a participating business, parkers merely input the appropriate code to automatically receive their parking discount. Passport Parking is the industry's leading provider of integrated cloud-based parking solutions. The company provides the most advanced technology and equipment in an enterprise suite that allows parking

providers and owners to manage parking and enforcement operations more effectively and efficiently. The integrated offerings can be seamlessly implemented on both gated and un-gated properties and quickly adopted with its Parking as a Service (PaaS) model. For additional information, please visit: [www.passportparking.com](http://www.passportparking.com). The City of Council Bluffs manages parking at 825 parking spaces both on-street and in five parking lots in Council Bluffs.

## WARNING ABOUT IDENTITY THEFT

Iowa Revenue Department warns Iowans who received a call or email regarding their state taxes concerned that the communication was not official or possibly a scam should contact the Iowa Department of Revenue.

The Revenue Department said a call may be unofficial if the caller asks for personal information, such as a social security number, or contact is started via email.

For its part, the department said it will always identify itself when contacting a consumer and will never ask to for a full social security number by email or regular mail. The department also said it does not initiate contact with taxpayers via email to request personal or financial information. Consumers unsure if a call they received comes officially from the department should follow these steps: Do not provide any personal or confidential information. Contact the department directly, which will confirm whether the call came from the agency. The Revenue Department can be contacted via email at [idr@iowa.gov](mailto:idr@iowa.gov) or by phone at (866) 339-7912 for Billings & Collections or at (515)-281-3114 for Taxpayer Services. To find out more information on the department's website; [www.iowa.gov/tax/educate](http://www.iowa.gov/tax/educate)

**YOU ARE INVITED**

*to our* FPNA

# MEETING

**JOIN US OUT & ABOUT**

for Great Food and Good Conversation At

**MAD OX BAKERY**

215 West Broadway

**MARCH 22nd @ 10:AM**

That's Right Folks it's in the AM  
So Wake Up and Join Us

# THE POWER OF RECYCLING

## MidAmerican Energy Company's Appliance Recycling Program:

If you're an Iowa electric customer and would like to recycle a working refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner, give us a call. MidAmerican Energy Company works with qualified contractors to pick up and dispose of qualifying appliances at no cost to you, and you'll receive a rebate within four to six weeks of appliance pickup.

### Why Recycle?

**Save energy.** Refrigerators built prior to 1990 can use two to three times more energy than a new high-efficiency model. A new ENERGY STAR® qualified refrigerator uses less than half as much energy as one made prior to 1993. New models use less energy than a 75 watt incandescent light bulb.

**Save money.** A spare refrigerator or freezer can add more than \$100 per year to your electric bill.

**Help protect the environment.** Refrigeration and cooling units include a refrigerant, such as Freon, that can damage the ozone layer when released into the atmosphere. Recycled appliances will be safely and properly disposed of to avoid refrigerant leakage.

ENERGY STAR qualified room air conditioners use at least 10 percent less energy than conventional models. According to the EPA, if every room air conditioner sold in the U.S. were ENERGY STAR qualified, 500 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions – the equivalent emissions of more than 49,000 cars – would be prevented annually.

**Get paid.** A \$50 rebate is paid for recycling each qualified new refrigerator or freezer, and a \$25 rebate is paid for recycling each qualified new window air conditioner.

Responsible recycling ensures that over 95 percent of the components and materials of the discarded appliance are either recycled for beneficial uses or eliminated in an environmentally responsible way. The remaining 5 percent can then be productively used as "fluff" to facilitate the decomposition of biodegradable landfill material. Recycling also has a positive effect on your carbon footprint – recycling just one refrigerator prevents up to 10 tons of

CO<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent from entering the atmosphere. That is equal to taking two cars off the road for one year.

### Participation Guidelines

Iowa electric customers may recycle up to two refrigerators, two freezers and two window air conditioners, with a maximum of six appliances per address. Refrigerators and freezers must be 10 cubic feet or larger, based on inside measurements (no commercial sizes). Appliances must be in working order, plugged in and empty at the time of pickup.

Schedule a pickup by calling 800-621-2757 or registering at [jacoinc.net](http://jacoinc.net). Call center hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

RAD (Responsible Appliance Disposal) is a voluntary partnership program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help protect the Earth's ozone layer and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. RAD program partners like MidAmerican Energy recover ozone-depleting chemicals from old refrigerators, freezers and window air conditioners.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

FPNA March Meeting  
March 22nd 10:00 a.m.  
Mad Ox Bakery  
215 W. Broadway

Laundry Love  
April 10th.  
4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
W. Broadway & North 18th.

Look Out Point Clean Up  
April 19th  
9:00 a.m.

## AND SPEAKING OF FINANCES

The above-mentioned expensive project has brought our treasury to a low ebb. With the new year in full swing, we wish to remind everyone that our dues (which are still maintained at \$20 per year) are, well, due. Those grants, helpful as they were, required a substantial contribution from FPNA. We gulped and paid, but this means we have to rebuild. If you haven't yet renewed, this message is for you. Please continue to support your NA so that we can begin saving for the next thing. We don't know what that will be and admit that it is far in the future, but it *will come one day*. We want to be ready. Please send your dues to Treasurer Dave Huggins, 150 Park Ave., or drop it by his house.

In addition to the members who paid at the annual meeting in January, the following folks have mailed us their dues:

Mary Hawkins  
Betty McKee

Brett and Diane Emsick  
Tony and Cindy Lainson

Thanks a bunch.

## AND SPEAKING OF THANKS

A **BIG THANK-YOU** goes to Pat Miller and his Crew of the Public Works Department for the superb job they have been doing this winter season in keeping our streets free of snow and ice. We in the hills *have been paying attention* and so has somebody else. The American Public Works Association, a nationwide entity, has named Council Bluffs as one of three cities to receive the APWA's Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award for 2014. That doesn't happen every day! Not ones to "rest on their laurels," the Public Works Department continues to do their job even as we write, because, as we all know, this winter will never end. Or so it seems.

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME, EMPTY OR OCCUPIED

Can we, really? Thieves, especially copper thieves, are determined to make a little money (and we do mean *a little*) on the backs of honest citizens. They will find ways, no matter what we do. But we can make it harder for them. Our resident law enforcement officer suggests the following:

- \*Install motion detector lights around the outside of your house.
- \*Install cameras in the same way. They may not deter the thieves but at least you will get their photos, and they don't like that.
- \*Install lights inside your home and equip them with timers to come on at different times and in different locations, making it appear that someone is at home.
- \*Install electronic protection, although this may be problematic if the

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home is vacant because, if the alarm goes off unnecessarily and the police department arrives to this false alarm, you may have to pay for it.

Don't expect the Police Department to be able to identify your copper pipes at the salvage yard. Think about it—how could they tell?

One of the best defenses is what we've been preaching—neighbors paying attention. There's no better protection.

## OUR NEWEST AND YOUNGEST MEMBER HAS ARRIVED

Brayden Gorman showed up on time February 1<sup>st</sup>. We are happy to report that mom Stephanie and dad Jeff, along with their new son, are doing fine and can almost sleep all night now. One day, Brayden may be glad he wasn't around to endure the extensive updating that was done to his home on Park Ave. before he arrived. Do you suppose that, by the time he grows up, avocado green flocked wallpaper will be in vogue once again? Naaah!

## CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Rob Hoag, one of our NA members, is attending this year's Citizens Police Academy. He has high praise for the dedication of the members of the Police Department who are teaching this Academy. Rob also says that airmen from Offutt AFB are using the CB shooting range right now because theirs is in need of repair and the Wing Commander says it's less expensive to pay rent on our excellent range than it is to operate their own in this age of belt tightening. Kudos to the CB Police Department!

**"I'd much rather be a women  
than a man. Women can cry,  
they can wear cute clothes,  
and they're the first to be  
rescued off sinking ships"**

**Gilda Radner**

**THE Fairmount Press**  
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 332 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503  
[www.fairmountparkna.org](http://www.fairmountparkna.org)

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Terri Dowell	Board Member (2016)
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Michelle Mutchler-Burns	Board Member (2016)

**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.

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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