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## ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

### READER ALERT

Prepare yourselves! You will be reading about this subject for the next few months! It will seem like de-ja vu all over again. It is FPNA's push to get our newsletter on-line for everyone. The age of the printed copy of our newsletter at everyone's doorstep, month after month, will be phased out by the end of the year because of changes in our printing ability and issues with our circulation committee.

From its inception, FPNA was determined that every resident of our NA would receive a copy of our award winning monthly newsletter. This was necessary to keep all of us informed and to increase our membership rolls. Teams of volunteers were formed to deliver them to every doorstep, each and every month and in all weather conditions. Surprisingly, given the difficulties involved, this team of volunteers had very little turn-over, even when one of them was threatened by a gun-toting neighbor who questioned why this volunteer was on his porch after dark. Really? Well, nobody was killed or hurt, but clearly time was running out.

Next came the change in the status of the Neighborhood Center, where we formerly had access to a printer for our 11x17 tabloid format. Printing at FPNA's own expense was deemed to be cost prohibitive. We've established a new relationship with Habitat for Humanity Council Bluffs for our printing services however the Board realized that the FPNA had to move completely into the electronic age not only to reach folks in a more timely manner but our distribution committee is going on seven years with very little change in their ranks. The decision was then made to distribute our news on-line, with print copies going to only those folks without internet access. On-line recipients can print their own copies from their home computers when desired. If you have a computer but no printer, and you want a hard copy, let us know.

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## The President's Corner

Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

The summer is definitely upon us. The FPNA 2014 Garage Sale started with good traffic. We had 9 locations in all with 15 participating households. The rain didn't hold off for as long as we would have hoped but everyone said they had good sales up until 10:30 a.m. when the downpour really started. The weather is the one thing we can't control unfortunately. The deluge lasted until just after 1:00 p.m. and those who willingly stuck it out reported that patrons returned and the afternoon was quite nice indeed with sales picking up toward the end.

We all know there are those die hard Garage Sale-ers who won't let a bargain pass them up. The Bake Sale at 407 Glen headed up by Michelle Mutchler-Burns also did a brisk business until the storm hit. Thanks to everyone who donated baked goods, beverages, ice, food boxes and coolers to the event. I hear the Krispy-Crème donuts were snatched up fast as folks were looking for that sugar rush to carry them to the various locations. All participants welcomed the chance to earn a little petty cash and off load some of those larger items that have been piling up in the basement, garage, hall-closet etc. Please take a moment to view the photos on page 4 & 5 of the event.

Our FPNA Flower baskets are starting to bloom thanks to the consistent rains we've received on a weekly basis, not to mention the wind and hail and falling branches and falling trees, they've stood up nicely to the elements. A big thank you to Michelle Mutchler-Burns for starting the basket plantings earlier this year and to their continued care in getting them to where they are today. Our banners have braved the onslaught as well. No rips, no tears, dents, or dings. The adage is true "When you pay for quality you get quality".

The Kirn Park Art Sign on High School Avenue is coming along nicely. The Artist has completed almost all the tile work and is fine tuning the details of the lettering and graphics. The 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue sign still needs to be started but they will be striking when done. Look for a future article about the artist when they are finished. The FPNA and GNA are in talks with the C.B. Parks Department on a grand opening event to celebrate all the work that has been accomplished.

I'll close with re-iterating a topic that Sharon covered in her article as well, our newsletter distribution. The FPNA is an inclusive organization and we strive to keep everyone informed of events both large and small that go on in our neighborhood. To that end we distribute our monthly newsletters to all households within our boundaries no matter if you are a member or not, no matter if you own or rent. The board also recognizes that in order to stay relevant we need to be open to change. By transitioning to an online newsletter our neighborhood can receive updates faster including neighborhood watches, emergency reports, events and helping with lost pets. I can think of three dogs and two cats that our email distribution list had a hand in locating or putting folks in the right direction.

So, if you haven't already please send me your email address via my email address: kmuschall@cox.net.

I will add you to our internet distribution list to start receiving updates. We'll be focused on this topic till the end of the year as the goal is to transition to an all online newsletter but it is going to take some work and some knocking on doors but I'm confident we'll get there and save a few trees in the process.

## SWARMING BEES & WHAT TO DO

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

A few weeks ago, a swarm of honey-bees formed in a circle on the ground next to the sidewalk of a house on Park Ave. It was very interesting and lots of folks stopped to stare and marvel.

The bees had a mission, which was to find a new location for their hive and their queen. Scout bees flew out to search for the ideal new home, while the worker bees gathered around the queen to protect her.

At this stage, the bees will not sting as they are somewhat lethargic and full of honey (which they brought with them on their journey to the promised land)—*unless they are threatened.*

Enter the lawn service guy, who wanted to cut the grass just then, so he threw a bottle of gasoline on the swarm, killing about a third of them and seriously angering the survivors. Exit lawn guy, without mowing the lawn.

One of our neighbors walked by and saw the pile of dead bees. The remainder of the swarm took up residence on a nearby bird bath. Our very upset neighbor called up the Extension Office and found a beekeeper who, coincidentally, had

just called the EO to announce his availability to remove swarms. He arrived in 20 minutes with a wood hive and a jar of honey.

Using the honey as bait, he enticed the bees to enter the wood hive. By nightfall, all the remaining bees had crawled into this hive, including their queen who luckily had not been killed by the gasoline. Hopefully, the scouts made it back in time to be included in the move to a better location.

The beekeeper estimated the number of the surviving bees to be about 10,000 and worth about \$100. Even more important to us and our planet is that bees are valuable in so many ways; it's been said that life as we know it wouldn't exist without the pollinating ability of bees.

This is swarming season for bees and normally the swarm will only stay around until the scouts find a new location and they move on, a process that may only take a day or two.

So, please people, do the right thing and either leave them alone or call a beekeeper to handle things. Don't resort to gasoline throwing.





# FPNA 2014 GARAGE SALE



Photos by Kyle Muschall



# ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt  
Continued From Pg.1

200 Park Avenue

## THEREFORE

Please notify Kyle Muschall (kmuschall@cox.net) of your e-mail addresses!!

Yes, we will nag you until you comply!! For those of you who are already on FPNA’s distribution list, we have this information, but many residents are still not on board. We even want to know if you *do not have* computer access so that our records can be updated. We are determined that every resident will continue to receive newsletters. Remember, we won’t let up until we hear from everyone!

### YARD OF THE MONTH FOR MAY

This time we selected 434 Huntington as our May YOTM. Our selection was made before the last storm, so all the yards we looked at were pretty. We chose the home of Cindy and Jerry Ostdiek because it was in pristine condition, including the trimming around the sidewalks. The shrubbery and flowers were placed just right for a balanced effect, and even the grass was immaculate. This was a tough choice, however, and nearly needed a tie breaking vote from our President. Thanks to Cindy and Jerry for taking such good care of their yard and for helping to make the neighborhood a great place to look at. Linda has delivered a potted plant and certificate to them as a token of our appreciation.

### CHANGES ARE A’HAPPENING

Following this month’s big storms, insurance adjusters were seen crawling around the streets like busy ants, assessing the carnage. We know that several large shade trees bit the dust in the high winds, along with damage to many homes. It is heartbreaking to see so many large trees gone. Maybe we should think of sponsoring a big tree planting bonanza in the future?? As for damages to houses, well, there’s good and there’s bad. Bad is all the trouble it’s going to be to repair it all. Good is that, in at least one instance we know of, a homeowner is going to replace the puke white siding with something else. When questioned, this homeowner said the new color would be that ever popular hue of “anything but white.” Further questioning revealed that the word “puke” doesn’t really apply to white, and such a word should not appear in a dignified newsletter such as ours. So we’ve taken it out.

### WE PAID OUR DUES OR MADE DONATIONS

During the period since publication of the last newsletter, these members paid their dues or made donations to the flower basket fund. Thanks to all!

#### DUES:

Rob and Georgette Hoag; Larry and Donelle Royce; Melissa Chapman

#### DONATIONS:

Larry and Donelle Royce; Sharon Babbitt

## MAY YARD OF THE MONTH



Cindy and Jerry Ostdiek

434 Huntington Avenue

Photos by Kyle Muschall

## Strawberry Pretzel Salad

by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 1/2 cups crushed pretzels       | 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped top-<br>ping, thawed |
| 4 1/2 tablespoons white sugar     | 1 (6 ounce) package strawberry flavored<br>Jell-O®        |
| 3/4 cup butter, melted            | 2 cups boiling water                                      |
| 1 cup white sugar                 | 1 (16 ounce) package frozen strawberries                  |
| 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese |   |

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- Mix together the pretzels, 4 1/2 tablespoons sugar and melted butter.
- Press into the bottom of a 9x13 inch pan. Bake for 10 minutes, or until lightly toasted. Set aside to cool completely.
- In a medium bowl, beat the sugar and cream cheese until smooth.
- Fold in whipped topping. Spread evenly over the cooled crust. Refrigerate until set, about 30 minutes.
- In a medium bowl, stir together the gelatin mix and boiling water.
- Mix in frozen strawberries, and stir until thawed.
- Pour over cream cheese mixture in pan.
- Refrigerate until completely chilled, at least 1 hour.



# THE Fairmount Press

The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

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

Kyle Muschall	President/Publisher
Michelle Mutchler-Burns	Vice President
Sharon Babbitt	Secretary/Editor
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Dave Huggins	Board Member (2016)
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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**Habitat**  
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Council Bluffs



**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