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ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

WINDING THINGS UP, ONLY TO BEGIN YET AGAIN

Mark January 24, 2015, on your calendars as a not-to-be-missed day. That is the Saturday of our *ANNUAL FPNA MEETING*. Kyle and Cindy Muschall, 332 Glen Ave., have volunteered once again to host our party. This means we can expect great food, great company, and plenty of places to sit. It starts at 4:00 p.m. and goes until we're done.

One of the important issues taking place will be the election of Board members. This time we will be selecting three Directors to serve for the next two years. Board positions expiring this time are those of Kyle Muschall, Linda Ring, and Nate Watson. After folks have been nominated to run, we will vote for the winners by secret ballot. Following the close of this meeting, our first Board meeting of the new year will take place and the agenda for 2015 will be discussed.

Please consider throwing your hats in the ring for these positions. Folks, it isn't hard to be a member of the FPNA Board. We only meet quarterly so you can't use the excuse that you don't have time. We all get along so you can't use the excuse that you don't have a gun permit. And you can't use the excuse that you don't care what happens to our neighborhood because we know that is definitely not true. So, what is your excuse? Answer, you really don't have one, and some of the old work horses that have served for so long might want to retire out to pasture for a bit of a break. Whaddyasay??

The Annual Meeting is also a good time to pay your dues for 2015. They are still only \$20 per year.

HOLIDAY DECORATING AWARD

A little while ago the FPNA Board took a drive around the neighborhood searching for the winner of the 2014 Christmas Holiday Decorating Award. One of the criteria to be a winner is that the exterior

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The President's Corner

Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

Another year is coming to an end and we can look back at 2014 on all that the association has accomplished. Our Look Out Point clean up was a rousing success as the weather was perfect and we had lots of volunteers to haul the trash up from the woods. We even had folks from outside our association pitch in as the Roots and Shoots youth group got their hands dirty for the event. FPNA members also participated in the 2014 Clean Sweep event that Live Well Council Bluffs puts on every year. We scoured our neighborhood streets for trash to do our part to keep them clean.

A small contingent of us marched in the 2014 Celebrate C.B. parade as Co-Grand Marshall with all the other Council Bluffs neighborhood associations. We were waving one of our FPNA neighborhood banners for the entire city to see. It was great to witness all the folks who came out to cheer on everyone who participated.

Another of our volunteer events for 2014 was "Laundry Love". We assisted Promise Partners with their outreach to youth and in-need families with free laundry service at the Broadway Wash House. The event saw folks being able to get their laundry done at no cost with a meal provided as well. Information and contacts were made available to all participants.

Our 2014 Garage Sale got off to a great start as all the locations had heavy foot traffic but Mother Nature stepped in and brought the rain. Those that stuck it out thru the rain did see an afternoon resurgence as we all know Garage Sale aficionados are not easily deterred from a good deal.

We completed the third and final phase of the FPNA identification poles. We now have our exquisite poles, banners and flower baskets at all the entrances and major intersections to our neighborhood association that proudly proclaim our organizations commitment to our community. It was a multi-year project that could not have been accomplished without the hard work of our many volunteers and other partner non-profit organizations that helped us to succeed.

Upper Glen Avenue experienced a water main break that caused some to be without service for a bit. The city was quick to respond and through our Brick Street initiative that we have partnered with the C.B. Public Works department on for the past several years our historic brick streets were retained. Some would say they were even made better as the large 20 ft. by 40 ft. patch that had to be torn up to get to the water main was re-layered with a new bed and sand to bring it up to a better grade.

The FPNA participated in the Grand Re-Opening of Kirn Park. Everyone got to experience all the hard work that the C.B. Parks and Recreation department put into the renovation

of another of our historic neighborhood destinations. Mayor Matt Walsh spoke along with Larry Foster, head of the Parks department, folks from Iowa West and even Sean Ward, the artist who created and built our new art signs that grace both entrances to the park. It truly is magnificent and will be used for many generations to come.

The FPNA moved outside our boundaries to hold our meetings in several locations including Mad Ox Bakery and Barleys on the hundred block of Broadway. It was an opportunity to interact in new and unique locations and to enjoy good food and great conversation.

The FPNA was recognized as a finalist by the Neighborhoods USA organization for our Identification pole project in their Physical Revitalization/Beautification category. Our monthly newsletter was also a finalist in their 2014 competition. We were presented with both the awards in the first annual "In the Neighborhood Conference" that was held in October on the south campus of the Omaha Metropolitan Community College. We heard many inspirational speakers and presenters during the all-day event and came away with a renewed commitment to make our community a better place for all to live.

We've accomplished a lot but there is always more to be done. What do we have to look forward to this coming year? I'm sure all of you are very excited about last month's announcement from the city to invest in a major renewal project for Fairmount Park. The "Return to Fairmount Park" project will be a nearly \$1 million project over the coming year. We want to recognize that this is being made possible, in part, by a \$100,000 lead donation from the Rotary Club of Council Bluffs as their celebrate their 100th year of service.

Once considered the greatest park in the area and a regional destination, Fairmount Park has a history of being one of the premier parks in the country in the early parts of the last century. It featured a greenhouse, ice-skating, sledding, a petting zoo and an old bell tower. Council Bluffs' trolley streetcars once had a stop at Fairmount Park. You can find further details on the project on pages 3-5 of this newsletter.

We'll be holding our annual meeting in January to elect new board members and officers. The folks that have been serving the last several years are truly a dedicated bunch of motivated individuals but we always need new blood, new ideas, and new ways of getting things done. I urge anyone reading this that has a volunteer spirit, and wants to see their neighborhood and community be a great place to work and live, to come to our January event, lean forward and make the pledge to participate in their neighborhood.

RETURN TO FAIRMOUNT PARK

City of Council Bluffs Press Release

November 20, 2014

On November 20th Mayor Matt Walsh announced a major project, "Return to Fairmount Park," that is being made possible, in part, by a \$100,000 lead donation from the Rotary Club of Council Bluffs. The city will be initiating the nearly \$1 million project over the coming year.

Phase One: Project Elements

Woodland Restoration: Fairmount Park's historic Oak Savanna and the desired woodland landscape would be restored by removing of the dense under story of invasive plant material. This will result in a more attractive and inviting appearance, allow for the proper development of desirable trees and encourage a diverse native landscape.

When established, the landscape will be more accessible to the public. Additionally, the current erosion will be reduced. Another benefit – Driving through the park will be more inviting once the underbrush material has been removed along the roadways.

Trails: Phase One would establish 1,200 feet of wood chipped trails. These trails are designed to engage the public with the restored woodland and provide improved pedestrian access to adjacent neighborhoods.

Water Playground and Plaza: An essential element in making Return to Fairmount Park successful is to return families and children to this unique and historic park. The keystone of Phase One will be the development of a water playground and adjacent plaza. Water playgrounds, sometimes called splash pads, are extremely popular.

This will be the first such facility in Council Bluffs. Water playgrounds attract children and their parents. In fact, a major concern in locating one in this park was a location where a large number of parking stalls were available. The area chosen has adequate existing parking already in place.

The plaza and the public areas around the water playground are designed to offer the public opportunities to not only observe the water playground in use, but to picnic and generally enjoy the park. Park furniture and a shelter will be provided.

The centerpiece of the water playground and the plaza will be a series of monuments. These elements will acknowledge the Rotary of Council Bluffs as the lead donor of the water playground/plaza and provide information regarding the Rotary Club's history. Another monument will discuss the history of the park. Donor names will also be noted on these monuments.

Signage: Phase one will include a signage package unique to Fairmount Park. Signage will identify key entrances to the park, assist with way-finding and educate the community on Fairmount's history, native landscape and ongoing reforestation efforts.

Please see the aerial and ground plans on pages 4 & 5

"What is the meaning of life? To be happy and useful"

The Dali Lama

Return to Fairmount Park

A Place for Families to Gather, Play, and Enjoy Nature



Water Playground

- Handicap Accessible Walkways
- Additional Seating
- Ground Spray Elements
- Vertical Spray Elements
- Lawn for Picnicking



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200 Park Avenue

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decorations should look good both day and night, which narrowed our choices down a bit. There are many homes with fabulous light displays but when viewed in daylight they aren't quite as spectacular. As you know, this award carries with it a generous \$100 prize and the opportunity to have one's name on the traveling plaque, so it is important for the Board to get it right when choosing the winner. We were dazzled by the light displays so bright they could light up Broadway. We were charmed by the blow-up creatures, including a donkey. We liked the eye catching lights of the flashing candy canes. We enjoyed the return of the draped garlands, the choir boys, and the many beautiful wreaths. The light-up deer have graduated to a higher level. The dinner plates added a spot of color to one porch. Yes, many of our neighbors are celebrating the decorating season in a big way. But in the end we narrowed our choices down to three, from which we chose the winner and two honorable mentions. Here they are:

WINNER: Kelly and Ward Prine of Park Ave. This home is completely outlined in lights, accentuating its architectural features. Wreaths are artistically placed throughout. Lovely pots are filled with colorful ornamentation. And the welcoming red carpet tops it off.

HONORABLE MENTION: Steve Mattox and Cindy Christensen of Huntington Ave. This Tudor cottage looks good in season and out, but its lights accentuate its charm right out to the end of its row of bushes. Mr. and Mrs. Santa greet guests and the tumbling snowman brings smiles.

HONORABLE MENTION: The Spitznagles of Grandview Ave. This home brings colorful attention to this hidden street at the farthest point in our neighborhood. No corner of the property has been overlooked and the porch posts are wrapped in mouth watering candy cane colors while adding a certain elegance to the scene.

The plaque and the \$100 prize will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

GOODBYE TO PRINTED NEWSLETTERS

As we've been saying for several months, the end of 2014 is also the end of print copies of our newsletters delivered to each home in the neighborhood. Our newsletter carriers are tired of trudging around, sometimes in snow and ice, and here's a big Thank You for their service over the last seven years. Many of us already receive our newsletters electronically and we're campaigning to get more of you to sign up. If you have an e-mail address and haven't yet notified Kyle, please do so now (kmschall@cox.net). You will not only receive our monthly newsletters, but you will also be on our distribution list to get important other notifications throughout the year.

The Board wants to reach everyone with our newsletters. We are trying to decide how best to do this; the process of change is ongoing and may morph into other methods as time goes on. But here's our first idea, which will be implemented in January. We will place boxes, like the ones realtors use in front

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of homes for sale, near some of our pole locations and fill them with copies of the newsletters. Folks who want print copies can pick them up from any of these boxes. And because the newsletters contain applications for membership (these applications being of great help to our Treasurer), this way of paying dues can continue uninterrupted. Let's give this a try and see how it works. Let us know your thoughts.

WE PAID OUR DUES

Ed and Lori Hassett, who also bought a membership flag

Ed and Lori are the first to pay for 2015. We expect many more renewals and new memberships to be paid at the Annual Meeting. Keep it coming, friends, as this is FPNA's primary way of getting enough money to carry on with neighborhood projects.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Dave Van Houten, with his two sons Jeremy and Josh, recently surprised his father with a trip to Europe to retrace his steps as a soldier in WW II and to receive the French Legion of Honor which had been bestowed upon him. What a wonderful thing for a son to do for his father!!

Sarah Query performed a starring role in the recent Chanticleer Theater's production of "Assassins," a musical containing adult language. We're sure Sarah was excellent as usual but, really, how could someone as sweet as her use adult language. She assures us it is only acting.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

"...the best things are works in progress. If you just add water and stir, you usually end up with something bland." Leslie Klotz



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 332 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
www.fairmountparkna.org

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Terri Dowell	Board Member (2016)
Linda Ring	Board Member (2015)
Michelle Mutchler-Burns	Board Member (2016)

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**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.



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