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ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

NEWSLETTERS, WHERE THE HECK ARE THEY?

Yes, we're still publishing newsletters and we hope everyone in our NA gets a copy. We've been saying for months that the personal door-to-door delivery system is winding down. (The delivery volunteers are heaving a large sigh of relief.) Those of you who have supplied FPNA with your e-mail addresses are reading this issue at this very minute. The rest of you can find printed copies at four locations throughout the neighborhood. Look for boxes filled with these copies at the following locations:

134 Park; 401 Park; 199 Glen; 600 Huntington, all located at near our FPNA banner poles.

HOLIDAY DECORATING AWARD

Kelly and Ward Prine won the 2014 Holiday Decorating Award for their beautifully decorated home at 223 Park Ave. Their home was completely outlined with lights accentuating its architecture, wreaths were hung throughout, and pots filled with colorful ornamentation were placed on the porch near the welcoming red carpet. Kelly and Ward get to keep the engraved traveling plaque for a year, upon which their names have been added to our long list of winners. The Prines have generously donated their \$100 prize back to the FPNA, and we gratefully thank them for this gift.

LOOKOUT POINT CLEAN-UP

The date for the annual clean-up of Lookout Point hasn't yet been firmed up but should occur during April—after the snow has melted and before the weeds get too high. A target date has *tentatively* been set for the weekend of April 25th. It is hard work to clean up the rugged terrain up there, but what a source of satisfaction it is for us to know we've taken responsibility for this treasure, even as others have defiled it. We know a personal story about how some of us prevented a truckload of trash from sailing over the edge of the cliff at the Point--one less old television that would have had to be hauled up that steep ravine. And, yes, the City's finest were also involved!

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The President's Corner

Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Welcome to 2015—A New Year, New People, New Plans, New Everything!

How did all this happen? Let's begin with the new FPNA Board of Directors. You may think that all came about with the election held at the annual meeting in January but, as usual, there's a back story.

As we all know, the by-laws were set up so that there would always be some experienced members on the Board, while at the same time, the terms of some members of the Board would expire. In 2014, the terms of Nate Watson, Linda Ring and Kyle Muschall expired. As has often happened, these good people could just be re-elected, but, wait.....didn't happen this time around. First, Nate had to step away from the Board some months ago to focus on other tasks. The Board made do with six members instead of seven. Then Linda decided not to run for re-election because of family needs. Then Kyle said, well, he'd run again but if someone new wanted to give it a try, he would step aside.

A big surprise happened—three new and qualified people came forward and threw their hats into the ring! Well, what an interesting development that was! And because nobody else was nominated when we held our election, Kelli Deere, Shari Hansen and Greg Meyers (in alphabetical order) were voted in by acclamation at the annual meeting.

So, fast forward to the first Board meeting of the new-year and the first order of business was to elect the officers and appoint others to the necessary positions. Again, according to our by-laws, all the officers have to be members of the Board. The first position up for election is that of President. What to do? It wouldn't have been fair to expect one of the newbies to fill this important position. Kyle isn't on the Board now so we can't rope him in. Michelle, our VP from last year, has waaaay too much on her plate so she said no. Dave said no. Terri said no. All eyes turned to Sharon. She'd been President for two terms once before so she's experienced but old news. Still, she's "retired" and therefore can be

considered to have nothing else to do so she was elected without not too much protest from her. The rest of the officer positions fell into line easily enough but, as Sharon was the previous Secretary and couldn't hold two slots, Kelli enthusiastically volunteered and was elected.

But here's Kyle, too valuable to do without. We re-designed our position of Special Representative and gave it new and more important duties. He will now represent FPNA at many public functions and will advise the Board about many other issues of importance because he's had his finger in all these pies for the last three years when he served as President.

AND NOW WE'RE GOOD TO GO, AND EVERYBODY'S HAPPY

Please see the official minutes of this first Board meeting elsewhere.

**"Contentment is
not the fulfillment
of what you want,
but the
realization of how
much you already
have"**

Author Unknown

QUEEN ANNE ECCENTRICITY

Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

The reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714) was long over by the time the fanciful “painted lady” houses, full of gingerbread and turrets, borrowed her name for this style of architecture. More than 150 years after the good Queen’s death, her name was wrongly attached to an ornamental style of furniture because it was thought that it reflected the popular styles during her lifetime. Thus, a similarly eccentric, ornamental style of architecture that began in the 1870s also erroneously became forever known as Queen Anne. The picturesque, anything-goes style flowed from England to America courtesy of an influential book, and from 1880 to 1900 it was the dominant home style in the U.S.

The Machine Age made possible this clearly Victorian style. Suddenly, details such as spindles, turned porch posts, and gingerbread trim could be factory-made and shipped all over the U.S. via the railroad. The Queen Anne style spawned many variants, as can easily be seen in our own streets: Stick, Eastlake, Shingle, Victorian Gothic, and second Empire. This can make it a daunting task to identify a Queen Anne from other styles, but they do share many attributes, such as asymmetrical facades, large front-facing gables, broad front porches, steeply pitched roofs, and, of course, all that gingerbread that is often present.

The basic tenet of Queen Anne architecture is to mix styles. This conglomeration of influences produced buildings that can often be easily recognizable as pure Queen Anne. While our own Historic District features more than 21 examples of this style, the most easily identified homes are at 109 Park, 126 Park, 164 Park, 405 Park, 136 Glen, 148 Glen, and 420 Glen.

Because this style of architecture fell out of favor in the early 20th century, it can only be found on the two oldest streets in our neighborhood. For all the others, that’s a different story that may be written one day—just not today.

References: Renovation Style magazine, Fall 2007 Park/Glen Nomination Form to the NRHP

LOOKOUT POINT CLEAN UP

2015

**The FPNA will provide
the trash bags to
collect the refuse**

**We need volunteers
to help fill those bags
and to haul up
the larger debris.**

**Please wear appropriate
shoes and gloves.**

**Donuts and Beverages
will be provided**

APRIL 25TH 9:00 AM

FPNA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 2015

The newly elected FPNA Board of Directors met on January 24, 2015, immediately following the adjournment of the FPNA Annual Meeting. First order of business was to elect new officers and name others to appointed positions. Results are:

President: Sharon Babbitt
Vice President: Michelle Mutchler-Burns
Secretary: Kelli Deere
Treasurer: Dave Huggins
Special Representative: Kyle Muschall
Publisher: Kyle Muschall
Editor: Sharon Babbitt

The following topics were discussed:

- Method for distribution of newsletters—agreed to purchase four holders with stakes to be installed at the present locations of the poles near the empty lot at 401 Park, the KOIL building on Huntington, and the corner of High School and Glen. They will contain printed copies of newsletters, and will be updated as needed. If this method is successful, more holders with stakes will be purchased. Treasurer to purchase these. Sixty copies of newsletter will be divided among these locations. Newsletters will no longer be hand delivered to individual homes.
- A lengthy discussion was had about the neighborhood signs, which were installed in the front yards of historic homes in the neighborhood. As many of these signs have not weathered well, it was decided that 2015 will be the year to begin the needed repairs. Dave Huggins will compile a budget so that we can know the costs involved.
- Yard of the Month awards will begin with the month of May and will continue through August. Kelli Deere will coordinate this program.
- The neighborhood wide garage sales will continue to be held bi-annually, with the next one set for 2016.
- Terri Dowell gave a report on the Laundry Love program sponsored by Promise Partners, which will take place on April 16th. No decision was made as to whether or not FPNA will again participate in this charitable activity.
- The regional conference of Neighborhoods USA will be held on October 3rd. FPNA representatives may attend.
- Greg Meyers will represent the FPNA in the City's effort to improve the holiday lights in downtown. Mayor Matt Walsh and City Councilman Nate Watson are spearheading this effort.
- Mark Hansen will be asked to resurrect our Facebook page and include links to the FPNA website. This will include electronic versions of our newsletters.
- Shari Hansen will host the next FPNA membership meeting at her home on April 11th. Notification will appear in appropriate newsletters.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Shamrock Shuffle
March 14th 9:00 a.m.
100 Block of Broadway

Special Olympics of Iowa
Polar Plunge
9:00 a.m. 114 W. Broadway
Registration and Check In

Habitat for Humanity
Neighborhood Clean UP
March 22nd 9:00 a.m. - Noon
128 South Main Street

FPNA April Meeting
April 11th
322 Glen
Time: TBD

FPNA Look Out Point Clean UP
April 25th 9:00 a.m.



PHONE SCAMS

CBPD PAR Officer Matt Brinkman

Just to give everyone a heads-up, it has been reported that several different types of scams are taking place.

One of them says they are the IRS saying they want to file a lawsuit against you and the other one says they are Publishers Clearing House and they are asking for information.

If any organization contacts you by phone and asks you need to provide them information, **DO NOT GIVE IT!** If they are truly a government agency, believe me, they already have your information and they will send you a certified letter.

With Publishers Clearing House the only thing I have received from them is always in the mail. Never give any information over the phone.

Also I have heard that a lawyer will call and tell you your grandchild is in jail and you need to wire money so he/she can get out of jail. This is a scam as well and they just want you to wire money.

If this happens ask for the facility where your grandchild is being held and call them directly. At our facility, if someone is taken to jail they can have several phone calls. If your loved one does need your help, they would contact you personally.

Stay safe and everyone keep up the good work.



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200 Park Avenue

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NEXT MEETING

Shari and Mark Hansen, 322 Glen, have volunteered to host the next FPNA membership meeting on Saturday, April 11th. More details will be forthcoming as the time approaches but mark your calendars now. Sometimes our meetings are held at local “hot spots” but more often neighbors step forward to invite us into their homes. If you want to be one of them, please let Sharon or any other Board member know in plenty of time to publish the news. Your home doesn’t have to be *large* but it should be able to accommodate a dozen or so people and still leave breathing room.

SIGN REPAIRS

If you read the minutes of our first Board of Directors meeting, you will note some discussion about the signs in the front yards of some of our most historic homes. These signs were beautifully designed and painted nearly five years ago but weather and time have taken their toll on many of them. They are the property of the FPNA and maintenance is our responsibility. We are in the early planning stages for this project now. We may be able to obtain a grant to pay for some of these repairs, which will be made by our resident experts, but we don’t know this for sure. Meanwhile, we’re proceeding on the assumption that we’ll have to pay for this project out of our treasury. We are asking you (okay, begging again) to pay your membership dues now, if you haven’t already done so. They remain \$20 per year—a bargain.

WE PAID OUR DUES

The following folks paid their dues either before or during the annual meeting in January. Couples are shown as one since one payment of \$20/couple is considered together:

Karl Allen/Terri Dowell

Mark and Shari Hansen

Sharon Babbitt

Ed and Lori Hassett

Russell Bothwell/Kelli Deere

Dave and Marie Huggins

John Huggins

Maxine Gotto

Kyle and Cindy Muschall

Brian Burns/Michelle Mutchler-Burns

Others may have sent in their dues after the annual meeting and their names will be published in the next newsletter. Now, you know that we want the next list to be a long one and we want your names to be on it. Remember that your payment of \$20 is for one year only, so just because you may have paid once in 2007 does not mean that you’re still a dues paying member of the FPNA. We still like you but also need your financial support. Just saying.

A FAREWELL

On December 18th, long-time resident Joyce Glasmann, 462 Huntington, passed away. She was 97 years old. Joyce and her sister would sit on their front porch every summer afternoon drinking wine and saying hello to their friends and neighbors (and dogs) as they would pass by. Her smiling face will be missed.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH HABITAT

By Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

At our January meeting we had a special guest that spoke to our organization. Meka Tate who is the new Neighborhood Network Program Director for Habitat for Humanity shared a meal with us and spoke about the upcoming events that Habitat is planning.

Got Trash? Join Habitat for Humanity for a workshop focused on neighborhood clean up. Speakers will address questions about recycling, restore donations and more. Lunch will be provided along with dumpsters in select locations following the workshop. The workshop will be March 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at 1228 South Main street. Lunch will be provided from 11:00 a.m. to Noon. Dumpsters will be available from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Scan. Habitat for Humanity will be conducting a scan of our neighborhood and many more to encompass the whole city. More information will be provided once scan trainings are scheduled. Neighbors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Habitat is still putting the finishing touches on their new offices and Restore Store on south main and will be moving in soon.

For inquiries, information, questions or just to say welcome you can contact:

Meka Tate
meka@habitatcb.org
712.328.9476

**"Kindness is
the greatest
wisdom"**
Author Unknown

THANK YOU

By Kyle Muschall

332 Glen Avenue

We're moving forward into the 21st century with a new phase of distributing our FPNA news letter to our neighborhood via email and our website while also providing hard copies that will be placed in four locations throughout our neighborhood next to our FPNA banner poles. The FPNA board and I want to take a moment to personally thank all the volunteers who comprised our newsletter distribution committee for so many years.

Carla and Denny Evans
Sharon Babbitt
Diane Emsick
Amy Dixon
Carol Mattox
Cindy Ostronic
Linda Ring
Tracy Dressen

Without these individuals who gave of their time our organization's growth and accomplishments wouldn't have gotten out to the wider public. Through the snow, rain and blistering heat they carved out a little time each month to help spread the word to keep everyone informed about the goings on in our neighborhood and in our city. It is folks like these who make our organization great; those willing to step forward in the true spirit of volunteerism. We truly thank you for your contribution to the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association.



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

Sharon Babbitt	President/Editor
Michelle Mutchler-Burns	Vice President
Kelli Deere	Secretary
Dave Huggins	Treasurer
Kyle Muschall	Special Rep/Publisher

Sharon Babbitt	Board Member (2016)
Kelli Deere	Board Member (2017)
Dave Huggins	Board Member (2016)
Terri Dowell	Board Member (2016)
Greg Meyer	Board Member (2017)
Shari Hansen	Board Member (2017)
Michelle Mutchler-Burns	Board Member (2016)

**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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**Habitat
for Humanity®
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