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## ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

### NEXT MEETING

Our second meeting of the year is coming up on Saturday afternoon, April 11<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. at the home of Mark and Shari Hansen, 322 Glen. You can't miss their place—it is the big green four-square on the west side of the street—yes, yes, surrounded by a lot of other big four-squares on that block, but we know you'll find it. Hopefully, you'll be able to tell because of the long line of people waiting to get inside to attend the meeting, correct?

Meetings give us a chance to connect with our friends and neighbors, some of whom we not have seen all winter because they've been holed up inside the warmth of their homes. It is also good manners to show our appreciation to our hosts, and to get an insider's view of yet another of our old homes on one of our historic streets. Shari and Mark will be providing a scrumptious meal

Live Well Council Bluffs is sponsoring its second annual shoe drive, where people donate pairs of shoes in good condition so that others may benefit. FPNA is collecting donated shoes and will take them to a collection point at Broadway Methodist Church. Please bring your donations to this meeting, and Kyle and Marie will take it from there.

Discussion will be had about more ways to improve our great neighborhood, so bring along your ideas as well. The next meeting will be our annual summer picnic, so it will be several weeks before you get another chance like this one. See you there.

### WE PAID OUR DUES

The following folks paid their dues since the publication of our list in the last newsletter. Thanks to all for supporting the FPNA in this way.

Harold Beck  
Jeff and Georgia Fuller  
Mary Hawkins  
Diane and Brett Emsick

Al Hudek  
Betty McKee  
Mary Lou and Joe McGinn  
Matthew Schuling

Remember, dues are only \$20/year for singles or couples, paid yearly.

Continued On Pg.6

# The President's Corner

Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

*CLEAN, CLEAN, CLEAN.* Whatever way you say it—Clean Up, Clean Sweep--, the bottom line is that FPNA's version of *SPRING CLEANING* is about to happen. Get your work gloves, old shoes and jeans at the ready.

March 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday: Kyle will attend the Habitat for Humanity seminar on neighborhood clean-ups and what to do. A dumpster will be available for all to use. By the time you read this, it will be over but Kyle will have a lot of information for us. We were all invited to attend. Did you go?

April 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday: Annual clean-up at Lookout Point beginning with donuts at 9:00 and going until done. The Recycle Center will pick up the trash pile when we've scoured the area clean. This year we will also be searching for the missing concrete pad which held one of the KOIL radio station towers back in the day. The Pottawattamie County Historical Society is interested in finding this missing piece of history and we as a NA hope to locate it (if it's still there) and complete a bit of early Council Bluffs history.

May 12<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday: Clean Sweep. This city-wide event aims to get that trash off the streets and into garbage bags for later pick-up by the City. We will meet at the Glendale Pumping Station at about 6:00 or a little earlier, divide into teams and trudge through the streets of our neighborhood looking for even the tiniest bit of trash. Other neighborhoods will be doing the same. Afterwards, we are welcome to get some free hotdogs at Bayliss Park, served to us by the Mayor and members of the City Council. A good end to a good event.

*Question: When is a discarded orange peel litter and when is it not?  
Answer: If you throw it away in the woods it can be eaten by some critter  
and is NOT litter. If you throw it out of your car  
window into the street after your afternoon snack it IS litter  
(Yes, we saw you, young lady!)*

## CRIME INFORMATION

**T**o view crime information that reflects written reports by the officers of your police department in a given time frame (just click on the "Crime Information" links to open up the reports as PDF documents). There are five sections on the PDFs that are broken up to show case number, date and time report was written, general location of the incident, the district the incident occurred, and a description of the incident.

The Council Bluffs Police Department hopes the citizens of Council Bluffs find this information useful in keeping their neighborhoods safe. Remember if you see something say something.

If you see a crime in progress please call 911, if the crime has already happened (shed broken into) you can call the non-emergency number 712-328-5737. This phone is answered by the 911 operators; it just doesn't tie up a 911 line.

Visit the Council Bluffs Police Department website

[www.cbpolice.org/avenues2](http://www.cbpolice.org/avenues2)

# **BLACK SQUIRREL ARTS ACADEMY**

## **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

for the Bluffs Arts Council Black Squirrel Summer Arts Camps.

3-, 4- and 5-day camp offerings for kids ages 7-12.

Students will have fun with clay art, textiles, culinary art, two- and three-dimensional artwork, theater, song, dance and much more!

Register by May 1st to get a great discount! To register go to:

<http://www.bluffsarts.org/black-squirrel-art-camps.html>

Or call the office at:

**712-328-4992.**

# **DATES TO REMEMBER**

FPNA April Meeting

April 11th

322 Glen Avenue

4:00 p.m.

Promise Partners

Laundry Love

April 15th 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Wash Daze 35th & Broadway

FPNA Look Out Point Clean UP

April 25th 9:00 a.m.

Bluffs Arts Council

Black Squirrel Summer Arts Academy

June 16th thru July 24th

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Community Hall 205 South Main

# **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**

# CLIMATE CHANGE, REPUBLICANS & THE LITTLE ICE AGE

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Recently, I was talking with a friend of mine about the weather, and particularly about all the snow in New England. He told me that it was the fault of the Republicans, which was a surprise to me. Yes, those greedy Republicans were the cause of climate change and all the weird weather that goes along with it because they don't want to make costly changes to their factories—they wouldn't make as much money if these changes were made.

Well, I began to wonder what the climate was like throughout history, so, without addressing man made problems or politics, I looked it up, nothing like a little research to put things into perspective.

Glossing over meteors and the demise of dinosaurs, my eye was drawn to a huge weather event spanning hundreds of years, which scientists have called "The Little Ice Age." The Little Ice Age (LIA) describes a period of cooling which chilled the entire planet from the early 14<sup>th</sup> to the late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but Europe and the eastern portion of North America bore the brunt of this harsh weather. Many catastrophic events in history were blamed on the LIA, including droughts, famines, wars and epidemics. Let's look at some of them.

## ***GREAT FAMINE***

Beginning in the spring of 1315, cold weather and torrential rains decimated crops and livestock across Europe. Class warfare and political strife destabilized formerly prosperous countries as millions of people starved, setting the stage for the crises of the Late Middle Ages.

## ***BLACK DEATH***

In the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century, the bubonic plague, which was transmitted by rats and fleas, killed an estimated 75 million people across Europe, North Africa and Central Asia, including 30 to 60 percent of Europe's population. Some experts have tied the outbreak to the food shortages of the LIA, which weakened human immune systems while allowing rats to flourish.

## ***WITCH HUNTS***

In 1484, Pope Innocent VIII recognized the existence of witches and blamed them for the cold temperatures and

resulting misfortunes plaguing Europe. His declaration ushered in an era of hysteria, accusations and executions on both sides of the Atlantic, including the famous Salem Witch Trials in Massachusetts in the 1690's. Historians have shown that the witch trials coincided with some of the LIA's most bitter phases during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## ***FRENCH REVOLUTION***

As the 18<sup>th</sup> century drew to a close, two decades of poor cereal harvests, drought, cattle diseases and skyrocketing bread prices kindled unrest among the peasants and urban poor in France. The regime imposed heavy taxes on the populace but didn't offer any relief. Riots, looting and strikes resulted, and tensions erupted into the French Revolution. Some historians have connected this to the effects of the LIA.

## ***GEORGE WASHINGTON CROSSES THE DELAWARE***

Yes, Washington crossed the Delaware and surprised the English troops encamped there, but he didn't exactly *row across* because the river was nearly frozen as a result of the cold temperatures of the LIA. The oars were used instead to push large chunks of ice out of the way so the boats could get to the other side. Interestingly enough, the English were also going to cross the Delaware but had planned to wait until the river had frozen solid. So, it might be said that without the LIA, America might not have been born.

## ***THE YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER***

The year 1816 was an agricultural disaster because of severe climate abnormalities. This resulted in major food shortages and starvation across the Northern Hemisphere. There was severe frost every month and snow fell several times during that June. Crops froze to the roots. The western portions of the United States were not affected by this climactic event but there was no mass transit system which could have brought their grain East to help the struggling populace. The most likely cause of the *year without a summer* was the volcanic eruption of Mount Tambora in the Dutch East Indies, the largest eruption in at least 1300 years.

**Continued On Pg.7**

# SPRING SHOWERS MOLD MILDEW

**M**oisture leaks and humidity problems can lead to the growth of mold and mildew, which can cause a variety of health problems including allergies, asthma, and other respiratory conditions. Moisture problems can also bring about structural damage in your home, such as rot in building materials and the premature failure of paints and finishes; problems that can lead to costly repairs. You can control mold and mildew problems; the key is to identify the source and take steps to eliminate it as quickly as possible. Spots on walls or ceilings, for example, are often caused by water leaks, while peeling paint or mold may be the result of high humidity levels. The strategies that follow will help you combat moisture problems in your home.

**Controlling water leaks.** Fix water leaks immediately to minimize the potential for mold growth. If your attic is damp, or you find water stains on your ceiling, you may have a leaky roof. Hire a roofing contractor to fix the problem. If the leak is from your toilet, bathtub, or shower, you may need to call a plumber. If you feel comfortable fixing the leak yourself, you may want to consult a repair manual. Once the repair is complete, be sure to dry the area completely.

If moisture leaks have led to substantial mold growth or structural problems, it may be necessary to consult a mold remediation specialist or a contractor that specializes in repairing moisture-related damage.

**Reducing indoor humidity.** Humidity levels of 30 to 50 percent are ideal indoors, but normal daily activities such as showering, cooking and drying clothes, can raise humidity levels, providing a source of mold and mildew. The tips that follow will help to keep the humidity levels in your home within the normal range:

-Caulk and seal air leaks around windows and doors, and in the attic.

-Have your air conditioning system checked and make sure it's sized to fit your needs; an oversized unit may fail to maintain comfortable humidity levels.

-If you have a crawlspace in your basement, place a vapor barrier over dirt floors to prevent soil moisture from entering your home.

-Use ventilation fans in your kitchen and bathrooms to control moisture. Make sure fans are vented directly outside.

-Make sure the ventilation hose on your dryer is securely fastened, free of obstacles, and vented directly to the outside.

**Heading off basement issues.** When it comes to moisture and humidity, basements can be problem areas. Use a dehumidifier during hot, humid weather to control humidity. If you encounter water stains or condensation on walls, fill in cracks and use a water sealant. Also, check your gutters for leaks and make sure your foundation is properly graded. Contact a basement contractor if you have significant problems with moisture.

# SHOE RECYCLE 2015

**L**ive Well Council Bluffs works with a company called Funds2Orgs who pays .40 a pound for the shoes, so for us it is a fundraiser. In 2014 we collected 5300 pairs of shoes weighing 6300 pounds and raised \$2500.

How does it work? Gently worn, used shoes collected through shoe drives are consolidated Funds2Orgs who then ship them to developing nations for impoverished people to start, maintain and grow a micro-enterprise. By donating used shoes through this opportunity, individuals are able to provide basic necessities for families in these countries. Shoes are shipped to on-the-ground business operators where they clean, repair or melt down outsoles to make a new pair of shoes.

Shoe Drive impacts the Environment. In the US alone, approximately 600 million pairs of shoes are thrown away each year. The materials used to manufacture shoes are created from chemical compounds, the kind that create health hazards if left to disintegrate openly or in landfills.

In a United Kingdom case study completed by the Department of Trade and Industry, found that 10% of collected second-hand shoes were not suitable for reuse and ended up in landfills. However, over 85% of post consumer shoe waste was disposed of in landfills, not recycled. This is an unacceptable environmental impact, especially since even non-recyclable footwear can be a vital economic lifeline to individuals and families in financially devastated countries.

Gently worn, used and new shoes are used in developing nations for impoverished people to start, maintain, and grow their micro-enterprise. Collected shoes are consolidated and shipped to these micro-entrepreneurs where they are cleaned and repaired. Because of this opportunity, individuals are able to feed, clothe and house their families.

The shoes you no longer want to wear are creating sustainable economic means in countries where there is little hope of economic stability. Micro-entrepreneurs repurpose every donation into a new pair of shoes or usable goods. Your gently worn shoes still have life-changing impact in them.

So, this is a win, win, win, win:

1st Win: get to clean out your closet

2nd Win: helps Live Well Council Bluffs raise funds

3rd Win: helps people in developing countries

4th Win: Keeps perfectly good shoes out of landfills.

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200 Park Avenue

Continued From Pg.1

## WORN OUT BANNERS

Got one? We have new replacements that cost only \$12, available at the meeting. If you plan to purchase a replacement, please bring your old banner with you so it can be recycled into another life—it's a secret known only to a few but is intended to be a fundraiser for FPNA when it's completed. Thanks.

## FLOWER BASKET TIME

Soon it will be time to hang flower baskets on our identification poles. Michelle is in charge of this project and is in the process of starting the baby sweet potato vines and cascading petunias for this season. The Board has approved the expenditure of about \$150 to pay for the flowers and supplies, and Vicki Myers has generously donated an additional \$75. Thank you, Vicki, for your thoughtfulness and thanks, too, to Michelle for toiling away on this project year upon year. What would we do without our caring volunteers?!

## NEWSLETTER BOXES

Hey, have you noticed those boxes stuck into the ground near three of our poles? That's where people can find printed copies of our monthly newsletters, if you don't already get your news on-line. These boxes were installed some weeks ago when the ground was frozen rock hard. It was a dilemma until Dave whipped out his drill and made a couple of holes in the ground for the stakes! It was an ingenious idea. We still have one more box to install somewhere on Huntington but, meanwhile, we are pleased to note that the newsletters inside each box have disappeared one at a time.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Recent articles in the Nonpareil recognized the achievements of two of our neighbors. John Drake appeared in a front-page article for his ongoing mentoring of high school students, and Terri Dowell was featured in a Face of the Day column for her many volunteer activities. Further, Mark Hansen was nominated to sit on the Police Advisory Board after having attended a police academy class; the nominating process will take a few months but our fingers are crossed that his nomination will come through.

## CONDOLENCES

Harold Beck's brother Bernard recently passed away, This is the second loss in a year for Harold. As our friend and neighbor he has our neighborhood-wide support



# THE LITTLE ICE AGE

Continued From Pg.4

## MIDWESTERN POPULATION EXPLOSION

The year without a summer during the LIA convinced many New England residents to relocate. Escalating grain prices and June snowfalls prompted many to move West, which in those days was Pennsylvania, and provided a boost to the westward expansion movement.

### WHY?

Scientists continue to debate the cause and timeline of the cold spell we now call the Little Ice Age. Cyclic lows in solar radiation, ocean circulation, inherent variability in global climate, decreases and increases in human population are all suggested causes of this long weather event. But in the latest study by an international team of scientists in 2012, volcanic eruptions just before the year 1300 are thought to have triggered the expansion of Arctic sea ice, setting off a chain reaction that lowered temperatures worldwide. Without definitive knowledge of the causes of catastrophic events, Man must find someone or something to blame for what he doesn't understand. During the LIA it was witches and now, centuries later, it might be the Republicans.

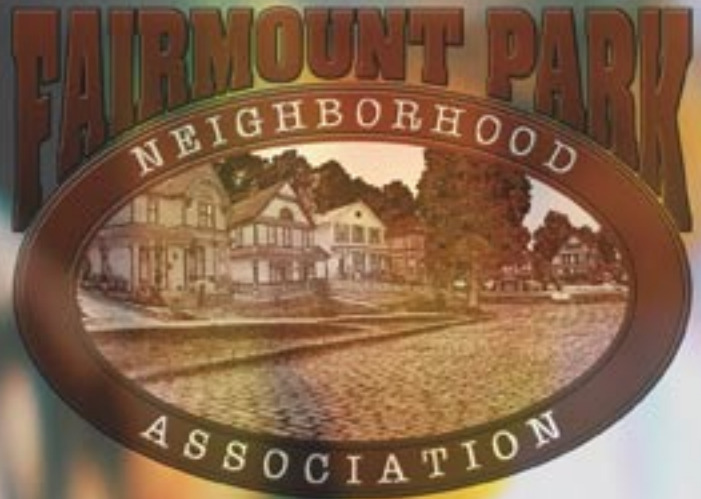
### References:

Lectures on the Middle Ages by Prof. Philip Daileader  
The Great Courses  
Little Ice Age, Big Consequences by Jennie Cohen  
Wikipedia

**"Wrinkles  
should merely  
indicate where  
smiles have  
been"  
Mark Twain**

# TIME TO WARM UP

FOR THE



# APRIL MEETING

You'll need your Appetite  
Shari and Mark are providing a  
scrumptious meal

Don't forget to bring your old pairs  
of shoes to donate to the Live Well  
2015 Shoe Drive

See you there

Saturday

April 11th 4:00 pm

322 Glen Avenue

**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)

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 Myers	Board Member (2017)
Shari Hansen	Board Member (2017)
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  
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