



Visit us Online at www.fairmountparkna.org

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

NEXT MEETING

Our next FPNA meeting is one you won't want to miss. It will be held on Friday evening, June 26th, at 7:00 p.m., hosted by John Huggins (206 Park Ave.) and will feature a program by Matt Brinkman, a representative of the Council Bluffs Police Department. Matt may bring along the PAR officer as well. He will discuss both the neighborhood watch program and the civil and criminal aspects of his job which pertain to neighborhoods. A question-and-answer period will follow. Because the meeting starts at 7:00, after supper and just in time for an evening snack, and because John doesn't cook much, he asks that we bring along a little finger food. Beverages will be furnished.

Please, folks, let's have a big turnout for this important meeting. If Matt can fit us into his schedule, then surely we can do the same for him.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR COUNCIL BLUFFS

Greg Meyers is acting as our liason with the City Council and the Mayor's office regarding the program to obtain new and better Christmas lighting for the business districts of the City. Greg has been corresponding with both Mayor Walsh and Nate Watson, chairman of the committee on the subject.

As it stands now, the Mayor has sent out letters to some of the large business interests asking for initial, large donations to help kick off the effort. The amount of these donations will determine how much lighting can be obtained this first year. The short term goal is to get at least enough money to light Bayliss Park and the central downtown area. The long term goal will be to light up the entire business district and Broadway in its entirety. As soon as these initial donations have been received, the fund raising will be opened to a grass roots effort to raise the rest. Greg will keep us updated on the progress of this important project.

Continued On Pg.6

The President's Corner

Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

FPNNA and PCB, and what they have in common. What, you ask, is PCB? It is the acronym for Preserve Council Bluffs. What, you ask, is FPNA? If you don't know that you may be from another planet, in which case we welcome you aboard.

Anyway, FPNA has partnered with PCB in fund raising and other projects for many years, starting in 2004 with our first place games event when residents met at Kelly and Ward Prine's home to discuss our priorities before the FPNA was born. The year 2005 saw our first Christmas Homes Tour, when eight homeowners opened their homes to tourists from around the metro, the proceeds of which went to PCB. Several homeowners allowed photographs of their homes to be taken to fund the PCB's 2007 calendar. As the years rolled on, other Christmas Homes Tours took place, bringing us up to 2014. And let's not forget Fine Dining in Historic Homes, another PCB fundraiser, featuring dinners in some of our finest historic homes.

These tours, or fundraisers as we call them, involve much work and expense on the part of homeowners. Home repairs and decorating must take place so that our homes will be shipshape and beautiful, sometimes spending months and a lot of "blood and treasure" in the process. Who wants to think about holiday decorating in July? Our volunteers may not want to but they must. Are you a volunteer who will be putting those dinners together? Better make sure the china and table settings are memorable. It means a tremendous commitment on the part of these volunteers to pull it off successfully, and they do.

Recently, I asked homeowners, Dave and Marie Huggins, what it was like to host a 2014 Fine Dining event in their home. First came an inventory of everything they needed to make their table look glorious. Next, came the in-depth house cleaning, even on the second floor (just in case). They coordinated with caterer Marguerite Goodenow to make sure their wine choices were compatible with the planned five-course dinner.

Eight dinner guests were served by Marguerite and two helpers, plus the homeowners themselves. PCB paid the homeowners \$25 per person, and this amount was paid to the caterer; the cost of the wines and any additional expenses were absorbed by the homeowners themselves. The guests lingered over the good food and conversation for several hours. Dave and Marie said they were happy to have participated in the event and would be glad to do it every year from now on..... No, that's not quite right. But they were happy to have participated.

Other homeowners who have volunteered for these events (some multiple times) over the past decade are, in alphabetical order: Sharon Babbitt; Kent and Janelle Coker; Denny and Carla Evans; Melissa Head; Dave and Marie Huggins; John Huggins; Ward and Kelly Prine; Nate Watson, and the man who moved away whose name I can't recall.

FPNA and PCB, a successful partnership with the common goal of preserving the historic properties of Council Bluffs to be enjoyed far into the future.

JOIN US

FOR OUR NEXT

FPNA Meeting

Beverages will be provided
and we welcome everyone to bring
finger foods and snacks
CBPD Officer Matt Brinkman will be
our guest speaker to talk about
Neighborhood Watch and
Crime Prevention

Friday June 26th

7:00 PM

206 Park Avenue

5 SIGNS THAT YOU NEED A NEW COOLING SYSTEM

By Mid-American Energy

Your air conditioning system helps to keep you comfortable on those hot, humid days, but high summer cooling costs can really make you sweat. Upgrading to a new, energy-efficient unit can help you save energy and money, but how do you know if the time is right? For most air conditioners, there are certain telltale signs of trouble. Consider making a change if:

-Your cooling system is noisy. You could have an undersized duct system or a problem with the indoor coil of your air conditioner.

-You are frequently calling the repairman. Wear and tear on aging equipment may continue to cost you more in repair bills.

-The air conditioner runs non-stop. Your system may be leaking refrigerant.

-Your home feels humid. Poor equipment operation or leaky ductwork can increase humidity levels inside your home.

-Your air conditioner or heat pump is more than 10 years old. Replace it with an Energy Star certified model. These high-efficiency units can save you up to 20 percent on cooling costs.

Selecting a contractor

Proper installation is critical to system performance. How do you find the right contractor? Check with family or friends. Look at sites, such as Angie's List that post ratings and reviews. Find a professional contractor from the Air Conditioning Contractors of America for a list of home comfort professionals in your area.

Before you commit to hiring a contractor, ask for a list of references and contact them. Check with your state consumer protection agency or local the Better Business Bureau for information about any past complaints or problems.

Looking to save more?

Once your new cooling system is in place, take these simple steps to improve system performance and home comfort:

Change the air filter on your air conditioner once a month or according to manufacturer's guidelines. A dirty filter restricts airflow and wastes energy.

Check for air leaks in attic joists, exterior plumbing and electrical accesses, as well as doors and windows. Seal with expandable foam, insulation strips, caulking or weatherstripping.

Set your thermostat at 78°F while you are at home and 85°F while you are away. Install a programmable thermostat to add convenience and increase savings.

Close window treatments on south- and west-facing windows during the day to block solar heat gain.

Switch on ceiling fans to make rooms feel cooler, reducing the need for air conditioning. Turn off fans when you leave a room to avoid wasting energy.

By combining your cooling system upgrade with smart conservation strategies, you can save money and stay comfortable all summer long.

Visit www.midamericanenergy.com/ee to learn how MidAmerican Energy Company can help you save even more money on your energy bills. MidAmerican Energy offers various EnergyAdvantage® energy efficiency programs designed to encourage the use of high-efficiency equipment in residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

**"Determine to
live with flair
and laughter "
Maya Angelou**

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST

Don't be a party to teenage drinking

THE PROBLEM

Alcohol is the drug of choice for youth. It is involved in the deaths of more teenagers than all other illicit drugs combined, by a four-to-one ratio. While many believe that underage drinking is a “rite of passage” from which resilient teenage bodies easily recover, the opposite is true. The brain changes dramatically during adolescence, and this growth can be seriously inhibited by alcohol.

A SOCIAL HOST

Is a person who is the owner, is leasing, or has control over property that is not a licensed premise, who knowingly permits a person to consume or possess any alcohol on the property if they know or have reasonable cause to believe the person to be under the age of eighteen. **SOCIAL HOST LAWS ARE IN EFFECT IN THE STATE OF IOWA.**

Under Senate File 2310, adults who allow minors under age 18 to drink alcohol on property they own or lease would be guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable with a fine of at least \$200. Subsequent violations would be subject to \$500 fines. The law can extend to include adults who don't take sufficient measures to prevent underage drinking from occurring in their home or on their property—even if they are not home when the drinking occurs.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SAY: “WE AS A COMMUNITY WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE ADULTS AND/OR PARENTS PROVIDING A PLACE FOR UNDERAGE DRINKING.” Parents and adults take note—prom season is here.

(Information for this article furnished by Terri Dowell)



C. B. LIBRARY EVENTS

Paint a Spring Totem

Saturday May 30th

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Plenty of fun paint and stencils will be available to may yours unique

Space is limited. Register at the Library or online at www.councilbluffslibrary.org

The KC Monarchs in Our Hometown

Monday June 8th

6:30 p.m. Meeting room B

Join award-winning baseball historian Phil S. Dixon for a tribute to Kansas City's 1924 World Champion Monarchs.

Dixon is the author of numerous books on the Negro Baseball League

For more information call or contact

Council Bluffs Library

400 Willow Avenue

712.323.7553

www.councilbluffslibrary.org

EXPERIENCE LOESSFEST

Loessfest is an annual celebration of the all of the great things happening in Council Bluffs, as well as our unique landscape.

Established in 2013, Loessfest kicks off the summer season beginning Memorial Day weekend and offers a wide array of free events with something for everyone to enjoy. In our first two years, Loessfest has drawn more than 66,000 people from all over the region to our riverfront.

The hub of Loessfest activities, Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park is an 85-acre preserve and recreational area located at the foot of the Iowa side of the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, stretching both north and south along the Missouri River. For more information on Events and Activities visit

www.loessfest.com

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200 Park Avenue

Continued From Pg.1

CLEAN-UP WOES

Both dates we'd set for clean-up at Lookout Point were rained out. The trash was there but we couldn't get to it, except for the piles near two of the trash cans—not *in* them but *near* them—which got cleaned up thanks to the help of Tatum Mark, our nine-year-old FPNA member. On Tuesday, the day of Clean Sweep in Council Bluffs, we set aside some time to walk the upper flat parts of Lookout Point, but didn't find much. A good thing. We saw trash in the ravines, but also saw weeds and poison ivy, and sensed the presence of ticks calling our names, so, discretion being the better part of valor, we avoided that territory. We also looked for the pads for the KOIL towers but had to settle for the one we'd already found on the property at 523 Huntington. We reported same to the Pott. Co. Historical Society. Maybe one day, when the coast is clear, we'll try again to find those pads; otherwise, we will have to accept defeat.

WE PAID OUR DUES

The following folks have paid their dues in the last few weeks. We thank them. Remember, dues are payable each year and remain \$20 per person/family. Thanks to all.

Ellis Caughlan

Nate Watson

Savory Spanish Potato Salad

by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

1 pound small red potatoes	2 tablespoons pimento-stuffed green olives, sliced
3 tablespoons olive oil	1 tablespoon minced shallot
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar	1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
2 garlic cloves, crushed	salt and ground black pepper to taste
1 small red bell pepper, chopped	1 lemon, cut into wedges (optional)

- Place potatoes into a pot and cover with salted water; bring to a boil.
- Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until tender, about 10 minutes.
- Drain and cool until easily handled. Slice potatoes about 1/2-inch thick and place in a bowl.
- Whisk olive oil and vinegar together in a bowl; stir in garlic.
- Pour dressing over potatoes and lightly toss to coat.
- Mix red bell pepper, green olives, shallot, parsley, salt, and pepper into potatoes.
- Serve salad with lemon wedges to squeeze over each serving

DOGS VS. PEDESTRIANS

WHO WINS?

The answer to that question is that nobody wins. Our neighborhood is “dog-friendly.” Most dogs are good citizens, with only a very few bad apples in the barrel. They are inside houses, behind fences, leashed or otherwise under control when they come into contact with the human race. The fact is that we love them and they love us.

If it should occasionally happen that a dog is not the happy little sweetheart we’ve come to expect, we as responsible people should take action. If a dog should actually *attack* an innocent adult, please call Animal Control. Believe it or not, most people are reluctant to do this—don’t want to offend the dog owner, maybe it won’t happen again, maybe I smelled bad and provoked the attack—the list goes on. But here’s the thing, **the next time it could be a child.**

So, when you are walking around the neighborhood admiring the scenery and visiting with the neighbors, don’t be afraid of the dogs because ninety-nine percent of them are friendly. If you are actually *attacked* by that one percent, please call Animal Control and put the matter into their professional hands.



DATES TO REMEMBER

LoessFest
May 23rd thru 30th
Rivers Edge Park

Paint a Spring Totem
Saturday May 30th
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Council Bluffs Public Library

The KC Monarchs in Our Hometown
Monday June 8th
6:30 p.m. Meeting room B
Council Bluffs Public Library

Bluffs Arts Council
Black Squirrel Summer Arts Academy
June 16th thru July 24th
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Community Hall 205 South Main

FPNA April Meeting
June 26th
206 Park Avenue
7:00 p.m.

**“A Happy
thought is like
a seed that
sows
positivity”
Miriam Muhammad**

THE Fairmount Press
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 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 Myers	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