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## ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

### MEETING NEWS AND SCHEDULING

Oh, yes, we are going to have a meeting this month and it will be a very unusual one. We hope you like our idea. Two homes on Park Ave. are undergoing renovation and will soon be ready for viewing. We are being given a preview on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, before they are listed for sale. How's that for a wow of a meeting!

So, here's the plan. We will all gather at 166 Park Ave. at about noon, where Connie, the homeowner, wants to treat us to snacks as well as a tour of her two-year-long renovation. You read this correctly! This home was so bad that it probably could have been condemned; nobody saw the value of it except for Connie, who was dazzled by the woodwork and overlooked all the rest. It was just about a complete gut job. She says her husband threatened to divorce her if she bought it. She did and he didn't.

The second house, 164 Park Ave., has also undergone a wonderful renovation. It might be more correct to call it nearly a restoration because this home still retains much of its original Victorian character. John, the owner, says his contractor kept finding more ways to spend money, but it is money well spent. We will be able to see the newly exposed brick in the kitchen, the refinished floors, the secret wine cellar in the basement, and much more. John volunteered to bring in a keg by way of celebration but we nixed that idea. Sorry, you beer drinkers out there, but that just isn't our way.

Please make a point of coming to this very special meeting and supporting these two homeowners, who have done much to enhance our neighborhood. It is a milestone each time one of our old homes is brought back and we appreciate it.

### ANNUAL PICNIC AT LOOKOUT POINT+CHRISTMAS PLANS

We had to adjust the date of our July meeting to make sure we could tour the homes on Park Ave. before they were sold, so we moved the date of our annual picnic at Lookout Point to Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Details will follow later, just make sure to note the date on your calendars so you don't miss out on the fun.

Another date to squeeze into your schedules is our annual Christmas party, which is set for Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at Sharon's house at 200 Park Ave. We heard from a reliable source that Sharon will begin her holiday decorating in September.....

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# The President's Corner

**Sharon Babbitt**

**200 Park Avenue**

**W**hat about that pollination garden project? It was such a good idea. Did we forget about it? Answer: NO!!! But the Spring planting opportunity is long gone and we've turned our eyes to Fall.

The main hold-up is the tilling. It is too big a job for a home garden tiller, and our volunteer professional landscaper couldn't get it done. Then, Ben and Talli Washburn, new neighbors who moved into a historic home on Glen Ave., mentioned they had a relative who lived on a farm and therefore owned farm equipment.... Sounds promising but FPNA can't always rely on free labor. After all, we're grown ups now. So we are looking into actually *paying* to have the job done (I almost choked on the word) and Board member Greg is researching it. We are determined to be able to plant our first seeds this Fall, so all of you who volunteered to work in this garden are definitely *not off the hook*.

We actually received a donation from Omaha Gives! for \$109.24, and were grateful to get it. How it works is that people make donations and Omaha Gives! matches it, so this means that some of us donated to FPNA. These donors are unknown to us at the moment so we can't give them the recognition they deserve but please know that we appreciate it whoever you are. This donation will help take the bite out of having to pay for tilling—now I feel better.

Our recent garage sale was a happy success. The day was perfect and several families took part. It brought lots of folks to the area and that's always a plus. Participants donated some of their proceeds to FPNA to help pay for expenses, and \$71.17 went into our treasury. Not much of a profit, you say? Well, depends on how you look at it.

Donations back to FPNA are strictly voluntary and we don't expect to make much money for the NA from garage sales. FPNA has always believed this is a service we can provide to our neighbors and members and our only real concern is that we don't have to spend more than we take in. Our garage sales take place every other year, so we have two years to accumulate for the next one. Not too hard, right?

# MEETING MINUTES

**M**eeting for June 2016 was called to order by President Sharon, with five members present. Kelli was absent due to a business commitment. Shari hosted the meeting at her house and served snacks.

**Z**

Status of the pollination garden was discussed. Unable to get the space tilled last spring because of weather and availability of the person who'd offered to till it. Other options were explored and it was decided to find a tilling contractor and pay for the work out of the treasury. Greg volunteered to search for a contractor and get bids before an authorized amount was named. Target for tilling and planting is September. Michelle said she can get the seeds anytime but will wait until the tilling has been secured before acquiring them.

Dave showed the photo of a prototype stand which could be installed by historic homes in the neighborhood. It was decided not to pursue until the present historic signs have been constructed, if then.

Dates for the membership meetings for the remainder of 2016 were discussed.

It was decided that the next meeting will be held at the homes under renovation, 164 and 166 Park. Sharon will coordinate with the two homeowners regarding the date; target is late July.

The date for the picnic at Lookout Point was moved to August 27.

No date or place for a mid-fall meeting was chosen.

The date for the Christmas party will be December 4 at Sharon's house.

FPNA received a donation of \$99 from Omaha Gives. Michelle will write an article for the July newsletter about this and other subjects.

Treasurer's report is as follows:

Beginning balance	\$1248.10
Deposits	\$65.00
Expenses (flowers)	\$148.03
Ending balance	\$1165.07

(does not include pending deposits or petty cash)

<b>TOTAL NET WORTH</b>	<b>\$1512.31</b>
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## MAY Yard of the Month



319 Park Avenue Tammy and Bill Bernard

Photo by Kelli Deere

## June Yard of the Month



500 Glen Avenue Richard and Clara Hobbs

Photo by Kelli Deere

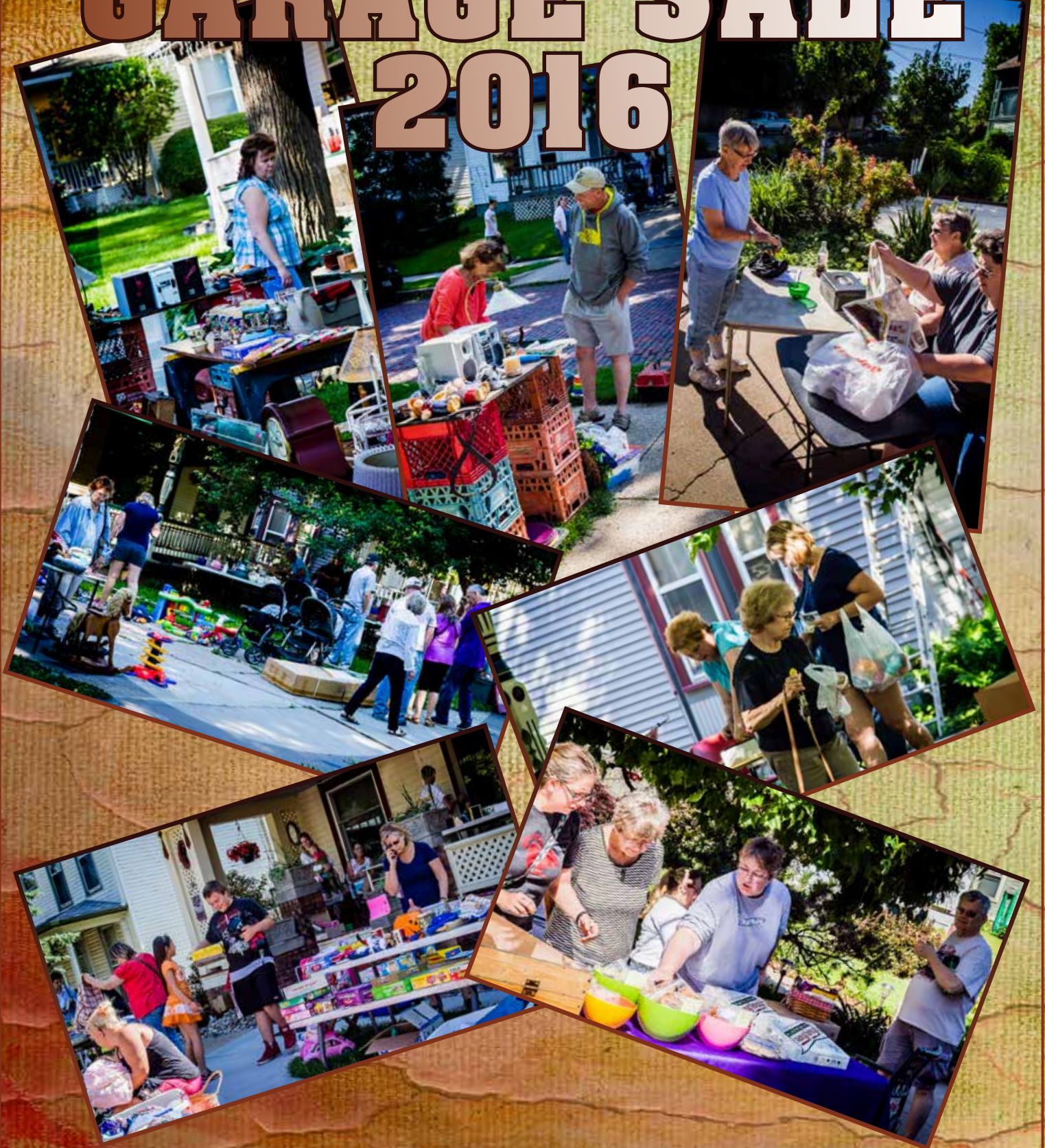


# GARAGE SALE 2016





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## WE PAID OUR DUES

Dues are \$20/year for individuals and families, as usual. We collect the majority of the dues around the time of the annual January meeting, but we also receive them from time to time during the year. We're not particular about when dues are paid, only that they are paid. This is where we get the majority of funds for our projects, so we appreciate your support. Thanks to those listed below for not forgetting.

Marilyn Abbott

Tony and Cindy Lainson

Ted and Lorraine Duitsman

Carol Mattox

Lucille Dunlavy

## YARD OF THE MONTH FOR MAY + JUNE

This has been a challenging year for landscaping, what with the unseasonably hot early June. Consequently, many of our yards have suffered. The photos of these two yards were taken before any of the hot weather came along.

Our YOM for May is 319 Park Ave, homeowners Tammy and Bill Bernard. As you can see by the photo, Tammy and Bill cultivated a beautiful variety of bushes to welcome visitors to their home. The photo was taken by Kelli (our YOM chair) in all its May freshness. The heat and direct afternoon sunlight may take a toll but shrubbery can survive just about anything.

Our YOM for June is 500 Glen Ave., homeowners Richard and Clara Hobbs. The photo, again taken by Kelli, shows this yard in its glory before any heat or sun could dampen its bloom. The red of the knockout roses along the retaining wall complements the pink WAVE petunias in the pots. All these colors shine against the deep green of the foliage to present an artistic appearance to this yard, which introduces visitors to our neighborhood.

We thank these and all other homeowners whose beautiful front yards enhance our environment.

## CONDOLENCES

To Larry and Andrea Britton (188 Glen) on the loss of their father, Allen Britton, who passed away on July 9th. He led a full life and will be missed by his family and friends.



# VP LAND

**Michelle Mutchler-Burns 407 Glen Avenue**

**T**he Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association recently added about \$110 to its treasury, thanks to a handful of your neighbors. We participated in “Omaha’s 24 Hours of Giving” campaign, otherwise known as Omaha Gives! The event took place on May 25, although donations could be scheduled as early as April. Because we are a Pottawattamie County nonprofit, we also received a portion of the \$20,000 that Pottawattamie County Community Foundation chipped in; Pottawattamie Gives!

Although we advertised our campaign heavily through via our Facebook page, we have since learned that many of our neighbors didn’t realize that we are on Facebook.

We are known as **The Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association**. Please check us out, LIKE us, and SHARE our posts. There are several others with similar names, so look for our logo or banners to be sure you’re in the right place.

You will also find information about the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association activities via email blasts, on our website and through NextDoor.

Our neighborhood flower baskets are “growing greener”; what do you think? The Sweet Potato Vine has been replaced with Creeping Jenny, which tends to be perennial, meaning we may have it for several years without having to plant it again. In the future, we can just add our Petunias or whatever we decide to plant, then water, fertilize and enjoy!

And speaking of water, our watering machine has a new pump that’s twice as fast, which makes the watering task so much easier. The flowers, greenery, soil and pump all managed to reduce our treasury and while our Omaha Gives! Campaign gave some of that back, we will always take donations. If you enjoy what we’ve done, let us know!



# LET'S MEET JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> 166 PARK AVENUE @ NOON

**For the Fairmount Park Neighborhood  
Association July Meeting**

**We're going to tour two homes currently under  
renovation at 166 & 164 Park Avenue**

**We hope to see you there so these two  
homeowners can share the transformations  
they've made to not only these homes but to our  
neighborhood**

**Snacks and beverages will be provided**

A photograph of a two-story, weathered wooden house with a gabled roof and several windows, some of which are boarded up. The house is situated in a rural setting with a dirt road in the foreground and a blue sky with white clouds in the background.

# 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
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Kelli Deere	Secretary
Dave Huggins	Treasurer
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Dave Huggins	Board Member (2018)
Terri Dowell	Board Member (2018)
Greg Myers	Board Member (2017)
Shari Hansen	Board Member (2017)
Michelle Mutchler-Burns	Board Member (2018)

## 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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**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