



Visit us Online at www.fairmountparkna.org

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

NEXT MEETING

We will meet again on Friday, March 24th, at 6:30 p.m., at 206 Park Ave. This is the home of John Huggins, who, as many of you know, has been working to restore it since he first set eyes on it many years ago. His progress goes along at a slow but steady pace because he puts much attention to details. For him, it's all about the details. Please come and enjoy the company of other like-minded neighbors and pump John for his restoration secrets.

We have planned the timing (6:30 p.m.) so you can have dinner first. Please bring along your favorite snack for an after-dinner treat. Liquid refreshments will be served. See you then!

NUSA TOUR

Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) is a national organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of neighborhoods. Their annual conference will be held in Omaha in May. One thing on their agenda will be tours of several neighborhoods, two of which will be in Council Bluffs. One tour is sponsored by the Lincoln/Fairview NA, the other one by the Fairmount Park/Gibraltar/Bayliss West NAs. Our tour is being put together by the Presidents of the three NAs and is tightly scheduled down to the nanosecond because we are held to a strict time frame of four hours. When the tour bus goes through our neighborhood, they will travel from Kirn Park to parts of both Glen and Park Avenues. We will want to make sure we are spiffed up for these tour participants who come from all across the U.S. You'll be hearing plenty more on this subject as spring progresses.

POLLINATION GARDEN

The site for our pollination garden has been selected (a vacant lot on Glen) and, keep your fingers crossed, we think it will actually be planted this spring! This project has taken longer than anybody expected but the bees and butterflies should be able to feast on the pollen soon.

FLOWER BASKETS

Michelle says that Terri told her about an awards program from the Omaha Men's Garden Club and that she applied and received an award of \$100. She will spend the money on mature flowers for our baskets, which will be hung from our identification poles in time for the above-mentioned NUSA Tour. No more struggling to grow our flowers from seeds and

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Do Fitness Trackers Pose a Privacy Risk

The Straight Dope

by Cecil Adams

Anosy boss snooping on your off-the-clock peccadilloes may be the least of your worries. Fitness trackers can upload a nearly complete record of where you've been and what you've been doing during your every waking moment — and then how soundly you slept at night, too. As police and judges recognize the evidentiary value of such data, it's possible that every step you take can and will be used against you in a court of law. And most of these devices — Fitbit's the best known, but its competitors are legion — lack some basic security precautions. Even if you're one of those upstanding nothing-to-hide types, you might not want someone creeping in and tracking your movements, or worse.

Fitbit privacy has been a gradual process for maker and wearers alike. At first, the device's default settings made your online user profile public. Soon enough, those who hadn't paid attention to such details discovered that a quick Google search would turn up their Fitbit-measured activity — potentially including their, ahem, most intimate. Now publicly visible data is an opt-in, not an opt-out. Another privacy upgrade was a business necessity: In 2015, Fitbit voluntarily became compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, the federal law that sets privacy and security requirements for medical info. Though HIPAA doesn't cover wearable devices (or online health-record storage, at-home paternity tests, or gene-testing companies, for that matter), Fitbit had to adopt its standards anyway in order to partner with corporate wellness programs.

But the big security hole for fitness trackers, according to a study published last year by the Canadian nonprofit Open Effect, is the way the wearable device gets your activity stats online for storage and review — namely via a Bluetooth link with your phone. Fitbit and most other popular wearables broadcast a single, unique Bluetooth address; whenever they're not actually connected to a mobile device, the report warns, this allows for “long-term tracking of their location.” (The Apple Watch, which emits multiple randomized addresses, evidently does better on this front.) A Bluetooth signal can't travel far — only about ten meters — but a set of monitors arrayed strategically in a mall could trail you from store to store, whether for overzealous inventory-control purposes or to build a profile of your shopping habits that marketers would pay well for.

Increasingly, law enforcement is also curious about what your Fitbit might have to say. The U.S. Supreme Court says police need a warrant to search your cell phone, so fitness trackers would probably be similarly protected; Fitbit's privacy policy allows that your data may be disclosed “if we're required to by law.” But where other tech companies including Google and Facebook regularly issue transparency reports, providing stats like how often the authorities have requested user info and how often the company has complied, Fitbit has yet to adopt such a policy.

And reported on or not, fitness tracker data is finding its way into legal proceedings. In 2015, a woman in Pennsylvania who told police she'd been raped was charged with making a false crime report after the cops found that tracking information from her Fitbit contradicted her story. A cyclists' tracking app showed that Christopher Bucchere was over the speed limit when he rode his bike through a San Francisco crosswalk in 2012 and killed a 71-year-old pedestrian; he pleaded guilty to felony vehicular manslaughter. On the bright side, you might be able to use fitness stats on your own behalf as well: in a recent Canadian personal-injury case, lawyers for a former personal trainer have sought to introduce Fitbit data to demonstrate their client's allegedly reduced level of activity following a car accident.

It may seem surprising how quickly insurers and courts are coming to accept tracker data as fact, given what seem to be real limits on the systems' reliability. Independent studies have found that devices have difficulty consistently measuring heart rates accurately; the FDA announced last summer that it wouldn't regulate them. And tracker apps are hardly impervious to hacking — about a year ago, e-intruders busted into some Fitbit accounts and tinkered with user names and passwords, apparently hoping to use customer warranties to get replacement devices and sell them.

The Open Effect study reports that some other fitness trackers are even more vulnerable, allowing hackers to delete or modify activity data, and you could do the same if you've got know-how and lack scruples. Modified heart-rate stats might convince an insurance company you're a fitter specimen than your doctor might think you are. And a tweaked itinerary? A solid alibi for the cops.

Mid-American Energy Safety Tips

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG:

Anytime you plan to dig, whether as part of a construction job or homeowner project (such as putting up a fence or basketball hoop, planting trees or shrubs, installing a pool, building a home addition, deck, etc.) please call your state's one-call system at least 48 hours prior to the excavation – it's a free service, and it is the law. In all states, call 811 to reach the One Call Center. One Call Center representatives will contact MidAmerican Energy, and MidAmerican Energy will mark any underground gas and electric facilities we own within 48 hours of your call. Customer-owned wires and piping, including those running to grills, yard lights or outbuildings will not be marked. The services of a plumbing and heating dealer or qualified private contractor should be sought for locating customer-owned gas piping or electric lines.

LOOK UP BEFORE YOU TRIM YOUR TREES:

Spring is a popular time for pruning trees. Never use a metal ladder near overhead wires or allow trimmers to make contact with a power line. If a branch touches a power line, the tree can become energized. For your own safety do not trim any tree branches that are close to power lines. If power lines are near, call MidAmerican at 888-427-5632, and we'll make it safe for you to do your work. Also, be alert if you're on the roof or painting in high places. The electric service line that connects to your house could be closer than you think.

EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN:

Remember to fly kites only in open areas where there are not any power lines, and remind your children, too. Make sure they know to never use metal on a kite, climb a utility pole or enter an electric substation for any reason. Call MidAmerican at 888-427-5632 to retrieve lost balls or toys that accidentally get tossed over a substation fence.

DON'T TOUCH DOWNED POWER LINES:

Wind, rain and lightning can bring down trees and power lines. If you see a fallen power line, assume it is electrified and don't touch it or allow your children to go near it. Call MidAmerican immediately at 800-799-4443.

TAKE POWER OUTAGE PRECAUTIONS:

If you lose power to your home, check your fuses or circuit breakers first. Call MidAmerican at 800-799-4443 to report a power outage. Use caution stepping outside your home during a power outage caused by severe weather. A fallen power line may be just outside your door or may be hidden by brush or debris.

HELP AVOID FUTURE OUTAGES:

Look up before you plant. Tall-growing trees should not be planted under power lines. A tree that is tiny today can grow into a 40-foot tree that could cause power outages during windy weather. Remember the 20/20 rule: Only shrubs and trees up to 20 feet tall at maturity should be planted within 20 feet of either side of a power line. If a tree or shrub will reach up to 20 feet or more at maturity, it should not be planted under a power line or within 20 feet of either side of a power line.



President's Corner

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

The recent decision by the FPNA Board to reduce the monetary portion of the Exterior Holiday Decorating Award from \$100 to \$50 deserves a little more attention.

When we first began this project, we wanted to recognize those efforts by homeowners, which clearly stood out among the many homes decorated for Christmas. Why not create a traveling plaque engraved with the names of each yearly winner, we thought. On this plaque are spaces for enough winners until the end of time, sort of. It's not even half full yet. But that wasn't enough, we thought, so we decided that the winner should be generously awarded an additional prize of \$100. If there happened to be other homes that deserved recognition, we sent these homeowners' congratulatory letters but no money.

Time marches on. Some winners began giving back their monetary awards. This was nice, we thought, and our treasury didn't take a hit. But in 2016 we had second thoughts about taking back the award. It was good for the budget but didn't reflect our original intention, so we made it mandatory that the winner keep the money—yes, even if the generous nature of the winner thought otherwise, we would force the money into their hands! Keep it, dang it!!

All this thinking and thinking is tiring. So, let's just say thank you to all those who donated their awards back to FPNA, and to all those future winners who will be \$50 richer whether they want to be or not—enjoy!

"The things which a child loves remain in the domain of the heart until old age"

Kahlil Gibran

GRANT WOOD CORN MURAL

When the Chieftan Hotel was built by Eugene Eppley in 1927, then little known artist Grant Wood was commissioned to create murals on the walls of their meeting rooms. The mural in the Corn Room was 96' long and 8' wide. Wood was also commissioned to paint murals in the Eppley hotels in Sioux City and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but this is the only remaining Eppley hotel that housed Wood's Corn Murals.

The murals faded over time and in 1959 they were restored in place. Fast forward to 1970, when the hotel was to be converted to senior housing, and the murals once again faced destruction. They were then taken down in pieces and sold as segments at a "Buy a Piece of the Wood" auction in 1987. Some of these pieces have been recovered and are hanging at the County Court House while awaiting their permanent home in a future art and cultural center. There are at least 20 segments known to exist, and the search continues in hopes of restoring the entire Corn Mural.

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

The original County Court House, located next to the Squirrel Cage Jail, was also built in 1885, and was in continuous service until approximately 1995, when its foundation was found to be sinking. Although the building was slated for demolition, circumstances took a strange turn.

Dudley Gray, a prominent California attorney and former Iowa resident, wanted to rebuild a vintage Iowa court house in Torrance, California, where he was practicing law, and placed an ad in the Des Moines Register in 1975 searching for a suitable building. He bought the old court house and moved it piece by piece to California.

Unfortunately, earthquake standards prevented him from recreating it as-is and he could only use about 5% of the pieces from the old building. Still, Mr. Gray considered it one of the best purchases he ever made, even though its final cost was \$3.5 million.

Lemon Blueberry Bread

by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

1/3 cup melted butter
1 cup white sugar
3 tablespoons lemon juice
2 eggs
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup milk
2 tablespoons grated lemon zest
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/4 cup white sugar

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F
- Lightly grease an 8x4 inch loaf pan
- In a mixing bowl, beat together butter, 1 cup sugar, juice and eggs
- Combine flour, baking powder and salt; stir into egg mixture alternately with milk
- Fold in lemon zest, nuts, and blueberries. Pour batter into prepared pan.
- Bake in preheated oven for 60 to 70 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into center of the loaf comes out clean
- Cool bread in pan for 10 minutes
- Meanwhile, combine lemon juice and 1/4 cup sugar in a small bowl
- Remove bread from pan and drizzle with glaze. Cool on a wire rack



**FAIRMOUNT PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD
MEETING**

FPNA will hold its March meeting
at the home of John Huggins
Eat your dinner first then
bring some after-dinner snacks
Drinks will be furnished

**MARCH 24TH 6:30 P.M.
206 PARK AVE**

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Continued From Pg.1

hoping they'll be big enough to be seen in our pots before July. Won't this make a good impression when viewed from the tour bus! Thank you Michelle, Terri, and those men from Omaha.

WE PAID OUR DUES

The following people paid their \$20 yearly dues or donated to FPNA since our last newsletter:

Lucille Dunlavy

Lori and Ed Hassett

Betty McKee

WillReger/Elizabeth Hostetter

Donation from Karen Holmes

Our dues have remained at a low \$20 since the beginning and we intend to keep them there if we can. We are careful managers of your money. Remember they are paid yearly. If you haven't paid since 2007, then you are not a member, and those that have paid are doing the heavy lifting. Why not dash off a check today, made payable to FPNA and send or deliver to Dave Huggins, 150 Park Ave. Thank you.

COUNCIL BLUFFS
OPERATION
MEDICINE CABINET

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

Drop off your expired or unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medications for safe disposal

DRIVE UP - DROP OFF - DRIVE AWAY
- FREE - RAIN OR SHINE -

Saturday, April 29
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Council Bluffs Walgreens
535 East Broadway
Drop off on west side next to drive-through lane

PROMISE PARTNERS

Operation Medicine Cabinet is sponsored in part by

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Council Bluffs Police Department, Walgreens, the City of Council Bluffs, Council Bluffs Recycling Center, the Youth & Families Committee of Promise Partners, PMF - Prevention Means Progress, Pottawattamie County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Network, Zion Recovery, Heartland Family Services, Trailblazers of the Heartland, Hospital of Southwest Iowa, Iowa State University Extension, Catholic Charities, Youth Emergency Services.

SQUIRREL CAGE JAIL

The Squirrel Cage jail was built in 1885 at the same time as the original County Court House, which had been located next door.

This jail is the largest of its kind in the U.S., being 3 stories high. Its cells are pie shaped and revolve inside a cage, making it easier for the jailer to see his prisoners.

Prisoners were known to have escaped down its central core due to the jamming of its mechanism. The last prisoner to escape left a nice note for the Sheriff. In 1969 it was decommissioned as a jail and the County Historical Society took ownership in 1977.

It then became a museum. There have been numerous reports of paranormal activity at the jail, and ghost prisoners, even a ghost cat have been reported.

Minutes of FPNA Board Meeting

Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association met March 6th 2017 at Sharon Babbitt's home. In attendance were Sharon Babbitt, President, Michelle Mutchler-Burns, Vice President, Dave Huggins, Treasurer, Greg Meyers, Ted Duitsman and Terri Dowell, Secretary.

Sharon had several agenda items, the first being the pollination garden. It is hoped to plant our seeds this spring. The timing is determined by John Huggins' work on his retaining wall. There are optional sites around the neighborhood for additional gardens should there be extra seeds.

Greg gave an update on the Yard of the Month sign. Kyle is to draw the logo as part of the sign, most likely it will be on corrugated plastic. We hope to have a sign ready for the May Yard of the Month.

A motion was made to adjust the Holiday Decoration Award from \$100 to \$50. Motion was carried. It was suggested that we have a gift certificate to Sherbondy's for the Yard of the Month winners. Greg will talk with Kip and negotiate a \$10 gift card to be given to the winners each month. Should Sherbondy's sponsor the award, the sign would reflect their sponsorship.

Michelle said she applied for and was awarded \$100 from the Omaha Men's Garden Club for flowers for our baskets. They have a plant sale in May she hopes to attend.

Planning for the Neighborhood USA(NUSA) tour continues. Sharon has bags on which she has stenciled "Old Town". They will contain some fun items representing the three neighborhoods that are part of this tour. Sharon is writing a booklet about the history of this area. It will be included in the bags. Cory Peterson will handle the printing and copying. The tour will be Friday, May 26. The Dodge House has offered a tour for the group at \$1/person. A spaghetti dinner will be at the Masonic Lodge for \$6.00. It was agreed to approach Preserve Council Bluffs to see if they would donate some funds to cover this cost. The three sponsoring neighborhoods would cover the remaining costs. Neighborhoods will participate in a "dry run" with a tour committee member on either April 22 or 29, tour's choice.

Sharon said the Gibraltar Neighborhood is selling luminaries as a fundraiser later this year. They asked if we were interested and the Board decided more information was needed.

Sharon had received a letter concerning neighborhood cleanup efforts by a church group. The Board had no suggestions for them.

Omaha GIVES is May 24. Please consider a \$10 donation on line. Last year FPNA received \$100.

A reminder of the next full Neighborhood Meeting that will be Fri. March 24th at John Huggins', 200 Park Ave.

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
Terri Dowell	Secretary
Dave Huggins	Treasurer
Kyle Muschall	Special Rep/Publisher

Sharon Babbitt	Board Member (2018)
Ted Duitsman	Board Member (2019)
Dave Huggins	Board Member (2018)
Terri Dowell	Board Member (2018)
Greg Myers	Board Member (2019)
Shari Hansen	Board Member (2019)
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. Please Contact the Editor:

Kyle Muschall : kmuschall@cox.net

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THE 7th & 2nd INITIATIVE



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