



Visit us Online at www.fairmountparkna.org

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

CLEAN SWEEP

May 16th was the day of the citywide Clean Sweep event, where people turn out to pick up all that litter on our city streets. FPNA participated in this event in its own way. We pay exclusive attention to our own neighborhood, including every street and alley, every stray paper or cigarette butt—nothing escaped the eagle eyes of our volunteers. The group of hardy go-getters met around 5:30 p.m. at the Glendale Pumping Station with their gloves and the garbage bags the FPNA provided, ready for action. With many hands the work went quickly and when we finished some took a stroll to Bayliss Park for a light meal served by our Mayor and City Council members. We didn't arrive too much after 7:00 p.m. so the food hadn't already been devoured—just saying.

FLOWER BASKETS

By the time you read this, our beautiful flower baskets will have been hung on the 15 poles in our neighborhood. Michelle has done a fantastic job of arranging the various plants by color and type, and they are looking better than ever, partly because she used the \$100 grant we got from the Omaha Men's Garden Club to make the baskets look like they already contain mature growth. When the NUSA tour bus comes to our little corner of the earth, won't we look extra good!!

Please remember, you homeowners who have poles/baskets on your property, to water them frequently. Even though Michelle and other volunteers come around often with the watering pump, more is often needed (especially in warm weather). Nothing survives without water.

POLLINATION GARDEN UPDATE

Our garden is finally planted, but is it growing? Like a watched pot that never boils, it doesn't help our morale to look at its slow growth every day and try to decide which is a wild flower and which is a weed. And, speaking of water, our garden guzzles, simply guzzles it. Our adventure began to look like reality when Greg rented the rototiller (and donated its cost to FPNA—thanks Greg). He and John hogged all the fun by insisting on running it themselves, and got to enjoy the resulting backache themselves as well. Cindy and Kyle smoothed out the lumps of earth. Michelle delivered the bags of OmoGrow (fertilizer) and Kyle, Cindy and Sharon helped spread it around. Turns out we didn't have enough. Meanwhile, Michelle was busy sorting out the seeds and mixing them with sand, after which she sowed the seeds with the help of others. Turns out we didn't have enough. And because the lot is really John's back yard, he purchased another

Continued On Pg.5

Fairmount Park and Omaha Gives!

The Straight Dope

by Cecil Adams

Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association is proud to be participating in Omaha Gives!, a 24-hour charitable challenge organized by the Omaha Community Foundation. The online giving holiday will take place May 24 from midnight to midnight. Mark your calendars because we will need your help!

We will be joining more than 800 local nonprofits to raise money together and compete for prize money—the more donors we get to give to us, the more likely we are to win prizes.

Omaha Gives! is a community-wide event to show off Omaha's spirit of giving, raise awareness about local nonprofits, and celebrate the collective effort it takes to make this city great. Learn more at OmahaGives.org

How can you help Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association during Omaha Gives!?

Save the date. May 24th 2017 will be a great day of generosity in Omaha. Get excited and ready to share your enthusiasm for Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association throughout the day.

Schedule a gift! For your convenience, you can schedule gifts between May 1 and May 23. We encourage you to donate early if you cannot participate [on May 24.](#)

Donate to us May 24th 2017!

Spread the word! Tell your friends that you will be giving to Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association during Omaha Gives! On May 24th 2017 and that you need their help.

Post about Omaha Gives! on your social media pages. Let your friends and followers know how they can give and how their donations can help us win prize funds. Don't forget to use #OmahaGives

Cheer us on! May 24th 2017 watch the leaderboard on OmahaGives.org and stay up-to-date on our progress via social media.

Thank you for your support! Thank you for your ongoing support of Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association. We can't wait to see the Omaha community band together again to give big.

Here's the link to donate! <https://www.omahagives.org/index>.



CLEAN SWEEP

Miss Evelyn Duitsman! What a trooper; her bag was half full!



POLLINATION GARDEN 2017



President's Corner

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

On May 26th, we are going to be seeing a busload of strangers traveling through our neighborhood, pointing at our homes and us. Who are they and should we call the law? Well, let me explain.

The annual nationwide conference of Neighborhoods USA will be held in Omaha during that long weekend and an important event on their agenda is a tour of the metro. I think there are about 18 tours featured and Council Bluffs will be honored with two of them. One will be in the Lincoln/Fairview neighborhood and the other one will be a combination of Bayliss West, Gibraltar, and Fairmount Park.

This is important stuff, folks, and will present these tour participants from all across the U.S. with views of Council Bluffs, coming and going. Cory Peters and I, along with Wayne Andersen and Dave Huggins, have spent long hours mapping out the route for our tour, composing what our tour guides will say, and putting together gift bags which will be given to the tour participants. Dave has promised to “memorize” his part of the presentation (we hope in this way he won’t have the opportunity to ad lib some of those jokes that we all know to be, shall we say, jokes of a different color).....

We have been given a strict time frame, four hours, and in that time we have a lot of territory to cover. Our carefully mapped out route will take us past Bayliss Park and all the interesting landmarks, past and present, and through the Haymarket area. It is somewhat convoluted because of the one-way streets, which we have to maneuver to get to the neighborhoods we’re including.

We begin in Bayliss West with inside tours of the Farnsworth and Shea Houses. Then we’ll head to Gibraltar, where we’ll present interesting factoids of several of the historic homes on Willow and Third as we drive through, and then on to the Dodge House for another inside tour. While the Dodge House couldn’t offer *free admission* because of Board policy, they are generously allowing a very reduced admission fee of \$1 per person for NUSA.

Continuing on, we now circle back to the Masonic Lodge for a spaghetti dinner feed. We are happy not to have had to cook this meal ourselves, wouldn’t you agree? Now we make our way up Fifth, making a pit stop at Kirn Park before turning at Glen and meandering through our Park/Glen Historic District.

We will have inside tours of the Cavin and Eiseman Houses before ending the official part of our tour at the corner of Broadway and Park. On old maps, this area is called “Old Town” and that has become the name of our tour. It is aptly named because from this corner alone we can see or imagine everything that composed early Council Bluffs—shopping, manufacturing, government, churches, aloons and brothels—everything a functioning city needed back in the day!

Happy to say that our neighborhood took a turn for the better when the brothels were shut down. Our little corner was then no longer called “that terrible den” of vice and corruption at the corner of Market St. and Pierce!!

**“If wrinkles must
be written on our
brows, let them not
be written upon the
heart. The spirit
should never grow
old”**

James A. Garfield

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Continued From Pg.1

large supply of seeds to finish planting. Now what we need is a big dose of sunshine, and more water, of course. We've learned some powerful lessons already and one of the most important is never to underestimate the amount of stuff we need for our project. If we had actually measured our space and determined the square footage of the area, we would have known how much OmoGrow to buy and how much wild flower seed to order. One day we will write a tutorial on the subject for other neighborhoods to follow, and that will be *Step One*.

LOOKOUT POINT CLEAN-UP

Another spring has gone by and our volunteers met for another bit of fun and games in the ravines up at Lookout Point. This year we didn't find much in the way of appliance trash that we could reach, but we found plenty of other unmentionable material, including a large supply of hypodermic needles and several dirty (and we do mean dirty) diapers pulled from the bushes. A total of 14 contractor bags of debris left this beautiful corner of Fairmount Park in sparkling condition. Thank you, FPNA volunteers! See you next year for more of the same.

BLOCK PARTY

Our next event will be the block party that will take the place of our annual picnic. No details available now but soon.....

WE PAID OUR DUES

As usual, FPNA dues of \$20/year arrive in a trickle, or sometimes a near flood. This month it was a trickle but we're glad to have it just the same. Have you paid your dues for 2017 yet? Now's the time. This month, David Van Houten paid his dues. Thank you, Dave.

Awesome Pasta Salad

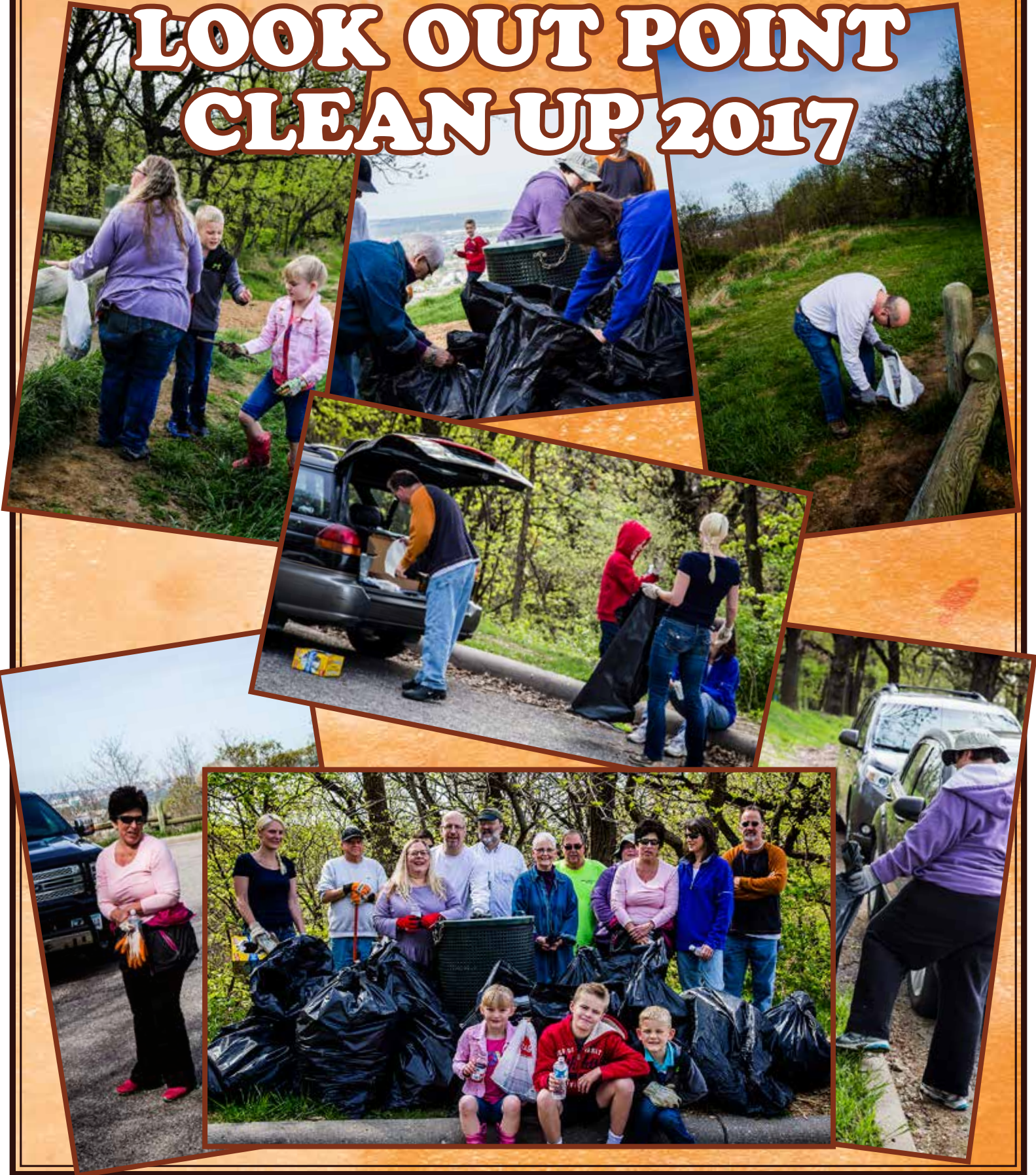
by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

1 (16 ounce) package fusilli (spiral) pasta
3 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
1/2 pound provolone cheese, cubed
1/2 pound salami, cubed

1 large green bell pepper, cut into 1 inch pieces
1 (10 ounce) can black olives, drained
1 (4 ounce) jar pimentos, drained
1 (8 ounce) bottle Italian salad dressing

- Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil.
- Add pasta, and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente.
- Drain, and rinse with cold water.
- In a large bowl, combine pasta with tomatoes, cheese, salami, pepperoni, green pepper, olives, and pimentos.
- Pour in salad dressing, and toss to coat.

LOOK OUT POINT CLEAN UP 2017



LOOK OUT POINT CLEAN UP 2017



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

COPIES PROVIDED BY

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 Number: _____ 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 Number: _____ 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