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## ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

### ANNUAL MEETING

What is probably the most important meeting of the FPNA year will take place on January 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 4:30 and going to whenever. Hosted by Kyle and Cindy Muschall, 332 Glen Ave., it will feature a delicious meal furnished entirely by Kyle and Cindy—their gift to us each and every year.

In addition to eating, we will award the 2017 Exterior Holiday Decorating Award; collect dues (as usual, \$20/year, single or family rate); and do some voting.

Four Director positions have expired. They are: Sharon Babbitt, current President; Michelle Mutchler-Burns, current Vice President; Terri Dowell, current Secretary; and Dave Huggins, current Treasurer. Wow! Every officer we have! I assure you, it just happened to fall that way and was not deliberate! Nominations for these four open seats will take place, and election will follow. Sharon and Terri will not be running again and so will be moving off the Board. Michelle and Dave will run again, and could either be re-elected or get the boot (just a joke). As you can see, this year's election is very important, and you can't vote unless you're there.

After the newly elected Board members are seated, the Board will move to an undisclosed location (okay, Kyle and Cindy's living room) and will then choose the new officers and other appointed positions among themselves. The rest of us are free to mingle or go home, as our job will have been done.

It is important to attend this critical meeting and make your voices heard. If you blow this off you can't complain later on if you don't like what's going on. Rules of our democracy.

### ANNUAL EXTERIOR HOLIDAY DECORATING AWARD

On the evening of December 17<sup>th</sup>, the FPNA Board drove around the neighborhood looking at all the beautiful exterior holiday decorations, and there were plenty to see. Ted drove while the rest of us took notes. The informal rule is that those residents who've won during the previous five years were not eligible to win. As they fall back further than our five-year rule, they then become eligible again. Many of the best examples this year fell into that five-year ineligible category, so if you notice a particularly beautiful example and wonder why that resident didn't win, that is probably the

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# COUNCIL BLUFFS POLICE DEPT. & YOU

Mark Hansen

322 Glen Avenue

## Police Area Representative (PAR) Unit

The Council Bluffs Police Department's Police Area Representative Unit has been in existence since September 14, 1998. The PAR unit consists of proactive, aggressive, and dedicated members of the Council Bluffs Police Department.

Our mission is to develop partnerships, solve problems, and improve the quality of life for our citizens, which enhances and promotes the department's overall goals.

Our success is accomplished by innovative, creative, and sometimes unusual law enforcement techniques. We are securing both private and public partners to assist in long-term problem solving. Our successes range from ridding a neighborhood of unsightly solid waste to shutting down methamphetamine laboratories.

Our approach is based on the well-known S.A.R.A. (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment) problem-solving model. This is a common sense approach to police work.

We identify problems and analyze the underlying cause of the problem.

We then plan a response to the problem, which might include several agencies, both private and public.

Our response is geared to solve the problem long term.

This unit will also revisit the problem to make sure it is truly solved.

This proactive approach to law enforcement and securing of partnerships to assist in solving problems long term has been successful in providing the citizens of Council Bluffs with a better sense of security. They have also come to know and trust their officers. This added benefit has increased crime prevention awareness and cooperation with the community we serve.

The goals of the PAR unit is to: create a climate of close cooperation between police and the members of this community,

Identify and solve problems that affect the quality of life for all members of the community, Increase police service efficiency and Provide an effective system of communication available to the citizens

For the Fairmount Park NA area our PAR Officer is:

Dan Stuck: 712-328-4961

## Citizen/Police Advisory Board

The Citizen/Police Advisory Board serves to represent the community in an ongoing review of major police policy decisions. The board serves to provide direct citizen involvement in the management of our Police Department. Meetings are open to the public and are at 7:00 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month, except December at the Council Bluffs Public Library

## Citizens' Police Academy (CPA)

We are also looking to boost attendance at the Citizens Police Academy. It will begin January the 18th and will run every Thursday night through April 5th from 6:30-9pm. at the Council Bluffs Public Library

The Citizens' Police Academy is designed to give people who live or own a business in Council Bluffs the opportunity to learn what police work is like in their community.

Classes are taught by Council Bluffs' police officers and cover everything from community-oriented policing to special weapons and tactics teams. The first class was held in the spring of 1992 and was a huge success.

The participants enjoy learning about their police department first hand. Most of the classes are designed to be hands-on experiences. While most people's knowledge of police work is gained from watching television, citizens who participate in the Citizens' Police Academy find the experience both educational and rewarding.



You're Invited  
To A New Year  
Celebration  
Let's get together for the  
Fairmount Park  
Neighborhood  
Meeting

We will be electing new Board Members  
contributing to dues and  
forming committees for the coming year  
Bring your appetite as we will be having a BBQ  
feast with plenty of desserts



January 13th  
4:30 p.m.  
332 Glen Avenue

# SAFE FLIGHT

Reproduced From: Nature Conservancy  
Magazine Dec. 2016/Jan. 2017

## 100 YEARS OF PROTECTING BIRDS

While millions of people in the United States now call themselves bird-watchers, our popular fascination with birds once had more to do with gunning them out of the sky than adding them to a life list. In the late 1800s, wildfowl was regularly served in fancy restaurants and humble homes. Flamboyant plumage—and even entire stuffed birds—sprouted from the hats of fashionable women. Migratory birds were especially vulnerable to hunters because they tended to congregate in large groups, making it easy to kill many at once. But as entire species of birds were annihilated, public opinion began turning toward revulsion and a number of state and federal laws were adopted to help reverse the rapid decline of American migratory birds. Here is the evolution of those laws:

1800s: Millions of birds killed for food, fashion and history collections.

1818: Massachusetts' passes first state bird-protection law.

1873: First organization devoted to ornithology founded in Mass.

1903: President Theodore Roosevelt creates first federal bird reservation, at Pelican Island in Florida.

1913: Weeks-McLean Act bans spring hunting of migratory birds.

1916: Migratory Bird Treaty signed by United States and Canada.

1995-97: Migratory Bird Treaty Act amended to allow traditional harvest by Canadian aboriginal peoples and Alaska Native peoples.

A century ago, the Migratory Bird Treaty made a real difference. Today, bird conservation work continues, addressing new threats so the creatures that bring us so much wonder can flourish for the next hundred years.

# President's Corner

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

It's the end of 2017, another busy year for FPNA. What better way to celebrate our accomplishments than to take a trip down memory lane with our annual "Year in Review".

The year began with welcoming a new Board member, Ted Duitsman, into our midst. All the rest of the Board remained the same, as did our officers.

April and May saw the most activity. The Pollination Garden was created; Lookout Point got a good cleaning; the streets were spruced up during the Citywide Clean-Sweep event; Flower baskets were planted and hung; the Omaha Gives program earned us a few donations; and even the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Tour occurred. Criminy! Let's recap this a bit.

The Pollination Garden got tilled, raked, fertilized and planted by our hard working volunteers. After long weeks of waiting for results, we began to see flowers, mostly black-eyed-susans, popping up all over the 2,000 sq. ft space (a lot owned by John Huggins), but trouble in the form of a massive influx of foxtail appeared late in the summer. The volunteers from "Serve Saturday" helped us pull it all out in late fall, but not before we got a weed notice from the City. Better luck in 2018!

We received a \$100 donation from the Omaha Men's Garden Club, thanks to the efforts of Michelle Mutchler-Burns. The money bought flowering plants for our flower baskets.

Our annual clean up of Lookout Point yielded 14 contractor bags full of debris. At least we didn't find any appliances tossed over the bluff this time. We participated in the city-wide-clean-sweep and also found less trash on our streets this year, a good thing.

At the end of May, we, along with the Gibraltar and Bayliss West NAs, organized a tour associated with the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference held in Omaha. The Tour encompassed the three neighborhoods and most of downtown as well. It received rave reviews from the participants. Sharon Babbitt, Terri Dowell, and Dave

Huggins were the volunteers from FPNA who helped make this Tour a success.

Signs were created by Kyle Muschall to identify both our Yard of the Month recipients and our Pollination Garden location. The YOM traveling sign staked out four YOM winners, while the Pollination Garden sign had to be periodically moved on account of the foxtail. These signs will last for several years so we'll see them again in 2018.

We held a Block Party in connection with National Night Out. It was a huge success. Shari Hansen was the coordinator with help from Terri Dowell, and Kyle and Cindy Muschall, along with others.

One of our identification poles was moved to a new location, thanks to volunteers Dave Huggins, Ted Duitsman and Kyle Muschall, lucky for them that the pole is made of lighter weight aluminum. Two more of those neighborhood signs, which are badly deteriorated due to the weather, were taken down by John Huggins. Rob Hoag had already removed several of them. Not many of the original signs remain but new ones will be designed and built when possible.

Sharon Babbitt gave a presentation on our Pollination Garden to several Neighborhood Associations attending a 712 Initiative event. Michelle Mutchler-Burns spoke at a meeting of the Omaha Men's Garden Club on the same subject.

We donated \$100 to the Dream Playground Reimagined project, located at Lake Manawa. Our donation entitles us to a picket with our name on the fence, which will be placed around the completed playground.

At our annual Christmas Party, we presented plaques to the Person(s) of the Year, Mike and Linda Ring, and created a new award for Volunteer of the Year, given to John Huggins in the form of another beautiful plaque.

Continuing with the plaque theme, our Exterior Holiday Decorating Award went to Kyle and Cindy Muschall. See elsewhere for details.

*Gosh, did I leave anything out?? If so, apologies. This is Sharon Babbitt, signing off.*

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By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

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reason. Our decision was unanimous that Kyle and Cindy Muschall, 332 Glen Ave., was the most outstanding. Kyle and Cindy will receive the engraved traveling plaque and the \$50. Note, last year the Board reduced the monetary award and made it mandatory that the recipients accept the money, even if we have to wrestle them to the ground and force it into their hands, so no giving the money back to FPNA, no matter how generous the impulse to do so.

Many other homes were also outstanding and we have sent personal letters to each of them, commending them for their efforts: These honorable mention letters go to: Harold Beck, 198 Glen; Bill and Colleen Somers, 207 Test; Robert and Mary Spitznagle, 906 Grandview; and Mike and Linda Ring, 504 Glen.

## POLLINATION GARDEN

Our garden is lying quietly under it's blanket of snow, but it's leftover vegetation has been chopped into something of a coarse mulch and next year's seeds have been scattered across its surface, to await germination when spring comes. Although we do expect a little foxtail to show up again, it shouldn't be anything like it was when it covered the entire 2,000 sq.ft. of our garden last year. Keep your fingers crossed and your garden gloves at the ready because 2018 is going to be splendid (keep thinking positive and it will happen!).

## WE PAID OUR DUES

Thank you Kristen Roppolo and Matt Schuling for supporting FPNA with your dues recently. Always appreciated and still only \$20/year.

## PESCETORIAN

How many of us know what that word means or, for that matter, that it even existed? It means a vegetarian who also eats fish and shellfish. Another word we may never use but if we ever do we will sound highly intelligent.

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# CEDAR WAXWINGS

Reproduced from:

Iowa Outdoors May/June 2016

**T**here are three species of Waxwings but only two are seen in Iowa throughout the winter—the cedar and bohemian. They travel in flocks and are hard to miss. They may be called Waxwing because of the colorful red and yellow edges of their feathers, which appear as though dipped in wax. However, most birders agree the name comes from a waxy red substance on the ends of the secondary feathers. Scientists still debate its function.

Cedar Waxwings are one of the few Iowa birds to survive on winter fruit. They eat a variety but prefer cedar berries. Late in the season, Waxwings' love of fruit can lead them to eat fermented berries, with subsequent intoxication and bumbling. They are expert at grabbing berries, even snatching them while hanging upside down or in flight. Maybe you have seen flocks of them visiting the fermented fruit still clinging to your ornamental crabapple trees in winter.

During the breeding season, courting starts with the male, who brings an offering of fruit, flower petals or insects. The female takes the gift in her beak and both birds bounce toward and away from each other, passing the gift between them several times. To see this curious mating dance, search "cedar waxwing courting" on YouTube. For now, enjoy the show around your ornamental crabapples and be happy you have provided this beautiful bird with a much needed food source during our Iowa winter.

# TEN COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

**A**s temperatures drop this winter, the American Red Cross offers ten steps people can take to stay safe during the cold weather.

**1. Layer up!** Wear layers of lightweight clothing to stay warm. Gloves and a hat will help prevent losing your body heat.

**2. Don't forget your furry friends.** Bring pets indoors. If they can't come inside, make sure they have enough shelter to keep them warm and that they can get to unfrozen water.

**3. Remember the three feet rule.** If you are using a space heater, place it on a level, hard surface and keep anything flammable at least three feet away – things such as paper, clothing, bedding, curtains or rugs.

**4. Requires supervision** – Turn off space heaters and make sure fireplace embers are out before leaving the room or going to bed.

**5. Don't catch fire!** If you are using a fireplace, use a glass or metal fire screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs.

**6. Protect your pipes.** Run water, even at a trickle, to help prevent your pipes from freezing. Open the kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals out of the reach of children. Keep the garage doors closed if there are water lines in the garage.

**7. Better safe than sorry.** Keep the thermostat at the same temperature day and night. Your heating bill may be a little higher, but you could avoid a more costly repair job if your pipes freeze and burst.

**8. The kitchen is for cooking.** Never use a stove or oven to heat your home.

**9. Use generators outside.** Never operate a generator inside the home, including in the basement or garage.

**10. Knowledge is power.** Don't hook a generator up to the home's wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator.

**About the American Red Cross:** *The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).*



# FUN FACTS ABOUT JANUARY

Excerpts From:

Gone-ta-pott.com

**J**anuary is the first month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars, and one of seven Gregorian months with the length of 31 days. The first day of the month is known as New Year's Day. It is, on average, the coldest month of the year within most of the Northern Hemisphere and the warmest month of the year within most of the Southern Hemisphere.

## History

“January, from the Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry January is named after Janus (Ianuarius), the god of the doorway; the name has its beginnings in Roman mythology, coming from the Latin word for door (ianua) - January is the door to the year. Traditionally, the original Roman calendar consisted of 10 months, totalling 304 days, winter being considered a monthless period. Around 713 BCE, the semi-mythical successor of Romulus, King Numa Pompilius, is supposed to have added the months of January and February, allowing the calendar to equal a standard lunar year (355 days).

Although March was originally the first month in the old Roman Calendar, January became the first month of the calendar year either under Numa or under the Decemvirs about 450 BCE (Roman writers differ). In contrast, years in dates were identified by naming two consuls, who entered office on May 1 and March 15 before 153 BCE when they began to enter office on January 1.”

“Various Christian feast dates were used for the New Year in Europe during the Middle Ages, including March 25 and December 25. However, medieval calendars were still displayed in the Roman fashion of twelve columns from January to December. Beginning in the sixteenth century, European countries began officially making January 1 the start of the New Year once again — sometimes called Circumcision Style because this was the date of the Feast of the Circumcision, being the eighth day from December 25.”

“Historical names for January include its original Roman designation, Ianuarius, the Saxon term Wulf-month (meaning wolf month) and Charlemagne's designation Wintarmanoth (winter / cold month).”

## Other names

“In Finnish, the month is called tammikuu, meaning month of the oak, but the original meaning was the month of the heart of winter, as tammi has initially meant axis or core. In Czech this month is called leden, meaning ice month In Ukrainian it is січень meaning cutting or slicing perhaps referring to the wind.”

## Noted Holidays in January

National Thank You month  
New Year's Day – January 1  
Independence Day in Haiti – January 1  
Three Wise Men Day – January 6  
Russian and Ukrainian Christmas Eve – January 6  
Coming of Age Day in Japan – Second Monday  
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the United States – January 11  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the U.S.A – Third Monday  
Festival of Harvest in India – January 14  
The uniting of Moldavia and Wallachia under the same ruler in 1859, Romania – January 24  
Burns night in Scotland – January 25  
Republic Day in India – January 26  
Australia Day in Australia - January 26  
Auckland Anniversary in Auckland, New Zealand – Monday closest to January 29

## January Symbols

January Flower of the month: Carnation, Snowdrop.  
Zodiac Signs: Capricorn - The Goat - Pisces - The Fish  
The name for the Moon in January is called Old Moon, Moon after Yule, Storm Moon.  
The Full Moon  
January Birthstone: Garnet - Meaning: Constancy

## Food Holidays

The month of January is: National Soup Month - National Hot Tea Month  
National Oatmeal Month

## Weird Holiday

Thomas Crapper Day is January 27th each and every year. Thomas Crapper invented the modern toilet. Some information you find calls it “Toilet Day.”

# 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
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](mailto:kmuschall@cox.net)

## COPIES PROVIDED BY

THE 7<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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