



Visit us Online at www.fairmountparkna.org

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

GREETINGS, NEIGHBORS, ONE AND ALL!

FPNA has started 2018 with a new slate of leaders, elected at the January annual meeting. Among our leaders are the usual suspects and a couple of new faces to join the volunteers. You will remember that two Board members (Sharon and Terri) decided not to run again so they're out of the picture.

Two new faces joined the board this year. Marilyn Abbott has lived in the neighborhood for 2-3 years, has three grown children, and walks a bunch of dogs—you've probably seen her. She is a teacher in Treynor. Toni Allen is a newcomer to our neighborhood, just having moved into a newly renovated home, along with her cats and a bird (which means she is always on the alert). She's an IT specialist at Mutual. Both these professional women will be excellent additions to our Board. We thank them for stepping forward when called to service.

Committees and other business postponed until first full Board meeting in March. Look for the January meeting minutes on page six for all the juicy details

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

Yes, they finally came down! It would appear that we just couldn't say goodbye to Christmas, but truth is that weather conditions actually made it dangerous for our volunteers to get up on their ladders (wedged into their pickup trucks—don't ask). Linda and Mike were the first to brave the elements and removed the wreaths from Glen and High School and the Pump House. Then Ted bit the bullet and swept up all the rest, including Park, Huntington, Grandview and Test. After all this time you might ask what kind of shape the wreaths and bows were in? Can't you guess? All the bows and some of the wreaths were in line for replacement anyway so it didn't matter. They will look all new and fluffy for the next Christmas season.

WE PAID OUR DUES

Our annual dues remain \$20/year for single or family membership. The following folks paid their dues at the annual meeting or at some other time. Thanks to them. If you haven't yet paid yours, please remit to our Treasurer, Dave Huggins, 150 Park Ave. This is our main source of revenue and we all know that stuff costs money.

Is the FatBerg Apocalypse Here?

Reprinted from *The Straight Dope*

by Cecil Adams

As the Western diet continues to wreak havoc on the world's health, you can certainly see some rich metaphorical possibilities here: hard, plaque-y, whitish deposits plugging not just our bodies' arteries but also the ones underground that sustain our cities.

The British press loves to wail about sewers stopped up by wads of grease the size of buses, football fields, the Tower Bridge, but for once they're not exaggerating the problem. This past fall, London saw its largest yet: the Whitechapel fatberg, 140 tons heavy and 270 yards in length. A leviathan glob of solid fat, human waste, and trash is more than gross enough on its face, but consider too where all the sewage it's blocking will subsequently bubble up.

A recent paper in the *Journal of Oleo Science* (what? You don't subscribe?) reported that buildups of this kind account for 47 percent of sanitary sewer overflows in the U.S., and fully half in the UK. London attracts a good share of the attention because it's a particularly extreme example of a common urban situation: antiquated infrastructures not designed to handle the loads they're currently servicing. I mean that both in terms of population and what the population's disposing of. There's the expected verboten items: diapers, condoms, tampons but these solids are bobbing along in a much larger waste stream that's the ultimate source of the fatberg problem: cooking grease.

We have the Brits to thank for the evocative term "fatberg," which was added to the OED in 2015 (the same year as "Brexit," incidentally). The phenomenon is otherwise known in the sewage trade as a FOG deposit: fat, oil, and grease and it's the reason you don't dump your turkey drippings down the sink after Thanksgiving dinner. That's not just harmless effluent: it joins a river of other solidifying fats down there.

Home-scale waste isn't the chief driver here, though: it's restaurant waste. In research attempting to determine the source of the Whitechapel fatberg, London utility Thames Water found that not one restaurant on the street above (that'd be Whitechapel Road) used a functional grease trap: the device connected, ideally, to a commercial sink or dishwasher to screen oil content out of the waste water. A sampling of 700-plus London restaurants revealed that nine out of ten weren't doing anything to filter out the fat headed down their drains; homes within 50 meters of a fast-food

restaurant were eight times likelier to flood with sewage. Fatberg apocalypse may be overstating it, but this is a genuinely massive problem for big-city sanitation authorities, not to mention a major physical challenge, under the streets of east London last fall, heat-fatigued crews were working in shifts to hack away at the Whitechapel berg with shovels. The BBC described fatbergs as "a form of artificial geology," made up of "a pale, tough substance with the strength of rock."

Or, somewhat more accurately, the strength of a mighty bar of soap. As you may recall from high-school chem class, saponification is the process wherein a fatty acid, as found in animal fat or vegetable oil, encounters some high-pH substance and turns into soap, zthe classic pairing is tallow and lye. What we're seeing in FOG situations is the fatty acids released during the deep-frying of food reacting with the calcium in the concrete sewer walls to form a monstrous, fetid cake that's pure misery to dislodge.

As I say, there's other stuff clogging up the works too. Solid trash in the sewers seems to play a role in fatberg formation, providing an anchor point for grease to congeal around. The notable culprit here, now widely used by adults on themselves as well as on babies, is wet wipes; they're typically advertised as "flushable" by their manufacturers, but sewer operators beg to differ. A 2015 *New York Times* story sets out the debate: On one side you've got New York City, spending \$18 million over five years on "wipe-related equipment problems." On the other there's the powerful nonwoven-fabric industry, which pins the problem, to quote a trade rep, on "nonflushable wipes inappropriately flushed" in other words, don't blame the wipe, blame the wiper.

Still, the wipes issue, while serious, is just the tip of the fatberg. What to do about all the grease? Getting people to give up their French fries would reduce clogging in both our vascular and sewage systems, but color me bearish on that prospect. An alternative is to use FOG as biofuel to power city buses, for instance and that's what outfits like Thames Water have been looking into. On that front, the good news is that spent cooking oil can burn 80 percent cleaner than traditional fossil fuels. The bad news? Somebody still has to go down there and get it.

CRIME INFORMATION

To view crime information that reflects written reports by the officers of your police department in a given time frame visit the Council Bluffs Police Department website

www.cbpolice.org/avenues2

Just click on the "Crime Information" links to open up the reports as PDF documents at the following web address:

There are five sections on the PDFs that are broken up to show case number, date and time report was written, general location of the incident, the district the incident occurred, and a description of the incident.

The Council Bluffs Police Department hopes the citizens of Council Bluffs find this information useful in keeping their neighborhoods safe. Remember if you see something say something.

If you see a crime in progress please call 911, if the crime has already happened you can call the non-emergency number 712-328-5737.

This phone is answered by the 911 operators; it just doesn't tie up a 911 line.



LOOK OUT POINT CLEAN UP

The FPNA will provide trash bags to collect refuse

We need volunteers to fill those bags and haul up the larger debris

Please wear appropriate shoes and gloves

Donuts and beverages will be provided

April 14th
9:00 A.M.

Rain Date will be April 21st

President's Corner

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

Wow, March already? It seems like just yesterday that Kyle and Cindy Muschall hosted our annual meeting; you know, the one where we get together, reminisce, eat, pay dues and elect or re-elect Board members. We were treated to an amazing barbeque feast! As usual, it was a great evening; thanks Kyle and Cindy!

Long-term Board member Terri Dowell has taken a sabbatical. Hopefully just a short one and she'll decide to re-join the Board in the near future. Terri had served as our secretary for the past several years. We tried, but couldn't convince Sharon Babbitt to stay on as President for just one more year, but we were able to convince her to serve as our "Special Representative" after all, she knows us better than anyone else does. Because of her wonderful wit and wisdom, we begged her to continue to write the "Fit" column for our newsletter and she agreed!

With Terri and Sharon leaving, we were left with two Board positions to fill and we found two great neighbors to step up, Toni Allen and Marilyn Abbott. If you see any of these neighbors be sure to thank them for their dedication.

Our agenda for 2018 is full. Watch for postings on our website farimountparkna.org, emails or follow the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association on Facebook for news about neighborhood activities. Our first membership meeting of 2018 is tentatively planned for April 27th. more information to follow. We have three general membership meetings planned so far and we'll keep with our tradition to hold them in a neighborhood home.

There will be many opportunities to volunteer throughout the year. Our pollination garden has been resting all winter and will need to be tended to. We plan to add mulch across the front of the lot and around the banner pole. We received a \$100 grant from the Omaha Men's Garden Club to work on that, as well as the flowers for our baskets.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming neighborhood activities!

Lookout Point clean up is April 14th, 9:00 a.m. (Rain date April 21st). Please bring gloves and wear appropriate clothing and shoes. We will have juice, water and something sweet to restore your energy.

April 27th (tentative) Neighborhood meeting 150 Park Ave.

Our Neighborhood Clean Up will be the second week of May. It will be held in conjunction with the City's "Clean Sweep" event (part of the Celebrate CB activities) and the exact date and time will be announced as information becomes available.

The bi-annual FPNA Garage Sale is June 9th 8:00-3:00. We've waited two years for this! Start cleaning out your basements and attics.

Our second annual Block Party will be August 7th and will be held on High School Avenue between Park and Glen. This event is in conjunction with National Night Out. The FPNA will provide the chicken, beverages and tableware. The neighbors will furnish the sides.

We have two more meetings yet to be scheduled and will wind down 2018 with taking down the flower baskets, putting up the holiday wreaths, hosting a holiday party, and choosing our favorite holiday decorations around the neighborhood. And if all that isn't enough, the 712 Initiative has many activities planned for neighborhoods throughout the City in 2018.

We'd love to have you share your ideas, join us for neighborhood events and projects and of course, we welcome you to contribute by paying dues!

Thanks for being our neighbor!

Michelle Mutchler-Burns
FPNA President

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Continued From Pg.1

WE PAID OUR DUES

Marilyn Abbott

Toni Allen

Greg and Vicki Myers

Brian Burns/Michelle Mutchler-Burns

Kelli Deere

Dave and Marie Huggins

Ted and Lorraine Duitsman

Karl Allen/Terri Dowell

Kyle and Cindy Muschall

John Huggins

Ed and Lori Hassett

Sharon Babbitt

Ben and Tali Washburn

RULES FOR TEACHERS

It is often said that teachers are held to a higher standard. If so, it was just as true yesterday as it is today. Read on to learn about the tough demands teachers in one-room schoolhouses were expected to meet, both professionally and privately, in 1915.

You will not marry during the term of your contract.

You are not to keep company with men.

You must be home between the hours of eight o'clock in the evening and six o'clock in the morn, unless attending a school function.

You may not loiter downtown in any ice-cream stores.

You may not smoke cigarettes.

You may not under any circumstances dye your hair.

You may not dress in bright colors.

You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he be your father or brother.

You must wear at least two petticoats.

Your dresses must not be above the ankles.

This old list of "1915 Rules for Teachers" was provided by the Heartland Acres Agri-Business Center in Independence, Iowa.

SMELL NATURAL GAS?

Here are some timely tips from MidAmerican Energy to stay safe this year:

Never try to locate the leak yourself.

Do not use any device that might create a spark such as light switches, phones, flashlights, garage door openers, gas or electric grills, or even computers. The spark could ignite the gas.

Quickly extinguish all embers and flames including candles and fires.

Leave the area immediately, and take others with you, including pets.

Walk upwind from the source of the gas smell or the sound of leaking gas.

Do not use cell phones until you have reached a safe location.

Once safe, call MidAmerican Energy at 800-595-5325 to report the odor.

FPNA JANUARY BOARD MEETING

By Marilyn Abbott

314 Park Avenue

The first FPNA meeting of 2018 was held January 13 at the home of Kyle and Cindy Muschall.

Marilyn Abbott is doing the minutes for the whole-group meeting/get-together? It deserves a rave review!

The new board went into their organizational meeting at 6:50 PM.

The scope of responsibilities for each office was described by Michelle and Dave before electing officers for the year.

Officer positions for the year are as follows:

President— Michelle Mutchler-Burns

Vice President — Ted Duitsman

Secretary— Marilyn Abbott

Treasurer— Dave Huggins

Other board members are Greg Myers, Sheri Hansen, and Toni Allen.

It is hoped and understood that Kyle and Sharon will continue with the news letter.

We have also asked Sharon to be our Special Rep (she agreed via email).

March board meeting to be held at Greg Myers' home with date to be determined.

Michelle explained The 712 Initiative and their role in helping neighborhood associations and the community as a whole. Morgan Wade is our contact person there.

We discussed doing a mass mailing for membership drive. Michelle is going to speak to Morgan about labels and mailing. We discussed a fee the post office charges for organizations and determined that it would be more cost-effective to purchase stamps for the number of homes we have in our neighborhood.

Dave was asked about the progress of the house he owns at 134 Park — drywall is almost done. Will have a neighborhood meeting soon so neighbors may view it.

Kelli Deere has expressed interest in hosting a neighborhood meeting in her home.

At 7:32 PM, the meeting was adjourned.

THANK YOU

From Terri Allen

445 Glen Avenue

Some kind soul is using his snowblower on the entire 400 & 500 block of the east side of Glen. It's such a pleasant surprise to find the shoveling task has had a good start. We don't know who it is but we sure appreciate their efforts.

Thanks so much Terri & Karl Allen



CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Thank goodness for church ladies with typewriters. The following sentences have actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services. Read on for a good laugh or two:

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: “Jesus Walks on the Water.”
The sermon tonight: “Searching for Jesus.”

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Don’t let worry kill you off—let the church help.

For those of you who have children and don’t know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be “What Is Hell?” Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

On that note, we close this chapter of Bloopers. Stay tuned for more next time.

(Sorry, we couldn’t resist)

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CREDIT REPORT

By Brad Houle

CAHP Credit Union

Let’s be honest, credit reports can be confusing. It is important to check your credit report, but if you are not familiar with certain terms or how the data is explained, it’s hard to understand what you’re looking at. Here are some key terms to help you better understand it all:

Charge-off: The balance remaining that creditors no longer expect payment for. Sounds positive, right? Wrong. Creditors write this off as a bad debt and send it to a collection agency, where it can remain on your credit report for up to seven years. And you still owe the money.

Consumer credit file: The credit record on a given individual, including social security number, name, address, credit history, collections records and more.

Credit bureau risk score: A type of credit score that is solely based on data pulled from the major credit bureaus, determining how likely a consumer will be able to repay their debts.

Credit risk: The likelihood a consumer will repay their agreed upon obligations. Creditors and lenders are more likely to lend money to consumers who pose a small risk.

FICO scores: FICO stands for Fair Isaac Corporation. Risk scores are determined based on models developed by this corporation. Lenders use this to assess credit risks.

Revolving debt: Credit cards are the best example of revolving debt. It is when a consumer can repeatedly use and pay back without having to reapply for credit every time. It is best to only use a credit card for purchases that you can pay off in full every month.

Soft v. hard inquiry: When an individual or creditor checks a credit report to determine whether or not to give a consumer a loan, rent them an apartment, etc. A hard inquiry is when a lender checks your credit score for loan approval. This may slightly lower your credit score and can stay on your report for up to two years. A soft inquiry is usually when a landlord or employer checks your pre-approval status and does not negatively impact your credit score.

THE Fairmount Press
The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

332 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
www.fairmountparkna.org

Michelle Mutchler-Burns	President/Editor
Ted Duitsman	Vice President
Marilyn Abbott	Secretary
Dave Huggins	Treasurer
Kyle Muschall	Publisher

Michelle Mutchler-Burns	Board Member (2020)
Ted Duitsman	Board Member (2019)
Dave Huggins	Board Member (2020)
Marilyn Abbott	Board Member (2020)
Greg Myers	Board Member (2019)
Shari Hansen	Board Member (2019)
Toni Allen	Board Member (2020)

**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 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