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ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

NEXT MEETING

We are in for a treat all around for this meeting. Not only will we get to see a newly renovated home, we will also get to meet two of our latest members of FPNA. Anthony and Cherri Luna, 162 Park Avenue, moved here a few months ago from Las Vegas, where they still maintain a home. They invite us to meet them and enjoy snacks and beverages in their Craftsman style gem, which has undergone a complete transformation while still retaining its vintage charm, original woodwork, exposed brick chimney, and floors. Updates include concrete kitchen counter top, sliding barn doors, corner fireplace, beautifully decorated front porch area, and much more, all tastefully done. This beauty of a house continues the tradition of updated preservation that is consistent with our neighborhood.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 3rd, at 7:00 p.m., and say hello to our new neighbors, Anthony and Cherri.

MORE POLLINATION GARDEN NEWS

This month's news about our garden is the big fat Weed Notice we got a short time ago. Landowner John has been diligently cleaning up the plot as best he can, considering he is only one person. His primary attention has been on the prolific sand burr population, but while his eyes were on those obnoxious weeds, the giant foxtail decided that it just loved all the rain and began to grow taller than our wildflowers. The City took notice, or it may have been an unsympathetic neighbor. In any case, the weed notice made it plain that something had to be done or else. John weed whipped what he could and we hope that will be good enough for now.

Meanwhile, changes should be made long term to keep our garden looking as good as it did earlier in the season, when we observed a beautiful variety of wildflowers bobbing nicely in the breeze, and our new Mason Bee house could actually be viewed by human eyes and not just bee eyes (do bees have eyes?). Your humble correspondent suggests regular weeding days involving more than one or two volunteers, to take place beginning late next spring and continuing throughout the growing season. So, how about it? Can we form a working committee to take ownership of our garden and keep it clean? Who wants to be chairperson? Don't everyone speak at once! *Remember, it is Our Garden!*

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

Mid-September already, and the Elms are starting to drop leaves. Fall will be in full-color mode before we know it.

Thanks to everyone who attended the neighborhood Block Party on August 7th, held in conjunction with Neighbors Night Out. And a special thanks to the 712 Initiative for putting together the Block Party trailer! That trailer proved to be a party-on-wheels, and according to Channel 3, that was its official debut. The trailer contained coolers, drink dispensers, tables, chairs, games and barricades to keep us safe; just add food and neighbors, and the best part is....it was free! I had the opportunity to meet with Morgan Turner of the 712 Initiative this week and personally thanked him for the use of the trailer.

Our Pollination Garden continues to flourish (maybe too well) as our homeowner has had to remove some of the taller growth. Still, the butterflies seem to enjoy it! We have asked one of our local utility companies for a grant to purchase more bee, butterfly and ladybug retreats, as well as to purchase several bat homes and we are awaiting a response.

Our flower baskets are mostly just Sweet Potato Vines now, although an occasional petunia bloom sneaks out from the foliage. As our treasurer said a couple of years ago, "at least they are green". They have looked amazing, and a special 'thank you' _to Marilyn and family for assuming the watering task for most of the summer.

No September meeting, but November is just around the corner and we have been in contact with new neighbors who plan to open their home for our meeting; stay tuned for exact details. No meeting in November either, but December picks up again in full-force.

A couple of events to mention....

The Historic Homes for the Holidays tour will be Sunday, December 2nd. No neighborhood homes on this year's tour, however the Holiday Boutique will be held again at 206 Park Ave., and it offers yet another opportunity to catch

a glimpse inside a home being lovingly restored, as well as being able to purchase artisan-made items for gifts or perhaps a gift for yourself.

Don't forget the neighborhood Holiday Decorating Contest. It's never too soon to plan your exterior décor. Keep in mind that your holiday display needs to look festive during the day and at night. Try adding little touches such as wreaths, bows or plastic ornaments to the outside of your home, trees and fences. And, consider a timer/sensor to keep the lights on after dark, because you never know when we will be out to judge. That means last year's winner will need to surrender our traveling plaque.

Our holiday get-together will be held at yet another neighborhood home. Our homeowner is still considering the date and time, and we will have more information in the next few weeks.

Please let us know if you have ideas for neighborhood projects or if you are interested in hosting a meeting in your home. If so, you choose the date and time and there is no need to provide refreshments unless you want to.

Michelle

**"Always forgive
your enemies;
Nothing annoys
them so much"**

Oscar Wilde

BRICK STREET INITIATIVE

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

You may have noticed that Park Ave. is one of the streets in Council Bluffs that is undergoing repairs and/or complete renovation. And you may be curious about what is happening with those brick strips that are strategically placed up and down Park. And you may be wondering why they were there in the first place, and why they have to stay there. Here is a short history lesson that will reveal it all.

In early Council Bluffs, the streets were no more than muddy pathways. When street improvements began, some streets were paved with wood bricks—actual brick shaped blocks of wood that were laid in the streets to resemble bricks. An early resident on upper Park Ave. said that the street in front of her house had been paved with them.

When the brick street era began, nearly all of the streets in the City were paved with bricks, most of which were manufactured by the Wickham Brothers at their local brick works. The Wickham brothers also built many brick structures. If you wonder why there are so many historic homes called “Wickham House,” that’s because there were several brothers and they all built their own homes.

Brick streets are sturdy and can last one hundred years and beyond, but they are more trouble to repair than concrete or asphalt, and are difficult for snow removal equipment to maneuver in winter as the tops of the bricks can sometimes be removed along with the snow.

Over time, it was easier for the City to use concrete instead of bricks when repairs were needed. Thus, the integrity of the original bricks was compromised and ugly patches appeared. Just about all the brick streets in the commercial districts were replaced with concrete, but many of the streets in the historic districts remain.

Approximately two decades ago Park Ave. was slated to have its brick replaced with concrete and its sewer system updated. That would mean goodbye bricks. A local resident/historian named Al Rogers thought up a

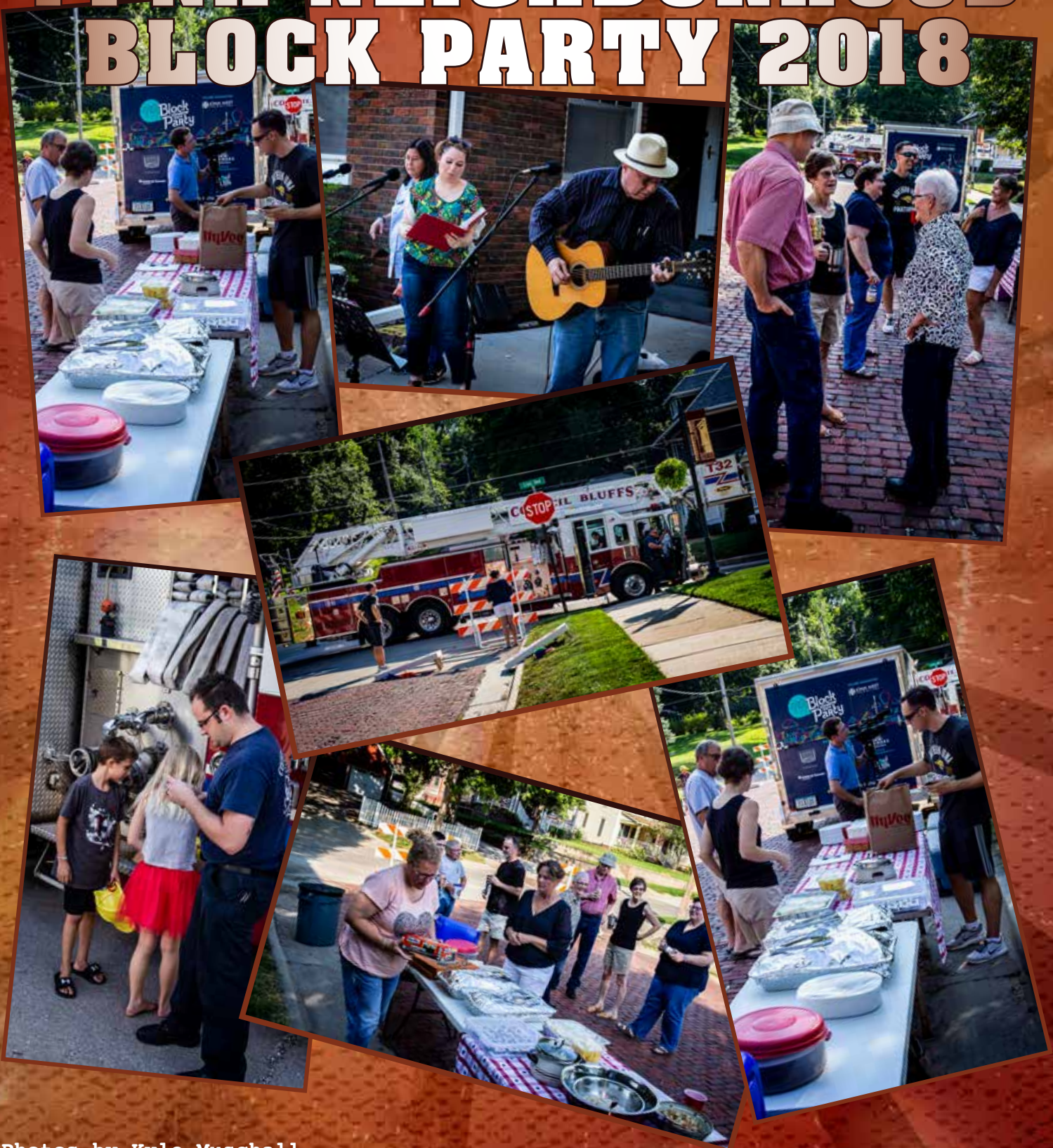
way to honor the old streets while incorporating the new, and it was entirely his idea to place the original bricks in strips up and down the street. He didn’t live long enough to see that his idea was a bad one.

Meanwhile, a group of activists living in the historic districts, which still had some of their brick streets, wanted to save what they had. They formed a group which worked with the City to make sure the streets were protected, and that any repairs were made with bricks and not with concrete patches. This became known as the Brick Streets Initiative. Both Fairmount Park and Gibraltar are participants in this Initiative. This has saved many a brick street from unsightly repairs, including the one at upper Glen.

But let’s go back to those brick strips on Park. Time has shown that the bricks do not like to be laid side by side with concrete. This is where the majority of the potholes and other paving problems exist. Many of us think that this idea should be laid to rest and would like to see the brick strips gone.

It was a nice idea, which, in practice, has not worked. So what’s the issue? Seems these strips of original bricks are considered part of the “brick street” and fall under the protection of the Brick Streets Initiative. This is what is called an “unintended consequence.” Maybe new construction methods will alleviate the upchucking between brick and concrete. Maybe.

FPNA NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY 2018



Photos by Kyle Muschall

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Continued From Pg.1

NEWS FLASH!!!!!!

After the above was written, things took a downward turn and John, the landowner, was issued a summons to appear in court with the possibility of an \$850 fine. Court date is set for September 25th. The tall growth in the garden had to be cut down and the decision was made to cut down the entire garden, flowers and all. Sorry butterflies.

Several things are in play here. Yes, there were weeds. The DNR people we've been working with told us that the flowers would begin choking out the weeds after about three years (our garden is two years old) so it is possible that the high maintenance needed now would become less as time goes by. But that's in the future, the fact is that there haven't been enough volunteers on a regular basis to take care of this problem. If we want the garden and the environmental benefits it provides, we will have to step up to the plate, that is, if we continue the garden. The flip side of the coin is the attitude of the City, which is no tolerance and no interest in working with neighborhoods on pollination garden projects, or at least that is the conclusion we reached after the interaction with the weed inspector and other City officials. There is also the subject of our neighbors. One of them complained about the weeds (seeds coming into his/her yard) and we were also told that many folks Hate, yes, Hate the garden. (hint, tell your Board before you tell everyone else).

So, what'll it be, folks? Garden or no garden? Do we continue on our path to being an environmentally friendly neighborhood or throw in the towel? Let us know.

AUGUST YARD OF THE MONTH AWARD

Our August Award deservedly goes to Bill and Cindy Feekin, 421 Huntington. Cindy started the garden six or seven years ago and it has grown to include five knockout rose bushes, two bay berry bushes, a variety of other flowers, and several garden ornaments (gifts from their children). Bill says Cindy gets most of the credit for keeping their garden beautiful all season. We say Bill should get credit for giving credit to his wife, like a good husband.

WE PAID OUR DUES

Our annual dues remain \$20/year for single or family membership. Most of the time dues are collected at the annual January meeting, but many folks pay at other times throughout the year. Our treasurer says he doesn't care when you pay, just so you do. You can drop your check in his mail box at 150 Park anytime. Please make checks payable to FPNA. We are pleased to add the following names to our paid list: Rob and Georgie Hoag

DO JUST ONE THING

Is it OK to take shells from a beach? The overwhelming consensus from environmental groups is a resounding "no." It's obvious that spiral-style shells are important to leave because they are literally homes for aquatic creatures. But while many may see no harm in taking broken shells or flat fragments as souvenirs, you should leave them, and here's why: Many aquatic species use broken shells as armor or camouflage in the ocean, and birds often build nests with them. One thing that's totally safe to collect is sea glass. It's technically trash; since it's broken glass tumbled soft in the ocean. (Excerpted from Council Bluffs Nonpareil, September 19th issue).

CONDOLENCES

Two of our neighbors have lost beloved parents in the last month: Marilyn Abbott's father, Robert Powell Abbott, Jr., passed away unexpectedly on September 3rd. Marilyn is an "only child" and this loss has affected her deeply. We grieve for her.

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Kent Coker's mother, Rhea, died on September 16th, preceded in death by her identical twin sister Reva and her other sister Donna. I was able to make a copy of a photo that Kent had of the twins when they were younger. Maxine Gotto identified the twins (photo at right). The woman in the middle is probably not their other sister Donna according to Maxine.

You can see the Neumeyer Hotel in the background at the 200 block of old Broadway. The trio were probably standing somewhere near 134 Park Avenue.

Some will remember them as residents of our neighborhood as children. Kent and his wife, Janelle, live in the family home, where the memory of the twins and their sister can still be felt. Lives well lived.



August Yard of the Month



421 Huntington Avenue Bill and Cindy Feekin

Photo by Kelli Deere

FAIRMOUNT PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Anthony and Cherri Luna will
be hosting our next meeting.

They will be providing drinks
and appetizers.

We hope to see you all there

NOVEMBER 3RD 7:00PM
162 PARK AVE

THE Fairmount Press

The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

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

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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