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ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

SPIC AND SPAN

That's how our neighborhood ought to look after the seemingly endless deep cleaning that's taken place over the past couple of months, and it almost does. Let's give ourselves a well deserved pat on our collective backs for all the detritus that's gone from our streets and park.

The yearly Lookout Point clean-up took place on April 13th. Twelve volunteers picked up eight bags of trash containing plastic stuff, needles and condoms, and various other items of just plain doo-doo. They also found a discarded pallet, a traffic cone, and a shopping cart from Hobby Lobby. Go figure. Donuts and water were served and we were careful not to leave anything behind.

Then on May 14th, barely a month later, we participated in Clean Sweep, sponsored by the 712 Initiative and the City, where another dozen volunteers walked all the streets of our neighborhood picking up anything and everything that looked like trash, even down to the tiniest cigarette butt. It was gratifying to see new faces show up for this event. All were invited to go to Bayliss Park for hamburgers and hot dogs after the event, and some did.

Many thanks to all the volunteers for taking on these dirty tasks without complaint!! (Check Out our Photos on pages 4 and 5)

HONEY BEE SWARMS

It's that time of year when the honey bees decide to relocate their colonies. This is a natural occurrence in the lives of honey bees, and they will not sting while swarming.

If you see a swarm, you can call the Pott. County Extension Office and they will send someone to gather up the swarm and relocate it to a more suitable site. You may also call 402-510-2968 for someone who wants the bees.

We once witnessed the relocation of one of these swarms. An empty hive was placed near the swarm and laced with some honey. It was then left alone for several hours, or after dark to give all the scout bees time to return to the swarm. The bees went inside the hive without incident. Very interesting and worthwhile as honey bees are valuable and endangered.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

Hello neighbors. You know its springtime in our neighborhood when our flower baskets are hanging from those magnificent Sternberg poles. We always strive to have them up for Mother's Day, but this year, it didn't happen and there are lots of reasons; epic cold, above average snowfalls, historic flooding and because of all that, we're a bit behind schedule. Rest assured, they will be up in the next several days. Speaking of the flower baskets, is anyone willing to take over the watering task? We've made it easy, with our watering machine and the reservoir in the baskets. It seems like a great project for a scout (or anyone needing community service hours) and you would be working with a nonprofit.

We'll also begin scouting for the Yard of the Month, so don't be surprised if our traveling sign shows up at your home.

We held our annual Clean-up at Lookout Point on April 13th, and while no one really enjoys picking up trash, we performed this civic duty; just one of many we do each year, as we keep up our nonprofit status (and we certainly enjoyed the fellowship and donuts).

On May 4th, your FPNA Board members and a few others converged at 200 Park Avenue; our mission, to remove many "Fiddlehead" ferns (which are known to be invasive) that had certainly taken over a relatively small space. While they may have been a nuisance at 200 Park, they were certainly a welcome addition to 407 Park, where we transplanted them onto a steep bank to keep the soil from washing away. (Sharon will have more on that).



Mark you calendar for May 22nd, as we will once again, be participating in Omaha Gives! If you aren't familiar with it, this is the Omaha area's 24 hours of giving for nonprofits.

Our nonprofit link is, <https://www.omahagives.org/index.php?section=organizations&action=overview&fwID=1551>

Or log into omahagives.org and type Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association into the search box. You're welcome to donate to the FPNA 365 days of the year, but during the 24-hour period on May 22, 2019, we can earn additional funds from Pottawattamie Gives! and may be eligible for additional small nonprofit awards.

Please, reach out with ideas for projects or if you would like to host a neighborhood meeting, etc.

Michelle

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FIDDLE HEADS ON THE MOVE

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Saturday morning dawned bright and breezy on the day we decided to give a large number of fiddle head ferns a new home. Digging began in Kyle and Cindy's garden and moved to Sharon's weed patch. When about 70-80 ferns (the estimated number that survived) had been dug, they were quickly transported to the front bank of Lucille Dunlavy's home by the ten neighborhood volunteers.

Who is Lucille and why does she want all these ferns? For those who are wondering, Lucille is our 97 year-old neighbor who has lived in her home on Park Avenue since 1943, when her mother bought it upon the death of her father. This home sets on a high bank which is prone to washing away during storms and those ferns, once established, will help prevent all that.

Oh, and incidentally, Lucille has been blind since the age of three, when she fell into broken glass and destroyed one eye. She says the other eye went blind in sympathy, but that is her explanation—the medical community has been silent on the matter. And for those of us who've lived around here for a long time, yes, this is the woman we've seen walking to and from the bus stop on Broadway, using her cane and politely declining offers of help *Lucille likes to be independent!*

In her younger days, Lucille worked for Skinner Macaroni in Omaha, where she spent time in various capacities working the packaging line. (she says she only made a few mistakes, no more than anyone else). After retirement she has kept busy volunteering at Jennie Edmundson Hospital reading to the children at their day care facility, logging in almost 14,000 hours of lifetime work. The books are printed in both braille and print, and are mailed to her on a regular basis from the library in Des Moines.

Nowadays Lucille rides the city handicap bus and doesn't do much baking, but she likes to maintain her home as best she can, with help from family. She may not be able to see those ferns, which will cover her entire bank, but she knows they will add beauty to an otherwise troublesome spot.

Now back to those ferns. Our volunteers planted them evenly spaced and watered them well. So far they haven't shown signs of going into shock and, as is the habit with fiddle heads, next year they will double in number and size, enhancing both the bank and the neighborhood. GREAT WORK, VOLUNTEERS!! Check out our photos on page 7.

Some facts about Ferns. Ferns are one of the oldest groups of plants on Earth, being seen in fossils from at least 383 million years ago. There are 10,500 common fern types living today but we're only interested in the one we see everywhere in the neighborhood right now—the fiddle head ferns.

They take their name from the curled tops of their fronds as they first emerge in the spring. The curled top looks like the top of a violin (of fiddle), thus, fiddle head. The fiddle heads grow from underground runners called rhizomes and can and will encroach on our lawns if we let them. This growing habit is an advantage if establishing a bed of ferns is the objective.

Fiddle head greens, the furled top of the frond, can be harvested as a vegetable early in the season, before the head is unfurled. It is described as crisp and delicious, sort of like asparagus. On-line research will explain how to cook it—just remember that under cooking could lead to food poisoning, but probably not. Final note: During the Middle Ages it was believed that carrying “fern seed” would make a person invisible. However, we can't confirm this.

LOOK OUT POINT CLEAN UP 2019



Photos by Kyle Muschall

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Continued From Pg.1

MOSQUITOES WILL SOON BE HERE

And they will be looking to take a bite out of you. Don't invite them to your house by doing the following:

- *Remove standing water. Once a week, empty anything that can hold water, such as bird baths, toys, pools, flower pots, or anything where water might stand.
- *Use insecticides to spray places where mosquitoes like to rest, such as dark humid areas underneath carports, garages, patio furniture, etc. Inside, they may be resting under a sink, in closets, or in laundry rooms.
- *Check your window screens. These pests may prefer the outdoors but that doesn't mean they won't stray inside if they sense a tempting morsel (you). Close your doors quickly when entering your home.

WE PAID OUR DUES

Our annual dues remain \$20/year for single or family membership. Many folks pay at the annual meeting, but dues are accepted at other times of the year as well. Our treasurer doesn't care when you pay, just so you do. You may drop your check in his mail box at 150 Park Ave. anytime. Please make checks payable to FPNA. We are pleased to add the following names to our paid list: Rob and Georgie Hoag, Lucille Dunlavy

CONDOLENCES

Lucille Dunlavy's sister recently passed away. She was Lucille's last remaining sibling. Rob Hoag's brother recently died at his home in Colorado. His wish was to be cremated and his ashes scattered in a location of his choice.

WORDS TO LIVE BY:

The only tests of a life well lived are: Did he do what he intended? And were people glad he lived?

L. Ron Hubbard



FERN PLANTING 2019



Photos by Kyle Muschall

THE Fairmount Press

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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 Publisher:

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