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ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

NEXT MEETING

Our next FPNA members meeting will be hosted by Nate Watson at his home at 129 Park Ave. The date is July 28th, time 4:00 p.m.--just days away. However, we've known about it for awhile so no excuses. While Nate will provide some of the food for our hungry crowd, he asks that we bring along some side dishes to complete the menu. This will offer us a variety to choose from while also sharing the burden, a very neighborly thing to do.

We will meet in Nate's gardens, both side and back yards. These gardens will be a pleasant surprise, a kind of oasis located in the dense population of our neighborhood. I was just there, sneaking around for a preview look, and felt like I was walking in another world. So don't miss it! In case of rain, Nate will open up his home, which will be an entirely different experience. It will be a win-win either way.

OTHER GET-TOGETHER PLANS

The annual Block Party is coming up a mere month later. Details and decisions will be discussed when we meet at Nate's. The details are on page 5 of our newsletter.

FLOWER BASKETS

We have to thank the folks who have made our beautiful flower baskets a reality again this year. Michelle planted them and nursed them; Kyle and Cindy hung them on the 15 poles in the neighborhood; some homeowners have watered them all along but most of the watering has been done by Marilyn, who has been staying with her mother outside the neighborhood but volunteered to come back to do the watering for the month of July—no wonder they look so good right now!

YARD OF THE MONTH

The YOM award might also be called the YOWWGATI (Yard of Whenever We Get Around To It) award. That has certainly been the case this year, probably the fault of the person charged with the task of finding candidates, your humble author. However, we've had two awards so far. The first award went to 445 Glen, the yard belonging to Karl Allen/Terri Dowell.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

Hello neighbors!

We've enjoyed some cooler weather over the past several days and it's given many of us the opportunity to spend some time outdoors. We will hope for more cool weather on Monday, August 19th, as that is the evening of the FPNA's 3rd annual Block Party! Mark your calendar so you don't miss it.

We have reserved the 712 Initiative's Block Party trailer for the evening and plan to converge on High School Avenue, between Park and Glen Avenues (if the neighbors approve, that is) for food, fun and fellowship, as well as entertainment provided by neighborhood resident Toni Allen and her fellow bandmates. Our start time is 5:30 P.M. The FPNA is again supplying fried chicken, beverages and table service. Please plan to bring a side dish, salad, fruit, chips or dessert. I have again asked for a representative from the police and fire departments to attend, keeping in mind, it's subject to their availability.

That Block Party Trailer will have toys, games, sidewalk chalk and other fun stuff to make the evening memorable, as well as barricades, tables and chairs.....I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

More news....I hope you have a few minutes.

Many of you remember the long-time abandoned homes that previously sat at 401, 409, 431, 435, 437 and 441 Park Avenue. Many of us watched the demolition of the once-beautiful home at 401 Park Avenue in complete disbelief as we saw perhaps dozens of raccoons flee the building as the excavator's bucket struck. A few years later, the remaining homes were razed and we were left with only the vacant lots.

The lots have been quite an eyesore; we even considered planting our pollination garden on the lot at 409 Park Avenue (with the City's permission, of course) then reconsidered after getting some opinions about the grade, what leveling would cost, how to plant, water and maintain, etc., and realized that it simply wasn't feasible.

On Monday evening, the City Council approved developer Bryan Yoder's acquisition of the lots; Bryan's plan, a single family home at 401 Park, with duplexes on the other five lots. I'm guessing that you probably have some concerns, as did your Board, and most of the current Board members, our Special Representative, former FPNA President Kyle and former FPNA President, founding member and City Council Representative Nate Watson met with Yoder on July 3. The duplex units are planned as either two or three bedroom.

Prior to our meeting, current Board member Tali compiled a wonderful full-color brochure depicting the styles, details, and color schemes of the homes in our neighborhood and the neighboring Gibraltar neighborhood. Our main point; there are no two neighborhood homes alike and biggest concern is that he would build something like the "cookie cutter" homes so prominent in West Omaha.

Yoder seemingly had no idea that his proposed development was within the boundary of the Park and Glen Historic District. We explained that we wanted to support this project and we shared our concerns, explaining that we were in favor of structures that blended with the current homes in the neighborhood. Our request was primarily that each duplex unit exterior not be finished as mirror-image, but accented to appear "different" than the adjacent home. He seemed completely on board, even suggesting other ways to differ the façades.

FAIRMOUNT PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

It has been awhile
Come join us for our next
FPNA meeting

Nate Watson will be hosting in his
lavish outdoor garden
Refreshments and snacks will be
provided

We hope to see you there

JULY 28TH
126 PARK AVE
4:00 PM

RE-BIRTH POLLINATION GARDEN

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Oh, no, not this again! After two years of struggling to establish the pollination garden, dealing with weeds, complaints, and Court hearings, one would think there would be nothing left to say, but one would be wrong.

Here is the short version of the latest version. Property owner John cut everything down last fall, and again early this spring, except for four circular spots where he planned to place landscape rock. His idea was that some of the descendants of the original wildflowers would grow back within these rock enclosed beds—and they did. The new growth is predominantly black eyed susans, but they are definitely making their voices heard and are waving their yellow faces for all to see (top photo). The new design has also met with the approval of the City's weed inspector, and he mentioned that the smaller beds will be easier to weed and maintain. Yay!

This landscape design was John's idea, having thought it up some time or other while mulling over his near escape in Court. But, they say there's nothing new under the sun because recently, when Tali Washburn was in Des Moines on business, she happened upon a pollination garden on the grounds of the State Capitol building. Whaddayaknow, it was practically identical to our own, just a different shape! She took photos (bottom photo) and you can see here that these two projects look so much alike they could be cousins. This proves once again the truth of the old saying—Great Minds Run in the Same Ditch.



Photo by Kyle Muschall



Photo by Tali Washburn



FAIRMOUNT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

THE BLOCK PARTY

MONDAY AUGUST 19th 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Come join your neighbors for A Night Out
Monday August 19th from 5:30-8:30pm
On High School Avenue between Glen and Park
We will supply fried chicken and plenty of water
You bring the sides and desserts**

**There will be music by Toni Allen and games for all ages
Sign up for prizes to be given away by the 712 Initiative
This is a great time to get to know your neighbors**

**If you have a hidden talent like juggling, singing or playing an
instrument please come and share. If you have a business you want
to promote please come set up a table.**

**Please contact Michelle Mutchler-Burns at Gopack8763@aol.com
if you want to participate in the entertainment or set up a table.**

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Continued From Pg.1

This beautifully manicured and shady front yard always looks like it belongs in a magazine and is especially enhanced by the one-of-kind gate entering into the side yard. This vintage gate came from an old bank building in Carson, or some story similar to this. A wonderful feature.

Our next YOM is 126 Park Ave., the yard belonging to Nate Watson. Our rule has always been to consider the front yards only, not the side yards, but in this case the side and front yards are fully integrated as one, and can't be treated separately. The carefully spaced and well tended plantings have been Nate's passion for several years, culminating in the formal look apparent today. Lots of work and planning have gone into this garden folks, worth a close examination.

WE PAID OUR DUES

Our annual dues remain \$20/year for single or family membership. Many folks pay at the annual meeting, but due 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:

Marilyn Abbott

Kelli Deere

Anthony and Cherri Luna

In addition, Kelli and the Luna's each donated an additional \$20 - THANK YOU!!

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

Continued From Pg.2

We have seen some of the proposed structures, which could be considered for 401 Park Avenue, and they were designed for infill in a Historic District in Nantucket. While there is no guarantee that he will build anything like that, due to lot size or budget constraints, we feel he knows what we would like to see.

Monday's City Council meeting approval is subject to his designs following the United States Department of the Interior Standards for infill in a Historic District. Nate has suggested that every other duplex building be built in a "Victorian style" and the other two built to resemble American Four Square, Craftsman, etc.

In short, watch for development; his plan was to begin site prep in August or September and discussed wanting to leave as many trees "as possible".



June Yard of the Month



445 Glen Avenue Terri Dowell Karl Allen

Photo by Kyle Muschall

July Yard of the Month



126 Park Avenue Nate Watson

Photo by Kyle Muschall

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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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 Publisher:

Kyle Muschall : kmuschall@cox.net

**"Reality is
that which,
when you stop
believing in
it, doesn't go
away."**

**Philip K.
Dick"**



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, 332 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503 or

Dave Huggins, Treasurer, 150 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503