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ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be hosted by Ryan and Elizabeth Pozzi, the King and Queen of Halloween, on October 24th. Their home at 310 Park Ave. will be all dolled up in scary fashion, as befitting their title. If you show up at 6:00 p.m., prepare to be amazed by the holiday-appropriate décor. The coffin will be in place, empty of course. The food will be plentiful and ready. There's no reason not to have fun, so no reason to skip this meeting. Besides, Ryan and Elizabeth have worked hard on their home renovation and we want to see it.

NEW ART SUPPLY STORE OPENS

And it is owned and operated by our neighbors, the above-mentioned Pozzi's! Ryan and Elizabeth already own Oracle Art Supply in Omaha and now they are investing in the city where they live with a second store. The latest Oracle Art Supply is located at 1010 S. Main, Suite 800, in the heart of the Council Bluffs art community. It features a variety of art supplies, both new and gently used. At last, we don't have to search far and wide for what we need for our creative needs.

YARD OF THE MONTH

Our YOWWGATI (Yard of Whenever We Get Around To It) award has suffered a similar fate as all our other YOM awards this year but we came up with a good plan, which fits into the *Rogue Neighborhood* designation we were once given, and that is that we can do whatever we want. We have chosen two yards deserving of awards because Late Fall will be upon us before long, and, therefore, we have presented their awards at the same time. They are 156 and 162 Park, side-by-side yards that exhibit the pride of their respective owners. Together they show taste and symmetry that complement each other. Congratulations to homeowners Kelli Deere and Anthony and Cherri Luna for a job well done. (See photos on Page 7)

MORE RACCOON NEWS

As if we wanted to read about more of these ubiquitous creatures (yes, that is the appropriate word, I looked it up). This time two, and possibly three according to the odor, dead raccoons have been spotted suspiciously close together in the Park/Glen corridor. Did they die coincidentally from distemper, or were they poisoned by some neighbor putting out D-Con or something similar? The folks who found them are concerned about the possibility of poison, as this could affect other animal life as well. We will never know for sure but people should be aware that there is a City ordinance

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

I'm guessing most of us are ready for the cooler days of autumn and for those who enjoy gardening and canning and freezing produce, this is the busy season. I have enjoyed a bountiful harvest of tiny cherry tomatoes; the "Sweet 100" variety, grown in pots on the front steps. When I planted those tiny things, I could not have envisioned that they would grow 6-7 feet tall (yep, in pots... Nate Watson, thanks again for the garden stakes). I'll need to rethink that for next year.

Our last meeting was held July 28th, at City Council candidate Nate Watson's home. It was a potluck and I must give kudos to everyone, but especially Marie Huggins, for that amazing (warm) peach cobbler. Nate had planned an outdoor meeting in the gardens and about halfway through, the rain took over and we went inside. Thank you, Nate, for hosting and for bringing together additional City Council candidates; current City Council member Sharon White and City Council candidate Deb Bass. Although not a political event, it afforded us the opportunity to speak with each of them and learned what each envisions for our City; near the end of the evening, Mayor Matt Walsh joined us as well.

Thanks to everyone who attended our Block Party on August 19th. In case anyone recalls, the Block Parties have traditionally been held in conjunction with National Night Out and this year was to be no exception, however, with our meeting on July 28th, we decided to delay it a bit. Thanks to Turner Morgan with the 712 Initiative for delivering and picking up the Block Party trailer and to 712 Initiative itself for putting the trailer together. This is our second experience and really appreciates the barricades, canopies, tables, chairs, coolers, games; really, we just added food, beverages and neighbors.

A special thanks to the Hauge's, Hanson's, Sutton's and Power's for again agreeing to let us block off High School Avenue, use their lawns for our yard signs and the use of their electricity, and I really appreciate those who arrived to unpack, set up, and stayed to tear down and load the trailer; it really went smoothly. We had live entertainment from Toni Allen and singing partner Kyle Knapp (such amazing talent). Three members of the Council Bluffs Fire Department joined us and brought an aerial truck and kids of all ages watched their demonstration, and the Iowa West Foundation sent a representative who took video and photographs to be used in their media distribution. (See photos on pages 4 & 5)

So, what's next? October 8th, the Primary election. This will reduce the number of City Council candidates from ten to six. October 24th at 6:30, plan to join us at 310 Park Avenue for our last meeting of 2019; watch for additional details. And we are beginning to talk about our Holiday Party as well. Please reach out if you are interested in opening your home for a meeting or any other event.

Michelle
712-314-7123

THE
FAIRMOUNT
PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
OCTOBER
MEETING

Please join us at the home of
Ryan and Elizabeth Pozzi to share the latest
news and events for our corner of the world
Appetizers and Drinks will be provided

OCT 24th 6:00 PM
310 PARK AVE



MAYOR V RACOONS

By Council Bluffs Mayor Matt Walsh

On July 28th, I dropped by an FPNA meeting at Nate Watson's house and got more than I bargained for.

As I left Nate's I saw two younger raccoons sitting on top of my passenger side tire, poking their heads out and looking around my fender at me. When I yelled at them one ran away but the other one hunkered down. I started my SUV and turned the steering wheel both directions a couple of different times before pulling out, assuming that doing so would scare the raccoon away who was sitting on top of my tire. I then pulled forward and, to my dismay, I felt the tire slide, like it was on ice. I knew immediately that I had run over the raccoon and the view from my rear view mirror confirmed the fact.

The next morning I went out to the garage and a variety of things were on the garage floor, having been knocked from shelves and off of the wall hooks. I told my wife either we had an earthquake, a ghost, or something live was trapped inside the garage. The same thing occurred again on the following night. Because a couple of weeks earlier I had moved all my deck furniture into the garage so that I could stain the deck before winter, my guess was that my visitor had taken up residence amongst the furniture.

The third night my wife went into the garage to throw something into the garbage can and she reported seeing her "cute little raccoon"--telling me "you better not hurt this one." I left the garage door open and strategically, as extra enticement,, I left a trail of sweet corn out to the driveway. That's the last I saw of him/her.

Best and most effective group of government lobbyists ever!



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200 Park Avenue

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banning the use of poison within City limits, punishable by fines and Court appearances. I asked Dr. Daniel Leonard, DVM, a graduate of ISU's School of Veterinary Medicine, about this. He says it is more likely to be distemper and those symptoms at the time of death are similar to that of poisoning (seizures and agonizing pain) such as was witnessed by one of these concerned folks. Not a pretty sight for sure and if you are unlucky enough to find yourself in a similar situation, stay away from the animal and call Animal Control. Please know that there is nothing you can do for the affected raccoon, as distemper and poison are both fatal.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

"I've had a lot of worries in my life, most of which never happened." Mark Twain

POSSIBLE EPIDEMIC ON THE WAY?

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

Now that we have your attention, RELAX! It may be Fake News. However, several raccoons have been spotted in our neighborhood recently displaying possible signs of distemper, such as, moving slowly and erratically, or having seizures or tremors, some of the signs of distemper.

Remember a few years ago, when there was an epidemic of distemper among the overpopulated raccoon community in the eastern parts of Council Bluffs? This was confirmed by an official from Animal Control, who said that this occurs when the number of raccoons becomes too great—Nature's Way of balancing things out, maybe? At that time, sick and dying raccoons, both adults and babies, appeared in every neighborhood, not just ours. Since then, the animals have been busily insuring their survival, and the population has grown. Haven't we spotted them everywhere lately?

Canine distemper, the kind carried by raccoons, can be transferred to unvaccinated dogs, and some sources mention cats (canine means dog), but does not affect humans. The distemper vaccine is not among the required shots for dogs like rabies is because distemper is not a danger to humans. Therefore, your dog may or may not have been vaccinated for it and could be vulnerable if it encounters a sick coon.

Our raccoons have adapted themselves to city living and are often seen in the daytime. This was once a sure sign of a sick one, but no more. Only this morning, when your humble correspondent was sitting on her front porch swing enjoying the cool rain, an adult raccoon sauntered up to her front door, bold as you please, to check out the cat that was sitting inside. It was not sick but this illustrates that they are not afraid of us, and that we have adapted to their presence as well. Score: Raccoons one, Humans zero.

If you spot a raccoon exhibiting any of the above-mentioned symptoms, call Animal Control. Don't attempt to handle the animal yourself. Remember, distemper is fatal and the animal will not recover. It is better to end its suffering in a respectful way. Keep this number handy: 328-4656.

August Yard of the Month



156 Park Avenue Kelli Deere

Photo by Kyle Muschall

September Yard of the Month



162 Park Avenue Anthony & Cherri Luna

Photo by Kyle Muschall

BLOCK PARTY 2019



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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

**"If you
cannot do great
things. Do
small things in
a great way"**

Napoleon Hill



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