



Visit us Online at www.fairmountparknaa.org

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns

407 Glen Avenue

Happy Thanksgiving!

This Fall has been quite busy for our neighborhood. Those of you who receive our emails, follow us on the Nextdoor app, follow the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association or the 712 Initiative page on Facebook, would know just how busy we were.

After the October 8th City Council primary reduced the number of candidates from ten to six, several forums were held across the City to aid in introducing the candidates and incumbents. Most of the forums were held by organizations wanting to know how the candidates would see themselves voting on certain topics which affected them, and the downtown neighborhoods were asked to host one as well.

We reached out to Turner Morgan with the 712 Initiative to help get the word out and solicit downtown-area neighborhood leaders for questions related to things that affect neighborhoods. We reserved a meeting room at the Library, sent out invitations to the candidates and incumbents, and on October 10th, we announced our forum on social media; all six of the candidates replied that they would be attending.

Our forum was held on Tuesday, October 22nd at the Library, and there were approximately 75 in attendance (not including our volunteers, the candidate panel and the media). The forum was videotaped, shown on a live feed and photographed and published in the Daily Nonpareil.

Candidates were asked to answer questions related to home values and sales, businesses and the struggles they face in an around the downtown core; law enforcement, liquor licenses, vagrancy and crime (especially in neighborhoods and City parks; many would like to see live video surveillance and recordings as well as have better lighting in the parks). We shared our concerns related to the Park Avenue development plans and our quest to have the designs blend into the neighborhood/historic district. (The current City Council had agreed to approve designs only if they adhere to the Department of the Interior Standards for infill in a historic district). Many congratulated us and thanked us for our efforts. I personally want to thank Turner Morgan, Cory Peters (Gibraltar) and Tali Washburn for assisting with the forum.

Of course, we know how the election turned out and feel that we may rest assured that the Park Avenue development project will adhere to the standards that we requested, as each candidate agreed that they would adhere to our request. Those of us that reside within 200 feet of the development project received letters from City Planning recently. Bryan Yoder, the developer had requested a variance to allow the addition of a parking pad adjacent to the driveway for each

Continued On Pg.6

MINUTES OF THE FPNA OCTOBER MEETING

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

The October 2019 meeting was called to order by President Michelle Mutchler-Burns at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2019.

Treasurer's Report:

Dave Huggins gave the Treasurer's Report as follows:

Income: \$178.26 including contribution of \$25 from Omaha Gives

Expenses: \$170.79 for flower baskets

Balance: \$2,594.30

Petty cash: \$81.00

Old Business:

President Michelle briefly reviewed FPNA's activities for the year to date. She commended:

Kyle and Cindy Muschall for hanging the flower baskets;

Marilyn Abbott for watering the flower baskets during the summer;

Tali Washburn for preparing a brochure used in the presentation regarding the vacant lots on upper Park Ave.;

Ted Duitsman and Kyle for setting up the block party;

Turner Morgan for delivering the equipment trailer for the block party;

Cory Peters for help monitoring the candidate forum event in October;

And all the volunteers who planted the ferns at Lucille Dunlavy's home

New Business:

Omaha Gives, Tuesday, December 3rd. One day only to donate to nonprofits of your choice, but especially remember FPNA in your donation.

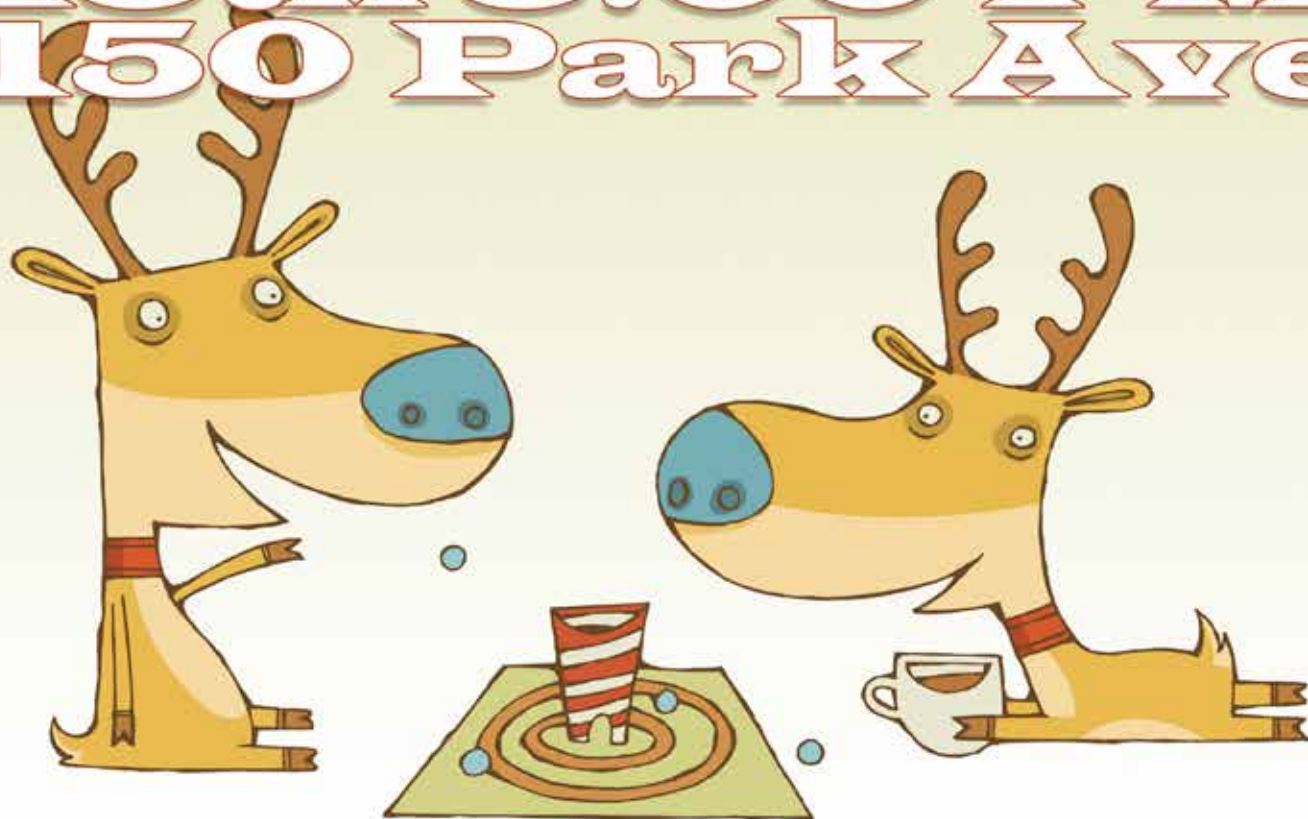
Submitted by Sharon Babbitt, Secretary Pro Tem



Are You Ready For Some
**REINDEER
GAMES**
Please Join Us For The
**FAIRMOUNT
PARK**
Holiday Party

Let's catch up with our neighbors and friends. The Huggins will be hosting this year's get together. This will be a potluck so bring that favorite side dish, appetizer or dessert you would like to share with everyone

**DECEMBER
15th 5:00 PM
150 Park Ave**



ANOTHER CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

LOCATED IN:



A beautifully restored Victorian home
at: **206 Park Avenue • Council Bluffs, Iowa**

December 7th - 8th, 2019, 11:00 am -4:00 pm each day

Meet-the-artists preview Friday, December 6th, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Featuring wine and hors d'oeuvres

This boutique will be included in the December 8th
Preserve Council Bluffs Christmas Homes Tour

so watch for crowds that day.

Original works from 12 area artists
Holiday and home decor, wearable art,
jewelry, bird houses, mixed media, and much more!

A one-of-a-kind holiday shopping experience

(cash or checks only)

Call Sharon at 323-5912 for more information



Easy (Quick) Cranberry Orange Relish

by Kyle Muschall 332 Glen Avenue

1 navel orange
1 (12 oz.) package fresh cranberries

1/2 cup white sugar
1/8 tsp. ground cinnamon

- Place cranberries in food processor and pulse till finely chopped
- Scrape out into mixing bowl
- Cut navel orange into eight sections
- Place navel orange sections (be sure to include pith and peel) in food processor and pulse till finely chopped
- Add to chopped cranberries
- Add sugar and cinnamon and mix till sugar pulls juices from fruit
- Refrigerate to allow flavors to blend, at least 2 hours

10 THANKSGIVING FACTS

From [Good Housekeeping.com](http://GoodHousekeeping.com)

Thanksgiving traditionally revolves around family and food. And while we're all excited to dig into our favorite Thanksgiving recipes, things like turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin pie — it's important to remember how the holiday actually started, as well as the exciting ways we celebrate it today.

These Thanksgiving facts work perfectly as no-fuss conversation starters that won't launch arguments as you pass the peas. Not to mention, your guests will be totally impressed with all your Thanksgiving trivia knowledge. And if you need even more ways to break the ice, try sharing one of these hilarious Thanksgiving jokes or playing one of these fun Thanksgiving games.

1. The first Thanksgiving was actually a three-day celebration.

Today, Thanksgiving takes place on one day — maybe two if you count Black Friday. But that wasn't enough for the original Pilgrims. In November 1621, the settlers' first corn harvest proved successful and Governor William Bradford invited the Plymouth colonists' Native American allies to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Members of the Wampanoag tribe came bearing food to share and as they joined the Pilgrims, the revelers decided to extend the affair.

2. It's unclear if colonists and Native Americans ate turkey at their feast.

Nobody is quite sure if the almighty bird that now marks the centerpiece of our table was even on the menu back in 1621. However, they did indulge in other interesting foods like lobster, seal, and swan. The Wampanoag even brought five deer to the feast, so if you also enjoy venison at your autumn table, consider yourselves right in line with a longstanding tradition.

3. Today, a part of Plymouth, Massachusetts, looks just as it did in the 17th century.

Modeled after an English village and a Wampanoag home site, the historic attraction Plymouth Plantation stays true to its historic roots. And if you want to go way back to the original Thanksgiving table, you can. Guests can order tickets as early as June (May for members) to attend

a Thanksgiving dinner complete with authentic courses like a corn pudding and fish fricassee, tales of colonial life, and centuries-old songs. Don't be too shy to join in the sing-along!

4. While president, Thomas Jefferson refused to declare Thanksgiving as a holiday.

Presidents originally had to declare Thanksgiving a holiday every year. However, Jefferson refused to recognize the event, because he strongly believed in the separation of church and state. Since Thanksgiving involved prayer and reflection, the president thought making it a national holiday would violate the First Amendment. He also thought it was better suited as a state holiday, not a federal one. But he never really explained himself to the public.

5. The woman behind “Mary Had a Little Lamb” is also responsible for Thanksgiving’s recognition as a national holiday.

Writer and editor Sarah Josepha Hale convinced President Abraham Lincoln to officially declare Thanksgiving a national holiday that recurred every year after years of persistent lobbying. The author also founded the American Ladies Magazine, which promoted women's issues long before suffrage. She wrote countless articles and letters to persuade the president to recognize the holiday federally, which she believed could help unify the Northern and Southern states amid gathering tensions and divisions. Hale kept at it, even after the Civil War broke out, and Lincoln actually wrote the proclamation just a week after her last letter in 1863.

6. The first Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade didn’t feature any balloons.

If you can't imagine the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade without giant floats featuring your favorite characters, you'd probably barely recognize the first parade in the early 1920s. It did have puppets riding the floats, as well as singers and celebrities and of course, Santa Claus. And when the Thanksgiving parade made its big debut in 1924, it did have something that might be even crazier than balloons: animals from the Central Park Zoo.

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Michelle Mutchler-Burns
Continued From Pg.1

407 Park Avenue

of the five proposed duplex units for 409-441 Park Avenue and possibly for 401 Park Avenue as well. Your Board spoke with a few neighborhood residents and the consensus was that we would rather have the additional parking pad for each unit, than have cars parked on lawns. Tali offered to draft a letter of support, which was printed on FPNA letterhead and presented at the variance meeting on November 19th. The variance was granted, and Bryan Yoder personally thanked us.

Although all were invited, only a handful of neighborhood residents were able to attend a meeting at 314 Park Avenue on October 30th. Thanks Ryan and Elizabeth!

What's next?

The flower baskets will come down and the holiday wreaths will go up. Weren't those mums gorgeous?

Another Holiday Boutique.

This annual event will be held Saturday December 7th and Sunday December 8th at 206 Park Ave. As usual, the boutique will offer a glimpse inside a beautiful neighborhood home under restoration, as well as feature the works of local artisans. Beautiful hand-crafted items will be available for purchase.

Sunday December 8th, 12-4 is the **Preserve Council Bluffs Historic Homes for the Holidays tour**, featuring homes decked out in holiday splendor! Tickets are \$15 each and available at 200 Park Ave., 515 S. 4th St., 524 Clark Ave., 408 Oakland Ave., 616 S. 7th St, and Holy Family Parish at 22nd and Avenue A.

Did someone say Party? Our **FPNA Holiday party**, is Sunday December 15th at 150 Park Avenue. The party starts at 5:00. This will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass.

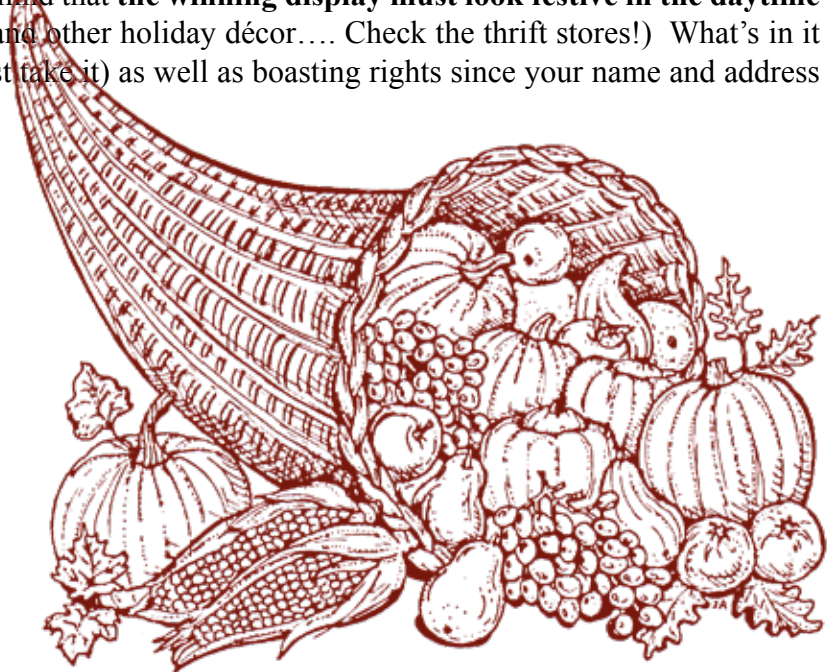
And, sometime during the month of December, your Board will be driving around the neighborhood and looking at your exterior holiday décor and choosing a winner. Keep in mind that **the winning display must look festive in the daytime as well as at night** (consider adding wreaths, ribbons, and other holiday décor.... Check the thrift stores!) What's in it for you? Maybe the \$50 prize (yes, if you win you must take it) as well as boasting rights since your name and address will be engraved on our traveling plaque.

And stay tuned for information regarding our

annual meeting, planned for January 2020.

Questions? Please reach out.

Michelle Mutchler-Burns, FPNA President



10 THANKSGIVING FACTS

From [Good Housekeeping.com](http://GoodHousekeeping.com)

Continued from Pg. 5

7. But not everyone eats turkey on Thanksgiving.

According to the National Turkey Federation, only 88% of Americans chow down on turkey. The rest may be vegetarian or vegan, or just taking a stand against a protein that, let's face it, doesn't show up much the rest of the year.

8. In 1939, Thanksgiving was celebrated on the third Thursday in November — not the fourth.

You might think President Roosevelt could predict the future, as he channeled a «Black Friday» mindset when he decided when to celebrate Thanksgiving during his presidency. Even though the holiday had been celebrated on the fourth Thursday since Lincoln officially recognized the federal holiday decades before, Roosevelt bumped it up a week. That effectively added seven more shopping days to the holiday season, but it also angered football coaches who had Thanksgiving games scheduled that became regular weekday games and calendar-printers who now had incorrect dates. Americans, to say the least, didn't love the change, so it was officially (and legally) switched back in 1942.

9. A Thanksgiving mix-up inspired the first TV dinners.

In 1953, a Swanson employee accidentally ordered a colossal shipment of Thanksgiving turkeys (260 tons, to be exact). To get rid of them all, salesman Gerry Thomas took inspiration from the prepared foods served on airplanes. He came up with the idea of filling 5,000 aluminum trays with the turkey – along with cornbread dressing, gravy, peas, and sweet potatoes to round out the meal. The 98-cents meals were a hit, especially with kids and increasingly busy households.

10. About 46 million turkeys are cooked for Thanksgiving each year.

Thanksgiving without turkey would be like Christmas without a tree, and most American families consider it equally blasphemous. While not super popular the rest of the year, turkey is a huge hit for holidays, perhaps because it really serves a crowd. On Christmas, 22 million families host an encore with yet another turkey. Turns out, the bird really is the word.

HOLIDAY DECORATING SAFETY

According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there were 15,000 injuries related to holiday decorations in 2012. Mishaps send about 250 people to the ER daily, with falls, cuts and back strains topping the list of injuries. To ensure you have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season with your friends and family, here are 5 tips to keep in mind as you deck out your home:

1. Keep live trees away from heat sources.

Place your tree away from fireplaces and heaters, and keep a fire extinguisher near your tree. Live trees are highly flammable, due to needles and sap.

2. Hydrate your tree.

A dried-out tree can catch fire faster than one that has been properly watered. Check the water level every other day to ensure proper hydration. Starting with a green tree is one way to keep it from drying out so quickly.

3. Fake it!

If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it's labeled "fire resistant." Fire-resistant trees are less susceptible to catching fire.

4. Don't burn wrapping paper in the fireplace.

Paper can catch fire very quickly and can cause flash fires. Instead, recycle (or better yet, reuse!) your wrapping paper.

5. Work as a team.

When stringing lights and decorations above your normal reach, make sure you use a proper ladder with someone

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
Ted Duitsman	Vice President
Cindy Muschall	Secretary
Dave Huggins	Treasurer
Kyle Muschall	Publisher
Sharon Babbitt	Editor
Michelle Mutchler-Burns	Board Member (2020)
Ted Duitsman	Board Member (2021)
Dave Huggins	Board Member (2020)
Cindy Muschall	Board Member (2021)
Ryan Pozzi	Board Member (2021)
Tali Washburn	Board Member (2021)
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

**"Somewhere,
something
incredible
is waiting
to be known"**

**Sharon
Begley**



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