



# ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

▶ ▶ ▶ APRIL 2013 || Volume 5, Issue 2

## In this issue:

GNA March Minutes

Learn about GNA's famous little couple, the Bregants!

Area news, including info about Celebrate C.B. Week

Dodge House/GNA plant sale  
WE NEED YOU!!

Visit the GNA website:  
[www.GibraltarNA.org](http://www.GibraltarNA.org)

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **Saturday, May 11**  
Dodge House with GNA annual plant sale
- **Saturday, May 11**  
Color Me Rad 5k fun run benefitting the Special Olympics
- **Friday, May 17**  
**GNA General Meeting**  
Brandt/Eyre House  
7:00 p.m.
- **Monday, May 27**  
Free concert and other festivities at River's Edge Park

## GNA General Meeting May 17th

The May meeting of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Assoc. will be held **Friday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Paulette Brandt & Dave Eyre, 130 5th Avenue**, weather permitting. If the weather is nasty, the Dodge House has again offered to host, so that will be our back-up location! We had a great time at our March meeting, with many items carried over for future discussion. Be sure and plan to stay for a bit of socializing and catch up on all the latest neighborhood news.

*Please* make it a point to come to the bi-monthly meetings. We need your input, suggestions, experience *and help* in making our neighborhood a clean, safe, wonderful place to live! ***We hope to see you there!*** ■

## What's New in the Neighborhood?

Have you strolled down the streets of our neighborhood lately and seen all the new improvements? If not take a few minutes to do so! On Turley we have a new retaining wall and siding (the green house) and more improvements in progress.

On 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. there are two new retaining walls, new steps and a new porch. On 3<sup>rd</sup> Street trees have been removed as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> story green house from the Everest house.

Several houses are being updated with new paint, new windows and gutters and downspouts. It's good to see so much pride of ownership in our neighborhood.

And lets not forget the brick streets. The city fixed a large area of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street just south of the Dodge House, and a couple of smaller areas closer to the Dodge House. They also have committed \$10,000 for repairs for this year.

The old Kirn/ALHS gym, now know as 3 Point Lofts, is coming along nicely. New windows are going in, you can see walls inside, as well as HVAC stacks on the roof. We should have new neighbors by the end of summer!



**TAKE NOTE!!**  
**We need your help!**

## **Dodge House Plant Sale With the GNA!**



The General's Ladies, the fund raising arm of the Dodge House, is having their annual **Dodge House Heirloom Plant Sale** on **May 11<sup>th</sup>**. Again this year, the GNA will set up tables in front of the house to **sell perennials from our own gardens** as a fundraiser. If you have any plants that you could donate to the cause, contact either Paulette Brandt at 328-7399 or Liz Matis at 323-6400 for information. Please ***consider donating some of your extra perennials, or at the very least, come and support this event by purchasing some plants!*** ■

## **Dog Poo Alert!**

It has been brought to our attention that there are people with dogs that allow them to “do their duty” on the parking portion of the yards in the area. This is not only un-neighborly and rude, *but also illegal.*

As an appeal to all dog owners in our area **PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.** This includes those who allow their animals to poo on the parking in front of their own house and don't pick it up, and those who don't police their own yard (your neighbors are plagued by the smell). Please be respectful pet owners!! ■

***THANK YOU to our GNA newsletter  
delivery & distribution team:***  
*Harold Compton, Matt Rennie, Chris Gorman  
and Steve Gorman. Without you, our  
Newsletter would not be possible!!!!*

## **Area Happenings**

### **First Annual Plein Air Contest**

Paint the Bluffs is a contest, held May 18-19, open to any and all 2D artists who work en plein air. Different media types will be judged by a panel and cash prizes will be awarded. Visit [www.bluffsarts.org](http://www.bluffsarts.org) for more information. ■

### **Celebrate CB Week**

Mid-May is the Annual Celebrate CB Week, with the Parade being held May 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The theme this year is “Love Where You Live.” More information and parade entry forms can be found online at [www.cbevents.com](http://www.cbevents.com). See page 7 for additional event info. ■

### **Kids' Fishing Derby**

Bring the entire family to Arrowhead Park for an afternoon of outdoor fun on June 1, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. This event is held in conjunction with Iowa's FREE fishing weekend, so a license is not required for Iowa residents. Free gifts for children entered in the derby (must be under age 16 to participate). Call 712-495-2295 for more information. ■

## *The Book Club*



The GNA Book Club is a fun, social gathering where we get together and share a bit of news, a glass of wine and discuss our latest book assignment. We are currently reading “**Beautiful Ruins**” by **Jess Walter**. If you enjoy reading, contact Patti Hannan at 712-323-8600 for more info. We'd love to see you at our next meeting! ■

## The “Little People” of Council Bluffs

*To prepare for GNA’s future, we must know our past, by Liz Matis*

In past issues of the Rock Talk we have been exploring the lives of the Generals that lived in the GNA. For this issue I decided to explore other famous people who have contributed to the history of our area. I can’t think of anyone more deserving to devote this issue to than Jean and Inez Bregant. They were known as the two “little people” who traveled the world performing in vaudeville shows. Many of you probably know something about them and their little house that sits at 517 Fourth Street. I am going to share some things I uncovered in researching for this edition. So let’s begin.

Jean Bregant came from Austria and was 47” tall. His parents and five brothers and sisters were all of normal size. He became a singing comedian and was offered a place in vaudeville, which brought him to the U.S.

Inez Lewis Bregant was 42” tall, was born in Denver and came to Council Bluffs at the age of three with her parents. Her parents operated a local grocery store. At the age of 14, she was discovered in a local show and began touring across the U.S. as a singer and dancer. In the summer of 1904, she had an engagement with the “midget city” at Coney Island. Jean happened to be on the same program. A Woodward Candy Company advertisement later proclaimed that “the magnet of human destiny” brought the pair together at New York’s Coney Island, where both caught on as performers with the Keith & Proctor vaudeville show.

Reports from the era described the Bregants as cheerful and full of life. “It’s to your advantage to be friendly and wear a smile,” Jean once told a reporter. “A person can find a happier road if he’s willing to adapt himself”.

The Bregants moved to Council Bluffs after their courtship, and married on Christmas Day, 1905. In 1912 they built a house custom-made to accommodate their stature, “one of the prettiest and most unique in the city,” according to Woodward ad copy.



The couple performed theatrically a few more years before retiring to operate a grocery store on North Eighth Street owned by Inez’ parents. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Woodward Company factory at 211 West Broadway grew to occupy a full city block, shipping sugar-laden goodness across the country. A picture of the edifice conjured images of Willy Wonka’s factory.

According to the Historical Society of Pottawattamie County, the Woodward operation produced more than 3,257 miles of stick candy per year and was one of the first to use butterscotch in candy with their “Butter Brickle bar.

The “Candy Men” created sweets that were “good for the baby, good for Grandma, good for all.” Carleton Woodward, John’s grandson, told the Nonpareil in 1995, “Next to the railroad, Woodward was the largest employer in Council Bluffs.”

One day the Bregants stopped by the Woodward factory to place an order for their store. Upon meeting the little pair, John Woodward insisted they give up the grocery business and work for him as sales people and “demonstrators for his goods.”



*Continued...*

The “Bregants of Council Bluffs” toured 20 states – putting to use showmanship skills from their vaudeville years – to sell Woodward’s confections. Husband and wife also appeared in advertisements for the candy giant. They were known as the “Candy Kids.”

After years of life on the road, the Bregants left the company and opened a candy shop at the Beno’s department store, a famous shopping destination in Council Bluffs. Jean was a Shriner and a Knights Templar – an offshoot of the Freemasons (he was probably the smallest member of both organizations in the world, a Woodward ad stated) while Inez was “a popular member of the Council Bluffs Chapter of the Eastern Star.”

They entertained at their home, which featured a miniature kitchen and bathroom, low light switches and doorknobs, along with standard-sized furniture to accommodate guests.



Norma Glassburner’s mother-in-law lived next door, which led to a friendship with Inez, widowed in 1944 after Jean died of pneumonia at the age of 75. In February 1950, Marie Turnquist, who was living at the home while Inez Bregant wintered in Florida, decided to take a soak in the tub – which measured 36 inches long, 19 inches deep and 19 inches wide – got stuck. Turnquist was in the tub for 60 hours, found after neighbors wondered why she hadn’t answered the telephone, according to a newspaper account of the incident.

“She had plenty to drink, but nothing to eat.” Glassburner said with a chuckle.

Turnquist’s hands were raw and blistered from efforts to free herself, a newspaper account stated, but after an examination by a physician she was pronounced in good condition.

Norma, her husband Fred, Inez and others would often go for car rides around Council Bluffs, always stopping by two places – Christy Crème for a cool treat, and Lookout Point at Fairmount Park to gaze upon the city.

“She just loved that, loved to look out over town,” Norma said.

“She’d say, ‘Now that’s where so and so lives, that’s where so and so is,’ pointing out over the Fairmont cliff. She’d say there’s no place like Fairmount Point. We had such fun with Inez.”

Inez died in 1969 at the age of 81. She left \$42,000.00 to the City of Council Bluffs, some of which the city used to erect a carillon in her memory at Fairmount Point. Sadly, the carillon was removed some years ago. When the wind was blowing in the right direction, I could hear it from my driveway on Turley. Many in the neighborhood still talk about missing the carillon.

*Continued...*



After Inez passed away Norma and Fred bought the small home and Fred's mother's house. "This is 'the little house,' they call it," Norma said.

Fred passed away a few years ago and Norma, who's rented out the small house for decades, said it was time to sell. Preserve Council Bluffs wanted to preserve the "little house" and turn it into a museum. "Like a mini-Dodge House", said John Edwards, the realtor with Key Real Estate, charged with handling the sale and a Preserve C.B. board member. "We want to save this house, save this piece of history. I think a lot of people know a little about this story, the Bregants, this house, but don't know the whole story. We want to bring them that."

Then in the spring of 2012, Preserve Council Bluffs got a BIG, BIG surprise! They received a \$50,000.00 contribution to safeguard the historic "little house." The donor, who wished to remain anonymous, contributed \$45,000.00 for the purchase of the property and \$5,000.00 toward restoration expenses.

Preserve Council Bluffs plans to restore the house to its original condition and to showcase the history and artifacts of the Bregants and the Woodward Candy Co.

To close this very special story you will find other pictures of the Bregants.



Portions of this story were taken from the Historical Society of Pottawattamie County and the Council Bluffs Public Library.

## **GNA General Meeting Minutes, March 22, 2013**

The GNA General Meeting was held at the Beresheim House on March 22, 2013. There were 23 members present.

Walt Piper, past President of the Dodge House Board of Directors, was presented a check from the GNA for \$500.00 from the New Years Eve fund raiser event.

Walt said attendance has gone up at the UP Museum with the new exhibits. Walt and his wife went to the Main Stream Grill in Atlantic, Iowa. They were going out of business. They had been at the same location since 1905. They had a surrey for sale at a reasonable price (they were asking \$4,800.00). Walt sent a letter out asking for donations to purchase the surrey for the Dodge House and raised \$5100.00. It will have a new home in the Carriage House behind the Dodge House.

Volunteers will help clean out the Carriage House. Paulette and Liz will notify the members when a date is set.

Mary Madison gave the Treasurer's report.

Kirn Park project is up and running. There was a meeting at the C.B. Library for members to give their input on the design and installation of a new park sign.

The GNA will participate again in the Dodge House plant sale on May 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be selling perennials again and will welcome members who would like to donate from their gardens to bring them to either Liz or Paulette's house on or before May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Dodge House Garden Walk will be May 22, 2013 from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Gibraltar will be the featured neighborhood this year. We are still looking for members that would be willing to open up their gardens for this fund raiser to benefit the Dodge House. Please call Liz at 323-6400 or Paulette at 328-7399 so they can visit your yard and discuss its placement in the walk.

Paulette said the City knows that the GNA is serious about saving and repairing our brick streets. We would work with the city when they are ready to replace our streets. The infrastructure is getting older underground and will have to be looked at in the future. Steve Gorman is our representative to the DNA. There is a dialogue going on with the City that could pass the City Engineer.

Pat Murphy gave an update on the Bregant House on Fourth Street. Restoration is still on going with a lot to do. Abstract Guarantee went out of business so many of the historical documents will be stored at the house to preserve that history of our city. Abstract also donated a little stove that was in the business.

Meeting adjourned and members were able to socialize.

Respectfully submitted: Liz Matis, Secretary GNA

## More Area News

### Main Street Farmers Market

Our neighborhood Farmer's Market will be back again! From 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm every Thursday from **May 2** (tentative start date) through **September**, and this year they hope to be in a NEW LOCATION!



Come check out the market in the Historic 100 Block of Broadway! Plans aren't completely finalized for the move, so watch for final details on their website or facebook page. The Main Street Market is a seasonal market offering fresh, locally-grown produce, prepared foods and hand-crafted products direct to the community. The market plans to host a wide range of family and food-oriented programs, including live entertainment, demos by local chefs, horticultural experts, and youth activities. For info: [www.mainstreetfarmersmarketcb.org](http://www.mainstreetfarmersmarketcb.org) ■

### Color Me Rad Fun Run

Looking for fun and exercise? Take part in this color-filled 5k run that benefits the Special Olympics. Registration fee is \$40 and the run takes place **Saturday, May 11th** and takes place at the Mid-America Center. Contact the MAC box office for more details at 712-326-2295. ■

### River's Edge Park Grand Opening

The City of Council Bluffs, along with Con Agra Foods Foundation and the Iowa West Foundation, are proud to announce the acclaimed "Playing with Fire" concert series will bring world-class jazz, blues, soul and funk music to celebrate the grand opening of the River's Edge Park at the foot of the Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge. They will offer a FREE Memorial Day concert on Monday, **May 27, 2013**. To find out more about the Park and learn more about other grand opening events, visit [www.cbparksandrec.org](http://www.cbparksandrec.org) online or like their facebook page under "River's Edge Park CB." ■

### "Celebrate CB" Events!

Mid-May is the Annual Celebrate CB Week, with multiple festivities happening in various parts of town!

**The Parade will be held May 18** from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The theme this year is "Love Where You Live." More information and parade entry forms can be found online at [www.cbevents.com](http://www.cbevents.com).

**Street Dance by the River will be on May 10th**, 7:30 to 10:30! The fun will be heading to River's Edge Park the evening of May 10th for the first weekend of Celebrate CB and the first annual street dance by the river! Don't worry, the parade and festivities for the following weekend will still be at Bayliss Park, but this brand new landscape helps the city celebrate in a new and fun way!

**Carnival! May 16-19** in Bayliss Park. Ride the rides and take in the fun!

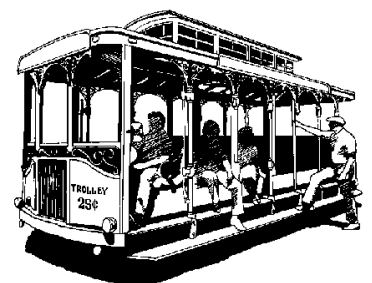
There's MORE fun to be had with the BBQ competition, Children's Faire and more! Visit the Celebrate CB website at [www.celebratecb.com](http://www.celebratecb.com) for all the details.

### Bayliss Park

Visit the [www.bluffsarts.org](http://www.bluffsarts.org) website for information on the Summer music and movie series. Let's get some neighbors together and enjoy an evening in our beautiful park! ■

### Ollie the Trolley Historic Tour

Tour historic C.B. sites from the comfort of the trolley!! Boarding at Union Pacific Railroad Museum (200 Pearl St). \$10 per person - advance sale only! Call Bluffs Arts Council (Monday-Thursday) 712.328.4992. Tour Schedule: the fourth Thursday of each month April through October: April 25 - 5:30pm, May 23 - 10:00am & 5:30pm, June 27 - 5:30pm, July 25 - 10:00am & 5:30pm, August 22 - 5:30pm, September 26 - 5:30pm, and October 24, 5:00pm. Presented by Preserve Council Bluffs. ■



**Your Newsletter Staff**

**Cory Peters**

712-329-8526

**Paulette Brandt**

712-328-7399

**Liz Matis**

712-323-6400

We welcome your input!  
Please contact us with suggestions on content you want to see covered. ■

**RECIPE: Cucumber Salad in a Jar**

Summer has to get here sooner or later, right? Here's a great idea for your summer veggie garden overflow!

- 4 thinly sliced cucumbers
- 1 large red onion, sliced
- 1 large green bell pepper, sliced
- 1 Tbsp salt
- 2 cups white vinegar
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp celery flakes
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes

Put vinegar, sugar, celery flakes and pepper flakes in a pot and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and add 2 handfuls of ice until melted. Place all veggies in large mouth canning jars (2 quart jars or 1 half gallon jar). Pour mixture over cucumbers, store in refrigerator. Will keep up to two months. (Makes 2 quart jars)

**Visit us online:**

[www.GibraltarNA.org](http://www.GibraltarNA.org)

**Your GNA Board:**

**Paulette Brandt**, President

712-328-7399

**Susie Dew**, Vice President

712-366-7606

**Liz Matis**, Secretary

712-323-6400

**Mary Madison**, Treasurer

712-328-8073

**Steve Gorman**

712-256-8890

**Kent Madison**

712-323-8073

**Dave Adams**

712-329-9885

**Bud Dew**

712-366-7606

**Harold Compton**

712-325-0324

**The Historical Society NEEDS YOU!!**

Our GNA is one of the largest historical neighborhoods in the city of Council Bluffs. The **Historical Society of Pottawattamie County** is a group of people with a common goal as stated in their Mission: "to preserve the past for current and future generations." The Historical Society has been instrumental in saving many of the historical sites in our county, and they are looking for new members who also seek to preserve our community's history. They have General Meetings just like the GNA does, and you can choose to attend when you want. They would really like to get members of our GNA involved with their group. Liz Matis was just appointed to their Board, and she sees so many things that we have in common. Contact Liz at 323-6400 or call Ed Richie at the Squirrel Cage Jail at 402-612-8144 for more information. Just tell him you saw this in the GNA Rock Talk and would like more information on becoming a member. He is there Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. They have several membership levels from which to choose. **Won't you please consider joining the Historical Society of Pottawattamie County to help preserve our county's wonderful heritage?**

**Gibraltar Neighborhood Association: Membership Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Become a Gibraltar Neighborhood Association Member!!** Yearly dues are \$25 per household. In order to be eligible to vote for board candidates and other issues, you must be a paid association member. Make checks payable to and mail payment to:

**Gibraltar Neighborhood Association ■ P.O. Box 1971 ■ Council Bluffs, IA 51502-1971**