

# ROCK-TALK

The Gibraltar Neighborhood  
Association, Inc. Newsletter



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



## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- May 12  
Dodge House Plant Sale  
along with GNA Plant Sale
- May 12  
ISD & Children's Square  
Plant Sales
- May 15  
Bayliss Park Cleanup
- **Friday, May 18**  
GNA General Meeting  
Mary and Kent Madison's  
228 5th Ave.  
7:00 p.m.
- June 24  
Dodge House  
Garden Walk

## Historic Home Signs for the GNA!

Do you like the historic signs you see in front of some of those beautiful historic homes on Park and Glen Avenues? Well, Gibraltar Neighborhood Association is in the process of having something similar made for **our** neighborhood. Kent Madison is working on the sign style and design. The signs will be slightly smaller, but much like those on Glen and Park. We are writing a grant hoping to cover the cost, as did the Fairmont Park neighborhood. If you are interested in having one made for *your* historic home please contact one of the Board members. ■



## Mark Your Calendar: MAY GNA Meeting

The **May** GNA general meeting is **FRIDAY the 18th** at the home of Kent and Mary Madison, 228 5th Ave., at 7:00 pm. Please bring a snack to share and invite a friend or neighbor that might be interested in joining. We had so much to talk about 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!*** ■

## Neighborhood Center Mayor's Breakfast Featured Inaugural Neighborhood Innovation Awards

The third Neighborhood Center Mayor's Breakfast occurred Thursday, March 29, at the Tip-Top Ballroom in Omaha. The event featured Council Bluffs Mayor Tom Hanafan and Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle. "The Mayor's Breakfast is an opportunity for neighborhood people to interact with city officials in a casual atmosphere," said Ronald Abdouch, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Center. The breakfast also featured the first **Neighborhood Innovation Awards**. Four neighborhood associations were recognized and received a certificate and a check for \$250. The Council Bluffs **Downtown Neighborhood Alliance** was one of the four honored at the event. The Neighborhood Center serves Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties. For more information, visit [www.unomaha.edu/ncenter](http://www.unomaha.edu/ncenter). ■



Pictured (from left to right): Bill Wege, Locust Lodge Neighborhood Association; Ryan Willer, Neighborhood Center; Mayor Tom Hanafan; Paulette Brandt, Gibraltar Neighborhood Association President; Councilmember Nate Watson, Neighborhood Center Board President; Sheila Graham, Downtown Neighborhood Alliance President; Pam Horihan, Roberts Park Neighborhood Association President.

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## ISD West Pottawattamie County Extension Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale

**Saturday, May 12, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.** at Iowa School for the Deaf Campus (3501 Harry Langdon Blvd). Plants include many perennials such as hosta, daylilies, sedum, bleeding hearts, and ornamental grasses as well as a variety of vegetables and annuals and some houseplants. Master Gardeners will be on hand to assist and give advice on plantings and gardening questions. For more information call 712-366-7070. ■

## Children's Square Garden and Plant Sale

**Saturday, May 12, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Hosted by: First Christian Church and Risen Son Christian Village (3000 Risen Son Blvd, just east of Valley View Drive on Hwy 92). Here is your chance to support Children's Square while you shop for perennials, annuals, unique planters for your deck and fun garden art that you won't find anywhere else! ■

## Our Past, Present and Future: George Washington, Part II

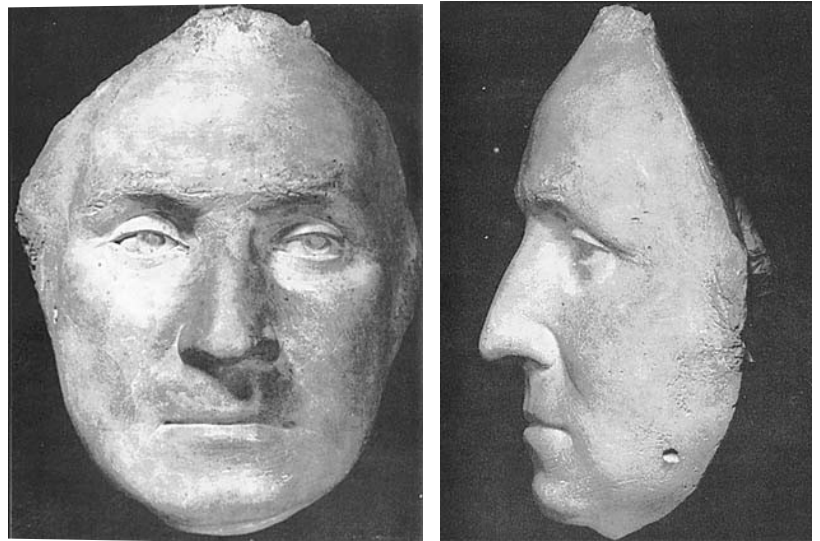
*To prepare for GNA's future, we must know our past, by Liz Matis*

**To continue from last issue's Part I:** George Washington's life mask was made in 1785 by French sculptor Jean Antoine Houdon when Washington was 53. In commenting to a friend, Houdon said he had no idea of "the majesty and grandeur of Washington's form and features" until he studied him as a subject.

The life mask shows Washington as he really appeared in life: without the personal and, often, subjective interpretations of the many artists, painters and sculptors who came to sketch, paint and model his countenance.

When Washington returned to Mount Vernon after the war, he was one of the most famous men in the world. His newly-won celebrity status brought him a steady pilgrimage of visiting foreigners, Americans, historians and innumerable artists, off of whom consumed many hours of his time.

In a letter to Francis Hopkins in 1785, the year his life mask was made, Washington wrote: "I am so hackneyed to the touches of painters' pencils that I am now altogether at their beck, and sit 'like patience on a monument,' whilst they delineating the lines of my face. It is a proof, among many others, of what habit and custom can accomplish." It has been the good fortune of generations ever since that Washington had the patience to allow Antoine Houdon to create an important artifact as part of our national heritage.



There has been much speculation throughout the years as to what really took Washington's life. With the advancement of medicine through the years, physicians have been able to pinpoint how and what happened.

In the article "A Physician Looks At The Death of Washington" by Vibul V. Vadakan, M.D. He writes:

On December 12, 1799, President George Washington, still physically robust at 68 years of age, rode his horse in heavy snowfall to inspect this plantation at Mount Vernon. Although the temperature was 30 degrees Fahrenheit, he remained outdoors from 10:00 in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon. An early entry in his personal diary for December 12, 1791 Stated:

"Morning cloudy, wind at northeast and mercury at 33. A large circle around the moon last night. About 10:00 it began to snow, soon after hail and then a settled rain, Mercury at 28 at night."

The following day, December 13<sup>th</sup>, the General complained of a sore throat, yet again rode out on his estate in heavy snow to mark trees that he wished to be cut. Upon returning, he made light of his developing hoarseness and spent the evening perusing newspapers in the company of his wife, Martha and his personal secretary, Colonel Lear. He appeared cheerful and read aloud several newspaper passages insofar as his increasing hoarseness permitted. When the Colonel Lear suggested that he take medication, he protested saying; "You know I never take anything for a cold. Let it go as it came."

*Continued...*

In the early morning of Saturday, December 4, 1799, between 2:00 AM and 3:00 AM, the General suddenly awoke in distress and informed his wife that he felt unwell. He could hardly speak and breathed with great difficulty. Not wanting Martha to walk to another building to awake the maid because of the cold night air, he suffered in bed until sunrise. When the maid arrived to light a fire and found him in severe distress, she was sent by Mrs. Washington to fetch Colonel Lear. It was decided to send for Mr. Albin Rawlins, the estate overseer, who prepared a medical mixture of molasses, vinegar, and butter. When the General tried to swallow the concoction, he went into an episode of convulsive suffocation. He then decided bloodletting would be a better course and ordered Mr. Rawlins to perform venesection on his arm to remove half a pint of blood. General Washington was a strong believer in bloodletting, having used it successfully to cure various maladies affecting his Negro slaves. When Mr. Rawlins showed agitation while performing the procedure, he provided gentle encouragement.

General Washington was a physically impressive man measuring 6 feet 3 inches in height and weighed 230 pounds. One can estimate the blood volume of President Washington at seven liters. The extraction was more than half of his blood volume in a short amount of time. It led to preterminal anemia, hypovolemia and hypotension. The fact he became physically calm shortly before his death may have been due to profound hypotension and shock!

The last living moment of President Washington was described by his step-grandson, George Washington Custis who was 19 years old at the time:

“...The patient bore his acute sufferings with fortitude and perfect resignation to the Divine will, while as the night advanced it became evident that he was sinking, and he seemed fully aware that ‘his hour was nigh.’ He inquired the time, and was answered a few minutes to ten. He spoke no more – the hand of death was upon him, and he was conscious that ‘his hour was come.’ With surprising self-possession he prepared to die. Composing his form at length, and folding his arms on his bosom, without a sigh, without a groan, the Father of his Country died. No pang or struggle told when the noble spirit took its noiseless

flight; while so tranquil appeared the manly features in the repose of death, that some moments had passed ere those around could believe that the patriarch was no more.”



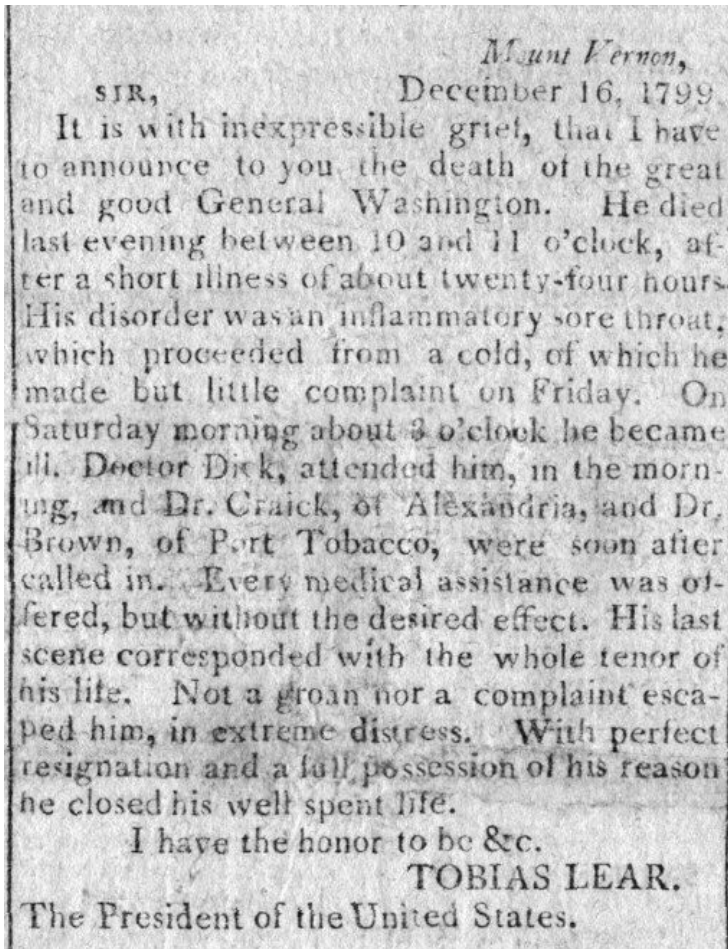
*Pictured:  
George  
Washington  
Custis*

Martha sitting at the foot of the bed asked with a firm and collected voice, “Is he gone?” When told yes, she said “Tis well.” And in the same voice said ‘all’s now over; I shall soon follow him; I have no more trials to pass through.’ So departed the spirit of this great and good man whose body, thirty hours before, was in robust health, and which gave promise of a vigorous and serene old age.

The news of Washington’s death reached President Adams at Philadelphia by a special courier, on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. John Marshall announced it to the assembled Congress that day, when a public funeral was decreed; bells tolled funeral knells. When, forty days afterward, the news reached England, flags of the great English fleet of sixty vessels lying in Torbay were lowered to half-mast; and Bonaparte, just made First Consul, ordered a funeral oration to be pronounced before himself and the civil and military authorities of France. Congress decreed the erection of a monument to his memory at the site of the new national capital on the banks of the Potomac, and asked the privilege (which was granted) of depositing his remains at the seat of the national government. That monument has not been erected, and the remains are in a vault at Mount Vernon.

*Continued...*

Washington's obituary as it appeared in "*The Spectator*" December 25, 1799:



Quotes by some of Washington's friends, historical people from his time regarding how they perceived him and his thoughts on important issues facing the new country, America.

**Cornwallis**, after his surrender to Washington in a toast at a dinner he hosted, "When the illustrious part that your Excellency has borne in this long and arduous contest, becomes a matter of history, fame will gather your brightest laurels rather from the banks of the Delaware and those of the Chesapeake."

**Thomas Jefferson**, "Perhaps the strongest feature in his character was prudence, never acting until every circumstance, every consideration, was maturely weighed; refraining if he saw a doubt, but, when once decided, going through with his purpose, whatever obstacles opposed. His integrity was most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known, no motives of interest or consanguinity, of

friendship or hatred, being able to bias his decision. He was, indeed, in every sense of the words, a wise, a good, and a great man.

**Richard Allen**, a former slave from his eulogy of George Washington, 1799, "The name of Washington will live when the sculptured marble and statue of bronze shall be crumbled into dust – for it is the decree of the eternal God that 'the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance, but the memorial of the wicked shall rot.'"

Memorable words from Washington:

**George Washington to the Marquis De Lafayette, 1788:** "A few short weeks will determine the political fate of America for the present generation and probably produce no small influence on the happiness of society through a long succession of ages to come. Should everything proceed with harmony and confess to you sincerely, my dear Marquis; it will be so much beyond any thing we had a right to imagine or expect eighteen months ago, that it will demonstrate as visibly the finger of Providence, as any possible event in the course of human affairs can ever designate it."

**George Washington, 1789,** "I was but the humble agent of favoring Heaven, whose benign interference was so often manifested in our behalf and to whom the praise of victory alone is due."

It is my hope that you have learned things about Washington you did not know before. I know I did in researching and writing this article. What a special gift from God Washington was, to the creation of our Country, *AMERICA!* — Liz

Portions of this article from: [www.ministers-best-friend.com/](http://www.ministers-best-friend.com/)

George Washington

General-Facts: [americanhistory.about.com/georgewashington](http://americanhistory.about.com/georgewashington);

[earlyamerica.com/milestones/farewell](http://earlyamerica.com/milestones/farewell); [ctpost.com/opinion/](http://ctpost.com/opinion/)

[article/Washington-s-farewell-address](http://article/Washington-s-farewell-address); [earlyamerica.com/](http://earlyamerica.com/review/spring97)

[review/spring97](http://review/spring97) (Washington death mask) [earlyamerica.com](http://earlyamerica.com),

(A Physician Looks At the Death of Washington), [eyewitnessto-](http://eyewitnessto-history.com)

[history.com](http://history.com) (The Death of George Washington, 1799)

[publicbookshelf.com](http://publicbookshelf.com) (George Washington's Death)

[earlyamerica.com](http://earlyamerica.com) (Obituary of George Washington)

[americanhistory.com](http://americanhistory.com)/quotewashington

Being George Washington; Glenn Beck 2011, Threshold Editions

## March 16, 2012: General Meeting Minutes

The March meeting was held at the home of Bud and Susie Dew on Friday, March 16, 2012. The meeting commenced at 7:21 p.m. with greetings and a welcome from our President, Paulette Brandt.

There were 23 members in attendance which is a great turnout.

Mary Madison gave the treasurer's report with a current balance of \$994.11 to date.

Fairmont Park clean-up will be April 14<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Flags were discussed for the front of homes. Cory and Kent will investigate the cost and Kent has created a design. We will need to find someone to do the screening. Buck & Terry have a friend that might be available.

Paulette asked if everyone was getting the updates from Alba on Crime and everyone has. It was suggested that we could look into the cost of a refrigerator magnet that would have Mark's phone number.

Pat Murphy reported for the Preserve Council Bluffs regarding the Bregant House. The Bergants moved to Council Bluffs after their courtship and married on Christmas Day. They built the house in 1912, custom made to accommodate their small stature. After traveling a few more years they retired to operate a grocery store on North 8<sup>th</sup> Street owned by Inez' parents.

Norma Glassburner's Mother-In-Law lived next door to the "little house" on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The asking price was \$45,000.00 as the Glassburner's decided to sell the "little house" in hopes that it could be turned into a Museum. Pat reported that an anonymous donor came forward and bought the house to preserve it. The understanding for the purchase was to be that no one would know who donated the money. The hope now is that possibly joining with the Dodge House, the RR Museum & the GNA this special house could be turned into a museum to remain in the History Books of Council Bluffs.

Ia. West Racing donated \$125,000.00 for the new statue in front of the Library. Chanticleer Theatre was brought up again as they are still trying to raise the money to save the theatre. It was noted that Iowa

West is hesitant in donating to private entities. Small surrounding towns have Community Theatres and Council Bluffs should be able to support our community theatre. GNA could have a "night at the theatre" where we could go and support them to keep it going. Denise and Bob Putnam are doing everything they can to keep the theatre afloat. It has been a part of Council Bluffs for years and we need to keep it for the future of our community. Mr. Hobbs will be playing for the next two weeks and there is suppose to be one more production after that. Several members present suggested we get together with Fairmont GNA and go and support one night.

Paulette asked what people liked about Rock Talk. Bumpy and several members liked the recipes, Cory and Paulette got kudos' for the paper and Pat said she really liked the article on Washington and learned things about him she didn't know. She congratulated Liz on the great job she was doing with the "historical" component. Bumpy also added there were things about Washington she didn't know either.

Sheila reported for DNA and said they had a table at "Restore Omaha and had a short slide show at the table people could watch. Sharon Babbitt provided a basket of goodies and a list of historical houses in our area that were for sale was provided.

We will look into approaching the Red Cross to see if they would be able to present an emergency preparedness presentation for GNA. The DNA could sponsor it and open it up to other neighborhood associations. And possibly partner with the Dodge House. Everyone was reminded that the city and county have watch #'s you can call and sign up for their emergency calls. Consider working with other nonprofits in town.

Sheila said the "old YMCA" is being looked at as a "shared space" for talks, a gallery, "Heritage" place where collaborations can take place.

Nate Watson, City Council, reported that this summer the Park Dept. will use its budget to repair the roads at Fairview Cemetery. There is a section that has washed away that is exposing skeleton remains that need to be repaired. Kern Field will be their project for next year. *Continued...*

The budget of the city only accounts for 99. Lost 5% of the tax we would have gotten. House taxes are 4 % more. The city froze the tax rate. Mowing the parks has been cut back. No overtime at City Hall. County just raised the cost clerical will have to pay for their insurance. County is looking at regulating Satellite Dishes on homes. Not in the front yard. Side and backyard would be permitted.

Respectfully submitted: Liz Matis



**SPRING HAS SPRUNG!**

**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!!!!*



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 “**Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea**” by **Barbara Demick**. By the time you read this, we’ll have had our April meeting, however we are only reviewing the **FIRST HALF** of the book. Come join us for the **May** book club meeting where we’ll discuss the rest! If you enjoy reading, contact Patti Hannan at 712-323-8600 for more information. We’d love to see you at our next meeting! ■

## News Tidbits

### Council Bluffs Cleanup Events:

#### **Lake Manawa Cleanup**

Sunday, May 6, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Shelter #6 (prizes and give-a-ways after cleanup concludes)

#### **Clean Sweep**

Tuesday, May 15, 5:30 p.m.  
Bayliss Park (hot dogs and beverages for all volunteers after the event served by the Mayor and City Council)

To find out more information and to pre-register to volunteer, go to [www.keepcouncilbluffsbeautiful.org](http://www.keepcouncilbluffsbeautiful.org).

### Reminder: DUES are due

Reminder that membership dues *should* be paid by March 31. Of course we will not deny anyone who would like to pay at the next general meeting at Mary and Kent Madison’s home, at 228 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Please come and listen to “what’s happening” in the neighborhood.

### FAIRMOUNT PARK GARAGE SALE

The FPNA will be hosting their garage sale on June 9<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 3pm. Be sure to visit their neighborhoods and pick up some great buys! ■

## More LOCAL AREA NEWS

### Main Street Farmers Market

Our neighborhood Farmer's Market is back again! From 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm every Thursday from **May 3** to **September 27** on the corner of 9th Avenue and Main St. The Main Street Market seeks vendors who sell produce, wines, jams, jellies, baked goods, and arts and crafts (all processed food vendors must be State of Iowa certified). The committee is also seeking volunteers who would be willing to join the farmer's market committee. 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 more information or questions or if you want to be a vendor contact Valerie Ware at 402.679.6366 or email [mainstreetfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetfarmersmarket@gmail.com).

### Bluffs Arts Council Black Squirrel Art Classes

To register for any classes, call the BAC office at 712-328-4992 with your credit card information, mail a check to the BAC at 209 Pearl, Suite 106B, Council Bluffs, IA 51503, or go online: [www.bluffsarts.org](http://www.bluffsarts.org) to pay with PayPal. Call or visit their website for more information additional classes.

Copper Sculpture (for kids ages 9-16 and for adults). Kids: pick one, Saturdays, May 5, or June 9, from 1:00 - 5:00 PM at Community Hall (205 South

Main St). Adults: pick one, Mondays May 7, 14, or June 4, from 6:00 - 9:30 PM at Community Hall. Class fee is \$62 (\$59 for BAC members). **Registration deadline is one week prior to each class.**

Handmade Art Journal (upper teen - adult). 3-week session Thursdays, May 17, 24, 31, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at Community Hall (205 South Main St). Class fee is \$28 (\$25 for BAC members).

### Free Music In The Park

Enjoy the melodic sounds of summer in a beautiful and tranquil setting! Free concerts will be held every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm from May 30th to August 1st. A complete listing of musicians will be available in May.

### Free Movies In The Park

Movies will be shown every Friday night starting after dusk (around 9 pm) from June 1st through August 3rd. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, snacks and enjoy the movie with family & friends! All movies are rated G or PG. In case of inclement weather, movies will be shown the following Saturday evening.

For more information or a calendar of musicians and movies, visit the [www.bluffsarts.org](http://www.bluffsarts.org) website. ■

## SUPPORT our neighborhood treasure: The Dodge House!

The General's Ladies, the fund raising arm of the Dodge House, is having their annual **Dodge House Plant Sale** on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Paulette and Liz have joined the General's Ladies, who are graciously allowing the GNA to set up tables in front of the house on that date to **sell perennials from our own gardens** as a fundraiser, and we will donate a portion of what we make back to the Dodge House. The Dodge House will be selling their traditional heirloom plant "annuals," while many of the gardeners in *our* neighborhood will be sharing their "extra perennials." If you have any plants that you would like to donate, contact either Paulette Brandt at 328-7399 or Liz Matis at 323-6400 for information. Please **come and support this event.**

### Additional Upcoming Dodge House Events:

- Sunday June 24 General's Ladies Garden Walk continental breakfast
- Wednesday July 4 Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration
- Saturday July 14th & Sunday July 15th Railroad Days
- September 8th & 9th General's Ladies Fall Tea at Dodge House
- Sunday November 18 Special Christmas Members Tea 1-4 PM
- Sunday December 9th Day with the Dodges 1-4 PM at the Dodge House
- Thursday December 6th & 13th & 20th Christmas Season Family Nights 6-8PM



## Were you at the March meeting?

*If not, you missed the fun! Plan to join us at the May meeting!*



**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 Corner: Olive Beef Spread** from Mary Madison

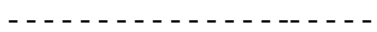
This tasty hors d'oeuvre was a HIT at our last meeting and a much-requested recipe. Mary was kind enough to share!

**Ingredients**

- 1 large cream cheese, softened
- 1 pkg. dried beef, chopped
- 1/4 C. chopped green olives
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. Mayo
- 1 Tbsp. Sherry or juice from the olive jar

**Directions**

Mix all ingredients and refrigerate. Serve with your favorite cracker.



**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

**Bob Yanders**

712-322-2214

**Harold Compton**

712-325-0324

**CLOSING THOUGHTS:**

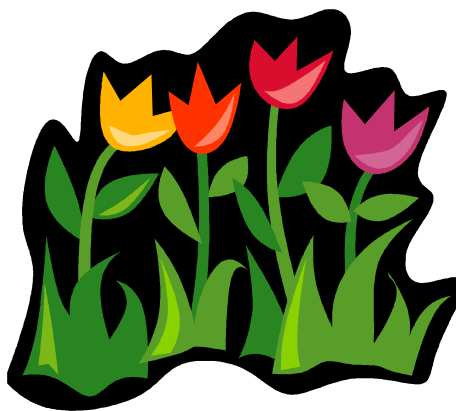
**George Washington quotes that are "food for thought":**

"Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism."

"When we assume the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen."

"Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation, for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company."

"The name of AMERICAN, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations."



**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**