



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Visit the GNA website: www.GibraltarNA.org
Join the GNA Networking site: www.Gibraltar.Nextdoor.com



3rd Quarter Family Picnic/Social!! Come Hungry, Leave Happy!

Mark your calendar for the GNA 3rd Quarter Social event, on **Sunday, September 20th from 4:00 to 7:00** in the afternoon at beautiful Kirn Park (located at the top of 5th Avenue.) The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association will be providing sloppy joes and lemonade for everyone, along with plates, utensils and cups. You can bring your favorite salad, side dish or dessert to share!



Seating will be limited so bring your lawn chairs, and a cooler if you'd like beverages other than lemonade! If you have some fun outdoor games, bring those too (we'll have a ladder golf setup on hand... does anyone have a cornhole beanbag game, Frisbees or other games we can use??).



*******If you plan to attend**, please reply to Cory Peters at coryp241@yahoo.com by so we have a headcount for food & supplies.

SEPT. 2015 GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015, 6:00—8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Corner of Bluff Street and Story Street

If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food item to contribute to their food pantry, or a contribution for the Pet Food pantry!! ALL neighborhood residents (owners and renters) encouraged to attend!

3rd Quarter GNA Social

Sunday, June 20 at 4:00 p.m. Kirn Park— Sloppy Joe picnic social!! Bring the family and your picnic gear and enjoy the afternoon at Kirn Park! Gibraltar Neighborhood Assn. will provide free sloppy joes and lemonade. Please bring a side dish to share if you are able! RSVP (see article) so we know how much to make!

Future GNA General Meetings:

Wednesday, Nov. 11 -- 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Sidewalk Repair Update

Many thanks to Steve Gorman who has been working diligently with contractors to get bids on our sidewalk repair initiative. We are starting to get pricing put together and hope to have a firm idea of costs and timeframe before the end of the summer.

We are also brainstorming FUNDRAISING ideas, as most grant submissions will require Gibraltar to have some type of matching funding, either in dollars or in sweat equity, so we need to make sure we have the moolah on hand to pony up for the grant. That means when you see an future announcement about a fundraising event, **we need YOU to participate!!!** It is only through neighbors helping neighbors that we are able to make Gibraltar a better place to live for everyone!

BANNER DESIGN — Your Vote Matters!

Slowly but surely, we continue to move forward with our neighborhood identification banners initiative. Now comes the stage where we will VOTE on the artwork for the banner. Below you will find three banner designs. They are similar, but different. A POLL is now available on the NextDoor networking website (www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com) where residents can vote for the design they like the best! (If you're not already registered [it's free] on the NextDoor website, you'll need to do so in order to be able to vote!).

DESIGN 1



DESIGN 2



DESIGN 3

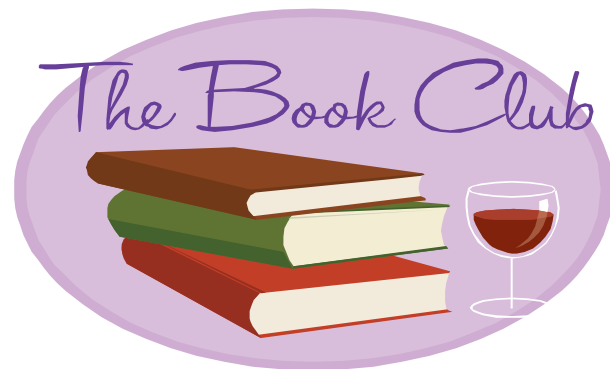


If you don't wish to join the NextDoor website (why wouldn't you!?), you can also email your banner choice or design improvements to Cory Peters at coryp241@yahoo.com. We look forward to receiving your vote!

DID YOU KNOW?

VISION: Gibraltar Neighborhood is a clean, safe neighborhood that offers an interesting mix of well kept homes within one of the Historic areas of Council Bluffs and provides its residents with a place to live where neighbors look out for one another and are proud of their neighborhood.

MISSION: Gibraltar Neighborhood Association seeks to develop, implement and promote a comprehensive plan that: strengthens neighborhood relationships and communication, creates strategies to make our neighborhood safe, promotes activities that assure our neighborhood is one of clean and well-kept properties, encourages ideas and community involvement, and ensures that we will leave our neighborhood better than we found it.



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. We are currently reading a fascinating book called "**The Kite Runner**" by **Khaled Hosseini**. We've recently added some new members, and we hope you'll consider making this part of your neighborhood involvement! If you enjoy reading and socializing, contact Patti Hannan at 712-323-8600 for more info. We'd love to see you at our next meeting! ■

FROM PRESIDENT PETERS

Greetings fellow GNA residents!

Where has the summer gone? Before you know it, the kids will be back to school and swimsuit weather will be behind us. I, for one, am already looking forward to football!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out and return a survey. While we didn't have huge participation numbers, the results themselves are interesting. You can see the breakdown (and my comments) on page 5 of the newsletter.



The 2nd Quarter Social at Pat Murphy's house was a great time. It was a lovely day and Pat's house looked amazing! As usual, the food was fabulous, and I was so happy to see/meet some new faces in attendance! Thanks to all who made the effort, and look for photos from the event posted on page 7.

3rd QUARTER GNA SOCIAL! The GNA social event for the 3rd quarter will be a family-friend event at Kim Park (at the top of 5th Avenue on the north side of the street). No business will be conducted—this is just a fun picnic gathering where friends and families can relax and get to know each other a bit better!! We'll meet at 4:00 p.m. and you can stay as long as you like.

The GNA will be providing all-you-can-eat sloppy joes and lemonade! We'll provide the plates and utensils, too. YOU bring your lawn chairs and any other beverages of your choice, and a salad or side dish or dessert to share. I'll be bringing my "ladder golf" game, but if you have a cornhole beanbag toss game, or Frisbees, or a waffle ball and bat, or other fun outdoor games, please bring them! We'd like to make this a relaxed & fun gathering! As per the request in the article on page one, PLEASE reply to me if you'll be attending so we can be sure there is enough food and supplies on hand for everyone!

Watch for information in future newsletters about FUNDRAISING events hosted by Gibraltar. The sidewalk repair initiative and banner initiative are both going to require some major dough, so we need to raise some money!! If you have a great idea, please do contact me!! The board is brainstorming possible ideas, and once we determine what the events will be, we need YOU to not only participate and give generously, but also get the word out to your family and friends! We're counting on you and appreciate your involvement and support!

It seems odd to mention it in July (as I'm writing this), but after this issue goes to print it will be October before the next issue is delivered and our trees will likely start shedding some leaves by then.... so, I'd just like to mention that it's the courteous thing to do when you are raking leaves and sweeping your sidewalk, please do your best (or make sure your lawn crew does) to wrangle and bag your yard debris. Sweeping everything into the street only angers or frustrates your neighbors when that same gob of yard waste blows onto THEIR front lawn. **"Don't be a drag... put it in a bag!"** (yeah, I know I'm not winning any awards for that jingle —haha!)

As a friendly reminder, whether you are a GNA homeowner or renter, paid GNA member or NOT, don't forget to join the neighborhood networking group at www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com. This site is an *excellent* way for all residents to post news, share alerts, ask questions, pose ideas and get to know one another. There is NO COST to join the group, there's no spam or advertisements, etc.; you just need to live in the Gibraltar boundaries.

Until next time,

Cory Peters — GNA President

CALL FOR BOOKS!!



The Little Free Library installation is creeping closer and closer! We had an “unveiling” of our new Library Box at the Rotary Club Centennial Celebration a couple weeks ago. The Rotary facilitated getting the box built, and GNA’s President Cory Peters painted the outside. GNA resident Gordon Hitchcock is making a few modifications to the roof and once it’s done, GNA board member Steve Gorman will sink the post and get it installed!

As you recall from previous newsletters, the Library is a FREE “take a book, leave a book” environment where ANYONE is welcome to browse the collection of books and borrow one for as long as they like! We will switch out the Library contents from time to time to keep the reading fresh! The Library will be located in the well-maintained green space at the northeast corner of 4th Street and Story Street. The space is owned by Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, and we want to again thank them for being a wonderful neighborhood partner and allowing us to install the Library!

So, now we need to start collecting the donated books!! If you have good condition children’s books or adult books (keep it R-rated or below, please!) and would be willing to donate to the Library, please contact GNA Vice President Jeff Ketcham at thirtysomethinggeek@gmail.com. He can arrange with you to collect the books. We’ll announce on the GNA and NextDoor websites and in the newsletter when the library is officially installed and books are in place!

EVENT CALENDER

THURSDAYS through Sept.
Main Street Farmers Market
5:00 to 8:00 pm, 100 W. Broadway
Featuring farm produce, locally-prepared foods, art, music, crafts, etc.

Music in the Park
Wednesdays through Sept. 2
6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Bayliss Park
FREE event, bring your lawn chairs and come enjoy some great music! Bands and type of music changes each week.

Blues Music: August 8
Band: Bill Wakeman & Random
Tom Hanafan River’s Edge Park
FREE live music from 7:00—8:30 pm

Bluegrass Music: September 12
Band: Bluegrass Playground
Tom Hanafan River’s Edge Park
FREE live music from 7:00—8:30 pm

Movies on the River
Tom Hanafan River’s Edge Park
FREE! Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the movies! Movies start at dusk (approx 9:00 p.m.) and are usually preceded by free music in park!
Aug 8—Hunger Games Mockingjay 1
Sept 12—Guardians of the Galaxy
Oct 10—Rocky Horror Picture Show



Neighborhood Survey Results

- 1) **Range, head of household**
92% are 55 or older
- 2) **Children under 18**
0% of respondents have under 18 kids
- 3) **Neighbors known**
75% answered “most” or “half”
2 ppl answered “all”
1 person answered “non”
- 4) **Strength of community**
92% answered “very strong” or “moderately strong”
1 person answered “not strong at all”
Note: the last respondent reported being handicapped and shy, so let’s work on outreach!
- 5) **Attendance at meetings**
58% reported “occasionally”
42% reported “never”
- 6) **Reasons for not attending meetings/events**
not a paid member = 2
schedule conflicts = 2
very full schedule = 1
don’t enjoy meetings = 1
handicapped = 1
no excuse = 1
- 7) **Types of events would attend**
potluck = 1
socials = 5
mobile happy hour = 1
tailgate at Werner Park = 1
traveling dinner = 1
meetings in private homes = 1
picnic = 1
book club = 1
clean up events = 2
work parties = 1
- 8) **Like most about Gibraltar**
friendly = 6
well-kept homes = 4
social events = 1
safe = 2
people care about neighborhood = 2
history = 2
quiet = 2
architecture = 1
library = 1
bus service = 1
beauty = 1
Kirn Park = 1
newsletter = 1
- 9) **Like least**
nothing = 2
run-down rentals = 2
sidewalks = 1
streets = 2 (bricks need work, but keep them)
boundary too large = 1
speeders = 1
drug users living on Bluff Street = 1
- 10) **Changes to improve Gibraltar Neighborhood**
sidewalks fixed = 3
brick streets restored = 3
involve all areas of the neighborhood = 1
address poorly-maintained rental property = 1
improved home maintenance = 1
repair curbs = 2
wear name tags at meetings/events = 1
add a grocery store = 1
like the idea of banners to identify us = 1

President Cory’s comments: *While the age skews older in our neighborhood, I do feel there are quite a few younger families and young adults who are moving in. We need to do a better job of engaging these residents and getting them involved! I would also like to mention that our GNA meeting location at Our Savior’s church IS handicapped accessible, so we encourage any physically-challenged residents to join us! (The GNA September picnic at Kirn Park is also ADA accessible!) And we are a friendly group—don’t be shy, we’d love to welcome you! Lastly, we DO have a GNA book club, and it’s a blast! Come to a book club meeting sometime and check it out!*

GNA HOMES: 301 Worth Street, Keesee House, by Mary Lou McGinn

On April 6, 1854, congress passed an act to enable the citizens of Council Bluffs to acquire titles to their claims. Judge Franklin Street (yes, Frank Street) was authorized to execute deeds to bona fide claimants. Judge Street hired Thomas Tostevin to survey the claims and plat the lines. Land was bought and sold, and often passed through several owners before a house would be built.

And so it was with the property at the corner of Third and Worth Streets. One of the owners was J. M. Palmer who came here from Ohio and engaged in real estate, built a three-story block and a public hall, and was a banker for a time but failed in the crash of 1857.



T.H. (Thankful Hannah) Keesee House, built 1870

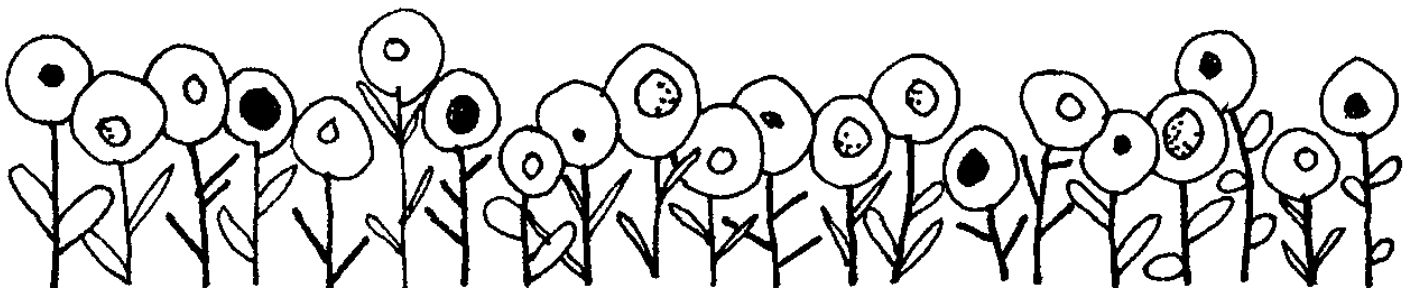
He was mayor four times between 1862 and 1870. (Frank Street was mayor in 1867 and Thomas Tostevin in 1868.) The house appears to have been built around 1870 for T. H. (Thankful Hannah) Keesee. The family of Robert Reed, heir of T. H. Keesee, lived here for a number of years.

Features of this two-story Italianate house include a hipped roof with an eave overhang, segmental-arched windows that now have replacement windows, a front door transom, and a widow's walk balustrade on the roof. The original porch was removed but its outline can be seen on the side of the house.

Third Street was known as the "Street of Generals" because four men who attained the rank of general lived within a three-block area: Generals George and Frank Everest (brothers) at 125 Third Street, Dr. Mathew Tinley at 520 Third Street (the house was demolished in 2011), and General Grenville M. Dodge at 605 Third Street.

The Willow/Bluff/Third Street District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

Preserve Council Bluffs acknowledges the following sources of information for this series: National Register of Historic Places nominations, the reference department of the Council Bluffs Public Library, the auditor's office of the Pottawattamie County courthouse, Council Bluffs Community Development Department, homeowners, family members and individual research. Feel free to contact Mary Lou McGinn.



GNA 2nd Quarter Social - - PHOTOS

If you missed the party at Pat Murphy's house in June, you missed a fun afternoon! Everyone enjoyed getting together and touring her house, then adjoining to the patio for drinks and food. THANK YOU again to Pat for being an awesome host, and waiving payment from the GNA to cover her expenses! ■



Volunteers Needed!



Why should we care about this organization? Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs helps our neighborhood and others through their Neighborhood Initiative programs. They print our neighborhood newsletter for free; they provide leadership and training to empower citizens to take ownership of their community and make vital connections with government; they help neighborhoods access grant funding to complete beautification and improvement projects, and much more.

On another level, Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs is a non-profit, non-denominational, ecumenical Christian organization and an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. They work to revitalize neighborhoods in the Council Bluffs community and have been building simple, decent, affordable homes since 1993. They've finished 87 homes in 20 years of service.

They are currently seeking volunteers to help out not only in their main office space (answering the front desk phone or spending a few hours cleaning & vacuuming), but also in their ReStore business where they sell various goods. They need help running the cash register, unloading donations from trucks, sorting and pricing items, etc. If you are able to donate some time to this helpful organization, call and talk to volunteer coordinator Tiffany Clifton— phone 712-328-9467 or via email at Tiff@habitatcb.org. THANK YOU! ■



Neighborhood News FLASH-BACK!

Thanks to Danette from the General Dodge House for this time capsule entry...

From the Omaha Sunday Bee, May 19, 1907:

“Mr. E.E. Hart entertained at dinner Monday evening in honor of General Dodge. Covers were laid for nineteen. The guests were: General Dodge, N.P. Dodge, N.P. Doge, Jr., Mr. Scott of Omaha, Major Richmond, H.H. Van Brunt, Emmet Tinley, Walter I. Smith, John Mehlhon, Jr., K.A. Quinn, August Beresheim, Victor E. Bender, H.W. Binder, E.W. Hart, F.R. Davis, C.W. McDonald, Ernest E. Hart, D.W. Bushnell and E.H. Merriam.”

That's an awful lot of initials with nary a female in sight! My guess is lots of cigar smoking and whisky drinking took place that evening! ■

Habitat ReStore OPEN!

Habitat for Humanity Council Bluffs recently moved their offices to the beautifully-restored historic building at 1228 S. Main Street, with expanded and improved space for the ReStore store.

Habitat ReStore sells new and used building materials, furniture, appliances and a wide variety of household goods to the public at **discount prices**. All proceeds from the Council Bluffs ReStore support Habitat's comprehensive neighborhood improvement mission.

They are open M-F 11:00 to 5:00 and Saturdays 8:00 to 2:00. Check it out!! ■



Meeting convened at 6:05 p.m. Attendees: Tom Emmett, Bill Grove, Cathy Hill, Glennay Jundt and Meka Tate (Habitat for Humanity), Jeff Ketcham, Roland Lynch, Mary Madison, Adrienne McElderry, Cory Peters and Ann Walters.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1) Little Free Library

GNA was represented at Barley's for the Centennial Rotary's celebration of their 10th year and their project to place 10 Little Free Libraries in area neighborhoods. With the collaborative efforts of Menard's, Habitat for Humanity, Rotary, Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, our Little Free Library will be located in the grassy area just north of Our Savior's Lutheran. A big thanks to Cory for her art talents in its design, Gordon Hitchcock for making roofing adjustments and Steve Gorman who will install it. (Go Steve!)

2) Habitat for Humanity

Glennay Jundt, a new addition to the H4H staff. They invited GNA folks to their quarterly workshop on Tuesday, June 14 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at their South Main location. Topics of discussion will be Grant Applications and the use of social media to promote neighborhoods. Future workshops are as follows: Sept 10—Neighborhood Associations; Nov. 9—Leadership and Conflict Resolution. All workshops are at the same location and times, unless otherwise noted. Anyone is welcome. They ask that you call in advance to reserve your spot! A light meal is included.

3) Banners Update

Cory produced several mockups of possible banner designs to consider. We will be seeking grant monies to finance these 25 or so banners, which will be mounted on already-existing utility poles in our area. Discussion about style, costs, locations, etc. ensued. This will be a multi-year project.

4) 3rd Quarter Social Event

Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 20th, starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Kirn Park Pavillion. GNA will provide the meat and buns. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish and choice of beverage. Cory applied for and received a \$200 grant from Pott. Co. Community Networking to fund socials for the remainder of the year.

5) Fundraising Ideas

Several ideas were floated and various people offered to follow-up on logistics and payout. Ideas are:

- > Chili Cook-Off among GNA neighbors- May ask local "celebrities" in CB to serve as judges. Free will donation suggested.

- > GNA Night at the Movies— Residents could purchase ticket package for admission, drink and popcorn. GNA would reap a percentage of the proceeds.

- > Pizza Ranch—GNA people would work the counter, bus tables, etc. for a period of time. We would donate tips and a percentage of the proceeds to the GNA.

- > Holidays at the Dodge House—Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres with a ticket purchase. Proceeds to GNA.

- > Mystery Theater

- > Food Truck for hire

- > Pancake Man family feed

6) Several concerns were raised regarding sidewalks, speeding in the neighborhood, and cars failing to completely stop at stop signs were discussed. Roland Lynch was kind enough to volunteer to look into those and report back at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hill, Secretary



THANK YOU to our GNA newsletter

delivery & distribution team:

Chris and Steve Gorman

Tom Emmett and Nate Brown.

Without you, our

Newsletter would not be possible!!!!

Your 2015 GNA Board:

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Jeff Ketcham, Vice President
712-310-2031

OPEN POSITION, Treasurer
???????

Cathy B. Hill, Secretary
402-980-8177

Steve Gorman
712-256-8890



KEEP INFORMED!!

Share news, updates,
inquiries, refer business
people or services, get the
latest GNA news and much
more! It's FREE and it's only
open to folks within the GNA
boundaries!!

Register TODAY for GNA's
"Nextdoor" social website:
www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com.

RECIPE: Cucumber Salad In a Jar

Wondering what to do with all those extra veggies from your garden? Here's an easy and delicious way to use them... and it makes a pretty GIFT, too!! ■

- 4 thinly sliced cucumbers
- 1-large sliced red onions
- 1-large sliced green bell pepper
- 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 and stir until melted.

Place all veggies in large mouth canning jars (2 quarts or 1 half gallon jar). Pour the vinegar mixture over cucumber mixture and top with the lid. Store in refrigerator.

Will keep up to 2 months (Makes 2 quart jars)

Visit Gibraltar online: www.GibraltarNA.org

Newsletter copies furnished courtesy of
Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs. **THANK YOU!**



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