



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of
The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

▶ ▶ ▶ **DECEMBER 2012** || Volume 4, Issue 6

In this issue:

GNA January Meeting

Remembering John Green

Louis Grell Exhibit

NY Eve at the Dodge House

Get to Know Your Neighbors
the Comptons

Visit the GNA website:
www.GibraltarNA.org

Ring in the New Year with GNA Neighbors!

Let's get the new year started off on the right foot! Come and be a part of the great strides we're making in the Gibraltar Neighborhood!! Our first meeting of 2013 will be at the home of long-time GNA resident Liz Matis, 203 Turley, and the meeting date is **Friday, January 18th at 7:00 p.m.**

Please bring a snack to share or your favorite beverage, as we'll enjoy some social time after the meeting! Come and learn about all the great stuff happening in our neighborhood. We need YOU to get involved in making our neighborhood the best place to live! This will be a great meeting with lots of items to discuss! We look forward to seeing you! ■



Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **December 25**
Merry Christmas!
- **New Year's Eve:**
December 31
Fundraiser Dinner at the Dodge House. We need you to volunteer!!!
- **Friday, Jan. 18**
GNA General Meeting
203 Turley
7:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Jan. 22**
GNA Book Club at Cory Peters' House

In Remembrance: John Green



Gibraltar is sad to announce the passing of long-time resident John Green. John passed away Tuesday, October 30, 2012, at his home with his family. He was born, June 22, 1946, in Omaha, Neb., to John C. and Dorothy E. (Kenney) Green. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High in 1964 and later from the University of Iowa. John worked in Sales for the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, and previously as a Tour Guide for the Union Pacific Railroad.

Survivors include wife, Jennifer, of Council Bluffs; son, Tyler and wife, Linda, of Alexandria, Va.; daughters, Laurel Scholl and husband, Andy, of Bettendorf, Iowa, Rebecca Rabick and husband, Mark, of Council Bluffs, Sarah Centineo and husband, Joe, of Bellevue, Neb., and Laura Flahive and husband, Jim, of Council Bluffs; eight grandchildren, Amelia Green, Zach, Anna, and Kate Scholl, Joshua and Nathan Centineo, Connor and Elizabeth Flahive; sister, Jane Nave, of Escondido, Calif. ■

Dodge House Report

by Paulette Brandt

This has been a busy time at the Dodge House. The house is festooned with garlands and lights and many “works of art” designed and provided by multiple groups in our community. By works of art I mean the TREES! What a sight. If you have not been there, you need to go! Of course I might be a bit biased, but I think the tree in the General’s bedroom is one of the best, and not just because it was decorated by representatives of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association.

Contact the Dodge House for more information on additional upcoming events. ■

Evening with Dickens

by Paulette Brandt

A couple of weeks ago you may have seen the notices for the evening with Dickens... Well, I was honored to attend the performance at the Dodge house. The great grandson of Charles Dickens put on a one man show of “A Christmas Carol.” And I have never seen that story performed so well. He did all of the characters or at least described them and you felt you were there.

Afterward, there were refreshments and a question and answer time with him. He had many stories about his father and grandfather that were also very entertaining. ■

***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!!!!*

Tree Program

This FREE program is a great opportunity to beautify our neighborhood by planting trees in the public right of way! Various partners in Council Bluffs have come together to bring a new program called "Heart of the City" to the community. This program allows residents to request a tree to be planted on public property in neighborhoods. All trees and planting costs will be paid through donations from Black Hills Energy, Mid-American Energy, Council Bluffs Trees Forever, and the Council Bluffs Parks, Recreation and Public Property Department. The program has been developed in an effort to beautify local neighborhoods with trees. Trees can only be placed on public property, and the public property must be bordering a residential property. Public property is typically defined as the green space between the sidewalk and the curb. Residents may call the Parks and Recreation office (712.328.4650) or email Skyler Beck (sbeck@councilbluffs-ia.gov), to set up a free tree-planting inspection. Information they will need: name, address, phone number, and if there is or is not a sidewalk next to your property. If no problems are uncovered during the inspection, the Parks and Recreation Department will then forward an application to fill out requesting the type of tree to be planted. For a list of approved trees that can be planted as street trees, along with minimum spacing requirements, go to the Neighborhood Center website at www.neighborhoodctr.wordpress.com. ■



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 “**The Story of Edgar Sawtelle**” by **David Wroblewski**. Come join us on **Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 7:00 p.m.**, at Cory Peters’ house where we’ll discuss the first half of this book! If you enjoy reading, contact Patti Hannan at 712-323-8600 for more info. We’d love to see you at our next meeting! ■

Get to Know Your Neighbor: The Comptons, by Liz Matis

For this issue of Rock Talk I am happy to write about two of my favorite people in the GNA: Jackie and Harold (Skinny) Compton. One of my favorite places to relax in our neighborhood is sitting on their front porch. One can almost see forever. When I met them on the porch for this interview there was a wonderful bouquet of flowers sitting on the table. I asked Jackie who they came from and she said, "Harold gave them to me for our Anniversary." Come to find out that on Monday, December 3, 2012, Jackie and Skinny celebrated their 44th Wedding Anniversary! Quite an amazing accomplishment for an amazing couple.

I am sure most of our readers know them, but might not know the wonderful story of their lives. So let's begin the journey together. Jackie was born in Page County, Iowa. Her Great Grandfather was a semi-famous Circuit Riding Methodist Preacher in Charles and Wesley Counties. As one can imagine, the town was small but it did have a saw mill. Years later on a trip back to Iowa they took their children to see the town their Mother grew up in.

Skinny's family were Cherokee Indian and walked the "Trail of Tears" to reach the eventual place he would be born in Oklahoma. His family were "share croppers" and lived through what started in 1930 and came to be known as the "Dust Bowl" area. It started in Oklahoma and would eventually move across Arkansas, Kansas and Colorado. As share croppers, they had to buy their food at the "Company Store;" the Company owned the houses they rented and when the crops came in 47% of the cash crop went to the Land Owner. They really couldn't leave because there was nowhere to go. About the time Skinny and his twin brother were three years old the family moved to Southern California.

Skinny and Jackie both grew up in Southern California, not too far from each other but in very different settings. Skinny lived in the desert and Jackie on the beach. Skinny was drafted into the army in 1965 and went to Vietnam. He received emergency leave to return home when his Grandmother died, and while home met Jackie as she knew his twin brother. Skinny got out in 1967 and continued in the Reserves for another four years. And yes, this is when Jackie and Skinny got married and had four children. During the time they lived in Southern California, they lived through the Watts Riots, the Patty Hurst kidnapping, Helter Skelter and really had no privacy where they lived. Every night "make love not war" hippies climbed over their backyard fence, ate the fruit on their trees and they would find them naked in the backyard when they got up in the morning to go to work. One day Jackie had finally had it and by the time Skinny got home she had chopped down the fruit tree by the fence and told him he would have to pull the trunk out. That might have been the "tree that broke the back of the 'let's live in Southern California' dream" because in 1976 they departed for Council Bluffs.

Upon returning to Council Bluffs, Skinny used his produce experience to get a job at Hinky Dinky Grocery Store. (I am sure many of us remember shopping there!) He had to start over as a sacker and work his way back up to the Produce Buyer but developed a life long friendship with another of our GNA, Kent Madison. When Hinky Dinky dissolved in 1986, Skinny went into Lawn Management for the next 20 years. He also passed his Arborist training which he still uses today. *Continued...*



Get to Know Your Neighbor, continued

In 1987, Jackie went to work at an International Law Firm until 1995. She oversaw their Dallas, Denver, LA, Nebraska, Washington, D.C. and Kuwait City offices until 1997 and then completed three Masters Degrees and pursued two more Doctorates: an N.D., Ph.D. and a PHD in Natural Health. She also teaches at colleges and rest homes.

Jacque's goals are, "Helping people live longer, stronger and more joyfully!" She said, "Life is more than just existing!"

The three of us discussed what it is like to live in this "wonderful neighborhood with so many special neighbors." She looked at me as only Jackie can, and with her *special smile* and said, "We live here by choice." I know I have been blessed to live across from them.

Next time you see them out & about (maybe while Skinny is walking the dog!), be sure to stop and say hello! ■

SUPPORT our neighborhood jewel!!



Please, please, please volunteer for the New Year's Eve fundraiser for the Dodge House!!

On the following page you will see a flyer for an event that is being sponsored by the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association (GNA): a fundraising DINNER on New Year's Eve, held at the Dodge House, benefitting the Dodge House.

As with all non-profit historical sites, times are tough and the Dodge House needs our help more than ever. We are so lucky to call this beautiful house a member of our neighborhood association, and we need to ensure that it thrives for future generations! Please help us, won't you?

The GNA will be purchasing and cooking the prime rib (thanks to master chef Kent Madison!), and we'll be purchasing twice baked potatoes and some of the sides as well. **BUT WE NEED YOU!!!**

We are relying on our neighbors to contribute appetizers and desserts, and/or to assist with the preparations and serving of the meal. If you are able to work at the event, we promise to have you home in time to ring in the New Year with your friends and family!

Please contact Paulette Brandt at 329-7399 for details on what/when/how/etc. Thanks in advance for your support of the Dodge House!



Ring in the New Year in Style!

Join us for a festive evening of great food in a grand setting!
Celebrate New Year's Eve 2012 at the Historic Dodge House with a delicious prime rib dinner and all the trimmings!

The Dodge House will be decorated in full Victorian splendor, and we will be joined by the General and Mrs. Dodge!
The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association is sponsoring this event as a fundraiser for the Historic Dodge House.

- What:** New Year's Eve Dinner Benefitting the Dodge House!
- Where:** The Historic Dodge House, 605 S. 3rd St., Co. Bluffs
- Date:** Monday, December 31, 2012
- Time:** 6:00 p.m. Appetizers, 7:00-9:30 p.m., Dinner & Dessert
(this will allow you to celebrate the rest of New Year's Eve wherever you wish!)
- Cost:** \$50 per person includes Appetizers, Prime Rib Dinner, Dessert, Coffee and Tea
(bring your own wine or champagne if you would like)

Seating is limited to 50. Reservations and payment must be received with the form below by December 26, 2012. Reservations will go quickly, so secure your place soon!

For additional information, contact Paulette Brandt at 712-329-7399.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

of Guests at \$50 each: _____ Check enclosed in the amount of: \$ _____ Please make checks payable to:
The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association

Mail form and payment to: Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 1971, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-1971

****Sorry, but no refunds will be given if you are unable to attend****

GNA General Meeting Minutes, Nov. 15, 2012

Paulette called the meeting to order at the home of Connie Bartel. Paulette felt we needed to review the GNA Mission Statement as follows: 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 neighbors to be engaged and aware of what's going on in Council Bluffs so we can support public policy that favorably impacts our neighborhood, and HELPS neighbors with tasks to maintain their property and remain in their homes.

GNA has been looking into yard signs that identify the historical background of the house and the original owner that contributed to the founding of our neighborhood. The quote for the signs would be \$300.00 and installation would be \$50.00 per sign. Paulette said we will need to know who would want a sign so we will know what to write the Grant for. Eligibility will be determined by the age and condition.

Cory and Kent have been working on the Garden Flags for our yards. Cost will be between \$7.50 - \$8.50. Because the flags will be prone to fade after a year depending on where they are placed it was suggested that we purchase a bigger order to have on hand. Hanger stakes are around \$6.00 at Home Depot and each owner can purchase on their own. Connie moved to accept the proposal and Kent second.

The planning of a New Year's Eve Prime Rib Dinner at the Dodge House's Ballroom has come together. It will be sponsored by the GNA as a fund raiser for the Dodge House. Kent Madison will prepare the Prime Rib and appetizers and desserts will be prepared by GNA members. Cost will be \$50.00 per person and will be limited to 50 reservations. We will use the mailing list of Preserve CB and Restore Omaha. Reservations are to be accompanied with a personal check. Flyers will be printed in time for the Preserve C.B. Holiday Home tour November 30th – December 2nd. Six houses will be on the tour this year.

Meeting was adjourned and Membership had a chance to socialize.

Respectfully submitted: Liz Matis, Secretary

GNA Garden Flags

Attendees at the November general meeting were able to view the new design for the GNA garden flags! The flags have been ordered and we hope to have them before the end of the year. More information will be distributed once we have the flags in hand. We hope you'll visibly display your GNA pride! ■

Nate Watson's Office Hours

Councilmember Nate Watson holds open office hours on the Saturdays before Council Mondays from 9a.m. to noon to give residents an opportunity to see him with suggestions or concerns. Stop by to see him in Suite 414 (fourth floor) of the Park Building (500 Willow Ave.). ■



WE NEED YOU!!

Volunteer organizations can't be successful without VOLUNTEERS! Please consider giving a bit of your time by helping on a committee, helping organize an event or opening your home for a meeting! Thank you!

Learn More about Council Bluffs Native Son Louis Grell

Thanks to the Bluffs Arts Council Newsletter for this fascinating information!

The Bluffs Arts Council, in collaboration with Pottawattamie County and the Louis Grell family, is proud to announce the unveiling of a new exhibit in the Pottawattamie County Courthouse building. The display of the works of Council Bluffs native son Louis Grell joins the Grant Wood Corn Room Mural exhibit already shown in the entrance hall of the county seat.



Five paintings — Self-Portrait, Johnny Appleseed (shown at left), Friedl and New World — plus a large mural of “Century of Progress,” painted by Grell in 1933 for the Chicago World’s Fair, were officially made public at the ceremony on Tuesday, October 30th, at 11:30 a.m. A presentation by Dick Miller, chairman of the Grell Exhibit Committee, and Richard Grell, grand nephew and Grell family historian, were given prior to the unveiling at noon. Both told the story of the research efforts made to uncover the details of Grell’s life and work, the discovery of many of Louis Grell’s pieces and the journey taken by Richard Grell to uncover intriguing information about an accomplished artist whose humility and desire for privacy often brought additional challenges to the unearthing process.

Louis Grell was born in Council Bluffs in 1887 and showed his artistic talent at an early age. When he was 12 years old, he went to live with his grandparents in Germany. His family — his father owned a butcher shop located on Broadway — felt that his abilities had a greater chance of being nurtured in Europe during the popular Impressionist era. While in Germany, Louis attended the School of Applied Arts in Hamburg and went on to be enrolled at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Munich and eventually the University of Munich. He also attended the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

Grell returned to the United States, living in New York City for a time. He then moved to Chicago where he taught at the Academy of Fine Arts from 1916 until 1922. The young Walt Disney was one of this students at the Academy. From 1922 until 1934, he taught at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Louis painted hundreds of murals in hotels, businesses, schools, churches and government buildings throughout the United States. Many of these murals, such as the ones on the ceiling of the Chicago Theater, are still in place. Grell lived with his German wife Freidl at the Tree Studio art colony in Chicago until his death in 1960. He and Freidl made frequent visits to their relatives in Council Bluffs over the years. They are both buried here.

The Louis Grell Exhibit will be in place at the Pottawattamie County Courthouse for at least a year, at which time the displayed paintings will be exchanged for others in the Grell collection, of which there are several dozen. For more information about Louis Grell and his life and work, go to www.LouisGrell.com. ■

News Tidbits

Board Seats OPEN!

We need to elect new board members! With our two-year rotating terms, five of our board positions are up for reelection. If you would like to be considered to be a board member, please send your name to either Paulette (at 328-7399 or pbrandt45@yahoo.com), or Liz (at 323-6400 or cruize7@cox.net). You'll need to be sure to attend the January meeting so members can meet/greet our candidates!

DUES are DUE!

Yearly membership dues are collected January thru March. You can either pay at the January meeting or March meeting, or mail it in to PO Box 1971, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51502. The membership form can be found on the last page of the newsletter.

About First Night Council Bluffs

First Night Celebrations are just around the corner! The events of First Night offer a wide variety of artists with a broad range of appeal. They are held in both indoor and outdoor venues in close proximity to each other. Affordable admissions Buttons provide entry to all First Night performances.

New Year's Eve is a time for renewal and new beginnings. It is an opportunity for the community to look

ahead collectively with hope and optimism and appreciate their common bonds. The name "First Night" symbolizes this look forward rather than the technically correct words, "Last Night."

Each First Night Celebration is identified by the date of the New Year the event welcomes. For example, First Night 2012 was celebrated on December 31, 2011. All cities that host a First Night Celebration observe this guideline.

First Night Council Bluffs is a unique experience, with local venue, artists, performers and vendors celebrating our unique culture and history. We will again focus this year's activities around Bayliss Park, and historic downtown such as City Hall, Union Pacific Railroad Museum, the Masonic Temple, and more. First Night 2013 events will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., ending with a firework finale. Children's activities will take place at Bloomer School from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

For more information on specific locations and artists, visit www.firstnightcouncilbluffs.org. ■

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please celebrate
responsibly!



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. ■

Visit us online:

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

RECIPE: Hot Spiced Cider

Just in time for the chilly weather

Ingredients

8 Cups Apple Cider

1/4 to 1/2 Cup packed brown sugar

6 inches of stick cinnamon

1 tsp whole allspice

1 tsp whole cloves

Small apple slices

Combine cider and brown sugar in a saucepan. Make a spice bag of the cinnamon, allspice and cloves by tying them in a double layer or 100% cotton cheesecloth. Add the spice bag to the mixture and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Remove the spice bag and discard. Serve in mugs with small apple slices if desired.

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

“The art of being wise is knowing what to overlook.”

— William James

“Years teach us more than books.”

— Berthold Auerbach

“The more a man knows, the more he forgives.”

— Catherine the Great

“Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude for achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.”

— Thomas Jefferson

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