

ROCK-TALK

The Gibraltar Neighborhood
Association, Inc. Newsletter

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Mark Your Calendar for July GNA Meeting

As a reminder: in order to provide some consistency and help folks plan their calendars in advance, member meetings take place on the second **Tuesday of every ODD-numbered month**. Also, to provide a more friendly, interactive atmosphere, the meeting locations have been moved to member's homes.

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!

The next member meeting is **July 12th at the home of Cory Peters, 241 5th Ave., at 7:00 p.m.** Join us for a "Summer Finger Foods" meeting. We'll provide non-alcoholic beverages for everyone; please bring an appetizer or sweet treat to share. Weather permitting, the plan is to enjoy the summer evening in the back yard, so dress accordingly (and probably put on a layer of bug repellent!). We hope you can join us to discuss important issues that are impacting our neighborhood, and plans for the future. ■

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- July 12th, 7:00 p.m.
GNA general meeting
Cory Peters' house
241 5th Ave.
- June 26th, 10:00-4:00
Dodge House Garden
Walk
- June 28th, 7:00 p.m.
Book Club
Amy Adam's house
- THURSDAY evenings
Don't forget that the Main
Street Farmer's Market
runs from 5:00 to 8:00 at
the corner of 9th & Main

GNA Website!

Gibraltar Neighborhood Association now as a website! This site will be your up-to-date source for the latest neighborhood news, as it happens. Please provide feedback and suggestions for website content to the newsletter staff. Bookmark the site and visit often: **www.GibraltarNA.org**



Bayliss Park Fun!

Don't forget about the awesome resource we have just blocks from our doorsteps... Bayliss Park! All summer long, the Council Bluffs Art Council hosts **FREE** family events on Wednesdays and Fridays in the Park! On Wednesdays, from 6:30 to 8:00, pack your lawn chairs, blankets and snacks and **enjoy live music!** Or, on Fridays, starting at dusk, bring the family, friends and **enjoy a movie!** A listing of performing bands and movie titles can be found online at: www.bluffsarts.org/page8.asp



GNA Resident Receives National Honor

Neighborhood resident Patty Gillespie was in Washington, D.C. recently, where she was one of three Americans to receive the title of National Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Coordinator. The National Coordinator is chosen out of **17,000 coordinators from across the nation**. The coordinators assist over four million students in getting books each year. But her journey to the award might surprise you.

Gillespie learned to read when she was 19-years old. "It has given me great empathy," she said. "I understand how every struggling reader feels that's in my classroom." Gillespie said she made it into college by sheer luck. "Then I realized I couldn't make it if I didn't learn how to read," she said. "And I sat down with a book and said, 'I'm not going to get up until I know

what this book says.'" She is in her 34th year of teaching and is currently at Thomas Jefferson H.S.

Patty began the RIF program at T.J. when she became aware that students did not have access to books at home. After teaching all day, she uses her spare time to complete all the tasks involved in RIF. She writes the proposals and final year reports for the more than 2,000 books she orders for RIF. She also creates activities and materials to help motivate students to read. "I'm so excited. I was speechless for the first time in my life. I was blown away," exclaimed Gillespie about the award. Over 30 years, she has dedicated her life to helping other students learn to read. She now has a Masters Degree in Reading, but still understands the struggle that her students go through each day.

Congratulations, Patty, on being selected for this prestigious national award! ■

Farewell to GNA Long-Time Resident Betty Cutler

It was with bittersweet sadness that many neighborhood residents bid farewell to long-time friend and neighbor Betty Shockey Cutler.

Betty has a love for the Gibraltar neighborhood that goes back many, many years. She and first husband Everett Shockey raised a large family in the lovely house at 201 S. 3rd Street (where Mike and Suzanne Winter now live). In the mid-1970s, Everett suddenly and sadly passed away.

Betty later married widower and long-time friend Bill Cutler. With both of their families grown and

with families of their own, Betty and Bill shared Bill's family home at 524 Clark Ave. for many happy years.

Betty has moved to Des Moines to live with her youngest son Bill and his family. She hopes to keep in touch with long-time friends and neighbors and has asked to keep receiving the GNA newsletter. We will miss you Betty! ■



Do you enjoy reading? 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. The book we are currently reading is "Sick Puppy" by Carl Hiassen, and we'll be meeting on June 28 at 7:00 p.m. at Amy Adam's house (528 Clark) to discuss the book. If you enjoy reading, contact Patti Hannan for more information at 323-8600. We'd love to see you at our next meeting! ■

Gibraltar Neighborhood Clean Sweep, by Paulette Brandt

On May 17th, during the **Celebrate CB Week**, GNA members grabbed gloves and trash bags and took to the streets. We met at the corner of 5th Ave. and Clark and headed out. As we toured the Gibraltar Neighborhood we noticed that there was not as much “trash” as last year. After retrieving many pop cans, paper cups and various other bits and pieces left behind, (this was trash pick-up day), we left our bags at the designated spot and headed for Bayliss Park for hot dogs cooked by Mayor Tom Hanafan, and to compare notes with other volunteers. The dogs were good and the company even better... it was decided that the city over all was cleaner than last year. Thank you to everyone for your efforts.



Paulette, Bud and Sheila enjoyed the Bayliss cookout.

May General Meeting and Board Meeting Minutes

GNA General Meeting was held on May 10, 2011, at the home of Paulette Brandt and Dave Eyre. Larry Foster, Director of Parks, Recreation & Public Property, was the guest speaker.

A couple of the projects he is currently working on that are of importance to the community:

Fairview Cemetery needs to be brought up to city standards. It is the oldest cemetery in the city, and holds a lot of the history of Council Bluffs and its residents. It will take about \$1 million dollars to bring it up to date. The lay-back curves need repair, as they funnel all the water out and down the hills when it rains. Fairview is the only other "green space" in our local Historic Neighborhoods besides Kirn Park. The roads will need to be redone, as they have already been repaired over and over again. One of the roads will either need to be closed or eliminated.

Kirn Project: Larry said that he was so awed by Kirn Park, and its character really impressed him when came to work for the City. It has so much to offer, and repairs will be done to retain it as a historical point in Council Bluffs. There are many improvements that are scheduled over the next two years to support football, lacrosse teams, etc.

The GNA Board Meeting was held on May 16, 2011. Board Members Present: Bud & Susie Dew, Sheila Graham, Mary Madison, Paulette Brandt and Liz Matis. Paulette said she wanted to invite Mark Alba to a General Meeting in the future, as the GNA wants to set up a Neighborhood Watch. After organizing, the only other requirement is the Watch needs to meet twice a year. Liz said we need the signs that attach to the street signs, and the City would need to place them on the sign posts that are already present in our neighborhood.

Pride week will be taking place and the Gibraltar neighborhood will participate in the “Clean Sweep” project again. A BBQ will be held in Bayliss after the neighborhoods finish their clean up at 5:00 p.m.

Nate has put in a lot of hours on the Historic Core Initiative presentation that will be given to Iowa West.

We will be looking into a possible get-together with Fairmont NA for a picnic toward the end of the summer.

Meeting adjourned. Next Board Meeting: June 20, 2011 at Paulette’s house, 7:00 p.m. ■

A History of Kirn Park, *written by Connie Bartel*

Saving Kirn Park was a “sentimental journey” for me. I lived in the house I live in now (116 3rd Street) when I attended Abraham Lincoln High School, located between 3rd & Bluff Streets at 5th Ave. My friends would gather at my house, and we would trudge up the hill (High School Ave.) to attend football games, track meets, ROTC parades and May Queen ceremonies.

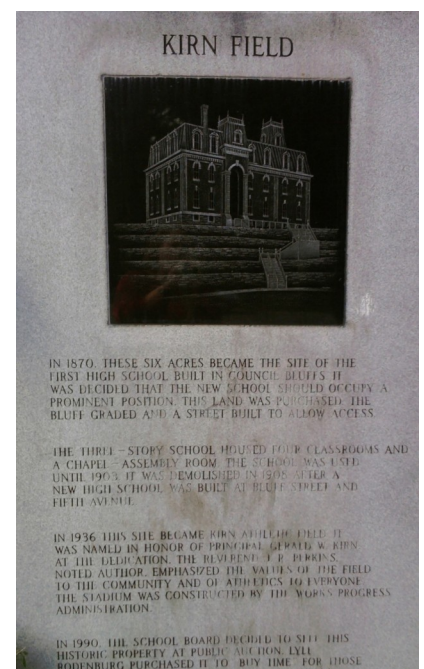
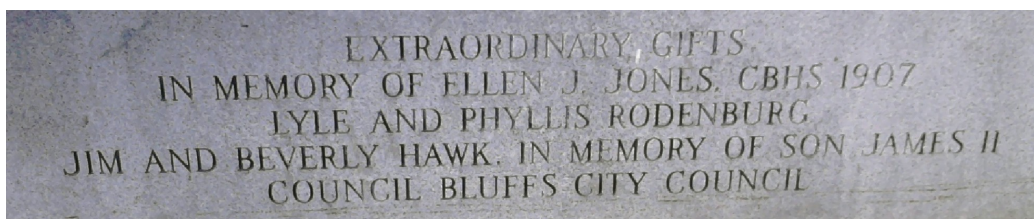
In 1870, Iowa Governor Merrill came to Council Bluffs to dedicate the new high school, then located at the top of 5th Avenue. ROTC began there in 1892, and football and track were introduced in 1895. Crimson and blue were chosen as the colors, as they were the initials (“C” and “B”) of our town.

Approximately 70 years later, the school would be gone, and in its place an athletic field, with football goal posts, cinder track and bleachers, built by the Public Works Administration. It was dedicated to G.W. Kirn. There were more than 1,000 people in attendance when the field was dedicated. Rev. J.R. Perkins, of the Congregational Church, did the dedication and Gen. Dr. Matthew Tinley crowned the May Queen.

It was in 1990 that the School Board announced its intention to sell the property at auction. A “Save Old Kirn Field” association was formed. I had counted and saved 31 articles written to the newspaper, protesting the fact that the public seemed to have no input. Mr. Christie delayed the auction, and the City Council agreed to help the citizens in their effort to take it off the auction block. Councilman Sam Irwin succeeded in making a zoning change for the property, from strictly residential to “parks, estates and agricultural.” Suzanne Winter gave a fine presentation to the Council and later became the treasurer of the fund. I sent out 100 letters to my classmates, and one day my old friend Janeanne Braun Doar called me from California and said, “Connie, I have 10.” I said that was nice, and she said, “No, I mean \$10,000.” She wanted it sent as a memorial to her Mother, Ellen J. Jones, CBHS 1907. So, that is the top name on the Memorial at the Park.

Finally, the auction was held in March, 1990, and about 75 people gathered at the old field. Lyle Rodenberg made the highest bid — \$72,000, and donated the \$10,000 he put down to the fund. An additional \$62,000 was raised. Over 500 people contributed. The City Council contributed \$25,000. And, Jim Hawk, who had promised he would donate once the field was bought, contributed \$25,000 (with some of this contribution going towards the purchase of playground equipment). Jim’s wife, Beverly, was in my class in high school.

Attorney Scott Hughes handled all the legal business. The Parks Department has used money for improvements. The memorial stone was engraved with the names of Mrs. Jones, Phyllis and Lyle Rodenberg, Jim and Beverly Hawk, in honor of their son, and the Council Bluffs City Council. The memorial has a wonderful picture of the first High School in Council Bluffs.



Flood Information: What You Should Know

(1) Please sign up for the Code Red emergency alert system. It is best to do so online (on the City's website: <http://www.councilbluffs-ia.gov>), though if you are unable to do so via the internet, you may call 712-328-4672, though expect a LONG wait to get through. Note: There is an option to indicate, when signing up, whether you are elderly or disabled, as those folks could need extra assistance should an evacuation be needed; these are the people who need most to sign up, though everybody should!

(2) Until further notice, if the sirens go off DO NOT ASSUME THAT IT MEANS A TORNADO, but immediately turn on the TV or radio (a battery-operated radio may be a great investment, in case of loss of power) to find out what the emergency is. If a Level 3 (explained below) emergency is declared, the sirens in the affected zone of the City would sound, which would mean to get out in an orderly fashion and as QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

(3) It is possible, as many City employees have been pulled away from their normal duties, that parks and other public places may not be mowed as often, or otherwise maintained to their normal high standards. If need be (and this is not yet a problem), it could be that neighborhoods could be invited to volunteer to mow and maintain the public spaces within their neighborhood, though notice to the City would have to be given before such things were done, to let them know. Again, this is not yet a concern, but could be, so please have your list of volunteers for this potential task ready.

(4) The National Guard now has 4 units within the City, so you may see them around. They are being adequately housed and fed, so our assistance is not needed with that at this time; indeed, many businesses have been donating hundreds of pizzas, hamburgers, etc. A total of 250 National Guard members who are based at CB are scheduled to return from Afghanistan on the 23rd of July, and will likely relieve and bolster the current units.

5) As of 3PM Monday, the 13th, people are NOT ALLOWED EVEN TO WALK ON THE LEVEES; IF SOMEONE IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THERE, HE/SHE COULD BE SUBJECT TO ARREST. The pedestrian bridge remains open at this time, but only the straight shot across; you can't go north or south from it, only east towards the City. LET'S DISCOURAGE THE CURIOUS FROM GETTING IN THE WAY OF THE PROFESSIONALS AND THE VOLUNTEERS!

(6) Indian Creek has been sandbagged, to allow at least 3 feet of wall above the current high-water projections.

7) All critical infrastructure has been sandbagged, THOUGH ADDITIONAL SANDBAGGING EFFORTS LIKELY WILL BE NEEDED, to have enough reserve sandbags to cover any problem areas; await further news as to when and where (though, note, the current effort, today, near the MidAmerican plant).

(8) The current projection is that the water will remain high until at least January 2012.

(9) Code Red would be used in the event of emergencies, though the City also has the use of the CB School District's calling system, which is able to target calls to people within elementary-school zones, so very targeted. Again, the sirens would not be used for flood-related purposes unless an absolute breach were to occur; the sirens cannot make a different sound or pitch, so they will sound the same whenever activated for whatever reason.

(10) The City has had a 24/7 command center, based at Community Hall downtown, with all vacations through September canceled for most everybody. Every 3 to 4 days, different shifts from our fellow cities in Iowa are coming in to provide expert assistance, including from Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, and Iowa City (all of which, of course, have had terrible experience with flooding these past few years; they are returning the favors we have done for them during those years).

(11) See this link for the City's evacuation plan: <http://www.councilbluffs-ia.gov/documents/EvacPlanSummary-20110613.pdf>

(12) Summary of Levels:

Level 1: Take note, there is a potential problem

Level 2: It would be best to evacuate

Level 3: You must evacuate or be forced to do so

(13) If an evacuation is ordered (Level 3), you may only bring a SMALL POUCH of personal belongings OR a small pet, nothing else. The processing center where all evacuated folks would be sent is Iowa Western Community College, and the City has lined up 80-100 buses to get people there if needed.

(14) The City is currently uprooting trees located anywhere near the 28 miles of levees or other critical infrastructure, as a few have already fallen in the wet soil, and pose a major hazard if the force of falling were to hit anything; this is an expensive, though necessary, effort.

(15) The City has 200 relief wells, which help collect water and relieve pressure on the levees. THEY ARE WORKING.

(16) Some water on the dry side of a levee is normal and actually helpful; a lot of water or water rushing through IS NOT and must be reported to 911 IMMEDIATELY.

ADDITIONAL FLOOD INFORMATION:

Dial 211 for information and questions about the Missouri River Flood.

Contact the America Red Cross for shelter information or other assistance: 712-322-4017. Flood Safety Tips can be seen at www.Loesshills.redcross.org. Updates for the metro and surrounding communities: www.facebook.com/redcrossomaha

City of Council Bluffs information line: 712-328-4672.

Additionally, a new blog post addressing what to do to prepare for the incoming floods will be up on the www.iowabiztalk.com blog.



Get to Know Your Neighbor: Gary Lopez & Jim Kieffer, *by Chris Gorman*

Gary and Jim Moved to the lovely house at 125 South 3rd Street approximately 2 years ago. They moved from another historical house they had previously spent restoring for thirteen years in Omaha. Gary works for Union Pacific Railroad Corporation as a Claim's Representative in the Law Department. Jim is employed as an Organizational Development Consultant with Nebraska Medical Center, specializing in improving performance through change in human behavior.

As you can see pictured, they have two pet dogs. Jeffery, a Cairn Terrier and Garth, a West Highland terrier.

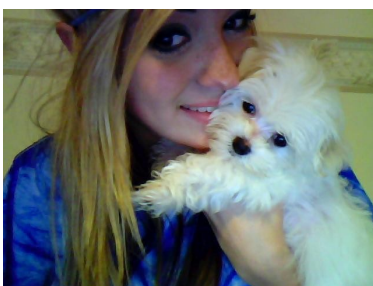
When asked about their hobbies, both enjoy the process of restoration of older homes. They enjoy painting, wall papering and gardening. In particular, flower gardening. They are very humble when discussing the progress they have made in only two years at 125 So.

3rd, however those that have been in the neighborhood for more than two years can appreciate how much the house has been enhanced since Jim and Gary took ownership.

Their home is a Tudor Revival, built in 1908. Jim and Gary were able to share many interesting facts about it. It was the childhood home of General Frank F. Everest, who was a United States Air Force general, and served as Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and Commander, Tactical Air Command. His Grandfather, Judge Everest, owned the house behind 125 So. 3rd, and when his son married the Folsoms' daughter (The Folsom's lived in the Red House two doors down, currently the home of Pat and Mary Ryan) the house was built as a

wedding present for the newly married couple. Also, this unique house was once visited by First Lady, Barbara Bush while visiting a previous owner, who was quite active in the Republican Party during the 1980s. In March of 2009, it was featured nationally on Good Morning America as one of the "Best Buys in America."

Thank you Gary and Jim for letting Gibraltar get to know you. ■



Get to Know a Neighborhood Pet: Lola, *by Paulette Brandt*

Her name is LOLA, but she is not a "showgirl," she is a 13 week old Maltese belonging to Shea Gor-

man, daughter of Steve and Chris Gorman. I asked Shea why the name Lola, and she said "she just looked like a Lola". Why a Maltese? Her friend had one, and Shea had fallen in love with it. And she thought it would be a good fit in the family, as they have 2 cats Blackie and Marty (Lola's best friend).

Shea and Lola are taking puppy classes at Petsmart, as this is Shea's first experience with a dog. She is also in 4-H and will be showing Lola at Westfair in the "costume class."

I asked what has been the hardest thing about having a puppy, and Shea said, "Early morning potty call and then playing at 4:00 a.m." Otherwise, she has settled in quite well. So if you see a slim blond young lady, walking a small white dog, say hi to Shea and Lola. ■

Watch for Future Information on GNA History, by Liz Matis

In the past issues of Rock Talk we have highlighted residents that have lived in our historic neighborhood for many years. Through this process we found that many members didn't really know the history of the area, or the steps that it took for our Homes and this area to be listed on the State of Iowa's National Registry of Historic Places, and to reach the ultimate goal of being placed on the Federal Government's National Registry of Historic Properties worthy of preservation. These listings not only provide recogni-

tion, but "assist" in preserving our local heritage for the future.

In the upcoming issues of Rock Talk, we will explore the processes and what our designation means to us now, as the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association.

We are excited to bring this new addition to Rock Talk. It is true that the more we know about our past and its "history," the more we can preserve it for future generations and "Gibraltar." ■

Help Improve Our Neighborhood Safety!



You may have noticed some of the homes in the neighborhood have posted the vibrant green "Neighborhood Watch" signs. We would like as many residents as possible to post these signs as a hopeful deterrent to criminals. **These signs are FREE for your use.** Pick them up at the GNA bi-monthly meetings, or contact our GNA President, Paulette Brandt, to get a copy.

We have also been working with the Council Bluffs PAR (Police Area Representative) Officer to build a stronger relationship with our neighborhood. They are aware of some of the recent incidents that have taken place, and urge us to contact them when problems arise. Please report any incidents to Paulette (712-329-7399), as she keeps a record of these issues. You can also contact our PAR officers directly: Mark Alba at 329-1825; Sgt. Robert Sellers at 328-4761 (from 3:00 to 11:00); or Sgt. Mark Gelvin at 329-1856. As always, if you feel threatened or in danger, call 911. But for non-emergency issues, please report to the officers and Paulette. Thank you for your help in keeping our neighborhood safe! ■

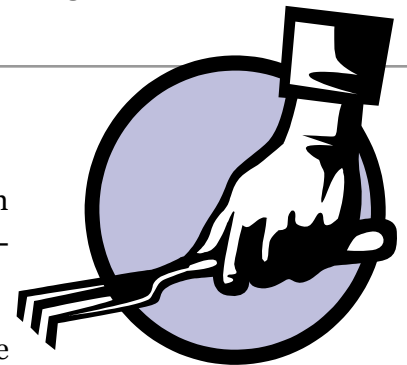
Join the GNA Garden Club!

The GNA Garden Club had their organizational meeting on May 18, 2011 at the home of Mary Madison. Present were: Patti Hannan, Amy Adams, Mary Madison and Liz Matis. Those present felt one of the most important goals they wanted for the Club is that it would not be too structured like some clubs become. Everyone wanted to enjoy being together, sharing gardening tips, taking field trips to garden centers, visiting public gardens, sharing plants, garden tips, publications & gardening magazines, and visit each other's gardens

for ideas and help with any problem a member might have.

The hope is that more members of GNA that enjoy gardening and working in their own yards will join the group and just have some FUN!

Watch the GNA website (www.GibraltarNA.org) for information on when and where the next meeting will take place. ■



Dodge House Garden Walk Tickets Available for Purchase, by Chris Gorman



Mark your Calendar for **Sunday, June 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** for the **Dodge House Garden Walk**. Please come out and support this wonderful fundraising event, so important to Gibraltar's own **Dodge**

House (which is a National Historical Landmark!)

This year will be the 19th Annual Garden Walk. The walk begins at the Dodge House, 605 3rd Street. There will be five more gardens for visitors to enjoy, all of them brand new to the event. Three of the gardens are located on the west side of town: Jay and Amanda Abbott, 3425, Sixth Ave., Beverly and Joel Allen, 3521 Fourth Ave., and Myra Brannen and Steve Bruce, 2625 Ave. J. Then visitors will take a drive to 1217 Jennings Ave., home of Jamie and Ron Reid, and 19444 Birdley Road, home of Roger and Margaret

Young on the northeast edge of town.

Before heading east, garden lovers may want to grab some lunch. This year, vendors offering garden-related merchandise will set up at Tish's Restaurant, 1207 S. 35th Street. Owners Kathy and Steve Tisher will offer a free soft drink with any food purchase. The restaurant will close at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon, but vendors will be on site until 4:00 p.m.

Garden Walk tickets are now available for purchase at the Madison Ave. Hy-Vee, West Broadway Hy-Vee, Sherbondy's, Diller's Garden Center and the Historic General Dodge House. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of the event. Members tickets are \$8 and can only be purchased at the Dodge House.

Come on out and see some beautiful gardens, enjoy lunch, and help the General's Ladies benefit our neighborhood's most famous Historical Home. ■

Larry Foster at GNA Meeting on May 10th, by Paulette Brandt

Larry Foster, Head of Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation Dept., attended the May 10th meeting of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Assn. He gave us an update on the plan for Kirn Park and for the Fairview Cemetery trail projects.

The plan for Kirn Park includes: re-grading of the track and a new layer of crushed brick, fixing the drainage of the track, re-grading and re-seeding the football field, adding an irrigation system, removing the concrete block building (the old restrooms) and the storage unit, paving that area and marking off parking places along that side of the field. Also, lighting will be enhanced and there will be some type of wall around the track to prevent driving on the track, which tears it up when the ground is wet. The fencing also will be addressed and landscaping will be added in some areas. The improvements can only enhance and welcome attendance to the Park.

The Fairview Cemetery Part of the plan is to close off some roads in the cemetery and pave for pedestrian use. Other roads will be repaved for motor vehicle use. Right now the Oakland/Fairview Assn. residents use the Cemetery, and walking trails and the improvements will only enhance that experience. Of course, use for funerals will not change.



Your Newsletter Staff

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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:

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712-329-7399

Susie Dew, Vice President

712-366-7606

Liz Matis, Secretary

712-323-6400

Mary Madison, Treasurer

712-328-8073

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712-322-2214

Steve Gorman

712-256-8890

Sheila Graham

712-256-0195

Marge Leaders

712-322-3366

Roland Lynch

712-323-0522

RECIPE Corner:

Refreshing Summer Fruit Salad *provided by Cory Peters*

PINEAPPLE CREAM CHEESE DRESSING:

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 4 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 packages (3 ounces each) cream cheese, softened

SALAD:

- 2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- 2 cups pineapple tidbits
- 1-1/2 cups seedless green or red grapes, halved
- 1-1/2 cups diced peaches or nectarines
- 1 cup fresh blueberries or raspberries
- 1/4 cup sugar

In a small saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch and salt. Stir in the juices until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat. Stir a small amount into the eggs; return all to the pan, stirring constantly. Cook and stir until mixture reaches 160° and is thickened. Remove from the heat; cool slightly. In a small bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Add juice mixture; mix well. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

In a large bowl, combine the fruit. Sprinkle with sugar; toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Serve with Dressing. Makes 8 servings. Great on hot days!

**HAPPY 4th
OF JULY!
Be safe!**



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