



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Breakfast Meeting & Elections!



WHERE: 1892 BEER HOUSE, 142 W. Broadway (100 Block)

Parking in the back.

WHEN: SATURDAY, March 9, 2024 // 8:00am to ??

As you may recall, our JANUARY holiday party/elections event was impacted by “snowmageddon & sub-zero temps.” GRRR and BRRRR!! So, we postponed the elections until this March meeting!!

Please join us for this event where you can have your voice heard and make new friends!! Put some yummy in your tummy and hear about all that’s going on within the Gibraltar neighborhood, and proposed projects for 2024. Thanks to Lisa & Chad Radke (owners of 1892) for hosting our event! **We will have breakfast items and MAD-OX donuts!**

REGARDING GIBRALTAR BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS:

We are taking nominations AND volunteers for positions on our GNA Board! No experience necessary!

Positions Available:

The GNA Board consists of four (4) “At-Large” Positions, plus Secretary, Treasurer, and President. We will also be looking for Support Team volunteers to help with the activities, fundraising, content, and delivery of the beloved Rock Talk newsletter. We’d also love to create an Advisory Team, to help with any questions or lend a hand when needed. This could be past board members, or long time members, and new faces are always welcome. ***THIS is a plea to all of you to get involved and be active in the neighborhood.***

Mary Madison, life-long neighbor & board member, will be stepping down. She has given so much of her time to benefit this great neighborhood. Thanks Mary, for your many years of service, time, and dedication to our association. We are also sad to announce that Turner Morgan is stepping down after many years, having worn SO MANY hats helping our association. We wish him great success and much peace on his new adventures as a Boy Dad and busy pillar of our community.

Jill Kates, current Secretary, will run again for Secretary unless someone else would enjoy this role. Brian Wedemeier will run again for President unless someone (like you, perhaps?) is interested. Trisha Beccard and Klaire Cross are running for “at-large” positions, but we also have additional at-large seats needing to be filled! **GET INVOLVED & make a difference!**





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PRESIDENT'S POST

February 2024



Happy 2024, and I hope you have all survived the roller coaster of weather we experienced this winter. We can only hope that spring is near and the cold temps are in the rear view.

I hope those of you that made New Year's Resolutions are going strong, KUDOS and hope it brings you the joy, happiness, or the change you wish to make in the New Year. To those who of us who maybe have quit or struggled with those Resolutions: Keep going — the year isn't over yet!

It has been a great honor and a privilege to serve as your Gibraltar Neighborhood Association President (OH, and a fair amount of work, lol). I knew what I was signing up for, and wasn't totally in the dark of how an organization works. I will admit, it can be a bit overwhelming at times, planning, organizing, and all that goes into holding events, projects, and content for our Rock Talk... it's part of the role. However, many hands make light work.. SO, one of my New Year's Resolutions is to **get more of our great neighbors involved**, to build relationships and help continue to make Gibraltar Neighborhood the "Greatest Neighborhood Around!"

I have noticed we have quite a few new residents... So, welcome to the best neighborhood in CB! We pride ourselves on our historic homes, our safe & family-friendly environment, great history, friendly neighbors, and unique vibe and energy. You won't find this elsewhere in the metro area. If you want to meet an amazing bunch of folks, please show up, step up, and discover a network of people I am proud to call not only my neighbors, but also my friends for life.

2024 brings a new calendar, and it's already filling up-with some great GNA EVENTS! Not to mention the "Pop-Up" events as the temps get warmer. Make sure you mark your calendars, add it on your phone, or leave a note on the fridge -- anything to remind you of the great events happening right here in your neighborhood. No need to cross the bridge! Please take time to read through this condensed edition of the Rock Talk, and I hope to see you all at our March 9th Breakfast Meeting. Thanks!

Brian Wedemeier, GNA President

Please Support Your Neighborhood!

Though completely voluntary, when you pay **Gibraltar Neighborhood Association annual dues**, you **help fund projects like:**

- > Quarterly Neighborhood Social Events
- > Neighborhood Cleanup Day
- > Welcome Bags and Yard Flags
- > Neighborhood Identification Pole Banners
- > Beautification Projects like 9th St. Trailhead
- > Printing & Mailing of Newsletter, cards, & other stuff

Help keep Gibraltar moving in a positive direction by support through annual dues. THANK YOU to all those who have supported our neighborhood in the past— we couldn't do it without you!

Dues are payable at the beginning of the year... the form is on last page of newsletter. **OR save yourself a stamp and pay via our website's "donate" tab at www.GibraltarNA.org.**

FUN EASTER-THEMED EVENT!

What: Easter Egg Hunt for Children & Tweens (ages 14 and under).

We ask a parent to accompany their children.

Hunt for Easter Eggs, Prizes, and Easter Treats.

Please bring your own basket or bag.

When: Saturday, March 23, 2024 // 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Where: The Historic General Dodge House Yard

It's a FAMILY FRIENDLY event! GNA will have MAD-OX donuts, breakfast items, beverages, crafts, and drawings for adults. Hope to see you there! WE NEED YOU! Please call Brian to see what you can do to help out, plan, & organize: 515-205-7515. ***This is a NEW EVENT sponsored by GNA.***



TAKE A BOOK, LEAVE A BOOK. Have you visited Gibraltar's LITTLE FREE LIBRARY?!

The library is located in the green space at the corner of **Story St. & 4th Street**. There are books for all ages and interests for you to borrow for as long as you wish... FOR FREE! If you have books you no longer need and can **CONTRIBUTE** them to the library, simply deposit them in the library box, or contact Cory Peters — she'll come pick them up from you. *Share the joy of reading today! Thank you!*



GNA's Super-Heroes!

THANK YOU to our hard-working newsletter delivery and distribution team! Without YOU, it would be too costly to put put the newsletter in the hands of all of our residents!

ABOUT YOUR GIBRALTAR NEIGHBORHOOD AND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

VISION: The 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: The 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.





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For more information, call or text Tara at 402-680-6906
or email us: jazzercisecbkrew@gmail.com.

301 West Broadway, Suite 102, Council Bluffs

The GNA Holiday Party!

January 13, 2024: The weather outside was frightful, but the party was soooo delightful!

The sub-zero temps were brutal, but that didn't keep a few neighborhood die-hards from attending the Gibraltar Holiday Party! A huge thanks to Buck, Teri, & Gavin Christiansen for hosting the event. They did a great job, with an amazing selection of cheeses and some awesome chicken tacos, and rounded out with more snacks & appetizers (and cocktails) brought by attendees. It was great to see fellow neighbors & friends, and got to meet some new residents as well! A great time was had by all.

We will be looking for a host for this NEXT Holiday Party (late 2024 or early 2025). Please let us know if you'd be willing to open your home!

Friends & Neighbors





YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING SPOT!
716 South 4th Street (Rainbow American Legion Bldg)
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Full Bar with fun, creative drink specials!
Darts, Billiards, and FUN!
FIND US ON FACEBOOK! 



THANK YOU to these folks who have joined the GNA for 2024!

*Those listed were known to have paid dues **at the time of publishing**. Any errors are completely unintentional. If you notice an error/omission, please contact GNA Treasurer Dave Adams!*

Dave & Amy Adams	Rich & Patti Hannan	Dan & Patti Salvo-McGinn
Availa Bank	Jazzercise CB	Jeff & Karen Tucker
Nate Brown & Tom Emmett	JD's Garage	Patrice Watson
Mark Chavez	Mark & Nicky Lickliter	Jennifer Williams
Buck & Teri Christensen	Our Savior's Lutheran Church	
Klaire Cross	Cory Peters	
Teresa Gerjevic	Josh Pettit & Lindsay Besco	
John Gibbs	Erik & Megan Pleshek	

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH YOUR ANNUAL DUES!!
Our accomplishments would not be possible without YOU!



FOUR GENERATIONS in Gibraltar!

Hopefully, you've had a chance to meet the Walters sisters — Ann and Cathy — who you may have seen enjoying the beautiful views from their awesome front porch at 220 5th Ave. These ladies are the FOURTH generation to enjoy this grand house!

- > Great Grandparents William & Clara (Phelps) McConnell
- > Grandparents Dr. Gordon & Anna Pearl (McConnell) Best
- > Ann (Jennings) Walters, Senior
- > Ann Walters, Jr. & Cathy Hill

Their great grandfather (William McConnell, a C.B. businessman), purchased the home from the architect, Johannes "John" Jensen, who designed it in 1900 and only lived in it for six months. The McConnell's daughter, Anna Pearl, married Henry Jennings, Jr. Henry's father and mother were Dr. Henry and Hattie Jennings, who lived in the yellow house with white pillars at 201 S. 3rd Street. Henry, Jr. was in WW1 and, from the sound of it, probably suffered from PTSD when he came back home. According to stories, he absconded with the family's money and was hit and killed as he was hitchhiking out of town. By all accounts, the elder Jennings were supportive of Ann & Cathy's grandmother (now-widowed Anna Pearl) and her children (a son, Henry, III, and daughter, Ann) after the young family moved back in with her parents in the McConnell's house on 5th Ave.

Anna Pearl was married a second time, to Dr. Gordon Best, who then became a step-father to Ann & Cathy's mother, Ann, Sr., and instilled in her a lifelong love of Huskers. They continued to share the house with the McConnells until Ann Sr. moved out and was married. She had three daughters: Ann Jr., Cathy, and Sally. When Ann later divorced, she echoed her mother's actions and moved her young family back to the house on 5th Ave. The young sisters now shared the house with their mother, their grandmother and grandfather, and their great grandmother. FOUR generations under one roof.

In the 20-teens, Ann & Cathy moved back to the house on 5th to be live-in caretakers for their aging mother. Thanks to their care, she was able to live out the remainder of her life in the house she loved so much. The sisters are now hard at work undertaking many household updates and restorations (a full-time job in and of itself when you own an older home). Don't you love history when have an old house in an old neighborhood?

INTERESTING FACTOIDS:

When Ann & Cathy were kids, shortly after their mother divorced they lived for a short time at 135 S. 3rd Street (the Agnus Folsom House now owned by Nate Brown & Tom Emmett!), until their Mom moved back into the family house at 220 5th Ave.

The McConnells (Ann & Cathy's great grandparents) used to play bridge with General and Mrs. Dodge! The Phelps side of the family (Clara's family) came from Illinois, and Clara's father, Stephens, was good friends with Abraham Lincoln. When Ann & Cathy were growing up, it was quite common to have ancient relatives pass through town, and the young girls had to sit at the dining room table and were expected to be seen & not heard, so they sat quietly and just soaked up all the stories. How cool!





EXCITING EVENTS PLANNED for 2024!

Preserve Council Bluffs is always brainstorming for new historic preservation-related programs, events, etc. to offer the community. Here are some of those ideas (many of these are in the “discussion” phase thus far. As they become a reality, details will be shared in their newsletter and/or online).

> **“Spring Soiree for Preservation”** – hosting a “true” Historic Progressive Dinner in the Spring, offering heavy hors d’ oeuvres and wines, at one location, salad and perhaps soup at another, and desserts at another.

- > “Haunted in the Bluffs”
- > A tour of Fairview Cemetery
- > Bike and walking tours of the First Avenue Corridor
- > A cocktail party, dinner and speaker event
- > An event at Kirn Park, such as a pet parade
- > Antique show, and sale
- > The Kaneshville Cruise
- > “Bars, Brothels and Brawls”

Watch for updates as these and/or other ideas come to fruition! Web: <http://preservecouncilbluffs.org>

Info courtesy of Mark Chavez and PCB’s “History Matters” Newsletter, Winter 2023 Edition.

THINK
Spring

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If so, consider an affordable ad in the Rock Talk newsletter!

Ad Space Sizes available: 1/4 sheet or 1/2 sheet

1/4 sheet one-time insertion: **\$10** — OR — 1/4 sheet "6-pack" (whole year): **\$50**

1/2 sheet one-time insertion: **\$15** — OR — 1/2 sheet "6-pack" (whole year): **\$75**

We'll throw in the ad setup for free!! Contact Cory at coryp241@yahoo.com for more info!

GNA Contacts:

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515-205-7515

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Jill Kates, Secretary
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John Gibbs, Facebook Admin

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THANK YOU!

KEEP INFORMED three ways!!

Visit Gibraltar's website online at: www.GibraltarNA.org

— AND —

LIKE us on Facebook (search "Gibraltar Neighborhood Association").

— AND —

Register TODAY on GNA's "Nextdoor" social networking website:
www.nextdoor.com. You can share news, updates, inquiries, refer
business people or services, get the latest GNA news and much more!
It's FREE & open to folks within Gibraltar boundaries!!

YOUR Gibraltar
Neighborhood:



Gibraltar Neighborhood Association: Membership Registration Form

Become a Gibraltar Neighborhood Association Member!! Yearly dues are \$25 per household and are tax deductible with our 501c3 status! In order to be eligible to vote for board members or receive priority preference for improvement projects, you must be a paid association member.

Make checks payable to & mail to: Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 1971, Co. Bluffs, IA 51502-1971

— OR — **pay online at: www.GibraltarNA.org** >> click on the "Donate" tab (you can pay via PayPal or via Credit Card)

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Please tell us what's important to you in *connecting with your neighbors*:

- Quarterly social events Fundraisers Business meetings
 Other _____

Please tell us what *issues* are important to you:

- Getting to know my neighbors Preserving our brick streets Historic preservation
 Better lighting in our Neighborhood More social events Crime / Safety
 Other _____