



# ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

## Let's Warmly Welcome New Neighbors!

Your Gibraltar Board has been brainstorming ways to build a consistent process/delivery for welcoming new neighbors to Gibraltar! We have several homes for sale right now, and have had several new residents over the past year, and we'd really like to have a plan in place that would enable us to drop off a small "welcome to the neighborhood" gift, along with a copy of our newsletter. Knowing WHO and WHEN folks are moving out and moving in is one of the hardest parts to keep track of, so PLEASE — as you notice that new neighbors are moving in on your block, could you contact ANY of our board members (whose numbers are listed on the last page of this newsletter)? We're hoping to have a "welcome team" in place soon, and once we know of someone moving in, we'll get a welcome box dropped off. **Thanks for your help in making Gibraltar a better place to live!!**



### FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS (Mark your calendars now!)

**PANCAKE FEED!!!**

**July 15th  
10:00 a.m.**

Our Savior's Hall

*Please add these 2017 meeting dates to your calendar & plan to attend!*

*Bi-Monthly meetings are held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Bluff & Story St.)*

Wed. May 17, 6:00 p.m. // Wed. July 19, 6:00 p.m. //

Wed. September 20, 6:00 p.m. // Wed. November 15, 6:00 p.m.



### CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS (& SHOPPERS!)

*Calling all craftsmen, artists, jewelers, cooks, knitters, photographers, bakers, gardeners, seamstresses, hobbyists, etc.!!*

**Gibraltar is hosting a table at this year's Farmer's Market!** And, beginning this year, it's being held IN BAYLISS PARK!! GNA will pay for the table, and a small portion from all sales will go back to the GNA to help refund that expense (and maybe even act as a small fundraiser). MOSTLY we're hoping to build fellowship and help our residents interact with each other and the community! We're planning on enough participants so that we can rotate the schedule. **Turner Morgan is organizing the sign-up for our table, so please contact him pronto (phone 712-310-3102) if you're interested in participating!** Let's have some FUN this summer, and show C.B. how awesome the residents of Gibraltar are! *And please come BUY from our table if you're at the market!* Thanks!

Council Bluffs





# pancake social



## Bring the kids and fill up on pancakes!!

We're so excited about the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association's (GNA) Summer Social Event — a FAMILY PANCAKE FEED!! Round up the kids and bring your neighbors...

we have Jim Kuper, the **Pancake Man**, coming to the Gibraltar 'hood on **Saturday morning, July 15th!**

All the pancakes you can eat, butter, syrup, a sausages, hot coffee and orange juice! This will be a fun event for the whole family and a great chance to socialize and get to know your neighbors!! And of course, Jim will be doing his usual **"stand back and I'll flip the pancake to you"** fun routine!!


**WHAT:** Pancake Breakfast and Social Event

**WHERE:** The Meeting Hall on the lower level at Our Savior's Lutheran Church—Corner of Bluff & Story Streets  
Plenty of tables and chairs set up, so let's pack the house!

**WHEN:** Saturday morning, July 15th // 10:00 a.m. (PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!)

**COST:** FREE! (although good will donations are gladly accepted to help offset expenses)

Bring your appetite, and plan to hang out and enjoy yourself. **SEE YOU THERE!**



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**GIBRALTAR NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT**

# Omaha Gives...to Council Bluffs...to Gibraltar! *By Tom Emmett*

May 24 is a day of amazing giving in Omaha and in Pottawattamie County. **Stop what you are doing NOW and put this important date in your calendar: May 24<sup>th</sup>!** Your Gibraltar Neighborhood Association knows that you will remember us during this time of massive generosity.

Omaha Gives (part of the Omaha Community Foundation) acts as a conduit of giving. In 2016, nearly 19,000 individuals came together to support nonprofits with gifts of \$10 or more through [omahagives.org](http://omahagives.org).

This generosity resulted in 789 nonprofits in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties receiving more than \$8.9 million in donations, prizes and extra bonus dollars during the event. ***Our local association has set a goal of bringing in at least \$1,000 on May 24.*** Based on our work in the community over the past couple of years, and given the national awards we've won, this goal seems reasonable.



You'll be receiving a reminder postcard in the mail. *On or before May 24*, we are asking that you log onto [www.omahagives.org](http://www.omahagives.org) and search for "Gibraltar" (type it in the search bar and hit 'enter'), and make a gift of \$10 or more. *Have you had fun at a social event? Have you been able to get rid of junk during a cleanup day? Do you enjoy our neighborhood identification banners? Are you excited about the upcoming sidewalk replacement initiative? Aren't these benefits worth a gift of \$10, \$20 or more?* I sure think so. Personally, my household will be giving on that day. Will you join me? The direct link: [www.OmahaGives.org/GibraltarNeighborhoodAssociation](http://www.OmahaGives.org/GibraltarNeighborhoodAssociation)

**Again, please right now put May 24 on your calendar** and remember your Gibraltar Neighborhood in your giving. The funds we raise will be used to support our long-term goals (see the article about our long-term vision, below). And, please SHARE the link to our "Omaha Gives" page via your social media channels with other friends and family! *Your* personal "ask" for a donation can go a LONG way towards helping us reach our fundraising goals. THANK YOU!

## OUR VISION for the FUTURE of GNA *By Tom Emmett*

**A neighborhood that fails to have a vision for the future limits itself. We will not be limited!** We have high expectations about our shared future. We love where we live, and with good long-term planning we can craft the future of our neighborhood. Together, with a long-term plan, we will make our neighborhood cleaner, safer, more beautiful, and our home values will benefit.

Currently, your GNA leadership team is considering what a long-term plan for our neighborhood might look like. *We are thinking 20 years into the future!* That seems like a long time, but really, it's not. We feel strongly that by having a long term plan, and making progress on it, we will have much greater cooperation with the city and grant-makers. In addition, we believe that the neighborhood will be much more passionate about what we do, and why we do it, if we have a plan that is supported by all. Over 2017 and into 2018, we'll have opportunities at our meetings and at focus groups to clarify and ultimately approve our shared vision. Areas of focus will include, but are not limited to: Lighting, Sidewalks & Curbs, Community Gardens, Social Development, Fundraising & Income, Security & Safety, Brick Street Preservation, Increasing Renter Participation, and more.

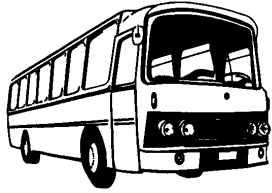
Our Long Term Plan exists only now as a preliminary concept document until we can obtain additional input. View this living document under the "vision" tab on our website at [www.GibraltarNA.org](http://www.GibraltarNA.org). We hope you will play an active role in shaping this plan and the betterment of our neighborhood! Stay tuned!

# OMAHA GIVES!

# FROM PRESIDENT PETERS

Greetings fellow Gibraltar Residents!

I'm so excited for the arrival of warmer weather and spending more time outside!



Lots of great things are happening as I write this, starting with the upcoming **Neighborhoods, USA National Conference** that is being held in Omaha this May. Gibraltar is partnering with the Fairmount Park and Bayliss West Associations to host a bus tour of our historic areas. Visitors from all over the country will get to experience the lovely jewel that is our

Gibraltar Neighborhood, with a short tour of the Dodge House included! Keep this upcoming tour in mind as you are planning your "Spring Spruce-Up" ideas and projects for your home and yard (keep porch and walkways clean, remove dead plants and shrubs from visible areas, clear out debris, etc.). Let's really get Gibraltar in tip-top shape and WOW them!! Thank you in advance for your extra efforts!!



Get your belly ready for some **DELICIOUS PANCAKES** in July! The GNA 2nd Quarter Social brings the "The Pancake Man" to our neighborhood on Saturday morning, July 15th! We'll be enjoying pancake-flipping antics and each other's company in the comfort of the meeting hall on the lower level of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, where there are **PLENTY** of tables & chairs! Bring the whole family!! The cost is **FREE**, although we'll be accepting good-will donations (if you are so inclined) to help offset the expenses. I can't wait!!

**OMAHA GIVES...** Will you? The Gibraltar Board has been working on building a long-range strategic plan for the ongoing betterment of our neighborhood. Part of that plan includes creating a long term monetary resource configured as a **trust** held and administered by the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation. While our yearly dues and fundraising activities help fund ongoing activities like socials, cleanup days, event registrations, fundraising costs, etc., we'll need a separate source of income to *build funds that will be used for long-range projects* (lighting improvements, sidewalk repair, etc.). **On MAY 24th**, you have a chance to donate to your neighborhood on this day of giving! (See the article on the previous page.) **PLEASE** visit [OmahaGives.org](http://OmahaGives.org) and make a donation yourself, **then SHARE our donation page via facebook, twitter, Instagram, etc. with your friends and family and personally ask them to donate as well!** **THANK YOU!**

**A big THANKS** to all those who have supported the Neighborhood through the paying of yearly dues, we couldn't do this without you! Your support helps us undertake improvement projects and host fun events.

**SIDEWALK REPAIR:** Interest in this initiative has been great, and we're just waiting to hear back on some of our grant applications to get the funding in place. We'll be contacting property owners personally as the planning comes together. We appreciate your interest in making Gibraltar prettier and safer!!

**NOTE:** Whether you are a GNA homeowner or renter, paid GNA member or NOT, you should *join the neighborhood networking group* at [www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com](http://www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com). This site is an *excellent* way for residents to post news, share alerts, ask questions, pose ideas and get to know one another. There is **NO COST** to join the group, and there are no spam or pop-up ads. You just need to live in our neighborhood.

With warmer weather in hand, I'm looking forward to see you out and about!

Cory Peters — GNA President

**Visitors from Across the Nation will Tour Gibraltar!**  
**We need your help in making our neighborhood look GREAT!**

On Friday, May 26, a bus-load of attendees from the **Neighborhoods, U.S.A. National Conference** in Omaha will be touring the Gibraltar Neighborhood (along with the Fairmount and Bayliss West neighborhoods). The folks on this bus will be from cities and towns all over the country!! This tour will highlight some of the wonderful history of our three historic neighborhoods, and we would really like to put our best foot forward and show off all that Council Bluffs has to offer!



We're asking each resident to make a concerted effort **to spruce up the front of your property** by trimming weeds (both in your yard and along the curb/street), sweeping sidewalks, removing dead plants, tidying up porch and driveway areas, etc. If possible, touch up painted areas in need, and plant some pretty flowers!

Gibraltar is such a GREAT place to live, and we would really love to make a positive impression on our out-of-town guests. If you need help with sprucing up your place, let a board member know!! We MAY have access to volunteer help in early May! (Board Members/phone numbers are listed on the last page of the newsletter).



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## CALL FOR DONATIONS!!

The **GNA Quarter Auction Fundraiser** will be held again this Fall on Friday, September 15th! We had SO MUCH FUN at last year's auction, and raised over \$600!! We are excited to be hosting it again this year at the American Legion Hall.

*How can you participate?* Of course the first way is to COME TO THE AUCTION with \$\$ in hand in September!! But for the auction to succeed, we need some AWESOME things to auction off!

Are you an artist or craftsman? Are you a baker or candy maker? Do you create jewelry or knitted goods? Or do you just have a generous heart and would be willing to make a gift basket or donate a collectible or antique? All these and anything else you can think of are things you can provide for us to auction off! **The VALUE of the item needs to be only \$30 or less**, so it won't break your bank! Let's make the 2017 Auction a success! Contact Cory Peters if you can help: 712-329-8526 or coryp241@yahoo.com. THANKS!

## RECIPE CORNER:

### Cherry Bars

*These are PERFECT for a picnic or potluck gathering!*

#### Ingredients:

- 1 c. (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 2 c. sugar
- 4 eggs
- 3 c. flour
- 1/2 tsp. almond extract
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 lg. can (21 oz.) cherry pie filling

#### Directions:

Cream butter & sugar together until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, then beat in the extracts. Gradually mix in the flour until well incorporated. With your fingers or a spatula, spread 3/4 of the batter in the bottom of a 9"x13" greased pan, forming a bottom 'crust' layer. Scoop cherry pie filling over batter in pan. Drop remaining batter by spoonfuls over the cherries. Spread the globs out a bit with my fingers, but don't cover the cherries completely (red goo oozes out while baking and makes the bars really pretty!).

Bake at 375 for 45 min. Let cool completely, and frost with powdered sugar icing if you desire. Slice into bars for serving.



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# 100 Block COUNCIL BLUFFS Parties

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**PLACES, HISTORY** and  
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proud in Council Bluffs!

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**100BLOCKPARTIES.COM**



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## **GNA Meeting Minutes: 3/18/17** (Held at Our Saviors Lutheran Social Hall)

Members present: Cory, Tom, Cathy, Roland, Patti, Steve, Chris, Mark (new—welcome!)

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. Agenda items discussed:

**Sidewalk Repairs:** 15 applicants have submitted thus far. Deadline is March 31. \$2000 from GNA's treasury is committed to this project. We anticipate (hope) that Pottawattamie County Foundation will grant us \$2000. Only sidewalks are included in this project (damaged curbs are the City's responsibility). These monies, although greatly appreciated, will not suffice to complete our sidewalk initiative, so the Board is seeking other revenue sources.

**Summer Farmer's Market:** This event has been moved from the 100 Block to Bayliss Park. GNA will commit \$200 for a table for the entire summer and early fall. Any GNA members who wish to offer garden bounty or crafts are welcome to do so. More information will be available as the season approaches.

**NUSA 2017 Conference in Omaha:** Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to help neighborhoods grow and flourish. Our president, Cory Peters, presented at the 2016 conference and brought home a 2nd place award for neighborhood development. This year the conference will be in Omaha. Gibraltar, Bayliss and Fairmount Park NAs are hosting a bus tour through our neighborhoods on Friday, May 26th. Area residents are asked to put forth an effort to spruce up their properties, so we put forth our best selves. Areas of focus in GNA are Willow, 3rd Street and 5th Avenue.

**Omaha/Pottawattamie Gives:** Mark your calendars for the Day of Online Giving! On May 21st, 2017, GNA will participate in this city-wide fundraiser. You can go online and make a pledge of \$10 (or more) to support the long-term initiatives of our neighborhood. We hope to raise \$1,000 to put towards long-term growth initiatives and events. Please take a moment to support this effort, and SHARE our link with your friends and family!

**Pancakes:** We will hold our next social event with a family pancake feed and the Pancake Man! If you have never experienced the Pancake Man and his antics, join us for breakfast and socialization with neighbors. It will be fun! Stay tuned for more information.

**Other topics/events to be discussed at future dates:** National Night Out in August, GNA Holiday Luminary Event, GNA Holiday Wreath and Poinsettia Fundraiser, 2nd Annual Quarter Auction

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy B. Hill, Secretary

### **ATTENTION: BUSINESS OWNERS, ARTISTS, ETC.**

If you own a business, provide a service, have an event or sell a product, would you like to get the word out to **OVER 200 HOUSEHOLDS** in the Gibraltar Neighborhood?

***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](mailto:coryp241@yahoo.com) for more info!



# BOY SCOUTS Multi-Family Garage Sale and Bake Sale!!



**WHEN:** June 2nd & 3rd from 8-4:00

**WHERE:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
at Bluff & Story Streets

*All proceeds go to help our young men  
continue on the road of wonderful life-  
time experiences!*

## Could You Provide Snacks or Munchies for our Bus Tour?

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, the GNA is partnering with Fairmount Park NA and Bayliss West NA to host nation-wide visitors on a bus tour in late May. As part of the tour, one of the opportunities we have is to provide each participant with a "goody bag." We've been gathering gift items and tchotchkes for the bag, but we also need to include some snack items (cookies or chips or nuts or jerky or m&ms, etc.).



**Would you be willing to bake or buy some snack items for the goody bags?** We need supplies for approx. 50 participants. If interested, contact Cory Peters at [coryp241@yahoo.com](mailto:coryp241@yahoo.com) or 712-329-8526. Thank you for helping our neighborhood STAND OUT during the tour!

## GNA's SUPER-STARS!



**THANK YOU** to our  
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delivery & distribution team:

**Chris Gorman  
and  
Tom Emmett**

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—A GIBRALTAR NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT—

# Lincoln's Visit with Dodge in Council Bluffs Was a Turning Point for the City, by Danette Hein-Snyder

One of the most important events in Council Bluffs' history took place in August of 1859. This was when the future president visited the small village, and while here he was introduced to a young surveyor, Grenville M. Dodge.

In 1909, to honor the 50th anniversary of this historic occasion, "Lincoln Park" was dedicated. To further commemorate this historic occasion, a monument was also planned.

Very shortly after the park's dedication, a proposition to erect a monument to honor President Abraham Lincoln was made public. The proposition, which originated with the Council Bluffs Chapter of the D.A.R., moved one step closer to reality when M.F. Rohrer and Leonard Everett donated land to the city for such a statue. The spot chosen was "Lookout Point" at the entrance to Lincoln Park.

The proposal's possibilities and the likelihood of seeing the proposal to fruition was discussed when the committee gathered in the office of Gen. G.M. Dodge with the D.A.R. represented by Mrs. Thomas Metcalf and Mrs. Charles M. Hart.

It was deemed advisable to organize a separate society to be known as the Lincoln Memorial Association, which was done immediately. Dodge was elected as president; Mayor Thomas Maloney, first vice president; Mrs. Metcalf, second vice president; Mrs. C.M. Hart, secretary; and Theodore Laskowski, treasurer.

Rohrer; Edward P. Schoentgen; Councilman Chris Jensen; Fred E. Cox; City Engineer S.L. Etnyer; A.C. Graham, chairman of the Park Board; Mrs. Drayton Bushnell and Mrs. S. L. Etnyre were appointed to an appropriate committee on the estimate and design by Dodge.

The newly formed association was to be at the call of the president, which was to be issued as soon as the committee on estimates and design was prepared to make its report.

The D.A.R. worked quickly to finish the project to coincide with the 41st reunion of the Army of the Tennessee scheduled to be held in Council Bluffs in 1911. They met their goal, and the Lincoln shaft was dedicated in October 1911.

Gen. Frederick Grant, a son of President U.S. Grant, was present for the dedication and gave his reminiscences of two meetings between his father and the great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, both of which he witnessed.

Dodge spoke on his friendship with Lincoln and when he was first introduced to him. Lincoln happened to have some old friends – W.H. Pusey, Thomas Officer and Mr. Bates – living in Council Bluffs.

"I had just returned from my survey of the rail line west of the Missouri River and was camped just north of Council Bluffs near Crescent. Mr. Lincoln heard from one of his old friends of my explorations and surveys and that I was in the city, and, as he was greatly interested in building the great Pacific road, he sought me out. We sat on the porch of the Pacific House and engaged in conversation. He extracted a good deal of information from me, in fact he shelled my woods," Dodge said.

Dodge shared this reflection: "While in Council Bluffs, Mr. Pusey, Mr. Bloomer and other citizens brought Mr. Lincoln to this spot, and he stood where we are standing now. It was a clear day, and he viewed the Missouri Valley from Florence to Bellevue and across to Omaha City, which had just been started."

In 1863, when Dodge was in command of the district of Corinth, Tennessee, he was called to the executive mansion to meet with the president to aid him in determining the initial point of the Union Pacific. Dodge and Lincoln had similar views, and on November 17, 1863, the President decreed that the road should start on the western boundary of Iowa.

Council Bluffs owes a huge debt of gratitude to Dodge. If not for his initial meeting with Lincoln and his continued friendship with the president, the southern route for the transcontinental railroad might have been chosen over the northern route. If that had happened, the city would not have grown as fast and prospered as it did.



*Gen. Grenville Dodge is seated next to Gen. Fred Grant during a Lincoln Park ceremony. Dodge's daughter, Lettie Dodge Montgomery, is at the far right in the photo*



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 **“Don’t You Cry” by Mary Kubica.**

We always have a blast when we get together, so consider making this part of your neighborhood involvement! For more info, contact Patti Hannan at 712-323-8600. We’d love to see you at our next book club (wine club? heehee) meeting!



*“Well, instead of discussing the book we could discuss why none of us had time to read it.”*

## **THANK YOU to these folks who have joined the GNA for 2017!**

*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 Tom Emmett.*

- |                             |                                    |                                |
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Your ongoing support of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association allows us to undertake betterment projects like our identification banners and repair initiatives, host social gatherings like our Kirn Park picnic and Brunch & Banter events, sponsor improvement events like cleanup days, and represent our neighborhood at community events such as workshops and having a Gibraltar float in the Celebrate Council Bluffs Parade! ***It would not be possible without YOU!***

Visit Gibraltar online: [www.GibraltarNA.org](http://www.GibraltarNA.org)

**Your 2017  
GNA Board:**

Cory Peters, President  
712-329-8526

Steve Gorman, Vice President  
712-256-8890

Tom Emmett, Treasurer  
402-346-6734

Cathy B. Hill, Secretary  
402-980-8177

Turner Morgan, Board Member  
712-310-3102

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**THANK YOU!**



**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 open to folks within the GNA boundaries!! Register TODAY on GNA's "Nextdoor" social networking website: [www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com](http://www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com).

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**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**

**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  
 Better lighting in our Neighborhood       More social events  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_