MARCH 2017: Meet-&-Munch General Meeting!

Our only morning meeting of the year happens on **Saturday morning, March 18 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Social Hall at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. *We'll have O.J. and donuts on hand* (feel free to bring your own thermos of hot coffee, or a frappuccino!) While we enjoy a bite to eat, we'll go over several topics of interest that we'll be working on throughout the year:

- A) Results of recent meeting with Pott. County Community Foundation
- B) Sidewalk Repair Initiative
- C) Ideas for improved street lighting in Gibraltar
- D) Survey results of Brick Street questionnaire, plus ideas for repair

See you at the meeting!!



2017 DUES are DUE!!

We are so grateful to have had record membership numbers in 2016, so let's continue that trend for 2017! Gibraltar Neighborhood Association dues were payable in January (did you remember?). Contact GNA Treasurer Tom Emmett (402-346-6734) to make arrangements and he can pick up the check from you! Or, drop a check in the mail (mailing address and form are on the last page of this newsletter!).

Your annual dues help fund projects like:

- > Quarterly Neighborhood Social Events
- > Neighborhood Identification Banners
- > Neighborhood Cleanup Day
- > Celebrate C.B. Parade Participation
- > National Neighborhood Conference engagement
- > Future projects like the Sidewalk Repair Initiative and possibly a community garden, etc., etc.!

You help keep Gibraltar moving in a positive direction by support through annual dues. **THANK YOU!**



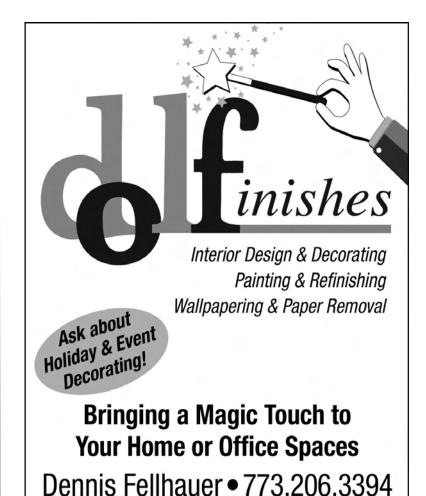
The **GNA Book Club** is a fun, social gathering where we get together and share a bit of news, a glass of wine and discuss our latest book. We are currently reading "Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness" by Alexandra Fuller. We always have a blast when we get together, so consider making this 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! ■

WELCOME TURNER!

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new GNA Board Member, Turner Morgan. With the V.P. position being vacated mid-term, board member Steve Gorman stepped up to fill that role, leaving a board seat vacant. (January 2018 will be our next general election.)

Turner stepped in to fill that opening, and your GNA Board is **so happy to welcome him** to the team! Turner has been active in the neighborhood for the past couple years, when he and his girlfriend Abby purchased the home at the top of Clark Avenue. He has helped haul trash for the past two cleanup days, has helped with the fundraising committee, and assisted with other events. Some of you may know him from the wonderful presentation he did on Bee Keeping at one of our Fall meetings!

We're excited to have Turner as a new Board Member! Be sure introduce yourself at our next event and say "hi"!!



GIBRALTAR NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT



FLORALS. WEDDINGS. ART. EVENTS

Harvester Artist Lofts . 1010 Main St, Suite 700 . Council Bluffs . 712-256-9959 www.loesshillsfloral.com

FROM PRESIDENT PETERS

Greetings fellow Gibraltar Residents!

I hope this newsletter finds you warm and cozy. I feel like we're hopefully on the 'downhill' side of winter at this point, so my thoughts are already turning to Spring!

First off, a HUGE thank you to Chris & Steve Gorman for hosting the Holiday Party in December! We had an amazing turnout (over 50 people!), and a lot of NEW faces in attendance, getting to meet new friends and neighbors! The food was wonderful and



everyone really enjoyed themselves. Pictures are posted on the PHOTOS tab on the Gibraltar website: www.GibraltarNA.org. And, those of you who took the time to write your name on the entry tickets are now in a drawing through the City's "100 Block Parties" program for lots of great prizes! WHEEEE!

The MARCH General Meeting (Saturday morning, 3/18 from 10:00 to Noon) will be a discussion of multiple topics and initiatives we're hoping to address this year. We are also underway with the development of a long-term vision plan for the neighborhood. We'll provide donuts and juice, you bring a hot thermos of coffee or cocoa if that's your preferred beverage of choice. Come to meeting and let's talk!

REMINDER: Neighborhood Association dues were payable in January, so please support our improvement and networking initiatives by being a paid member! Also, for the upcoming sidewalk repair projects, association members will have priority access to any available funds.

SIDEWALK REPAIR!! We're starting the process of getting things lined up so we can begin our sidewalk repair initiative. See the letter & form elsewhere in this newsletter if you are interested in taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity, brought to you by your Gibraltar Neighborhood Association!

I'll have more info about this in the April newsletter, but a heads-up in the meantime... Gibraltar is partnering with the Fairmount Park and Bayliss West Neighborhood Associations to host a bus tour of our historic neighborhoods during the **Neighborhoods**, **USA National Conference** that is being held in Omaha this May. Bus tour riders will be from all over the country, so we'll definitely want to show off the shining jewel that is our Gibraltar Neighborhood. Keep this upcoming tour in mind as you are planning your "Spring Spruce-Up" ideas

and projects for your home and yard — let's really get Gibraltar ship-shape and WOW them!!



Lastly— MANY, MANY thanks to the chairman of our Events Committee, Ann Walters. Ann and her team helped us accomplish some amazing things in the 18 months of her tenure!! Due to other life commitments Ann needed to step down, and we are looking for someone to take the reins! Much of the groundwork has already been laid, but we need someone at the helm to keep it on track!! **Won't you help!?!?** Email me a.s.a.p. at coryp241@yahoo.com and let's talk about it!:)

NOTE: Whether you are a GNA homeowner or renter, paid GNA member or NOT, you should *join the neigh*borhood networking group at 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.

Here's hoping the remainder of winter is mild and brief, and HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY to you and yours, Cory Peters — GNA President

FREE NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY!!

There's an exciting opportunity to expand your skill set with upcoming FREE classes just around the corner from Gibraltar!! The **712 Initiative** will be a hosting a **Neighborhood Leadership Academy** on a Thursday and Friday sometime in late MARCH, 2017 (dates are still being finalized at the time this newsletter went **to press...** watch for updates and more information on courses on the NextDoor.com website. Information on how to register will be coming as well.)

The courses are provided through Neighborworks Home Solutions at **no cost** for anyone who wants to attend. The workshops are taught by professionals who have years of experience and knowledge on these topics - - all of which are designed to **empower community residents to become leaders**.

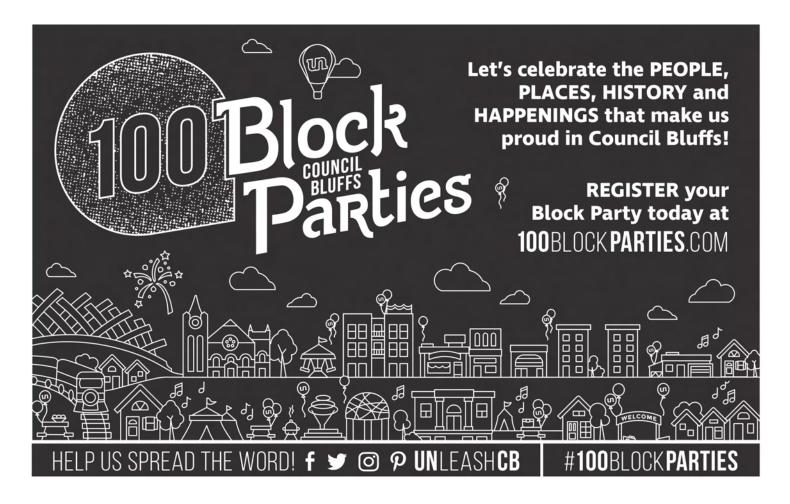
Each course will have 24 openings available for attendees. The Academy will be held in The 712 Initiative's Board Room (1228 S. Main Street), with different workshops scheduled in the morning and afternoon.

The courses featured in this series are:

- Young People as Leaders of Community Change
- Getting -- and Keeping -- People Involved in Urban Areas
- Organizing Volunteers for Maximum Impact
- Organizing for Neighborhood Safety
- Building on the Assets of Your Community
- Making Meetings Work
- Team Building Skills and Working Together
- Strategies for Creating Great Neighborhoods



For more information, contact Morgan Wade, 712 Initiative, at 712-396-2478!!



GNA Meeting Minutes: 1/11/17 (Held at Our Saviors Lutheran Social Hall)

Members present: Adrienne, Dave, Patti, Eric, Roland, Cory, Cathy, Tom, Bud, Turner, Justin, Morgan

Guest: Matt Cox, City Engineers Office

Minutes:

Cory called the meeting to order at 6:15. She introduced Matt Cox from the City Engineer's Office to discuss all things "streets." Here are some relevant points made by Matt:

- > City allots \$20,000 annually for repairs to infrastructure. Matt noted that in 2016 alone, the city actually spent \$50,000. He also stated that a good portion of that money went to Gibraltar.
- > The city plans in 5 year increments. Matt stated that there is nothing slated for GNA in the next 5 years. This includes new sewers and streets.
- > Cory floated a potential idea for the GNA to help fund the purchase (through grants) a brick laying machine to assist the city in repairing and replacing brick streets in historic neighborhoods in CB. She added that since we are a nationally recognized historic neighborhood, it would be preferable to retain our brick streets. The City could possibly offset the cost by renting it to other neighborhoods throughout the area (including Omaha).
- > Matt did state that the city accepts that Gibraltar Neighborhood could not give up <u>all</u> of the brick streets due to the Dodge House and our historic designation.
- > He added that the City must make decisions regarding repairs based on need and money.
- > Matt concluded that it is the City's responsibility to maintain existing brick streets. The city also requires that any damage to brick streets due to utilities repairs must be replaced with brick, not any other paving materials. He did state that the torrential rains we have experienced in recent months and years have severely compromised brick streets.

Cory and the attendees thanked Matt for his time and information. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

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 <u>affordable ad</u> in the <u>Rock Talk newsletter</u>!

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

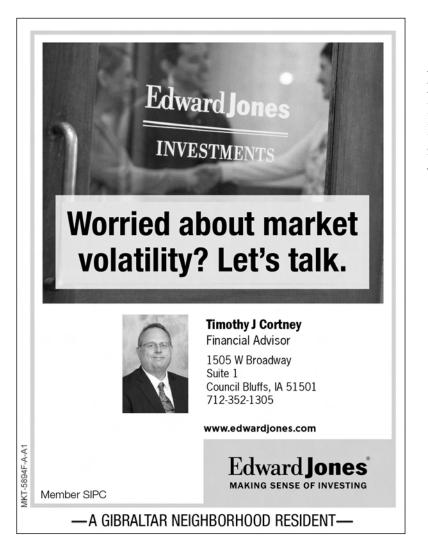
1/2 sheet one-time insertion: \$15 - OR - 1/2 sheet "6-pack" (whole year): \$75

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



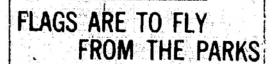
Dedicated to providing friendly, professional and compassionate service, our team is devoted to giving your legal matters the time and attention they deserve.

Kyle & Dan McGinn, Attorneys and Gibraltar Neighborhood Residents



DODGE LOOKOUT?

As you can see from this Nonpareil article (dated March 27, 1917... 100 years ago!!), Lookout Point in Fairmount Park used to be called "Dodge Lookout." Annund, does anyone know if there is still a boulder that marks Pioneer Trail? (or even where that is?)



POLES TO BE ERECTED AT TWO LOOKOUT POINTS-BOULDER FOR BAYLISS PARK.

Hereafter flags are to fry from points of vantage in the parks of Council Bluffs.

At a special meeting of the park board Tuesday morning, flag staffs were ordered erected at Dodge Lookout in Fairmount park, and near the Lincoin monument in Lincoln park—two of the best points of vantage in the entire city.

The board also gave permission to the D. A. R. chapter for the placing of the big boulder that is to mark the pioneer trail in the north section of Bayliss park.

The History We Live In: Charles T. Officer Home by Mary Lou McGinn

On February 16, 1943, Charles Officer, 88, dean of the Council Bluffs realtors and a pioneer resident of Council Bluffs, was found dead at his desk, still wearing his overcoat. His wife, Edith, told the coroner that he had left home a short time earlier. The next day, a Nonpareil story gave the details of his life. He was born on March 18, 1854, in Jacksonville, Illinois. In 1856, he came to Council Bluffs via steamboat with his parents. They left the boat at Wray's building, south of Council Bluffs, about where Lake Manawa is today. Years later, his sister Julia reportedly gave Lake Manawa its name which, in the Indian language, means "Beautiful."

His parents, Thomas and Elizabeth (Pusey) Officer, had been friends with Abraham Lincoln when they lived in Illinois. When Lincoln visited Council Bluffs in 1859 to check on some property he had received as collateral on a loan, the Officers entertained him in their home. Charles attended public schools in Council Bluffs and graduated



The Charles T. Officer home, located at 228 5th Ave., features narrow clapboard siding, a hipped roof with eave overhang and hipped dormers with exposed rafter

from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, in 1878. While in Pennsylvania, he married Margaret Boyle.

He returned with his wife to Council Bluffs and went to work as a paying teller at the Officer & Pusey Bank, founded by William Pusey and Charles' father, who was senior partner. H.H. Field, in his "History of Pottawattamie County," writes that he stayed at the bank until 1900, when the bank was discontinued, and turned his attention to the real estate, loan and insurance business. The Nonpareil tells the story of how the real estate business grew during the late nineteenth century: "It was during the boom years of 1886-87 when realtors stayed open until midnight selling property direct from a company map, that he became interested in real estate."

"He purchased two lots at the location of Eighteenth Street and Broadway and before he could obtain final deeds to the lots, he sold them for \$900 – more than twice the purchase price. He and seven other business men incorporated and purchased forty acres of land in the western portion of the city for \$40,000 in gold, and before they could resell at a profit the boom ended suddenly. Those in the enterprise took their share of the property and a few years later Officer sold his lots for \$30,000, realizing a profit of nearly \$20,000. The real estate business proved too inspiring for Mr. Officer and he resigned his position at his father's bank and started a real estate company in 1901 with offices at 419 West Broadway." He later moved his office to 128 S. Main St.

Margaret Officer died in 1927 and, in 1930, Charles married Edith (Brock) Beardsley. He had a stepson, Richard, and two stepdaughters, Jean and Virginia. In politics, he was a Republican but never sought political office. He attended the First Presbyterian Church. His parents were among the thirteen original members who organized the church in 1856. The story continues: "It was their residence, now used by the Cutler funeral home*, that was called, 'Preachers Hotel.' There was hardly a visiting minister or missionary who failed to stop at the Officer home." The bell for the first church was donated by his mother, Elizabeth Officer. It was later given to the courthouse where it sounded the hours of the tower clock for several years.

The Officers are buried in Walnut Hill Cemetery. The nomination of the Willow/Bluff/Third Street historic district provides a description of the house. It retains the original narrow clapboard siding, hipped roof with eave overhang, hipped dormers with exposed rafter tails, porch with paired and tripled round ³/₄-height columns on brick piers, original multi-pane over single pane and fixed pane windows, and a rounded bay on the front porch.

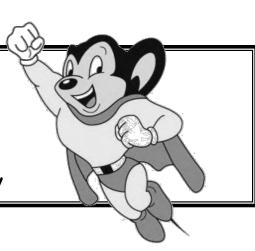
*Now part of Cutler-O'Neill Meyer-Woodring.

Preserve Council Bluffs acknowledges the following sources of information for this series: National Register of Historic Places nominations, the reference department of the Council Bluffs Public Library, the auditor's office of the Pottawattamie County courthouse, Council Bluffs Community Development Department, homeowners, family members and individual research. Mary Lou McGinn can be reached by email at mlmcginn@cox.net.

THANK YOU to our hard-working GNA newsletter delivery & distribution team:

Chris and Steve Gorman Tom Emmett and Nate Brown

Without you, our Newsletter would <u>not</u> be possible!!!!





Visit Gibraltar's LITTLE
FREE LIBRARY! We
have children's books
and adult books for you
to borrow for as long as
you wish... FOR FREE!
Share the joy of reading
today! The library is
located in the green
space at the corner of
Story St. & 4th Street.



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!





HOLIDAY PARTY PHOTOS: 12/10/16

If you missed the Gibraltar Holiday Party and the Gorman's House, you missed a FUN TIME!! With over 50 folks in attendance, there was lots of conversation, lots of food, lots of drinks, and much frivolity — holiday spirit was abundant!! Be sure to put our next event on your calendar and don't miss it! (more pix at GibratlarNA.org)





12TH ANNUAL RESTORE OMAHA CONFERENCE!

March 3 ● Paxton Building, 14th & Farnam March 4 ● Metro Comm. College, Ft. Omaha Campus

On Friday night, Restoration Exchange Omaha (REO) will host **Saving Places: A Preservation Celebration**, a

night to honor preservation achievements in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro. The event features drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a fast moving video awards ceremony along with desserts and coffee all inside the restored Art Deco Paxton building at 14th and Farnam Streets.

Saturday, REO will hold the **12th annual Restore Omaha Conference** on the Fort Omaha campus of Metropolitan Community College. Tom Mayes, vice president and senior counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation is the keynote speaker. In 2013, Mayes received the National Endowment for the Arts Rome Prize in Historic Preservation. Following a six-month sabbatical in the Italian capital, he wrote a series of essays titled Why Old Places Matter. Mayes looked at the question from a variety of perspectives or reasons—14 to be exact—and he will share those at the Restore Omaha Conference.

Sheila Ireland, an architect with Leo A Daly, will reprise her "TEDx Omaha" talk from last October to open the conference. In "The City is a Library," Ireland explains how buildings tell the story of a city. But unlike books, they can never be reproduced. "What stories should we consider saving when constructing the future?" she asks.

The conference will feature local craftsmen demonstrating construction skills such as plastering, woodworking and paint removal along with 18 breakout sessions ranging from historic tile to the new Land Bank program. It will end with the popular Restore Jam! where people will have five minutes to highlight a restoration project they completed.

RECIPE CORNER: Here's something to take the edge off a cold winter day...

Savory Baked Beef Stew provided by Patti Hannan

- 2 lbs lean stew beef, cubed
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 Tblsp onion soup mix (1 pkg)
- 6 med. potatoes, quartered
- 4 carrots, sliced
- 10-1/2 oz. can cream of celery soup
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup sherry



Put meat in heavy casserole or Dutch oven; sprinkle with salt, pepper and onion soup mix. Add potatoes, carrots and onion. Combine celery soup, water and sherry; pour over meat. Cover, and bake at 250-300 degrees for 5 hours. Serves 5-6. Patti doubles the soup, water and sherry, as they like more of the gravy.



FUTURE MEMBER MEETINGS (Mark your calendars now!)

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

SATURDAY, March 18, 10:00 a.m. // 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.



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

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!* Those listed were known to have paid dues at the time of publishing. If you notice an error, please contact GNA Treasurer Tom Emmett.

Dave & Amy Adams

Joe & Kim Atkinson

Mark & Jeanie Beckman

Nate Brown & Tom Emmett

Harold Compton

Bud & Susie Dew

William & Merna Dobbs

Randy & Linda Eyre

Fred & Sharon Fritz

Teresa Gerjevic

Dave & Patty Gillespie

Jim & Joyce Gorman

Steve & Chris Gorman

Bill & Lois Grove

Merlin & Peggy Hale

Steve & Cathy Jayjack

Barney & Brenda Johnson

Jim Kieffer & Gary Lopez

.

Steve & Marge Leaders

Justin Lightner

Kent & Mary Madison

Anne Massoud & Sara Perkins

Adrienne McElderry

Kyle McGinn & Paige Hutchinson

Clay & Dana Miller

Turner Morgan & Abby Jeres

Terry & Nancy Mulvania

Patricia Murphy

Cory Peters

Dan & Patti Salvo-McGinn

Tony Swanson & Jamie Robbins

Ann Walters & Cathy Hill

Patrice Watson

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT in 2016! Please remember to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP in 2017!!

RE: Sidewalk Repair Grant Program



Dear Gibraltar Resident,

We hope this letter finds you well. As you may know, the maintenance of sidewalks on your property are the *homeowner's responsibility*. (Curb maintenance is the City's responsibility.) In an effort to improve the safety and appearance of our neighborhood while bringing value to members in our Association, **your Gibraltar**Neighborhood Association (GNA) is offering to *pay for the installation* of up to 80 square feet (one yard of concrete) of walkway in front of your house or leading to your front door. If you so desire, you can replace only the sections of your walkway that are damaged/misaligned, or a larger portion.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Anyone within the Gibraltar boundary is eligible and may complete an application. Currently-paid members of the Neighborhood Association will move to the front of the line.
- The homeowner is responsible for the cost associated with <u>removing</u> cement and preparing the area for new installation. You may:
 - Remove the cement yourself
 - Pay a contractor of your choosing to remove the cement
 - Use GNA's contractor to remove the cement (you will be responsible for the related expense)
- Once the damaged cement is removed, you may:
 - Use GNA's contractor to install the new cement (GNA will cover the expense up to 80 square feet)
 - Install the new cement yourself or via your own contractor (GNA will then reimburse you up to \$350.00 depending on amount of walkway replaced)
 - **NOTE:** all work must meet applicable city codes and guidelines to be eligible.
- The homeowner is responsible for obtaining City Permits before work can be performed.
- This application is due by March 31, 2017. Late applications will not be accepted, no exceptions. Remember, to be first in line, you must be a paid member of GNA on or before the date the application is due. (It is possible that there may be a second round of applications, based on available funding.)
- In reviewing your application we will consider: Total funds available, GNA membership status, and condition of the sidewalk/walkway. All GNA decisions are final.
- We anticipate that work on the new walkways will happen in the 2nd Half of 2017 (much depends on the length of grant cycles and how quickly we can obtain funding). Our goal is to work with each applicant to coordinate with your tear out to then have the installation portion completed within the following two weeks (weather permitting). We will work with each resident as closely as possible.
- **Note to renters:** Your landlord must complete this application. Either you or your landlord may be a member of GNA to put you first in line for consideration.

We're glad to call Gibraltar our home, and hope to replace as many eligible walkways as possible. Please be patient with us during this process, as it will be a model for future initiatives over the next decade which may include lighting, brick streets, crime and safety issues and more. Should you have any questions, please contact Steve Gorman at 712-256-8890.

Warmly,

Your GNA Board of Directors:

Cory Peters (712-329-8526) || Steve Gorman (712-256-8890) || Tom Emmett (402-346-6734)

Cathy Hill (402-980-8177) || Turner Morgan (402-960-5332)

GNA SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT APPLICATION (please print legibly)

Mail your completed form to the address below (NO LATER than March 31, 2017):

Gibraltar Neighborhood Association ■ P.O. Box 1971 ■ Council Bluffs, IA 51502-1971

Street Address:	
	Secondary Phone:
Primary email address:	
Are you a member of GNA? Y	N If yes, for how long?
Is anyone in your household physicall	y disabled or in a wheel chair? Y N
Is this a rental property? Y N	If yes, please also complete information on the bottom of this form.
Maximum replacement allowed will r	will pay for installation of walkway along your street or to your front door. not exceed 80 square feet per home. Please describe the walkway that you
What else would you like us to know?	?
Rental Properties Only	
Tenant Name:	
Property Owner Name:	
Property Owner Address:	
Property Owner Contact Info: Phone	Email
•	ate with you directly on this matter. However, if you would like your renter
to represent you concerning this gran	nt, please check this box: \[\square \text{ I would like my renter to represent me} \]
and Sign Here	
Anything else would you like us to kno	ow?

Your 2017 GNA Contacts:

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 402-960-5332

□ Other

Newsletter copies furnished courtesy of

The **712** Initiative

thank you!

Visit Gibraltar online: www.GibraltarNA.org



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 for GNA's "Nextdoor" social website:

www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com.

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 in connecting with your neighbors:

□ Quarte	erly social events	□ Fundraisers	☐ Business mee	etings			
□ Other							
Please tell us what issues are important to you:							
□ Gettin	g to know my neighbo	rs 🗖 Preser	ving our brick stree	ts			
□ Better	lighting in our Neighb	oorhood	social events				