



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

SUMMER MEETING & SOCIAL: July 12th!

WHERE: “The Great Outdoors” at the top of Clark Avenue

WHEN: Thursday, July 12, 2018 / 6:00 to 8:30pm

PLAN TO ATTEND July’s general neighborhood meeting and social! We’ll be celebrating the Summer by gathering in the shade at the top of Clark Avenue. Bring your favorite beverage and a savory or sweet snack to share with everyone. We’ll have tables and chairs set up, too, or bring your bag chair!

We’ll have much to discuss and much to celebrate (MANY Gibraltar folks have been working diligently the past couple months to address and resolve some new concerns)! Plus, we have some awesome new neighbors who have joined our ‘hood, and we hope to introduce them to our well-known hospitality!

SO, MARK YOUR CALENDARS and make plans to congregate in July! *SEE YOU THEN!*



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

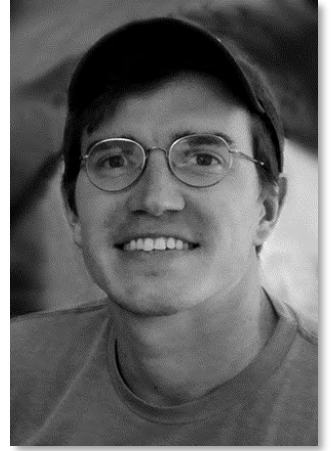
1/2 sheet one-time insertion: \$15 – OR – 1/2 sheet “6-pack” (whole year): \$75

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

FROM PRESIDENT MORGAN!

Greetings neighbors!

The days are getting longer, trees are in full bloom, and by the smoky aroma **coming over the fence from Bud and Suzie's grill** - I would say summer is here! **Gibraltar really comes alive this time of year, and one of Abby's and my favorite pastimes is to sit on the front porch and take it all in. Lilac and freshly cut grass in the air, sounds of children at play, a cold beverage in hand. That's the good stuff.** Calendars fill up quickly, and life has a tendency to speed up – I encourage everyone to take a little time each day to enjoy the simple pleasures our neighborhood provides.



May provided our neighborhood (or at least myself) with a crash course in civic engagement. I am so thankful and proud of all the neighbors who stepped up to raise their concerns and take part in the re-zoning discussions both at City Hall and at the general meeting. I truly believe our efforts influenced the design and investment Con Agra will be making to the border along 9th and 3rd streets. We had a great (and civil) discussion with both City and ConAgra representatives at our May 11th meeting. Topics included; aesthetics, safety, lighting, landscaping, and future developments. It is my hope our **“neighborliness” will allow for future collaborations with our industrious neighbor.**

I also want to personally thank Kate Cross for her courage in speaking at the May 11th general meeting regarding her business. Public hearings, council rooms, and administrative jargon can create confusion and stress – the concern and intensity come from a place of love for our neighborhood, but it is not the welcome a woman of her integrity deserves. The adjustments to her proposal were thoughtful, and the neighborhood and preservation of the Davis House will both benefit from her success!

I want to wish everyone a safe and wonder-filled summer. We have lots of fun events to look forward to – **if you're interested in helping out we'd love to have you. Remember, we have a general meeting on Thursday, July 12th from 6:00 to 8:30.** In the spirit of the season (and my favorite childhood movie, **The Sandlot**), **we'll be hosting the meeting outdoors at the end of Clark Street.** Bring along your beverage of choice and an appetizer to share. In the event of bad weather, we'll be sure to post updates via email and the NextDoor.com website.

“Summer was on the way; Jem and I awaited it with impatience. Summer was our best season: it was sleeping on the back screened porch in cots, or trying to sleep in the tree house; summer was everything good to eat; it was a thousand colors in a parched landscape...”

– Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird

Don't forget to be a



MOVING FORWARD: ConAgra Re-Zoning

Our Gibraltar general meeting on May 11th is a great example of what can happen when two parties come together and listen to each other. In a climate of political gridlock, this project has been a welcome change. Both Gibraltar and ConAgra had good representation, and the discussion remained civil and productive. No bouncer needed.

You can reference our meeting minutes to get a more in depth view of our discussion, but at the end of the day, **both parties are making concessions. While we did not get a decorative wall or lighting, ConAgra is going “above and beyond” the 5-foot buffer minimum code requirement, and investing around \$250,000 on the beautification project.** This includes a 15-foot buffer with multilayered landscaping and decorative fencing. Two other positives – with the help of the City Council – Con Agra will work with Gibraltar to install a decorative neighborhood sign. Also, ConAgra will be responsible for the upkeep of the buffer indefinitely, until the property is sold. This will be a *significant* long-term investment on their part. Overall, both parties should be feel good about the outcome.

A big shout out to *all the neighbors* who came to participate, and in particular to Alicia Brady (among others!) who took the lead and did lots of legwork both figuratively and LITERALLY– research, outreach, canvassing, media, etc... **We had good attendance at this meeting, as WELL as at City Council meetings regarding this re-zoning.** It really feels good watching neighbors look out for each other, and for our historic neighborhood.



GNA General Meeting Minutes - May 11, 2018

President Turner Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. 18 GNA members present with 7 guests.

Each GNA member introduced themselves and identified why they loved to live in Gibraltar. The overall atmosphere of the meeting was friendly and supportive.

Guest Heather Cook, Operations Manager with ConAgra shared a little bit about the company:

- **The plant has been located south of Gibraltar since 1955.**
- **It employs over 700 individuals, about 1/2 of whom live in Council Bluffs**
- **They have invested significantly in landscaping over the past decade.**
- **They are proud to support the community (current focus is Micah house and other charities).**

The primary presenter was Terry Morrison with Ehrhart Griffin & Assoc. This company has been retained by ConAgra to plan and design landscaping to create a “green wall” between GNA’s south border with ConAgra. He was warmly welcomed. He advised that the city’s minimum requirements for a barrier can be seen near 9th Ave. and Main near the existing parking lot. The current setback requirement is 5 feet from the sidewalk. They are proposing 15 feet for this new area. They are also proposing a fence with three layers of shrubs and trees. To see drawings of this, please visit our neighborhood website at www.gibraltarna.org.

At the corner of 9th Ave. and 3rd St. there would be a diagonal setback with a space for a neighborhood plaque. Currently there are 25 trees. Under this plan 65 trees would be added. The preferred tree would be honey locus and various pine trees.

Questions from those present included:

Q: Can larger trees be planted? A: No. Larger trees suffer a higher rate of mortality. It takes about two years after they are planted for normal growth to begin.

Q: Could we have some sort of wall along with the green space. A: Not feasible. Police and fire department have concerns with concealment and emergency access.

Q: What about lighting. A: Current lighting is directed inward. They will look into ornamental lighting.

Q: How long until the trees and shrubs mature to create a true visual barrier. A: Between 15-30 years.

Q: How much will this additional green barrier cost ConAgra? A: At least a quarter million dollars.

Additionally, ConAgra indicated that they are in the process of looking into moving some of their truck traffic to the south side of the plant. Those present thanked representatives of ConAgra.

For the second half of the meeting, Kate Cross, the new owner of the Davis house (the former “Girl Scout House” across the street and a bit north from the Dodge House), got up to speak about her property and proposed zoning changes. Kate was welcomed by all present. She explained that property will be owner occupied, and that she hoped to have a conditional rezoning that would allow for her to have one or two other therapists to join her business. Her business plan is to serve provide professional licensed therapy for: couples, individuals and children. (She indicated that, as a rule, she will not provide services to those with severe diagnoses.)

Ms. Cross indicated that the City Attorney had approached her and indicated that a “conditional rezoning” *could be obtained*. Therefore, in the future, should the house sell, it will revert to residential zoning. Those present voted, unanimously, in support of this. The GNA Board will write a letter of support.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Emmett, Temporary Secretary

WELCOME New Board Member Alicia Brady!



We are very happy to welcome new GNA Board Member Alicia Brady! Last October, Alicia and her husband Jim purchased the historic Martin Hughes house (built in 1887) at the southeast corner of 9th Ave. and 3rd Street. The two of them have been busy ever since, making improvements and updates.

Alicia brings a diverse skill set to the board, particularly in the area of technology and digital communications. She is currently the Director of Technology Services at Hillcrest Health Services in Omaha. Alicia jumped in to neighborhood work with both feet back in March, when the ConAgra re-zoning letter was distributed to neighbors within a certain radius of the plant (her house being directly across the street). Her hard work, tireless efforts and dedication to task are some of the primary reasons why the re-zoning issue resulted in all parties coming together and working on creating a successful outcome.

Alicia loves her historic home, and is excited to be part of an active, vibrant neighborhood like Gibraltar. We look forward to getting to know the Bradys. *Please welcome Alicia to our GNA Board!*

THANK YOU to these folks who have joined the GNA for 2018!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH YOUR ANNUAL DUES!!!

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, pancake feed, 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!*

Dave & Amy Adams	Kate Cross	Roland Lynch
Joe & Kim Atkinson	Bud & Susie Dew	Mary Madison
Darwin & Christine Baker	John & Rita Doidge	Anne Massoud & Sara Perkins
Connie Bartel	Dennis Fellhauer & Brian Wedemeier	Kyle McGinn
Bumpy Bennett	Chad & Kate Gaul	Linda Meyer
Kathy Bennett	Teresa Gerjevic	Clay & Dana Miller
Pam Bogardus & Bob Yanders	Dave & Patty Gillespie	Turner & Abby Morgan
Joan Borrege	Steve & Chris Gorman	Terry & Nancy Mulvania
James & Alicia Brady	Bill & Lois Grove	Patricia Murphy
Kathie Brandt	Peggy & Merlin Hale	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Paulette Brandt & Dave Eyre	Gordon Hitchcock	Dan Partridge & Trish Roze
Ben & Kate Brewer	Barney & Brenda Johnson	Cory Peters
David & Anna Brooks	Kyle McGinn	Jeff & Karen Tucker
Nate Brown & Tom Emmett	Bob Jordan & Joan Minikus	Pat & Mary Ryan
Buck & Teri Christensen	Eric Julius	Jeff & Karen Tucker
Dick & Ardeth Christie	Jim Kieffer & Gary Lopez	Ann Walters & Cathy Hill
Chris Clayton	Steve & Marge Leaders	Patrice Watson
Harold Compton	Johanne Lewis	Carol Wood

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!



"FLOCK" TALK with Turner Morgan

Slimy worms, juicy watermelon, tall un-kept grass, and greens-a-plenty! With winter finally gone, our girls are oh-so-happy to be out in the yard and forest foraging again. After a cold season diet of grains and protein – **it's a lot of fun to watch our girls chase one another around the yard for a freshly dug up grub. While you won't find me snacking on bugs, I always find it fascinating how similar our seasonal cravings are with our chickens. I'm sure they will be just excited when the sweet corn and tomatoes are ready for picking.**

Spring is also the time for chicks – If you shop at Bomgaars or Tractor Supply I'm sure you've seen the cages they have in store. **One of the joys of keeping birds is going to choose new breeds to introduce to your flock.**

Green or blue egg layers, fancy and fluffy, mini (bantam) sized hens, or maybe you just need reliable egg producers – there are so many to choose from and each has their own unique **personality. This is also the time some breeds will go "broody." Hens who want to be mommas stop laying eggs** and start sitting on them. The maternal instinct is so strong; these ladies will sit weeks at a time (occasionally getting up for a snack) until the eggs hatch. They also will be on the defensive for anyone looking to take one of her babies. **This can make morning choresinteresting.**

As always, if anyone has questions about starting their own backyard flock I am happy to help! Keeping poultry is a wonderful hobby and something I am passionate about. Good, bad, ugly – **I've learned lots and happy to share my experience.**



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GIBRALTAR NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT

DID YOU KNOW?

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.

RECIPE CORNER:

6-ingredient fruit cobbler

- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 1 cup sugar, plus more for sprinkling
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 1 cup whole milk
- 2 cups fruit (canned is okay / thaw if using frozen)
- 1 tsp. almond extract

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

In an oven-proof skillet or stove-top baking dish, melt the butter. Adding one ingredient at a time, whisk in the sugar, then flour, then milk, and **“finally the almond extract until fully incorporated.”**

Add the fruit to the center of the skillet or baking dish, avoiding the edges so that they bake into a crispy crust. Sprinkle with sugar. Bake until brown around the edges—about 35 to 40 minutes.

Serve warm with scoop of vanilla ice cream. YUM!

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Kyle & Dan McGinn, Attorneys and Gibraltar Neighborhood Residents

POLE BANNER REPLACEMENT!

Can you help solve the mystery?

The past three years have seen some pretty crazy storms roll through our neighborhood, but Gibraltar's utility pole burgundy banners have held up pretty well!

That being said, a handful of locations have had some banners come down. MANY THANKS to Gibraltar neighbors Ardie Christie and Erin Moreno, who reached out to let us know that banners near their homes had detached during the last windstorm. They picked up the banner and any fallen hardware, saving us a good deal of money in replacement costs.



However, we have a banner that has gone missing from the southeast corner of 5th Ave. and 4th Street, **near JD's Garage. Unfortunately, the garage did not find the errant banner, so its whereabouts is a mystery.**

Additionally, the banner AND hardware from the pole at the intersection of 3rd Street and Worth Street is also missing. If anyone in that area might be holding it for safekeeping, or knows anything about where it might be, please let us know!

I've already reached out to the City, and we will soon be working together to re-install missing banners, as well as finding new locations for some banners that have ended up becoming hidden in fast-growing trees.

If you have information or want to raise a concern about a banner on your block, please reach out to me at coryp241@yahoo.com, or call: 712-329-8526.

THANK YOU!
Cory Peters

FREE Music & Movies in the Park

June 13 - August 10, 2018
Bayliss Park / 100 Pearl Street

Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs and blankets for a great summer in Bayliss Park!

FREE Movies

All movies are rated G or PG and are shown every Friday night after dusk (around 9:00 pm) from June - August. In case of inclement weather, movies will be shown the following Saturday evening.



Concessions may be available at some showings. Guests are welcome to bring their own food and drink, but must dispose of all waste in the provided bins around the park, or take it with them.

SCHEDULE

06/15/18 | The Boss Baby (2017) PG
06/22/18 | Moana (2016) PG
06/29/18 | Wonder (2017) PG
07/13/18 | Hidden Figures (2016) PG
07/20/18 | Cars 3 (2017) G
07/27/18 | Peter Rabbit (2018) PG
08/03/18 | Despicable Me 3 (2017) PG
08/10/18 | The Sandlot (1993) PG

FREE Music

Concerts featuring local musicians are held every Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 pm, from June - August.



SCHEDULE

06/13/18 | Janet Staley/Ron Cooley & Friends (*Jazz Standards*)
06/20/18 | Stan Galli & Stuff (*Classic Rock & Country*)
06/27/18 | Pam & The Pearls (*Vocal Variety*)
07/11/18 | Julie Baker (*Pop & Jazz Vocals*)
07/18/18 | The Belles (*Country*)
07/25/18 | Luigi, Inc. (*Jazz*)
08/01/18 | USAF Raptor (*Rock & Country*)
08/08/18 | Rockology (*Rock & Pop Hits*)

GNA's

Super-Heroes!

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

**Chris Gorman &
Tom Emmett**

*Without you, our Newsletter
would not be possible!!!!*



GNA's 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 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! ■



STAY IN THE LOOP!!! BE IN THE KNOW!!

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.

This site is an *excellent* way for residents to post news, share alerts, ask questions, pose ideas, promote events, and simply 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.

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From the Rock Talk editor: I am ecstatic that Kate Brewer, Gibraltar resident and author, has graciously agreed to contribute her creative talents to our newsletter! Intertwining elements of our surroundings while painting a new landscape, this story feels familiar yet new to me. I know you'll enjoy reading it as much as I did! I can't wait for more stories from Kate! — Cory Peters

Erin On Her Birthday

By Kate Brewer

At the tender age of four and three quarters, Erin Levy perplexed her parents by asking for a railroad spike for her birthday. They questioned her at first – did she even know what a railroad spike was (she did) – and offered alternatives such as dolls, teddy bears, a pretty dress. Erin rejected these offerings. So on her fifth birthday, while she played freeze tag on the patchy shared lawn behind their apartment complex with her two older brothers, her parents brought out an old metal railroad spike wrapped in bright yellow paper and a homemade carrot cake decorated with fresh orange sunpatiens. The spike occupied a steady, rusting spot on her bed for the next eight months, where she would ask for its secrets and tell it stories and sleep with one hand resting lightly on its cool, dark mass.

Erin spent her seventh birthday playing hide and go seek with the whole of the neighborhood. She had followed her brothers around that morning mimicking their every word, and so her brothers had pawned her off on a well-meaning, elderly neighbor who napped as religiously as he churched. Erin saw her opening, and snuck down to the railyard where the antiquated behemoths of a legendary infrastructure sat still and quiet amongst the flowering weeds. One of the railcars had a ladder. Erin had to reposition a few old crates in order to reach it. **Clambering on top, it was hot to the touch in the early afternoon sun, but she didn't mind. She sat and listened to the monotone songs of the trains still running, read the names rambling slowly by. She thought about the hundreds of miles they'd already traveled and the faraway places they were going. She thought about the ocean.** As the sun began to set, she thought about the way the sky looked like her favorite ice cream – rainbow sherbet. **What she didn't think about was that she was supposed to be home hours ago, or that her mom might be worried, might have yelled at her brothers and rallied the neighbors to help search for her. She didn't think, as the stars began to poke through the blue expanse, that she might end up being found by her eldest brother Chris, on a hunch, and that she'd be escorted home by the police. Later, she felt bad about worrying her parents and she apologized. Secretly, she thought the ride in a police car made it worth it.**

For her eighth birthday, Erin was gifted the complete set of the book series “The Boxcar Children.” And a tetanus shot.

At thirteen, when the leaves were awash in color and burning their brightest before they dropped to the ground, Erin sat atop the same railcar that she had when she was seven, and kissed a boy for the first time. He went to the same school and played piano and had tufts of blonde hair that stuck out in any direction that made him look like a scientist or a surfer.

After her father died of a heart attack two years later, she stopped celebrating birthdays for a while. Others tried on her behalf, her mother included, and would make cakes and wrap gifts and write cards that Erin would leave **unopened. She didn't have the heart to throw them away, so she kept them in an old cigar box under her bed,** next to the dust-covered railroad spike.

When she went away to college in Oregon, she took the box, but left the spike. When she graduated from University with degrees in business and cultural anthropology, her mother (with the help of her brothers – she was quite brittle by then) drove the spike across the country and gave it to her wrapped in yellow paper. Erin smiled, and cried, and thanked her.

Erin's mother died of bone cancer two months later. At her funeral, Erin and her brothers sang “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” – her mother's favorite. That night, she read all of the birthday cards in her old cigar box. One in particular she held to her heart.

On the eve of her thirty-first birthday, Erin attended the grand opening of her new business – a bakery and café housed in an old boxcar – **called “Lost Levy's.” Instead of cutting a ribbon, Erin drove her railway spike into the soft ground as the nearby flowerbeds gleamed with sunpatiens.**

What's Happening at The Center?



Mobile Food Pantry: June 26 // July 24 // August 28

*10:30 -11:30 in **The Center's west parking lot.** Free for Iowa Residents. Dates and products subject to change.

Wednesday Night Dances, 7:00—10:00 pm:

Leo Lonnie on June 6 // Gaylin Sudik on June 13 // Leo Lonnie on June 20 // Greg Spevak Sextet on June 27



River City Farmer's Market and "Junk in the Trunk":

Every Saturday from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the west parking lot, featuring local vendors.

June 5: Genealogy Club meeting at 10:00 a.m.



June 19 & 20 Ambassador Bake Sale:

Starts 4:00 p.m. on the 19th. Lots of homemade goodies!

July 28: Dance from 7-10:00 pm to the **50s and 60s sounds of "Still Here."**

\$8/person or buy with your Ice Cream Social ticket and get both for \$10! *Family friendly!*

July 29: Ice Cream Social and Family BINGO with prizes, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

\$4/person or buy with your Dance ticket and get both for \$10!

Multiple land and water fitness classes every week!

All this and much more! Stop in for a tour, and see our full schedule of activities each month at www.bluffscenter.org. Friend us on Facebook & Instagram @bluffscenter!

DODGE HOUSE NEWS

GARDEN WALK - Sunday, June 24, 2018

It's the 26th Annual Dodge House Garden Walk! Your ticket not only allows you to tour the Dodge and Beresheim House, but also provides entrance into several private gardens in the area, showcasing many different types of landscape and plant varieties.

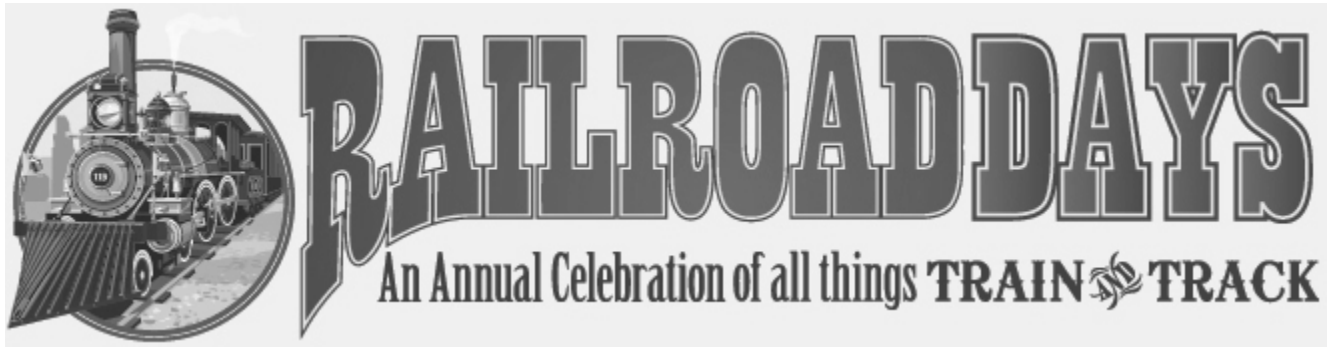
The Garden Walk lasts until 4:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the Dodge House office at 621 Third Street (tickets also sold at **Hy-Vee Madison Ave., Diller Greenhouses and Sherbondy's Garden Center** — call the Dodge House at 712-322-2406 for info).

Advance tickets are only \$10.00, or are \$12.00 at the door on the day of the event.



RING BELLS FOR FREEDOM - July 4, 2017

Begun by President Kennedy, homes and businesses were encouraged to ring bells at 1:00 p.m. to celebrate our independence. We continue this tradition on the front porch of the Dodge House. So, grab a bell and head up to the Dodge House — there will still be plenty of time to enjoy your picnic and fireworks later on!



July 14 & 15 || 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. || \$15 Family Pass

Thanks to the generous support from Union Pacific Corporation and a grant from the Iowa West Foundation, a family pass for Railroad Days is only \$15! One \$15 pass admits two adults and your dependent children or two grandparents and up to four grandchildren, for both days to five different attractions!! A \$5 pass is also available for one additional adult with purchase of a family pass. *This includes transportation between the different locations and all the special activities that each location has to offer.*

For more information, visit www.omaharailroaddays.com. You can purchase tickets the day of the event at any of the participating attractions:

- > Union Pacific Railroad Museum
- > Historic General Dodge House
- > Lauritzen Gardens
- > The Durham Museum
- > RailsWest Railroad Museum

July 22, 2018: Museum Special Excursion Train *from: Denver, Colorado to Cheyenne, Wyoming*



Share the adventure with us July 22, 2018, as we journey on the return trip to Cheyenne, Wyoming from Denver, Colorado, on heritage equipment pulled by Union Pacific's "Living Legend," the No. 844. This is a rare opportunity to travel on Union Pacific tracks and relive the heyday of steam powered passenger service. MORE INFO and tickets: www.uptraintix.com



From the Rock Talk editor: Since our July meeting will be right out front, I am re-running an article about my great grandfather, Jake Hess, and the beautiful house he lived in at the top of Clark— now owned by Dave & Amy Adams. Jake's Father (John P. Hess, below), built two homes located at 36 and 40 Bluff Street, living in each over the course of 30 years. The infant in the photo below (John Peters) is my Dad. As a newlywed in 1947, Dad bought the house at 241 5th Ave. Our family lived there until it was sold in 1985 to the Jayjack family (they still live there!). My folks moved to 214 5th Ave (which I purchased from them in 2000). Gibraltar is certainly in my genes! - Cory Peters

GNA HOMES: 528 Clark Ave. — John J. Hess *by Mary Lou McGinn*

John J. “Jake” Hess, born in 1872, lived on the family farm and from age seven and attended country schools. After graduating from high school, he attended the Western Iowa Business College, spent one year at Grinnell College and one year at Highland Park College in Des Moines. He then entered the University of Iowa School of Law **where, according to his obituary, “he was active in athletics and played fullback on the team.” He graduated in 1895, returned to Council Bluffs and began the practice of law. He established the Hess Law Firm in 1896.**

Hess, distinguished in Iowa as a trial lawyer, was chairman of the board of First Federal Savings & Loan, a member of the board of directors of the Abstract Guaranty Co., served as Pottawattamie County attorney for eight years, was special assistant attorney general of Iowa for 15 years, was active in Republican politics, and was named king of the Council Bluffs Mardi Gras in 1947 for his service to the community.

On December 16, 1898, he married Belle Snyder who was born in 1877 in Fayette County, Iowa, and came with her parents to Council Bluffs at age three. The J.J. Hess family lived at 224 South Seventh Street - the present site of Bloomer School - until they purchased the house at 528 Clark Avenue in 1923.

The couple had two daughters: Geraldine, who married Douglas Peters, Sr., and Gretchen, who married his brother, Clarence Peters.

Geraldine and Douglas Peters had three sons: Peter, John and Douglas. All attended law school and joined the Hess Law Firm, which then became the Hess Peters Law Firm. Douglas eventually went to work for First Federal Savings & Loan; Peter and John stayed with the firm.

Gretchen and Clarence Peters had one son, Clarence Hess Peters - known **as Hess. Two children from Gretchen’s second marriage, to Gordon Smith,** were Gordon, Jr. and Sandra.

The history of the house at 528 Clark Avenue began in 1906 when the area was platted. Based on courthouse records, it appears that Thomas Metcalf, Jr., president of The Metcalf Co., clothiers, built the house in 1912, moving from 519 Clark Avenue. Eloise Metcalf sold the house in 1923 to John J. Hess. The Hess family lived in the house until 1952 when Belle died following a stroke. John then sold the house and went to live in the country with his grandson, Hess Peters.

The house was built in the Craftsman style, which was popular at that time. A subdued version of the Craftsman style, the house has a stuccoed first floor, wood shingled second floor, and a hip roof with cross gabled eaves. The cantilevered porch hood over the front door has a diagonal brace, unique to the Craftsman style, as well as banded windows on the side elevation. The side porch was originally an open porch; the deck is a recent addition.

John J. Hess died in 1956 at age 84. The law firm he founded, now Peters Law Firm, has existed since 1895.

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 – for these two house features – Larry Wilcoxon and Mark Peters. Mary Lou McGinn can be reached by email at mlmcginn@cox.net. The series can be found on the web site: www.preservecouncilbluffs.org



The John J. Hess House, 528 Clark Ave.



Jake Hess, his father John P. Hess, daughter Geraldine Hess Peters, Infant John Peters

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER: tear out and put on your fridge & calendars!

We'll continue to include/update this section in each issue, as dates & events are firmed up!

Sunday, **JUNE 24th** 11:00 to 4:00 p.m.

26th Annual Dodge House Garden Walk. Ticket price includes a tour of the Dodge and Beresheim houses, PLUS access to many lovely area gardens! Call the Dodge House for more info. 712-322-2406.



JULY 6th 5:00-7:00 p.m.

CELEBRATE SUMMER: Night at the Museum
FREE admission to the U.P. Museum!

Saturday, **SEPTEMBER 15th**

GNA General Meeting & Fall Picnic Potluck!!
4:00 – 7:00 pm
KIRN PARK!

Your Gibraltar Neighborhood will provide the main dish (TBD), lemonade/water, plates+cups and utensils. You bring a side dish or dessert to share! Kids AND adults will surely enjoy the new, AWESOME, playground equipment! Watch for more info in the coming months.

Wednesday, **NOVEMBER 14th**

GNA General Meeting
6:00 – 7:30 pm

The Center // 714 So. Main Street

We'll discuss neighborhood plans for the upcoming year, and possibly have a speaker. Watch for more information in the future.

Thursday, **JULY 12th**

GNA General Meeting & Summer Social!!

6:00 – 8:30 pm

At the top (south end) of Clark Avenue.

Bring a favorite sweet or savory nosh to share, plus BYOB!! We'll have a 30-minute business meeting, then spend the rest of the time socializing! Tables and chairs will be set up, but maybe bring your bag chair for a bit more comfy seating. C U then!

JULY 14th & 15th

RAILROAD DAYS!! 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

\$15 family past (2 adults, 2 kids) gets you into The Dodge House, The UP Museum, RailsWest Museum, The Durham Museum, and Lauriten Gardens! Watch for more info in the June Rock Talk newsletter!

Friday, **OCTOBER 19th**

Quarter Auction FUNdraiser!

5:30–8:00 pm at The American Legion, 716 S. 4th Street

This event is a BLAST!! If you've never attended, ask anyone who HAS in the past two years and they'll tell you how much FUN this event is! Bring a pocketful of cash to bid on some GREAT prizes and buy some inexpensive food and drinks at the Legion! *Don't miss it!*

Sunday, **DECEMBER 2nd**

Gibraltar **HOLIDAY PARTY!**

6:00–9:00 pm (Location TBD)

The Gibraltar Neighborhood knows how to celebrate the season! This fun potluck event is ALWAYS a great time, and it's a great chance to see those neighbors you haven't seen in a while (or maybe haven't yet met!) **Don't miss this fun evening!**

Your 2017
GNA Board:

Turner Morgan, President
712-310-3102

Steve Gorman, Vice President
712-310-9431

Tom Emmett, Treasurer
402-346-6734

David Brooks, Secretary
414-507-9649

Kyle McGinn, At Large
402-669-5953

Alicia Brady, At Large
402-516-5601

Visit Gibraltar online: www.GibraltarNA.org

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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.

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 _____