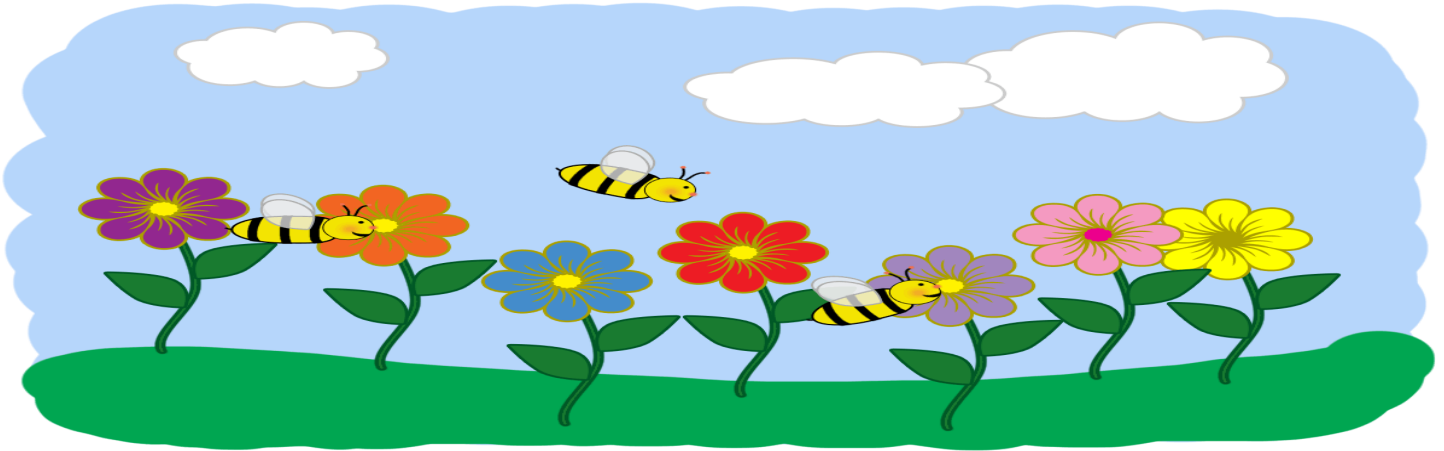




ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.



MAY GNA Mtg: Historic Omaha Neighborhoods — What are they doing to promote engagement, interaction & project success?

The next **General GNA Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, May 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at Our Savior's Church in their social hall. **We will have a speaker's panel from established Omaha neighborhood associations**, representing historic Hanscom Park and historic Dundee-Memorial Park. Topics to be covered are: neighborhood engagement, successful activities to get neighbors out, projects and partnerships that led to neighborhood improvement, communication, and funding sources. There will be a Question and Answer session following. ***We'd really like to have a good turnout to hear Williams and Langdon describe what is and has been successful in their neighborhoods.*** ***Please*** put this date on your calendar and attend!!

Your Gibraltar event committee is working hard to bring new education and excitement to our bi-monthly general meetings! From interesting neighborhood panels to speakers on safety, home improvement, travel and other timely topics, they are working hard to put together an events calendar that will be interesting and beneficial to all. We'll spend a short amount of time conducting business, and get to the speaker portion as quickly as possible!

PLEASE enter these dates on your phone, your work calendar, your fridge calendar... wherever it is that you keep track of the events and obligations in your life. If you do not take a bit of time to get involved, we will not be able to move forward with future improvement projects.

2016 GENERAL MEETINGS

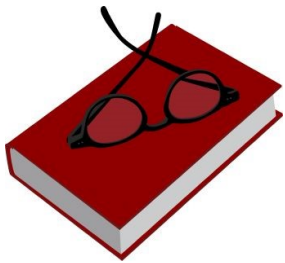
WHERE: Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Corner of Bluff Street and Story Street

If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food item to contribute to their food pantry, or a contribution for the Pet Food pantry!! ALL neighborhood residents (owners and renters) are encouraged to attend!

WEDNESDAY, July 20, 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, Sept. 21, 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, Nov. 16, 6:00 p.m.



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. If you enjoy reading and socializing, check us out! We hope you'll 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 meeting! ■



THANK YOU to our **GNA newsletter delivery team:**
*Chris and Steve Gorman
 Tom Emmett and Nate Brown.*
Without you, our Newsletter would not be possible!!!!

Sidewalk Repair Update

The GNA Board is still working on a plan to help residents repair damaged sidewalks on their property. Currently, we are researching what hurdles we may have to cross with the CITY and still be eligible to apply for grant money. (There are some hoops relating to the fact that a sidewalk is city-owned / homeowner maintained property). As further research is completed, we'll have more information available. We'll keep you posted!



BRUNCH & BANTER: Join us for our Spring SOCIAL event!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday morning, April 30** – your GNA will be providing brunch!! Meet us at **10:00 a.m.** in the Social Hall of Our Savior's Lutheran Church (at the corner of Bluff & Story streets, with parking to the south of the church and social hall entrance just off the parking lot).

You'll design your own "omelette in a bag" (they are delicious!) and we'll prepare it for you! We'll also have sweet treats of cinnamon and pecan rolls and donuts, along with juice and coffee.

In addition to socializing with neighbors, you'll have the opportunity to write down neighborhood items of concern, questions, suggestions, ideas, etc., and we'll collect those slips of paper and try to address these items while we're all enjoying brunch! We DO need a headcount so we have enough supplies on hand! **R.S.V.P. no later than April 25** via text or phone call to Ann Walters at 402-980-8419, or to Ann via email at mad-dysmomat220@gmail.com.

OMELETTE IN A BAG



Greetings fellow GNA residents!

It is with great excitement that I look forward to the events our neighborhood will be putting together this year!! Our amazing Event Committee has been working hard to build a lineup of interesting presentations that will bring interesting and informative speakers and topics to our meetings, as well as engaging fundraising events designed to help us build the funds to implement social events and neighborhood improvements. PLEASE plan to attend upcoming events — your support and engagement is what continues to make Gibraltar a great place to live.



NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR?? You read that right... The Gibraltar Neighborhood has been selected as a national finalist in the Neighborhoods, USA “Neighborhood of the Year” competition! Not only are we in the running for that award, but we’ve also been selected as a finalist in their **Best Neighborhood Newsletter** competition! We are so excited to be considered for these awards. Beyond just being a marvelous feather in our cap (recognizing the efforts that so many have made over the past eight years), winning (or even being among the top three) should be a great help with grant applications for future fundraising efforts.

While not a requirement, finalists are encouraged to attend the conference and are asked to make a 20 minute presentation about their neighborhood/projects, with a Q&A afterward. The GNA board agreed that attending the conference would be beneficial from an educational perspective as well (being able to see/learn what other successful neighborhoods are doing, and bring that information back to Gibraltar!). As of this writing, I am the only person attending the Conference in May, mostly due to the expense (\$200 registration per person, plus travel costs). I plan to cover some of the expense out of my own pocket, but we (the GNA board) agreed that we will also ask to see if anyone would like to make a “sponsorship” donation towards this expense (see “ad” elsewhere in the newsletter). Your support is greatly appreciated.

BRUNCH AND BANTER— Saturday morning, April 30— ALL are encouraged to attend!! Due to a variety of unforeseen circumstances in March, we had to cancel our March general meeting. However, the *event* that was planned for day sounded like *such fun* that we have decided to reschedule it for our Spring “social event”!! Please plan to join us for “Brunch and Banter” at 10:00 a.m. that morning. Gibraltar will be serving you “design your own” omelets (you pick the ingredients), along with cinnamon rolls, donuts, juice and coffee. While enjoying our bounteous breakfast, attendees will be encouraged to write down their questions, ideas, concerns, etc. on pieces of paper which will be collected, categorized, and addressed/discussed (as many as possible) during the breakfast!! Please join us for this yummy gathering— get to know your neighbors and let’s discuss stuff!!! **We will need a headcount for the event** so we bring enough food/beverages for everyone! **R.S.V.P. no later than April 25** via text or phone call to Ann Walters at 402-980-8419, or to Ann via email at mad-dysmomat220@gmail.com.

I’m excited to meet some of the new people that have moved to our neighborhood in the past few months. **Your neighbors are a great group of people**, so come to an event and get to know them! AND, don’t forget to sign up at www.Gibraltar.Nextdoor.com to keep informed on all the happenings.

Until next time,

Cory Peters
GNA President



NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR? We need your support!

We are excited to announce that the Gibraltar Neighborhood has been selected as a FINALIST in the Neighborhoods, USA's "Neighborhood of the Year" national competition (learn more about Neighborhoods, USA at www.NUSA.org)!! In addition, our Rock Talk newsletter has also been selected as a finalist for best newsletter!! GNA President Cory Peters will be making a presentation at NUSA's national conference in May, in Memphis, TN, where the winners will be announced. She will be footing part of the expense out of her own pocket, but to help offset the registration fees and some of the travel expenses (approx. \$500), our Board hopes to also raise funds rather than just pull the money out of the GNA treasury.



Besides representing Gibraltar at this national event, we are excited for Cory to attend the education sessions and network with other neighborhood leaders, where she can hopefully bring back to Gibraltar information and ideas on what other neighborhoods across the country are doing to become safer, friendlier, and more cohesive places to live. Additionally, if we are lucky enough to WIN the Neighborhood of the Year award, that will be a really great addition to our neighborhood "resumé" when we are applying for grant monies.

If you would be willing to help us **represent Gibraltar at this national competition and conference**, please contact GNA Treasurer Tom Emmett at 402-346-6734, or via email at towritetom@msn.com to make a tax-deductible donation. THANK YOU for your support, and watch for more information in future newsletters on the results of the conference (keep your fingers crossed!).

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

Kyle McGinn, Attorney and Gibraltar Neighborhood Resident

Special Election
May 3

Absentee ballots
due by April 29



BUILDING A SAFER FUTURE FOR COUNCIL BLUFFS

The need is beyond question.

- * The current facility is nearly 40 years old and outdated.
- * The current facility limits the police force's ability to fully serve and protect our community.
- * Mayor Walsh and every city council member agrees with the community study group that a new headquarters facility is absolutely necessary.

The project will not exceed the \$20 million bond.

- * The top location recommended by the community study group is not only the most suitable for new construction, it is also the most cost-effective option to purchase.
- * Bond rates and construction industry rates are favorable in the market at this time.
- * Community partners are willing to financially contribute to portions of the project cost.
- * Contingencies that can affect design and construction costs are planned for in the project estimate. Alternative construction materials or building features can be scaled back to reduce costs if necessary and without adversely affecting overall price.

Estimated Facility Cost		Estimated Cost to Homeowner		
Facility Expenses	Woodbury Site	House Value	Annual Cost*	Monthly Cost*
Building	\$ 13,760,527	\$80,000	\$23.02	\$1.92
Site Work	\$ 1,256,074	\$100,000	\$28.77	2.40
Furniture, fixtures, equipment	\$ 2,287,270	\$103,000	\$29.63	2.47
Design Fees	\$ 1,200,000	\$120,000	\$34.53	2.88
Total Building Costs	\$18,503,871	\$160,000	\$46.04	3.84
Land	\$ 1,000,000	\$180,000	\$51.79	4.32
Total Project Costs	\$19,503,871	\$200,000	\$57.54	4.80
		\$210,000	\$60.42	5.04
		\$220,000	\$63.30	5.28

The bond will cost the average homeowner \$2.47 per month!

*Calculations are based on a \$20 million project, paid over 20 years, at a 2.95% interest rate.

Website: www.councilbluffs-ia.gov/policehq | Community Conversation: www.buildingcsaiafuture.mysidewalk.com



For more information refer to: www.councilbluffs-ia.gov/policehq

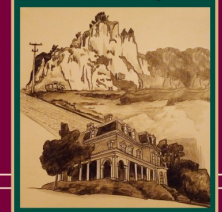
Call for Books!

The use of GNA's "Little Free Library" is going great! We have seen a substantial uptake in the books being used! *If you have borrowed books, please remember to return them to the little library when finished!*

We are currently reaching the end of our inventory, so if you have extra books on hand that you would be willing to donate (children's books, too!), please contact Jeff Ketcham (712-310-2031) to arrange a drop-off or pickup. THANK YOU!



GIBRALTAR
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION, INC.



Got Junk?

We had incredible feedback last Spring when the GNA participated in a "cleanup event," picking up unwanted items and other materials that residents couldn't just "put on the curb" for normal trash collection. Last year's event was sponsored by Habitat for Humanity, and we are currently waiting to see if they will be doing something similar this year.



If Habitat doesn't hold the event this year, we may still consider renting a dumpster for neighborhood residents, and helping our elderly residents out by visiting their homes to help haul stuff away. Stay tuned for more details on this.

GNA Garden Flags!

If you are a NEW paid member to the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, as part of your initial membership dues you get a free GNA garden flag and holder! If you haven't received one already, contact Tom Emmett (402-346-6734) or Cory Peters (712-329-8526) and we'll make sure you get one.

Is your **old** GNA flag faded or torn? You can purchase a **new replacement flag** for only \$7.00!! Or if you need a replacement flag holder, you can purchase that for only \$6.00! Contact Tom or Cory at the numbers show above.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES from your EVENT COMMITTEE

Many of your neighbors have volunteered their time to bring together events and meetings that are designed to inform us, entertain us, bring us together, or raise funds. Without their time and efforts, our neighborhood activities would not be nearly so successful! Members of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association (GNA) Program and Events Committee are: Abby Jares, Turner Morgan, Mary Madison, Kat Dunham, Adrienne McElderry, Kitty Eisenauer, Cathy Hill and Ann Walters. The Committee is currently chaired by Ann and receives auxiliary assistance from Glennay Jundt and Meka Tate of Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs.

The Committee has held discussions and planning sessions for 2016 GNA meeting programs and activities for both fun and profit. Information regarding programs, events and activities will continue to be announced in our Rock-Talk newsletter, as well as posted on the Gibraltar Nextdoor and the GNA websites. If you have ideas or would like to volunteer to assist at any event, feel free to approach any committee member.

Here is what is under way so far:

Brunch and Banter has been rescheduled for **Saturday, April 30**, at Our Savior Lutheran Church (corner of Bluff and Story streets) from **10:00 until noon**. Served, at no charge, will be 'make your own' omelettes, pecan rolls, cinnamon rolls, donuts, juice and coffee. Part meeting and part social, attendees will be able catch up with neighbors and have ample time to submit ideas, suggestions or concerns. These will be collected, categorized and several will be selected for discussion that day. We hope to continue discussions of these items throughout the year. It is the Committee's hope that this practice will generate interest, keep neighbors informed, and help everyone feel more connected to what is happening in the Gibraltar Neighborhood.

The **May 18 General GNA Meeting** (6:00-8:00 at same church site) will have a panel from established Omaha neighborhood associations. To date, John Williams, representing historic Hanscom Park, and Adam Langdon, representing historic Dundee-Memorial Park, will be presenting, with a Question and Answer session to follow. Topics to be covered are neighborhood engagement, successful activities to get neighbors out, projects and partnerships that led to neighborhood improvement, communication, and funding sources. We hope to have a good turnout to hear Williams and Langdon describe what is and has been successful in their neighborhoods.

The **July 20 General GNA Meeting** program will focus on Neighborhood safety issues.

The Committee is planning **Luminary Making** events with the goal of having our neighborhood lit up on Christmas Eve. We are also planning a repeat fundraising event with **Wreath and Poinsettia purchase** from Loess Hills Floral as it was quite successful for us.

We are in preliminary planning discussions about hosting an auction event in the summer, as well as a Fall Soup Supper with a Soup R Bowl Challenge.



HOMES OF GIBRALTAR: **903 3rd Street The Martin Hughes House** *by Mary Lou McGinn*

A visual feast awaits those approaching the intersection of Ninth Avenue and Third Street, and a stop sign provides an opportunity to slow down and enjoy it.

Martin Hughes built this magnificent home, designed by noted local architect S. E. Maxon, in 1887-88. It is said that Hughes, a brick manufacturer and builder, used his own residence to showcase building materials, mason skills, and a variety of stylistic elements. Included in the home's patterns are rounded bricks, brick murals and bricks set on the diagonal.

According to his obituary, Martin Hughes was born in 1836 in County Mayo, Ireland. His mother died when he was a child and his father remarried. He was sent to England as a lad, and immigrated to North America in 1854 at the age of eighteen, settling for a short time in Canada. He spent two years in Des Moines and came to Council Bluffs in 1856. Two years later, he married Mary Wickham, who came with her family from County Leitrim. They had eleven children; seven reached adulthood. Hughes became a successful contractor, and for several years was in a partnership with his wife's brothers, James and Owen P. Wickham, before going into business on his own. He died in Council Bluffs in 1921.

The Martin Hughes House was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, with "architecture" listed as its area of significance. It is an eclectic combination of Queen Anne and Gothic styles along with some Stick and Neo-Classical influences. The two-story house has an irregular plan. It is basically a square central mass with a front gabled wing, gabled side pavilions with chamfered bays, and a rear wing. The front roof portion is steeply hipped, and the rear wing has a hip and deck combination. The house cost \$12,000 to build.

The single-family home has been carefully preserved, both inside and out. A new garage is patterned after the original carriage house. The wrought iron fence is from the old Council Bluffs Water Works. (For an overview of the architecture represented in this historic home, go online and search Victorian House Styles.)

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. Feel free to contact Mary Lou McGinn.



THANK YOU to these neighbors who have paid their 2016 dues!

If you haven't yet paid your 2016 GNA dues, please submit them a.s.a.p. to the address shown on the form on the last page.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dave & Amy Adams | Bill & Lois Grove | Tony Swanson & Jamie Robins |
| Joe & Kim Atkinson | Merlin & Peggy Hale | Scott & Michelle Ryan |
| Mark & Jeanie Beckman | Sean & Cindy Hallett | Ann Walters & Cathy Hill |
| Joan Borrege | Rich & Patti Hannan | Patrice Watson |
| Mike & Jane Burgett | Gordon Hitchcock | Carol Wood |
| Dick & Ardeth Christie | Barney & Brenda Johnson | Pavielle Wuerfele |
| Harold Compton | Jim Keiffer & Gary Lopez | Bob Yanders & Pam Bogardus |
| Jason & Brook Craig | Jeff Ketcham & Kat Dunham | |
| Bud & Susie Dew | Patricia LaBounty | |
| William & Merna Dobbs | Marge & Steve Leaders | |
| John & Rita Doidge | Kent & Mary Madison | |
| Justin Edmonds | Liz Matis | |
| Kitty Eisenauer | Adrienne McElderry | |
| Tim & Brenda Elliot | Kyle McGinn & Paige Hutchison | |
| Tom Emmet & Nate Brown | Clay & Dana Miller | |
| Teresa Gerjevic | Terry & Nancy Mulvania | |
| Dave & Patty Gillespie | Anne Massoud & Sara Perkins | |
| Jim & Joyce Gorman | Terri Munson | |
| Steve & Chris Gorman | Cory Peters | |



Through your ongoing support we are able to accomplish great things. THANK YOU!

Those listed were known to have paid his, her, or their dues at the time of publishing. If you notice an error please check with Gordon Hitchcock or Tom Emmett. Thanks!

ATTENTION: BUSINESS OWNERS, ARTISTS, ETC.

Attn. Gibraltar Residents who 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!

IN MEMORIAM: ANN J. WALTERS

The following story ran in the **February 2011** issue of *Rock Talk*. A life-long resident and staunch supporter of the Gibraltar Neighborhood, Ann passed away on March 17th, surrounded by loved ones. She was a true character and will be greatly missed.



We're lucky enough to have some long-time residents in the Gibraltar neighborhood, and Ann Walters is in that category. Ann lives at 220 5th Ave., a home built in 1900 by architect Johannes "John" Myrtue. Within six months of the home's completion, it was purchased by Ann's grandparents, Clara and William McConnell. Her family has owned it ever since. Ann's daughters, Cathy and Ann, also live with her, making them the fourth generation to live in the house.

Ann went to school in Council Bluffs and graduated from A.L. in 1942, going to Monticello Junior College and then on to Nebraska where she received her teaching degree. "I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," she said.

Ann taught first graders in Council Bluffs, starting at Pusey (for 18 years), then one year at Dodge and finishing her career at Washington Elementary, retiring at age 70. Think how many young minds she has molded over the years!

Some of Ann's favorite memories from growing up in the neighborhood include playing on the Gibraltar hill. "We dug elaborate caves at the top of the hill and played in them all the time. We especially loved having dirt clod fights!" she recalled, laughing.

Another funny memory is how the neighborhood kids would sled all the way down Fifth Avenue in the wintertime. "There weren't that many cars back then," she said. "We'd position people at all the intersections so we could stop traffic if a car did happen by. I remember one time my friend made it all the way to St. Francis Church!" (which is where the Court House is now).

"One of the obstacles we frequently had to sled around was when neighborhood eccentric Julia Officer would come outside and empty her chamber pot right in the middle of the street! We tried to cover it with snow, but you wanted to be sure and avoid it!" she chuckled.

Other favorite pastimes were tag, hide and go seek, and all the fun climbing and games on Gibraltar.

Friends will recall Ann's love of swimming and sailing. She was on the swim team at Monticello Jr. College and loved it. Many Bluffs residents remember her antics at the Lakeshore Country Club, where for years she would regularly do hand-stands off the diving board, organize Esther Williams-style water ballets, and otherwise entertain all the kids with water games.

At age 50, Ann got the sailing bug. She took some classes and honed her skills from a tutor who was a former student! She towed her sailboat all around the Midwest, enjoying the variety of lakes and scenery.

Ann's love of sports doesn't stop there, however. Many know her as an

avid Nebraska Husker fan. Starting when she was quite young, her father, Dr. Best, would take Ann and her brother on the train to Lincoln for football games. "We packed a fried chicken lunch and tailgated before the game, although it wasn't called tailgating back then!" Ann recalled.

Ann may be best known, though, for her love of the College World Series (CWS). She has been going to the Series for 58 years, 50 of them as the Series' longest season ticket holder. She appeared in a documentary about the CWS, as well as being featured in *Sports Illustrated* and on ESPN.

Watch for Ann on the front porch when the weather gets warmer, and be sure to stop by to say hello. She has some wonderful stories I'm sure she'd love to share with you! ■



Your 2016 GNA Contacts:

Cory Peters, President
712-329-8526

Jeff Ketcham, Vice President
712-310-2031

Tom Emmett, Treasurer
402-346-6734

Cathy B. Hill, Secretary
402-980-8177

Steve Gorman, Board Member
712-256-8890

Gordon Hitchcock, Newsletter
402-505-2552

Ann Walters, Events Chair
402-980-8149

Preserve the Wonderful History of C.B.!

Your Gibraltar Neighborhood is one of the *largest historical neighborhoods* in the city of Council Bluffs. If you appreciate that historical aspect, then you should know that the **Historical Society of Pottawattamie County** is a group of people with a common goal as stated in their Mission: "to preserve the past for current and future generations." The Historical Society has been instrumental in saving many of the historical sites in our county, and they are looking for new members who also seek to preserve our community's history. If you would like more information or might be interested in becoming a member, visit: www.thehistoricalsociety.org

Preserve Council Bluffs has a similar mission: "to preserve and restore historic sites in the city of Council Bluffs." This non-profit organization is active in preserving the history and culture in our community, and are responsible for saving the amazing Bregant House. They also organize and host amazing fund-raising dinners in historic homes, trolley tours, and historic homes/sites walking tours. To learn more about the great things that Preserve C.B. is involved in, or to become a member visit their website at: www.preservecouncilbluffs.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 only open to folks within the GNA boundaries!!

Register TODAY for GNA's "Nextdoor" social website: www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com.

Visit Gibraltar online: www.GibraltarNA.org

**Newsletter copies furnished
courtesy of Habitat for Humanity
of Council Bluffs. THANK YOU!**



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