

ROCK•TALK

www.GibraltarNA.org

Owning a piece of the rock!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our neighbors!!!



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY!

We'd like your opinion! We're considering creating and installing a "Little Free Library" in the Gibraltar neighborhood! What is this, you ask? You can learn more at www.littlefreelibrary.org, but in a nutshell it's a "take a book / return a book" permanently-installed cabinet that would be located in a front yard and would contain donated books that neighbors borrow and share. Donated children's books and adult books would be included, along with a log book where you can share your opinions and reviews.

If folks would be interested in having this type of resource, Cory Peters has volunteered to paint the cabinet... would someone volunteer to build it? Give us your feedback on this... thanks!



SECRETARY NEEDED!

Liz Matis, long-time GNA Secretary, is looking to step down from the position due to the demand of other volunteer obligations.

Won't you consider volunteering for this position?

While this role is a very important position, it's not a huge time commitment!

Please contact any of our board members for more information.

We need YOU!

JANUARY 2015 GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 14, 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Our Savior Lutheran Church,
Corner of Bluff Street and Story St.

If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food item to contribute to their food pantry!! Also, bring your ideas, concerns, news, suggestions, etc. as we discuss ways to improve our neighborhood.

ALL residents are encouraged to attend!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: Future Meeting Dates

Location: Our Savior Lutheran Church, 351 Story St

Saturday, March 21, 2015 -- 10:00 am to Noon

Wednesday, May 13, 2015 -- 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Wednesday, July 8, 2015 -- 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015 -- 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Wednesday, Nov. 11 -- 6:00 to 8:00 pm

GIBRALTAR

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.



VISION: 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: 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.

FROM PRESIDENT PETERS



Greetings fellow GNA residents!

I hope this issue of "Rock Talk" finds you in the holiday spirit! Many of the homes in our neighborhood have been putting up Christmas lights and decorations, and it has certainly put me in a festive mood!

As the year winds down, the GNA board is starting to make plans for 2015 and we'd like to get your input and ideas for things you would like to see accomplished! We'll be making an effort to write some grant applications for improvements to the area, and there is also a very important meeting this month with the city leaders regarding requirements for landlords and rental properties. By the time you see this, the meeting will have passed but as I write this I am hopeful that I'll see some of our residents at the meeting.

Liz Matis, our current GNA Secretary, finds herself overloaded with other volunteering obligations and would like to step down if possible, after serving in this position for many years. I'm putting the call out for help! **Won't you consider becoming part of our GNA board?** Our merry band meets bi-monthly and our member meetings are bi-monthly as well... so it isn't a huge time commitment. Please see me at the January meeting if you're able to help and are interested in becoming the GNA secretary!!

The Preserve Council Bluffs Historic Homes tour was a great success this year. Several of the featured homes were within the Gibraltar boundaries. MANY thanks to those who participated (both in showing their homes and those who paid to tour) - - your support of this organization goes a long way towards helping preserve the history of our great city!!

IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT!! If you have not done so already, PLEEEEEEEASE join our private neighborhood social group at www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com. Only those who have street addresses within our boundaries are able to join, so if you have trouble enrolling please let me know. This site is proving to be a GREAT place for residents to post news, ask questions, share ideas and get to know one another. There is NO COST to join the group, there's no spam or advertisements, etc.... you just need to live in the Gibraltar boundaries!! I used the site to inquire of other neighbors if they knew of a reputable handy-man and was put in touch with an excellent resource who not only finished the repairs I had from the Spring hail storm, but also put a new roof on over my back patio. **I was very happy!!** We currently have 43 participants... let's double this number!

We're going to try something NEW for the our Resident Meetings in 2015... With the exception of the March 2015 meeting, all meetings will be held on the **2nd Wednesday** (in Jan/May/July/Sept/Nov) and all meetings will be held at Our Savior Luther Church at the corner of Bluff & Story streets in our GNA neighborhood. The church is handicap accessible and we are allowed to bring food in, so we can explore the possibility of doing potlucks for future meetings (for January, let's just meet without doing food... I think we'll all be ready to start cutting back after the holidays! Haha!). THEN, the plan is to host four meetings during the year (hopefully quarterly) that are SOCIAL ONLY / NO OFFICIAL BUSINESS meetings, held in the homes of our residents. These will be a chance for GNA-ers to share a cocktail or two and get to know one another!! The idea behind setting a fixed date / fixed location for our general meetings is so folks can put the dates on the calendar for the year and hopefully it will be easier for us to arrange our schedules so we can attend!!

Lastly, we've had several homes in our neighborhood go up for sale recently, many of which have been sold!! If you are reading this newsletter as a NEW homeowner in our boundaries, WELCOME!!! And PLEASE take a moment to join the Nextdoor group (referenced above) and introduce yourself! We'd love to get to know you! We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting. AS ALWAYS, you don't need to be a GNA MEMBER to attend – **ALL Gibraltar residents are welcome!** Let's get together and make our neighborhood even better!

I look forward to seeing you in the new year! In the meantime,

Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays!!

Cory Peters, GNA President

Samuel Clinton was a ‘prominent pioneer citizen’ in CB

By Mary Lou McGinn For Preserve Council Bluffs



The Samuel Clinton house, located at 133 Bluff St., was built in 1868. The house appears on the 1868 panorama illustration of Council Bluffs, according to the nomination of the Third/Bluff/Willow Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

The oldest home on the 2014 “Historic Homes for the Holidays” tour is also one of the oldest houses in Council Bluffs. Samuel Clinton was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1818. After completing law studies at Ballston Spa, N.Y., he moved west and settled in Sheboygan, Wis. He married Mary Wheeler there in 1848. Ten years later, in 1858, they came to Council Bluffs.

What exactly did they find here? A frontier town built on high bluffs on the east bank of the Missouri River. The only way to cross the river was on a raft, or by catching a ride on the Lone Tree Ferry, so named by six or seven early Council Bluffs pioneers who were its incorporators – because it was meant to land near one specific tree on the west bank. The streets were dirt or mud. Wild turkeys were plentiful. The mayor was J. Smith Hooton, the former county sheriff. Samuel Bayliss’s Pacific House was the leading hotel. The Land Office was open. Judge Frank Street had already processed the old settlers’ claims and had hired Thomas Tostevin to survey them. Green & Ware had established the first bank. Grenville Dodge, surveyor, had arrived. Several doctors served the community, but there were no hospitals. Mercantile stores, saddle and harness shops, livery stables, small grocery stores, saloons and brothels, several churches and fledgling businesses offered products and services to those settled here, new arrivals or pioneers on their way westward.

Samuel Clinton’s first law partnership was formed with John Baldwin. When Baldwin became a judge, Clinton became associated with Col. William Sapp and, later, with the firm of Hart & Brewer. He filled an unexpired term as district judge and was known as Judge Samuel Clinton thereafter. In 1861, he became captain of a company of home guards – one of three raised under act of the state legislature.

The Clintons had three children. A staunch democrat, Clinton took an active part in political affairs. Clinton, said to be one of Council Bluffs’ most prominent pioneer citizens, died on March 6, 1890. At the time of his death, he was the oldest member of the Pottawattamie County Bar Association. Mary died in 1919. The Clintons are buried in Fairview Cemetery.

This early Italianate home was built in 1868 for the Clintons. The house appears on the 1868 panorama illustration of Council Bluffs, according to the nomination of the Third/Bluff/Willow Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. The original brick has been painted. The house retains the bracketed eave overhang, segmental-arched windows and intact rear porch. Later modification included the addition of a shallow rectangular bay window on the front porch, some window replacements and replacement of the shutters and the post on the front porch. Most alterations were made during the period of significance; the house retains its good integrity.

In 1892, the house was sold to Thomas Metcalf, owner of a store selling hats, caps, furs and clothing. Members of the Metcalf family lived here for several years. In 1901, it became the family home of Lewis Cutler whose family founded the Cutler Funeral Home.

– 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.

Council Bluffs: Historic and Growing



West Broadway Corridor Plan

Did you know the City of Council Bluffs is in the process of preparing a West Broadway Corridor Plan? To learn more about this project and how you can participate in the planning process visit- www.westbroadwayinmotion.com.

Historical Society of Pottawattamie County

The Historical Society of Pottawattamie County serves people of all ages from southwest Iowa and southeast Nebraska. The Society provides educational tours and programs for grade schools, middle schools, and high school students.

The Squirrel Cage Jail is part of many historical bus tours from around the country from as far away as South Carolina and Utah.

The RailsWest Railroad Museum at the Rock Island Depot, in addition to our regular tours, offers several special programs for groups, especially suited for school audiences.

The RailsWest Railroad Museum offers a variety of educational programming all set in this charming 1899 restored Rock Island Depot. This Museum also boasts a large model railroad layout as well as a rail yard full of railcars and locomotives to explore. The programs offered are interactive, fun and engaging and appeal to a wide variety of learning styles.

A historic river city town, Council Bluffs has grown from its pioneer past to a town of cutting-edge technology. Our convenient location next to Omaha places us among the Midwest's largest metropolitan areas. With nearly 70,000 residents, Council Bluffs is known for its hospitality - a place where anyone can feel at home.

Historic Preservation Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is a seven member board which works towards the promotion and protection of historic districts, landmarks, and sites within the City of Council Bluffs. The HPC reviews and approves all exterior modifications to locally designated historic buildings, landmarks and sites.

The primary duties and responsibilities for this Commission include:

- Recommending to the City Council, historic buildings, districts, objects or sites worthy of local designation;
- Educating the public on the historical heritage of the city;
- Making recommendations to the City Council on land use, urban renewal, urban revitalization and other planning actions related to historic preservation;
- Conducting studies for identifying and designating historic districts and sites in the City;
- Authorizing the development of historic preservation plans;
- Undertaking other historic preservation matters as requested by City Council.

The Historic Preservation Commission meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 4:00 p. m. in the Council Bluffs Public Library, Room 'D' located at 400 Willow Avenue (unless otherwise noted).

FOOD & PET FOOD PANTRY

Did you know that Our Savior's Lutheran Church (313 Story Street) has a food pantry? They work in collaboration with other local non-profit organizations who work together to help feed, clothe and provide housing and essential items for thousands of individuals each year. Not only do they have a food pantry for PEOPLE but they have a PET FOOD pantry as well! For each of our GNA meetings at the church, we are asking attendees to bring some non-perishable items for those in need. For more information on the Food and Pet Food pantries, visit www.oursaviorscb.org.



HOLIDAY PET SAFETY TIPS from the ASPCA website

Holly, Jolly and Oh-So-Safe! Of course you want to include your furry companions in the festivities, pet parents, but as you celebrate this holiday season, try to keep your pet's eating and exercise habits as close to their normal routine as possible. And be sure to steer them clear of the following unhealthy treats, toxic plants and dangerous decorations:

O Christmas Tree

Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria and your pet could end up with nausea or diarrhea should he imbibe.

Tinsel-less Town

Kitties love this sparkly, light-catching "toy" that's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But a nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery. It's best to brighten your boughs with something other than tinsel.

No Feasting for the Furrries

By now you know not to feed your pets chocolate and anything sweetened with xylitol, but do you know the lengths to which an enterprising fur kid will go to chomp on something yummy? Make sure to keep your pets away from the table and unattended plates of food, and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans.

Toy Joy

Looking to stuff your pet's stockings? Choose gifts that are safe. Dogs have been known to tear their toys apart and swallowing the pieces, which can then become lodged in the esophagus, stomach or intestines. Stick with chew toys that are basically indestructible, Kongs that can be stuffed with healthy foods or chew treats that are designed to be safely digestible. Long, stringy things are a feline's dream, but the most risky toys for cats involve ribbon, yarn and loose little parts that can get stuck in the intestines, often necessitating surgery. Surprise kitty with a new ball that's too big to swallow, a stuffed catnip toy or the interactive cat dancer—and tons of play sessions together.

Forget the Mistletoe & Holly

Holly, when ingested, can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. And many varieties of lilies, can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested. Opt for just-as-jolly artificial plants made from silk or plastic, or choose a pet-safe bouquet.

Leave the Leftovers

Fatty, spicy and no-no human foods, as well as bones, should not be fed to your furry friends. Pets can join the festivities in other fun ways that won't lead to costly medical bills.

Careful with Cocktails

If your celebration includes adult holiday beverages, be sure to place your unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get to them. If ingested, your pet could become weak, ill and may even go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.

A Room of Their Own

Give your pet his own quiet space to retreat to—complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and cats might want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their carrying case or in a separate room away from the hubbub.

New Year's Noise

As you count down to the new year, please keep in mind that strings of thrown confetti can get lodged in a cat's intestines, if ingested, perhaps necessitating surgery. Noisy poppers can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears.



CHECK IT OUT

There are some fun Facebook pages that you might be interested in checking out:

- Council Bluffs Arts & History
- You Might Be From Council Bluffs
- Downtown Neighborhood Alliance
- Council Bluffs 100 Block

You can keep up on what is happening in our area and with your neighbors!!

Your 2014 GNA Board:

Cory Peters, President
712-329-8526

Jeff Ketcham, Vice President
712-310-2031

Bob Rosser, Treasurer
712-256-5708

Liz Matis, Secretary
712-323-6400

Steve Gorman
712-256-8890

Join the GNA Email Group

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 residents within the GNA boundaries!!

Register TODAY for the "Nextdoor" social website: www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com.

RECIPE: Starbucks Lemon Loaf

- 1 1/2 Cups FLOUR
- 1/2 Tsp BAKING SODA
- 1/2 Tsp BAKING POWDER
- 1/2 Tsp SALT
- 3 EGGS
- 1 Cup SUGAR
- 2 Tbsp BUTTER, Softened
- 1 Tsp VANILLA
- 1 Tsp LEMON EXTRACT
- 1/3 Cup LEMON JUICE
- 1/2 Cup OIL



Can you say "YUM"?

LEMON ICING

- 1 Cup POWDERED SUGAR, Plus 1 Tablespoon
- 2 Tbsp WHOLE MILK or 2%.
- 1/2 Tsp LEMON EXTRACT

Instructions

Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt in a bowl. Use a mixer to blend together the eggs, sugar, butter, vanilla, lemon extract and lemon juice in a medium bowl. Pour wet ingredient into the dry ingredients and blend until smooth. Add oil and mix well.

Pour batter into a well greased 9x5-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until a toothpick stuck into center of the cake comes out clean.

Make the lemon icing by combining all the icing ingredients in a small bowl with an electric mixer on low speed.

When the loaf is cool, remove it from pan and frost the top with the icing. Let the icing set up before slicing.

Newsletter copies

furnished

courtesy of

Habitat for Humanity

of Council Bluffs



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