

ROCK-TALK

Owning a piece of the rock!



FIRST QUARTER GNA SOCIAL!!
Say "hi" to old friends & meet NEW ones at our upcoming potluck social!! Come have a glass of wine or a beer and a bite to eat while you mix and mingle with other GNA residents! This is a POTLUCK event, so please bring a dish or dessert

to share with everyone!

WHEN: Saturday, March 28 at 6:30 pm

WHERE: Bud & Susie Dew's House: 527 Clark Ave.

***PLEASE RSVP** to President Cory at coryp241@yahoo.com so we have a headcount for beverage purchase.

SPRING CLEAN-UP for GNA Neighborhood *Saturday, March 21*

GNA will be partnering with Habitat for Humanity for neighborhood cleanup. Habitat for Humanity will provide the dumpsters and GNA will supply some volunteer labor to pick up and haul eligible trash, recycling and junk. Please email Bob Rosser bob.rosser@iwco.com or call him at 712-256-5708 if you are interested in volunteering for one of the GNA clean-up crews or if you know you will need help and need to schedule a junk pick-up that day. Watch the www.Gibraltar.Nextdoor.com website for more information.

MARCH 2015 GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, March 21, 10:00 am

(This is our only Saturday general meeting this year!)

WHERE: Our Savior 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!! 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

First Quarter GNA Social:

Saturday, March 28, 2015 -- 6:30 pm
Home of Bud & Susie Dew (527 Clark Ave)

GNA General Meetings:

Location: Our Savior Lutheran Church, 351 Story St
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



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY!

The feedback has been very positive in favor of creating a "Little Free Library" for the Gibraltar Neighborhood.

We are currently scouting for locations to place the actual structure, as it can't be placed on city property. Do you have a corner of your yard you'd be willing to set aside for the library? You would in no way be responsible for the library itself (other than having to mow or shovel around it). The GNA Board would be responsible for the structure itself.

Adult and children's books are donated by residents for all to share. For more information on the WORLDWIDE "take a book, return a book" movement and Little Free Libraries, go to www.littlefreelibrary.org.

Please help with this wonderful addition to our neighborhood, won't you?



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 you survived the latest barrage of early-February snow! As a reminder, it's important to keep your sidewalks cleared for pedestrians and postal delivery. If you are physically unable to shovel your walks, we do have some young people in our neighborhood who you can hire affordably (contact me for names/numbers). Or, if money is an issue, speak with a neighbor to see if they might consider bartering with you: "If you'll shovel my walkways tomorrow I'll bake you three dozen snickerdoodles" or "I'll knit you a new scarf and hat" (use a bargaining unit of your choice) and see if you can't work out a deal! Neighbors helping neighbors is a great thing!



We had a nice turnout at our January GNA general meeting, but I would REALLY like to see more people there!! Our new venue at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (located at the corner of Bluff & Story streets) is super comfortable. Simply enter through the doors on the south side of the church – it's right off of their large parking lot – and proceed down a few stairs to their large social hall. There is PLENTY of seating, nice restrooms and an elevator for those who have trouble with stairs, etc. January's was a lively meeting with much discussion, but we need your voice to be heard, so please **PLAN TO ATTEND!** We try to keep the meeting moving along at a brisk pace so as not to monopolize too much of your time. Our next meeting is **Saturday, March 21 at 10:00 a.m.**; it's the only Saturday meeting this year. If you are able, please bring some food or pet-related items to contribute to their food pantries.

As mentioned in a prior communication, since we are holding all of our general meetings at the church this year, we are also hosting quarterly SOCIAL events in GNA residents' homes. These meetings are designed purely to promote neighbors getting to know neighbors – business won't be conducted. The GNA will purchase the beverages for the event, and the gatherings will be "potluck" style with attendees contributing food to share with all -- so, there's not a big expense involved with hosting! I hope you'll consider having a future social gathering at your house – please see me to volunteer (thanks in advance!). The first quarter social will be at the home of Bud and Susie Dew on **March 28**. See the info blurb in this newsletter (*and thanks to the Dews for hosting!*).

WE'RE GROWING!! If you've not done so already, PLEASE take a moment to join our private neighborhood social group at www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com. This site is an *excellent* way 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. **Please help us to keep you informed by becoming a part of this group!**

Check this newsletter for information about the upcoming **neighborhood cleanup day on March 21st**. Habitat for Humanity will be providing dumpsters in select locations. This will be a great chance to get a jump on your Spring Cleaning! Attend the GNA General Meeting at 10:00, then drop off your junk at one of the dumpster locations on the way home! Also, in the near future Habitat for Humanity will be sending volunteers out into city neighborhoods to assess conditions of streets, lighting, sidewalks and more as they work to identify areas in need. Volunteers will be wearing official clothing identifying them as part of the program, and they may ask to speak with you to answer some survey questions. Contact Meka Tate at Habitat at 72-328-9476 for additional information.

BLOCK CAPTAINS?? We are looking to identify folks who might be willing to be "block captains." Your responsibilities would be to notify the board when new residents move to your area and to report any issues or concerns affecting your block. Won't you consider playing a more active role in the neighborhood? Contact a Board Member for more information.

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!

Lastly, I'd like to send out a huge THANK YOU to all the wonderful neighbors who checked in on me, brought me food, hauled my garbage cans to and from the curb, and offered words of encouragement during my recent recovery from hip replacement surgery. The procedure went really well, and I am anxious to have the other hip done (and me knees! Dang crappy family genes!). Your kindness means more to me than you will ever know, and once again reinforces the wonderful benefits of neighbors getting to know one another. Thank you again!!

In the meantime, stay warm and THINK SPRING!! I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting.

Cory Peters, GNA President



Dean House still ‘has lots of style’

By Mary Lou McGinn for Preserve Council Bluffs

The former home of Frank and Sarah Dean at 116 3rd Street

In the Council Bluffs Public Library, on the second floor in the Iowa section, is the autobiography of Dr. Frank Wilson Dean. The book is so full of wonderful stories – some hilarious and others sad – that this article barely scratches the surface. Samuel Dean and Elizabeth Abbott were married in 1856 in Andover, Massachusetts. A few days after the wedding, they sailed for India to do missionary work under the American Board of Foreign Missions.

Frank W. Dean was born in Satara, India, in 1863, the fourth of six children born in India. (Two younger children were born in the United States.) When Frank was four years old, his father had what was thought to be a sun stroke and was ordered to return to America. It was advised that they not go by way of the Red Sea and cross by caravan where the Suez Canal is now, but to return on a sailing freighter, going around the south of Africa.

According to Frank’s autobiography, “We sailed out of Bombay harbor on March 19, 1867. On the ship besides the officers and crew, were as passengers only our family: father, mother, six children, my aunt Bertha and two Englishmen, a Mr. Brown and a Mr. Smith. “After we set sail and were going south on the Indian Ocean, the captain took Walter and me down in the hold to see the stock. We saw cattle, sheep, hogs and a few goats. I did not understand why they were there except I knew we had goats’ milk to drink.”

When they reached the southern end of Africa, a storm struck at night. Water came into their compartments. Frank and George were in a lower berth. Their father found them under water, pulled them out and put them in the upper berth with their mother while he tried to keep the floating trunks from bumping against the berth. In the morning, the captain had them moved to his quarters. Frank remembered being tied to the back of a sailor; the sailor had a rope around him so he wouldn’t be washed away. To keep from being frightened, they all sang songs. Some of the masts were broken off, and most of the sails were blown away. Shortly after they reached the captain’s quarters, the whole row of their former compartments was washed away. All of the trunks were cleaned out, and they had to wear their night clothes until they reached St. Helena three weeks later.

From St. Helena they sailed to Liverpool, and from there they took a steamship to New York. They arrived on August 22, 1867 after five months on the water. “That was a long trip, with a lot of anxiety for mother with six children under ten years of age.” The family lived in Mt. Vernon, N.H., for two years, their father still not able to do much work. Then they moved to Georgia where his oldest brother owned and operated a gold mine at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

In 1872, the family moved to Nebraska where their father bought eighty acres of land, built a house and organized a church. Steele City was later built a short distance away, near the St. Joseph and Grand Island railroad. Frank wrote about the perils of living on the prairie – of plowing the land, going to school, raising chickens in a “dug out” hen house, the year of the grasshoppers, fighting prairie fires, hunting quail, trapping in the winter, raising horses and livestock, living through the blizzard of 1888 and attending Doane College at Crete, Neb.

While at Doane, Frank took some surveying classes. Working surveying jobs during the summers paid his way through medical school. He attended medical school in Chicago, and in the spring of 1891 he came to Omaha where his mother was then living. He heard that the doctor in Mineola, was leaving and set up practice there. After a year, his aunt Chloe and her husband invited him to visit them in Vienna, Austria, and take some classes. This gave him an opportunity to study his main interest, the specialty of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He went on to take additional classes in London and Germany.

On June 10, 1897 he married Sarah Meston in Hastings, Neb., at 8 a.m. After breakfast they took a train to Council Bluffs. They first lived at a rooming house, and then moved to a cottage at 302 S. Ninth St. This is where their son, Abbott, was born in 1900. In 1905 the family moved to this house which was first located at 233 Turley Ave. In the city directory, the Deans are the first residents shown to be living in this house, although it is not known if they built it. In 1908 they moved the house to its present location at 116 Third Street. The Queen Anne cottage, as described in the National Register nomination of the Third/Bluff/Willow Historic District, “is vinyl clad but has lots of style.” The well-maintained house retains shingle siding in the gable ends, a lunette window in the smaller front gable, and some original windows. The front porch enclosure is an early twentieth century addition. The house was sold in 1912, and the Deans moved into their new home at 424 Oakland Ave. in 1913.

– 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.

If you didn't attend any of the 2014 events, you missed a lot of fun!!

Come join us and get to know your neighbors!



NEIGHBOR INVOLVEMENT AND BLOCK CAPTAINS

This map represents our very large GNA footprint. The dark areas on the map show the homes which are currently subscribed to the Gibraltar.Nextdoor.com networking website. As you can see, there are still quite a few homes who have yet to join the site!!

When you see your neighbor out and about, ask them WHY they haven't joined the NextDoor website group!! Also, locate your house relative to the GNA boundaries. Would you consider being a "block captain"?? Duties would be very minimal - - we mostly need captains to notify a board member when new neighbors move in, and let us know of significant, changes/problems/improvements/issues, etc. within their couple-block radius.

We are hoping that having points of contact throughout the area will enable us to keep more in touch with the issues affecting GNA residents and address areas of deficiency, while also being more proactive in welcoming new residents.

Contact a Board Member for more info.



Gibraltar Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2015

Attendees: Ann Walters, Sr., Ann Walters, Jr., Cory Peters, Roland Lynch, Bob Rosser, Jeff Ketcham, Kat Dunham, Chris Gorman, Cathy Hill
Guests: Paul Jensen and Beverly Melchor-Young, Our Savior's Lutheran, Meka Tate, Habitat for Humanity Outreach

January 13th marked the Association's first meeting at Our Savior's Lutheran. The facility is very user-friendly with an elevator down to the fellowship hall, where we met. Paul and Beverly were kind enough to attend and ensure that all went well, and it certainly did! Thanks to the church and its staff who made it possible for our group to meet there.

The meeting came to order at 6:10 p.m. Cory asked everyone to introduce themselves and share how they came to live in Gibraltar.

Association Business:

Bayliss Holiday Light Fund: Pursuant to the community's negative reaction to the disappointing holiday lighting display, Cory moved that GNA contribute \$300 to the city's lighting fund. Chris Gorman seconded. The motion passed 8 – 1. As a follow up, there was further discussion of increased lighting in the neighborhood. Cory has talked with the city and been told that there are no funds available.

Little Free Library: Cory expressed a desire to build a Little Free Library in the Gibraltar neighborhood. These small structures are popping up all over the country and serve to build community while providing reading materials to area residents. They must be on private property, so several potential sites were discussed, including a nearby parcel of property owned by Our Savior's Lutheran on 4th and Story. Cory will talk with possible site owners and post pictures of them in a future newsletter. No vote was taken, although it appeared that the group was excited about this possible project.

Block Captains: Cory began a discussion about having Block Captains due to the size of our association. The concept is to have families throughout our area keep tabs on activity in a prescribed area. Bob Rosser suggested mapping out GNA to provide a picture of the dispersion of our membership. In relation to this topic, Cory expressed that she would like to revisit having a Welcome Committee to visit new residents. A Gibraltar brochure was also mentioned to distribute to new neighbors. This topic was tabled for further discussion at a later date.

Meka Tate from Habitat for Humanity was introduced. (Habitat has become a member of our association!) She covered 3 topics:

1. Spring Cleanup on March 21st. Habitat will provide dumpsters to neighborhoods who attend a workshop, which Jeff Ketcham volunteered to do. Since GNA's next meeting is scheduled on the same day at 10:00 a.m., Cory suggested that the cleanup coincide with it. Jeff will put the information flyer in the next newsletter.
2. Scanning of neighborhoods: Habitat is embarking on a massive scanning project to learn details about neighborhoods, e.g., houses with asbestos, poor sidewalks and curbs. The purpose is not to get anyone in trouble but to support efforts to improve neighborhoods. Any GNA member who would like to assist with this project is asked to attend a workshop and then participate in the effort. Someone commented that this information could be useful in future neighborhood requests of City Hall to help us.
3. Meka informed us that Habitat is developing a library of resources for neighborhoods to utilize. She asked for suggested items to be included and received several ideas from attendees.

Cory informed the members present that Liz Matis, who has served the GNA as secretary for years and done a magnificent job of it, resigned from the post to pursue other interests. Cory thanked her for her hard work. Cathy Hill will take on secretarial duties for GNA.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Hill

Squirrels, Spring and Pets in the GNA

by Jeff Ketcham

At our recent GNA meeting, this story came up. I couldn't remember where I'd originally heard it, but was fortunate enough to find a recounting of it on the web. It's a humorous anecdote about our fair city's antiquated laws and our trademark squirrels that often torment our dogs.

Woman Admits to Worrying Squirrel

A Council Bluffs woman plead guilty in Pottawattamie County Associate District Court to worrying a black squirrel. She initially was ticketed for trespassing after hours in Fairmount Park, but her attorney offered to plead guilty to the squirrel charge instead. "It fits the facts," he said. "She drove into the park and the squirrel ran away."

A city ordinance makes it illegal to annoy, worry, maim, injure or kill any black squirrel.

In the past, people had been fined for injuring or killing the animals. According to the Assistant City Attorney, to the best of his knowledge, this was the first time anyone had ever been fined for worrying a black squirrel. The Assistant City Attorney was uncertain about the difference between annoying a black squirrel and worrying one, but said the penalty -- a fine of up to \$100 and up to 30 days in jail -- was the same, regardless. "She admitted to it," he said, "so it wasn't necessary to bring in the squirrel to testify as to its frame of mind."

Actually, the ordinance is there to protect black squirrels, which are source of pride and pleasure to city residents. The statute was re-enacted in 1982, but it's been around for quite a long time. In fact, the ordinance was pushed through in 1975 by a councilwoman. There had been a city ordinance prohibiting killing of squirrels before that, but it didn't specifically mention black squirrels.

The squirrels commonly seen around the city are black colored fox squirrels (*sciurus niger*) and have been in the area for quite some time. Naturalist John James Audubon speaks of a friend shooting one in 1843 in the vicinity of Council Bluffs.

The woman that worried the squirrel was fined \$100 plus \$55 in court costs. The penalty was the equivalent to that for criminal trespass. The woman had just returned to Council Bluffs after attending college and was unaware of the ordinance closing Fairmount Park after dark when she drove up there to show a friend the view. She said she had not actually seen the black squirrel, because her attention was focused on the police car that pulled in behind her and started flashing its lights. Although the squirrel maintained a low profile, she was sure the squirrel was worried when it saw that she and her boyfriend were going to get a ticket for criminal trespassing. The conviction for worrying squirrels would not give her a criminal trespassing conviction. And, it is hoped Fairmount Park's black squirrels would rest easier knowing that she had paid her debt to society and put them at ease to know that their rights are being protected.

[Nonpareil, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Published July 31, 1994]



Despite a certain groundhog's evidence to the contrary, spring is on its way. Soon will come the time for us and our four-legged friends get out of the house, stretch our legs and socialize with our neighbors once again.

The past year, this space has seen pet advice, anecdotes and random facts, but going forward, we'd like to be more committed to our local pets. So, if you have a pet that you can't stop gushing about, (don't we all?) and would like to share your story with the neighborhood, or just want to introduce us to your pup or kitty, let me know. I'd like to sit down with you and your pet and get to know you and tell your story of pet guardianship in the GNA.



DUES are DUE!

If you want to be a voting member of the GNA, you must pay yearly dues, which are payable in January. If you were unable to attend the January meeting or forgot to mail them in, you can pay at the March meeting, or mail them in with the form at the bottom of the page.

RECIPE: Buffalo Chicken Dip

- 1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup blue cheese salad dressing
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 1/2 cup Frank's Red Hot pepper sauce, original flavor
- 1 can (12.5 oz) premium white chunk chicken breast, drained
- Shredded Colby-jack cheese for topping
- Chopped green onions for topping
- Fritos and celery sticks for dipping



Instructions: Thoroughly combine softened cream cheese with dressing, chicken and hot sauce. Stir in blue cheese crumbles. Spread in a 9" deep dish pie plate or shallow one quart baking dish, and top with shredded Colby-jack cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes until mixture is hot and bubbling. Top with chopped green onion. Serve with Fritos and Celery sticks. Soooooo good!!

WELCOME NEW SECRETARY!

The GNA board would like to extend a huge "thank you and job well done" to outgoing Secretary **Liz Matis**. Thank you Liz, for your many years of service to the Gibraltar neighborhood! The GNA board would also like to **WELCOME** incoming Secretary **Cathy Hill**. We look forward to serving with Cathy and making Gibraltar a wonderful place to live!

Your 2015 GNA Board:

Cory Peters, President
712-329-8526

Jeff Ketcham, Vice President
712-310-2031

Bob Rosser, Treasurer
712-256-5708

Cathy B. Hill, Secretary
402-980-8177

Steve Gorman
712-256-8890



CAR BREAK-INS

out for suspicious characters. Also, into the house with you so thieves said they even leave their car broken window to gain entry.

Sadly, there have been reports of several cars which were broken into in our neighborhood in early 2015. As always, please be vigilant about keeping an eye remember to take your valuables are less tempted. One resident unlocked in hopes of avoiding a

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.

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