

In Remembrance: Jacquelyn Grace Compton



Gibraltar is sad to announce the passing of long-time resident Dr. Jacquelyn Grace Compton, Ph.D., age 72, who left this earth to spend eternity in heaven on August 30, 2014. She was born in Shambaugh, Iowa on February 2, 1942 to the late Charles & Edith (Phipps) Johnson. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her sister, Charlotte Johnson, and her grandson, Jeremiah Johnson.

Jacquelyn is survived by her husband of 46 years, Harold Compton; daughters and sons-in-law, Stephanie & James Johnson, Beth & John Fankhauser; sons, Matt Rennie and Durand & Jennifer Compton; sister, Sharon Thomas; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In 2012 we featured Harold and Jacque in our "get to know your neighbors" segment written by Liz Matis. Here is a brief passage from that feature. She will be missed.

"In 1987, Jackie went to work at an International Law Firm until 1995. She oversaw their Dallas, Denver, LA, Nebraska, Washington, D.C. and Kuwait City offices until 1997 and then completed three Masters Degrees and pursued two more Doctorates: an N.D., and Ph.D. in Natural Health. She also teaches at colleges and rest homes. Jacque's goals are, "Helping people live longer, stronger and more joyfully!" She said, "Life is more than just existing!" The three of us discussed what it is like to live in this "wonderful neighborhood with so many special neighbors." She looked at me as only Jackie can, and with her *special smile* and said, "We live here by choice." I know I have been blessed to live across from them."

General Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 20, 2014 held at Kirn Park.

It was the Fall Picnic Potluck. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm and it was decided that we should eat first while the fried chicken was hot and the cold salads were cold! Everyone enjoyed too much good food and tasty desserts.

We were joined briefly by officer Matt Brinkman who introduced himself. He is replacing officer Mark Alba as our neighborhood police representative. He looks forward to getting to know the GNA neighbors.

Barb Johnson from Neighborworks, spoke about the upcoming Neighborhood Conference the weekend of October 10. Tickets are still available, and there will be a gathering at Dixie Quicks on Friday evening for dinner.

Jeff Ketcham reported on the neighbor meeting at Habitat for Humanity. The new building on South Main will house many neighborhood-friendly resources and provide assistance with printing and other resources. They will also be working on outreach, identifying less-organized sections of the city who might be disenfranchised. Their goal will be to help neighborhoods be better organized.

We had several new people in attendance and everyone enjoyed the fellowship. Meeting adjourned about 3:00 pm.

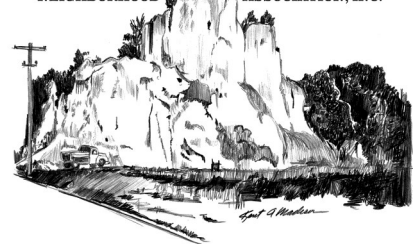
Respectfully submitted, Cory Peters, President

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Monday, November 10, 7:00-8:00 pm at Community Hall, 205 S. Main Street (below the fire station). Enter from the West side of the building, lower level. Bring your ideas, concerns, news, suggestions, etc. as we discuss ways to improve our neighborhood! All residents are encouraged to attend!

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.

Greetings fellow GNA residents!

If you missed the September potluck picnic at Kirn Park, you missed a great time! The weather ended up being sunny and warm, and wow, did we have some great food! I was so happy there were several new faces in attendance, but just as happy to see so many of our "senior" residents who were able to join us! Check out the photos on the GNA website at www.gibraltarna.org, where you'll also find past newsletter issues and other tidbits!

I attended the Dodge House 50th Anniversary Re-Dedication Celebration on September 13th. With many local dignitaries and letters of congratulations from around the region, it was an interesting, educational and inspiring morning, despite the chilly temperatures! Be sure to check out the news & events page on the Dodge House website (www.Dodgehouse.org). Starting in November they'll have the home decorated with Christmas trees, then in early December is a night with Santa at the Beresheim house, and many other December events including family nights with reduced admission, Day with the Dodges, and more. Check the newsletter for the ad on the upcoming fundraiser dinner in October – it sounds like it will be a blast, and the Dodge House is offering all Gibraltar neighborhood residents tickets priced at the MEMBER pricing level!! Call right away to reserve your place!! I hope you'll take the time to tour the Dodge House if you've never done so - - it is truly a gleaming gem for not only our neighborhood, but the city and the state!

Preserve Council Bluffs will be hosting their annual Historic Homes tour and dinners again this year. I don't think they've finalized all the houses yet, and as of this writing the dates were not yet on their website, but please be sure to check the website often at www.preservecb.org and keep an eye out for information on these really awesome events. Homes within the Gibraltar boundaries are on the agenda!!

IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT!! If you have not done so already, **PLEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEASE** join our private neighborhood social group at www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com. It is restricted to only allowing members to join who have street addresses within our boundaries, so please let me know if you have trouble joining. This will be a **GREAT** place for residents to post news, ask questions, share ideas and get to know one another. Particularly since we may be reducing the frequency of the newsletter in the future, this will be **THE SOURCE** for neighborhood information! 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 try to attend our November general meeting and get to know some of your neighbors while we discuss the issues that affect all of us! We'll be meeting at Community Hall from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on Monday evening, November 10th. Community Hall is located below the fire station – enter from the west side of the building on South Main, lower level. This won't be a potluck meeting, so have a good dinner before you come, then bring your ideas, concerns, suggestion, questions, etc. Let's make this a productive meeting and end the year armed with a plan of attack for 2015!

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!

Until next time!

Cory Peters, GNA President

The Dodge House has generously offered all GNA residents admission at the "member" pricing level!!

FUNDRAISER PROGRESSIVE DINNER
Benefiting the Squirrel Cage Jail, Historic General Dodge House
and the RailsWest Railroad Museum
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25th

The night will commence at 6pm with appetizers at the Squirrel Cage Jail, followed by dinner at the Dodge House. The finale for the evening will be dessert and coffee at the RailsWest Railroad Museum.

ENJOY APPETIZERS → **FABULOUS CUISINE** → **DELECTABLE DESSERTS**

Cost is \$60 for members of the Dodge House or the Historical Society of Pottawattamie County and \$75 for non-members. Reservations are required.
Please call **712-322-2406** for questions about the event or to reserve your seat.

Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Network, Neighborhood Summit

written by Jeff Ketcham

On Saturday, September 20, 2014 I attended the Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Network's Neighborhood Summit where representatives from all across Council Bluffs got to learn all about what the Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Network has to offer. After an initial introductory presentation by Gina Primmer regarding the Neighborhood Network itself and its three part initiative:

- Assessing all of Council Bluffs' Neighborhoods via a neighborhood Scan. This will be to determine the overall quality of the homes in Council Bluffs and to get a macro-level comparison of neighborhoods in which the Networks assistance may be best received.
- Providing a resource center in their new location on Main Street. This resource center will be available for all neighborhoods for assistance with things such as printing newsletters or getting information for locating or writing a grant proposal.
- The final step of the initiative is outreach to identified areas where residents may not be as civically minded or organized as other neighborhoods, or where the residents may feel, 'disenfranchised.' The Neighborhood Network will reach out to those areas and individuals to provide assistance and empower them to organize as other areas have.

After the initial introduction, the attendees were split up into short breakout sessions on successful CURB grant projects, Asset Based Community Development, Community Gardens, Engaging Your Neighbors, Grant Programs for Neighborhood Projects, and Opportunities for Landlords to Improve Neighborhoods.

I attended the grant presentations, CURB Grants and Grant Programs for Neighborhood Projects. The CURB Grant is an exciting program administered by Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful that awards neighborhoods or neighborhood blocks the opportunity to receive up to \$15,000 to makeover their block through home improvement projects that are visible from the curb.

Each award can cover materials, design and technical assistance. Projects might include:

- Repairing or adding fences
- Improving landscaping
- Cleaning or clearing property
- Exterior paint touchups
- Fixing shutters
- Planting trees
- Porch railing repair
- Lighting improvements
- Sidewalk repair
- Other minor projects designed to spruce up your block



The goals of CURB are to:

- Beautify neighborhoods by addressing many of the unsightly physical conditions that impact its stability and impede the desire to re-invest in that neighborhood.
- Strengthen and improve neighborhoods and empower the people in them to become more active participants in their neighborhoods and community.
- Increase the opportunity people have to improve health through projects that encourage healthier living.

I encourage anyone interested in more information regarding the CURB grant to visit their website:
www.keepcouncilbluffsbeautiful.org/curb

The Grant Programs for Neighborhood Projects breakout session provided information regarding the Neighborhood Strengthening Grants provided by the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation in conjunction with the Neighborhood Center and made possible by the generosity of the Iowa West Foundation. This program is designed to assist neighborhoods in Pottawattamie County in developing and implementing their own projects that will increase neighborhood cohesiveness and pride. As part of the initiative, the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation has partnered with the Neighborhood Center to manage this program.

Possible funding from this program include but not limited to: beautification, literacy programs, after-school activities, block parties, neighborhood fairs and carnivals, block clean-ups and community gardening, parent-teacher Organizations, recreation, neighborhood-wide art showcases, development of neighborhood plans, large-scale community organizing efforts, reserving meeting space, and incorporating your neighborhood.

More info for this project can be located: <http://www.ourpccf.org/grants>.

Overall the presentation was very informative and reassuring to see so many people rallying behind a new vehicle to help organize and unite the various neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations in Council Bluffs.

A History of Kirn Park

written by Connie Bartel

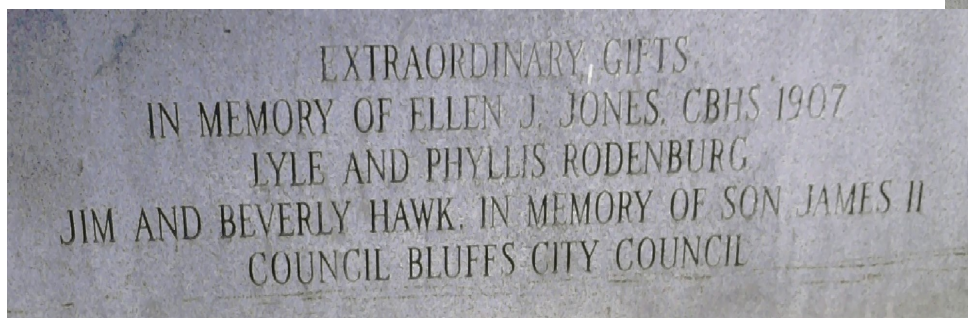
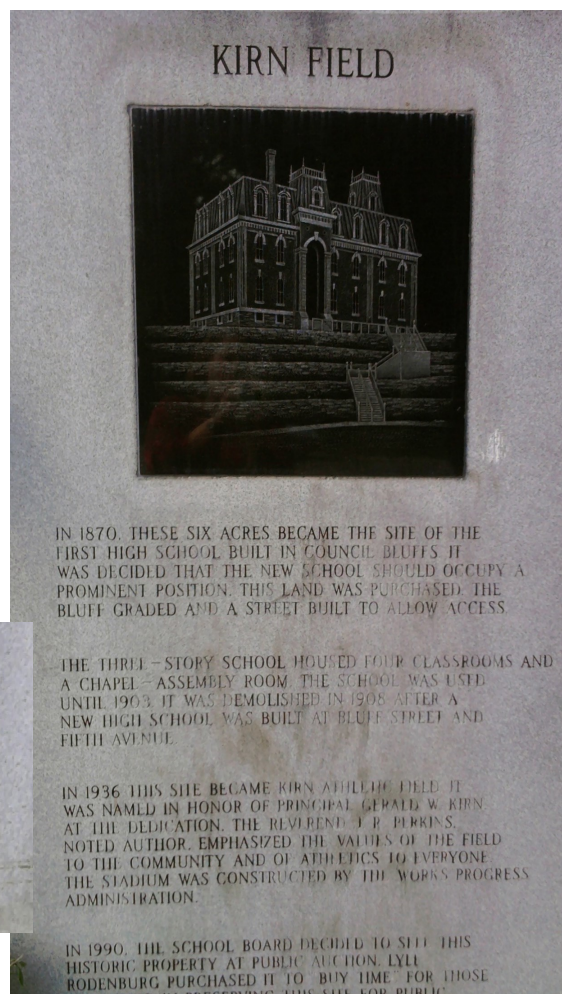
Saving Kirn Park was a “sentimental journey” for me. I lived in the house I live in now (116 3rd Street) when I attended Abraham Lincoln High School, located between 3rd & Bluff Streets at 5th Ave. My friends would gather at my house, and we would trudge up the hill (High School Ave.) to attend football games, track meets, ROTC parades and May Queen ceremonies.

In 1870, Iowa Governor Merrill came to Council Bluffs to dedicate the new high school, then located at the top of 5th Avenue. ROTC began there in 1892, and football and track were introduced in 1895. Crimson and blue were chosen as the colors, as they were the initials (“C” and “B”) of our town. Approximately 70 years later, the school would be gone, and in its place an athletic field, with football goal posts, cinder track and bleachers, built by the Public Works Administration. It was dedicated to G.W. Kirn. There were more than 1,000 people in attendance at the dedication. Rev. J.R. Perkins, of the Congregational Church, did the dedication and Gen. Dr. Matthew Tinley crowned the May Queen.

It was in 1990 that the School Board announced its intention to sell the property at auction. A “Save Old Kirn Field” association was formed. I had counted and saved 31 articles written to the newspaper, protesting the fact that the public seemed to have no input. Mr. Christie delayed the auction, and the City Council agreed to help the citizens in their effort to take it off the auction block. Councilman Sam Irwin succeeded in making a zoning change for the property, from strictly residential to “parks, estates and agricultural.” Suzanne Winter gave a fine presentation to the Council and later became the treasurer of the fund. I sent out 100 letters to my classmates, and one day my old friend Janeanne Braun Doar called me from California and said, “Connie, I have 10.” I said that was nice, and she said, “No, I mean \$10,000.” She wanted it sent as a memorial to her Mother, Ellen J. Jones, CBHS 1907. So, that is the top name on the Memorial at the Park.

Finally, the auction was held in March, 1990, and about 75 people gathered at the old field. Lyle Rodenberg made the highest bid — \$72,000, and donated the \$10,000 he put down to the fund. An additional \$62,000 was raised. Over 500 people contributed. The City Council contributed \$25,000. And, Jim Hawk, who had promised he would donate once the field was bought, contributed \$25,000 (with some of this contribution going towards the purchase of playground equipment). Jim’s wife, Beverly, was in my class in high school.

Attorney Scott Hughes handled all the legal business. The CB Parks Department has used money for improvements. The memorial stone was engraved with the names of Mrs. Jones, Phyllis and Lyle Rodenberg, Jim and Beverly Hawk, in honor of their son, and the Council Bluffs City Council. The memorial has a wonderful picture of the first High School in Council Bluffs. It sure is a great park; a wonderful flat space in the hills.



Neighborhood Center Fall Conference

written by Bob Rosser

The Neighborhood Center held its 2014 Fall Conference on Saturday September 27 with a good turnout from the majority of all the city's neighborhood associations represented. Bob Rosser attended for GNA. Nate Watson was our host.

We kicked the meeting off with introductions where each person shared a little bit about the neighborhood they represented and the issues of concern to the residents in their neighborhood. Some shared success stories.

Kyle Muschall from Fairmount shared the story about collaboration with GNA for the Kirn Park revitalization effort which we enjoyed during our GNA picnic and meeting last month.

Al Ringgenberg from City Council was at the meeting representing a collection of churches in the city that formed a group called "LOVE COUNCIL BLUFFS". The group performs service projects that require a lot of manpower. They have organized projects and had 200 volunteers from the group to pitch in.

Several representatives shared concerns about neighborhood blight. There was much discussion on many of the causes where a property can fall into neglect and disrepair. The causes can be anything from a resident becoming disabled, absentee landlords, loss of a job, foreclosures, etc.

That prompted discussion on getting the marketplace to help combat blight. There are ideas afloat and working in other cities across the country to encourage revitalization such as forgivable loans for the neighbors next to vacant properties that have conditions on the loan to buy and maintain these properties.

Another success story was shared where 2 neighborhoods formed an alliance on the neighborhood watch program to deter vandalism and crime. It worked as the thieves no longer found it easy or desirable to work the same neighborhoods with the vigilance of its residents.

Discussions then turned toward the Mayor's Cabinet. Mayor Walsh has also asked us to expand the Mayor's Neighborhood Cabinet to ensure representation of all the new neighborhood organizations. The structure of the Cabinet started with former Mayor Hanafan was a smaller representation where the city and its neighborhoods were carved into 4 quadrants. These representatives met with the mayor on a monthly basis. It was an opportunity to have the Cabinet hear from and be listened to by the Mayor's Department heads on matters important to neighborhoods.

The group discussed the preference to expand the cabinet to a representative from each Neighborhood Association assuming that the mayor agrees to this expansion. It became clear that the Cabinet never really had much formal structure as it didn't need one as a small group. A larger group would need some clear defined structure, an agenda for meetings, business rules on permissible topics, meeting minutes, etc. With everyone's time being valuable, the structure and planning of these meetings would enable the Mayor and the cabinet to become more productive. The mayor and his Department heads could share plans and bounce them off this unique customer focus group in the cabinet for feedback and vice-versa.

The next step was for Nate and existing cabinet members to talk with Mayor Walsh to share the group's preferences on restructuring the cabinet.

The last major topic discussed was how best to utilize the unique skills and expertise of the 3 different neighborhood focused organizations in the city. We have the new office for Neighborhood Network that is part of Habitat for Humanity. We also have NeighborWorks Home Solutions and The Neighborhood Center. None of these support organizations are big enough by themselves to do all of the things that GNA and the other neighborhood associations need as they each have some unique areas of specialization and expertise. They need to collaborate to avoid redundancy and duplication of effort. Each of the Neighborhood Associations in the city will be evaluating what it gets from all 3 supporting organizations to help make our city of Council Bluffs and its neighborhoods a better place to live and work.

The dialogue will definitely continue and it is clear that there are many people in this city who care very passionately about this city and the neighborhoods they live in. It was great for me to represent the GNA and be part of the discussion.

If you have any questions or comments about this article, please contact Bob Rosser via email: bob.rosser@iwco.com.



Four-Legged Friends

written by Jeff Ketcham

Pet Tips for Autumn:

As the weather turns cooler, the leaves begin to fall, and our thoughts turn to food and gift based holidays, let's not forget our furry friends in this turning of the season. Here's a few tips to keep in mind to ensure your pet's safety and comfort in the cooler weather.

Autumn is the time where many of us change out the coolant in our cars. Be mindful of any spills as these can be incredibly toxic to the local pets and wildlife.

As Halloween and Thanksgiving approach, remember that chocolate and turkey bones as well as many other 'people' food can, at best, be harmful to our pets, at worst, be lethal. Keep people food on people plates, and get your pets some 'special' treats that are only from them to avoid any unnecessary begging. Three-Dog Bakery in Midtown Crossing across the river is a good source of treats that you don't find at the local pet store.

A number of our neighbors have outdoor cats and any other number of neighborhood cats free-roaming. As the weather gets cooler, these cats may seek warmth under our vehicles. Make sure to tap on your hood and/or check your wheel wells prior to starting your car on particularly cold mornings.

Finally, if you have animals that stay outdoors for extended times, be mindful of the temperature. A good rule of thumb, if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for them.



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

To be included in any communications going to GNA residents, PLEASE join our private neighborhood social group at www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com.

It is restricted to only allowing members who have street addresses within our boundaries.

Newsletter copies

furnished

courtesy of

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