



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Visit the GNA website: www.GibraltarNA.org

Join the GNA Networking site: www.Gibraltar.Nextdoor.com

Habitat ReStore: Your source for affordably-priced treasures!



Habitat for Humanity Council Bluffs recently moved their offices to the beautifully restored historic building at 1228 S. Main Street, with expanded and improved space for the multi-level ReStore store.

Habitat ReStore sells new and used building materials, furniture, appliances, books, games, records, household goods and much more, all at *discount prices*. All proceeds from the Council Bluffs ReStore support Habitat's **comprehensive neighborhood improvement mission**.

They are open M-F 11:00 to 5:00 and Saturdays 8:00 to 2:00. Stop by and check it out!! They print our newsletter for free, so please support them! ■



NOV. 2015 GENERAL MEETING

This is the last "general meeting" of 2015!
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

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!! We encourage ALL neighborhood residents (owners and renters) to attend!

4th Quarter GNA Fundraiser and Holiday Social!

In order to fund banner and sidewalk initiatives, we are hosting a fabulous and fun holiday get-together! Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres in the ballroom or on the lower level of the historic Dodge House, then leisurely tour the home as you take in its resplendent holiday décor! Please show your support for the Gibraltar Neighborhood and attend this event! More details on page 8.

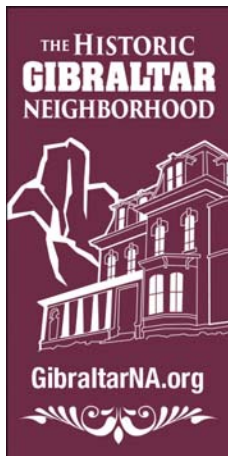
Trim your "STREET WEEDS"

Many Gibraltar neighbors have raised concerns over the 'shaggy' appearance of our neighborhood due to the abundance of weeds growing through the bricks along most curb areas. Please do your part to try and improve our neighborhood appearance by trimming or killing the weeds. If using an application to kill the weeds, please do try to use an ecologically-friendly solution. For example: Mix 1 gallon white vinegar with 1 cup salt and 1 tablespoon liquid dish soap. The white vinegar lowers the weed's pH, the salt dries out the plant, and the dish soap helps the solution stick to the plant. Pour the solution into a spray bottle, and spray it over the weed's stalk and leaves. Apply it liberally. Then reapply the solution after 24 hours until the weed is completely dead.

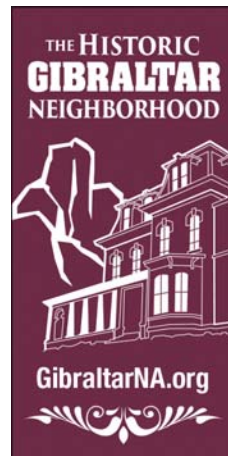
BANNER DESIGN — Final Selection!

We've made quite a bit of progress on the GNA Banner initiative since the August newsletter! We have a signed agreement with the City of Council Bluffs and Mid-American energy, and our Grant application has been written and will be submitted to hopefully cover some of the over \$5,500 in costs. Thanks to everyone who weighed-in on the design! Based on the voting, we've narrowed the final banner selection to two designs. We've also decided to go with a BURGUNDY fabric (instead of the pine green) to tie-in with our Gibraltar yard flags and Gibraltar T-shirts. We've posted the two designs to the NextDoor site for input, but please be aware that **only the feedback of paid neighborhood association members** will have bearing on the final design selection. (Just one more reason you should join the GNA if you haven't yet!)

DESIGN 1



DESIGN 2

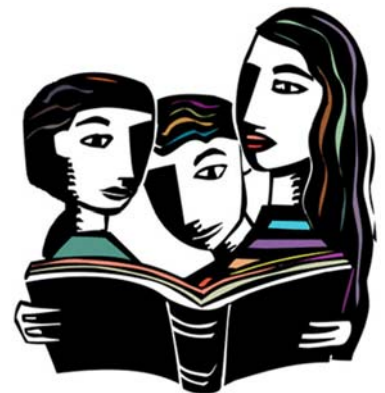


To provide feedback or comment on the flag design, visit the Gibraltar NextDoor site at www.Gibraltar.NextDoor.com (you need to be registered on the site in order to access the info).



**KEEP
CALM
AND
READ A
BOOK**

Visit Gibraltar's LITTLE FREE LIBRARY! We have children's books and adult books for you to borrow for as long as you wish... FOR FREE! Share the joy of reading today! The library is located in the green space on Story Street between Bluff Street and 4th Street.



THANK YOU to our GNA newsletter delivery & distribution team:

*Chris and Steve Gorman
Tom Emmett and Nate Brown.*

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

FROM PRESIDENT PETERS

Greetings fellow GNA residents!

Go Hawkeyes! Go Huskers! Go Cyclones! Fall is upon us and while it brings with it one of my favorite activities (watching college football!), it also brings falling leaves. Please remember to mulch or bag your leaves... don't just sweep them into the street (that's a good way to make your neighbors angry!). Please also note the blurb on page one about taming the "street weeds" that have been so prolific this summer. If the section of street along your curb is looking particularly shaggy, please take a bit of time to trim it up or treat it (and let's focus on this for next summer as well!) Thanks!



The 3rd Quarter Social at Kirn Park on Sunday, September 20, was a blast!! The weather was PERFECT and everyone had a great time relaxing, socializing and eating some great food. THANK YOU SO MUCH to all who helped make the day a success, particularly Ann Walters and Cathy Hill who cooked the sloppy joes, and Steve & Chris Gorman, Kent & Mary Madison and Gordon Hitchcock who brought and set up tables! Gordon even grilled fresh veggies on site! Folks stayed late and helped clean up... it was a really great day! Event photos are posted on page 7.

4th QUARTER SOCIAL/FUNDRAISER! The GNA social event for the 4th quarter will be a **holiday-themed fundraiser!** Please invite your friends, business associates, acquaintances, family members... the **more the merrier** (and the more money we'll raise for GNA!) Proceeds will benefit both the Dodge House and Gibraltar. PLEASE come join us and help make this event a success so we can continue to fund neighborhood projects! Look for more information located on page 8 of the newsletter!

I'm excited to report that we're nearing the final preparations for the banner initiative. We have secured the signed approvals/agreements from the City of Council Bluffs and Mid-American Energy for installation of the banners on utility poles. Now we just need the money to pay for the banners!! We've applied for grant money but will also need some matching funds (hence the Dodge House fundraiser!!). I will be so excited to finally see the banners installed (unsure if that will happen during the winter or not... might be waiting 'til Spring).

At the September board meeting the sidewalk repair project was again discussed. Several details were finalized and decisions made. As you know, **sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of each homeowner** (don't we wish the city would pay for that?!). To maximize funding dollars and integrate owner commitment, the homeowner will be responsible for the tear-out portion of the repair (ie. you can take it out yourself, pay someone else to take it out, or pay the concrete installer to take it out), and the GNA will pay for the concrete installation and/or repair, saving you somewhere in the neighborhood of 50-75% of the total cost of the repair/replacement. Repair locations will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis, **with GNA paid members getting first access to available program monies** (yet *another* reason to join the Neighborhood Association if you haven't yet done so). Additional information and details will be forthcoming.

As a friendly reminder, whether you are a GNA homeowner or renter, paid GNA member or NOT, don't forget to join the neighborhood networking group at www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com. This site is an *excellent* way for all residents to share news, post alerts, ask questions, pose ideas and get to know one another. **THIS IS ALSO our main method to communicate upcoming EVENTS! Stay informed by joining the site.** There is NO COST to join the group, there's no spam or advertisements, etc., you just need to live in the Gibraltar boundaries.

Until next time, Cory Peters — GNA President



SAT. 10/17/15

CHILI COOK-

OFF

Hosted by The Neighborhood Network

Calling all neighborhoods! We want you! To come to our chili cook-off event in October. Bring yourself and a pot of your best chili and let your community decide on the best one. This is a chance to see what the other neighborhoods in our community are up to!



**Saturday,
October 17, 2015
noon-2 pm @
Habitat offices**

**Wonderful chance
to meet other
neighborhoods in
our community!**

**A chance to
represent your
neighborhood**

**Lunch and games
provided**

**RSVP-Meka or
Glennay @
712-328-9476**

**HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY**

1228 South Main
Council Bluffs IA 51503

Habitatcb.org

Meka@habitatcb.org
Glennay@habitatcb.org

Time to ENJOY Your New LITTLE FREE LIBRARY!

The Gibraltar Neighborhood “Little Free Library” is officially open for business! **Located in the green space at the north-east corner of Story Street and 4th Street**, the library is a “take a book, leave a book” FREE resource for folks of all ages. Included in the library are adult books & children’s books. We encourage you to post/share reading experiences and feedback on the NextDoor website for any of the Library’s books you borrowed and enjoyed (or hated), so others may discover an interest in that book!

This project could NOT have been possible without the time, talents and donations of the following:

- > Meka Tate at Habitat for Humanity (bringing resources together)
- > Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (allowing Library on their lot)
- > Chris Reed from the Rotary Club (facilitating the box construction)
- > Menards (donating the materials to build the box)
- > Cory Peters (painting and decorating the box)
- > Gordon Hitchcock (building the shake shingle roof)
- > Steve Gorman (box construction tweaks plus installation)
- > Jeff Ketcham (storing books and managing the Library book rotation)

We’d also like to thank the large number of people who donated books for the Library! We will do our best to keep a good selection of interesting titles in stock. Inventory will be rotated on an ongoing basis to keep it fresh! Watch for book updates on the Gibraltar.NextDoor.com website! If you have books you’d like to donate, please contact Jeff Ketcham via email at: thirtysomethinggeek@gmail.com. THANKS!



Area Events

ART ON WILLOW

Sat. Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

For one exciting evening the Council Bluffs Public Library will become a world-class Art Gallery! This prestigious event will show never-before-seen art-work owned by the library as well as pieces on loan from community members’ personal collections. Enjoy food and beverages while you browse in the “Museum Shop” where you can purchase unique items! Tickets are \$50pp or \$75/couple. This event is a fundraiser for the Bluffs Art Council and the C.B. Library Foundation. Call the Library for more info and tickets: 712-323-7553.

“BOOZINGA” TRIVIA NIGHT

Fri. Oct. 30 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Peter’s Social Hall
Get a team together and come join the fun! Sponsored by Bluffs Arts Council.

ADOPT AN ANTIQUE EVENT

Sat. Oct. 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Special Dodge House Fundraiser Event where you can “adopt” an antique item that needs a little TLC. Service fantastic appetizers and desserts. Call the Dodge House for more info at 712-322-2406.

HONORING VETERANS

Month of November

Check out the Dodge House “calendar” page at dodgehouse.org for info on the Veteran’s Photo Exhibit, parade and **special discount for veterans**.

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS

Month of December

Check out the Dodge House “calendar” page at dodgehouse.org for a list of all the wonderful holiday events: Picture Night w/Santa, Breakfast w/Santa, Day with the Dodge’s, “Tracks and “Trees” and more!

HOMES OF GIBRALTAR: 129 Bluff Street, by Mary Lou McGinn

Thomas Metcalf purchased this property in 1892 from Mary Clinton, widow of attorney Samuel Clinton who lived next door at 133 Bluff Street.

Thomas and Henry Metcalf came to Council Bluffs from Ohio in the fall of 1867 and opened a hat and cap store in an 8 x 20-foot room on the south side of Broadway. In 1869 they were joined by their brother, George. Metcalf Bros., a retail business selling hats, caps and furs, and later adding clothing, soon expanded into a wholesale business with stocks of goods, occupying the Whitney block on Broadway. Fifteen years later they moved to 17 and 19 Pearl Street, and 18 and 20 Main Street - a block owned by Thomas Metcalf. They later opened a jobbing firm.



Thomas Metcalf / Joe Smith House

According to *The Blue Book of Iowa Women*, Eva Canfield and Thomas Metcalf were married in Chardon, Ohio in 1871. The couple had three children: Thomas, Jr., Frank, and Della. Mrs. Metcalf was a very active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, representing the local chapter in the statewide organization. She was also a member of the first Garden Club in Council Bluffs. The black topsoil seen today on the lawn and garden was hauled there by the Metcalfs.

The house had a second life. It was sold in 1907 to Ida and Joe Smith, a prominent Council Bluffs clothier. It was remodeled extensively in 1908 and exhibits a combination of the Craftsman, Prairie and Tudor Revival styles, with shingle siding on the first floor. Other notable features include original multi-pane over single-pane windows, massive roof with wide eave overhang, rectangular canted bay on the second floor front, two-story bay on the south side, roughened brick foundation, and a hipped dormer on the north side. Recent restoration reveals faux timbering on the second level. The house was converted to apartments in the 1950s, and recently restored to a single-family dwelling.

The late Norman Filbert, Jr. described the house in a 2003 *Daily Nonpareil* article, "Memories of Grandparents Remain Vivid." Norman recalled, "If I close my eyes, I can still see, plain as day, my grandparents and their house at 129 Bluff Street, now redesigned into apartments. I spent many exploratory hours there as a youngster, walking down from the top of the street, then paved with bricks and sporting a streetcar that ventured east and on to Pierce. My grandmother Ida was the tomboy of the family. She was the one who dressed up at Halloween and greeted guests seeking goodies with the most ghoulish of appearances at the door."

Joe Smith & Co., founded in 1905, was a familiar clothing store on Broadway for 70 years. Born in 1864 in a two-room log cabin in Marion County, the second of 10 children, Joe Smith left the farm at age 18 and came to Council Bluffs. He first worked at a bakery, then at the Pacific House Hotel. After working two more short-term jobs, he went to work for the Haverstock clothing store where he remained for five years, then the John Beno Company. In 1899 he formed a partnership, Smith & Brady, and opened a store at 415 West Broadway. Six years later, he bought out the partner and renamed the store the Joe W. Smith Co., located across the street at 416 West Broadway, its permanent home.

Smith was one of the promoters of the YMCA building, past president of the Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Merchants Assn., the Iowa Clothiers Assn., a charter member of the local Elks and Rotary groups, a director of the City National Bank, served on the Salvation Army Board and was active in Boy Scouts. An editorial in the *Daily Nonpareil* at the time of his death read, "He worked hard at his business, but he worked just as hard to make Council Bluffs a better place in which to live."

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.



GNA 3rd Quarter Social - - PHOTOS

Wow, did we have a great time at Kirn Park for our 3rd Quarter Social! Wonderful food, great conversations and some spirited veggie grilling were the theme for the afternoon!! Everyone enjoyed getting together and catching up on neighborhood news. THANK YOU again Ann Walters and Cathy Hill for cooking the oh-so-delicious sloppy joes!! Thanks also to everyone who helped set up and tear down, brought tables and chairs, coolers, etc. You made it great!! Check out additional photos on the Gibraltar website!! ■



SAVE THE DATE!!



HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

*Supporting the Gibraltar Neighborhood
and the Dodge House!*

WHEN: Friday, December 18 • 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Historic Dodge House

WHAT: Holiday Social & Neighborhood Fundraiser

WHO: You, plus all your friends and family!

Get in the holiday spirit by touring the festively-decorated Dodge House and their beautiful holiday trees! We'll serve you a variety of delicious appetizers and red & white wine on the ballroom and basement levels.

Have fun socializing with friends and neighbors while you enjoy a drink and a bite to eat, then take a tour of the house and its resplendent holiday decorations with trees decorated by local artists! All proceeds will benefit upcoming Gibraltar Neighborhood and Dodge House projects.

Capture the holiday spirit while you help out a wonderful cause!

*****WATCH for future details at GibraltarNA.org and Gibraltar.Nextdoor.com*****

Meeting convened at 6:15 p.m. Attendees: Cathy Hill, Jeff Ketcham, Roland Lynch, Adrienne McElderry, Kyle McGinn and Patricia Murphy.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS:

1) Roland looked into our concern about city staff measuring various sidewalks in our area. He spoke to a Jeremy Noel from City Operations Division but was unable to get any answers from him. He sent Roland to another facility to see someone else only to find that the facility had a locked fence and no way to enter. Therefore, he was unable to get any information.

2) Banners – Will be burgundy with white letters (like our t-shirts.) Ann Walters is completing the grant from the Pott. Co. Community Foundation for the \$5000 they will cost.

3) Sidewalks – Steve Gorman received Jeff Paulsen's \$5/square foot for the concrete to repair our aging sidewalks. Homeowners will be responsible for tearing out damaged sidewalks before repair can be done.

Paid Association members will have priority. Ready Mixer contacted Steve and indicated that they would be interested in working with Paulsen on the project.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

1) Fairmont Park contribution of \$1000 – Board determined we could not afford the money now, so when the park is completed, GNA may want to contribute an attractive planter or bench at the entrance.

2) Picnic at Kirn Park on September 20th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. GNA will provide sloppy joes and lemonade and ask that attendees contribute a side dish.

3) Brick streets. The question arose about the city's commitment to spend \$10, 000 a year to repair our brick streets with bricks. Has anyone seen any work being done within our boundaries? The answer was no. The Board will pursue this matter.

4) Dodge House Holiday Fundraiser – Cory is working with the Dodge House staff on the details. Rather than a full dinner which proved to be laborious last year, we will host a wine and hors d'oeuvres gala. Details will be provided at a later date.

Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hill, Secretary of GNA

ATTENTION: BUSINESS OWNERS, ARTISTS, ETC.

ATTN: Gibraltar Residents who own a business, provide a service, have a product to sell or event to promote! 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!***

Pricing for two different size options:

- > 1/4 sheet one-time insertion: \$10
- > 1/2 sheet one-time insertion: \$15

- > 1/4 sheet "6-pack" (whole year): \$50
- > 1/2 sheet "6-pack" (whole year): \$75

We'll throw in the ad setup for free!! Ad content can be same or different for each issue. Contact Cory at coryp241@yahoo.com for more info!



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. We are currently reading **"11/22/63" by Stephen King**. We've recently added some new members, and we hope you'll consider making this part of your neighborhood involvement! If you enjoy reading and socializing, contact Patti Hannan at 712-323-8600 for more info. We'd love to see you at our next meeting! ■

Your 2015 GNA Board:

Cory Peters, President and
Newsletter Editor
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

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