



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

SAVE LIVES: CHANGE BATTERIES NOW!

Fire officials advise that when you set your clocks back for Daylight Savings Time, to also change the batteries in your smoke & carbon monoxide detectors (so if you forgot to do this last month, NOW is the time!). **Detectors over 10 years old should be replaced with a new unit**, a critical step in making sure yours is working when you need it most. A code stamped on the back of a detector should indicate the manufacture date.



Non-working alarms are very dangerous because they don't warn you and your loved ones that there is a fire or carbon monoxide in your home. When seconds count in an emergency, a lack of warning could be fatal. Homeowners are encouraged to have working smoke and CO detectors on every level of a residence. According to the National Fire Protections Association, three out of five home fire deaths resulted from fires on *properties without working smoke detectors*. The Council Bluffs Fire Department, with the generous support of several businesses, organizations, foundations and individual donors, founded **Project Alex** after fires claimed the lives of two children in 2010. Project Alex provides dual sensor smoke detectors in the hope of preventing any further loss of life in fires.

- On duty Fire Department personnel check each home they respond to for working detectors. If none are present or the smoke detectors need replaced, new detectors are installed before those personnel leave.
- They also replace batteries and leave fire safety information with the homes occupants, all in the hope of making the residents and our community safer.

To request a detector check or installation, contact the Fire Department at (712) 328-4646. If you need a smoke detector or new battery and cannot afford one, the fire department will schedule a time to have personnel come to your house and install new batteries or new detectors at no charge to the residents. **Now is a good time to check your fire extinguisher, too.**

FIRST Gibraltar Meeting of 2019:

When: **Thursday, JANUARY 17th**

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Where: **Home of David & Anna Brooks**
304 Willow Ave.

We'll discuss neighborhood goals & plans for the new year, and we'd like to recruit some "block captains" to improve communication and participation. Bring ideas for betterment projects, issues/problems you've seen in the neighborhood, etc. Let's put together our plan for 2019! We hope to see you there!

Like us on Facebook!

In our ongoing effort to provide great communication to ALL our neighbors, the Gibraltar Neighborhood now has a Facebook page! If you are a Facebook user, PLEASE search for "Gibraltar Neighborhood Association" and "like" our page!



You can use our page to pose questions, keep in touch with neighbors, alert folks to things going on in our 'hood, and learn more about upcoming events and such. *We look forward to seeing you on Facebook!*

FROM PRESIDENT MORGAN!



Happy December Neighbors,

It's the day after Thanksgiving and I'm not sure what is making this letter more difficult to write... the delicious holiday leftovers I had for breakfast (complete with pie), the Hawkeye-Husker Game about to kickoff, or pending fatherhood. My wife's belly is roughly the size of a yoga ball, and every movement has me running for our "go-bag." December is sure to be an exciting month, and by the looks of our calendar, it's certain to be a blur. Many of you have similar schedules I'm sure – and so it's with a little hesitation I ask a favor... ***make a little time for your neighbors.*** A card, a wave, volunteer to change a few diapers for some new parents (just a suggestion), or maybe an invitation for some eggnog. ***Time is love*** and there will always be an excuse to say no.

I'm lucky enough to be in a profession that has me talking with CB residents about their neighborhoods. While there are common concerns all neighborhoods share (streets, taxes, safety, etc...), one theme that keeps coming up in areas where there are not any formal or informal groups/associations is: "I wish I knew more of my neighbors." Abby and I are proud and very thankful to live in a place where we know a good many of you on a first name basis (if we haven't met yet...we'll get there), and are so glad for those of you who welcomed us when we arrived! The shared experience and relationships we form here in our small corner of the world is what gives this place its spirit. Otherwise, it's just a bunch of houses with strangers living in them.

In a time where we have more platforms, channels, websites, and gadgets to connect on, it feels as though we are more disconnected than ever – so take a minute. Call, text, tweet at, like, or (call me old fashioned) *have a face to face conversation* with those on your block – spread the love. I'm not asking for everyone to be best friends – but a strong social fabric adds value to our homes, makes our neighborhood safer, and builds trust in our fellow human beings.

*** Big shout out to everyone who came to a meeting, volunteered their time, donated to the neighborhood, and served on the board. I'd like to give a personal thank you to Cory Peters for the support and guidance this year (not to mention continuing to put together this *Cadillac* of a newsletter). Abby and I want to wish you all a safe, love-filled holiday season! Not sure when you'll be reading this – but we hope to see you at the holiday party Dec. 2nd at Jim and Gary's – if you are reading this... you're invited. Don't be shy.

Warmly,
Turner Morgan

PS - If we weren't there, chances are good we were at Mercy delivering the newest addition to the neighborhood!

***How about this for a
New Year's Resolution:***

Take the time to be a

Good
NEIGHBOR

The logo consists of the word "Good" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. To the right of "Good" is a stylized illustration of a house with a chimney, a tree, and some clouds. Below "Good" and the illustration is the word "NEIGHBOR" in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

2019 DUES are DUE!!

We're grateful to have seen an increased participation with membership numbers for the past several years, so let's continue that trend for 2019! Your Gibraltar Neighborhood Association dues are payable now (in January) — the form is on last page of newsletter.

Save yourself a stamp and bring a check to the January meeting! Or, contact GNA Treasurer Tom Emmett (402-346-6734) to make arrangements, and he can pick up the check from you! Or, drop a check in the mail (mailing address and form are on the last page of this newsletter!).

Your annual dues help fund projects like:

- > Quarterly Neighborhood Social Events
- > Neighborhood Identification Banners
- > Neighborhood Cleanup Day
- > Celebrate C.B. Parade Participation
- > National Neighborhood Conference engagement
- > Future projects like the Sidewalk Repair Initiative and possibly a community garden, etc., etc.!

Help keep Gibraltar moving in a positive direction by support through annual dues. THANK YOU!

DID YOU KNOW?

VISION: The 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: The 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.

Gibraltar's LITTLE FREE LIBRARY is always in need of BOOKS!

Have you taken advantage of the free library lately? The library is located in the green space at the corner of **Story St. & 4th Street**. There are children's books and adult books for you to borrow for as long as you wish... FOR FREE! **If you have books you no longer need and can CONTRIBUTE them to the library, simply deposit them in the library box, or contact Cory Peters and she'll come pick them up from you.**

Share the joy of reading today! Thank you!



ATTENTION: BUSINESS OWNERS, ARTISTS, ETC.

If you 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**

GNA General Meeting Minutes - November 14, 2018

Thank you to all who joined us at The Center for the GNA Meeting. We missed all of you who were unable to attend, and hope to see you at future meetings.

Quarter Auction Reap/Treasury Report

At this year's Quarter Auction we saw \$850 come in for our Gibraltar Neighborhood Association! This puts our GNA Treasury between \$7000 - \$8000. Thank you to all who attended & supported our neighborhood association. A great night was had by all.

712 Initiative Neighborhood Walkability Project Proposals

The 712 Initiative is generously offering \$15,000-\$17,000 to fund one of the following options. Option 1 below will be presented first, and if it is not feasible, then option 2 will be considered. The hope is that the GNA will work with the 712 Initiative & the City to design & execute the project.

Option 1: Fairmont Park Trailhead at 9th Ave & High Street

Create a clear entrance/trailhead to Fairmont Park on 9th Ave & High Street. This will make the park more welcoming and accessible to those in our neighborhood as well as other residents of Council Bluffs. GNA President Turner Morgan has been in communication with Parks & Rec, Snyder & Associates, and many others to discuss feasibility of this project and to draft some beginning proposals for a Fairmont Park Trailhead. President Morgan believes that this project would cost approximately \$15,000-\$17,000 to fund.

Option 2: Mural – 4th Street Genealogical Society Mural

Create a mural on the exterior of the Pottawatomie County Genealogical Society (Corner of Worth & 4th St). After doing some research, President Turner Morgan proposed that this option would cost around \$6000 - \$8000.

Ideas/Goals for 2019 (to be discussed further at the January GNA Meeting)

Improve internal communication as a neighborhood.

Invite other Council Bluffs neighborhoods to join us for our September social.

Increase GNA General Meeting Attendance. Ideas mentioned included calling/texting neighbors to give a personal invite, knocking on doors, gathering updated contact info, and having neighborhood block captains (one house per block that helps invite and gather neighbors before socials & meetings).

Discuss 4th of July fireworks & how we as a neighborhood could advocate for change.

712 Initiative Neighborhood Walkability Project (see above)

Bi-monthly volunteer day

Improve Curbs, Mains, & Brick Streets: A delegation plans to attend a City Council Meeting to express our desire for change in our neighborhood. More details to come in the future.

Additional Business

Jim & Alicia Brady mentioned that Conagra is willing to put a Historic Gibraltar Neighborhood sign on the corner of 3rd & 9th as a part of their new fence that they are constructing. Alicia Brady will reach out to her Conagra contact to find out more specifics regarding the timeline, design, and size.

We look forward to seeing you all in December at the Holiday Party!

Respectfully Submitted,

David, Anna, and baby girl Brooks

QUARTER AUCTION FUNDRAISER: Fun and Successful Yet Again!

So **VERY** many thanks to those who donated items for the auction, all those who sought out & obtained donations, those who helped with setup and teardown, and those WHO ATTENDED and so generously spent (a lot of!) their hard-earned money! Our very own President Turner did a fantastic job as our MC this year, and his squash soup was **DELICIOUS!!!** We had a great turnout and raised over \$900!

THANK YOU!!



GNA TREASURER'S REPORT

Our 2018 beginning balance was \$6,327.89. As of November 1, 2018, our Association had \$8,432.89 in its coffers. At approximately the same time last year, we had \$5,900. In 2016, we had about \$2,600 in the bank. We can attribute our financial growth to effective fundraisers, more dues paying members, business ads in our newsletter, grants and extra donations from GNA members. *Each one of us working together made this happen! Well done!*

2018 (Jan-Oct) Expenses

Postage, \$137.00
Social Events, \$167.47
Fundraisers, \$1,390 (Quarter Auction Expenses:
 \$1,240 quarters & cash + \$150 for food)
Misc., \$60.51
Total Expenses = \$1,754.98



2018 (Jan-Oct) Income

Membership Dues, \$1,100.00 (does not include those who paid 2018 dues in December)
Fundraisers, \$2,294.58
Omaha Gives, 168.99
Newsletter Ads, \$280.00
Misc., \$16.41
Total Income = \$3,859.98

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your treasurer. I thank you for your confidence in me.
Respectfully, Tom Emmett

Happy ^{NEW} Year 2019

Feliz Año Nuevo

From the Rock Talk editor: Kate Brewer, Gibraltar resident and author, has graciously volunteered to contribute her creative talents to our newsletter! I know you'll enjoy reading her short stories as much as I do! I can't wait for more! — Cory Peters

Rooftops

By Kate Brewer

I've been climbing since I could walk, so I don't know what was so different about this roof. Standard slate. Ten day job. Hail damage. One of those mediocre sort of days too cold for a light jacket but warm enough to make your feet sweat in heavy boots. The trees looking unkempt as they hold onto the last of their withered leaves. These are the sort of details that would normally fade into the background, indistinguishable in a series of monotonous days, but today was the day that I fell and so I noticed the trees as though for the first time.

In the first moment my foot slid freely off the tile and I thought about losing footraces to my brother again and again in the early days, when we used to run through the woods, slipping on loose dirt and pebbles and tearing our jeans and getting a hiding for it from our dad when we got back home. Funny thing is, I didn't enjoy losing to him, my brother, that is, but as I was falling I felt a warm bubble around the thought. Maybe because it was before the meth, before his divorce and the rehab. He's better now. I take comfort in that.

In the second moment I felt weightless with the air on my back and I remembered a thick summer day in August when I was seventeen and was driving my first car - a 1979 Chrysler - and the hot wind whipped through the windows and around my back and under my shirt like a sail, and the girl in the passenger seat laughed. I don't remember her name or her face, but that her laugh was a chirp, like a bird, and it made me feel electric.

In the third moment all I saw was sky, and trees, and the strange, stark way they laced their way along the edge of my vision. It reminded me of the tablecloths my mom would make to sell in the local shops. Her fingers used to bleed and yet she never got a drop on the tablecloths, the doilies, the linens, the scarves. And once again, I felt warm.

Then I hit the ground. And all I could think about was the roof. My tools hadn't followed me down, that was good. I heard shouting, though it sounded far away. It didn't come to me until right at the end - this was your house. The one where I held your hand on the porch after your dad died. The one that you left when you followed your dreams to college on the coast. The one I watched decay, slowly, and then be restored by someone who wasn't you. And yet, still, I felt warm.



Happy Holidays

GNA's Super-Heroes!
THANK YOU to our hard-working newsletter delivery & distribution team:



Chris Gorman and Tom Emmett

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

symmetry
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johannelewis.sfg@gmail.com
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GIBRALTAR NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT



GNA's 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 always have a blast when we get together, so 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 book club



STAY IN THE LOOP!!! BE IN THE KNOW!!

Whether you are a GNA homeowner or renter, paid GNA member or NOT, you should join the neighborhood networking group at www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com. This site is an *excellent* way for residents to post **news**, share **alerts**, ask questions, pose **ideas**, promote **events**, and simply get to know one another. There is NO COST to join the group, and there are no spam or pop-up ads. You just need to live in our neighborhood.

Council Bluffs: The EARLY Years

The history of Council Bluffs glitters with a parade of famous western explorers, fur traders, military figures, engineers and great Indian nations. It was Abraham Lincoln, the great abolitionist, who had the foresight to realize the potential and monumental role that Council Bluffs would play in the development of the transcontinental railroad – when the city became known as the Gateway to the West.

In 1830, the U. S. government purchased all of southwest Iowa from the Indians. Between 1847 and 1856, the remaining tribes were moved to reservation lands. In the mid-1800's, more than 30,000 Mormon refugees flooded Kanessville (Council Bluffs) on their way to the Great Salt Lake Valley, escaping religious persecution. **Kanessville was renamed Council Bluffs in 1853.**

In 1859, Abraham Lincoln visited Council Bluffs where he met Grenville M. Dodge, a Civil War general later dubbed “the greatest railroad builder of all time.” They developed a long-standing friendship, sharing visions of a coast-to-coast railroad. After being elected to the presidency, Lincoln named Council Bluffs as the eastern terminus of the transcontinental railroad.

In those days, several doctors served the community, but there were no hospitals. The first bank was opened. 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 who settled here, usually comprised of new arrivals or pioneers on their way westward.



City Hotel, Council Bluffs, 1860



Main Street Shops in Council Bluffs, 1880s

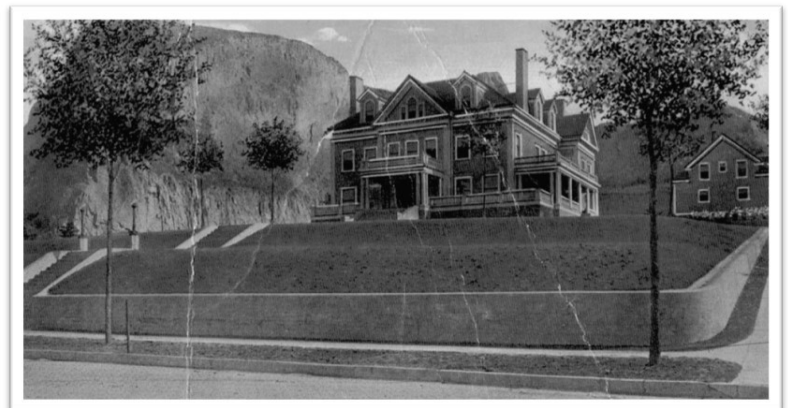


The Grand Livery, Council Bluffs

C.B. Local Business in the late 1800s



3rd Street view from the old High School. Note the Gibraltar Mound to the left of the photo!



Coeurist

*Blessings to one and ALL this
Holiday Season!*



THANK YOU to these folks who have joined the GNA for 2018!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH YOUR ANNUAL DUES!!!

Your ongoing support of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association allows us to undertake betterment projects like our identification banners and repair initiatives, host social gatherings like our Kirn Park picnic, pancake feed, and Brunch & Banter events, sponsor improvement events like cleanup days, and represent our neighborhood at community events such as workshops and having a Gibraltar float in the Celebrate Council Bluffs Parade! ***It would not be possible without YOU!***

Dave & Amy Adams

Joe & Kim Atkinson

Darwin & Christine Baker

Connie Bartel

Bumpy Bennett

Kathy Bennett

Pam Bogardus & Bob Yanders

Joan Borrege

James & Alicia Brady

Kathie Brandt

Paulette Brandt & Dave Eyre

Ben & Kate Brewer

David & Anna Brooks

Nate Brown & Tom Emmett

Buck & Teri Christensen

Dick & Ardeth Christie

Chris Clayton

Harold Compton

Jason & Brook Craig

Kate Cross

Bud & Susie Dew

William & Merna Dobbs

Jared & Kristina Dockendorf

John & Rita Doidge

Dennis Fellhauer & Brian Wedemeier

Chad & Kate Gaul

Teresa Gerjevic

Dave & Patty Gillespie

Steve & Chris Gorman

Bill & Lois Grove

Peggy & Merlin Hale

Rich & Patti Hannan

Gordon Hitchcock

Steve & Cathy Jayjack

Barney & Brenda Johnson

Bob Jordan & Joan Minikus

Eric Julius

Jim Kieffer & Gary Lopez

Steve & Marge Leaders

Johanne Lewis

Roland Lynch

Mary Madison

Anne Massoud & Sara Perkins

Kyle McGinn

Linda Meyer

Clay & Dana Miller

Turner & Abby Morgan

Terry & Nancy Mulvania

Patricia Murphy

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Dan Partridge & Trish Roze

Cory Peters

Pat & Mary Ryan

Jeff & Karen Tucker

Ann Walters & Cathy Hill

Patrice Watson

Carol Wood

*Those listed were known to have paid dues **at the time of publishing**. Any errors are completely unintentional. If you notice an error/omission, please contact GNA Treasurer Tom Emmett!*



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specials every day!**

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www.barleysbar.com

***Looking to host a birthday, retirement
or anniversary party?***

Contact Jill: 402.639.0268 or party@barleysbar.com



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER: tear out and put on your fridge & calendars!

We'll continue to include/update this section in each issue, as dates & events are firmed up!

January Meeting!

When: Thursday, **JANUARY 17th**

Time: 6:00 — 7:30 pm

Where: **Home of David & Anna Brooks
304 Willow Ave.**

We'll discuss neighborhood goals & plans for the new year, and we'd like to recruit some "block captains" to improve communication and participation. Bring your ideas for betterment projects, issues/problems you've seen in the neighborhood, etc. Let's put together our plan for 2019! We hope to see you there!

MORE 2019 dates/events coming soon, as the calendar gets finalized!

REMINDER!

**Association Dues are collected
in January!**

You don't HAVE to be a paid member to attend events and be involved! But, if you do join the association, you'll have voting rights, receive preferred positioning for special projects, and get that warm fuzzy feeling when you know your membership dues are helping make our neighborhood a better place! Thank you!

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**





Visit Gibraltar online: www.GibraltarNA.org
Like us on Facebook at "Gibraltar Neighborhood Association"

Newsletter
copies are
furnished
courtesy of:



thank you!

GNA Contacts:

Turner Morgan, President
712-310-3102

Steve Gorman, Vice President
712-310-9431

Tom Emmett, Treasurer
402-346-6734

David Brooks, Secretary
217-778-8923

Kyle McGinn, At Large
402-669-5953

Alicia Brady, At Large
402-516-5601

Cory Peters, Newsletter Editor
402-681-8344

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 open to folks within the GNA boundaries!! LIKE us on Facebook (search for "Gibraltar Neighborhood Association"). AND — Register TODAY on GNA's "Nextdoor" social networking website: www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com.

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

Please tell us what's important to you in connecting with your neighbors:

- Quarterly social events Fundraisers Business meetings
- Other _____

Please tell us what issues are important to you:

- Getting to know my neighbors Preserving our brick streets
- Better lighting in our Neighborhood More social events
- Other _____