



# ROCK-TALK

the newsletter of  
The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

APRIL 2014 || Volume 6, Issue 2

## GNA GENERAL MEETING: MAY 10

The May meeting of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association will be held on **Saturday, May 10 at 10:30 am** at Dixie Quicks, 157 W Broadway, in the back room.

See the president's letter on page 3 for more details.

*Please* make it a point to come to the bi-monthly meetings.

We need your input, suggestions, experience *and help* in making our neighborhood a clean, safe, wonderful place to live!



*We hope to see you there!*

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Kyle Muschall, Steve Gorman, Bob Rosser, Liz Matis



Peggy Wenstrand, Jim Kieffer, Gary Lopez



Bud Dew, Paulette Brandt

Sheila Graham, Matt Walsh (mayor)



Bill Grove, Bob Johnson, Lois Grove



Suzanne Winter, Chris Gorman, Brenda Johnson

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Saturday, May 10**  
GNA General Meeting  
Dixie Quicks  
10:30 am
- **Saturday, May 17**  
Celebrate CB parade  
10:30 am
- **Saturday, May 17**  
Dodge House plant sale  
1-4 pm

A wonderful meeting and social time at the home of Jim Kieffer and Gary Lopez on March 30!  
See the minutes on page 5.

**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.

# FOOD . . .

Q: Which food was referred to as  
"Cincinnati olive" and Chicago?"

Cherries Truffles Pork Pizza

Answer on page 6

# FUN . . .

## AND FAMILY !!!



Bob and Ellen Rosser just moved into their new "old" home at 903 S 3rd Street the weekend before Thanksgiving in 2013. They moved from Omaha where they had lived in and remodeled another old Victorian home since 2007. Prior to that, they had lived in Lincoln, NE since 1996 where they raised their 3 children.

Bob works remotely as Director of Postal Affairs for a Direct Marketing Services company headquartered in Minnesota. Ellen is pursuing a Masters degree and also works part time as a nurse for the Veterans Administration Hospital in Omaha. They share their home with their 2 dogs, Bruno and Moose. Both are Golden-doodles who love the bigger yard they get to play in and the squirrels they get to chase.


Bob and Ellen were working with an architect and contractor on plans and estimates for a garage and addition onto the Omaha home when they were out for a drive and saw the For Sale sign at 903 S 3rd. They saw that much of the mechanical and cosmetic remodeling and restoration had already been done and done with great care. The home just needed some TLC. We loved the unique home, its double lot, tall ceilings, woodwork, stained glass, the 2-1/2 car garage, and the 3rd floor suite/family room. The location was great in a historic neighborhood centered around the Dodge house with the same commute (time-wise) to the Omaha airport. We knew if we bought the home we could just live there comfortably avoid the hassles of construction especially with Ellen having another 1-1/2 years of school to finish.

Bob says they became Husker fans living in Lincoln and look forward to also becoming Hawkeye and Cyclone fans now that they have become lowans, as well!!!

**WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO THE ROSSER FAMILY!!!**

## WE NEED YOU!

TO HELP REPRESENT THE GNA IN THE UPCOMING PARADE



**The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association will be participating in the Celebrate CB 2014 PARADE!**

We hope you will help us represent our awesome neighborhood and promote city-wide unity when we enter our float in the parade on **Saturday, May 17 at 10:30 a.m.**


**What we need:**

- Volunteers to help with float ideas and float construction (do you have a flat bed?)
- AND/OR Volunteers to walk in the parade (including kids!)

We will be printing super-cool T-Shirts for participants to wear during the parade (participants are required to be "in uniform"), so we need your commitment NOW so we can order your correct size(s)!!

**AFTER the parade** participants will gather for burgers, brats and beverages on the patio at Bob & Ellen Rosser's house.

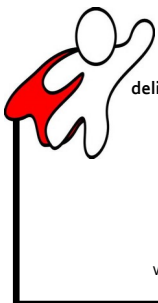
**PLEASE get involved and LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!** Call Cory Peters/402-681-8344 or Bob Rosser/712-256-5708 to get involved.



## WHAT MAKES A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD?

1. The neighborhood is fitted to its natural setting and the surrounding environs
2. Walking or bicycling within the neighborhood serves multiple purposes (enjoying the scenery, access to transit, parks, public spaces, shopping, schools, etc.).
3. The neighborhood fosters social interaction and promotes human contact and has a sense of community and neighborliness.
4. The neighborhood promotes security from crime and is perceived as safe. The streets are safe for children and other users.
5. There is consistency of scale between buildings (i.e., are buildings proportional to one another).

- <https://www.planning.org/greatplaces/neighborhoods/characteristics.htm>



**THANK YOU** to our  
GNA newsletter  
delivery & distribution team:

Harold Compton,  
Matt Rennie,  
Chris Gorman  
and Steve Gorman.

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

## NEIGHBORHOOD ID

Permanent historic signage has been designed and we will be writing a grant to help fund some of the expense. To see what the signs look like, drive by Kent & Mary Madison's home in the 200 block of 5th Avenue.

We also now have Gibraltar Neighborhood Association garden flags. They are FREE with your paid association membership. We also have decorative flag holders for sale for only \$5.



# PRESIDENT PETERS



Greetings fellow GNA residents!

As I write this letter, it's hard to believe that Spring is (supposedly) just around the corner! We keep getting a taste of the warmer weather to come, only to have the days following blow windy and cold! But I am starting to see some hints of green in my lawn, and spring flowers are poking their heads through the crusty soil. It hopefully won't be much longer before we feel the sun's warmth on a more consistent basis!

For those unable to attend the March meeting, you missed a great time! Jim and Gary's house looked lovely, and our meeting was well attended. We even had a few special guests join us: Mayor Matt Walsh, Councilman Nate Watson, and Kyle Muschall, President of Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association, were able to socialize with our members and enjoy some tasty food and drinks. Check out the GNA website's photo pages to see some pictures from the meeting! (website: [www.gibraltarna.org](http://www.gibraltarna.org))

I sure hope you'll join us at the MAY GNA meeting on Saturday, May 10th. Come join us at DIXIE QUICKS, 157 W. Broadway, at 10:30 am. We'll be gathering in the back room. After the meeting, we hope folks will stay on and order a bite of breakfast or lunch and socialize for while! If you've never been to Dixie Quicks, they have DELICIOUS food, a fun, funky atmosphere, and they are handicap accessible (with plenty of off-street parking on the west side of the building). AFTER the meeting, we hope folks will gather to work on the FLOAT that we'll be entering in the parade on the 17th - - so set aside a few hours of the early afternoon and lend a hand, won't you?

"A FLOAT," you say?? Why yes...

Coming right around the corner are the Celebrate Council Bluffs festivities, and WE NEED YOUR HELP!! Details are being finalized, but plans are under way for the GNA to have a FLOAT in the PARADE the morning of May 17!! We've already registered as parade participants, and are putting together ideas on how to build a big replica of the Gibraltar "mound." Do you have papier mâché construction skills? Or perhaps you have skills building framework for chicken wire? Or maybe you have thoughts on how to put this "beast" together? If the answer is YES, we NEED YOU!! We are also planning to print T-Shirts for participants (we'll need your size, so get your order in pronto!). Wouldn't your kids have fun being in a parade and representing our neighborhood? Won't YOU consider pitching in and helping celebrate neighborhood pride and community involvement? Contact me or any of our board members for more information and to lend a hand! (phone numbers listed on the last page of the newsletter)

Also with Spring just around the corner, it's time to think about the Dodge House General's Ladies Heirloom Plant Sale!! Held the same day as the parade - Saturday, May 17 - it's from 1 to 4 pm on the grand front porch of the Historic General Dodge House. It's a great opportunity to pick up some heirloom tomatoes, peppers and more while supporting a great cause. AND, as in years past, the GNA will be hosting our own table, selling perennial plants harvested from our own gardens, with proceeds going to help the Dodge House!! Be sure to drop by!

Let's make 2014 a year where you make the acquaintance of at least two new people in your neighborhood! Your meeting attendance is the first and easiest way to make this happen! And, as a reminder, you do not have to be a paid member to attend meetings - ALL GNA residents are welcome!

Let's make it a great year!

Sincerely,

Cory Peters, GNA President



## FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

**By: Jeff Ketcham, GNA Vice President, AKA: Katie's Dad**

It's official, Spring is here, and not a moment too soon. After our bitterly long and cold winter, it is definitely time to get outside with our four-legged friends. I know that my girl Katie is certainly feeling a bit of cabin fever, and we're both anxious to get out into the neighborhood. I know my wife and I can both thank having our big puppy for getting us out into the neighborhood and now is a major part of our identity in the GNA. We've gotten to know so many others in the neighborhood through our pets,

our fuzzy family members are an instant ice breaker walking through the neighborhood. We've gotten to know Jet, Biscuit, Kirby, Toby, and many others. We everyone to come out and say hi, with or without your pets, and let's get know each other and our four-legged friends. We here at Rock-Talk want to use this space to highlight our pet family members. So if you've got a furry one in your house that you'd like to highlight, feel free to contact us, reach out via email, or come find me or Sheila at one of our meetings.

*(Above) Katie says, "It's finally SPRING!!!"*

# BACK IN TIME!

*This was the first Historical Article I wrote for Rock Talk. And now 3 years later it is still relevant to the history of our neighborhood. At that time we began a journey that we are still taking together as a neighborhood. For those of you that did not see it before I am repeating it again so you will know what a "special neighborhood" you moved into. This begins to tell the story of how we "came to be!" And those that came before us. The Indians, the Fur Traders, the Steam Boats that ran the river along with the Fur Traders. The erection of the "Block House". Now let's go back in time...again!* ~Liz Matis

This edition will begin our journey into the past of our area. We will begin by going back to the early 1700s of Council Bluffs, when the Fur Traders were plying the Missouri River waters and establishing hinterland trading posts well north of St. Louis. So let's begin the journey together!

Steamboats brought the American Military to the Council Bluffs area in 1839, where they erected a fort, or "Block House," as part of the Indian removal effort (this site is marked on Pierce St. today). It was meant to protect the Pottawatomie Indians who occupied the region from the 1830s to 1846, when the Federal government moved them to Kansas.

During the 1840s, the Mormons established a settlement along what is now East Broadway, and established a business area at Broadway and First. The settlement was called Kanessville, and it profited by outfitting miners heading for the California Gold Rush. By 1853, most of the Mormons had departed for Utah and the local post office's name was officially changed to Council Bluffs. That year was also important when the town was incorporated and designated Pottawattamie County, and the Federal government opened an office to sell land. One of the first residents was suffragette Amelia Bloomer, who arrived in 1856 with her lawyer husband, Dexter. The Bloomers moved into a wood frame house (nonexistent now) on 4th Street, just outside the Willow/Bluff/3rd St. residential district, where she lived until she died in the 1890s.

Throughout the 1860s, before the railroad, Council Bluffs served mainly as an outfitting stop for settlers moving west. By 1869, new businesses boomed and trains arrived in the city from the East. The Missouri River was the only barrier along the entire route of the Transcontinental Railroad. The water was bridged in 1872, with the construction of the Union Pacific's first bridge at Council Bluffs.

By the 1880s, local businesses included three stockyards, three packing plants, three flour mills, three music halls, one opera house, 26 physicians, 28 law firms, a cigar factory, a greenhouse and 30 saloons. The south of downtown became known as the Implement District due to the number of manufacturing companies producing the equipment.

During the early 20th century, to the north of downtown at 211 West Broadway, the Woodward Fine Candy factory grew into the largest candy company west of the Mississippi River, employing almost 700 people, with goods distributed in 36 states. Aggressive growth in the business district continued up to the Great Depression of the 1930s. (Note: much of the history of our area was presented in the application for our designation as a Historic District.)

See you all next time to continue our journey!



(L): Woodward Candy Factory employees on the loading dock, early 20th century.  
(Above): Woodward Candy delivery wagon in 1910.

# DOWNTOWN NEWS



## Dodge House

On the evening of April 26, the Historic General Dodge House will offer an unforgettable, exquisite dining experience in the Ballroom featuring "A Night to Remember" on board the RMS Titanic.

Guests will enjoy a multi-course dinner, costumed characters, tours of the Dodge House and special handouts regarding other passengers and ship features.

Doors open at 5:30 pm.

Dinner will commence at 6:00 pm.

Call the Dodge House to make your reservation!

\$100 for members; \$125 for non-members.

712-322-2406

[www.dodgehouse.org](http://www.dodgehouse.org)



## Mayor's Neighborhood Cabinet

Council Bluffs is continuing to work on city street projects as weather permits. We are also continuing to work on cold patching the potholes. If you have concerns please email his office at [mwalsh@councilbluffs-ia.gov](mailto:mwalsh@councilbluffs-ia.gov).



## Farmers Market starts May 1!!!

Downtown 100 Block of Broadway  
Thursdays until fall

### June 7

Bald and the Brave

### June 12

Iowa Route 6 Motorcycle Ride

### June 21

Summer Solstice Bike Ride

*Find out more on Facebook!*

## Earth Day

### Shoe Recycling Drive

April 22 – May 13, 2014

Live Well Council Bluffs will be holding a Shoe Recycling Drive to commemorate Earth Day 2014. Did you know that each year more than 600 million pairs of shoes are thrown away and that it takes about 1,000 years for them to decompose?



Our goal is to divert 15,000 or more pairs of shoes from our local landfill, reuse them by sending them to developing countries and raise funds to support Live Well Council Bluffs' programs and projects.

**On Saturday, April 26 there will be two collections of shoes at both Hy-Vee stores in the parking lot from 10 am to 2 pm.**

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## Gibraltar Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2014

Meeting was held in the beautiful home of Jim Kieffer and Gary Lopez. There were some special guests attending the meeting.

Mayor Matt Walsh, Nate Watson with the Neighborhood Center, and Kyle Muschall, President of Fairmount Park Neighborhood Assoc. There was a great showing of GNA members.

April 19th at 9 am there will be a cleanup at Fairmount Park Lookout Point. Would like to see a good turnout from both Neighborhood Associations.

The topic of Sewer Line Insurance came up. More information will be needed regarding the cost.

Meeting dates for the GNA Meetings alternate monthly.

The website for the GNA is [GibraltarNA.org](http://GibraltarNA.org). Members were asked to consider input for our Rock Talk.

Curb Grants were discussed at the Board Meeting. Can be up to \$15,000.00 for Beautification.

The GNA will again participate in the Pride Week clean-up. Dumpster placement will provide access for everyone in the GNA. Pride Week is in May.

There was good news that the Neighborhood Center will stay open. They have a 501-C3.

The meeting was adjourned. The Board met for a short meeting with Kyle to discuss the Pole Project for the GNA.

Respectfully submitted: Liz Matis, Secretary



**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

**Visit us online:**  
[www.GibraltarNA.org](http://www.GibraltarNA.org)

**Your 2014 Newsletter Staff:**

**Sheila Graham**  
402-213-3314

**Paulette Brandt**  
712-328-7399

**Liz Matis**  
712-323-6400

We welcome your input!  
Please contact us with  
suggestions on content  
you want to see covered.



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The  
Neighborhood  
Center.

# FOOD BY THE FAMILY-FUL

*Beyond merely nourishing the body, what we eat and with whom we eat can inspire and strengthen the bonds between individuals, communities, and even countries.*

- Pie in the Sky Productions

## CHEESY POTATOES (Bud and Susie Dew)

- 2 lb. frozen hash browns (Southern Style diced )
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1/4 tsp. butter
- 1 cup sour cream



Combine butter, cream, soup and milk. Mix cheese and thawed hash browns, salt, pepper and onion. Mix all together and pour into buttered 9 x 12 inch pan. Top with crushed potato chips. Cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees for 45-60 minutes.

# FOOD QUIZ

Q: Which food was referred to as "Cincinnati olive" and "Chicago?"  
Cherries    Truffles    Pork    Pizza

A: Pork, the most widely eaten meat in the world. Domesticated since the Stone Age, wild pigs have been found throughout the world. All North American domesticated pigs are descended from a herd brought to the New World by Hernando Cortez in 1539. In the 1800's, Cincinnati, Ohio (nicknamed "Porkopolis") and Chicago, Illinois became huge pork processing centers. As beef became more readily available in the late nineteenth century, the popularity of pork ebbed in as it was tied to "a coarse and boring diet of the poor."



## 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**