



# ROCK•TALK

*the newsletter of*

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

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

AUGUST 2014 || Volume 6, Issue 4

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Celebrating the grand re-opening of our park!



### SAVE THE DATE for our September meeting – FALL POTLUCK!

We're gathering at the shelter area at Kirn Park **Saturday, September 20** at 1:00 pm for a picnic lunch! The GNA will provide fried chicken and plates/utensils.

Please bring:

- a dish to share
- beverage
- lawn chairs.

Please RSVP to Cory Peters no later than September 17!!

### Gibraltar Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes July 5, 2014

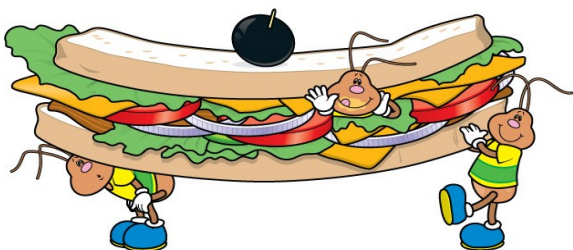
The July 5th meeting was held at the Beresheim House (just south of the Dodge House).

Items discussed were the Railroad Days, Trolley Tours will take place every Thursday. Kirn Park will have a celebration since the track has been completed.

Barbara Johnson from the Lincoln Avenue Neighborhood Association spoke to the group regarding what she does at NeighborWorks, Home Solutions. She is Director of Community Building & Organizing. She shared that every neighborhood has the same concerns. Barking dogs, lawns needing mowing, etc. and there could be support for funding for projects the neighborhoods would want for improvements. She is talking to as many neighborhoods as she can to have them attend and help with a conference. She will need a head count by September. The conference would start on Friday evening, the General Meeting on Saturday and close Saturday night at the Tom Hannafan Park. Omaha wants to participate with a tour of Council Bluffs.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Liz Matis



# FOOD . . .

Q: Treasured throughout the ages, which plant has no leaves or roots and little nutritional value?

- a. mushrooms b. guava c. celery d. corn

Answer on page 8

# . . . AND FAMILY !!!

Jeff Ketcham shares this great story of our neighborhood:

My new neighbors in 615 Bluff's youngest son dropped this off at my house the other day. I asked his mother if he was really serious about it, and she advised that yes he is and already has his first client. His name is Spencer Ryan. He's 12 years old, his parents are Michelle and Scott Ryan and they moved into the neighborhood July 1st. They want to participate in the GNA but just haven't been able to make a meeting (they'd barely moved in prior to our last one.) So far they've been the best neighbors and I'd like to help this kid out and welcome the family to the neighborhood!!!

# FUN . . .

## Adult Board Game Night

at the Public Library

Join us!

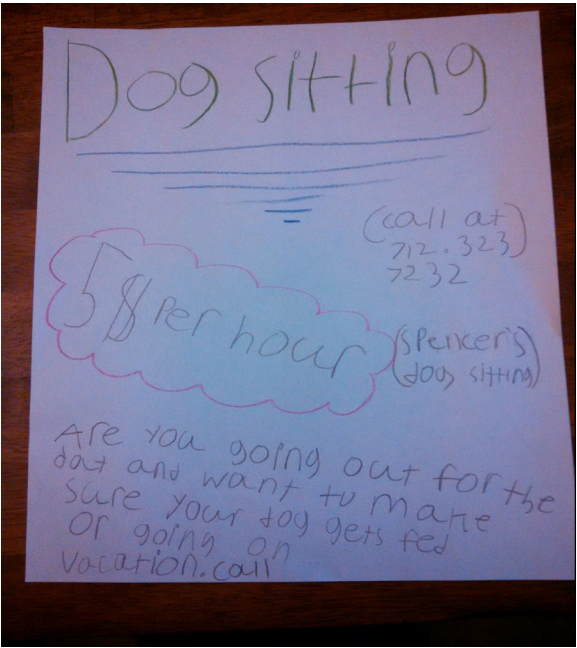
Come play new and classic board and card games.

This group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, and it is free to attend.

You are welcome to bring your favorite games or just stop in to join a game.



If you would like your family featured in this newsletter, please contact us or send a story and picture to Sheila Graham at sheilabarak@hotmail.com.



# WHAT MAKES A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD?

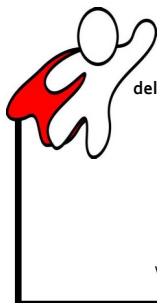
A great neighborhood has its own special character. All neighborhoods are shaped by their physical setting, streets, buildings, open spaces, history, culture and the people who live in them. In great neighborhoods these attributes combine in unique and memorable ways.

Great neighborhoods stand out on their own, yet are connected to the City. They can be a refuge for their residents, but also a part of the city's wider community.

A great neighborhood has places for people to meet, talk and be neighborly. Public gathering places include parks, plazas, sidewalks, and shops.

A great neighborhood has safe and friendly streets. In a great neighborhood people can walk without fear of crime, being threatened by traffic, or being disturbed by excessive noise. People feel like they "belong" on neighborhood streets. Streets are a pleasant part of the neighborhood.

- <http://sf-planning.org/index.aspx?page=1704>



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!

Hard to believe that summer is winding down and school is back in session... where did the summer go? I hope everyone was able to take a long weekend road trip or at least get out and enjoy some of our beautiful area surroundings.

With the bout of rains we had last month, there were several areas on some of the brick streets where sections washed away. While those have been patched with tar, we were told that this was a temporary fix to prevent further damage, with the goal of a "proper repair" when time and budget allowed. Hopefully the City can get to that task yet this year.



The July meeting and Ice Cream Social at the Dodge House was a really fun and well-attended event! I'd like to thank Barb Johnson, Director of Community Building with NeighborWorks, for attending the meeting and telling us about the upcoming "IN the Neighborhood" conference, an event designed to help strengthen neighborhoods and communities. The event is Friday evening, October 10 thru Saturday evening October 11. You can learn more about the great presentations and speakers at [www.intheneighborhood.org](http://www.intheneighborhood.org). I've had several people express a desire to attend; Barb is in the process of obtaining a grant to cover the registration fees, and we have 10 "scholarships" for Gibraltar. So contact me pronto to secure your free spot! (my email: [coryp241@yahoo.com](mailto:coryp241@yahoo.com))

We would also like to have good neighborhood representation at an upcoming meeting organized by Preserve Council Bluffs. On September 17 there will be a meeting to address the city building codes in order to make them more friendly for folks restoring historic residences and buildings in CB. They are hoping to have an expert from the State Historic Preservation Office who will bring examples of what other communities in the U.S. have done in this regard. If possible, please attend, but at the very least, please share personal examples of any challenges you have faced due to city code restrictions! Please contact GNA resident Jim Keiffer at [jkiefferjr@cox.net](mailto:jkiefferjr@cox.net) for the meeting details or to provide examples of building challenges you've faced.

What a gorgeous evening we had for the Kirn Park dedication event on Friday, August 8. Speakers included Mayor Walsh, Larry Foster (Director of the C.B. Parks Dept), Kyle Muschall (President of the Fairmount Park NA), and the artist Sean Ward who designed and built the beautiful tiled signage located at the north and south entrances of the park. I was so pleasantly surprised at the great turnout, and everyone enjoyed chatting and exploring the park. Despite the late start for the movie "Frozen" (there were some technical difficulties!), there are quite a few who stayed to watch. I hope we can do that again sometime!

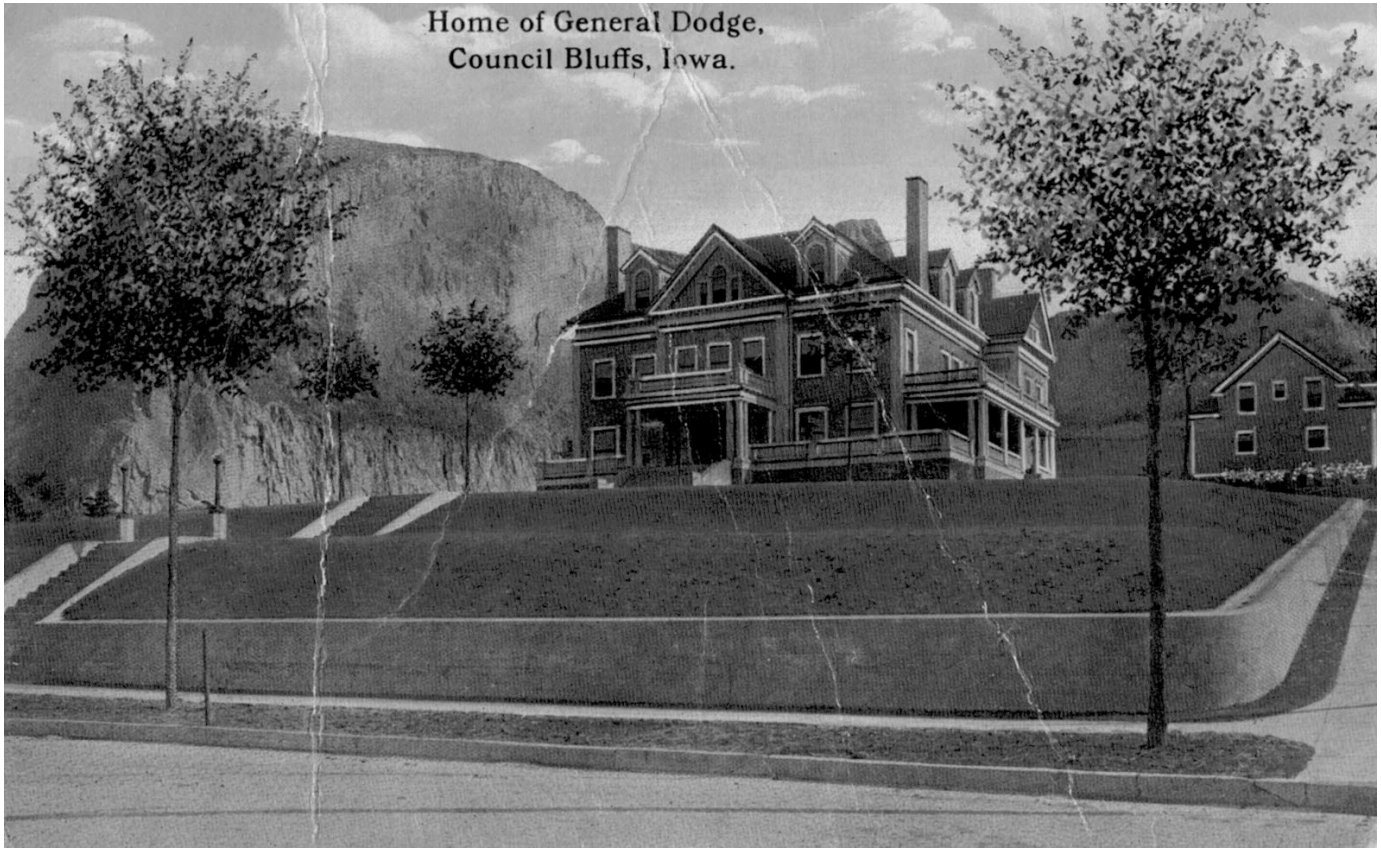
SAVE THE DATE for our September meeting – FALL POTLUCK! We're gathering at the shelter area at Kirn Park on Saturday, September 20 at 1:00 pm for a picnic lunch! The GNA will provide fried chicken and plates/utensils; please bring a dish to share and beverage of your choice. Picnic tables are somewhat limited, so bring a bag chair, just in case. This will definitely be a family-friendly event, so bring the kids and keep your fingers crossed for nice weather! In order to have enough chicken on hand, WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY will be attending. Please RSVP to me no later than September 17 if you plan to attend!!

Lastly, Sheila Graham, current GNA newsletter editor, has put her house on the market, and it looks like she'll be moving outside of the GNA boundaries. It is with sadness that I put out the call to see if ANYONE else would like to pick up reins and wear the mantle of "newsletter editor" when Sheila departs? Contact me to learn more about the position if you are interested.

THANK YOU!  
Cory Peters, GNA President

# BACK IN TIME!

An old postcard of the "Hart House" (referred to by the Hart's as "Hillcrest") which is incorrectly labeled as the Dodge House! This house was previously located directly NORTH of the Dodge House and shows the Gibraltar Mound!



# HOMEOWNERSHIP

Gibraltar Resident Marge Leaders, NP Dodge

## Middle-Class Americans Dodge Homeownership Obstacles (June 2014)

As home prices and interest rates continue to rise, the number of middle-class Americans who can afford a home has fallen in many cities. Recent reports suggest middle-class buyers are being priced out of median priced homes in many cities. Among the most expensive metro areas, according to the National Association of Realtors®, are San Jose, Calif., San Francisco and Honolulu. Other data shows that only one in four homes for sale in New York and Los Angeles, and only one in seven in San Francisco, are within reach of those earning the city's median household income.

NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun pointed out other roadblocks for today's buyers, including difficulty qualifying for a mortgage and coming up with a down payment. Yun says, "Price increases have been a double-edged sword; it's been very good for owners or recent buyers because they're immediately getting equity, but it has not been good news in terms of affordability for potential buyers." Visit with your Realtor about affordability in your neighborhood.

# PEBBLES



*it's the little things that matter!*

9 years ago I had a difficult decision to leave my home in the country. The only other place I wanted to live was here. I asked a friend if there were any houses coming on the market in the Gibraltar neighborhood. My beautiful home on High School Avenue was one I found out about. As soon as I saw it, I fell in love with it and started my life here in this wonderful neighborhood. It has been a fabulous time here meeting all the neighbors and getting involved in the association. With sorrow I have to leave now, but I will always hold this place in my heart. Thank you!

~ Sheila Graham, GNA resident



# FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

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

## Pet Corner interview with Galen Barrett of Council Bluffs Animal Control

Recently, there's been a bit of traffic on our email group regarding pets in the neighborhood. Everything from noise issues to questions of mistreatment. In an effort to equip ourselves with some knowledge on how to address these issues as they arise, we recently reached out to Galen Barrett, the Chief Animal Control Officer for Council Bluffs. We were able to ask him a number of questions.

**GNA:** If a neighbor's pets are causing a noise issue, what is the best approach for addressing the situation?

**Galen Barrett:** There are a couple different ordinances at play when addressing noise. City ordinance 4.50.060 addresses noise disturbances between the hours of 10 pm and 7 am. City ordinance 4.20.140(d), is an animal control ordinance and is not restrained by any time limits. It reads as follows: "No person owning or having an animal under his or her control or within his or her care or custody, shall permit such animal to create a noise disturbance as defined in Chapter 4.50, "Noise Control," or to bark or make any loud or unusual noises during times which such owner knows or should expect that such noise will disturb one or more neighbors, or otherwise disturb the peace. Kennels, veterinary clinics, animal hospitals, and animal shelters located within properly zoned areas shall be eligible for a variance from this requirement pursuant to the provisions of Section 4.50.070."

As far as the best approach for addressing those issues, I really prefer to have the person with the issue speak directly with the person owning the pet. Unfortunately, it seems nowadays, neighbors don't talk to each other. In many cases they don't even know the name of the person that lives next door. I promote open dialogue. While resolution of noise disturbances looks easy on paper, it is one of the most difficult for us to enforce. Most times, the noise disturbance is not witnessed by an Animal Control Officer. We have the complainant complete a "witness statement" which documents dates, times, duration of disturbance, etc. We will contact the pet owner and advise them that a complaint has been filed and give recommendations of how to mitigate the issue. Some complainants will video tape the neighbor's dog barking. That kind of evidence is incredibly helpful.

**GNA:** Are there any tips that pet guardians may not already know to help keep their neighbors and neighborhood peaceful?

**GB:** Here again, I am an advocate of open dialogue. When neighbors talk with each other, there tends to be a generation of mutual respect. If everyone walked their dogs on a leash, picked up after their pets, minimize their dog's barking, don't allow cats to roam the neighborhood, and spayed/neutered their pets, 95% of the complaints generated from pet ownership would be resolved.





Continued from p. 5

**GNA:** What (if any) laws or statutes are there regarding the tethering or keeping pets outside unattended?

**GB:** Dogs are allowed to be untethered and unattended in a yard so long as the yard is fenced in a manner which does not allow the dog to leave its property. Dogs kept in this manner have to have access to shelter, food and water. A dog that is tethered must also have direct access to shelter, food and water. A dog's tether has to be at least 10 feet in length and be attached to the dog via a properly fitted collar or harness. Cats are a different story. So long as the cat is wearing a current rabies tag and city license tag on its collar; it is allowed to be at large. If the cat is found to be causing damage to property other than that of its owner, it is not allowed to be at large.

**GNA:** Finally, could you please shed some light on what your office considers actionable offenses and what is best handled between neighbors.

**GB:** Any violation of City ordinances in Chapter 4.20 is an actionable offense that can be addressed by an Animal Control Officer. If an issue can be resolved amongst neighbors, that is fine. When neighbors don't want to be "neighborly", give us a call. With that being said, if the issue is a case of animal cruelty, we should always be contacted. This is for the benefit of the pet.

*From the very beginning of the GNA, one of our key objectives has been to increase the overall communication within the neighborhood. Judging by these responses, it looks like open dialogue and neighborly communication can be for the benefit of our pets as well as ourselves. We thank Mr. Barrett for taking the time to share this information with us!*

## Council Bluffs Animal Control Division

The Animal Control Division manages areas dealing with domesticated animals within the City limits of Council Bluffs. These topics include the following.

- Council Bluffs Animal Shelter
- Farm Animal Permit Inspections
- Investigations of Animal Bites and Injuries
- Investigations of Animal Cruelty and Welfare
- Pet Licenses
- Cattery and Kennel Licenses
- Trapping and Hunting

### Contact

Galen Barrett  
Chief Animal Control Officer  
gbarrett@councilbluffs-ia.gov

2821 South 15th Street  
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

Ph: (712) 328-4656  
Fx: (712) 388-0293



## Council Bluffs Animal Shelter

The Animal Shelter offers a temporary home for cats and dogs who are lost, stray or unwanted. These pets can be adopted by the public for a small fee. Ads run in the local media to display the cats and dogs available for adoption.

Staff at the Council Bluffs Animal Shelter can direct you to the appropriate kennel, answer your questions, license your dog or cat, and fill out lost/found reports. The shelter also offers pet cremations and micro-chipping services. Micro-chipping provides an undisputable means of identifying your pet.

Animal Control Officers are also on duty to enforce animal control laws and rules and regulations, pick up strays and unlicensed animals, investigate nuisance, animal cruelty and complaint calls, locate and quarantine animals that have bitten a human or other animal, issue verbal or written warnings and citations, set cage traps for animals, vaccinate animals, offer euthanasia services, provide public education programs and inspect catteries and kennels.

Donations are always accepted at the Animal Shelter. Another method of providing additional support to the animals is by purchasing an item from our "wish list".



#### Mission Statement

To promote and preserve the heritage of Council Bluffs through its architecture, sites and people.



#### Council Bluffs Bregant House listed on National Register of Historic Places

By Tim Rohwer, Nonpareil staff writer

A little house just got a big honor. The Bregant House, the home of a famous little couple who met while performing on the same vaudeville program at Coney Island, N.Y. and then lived in Council Bluffs for years, has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Recognition ceremonies were held at the house at 517 Fourth St.

"It's a big deal," said Mary Lou McGinn, a member of the Preserve Council Bluffs organization. "It shows that this is a significant piece of property that deserves to be preserved, both the property and the history of its occupants."

The house was the home of Jean and Inez (Lewis) Bregant, a diminutive couple who met during the days of Vaudeville. Jean grew to 45 inches tall and Inez grew to 41.5 inches tall. "They were not midgets or dwarfs, just little people," said John Edwards, another member of the preservation group.

The home, built in 1912, is described as a simple Craftsman Bungalow, popular in the early part of the 20th Century. Ceilings and doorways were built to normal height for when normal sized friends came to visit the Bregants, but the fireplace, bathroom fixtures and kitchen appliances were scaled to fit the small couple. The Bregants lived in the house until their deaths – Jean in 1944 and Inez in 1969.

A \$1,500 grant from the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation provided the funding to seek admittance onto the history register. "It's a long process," McGinn said. "It takes about a year."

# CB PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



Did you know that August is National Picnic Month? Every Wednesday (weather permitting) the Hot Dog stand is on the corner of Pearl & Willow from 11 am to 1 pm. A chili dog is my lunch every Wednesday. Try it sometime!

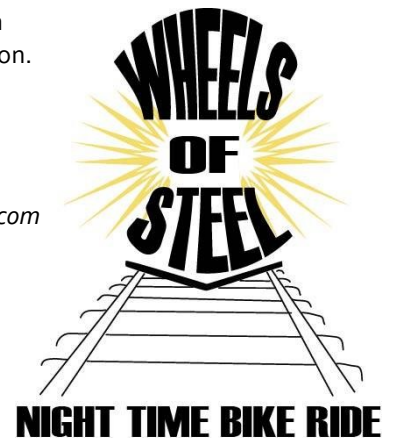
Did you know that August is Family Fun Month? Get a head start on celebrating by coming down to the Farmer's Market tonight at the 100 Block between 5 and 8pm! We have something for the whole family to enjoy!

Here's a little sneak peek of our logo for our next night time bike ride:

**WHEELS OF STEEL!**

More information will be coming soon.

Find out more at [BluffsDowntown.com](http://BluffsDowntown.com) or on Facebook!



The draft of the *Bluffs Tomorrow: 2030 Plan* document has been posted for public review and comment.

The draft plan can be downloaded from [www.bluffstomorrow2030.com](http://www.bluffstomorrow2030.com) by selecting the 'document' tab.

In addition, print copies are available for review at the Council Bluffs Public Library reference desk, City Clerk's office and the Community Development Department office.



**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

**Liz Matis**  
712-323-6400

**Marge Leaders**  
712-322-3366

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

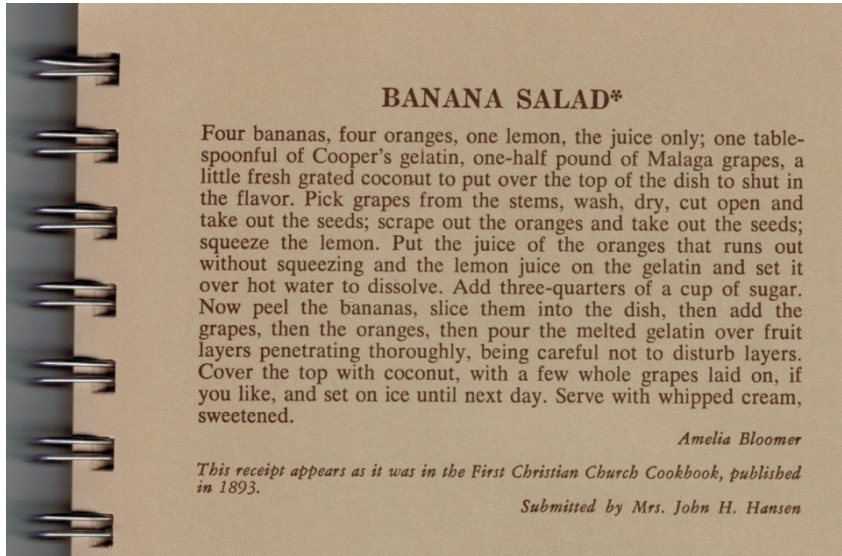
Newsletter copies furnished courtesy of



# 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.*

A special treat from the Dodge House cookbook



## FOOD QUIZ

Q: Treasured throughout the ages, which plant has no leaves or roots and little nutritional value?  
a. mushrooms    b. guava    c. celery    d. corn



A: Mushrooms. An edible fungi, these are found in many shapes, colors and sizes. The white, umbrella shaped champignon de Paris was developed in France by King Louis XIV and is the variety that is most commonly found in supermarkets. While there are thousands of edible varieties, the more common are the Shitake, Crimini (or Portabella), Oyster, Enoki, Morel and Chanterelle.

**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.



### 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**