

ROCK-TALK

The Gibraltar Neighborhood
Association, Inc. Newsletter



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Mark Your Calendar!

As a reminder: in order to provide some consistency and help people plan their calendars in advance, our member meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every ODD-numbered month. Also, in order to provide a more friendly, interactive atmosphere, the meeting location has been moved to member's homes.

The next member meeting is May 10th at the home of Paulette Brandt and Dave Eyre, 130 5th Avenue, at 7:00 p.m. We hope you can join us to discuss important issues that are impacting our neighborhood, and plans for the future.

Be sure to read the next newsletter (June) for details on the July 12th meeting. ■

Join Your Neighbors for Outdoor Fun!

Garden Club

It's that time of year to be thinking about planting, pruning, planning and the next phase of your garden project. We will be talking about the WHERE, WHEN, AND WHAT of the garden club at our next meeting on May 10th. Initial ideas have included taking trips to visit garden centers or displays, and exchanging/trading plants among members. Mary Madison has agreed to head the project, and would welcome all ideas.



Walking Club

Now that the weather is getting nicer, it's time to get outside for some exercise! If you are interested in joining other GNA members for a walk and some fellowship, contact Paulette Brandt at 328-7399 for information on gathering dates and times. Everyone is welcome.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

- May 10, 7:00 p.m.
GNA general meeting
Dave & Paulette's house
130 5th Ave.
- May 17
CB Clean Sweep
- Bayliss Park Music Events
start in May, and Movie
Nights start in June. Check
the C.B. Parks and Rec
website for a complete
schedule at
www.cbparksandrec.org
- July 12, 7:00 p.m.
GNA general meeting
(watch next newsletter for
location information)

April GNA Board Meeting Highlights

The GNA Board met at Paulette Brandt's home on April 18th for the regular monthly meeting. Items discussed were:

Possibility of a calling tree, with block captains, to forward information concerning issues involving the neighborhood or city.

Clean Sweep: the city has a "Clean sweep" project each year in conjunction with Celebrate CB. We agreed we will participate and clean the trash from the curbs, etc. in our neighborhood. Meeting site to be announced at the next general meeting on May 10th.

Pat Murphy, from Preserve Council Bluffs, attended and spoke about the LONDON HOUSE project. The historic house is located at the corner of North First and Kansville. They are proposing it become a museum for Council Bluffs if they can get the funding to renovate and secure parking space. They are asking if maybe the neighborhoods would volunteer to renovate (paint, etc.) one room in the house when the project gets underway.

The board also discussed the Historic Core Initiative. A plan to present a restoration project of our

whole historic area, the 100 block, GNA, FNA, OFNA, and Haymarket, to make it more tourist friendly and attractive. This area has significant historic content, such as Generals' row, the only brick streets left, oldest house in Council Bluffs, Kirn field, the location of the first high school in Council Bluffs, many homes on the Historic Registry, as well as St. Peter's Church, which is also a historic landmark.

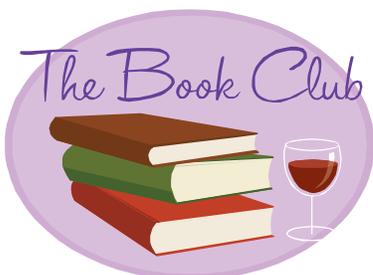
More information forthcoming as this initiative evolves. ■

Kirn Park Rejuvenation Project

As you hopefully remember, last Fall the GNA partnered with the Fairmount neighborhood association to take advantage of the Mutual of Omaha grant to restore Kirn Park. The result of that beautification project was spruced-up grounds, painted grandstands, and overall cleanup, but this was just the first stage in a much larger master plan.

Ideas have been proposed to install additional lighting, security cameras, additional barricades to help protect the track from motorized vehicles, and other enhancement ideas.

Larry Foster, head of the Council Bluffs Parks Department, is coming to our next meeting on May 10th, to talk about the next phase in the Kirn Park rejuvenation project. He has all the updates and will answer questions concerning the project. Be sure to attend the meeting so you can learn more about this exciting initiative and voice any questions/concerns. ■



The GNA Book Club continues to be a fun, social gathering where we get together and share a bit of news, a glass of wine and discuss our latest book. We just finished reading "Water for Elephants" and it was wonderful! We're considering going to the newly-released movie (based on the book) as a group as well! If you enjoy reading, contact Patti Hannan for more information at 323-8600. We'd love to see you at our next meeting! ■

Time for a Clean Sweep in Gibraltar Neighborhood

Now that the snow is gone, it is time for some spring cleaning! Want to be a part of both a neighborhood and city-wide effort to spring clean? Let's beautify our neighborhood! Get a group together or come by yourself. **Council Bluffs Clean Sweep** will be going on all over town on **Tuesday, May 17th, 2011** from 5:00-7:00p.m.

Afterwards, starting at 7:00p.m., the Mayor and City Council members will serve hotdogs and dessert to all who volunteer.

The GNA contact person is Sheila Graham (sheilabarak@hotmail.com). Sheila, along with GNA board member Bud Dew, will provide you (or you and your group) with bags and gloves. If certain areas of Gibraltar Neighborhood need attention, please let Sheila know. If individuals want to clean in front of his/her own house that is fine too.

May 17th does not work for you? Your GNA contacts will have supplies ready by May 3rd and clean up can actually happen anytime that people want to work prior to the Clean Sweep pick up on May 17th.

Remember, only trash can be picked up, not household junk. Volunteers need to drop their filled bags at the Snow house (Corner of Fourth Street and 5th Ave.) for pick up by Clean Sweep.



More Things a Burglar Won't Tell You

Watch for more tips in future issues. Thanks to Ann Walters for this helpful info!

- 8.** It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door - understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
- 9.** I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
- 10.** Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
- 11.** Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
- 12.** You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
- 13.** A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. You can find one on Amazon.com just by searching for "fake TV."
- 14.** Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook. ■



Get to Know Your Neighbor: Dorothy "Bumpy" Bennett, *by Chris Gorman*

Dorothy Bennett and her late husband, Lyman S. Bennett, moved into their lovely house at 520 Clark Ave in 1976. Prior to that, the home was purchased by Lyman's parents when Lyman was only nine years old, so he grew up as a GNA resident. As a boy, Lyman used to stake his ponies across the street!

Both graduates of Abraham Lincoln High School, Dorothy and Lyman were married in 1947, just after Lyman finished his service in the Navy during WWII. When first married, the couple moved to Iowa City to complete their educations. Throughout Lyman's professional career the couple lived in Lincoln, Denver, Dallas, Atlanta and Council Bluffs.

The couple had four children: Barbara, who lives in Denver, Mark, in Santa Fe, Diane, in Oklahoma and Kathy who continues to live in Council Bluffs. Dorothy has good reason to be proud of them, as well as her six grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. They are all accomplished people, as they follow in her footsteps.

"Bumpy" received an associate degree from Christian College in Columbia, Mo., now called Columbia College, before earning her bachelor's at Iowa City. She

has been involved in numerous community organizations, including Bluffs Arts Council, Council Bluffs Public Library, Historical General Dodge House, Council Bluffs Service League, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church and Bloomer School.

Dorothy is an accomplished community volunteer and philanthropist. She and Lyman were instrumental in providing funding for the clock tower at Iowa Western Community College. She has been recognized with the President's Award from the Bluffs Arts Council and the President's and St. Clair Society Awards, both from Columbia College.

Lyman retired from Frito-Lay in 1976, which is when he and Dorothy bought the house on Clark. As one of the longest residing members of our association, "Bumpy" shared this interesting story of our association's

namesake. In 1955, Lyman's father was approached by the city and asked if he wanted to have "Gibraltar" leveled to his property so he could enjoy a wider view. At that time, the city was leveling the area for building sites. (The homes of Patti and Rich Hannan, Teri and Buck Christiansen and Leti Osier and her daughter Barb are where Gibraltar used to sit.) Mr. Bennett said yes.

Today, from the family room of the Bennett home one can take in an amazing view of the Omaha skyline.

If you can catch Bumpy between one of her many scheduled activities (playing bridge, volunteering, entertaining family and friends), be sure to ask her to recall some of her entertaining tales about our neighborhood! ■



Your Newsletter Staff

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We welcome your input!
Please contact any of us with suggestions on content you want to see covered in future issues, or if you'd like to contribute an article! ■

We're in need of your recipe ideas, news tidbits, information on individual or family accomplishments, deaths, illnesses, etc.!!

Please contact any of your Rock-Talk staff to share your news & info!

RECIPE Corner:

Frozen Mojito Cake-Tails *provided by Cory Peters*

- 2 sticks butter (I use just one, and truly, it is plenty decadent)
- 3 cups salted pretzels, finely crushed
- 1 cup plus 6 tablespoons sugar
- 2 eight-ounce pkgs cream cheese, softened
- Grated peel of 3 limes, plus 1/2 cup lime juice
- 2 tablespoons white rum
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh mint, plus sprigs for garnish
- 2 cups heavy cream

Melt butter over medium-low heat in large skillet. Stir in pretzels and 2 tablespoons sugar. Cook until lightly toasted, about 3 minutes. Spray a 9 x 13 baking pan with non-stick spray; press pretzel mixture into the bottom and freeze 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, beat cream cheese on medium speed with electric mixer until fluffy, 2 to 3 minutes. Mix in the remaining 1 1/4 cups sugar on low speed. Gradually mix in lime peel, lime juice, rum and chopped mint.

In a separate bowl, beat the heavy cream until stiff peaks form. Fold into the cream cheese mixture. Pour the mixture over the pretzel base and smooth the top. Cover the pan with plastic wrap and freeze for at least 8 hours or overnight.

Cut frozen squares with a wet knife and garnish with a mint sprig or strip of lime peel. This is a tasty and REFRESHING summer treat!



Looking for Help with Our GNA Newsletter

We are looking for energetic people to help with the newsletter, both writing articles and/or delivering the issues. It is a fun project, and only takes a couple of hours every other month. Contact Cory Peters if you would like to volunteer your services (329-8526) or come to the next regular meeting and talk to any of the current staff .



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