

ROCK-TALK

The Gibraltar Neighborhood
Association, Inc. Newsletter

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Happy Holidays to Our Residents!



The holiday season is upon us and many Gibraltar Neighborhood Association (GNA) residents have adorned their houses with lights and decorations to display their holiday spirit. Be sure to take an evening walk through your area to enjoy some of the sights!

From your GNA Board and Newsletter staff, we'd like to wish you and yours a Blessed Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Kwanzaa and Happy New Year! ■

TIME TO VOTE for New Board Members!

Your attendance is critical at the January 2011 meeting! There are multiple members of the current GNA board (the President, our DNA representative, and more) whose one-year term is expiring, and we want to fill those vacancies with fresh faces!

Now is the time for your voice to be heard! Do you have ideas for a new direction you'd like to take the neighborhood? Have ideas you'd like to see implemented? Don't sit on the sidelines... we need your participation to move forward!

If you are interested in running for office, please contact Paulette Brandt (pbrandt45@yahoo.com or 328-7399)

by January 10th to submit your name for the ballot. **As a reminder, only PAID GNA MEMBERS** are allowed to vote or run for office, so if you have not yet paid your annual dues, please do so at the time you contact Paulette.

Prior to the January meeting, we'll be sending out a **special flyer to voting-eligible (paid) members** with information about each candidate. The candidates will also be at the January meeting to introduce themselves. **The vote** to fill the board vacancies will be held at the January 25th general meeting, so be sure to attend!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **Tuesday, Jan. 25**
7:00 p.m.
GNA Membership meeting
and ELECTIONS! Held at
the Gorman's house at
203 5th Avenue

Get to Know Your Neighbors: Kent & Mary Madison, by Chris Gorman

Kent and Mary Madison of 228 5th Ave. have been Gibraltar residents since their marriage began, thirty-seven years ago. They both grew up in Council Bluffs and graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1966. They lived on Turley for ten years before moving to their current address in 1984. They have two grown daughters, Anne and Teri. Anne is married to Tom Freeman and resides near Ames, Iowa. The couple have twin boys, Owen and Aiden, who love to frequent Grandma Mary's house in Council Bluffs. Their younger daughter, Teri is married to Buck Christiansen, and they too are GNA members.

Kent is a HyVee employee. He gives healthy cooking classes, hosts wine tasting and beer tasting events, and designs signs for the store. Mary is employed at Physicians Mutual in Omaha. They both enjoy cooking at home and gardening. Mary is the GNA treasurer and an active Book Club member. Both Kent and Mary were instrumental in the founding of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association.

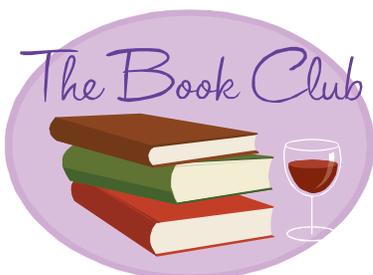
The home of Kent and Mary is a Foursquare Revival House with Classical details and was built around 1910. The first owner was Charles T. Officer, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Pusey) Officer. Charles was a notable businessman. The Madisons shared their home with the public during the Historic Homes for the Holidays Tour

sponsored by Preserve Council Bluffs.

This spring, when you happen to be strolling by 228 5th Ave., you may find Kent and Mary out on the porch. Be sure to stop and say hello and get to know your neighbors. ■



Kent and Mary Madison's House, 228 5th Ave.



The GNA Book Club is so much fun! It's been a pleasure visiting one another's homes and building friendships as we discuss books (but mostly just discuss what each other is up to! Ha!) while enjoying a glass of wine or a soda. The assigned book for our next get together is "To Kill a Mockingbird." Contact Patti Hannon for more information at 323-8600. ■

Holiday Home Tour, by Paulette Brandt

The Historic Homes for the Holidays Tour for 2010, sponsored by Preserve Council Bluffs, took place on Sunday December 5th, from m 2 to 5 pm.

The homes featured this year were: The O.P. Wickham House at 616 South 7th St, built in 1882, now owned by Trent Hemmingsen and Jamie Swanson. It is now a bed and breakfast.

The Charles T. Officer House, owned by Kent and Mary Madison, at 228 5th Ave., built in 1910. They have lived in the home for 27 years.

The Everest House, located at 125 South 3rd Street, built in 1910, now owned by James Kieffer and Gary Lopez. They purchased the home in 2009.

The Cavin House at 150 Park Ave, owned by Marie and David Huggins. They have been there for 17 years, and have completely restored the home to its 1887 glory.

Last on the tour was 149 West Broadway, the Hughes-Irons building, built in 1917, now housing The Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce on the main level, as well as Scooters Coffee and 17 apartments on the upper level. The building was once home to Hughes Chevrolet, which was in business at that site until 1979.

All of the homes were beautifully decorated in a fashion that complemented the age of the home and style of the owners. I would be hard pressed to pick a favorite. ■

Vandalism Notice

As many of you may have read in the Nonpareil a couple of weeks ago, vandals slashed tires on many vehicles on So 1st street and Glen Ave.

But what was not reported was that Clark Ave and 5th Ave were also targeted. Please call and report any such incidents to the Council Bluffs Police Department as soon and the vandalism is discovered. We should all be on the watch for any unusual activity on our streets after dark and call to report it. Even if it is innocent, it may help to prevent further incidents if police are called. ■



Police and Neighborhood Meet & Greet

A Council Bluffs Police and Neighborhood meet and greet event, hosted by the Neighborhood Center (NC) and Downtown Neighborhood Alliance (DNA), was held on Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Council Bluffs Public Library.

The event served as an educational opportunity to learn more about the Community Services Section of the Council Bluffs Police Department, Neighborhood Watch, Police Area Representatives, Project Safe Neighborhood, Neighborhood Associations, and the Neighborhood Center. In addition to these topics, the event highlighted how the Police Department and neighborhoods are collaborating to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Ryan Willer, Outreach Coordinator for the Neighborhood introduced Police Chief Ralph O'Donnell to start the meeting by stating, "We are in the business of building community through neighborhoods. What residents do in their neighborhoods and what the police do in neighborhoods go hand-in-hand in helping to build community. We would like to thank the police department for the active and collaborative role they have taken with us and neighborhoods throughout the City."

Interested residents from different parts of the city attended the event and were able to ask questions of the police chief and Lieutenant Robert Brietzke, Officer Mark Alba and Sergeant Mark Galvan. Several shared their concerns about neighborhood safety as well as their appreciation for the work of the police in Council Bluffs.

Police Chief Ralph O'Donnell stated, "I left with the understanding that this group wants to be involved. I was pleased with the amount of general questions and concerns. I truly believe that this group is active in maintaining their neighborhoods and are willing to assist the police in this matter. I liked the idea of the non-emergency numbers being distributed to this group, and I appreciate the face to face contact with our PAR officers."

Nate Watson, President of the Downtown Neighborhood Alliance, expressed that, "We in the neighborhoods are very fortunate to have such a professional and responsive police department. We look forward to continuing to partner with them as we work together to make our community an even better place to raise our families, know our neighbors, and take part in the many wonderful activities within our city."

This event was intended to be the first of more events bringing the neighborhood residents into contact with the officers who patrol their areas. "It was a good learning experience about communicating with and collaborating with our police department," Watson continued.

"Within the police department's mission statement is a line that fits what we are trying to promote and thank the officers for: "We are committed to creating and maintaining active police/community partnerships and assisting citizens in identifying and solving problems to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods," explains Sheila Graham, Vice-President of the Downtown Neighborhood Alliance. "We want to thank the department for all of their efforts in our neighborhoods and to strengthen the partnership that we are building with them at this time."

Chief O'Donnell was presented with a certificate of appreciation to share with all the officers, which stated it was, "in recognition of valuable contributions to the neighborhoods and citizens of Council Bluffs through your efforts to make and keep our neighborhoods safe—we thank you for your dedication and we support you in your work."



About the NC

The mission of the NC is to build capacity and strengthen neighborhoods throughout Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties. For more information, visit www.unomaha.edu/ncenter or contact the offices in Omaha and Council Bluffs. Council Bluffs Office - 136 South Main St., Council Bluffs, IA 51503 Phone 402-290-0545 E-mail rwiller@unomaha.edu

About the DNA

The DNA is a grassroots confederation of neighborhood associations and business districts in and around downtown Council Bluffs. We believe in working together to effect positive interaction and change, to help make our community an even better place to be. The DNA exists to help the member Neighborhood Associations in their quest to be a safe and welcoming place to live.

Support our Neighborhood Businesses, by Chris Gorman

Bambi's Green Acres — Your Neighborhood Natural Market

Looking for a way to **enhance the quality of your life?** Want more energy? Want to slow the aging process? Want to sleep better? Want more mental alertness? Want to balance out your metabolism for proper weight management? Would you like to live pain free? All these things are possible without even leaving the Gibraltar Neighborhood, thanks to Bambi Wilson's store at 805 So. Main Street. After thirteen years on Broadway, Bambi moved to South Main. She has been open for three years at this location.

Her business is thriving. On a very cold Saturday Morning in December, customers were coming in one right after another, looking for a better quality of life. Bambi says she does this by assisting her clients in maintaining and achieving a life of balanced diet and nutrition that will give them a stronger immune system and more effective life force. "We at Green Acres have several decades of combined experience in the natural foods industry. We are leaders, not only in what we know, but how we support you in achieving your personal goals, whatever they may be. We do this in several ways: education, offering health and alternative healing materials, and supe-

rior nutrition, health and beauty products." Here Samples of items carried in the store include: vitamins, minerals, herbs, natural cosmetics, pure essential oils, and certified organic foods.

Bambi's was voted the best Health Food Store in Council bluffs seven years in a row by the Daily Nonpareil's readers choice. Want to learn more? You can tune in and listen to Green Acres' radio show each Monday at 7:20 on KGFI, 100.7 FM. The Green Acres store hours are Mon-Fri 10:00-6:00 and Saturday 9:00-4:00. ■



Longtime Residents Will Be Sorely Missed

The Gibraltar neighborhood lost two wonderful members in the last few months. Arthur "Buzz" Bartel passed away in September, and Bill Cutler passed away this December.

Buzz Bartel was a fifth-generation Council Bluffs resident. He was a decorated WWII veteran and a very active community volunteer. His wife Connie still resides in the house they shared for many years on 3rd Street.

Bill Cutler was born in the house that he and wife Betty shared on Clark Avenue. He was a WWII veteran, and after the war he eventually assumed ownership of Cutler Funeral Home, which was founded by his grandfather. Bill was an active in his church and a community volunteer.

Both of these fine gentlemen were well respected and well loved. Our condolences to their families. ■

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!

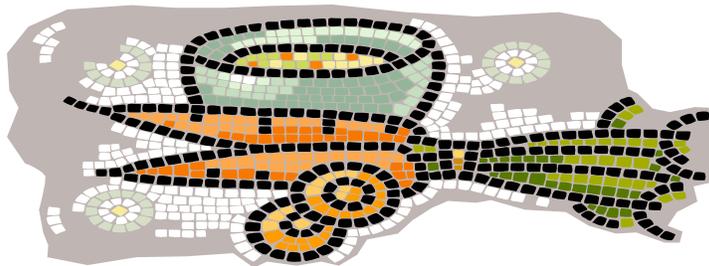
RECIPE Corner:

Healthy Vegetable Chicken Soup *provided by Cory Peters*

- 1 Tb olive oil
- 1/2 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1/2-1-inch chunks (or substitute cooked chicken, if you have it)
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed or minced
- 3/4 cup sliced carrots
- 1 cup cauliflower, in thick slices or chunks
- 2 cups (about 1 14-ounce can) chopped canned tomatoes with juice (seasoned are fine)
- 4 cups non-fat, low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 cup fresh spinach leaves (torn if you want to fuss)
- 5 drops Tabasco sauce (optional)
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

In large saucepan, heat oil.
Sauté chicken until no longer pink.
Add onions, garlic and carrots, stirring occasionally for 5 minutes or so, until onions are softened and starting to become translucent.
Add cauliflower, tomatoes and broth.
Simmer, partially covered, for 20 minutes.
Stir in spinach and seasonings, heat for a bit longer, and serve.

Serves 4 (easily doubled or tripled).
Per serving: 168 calories, 19 g protein, 14 g carb, 4 g fat (0.7 saturated), 3 g fiber, 876 mg sodium.



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