



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

▶ ▶ ▶ DEC 2013/JAN 2014 || Volume 5, Issue 6

In this issue:

GNA January Meeting
and Potluck

Winterfest Activities

GNA Board Openings -
Time for New Blood!

City News and
Miscellaneous

Visit the GNA website:
www.GibraltarNA.org

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **Saturday, Jan. 11**
Guided snowshoe hike at
Hitchcock Nature Center
from 10:00 to Noon
- **Saturday, Jan. 18**
Winterfest Frozen Golf
Outing, Dodge Park
- **Tuesday, Jan. 21**
GNA General Meeting
Amy & Dave Adams
528 Clark Ave.
7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, Jan. 30**
C.B. Historical Society
presents a brown bag
lunch presentation on C.B
in the 1930s—at the Public
Library.

Join us for the January 2014 Meeting!

Come share in the fun while you get to know your neighbors at the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association's January meeting! We'll be meeting at the home of Dave & Amy Adams, 528 Clark Avenue on **Tuesday Evening, January 21st at 7:00 p.m.** We have many new GNA residents — we hope they can attend!!

Please bring a snack to share or your favorite beverage, as we'll enjoy some social time after the meeting! Everyone is certain to be in a festive mood with the holidays fast approaching! Come and learn about all the great stuff happening in our neighborhood. Meetings are always more fun with lots of folks there!

We look forward to seeing you! ■



Winterfest 2014

Winterfest has become an annual tradition in Council Bluffs, with a variety of sports, art and community activities held all around the city.

Join your friends for a fun family event on Saturday, Jan. 11 at the Western Historic Trails Center. The **Winterfest Bike Ride** is a leisurely 6-mile (round trip) ride along the Iowa Riverfront Trail to the Dodge Riverside Golf Course. Ride starts at 11:00 a.m., but come early for free cocoa & museum tours. **Free.**

Try your luck at the **Frozen Golf Outing** on Saturday, Jan. 18 at Dodge Riverside Golf Club. The 9-hole tournament has three age divisions, prices and a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. \$25 entry fee includes door prizes and refreshments.

It's never too cold for softball! Join us for the **Snowball Softball Tournament** on Saturday, Jan. 25. Men's and co-ed divisions, \$100/team.

For more information, visit www.councilbluffs-ia.gov/index.aspx?NID=295 ■

Newsletter copies furnished courtesy of The Neighborhood Center.

Time for New Blood

From Paulette Brandt, GNA President

I think it's time to say farewell. After three years as president of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association I look back on an many amazing experiences and also learning opportunities.

I learned that if a neighborhood works together, things get done. Repair to our brick streets is one great example. The Kirn Park renovation, in cooperation with the Fairmount Park neighborhood association, is another. We've also made safety improvements by banding together for our neighborhood watch program, improved GNA's curb appeal with cleanup projects, and most importantly, become better acquainted with one another in the overall coming together of our neighbors.

I also learned you cannot please everyone, but majority rules. It can be sometimes be very frustrating when it seems that those who complain the most do the least to help make the neighborhood a better place to live. Without volunteers, *nothing* can be accomplished; it's imperative that the GNA not be a group of "armchair quarterbacks" who second guess what decisions are being made, yet **don't** attend meetings or make any effort to volunteer themselves. I have heard comments (usually second-hand) "that it is all about 5th Avenue," but very few have been willing to step up and do the work. The more people who get involved, the more successful we will be, and especially now with openings on the board, it would be wonderful to have some fresh ideas and new energy for projects when they come up.

Along those same lines, I would ask that if you know of a problem or have one of your own, that you share with a board member, and don't be afraid to offer solutions, or be willing to form a committee to work on the issue.

Remember we are not a HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION but a Neighborhood Association — *anyone* living in the neighborhood can belong. We do not have rules about what you can plant in your yard, or what color you paint your house. Our mission statement simply states "we want the neighborhood better to be a better place when we leave than it was when we lived there." We try to look out for our neighbors, report suspicious activity and or persons unknown to us who are lurking in the area. We have forged a positive working relationship with the police department and other city offices, and with other organizations to improve our downtown area, since we are within walking distance of many local businesses.

We DO have openings on the board, and I would love for someone to take the reigns. Speak to any board member about how you help or become a board member. I look forward to seeing more of you at our next meeting!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! ■

***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!!!!*



The GNA Book Club is a fun, social gathering where we get together and share a bit of news, a bit to eat, a glass of wine and discuss our latest book assignment. For January & February we are reading "**The Book Thief**" by **Markus Zusak**. If you enjoy reading, contact Patti Hannan at 712-323-8600 for more info. We'd love to see you at our next meeting! ■

Preservation Loan Program

The Historic Preservation loan program is designed to assist eligible homeowners located in specific target areas in and around the downtown area to make repairs to their property. This program is in conjunction with the Housing Rehab Program. Eligible repairs include exterior improvements (such as gutters, roofing, painting, siding, retaining walls, concrete work and window replacement) and interior improvements (such as electrical, plumbing and mechanical system updates). The architectural integrity of the homes assisted through this program shall be preserved. The program is operated on a first come, first served basis until all funds are expended or committed.

Eligibility is based upon the number of persons in the household and the yearly income of everyone living in the household. Properties which have received funds under the City's rehabilitation or ownership programs are not eligible to receive assistance for 20 years. All properties assisted through the Historic Preservation Loan Program shall remain as single-family, no conversions to multi-family use will be allowed. Rental properties and homes purchased on a land sales contract are not eligible. The CD Forbearance Loan, CD Forgivable Loan and CD Principal Only Loans are all loans available through the current Housing Rehab Program.

For more information contact: The Community Development Department at (712) 328-4629. ■



NEED SNOW REMOVAL HELP?

Are you ready for the snow?? If not, call GNA's hard-working neighborhood teen **Seth Rennie** for a free estimate, budget-happy prices and excellent service! You can reach Seth at **712-325-0018**. ■

We Need YOUR NEWS!

Believe it or not, in 2014 it will be SIX YEARS that we've had the same dedicated volunteers who work diligently to put together the GNA bi-monthly newsletter. I'm putting a call out to all our neighborhood folks, whether you are a paid GNA member or not -- ***please let us know what newsworthy events might be happening in your life!!!*** Did your son or daughter just win an award or accomplish a goal? Did your home improvement project go better than expected because of a great handyman? Do you have some helpful tips for prepping your spring garden? Do you fancy yourself a frustrated author and would just enjoy writing?

One of the best sources of "glue" that helps bind a neighborhood together is the *sharing of information*. If we all live in a vacuum it's so much harder to build the infrastructure that makes a neighborhood a great place to live. ***It's wonderful to learn about each other!!***

If you would like to take over the newsletter editor position, please let me know; I am more than happy to step aside and let someone else steer this vessel! But at the very least, I would REALLY love for there to be more contributions of information/news/stories from our residents! ***Will you help?***

Thank you!
Cory Peters,
Rock Talk Editor



Your Newsletter Staff

Cory Peters

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We welcome your input!

Please contact us with suggestions on content you want to see covered. ■

Visit us online:

www.GibraltarNA.org

Your GNA Board:

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Susie Dew, Vice President

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RECIPE: 5-minute 5-ingredient No Bake Cheesecake

INGREDIENTS:

1 can of sweetened condensed milk

1 8 oz. tub of cool whip

1 8 oz. package of cream cheese

1/3 cup of lemon or lime juice

Prepared graham cracker pie crust (or muffin cups for gluten free)

Very Important: leave the cream cheese out for a couple hours at room temperature so it becomes soft and smooth. Not doing so will create horrible lumps of cream cheese that will ruin the flavor of this pie.

After your cream cheese is softened enough, test to see that it spreads easily with a plastic spatula. In a mixing bowl on the low speed of your hand mixer, combine first three ingredients until well incorporated. Add lemon/lime juice last; mix well and immediately pour mixture into pie crust (or muffin cups). Refrigerate for an hour to and hour and a half and voila!

The Historical Society NEEDS YOU!!

Our GNA is one of the largest historical neighborhoods in the city of Council Bluffs. The **Historical Society of Pottawattamie County** is a group of people with a common goal as stated in their Mission: "to preserve the past for current and future generations." The Historical Society has been instrumental in saving many of the historical sites in our county, and they are looking for new members who also seek to preserve our community's history. They have General Meetings just like the GNA does, and you can choose to attend when you want. They would really like to get members of our GNA involved with their group. Liz Matis was just appointed to their Board, and she sees so many things that we have in common. Contact Liz at 323-6400 or call Ed Richie at the Squirrel Cage Jail at 402-612-8144 for more information. Just tell him you saw this in the GNA Rock Talk and would like more information on becoming a member. He is there Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. They have several membership levels from which to choose. **Won't you please consider joining the Historical Society of Pottawattamie County to help preserve our county's wonderful heritage?**

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