



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

▶ ▶ ▶ JUNE 2013 || Volume 5, Issue 3

In this issue:

The DeVol/Cutler House

Kim Renovation Rally a
"Smashing" Success

Area news and call NYEve
volunteers for fundraiser

Dodge House/GNA plant sale
Results

Visit the GNA website:
www.GibraltarNA.org

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **Thursday, July 4**
Ring the Bells of Freedom
on the Dodge House
Grounds at 2:00 p.m. The
Dodge House is open for
tours from 10:00-5:00.
- **Friday, July 19**
GNA General Meeting
Beresheim House
7:00 p.m.
- **Every Wednesday and
every Friday**
Free concerts and free
movies in Bayliss Park.
Fun for the whole family!

GNA General Meeting July 19th

The July meeting of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Assoc. will be held **Friday, July 19th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Beresheim House**, 621 3rd Street (next door to the Dodge House). Please bring a snack to share, and BYOB as we will stay for some neighborhood snacking and socializing after taking care of Association news and business!

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!** ■

Summer "Stuff"

Ah summer! A time for relaxing on the porch or enjoying the breeze coming through your open window... but what's that? That "dang dog" is barking again. There goes your relaxation. How come the owner doesn't hear it and do something about it?! You don't want to be the grumpy neighbor and call Animal Control, but you just may have to if it doesn't stop.

This scene plays out daily in most neighborhoods. And it is unfortunate that sometimes we must call to have the "noisy mutt" addressed. We should all be mindful of the fact that while we all (ok most of us) love dogs, barking noise can be a problem.

Another kind of problem that comes up in warmer weather is our sidewalks. In winter we know we must shovel. City ordinance dictates that. But in summer we tend to ignore them. Leaves fall, small tree branches, grass clippings, and yes, the occasional doggie doodoo, ends up on the sidewalk. I'm sure most of you are aware that even in summer you are still responsible for the sidewalk in front of your home. Should someone trip or slip on fallen debris, you would be responsible, just like if they slipped on the ice in winter. So lets take a few minutes, get some fresh air and sweep off the "stuff" that can make it look like no one lives in your house. (This is also a good deterrent for crime.)

C.B. Farmer's Market!

The Main Street Farmer's Market is open every Thursday evening through September 26th, 5:00-8:00 PM, on the 100 block of Broadway. Enjoy fresh produce, artists and baked goods in the beautiful historic downtown. The market is an activity of MSCB, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to revitalizing downtown Council Bluffs.



Storm Debris

In the aftermath of storm a couple weeks ago, the Council Bluffs Recycling Center is reminding area residents of their yard waste disposal option: you can put it on the curb. Curbside yard waste is unlimited through November 30th and must be set out by 7:00 a.m. on your collection day. Place the waste in a regular garbage can, City-approved Poly-cart, or paper yard waste bag. Do NOT put it in a plastic bag. Mark the container with "Y" or orange yard waste sticker, which can be obtained at the Health Department, Recycling Center, or Treasurer's Office. Gather limbs and branches into bundles no more than 4' long, 2' in diameter, and 60lbs in weight. Tie with string or twine, NOT wire or nylon. You can also take waste to the CB Recycling Center for \$20/ton. The Center is open Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Contact them at (712) 328-4985. ■

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!!!!

Music & Movies in the Park

Enjoy free movies every Friday night in Bayliss Park. Movies start after dusk (around 9:00 pm). All movies will be rated G or PG unless otherwise noted. Enjoy free concerts in Bayliss Park every Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00 pm. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and snacks and enjoy summer with your family and friends. Concessions are available at all events. ■

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 31, 2012, the GNA sponsored a New Year's Eve Prime Rib Dinner as a fund raiser for the Dodge House. It proved to be such a successful event the GNA will again host a New Years Eve Prime Rib Dinner at the Dodge House in 2013.

We are putting the call out early to the GNA asking for volunteers to help with the preparation for the event this year. We will need help with decorations, table set up etc.

There will be more discussion on this at our General Meeting July 19th at the Beresheim House, so please plan on attending. ■

The Book Club



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

Home, Sweet Home on Turley Avenue

by Mary Lou McGinn, Preserve Council Bluffs, as published in *The Daily Nonpareil*, June 2013

The DeVol/Cutler House, 203 Turley Ave.

This lovely Queen Anne bears the names of two families – DeVol and Cutler – who played a significant part in the growth and development of Council Bluffs.



Three generations of the DeVol family appear in its early history, beginning in 1847, when the frontier town was still known as Kanesville. David and Delia DeVol were married in 1830, and were the parents of 10 children, five of whom lived to adulthood.

The family lived in Chatham, N.Y. and West Stockbridge, Mass. for nine years, and then moved to Nauvoo, Ill., where they lived until 1846.

Continuing westward, they spent the winter at a site near the Des Moines River and arrived in Kanesville in 1847. They brought with them the family of Dustin Amy – Mormons who left Nauvoo in search of freedom to practice their religion. The DeVols were Presbyterian.

David DeVol worked as a clerk in various mercantile stores and at other occupations and was elected Kanesville's first justice of the peace in 1852. Their home on Bluff Street is no longer there; a later home still stands, at 117 S. First St.

Paul Coleman DeVol, David's son, found various ways to earn and save money. In one such venture, he kept a small stand in a 6-foot space between two buildings and sold pies, etc. to emigrants going west.

At about age 18, he began to learn the tinner's trade. In 1861, he opened a stove and tin ware store with Milton Rogers. After two years, he bought out his partner and ran the store alone until 1883. He then formed a partnership with W.S. Wright and opened a jobbing business.

After two years, they entered into a stock company under the name Rector, Wilhelmy & Co. in Omaha, transferring their jobbing business to Omaha and leaving their hardware store in Council Bluffs. The DeVol retail hardware store became a successful family business. P.C. and Catherine had five children. Their home at 332 Willow Ave., which was purchased from O.P. Wickham, is now known as the Wickham/DeVol House.

Their son, Paul Clyde DeVol, joined the hardware business in 1892. In 1900, the firm became known as P.C. DeVol & Son. Paul Clyde held leadership positions in several other Council Bluffs businesses and was the first president of the Iowa Retail Hardware Association. Paul Clyde DeVol and his wife, Bessie, are said to be the original owners of this home (203 Turley Ave.).

Continued...



L. Henry Cutler was the son of Lewis Cutler, a funeral director in LaPorte City, Ind. Lewis Cutler and Carrie Weir were married there in 1877, and had four sons.

In 1901, the family came to Council Bluffs and founded the Lewis Cutler & Son Funeral Home.

Henry Cutler, with his father, ran the business which was continued by William Cutler Jr., Henry's nephew. Lewis and Carrie Cutler lived at 133 Bluff St., which remains today on the corner of Bluff Street and Willow Avenue.

This house (203 Turley Ave.) was purchased in 1914 by Henry Cutler and his wife, Mae.

According to the Third/Bluff/Willow Historic District nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, this 1897 Free Classic Queen Anne house “retains its clapboard siding, wrap-around porch with tripled and square posts and intact rail, wide eave overhang, cornice returns, Palladian window variant in the gable end, and a rounded two-story bay window on the front. Most windows are original fixed pane and multi-pane over single pane windows.”

Henry Cutler's wife, Mae, started the Council Bluffs Garden Club. Many of the plants and shrubs growing in the Turley Avenue yard today were planted by Mae Cutler and were a beautiful testament to the gardens of yesteryear on the annual Dodge House Garden Walk held June 22 event.

Footnote: Preserve Council Bluffs acknowledges the following sources of information for this series: National Register of Historic Places nominations, the reference department of the Council Bluffs Public Library, the auditor's office of the Pottawattamie County courthouse, Council Bluffs Community Development Department, homeowners, family members and individual research. Mary Lou McGinn can be reached by email at mlmcginn@cox.net.



Kirn Park Renovation Rally a “Smashing” Success

On June 15th about 60 neighbors from the GNA and FPNA gathered at Kirn Park to celebrate the kick off of the renovation of our beloved Kirn Park.

Mayor Tom Hanafan, Parks Director Larry Foster, Jerry Mathiasen from the Iowa West Foundation and Councilman Nate Watson were also in attendance. Larry showed us what the plan was and gave a projected timeline for the renovation. He related what Kirn Park means to him personally and his recollections when he first visited the park many years ago as the newly appointed head to the C.B. Parks Department.

Mayor Hanafan spoke about all the people who’ve worked on the improvement project these past few years and even though it has been delayed, the vision for the park was never lost. The meetings with representatives from both Gibraltar and Fairmont neighborhoods to determine what was needed and what was possible, reviewing the plans from the design group, more meetings and more reviews. Then the delays from the flood and the need to do Fairview Cemetery first. It has been a process, but we are finally ready to start.

Jerry Mathiasen, senior vice president at the IWF, conveyed that “....neighborhood transformation is a top priority for the foundation and this project fits right into that type of priority,” He also added that “This will have a real positive impact on the community.”

Nate Watson, City Council member and FPNA board member, rounded out the list of speakers by emphasizing, “even with strong city backing and assistance from the IWF, without the persistence of the neighborhood associations and their members, the project would have never come to fruition.”

The new plans for Kirn Park call for a new concrete driveway and parking lot that allows for better traffic flow and more parking space. A high curb and PVC (faux) wrought iron fence will separate the track from cars. Also included is an Art Deco steel enclosure for portable restrooms and an improved athletic field and track with updated landscaping and irrigation.

The GNA provided hotdogs, chips, cookies and water for all through a grant from PCCF, and games and candy for the kids. It was a fun time and the rain held off until time for the Wiffle Ball game between the two neighborhoods (GNA and FPNA). Fairmont Park NA president Kyle Muschall took pictures (see below) and several of those in attendance took a swing at the concrete block building that will be coming down.



Dodge House Fundraiser Plant Sale Results

The Dodge House Heirloom Plant Sale was held Saturday, May 11th, and for the second year in row the members of the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association participated in the event by holding our own, separate plant sale! GNA members dug up their own cherished annuals and donated them for sale at the event, with our booth manned by GNA members. Our small but mighty crew braved the elements (it was COLD that day in May!) and we were able to **raise approximately \$250**, all of which we donated to the Dodge House!!

Please, please, please put a reminder on your calendar for May, 2014... When you're thinning out your hostas, bee balm, lilies, iris... etc., please think about setting them aside for the sale! Every little bit we can contribute to the Dodge House helps preserve this wonderful jewel in our neighborhood!



More Area News

Beresheim House Exhibit

In early June the Historic General Dodge House celebrated the opening of a new, permanent exhibit at the Beresheim House, 621 Third St., the former residence of August and Clara (Teal) Beresheim and their only child, Theda.

The new exhibit includes artifacts from the Beresheim family on display in a room in the southwest corner of the mansion, which primarily serves as a visitor center for the Dodge House.

The Beresheims were a part of Council Bluffs' early history, as well as being friends of the Dodge family, who lived next door. John Beresheim immigrated to the United States from Bavaria and came to Council Bluffs in the mid-1850s. He worked at the Baldwin-Dodge Bank and became president after the name was changed to Council Bluffs Savings Bank. John's son, August, was teenager when he first started at the bank. He worked as head cashier, becoming president after his father died.

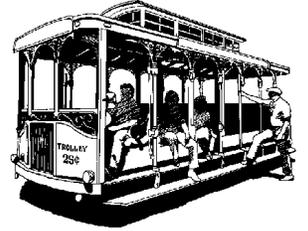
Theda Beresheim remained in the home until she sold it in 1954 when she moved to California. The house was then turned into a nursing home, after which it became an Iowa Western Community College dormitory.

In 1974, the city of Council Bluffs purchased the home and restored it to serve as an orientation center, office and gift shop for the Historic General Dodge House museum, the only Registered National Historic Landmark in Council Bluffs. The August Beresheim Home is also listed on the National Historic Registry. ■



Ollie the Trolley Historic Tour

The Trolley Tours of Historic Council Bluffs are scheduled on the 4th Thursday of every month through October. Boarding on Ollie the Trolley begins at 5:30pm, except for October when it will start at 5:00pm to accommodate the time change. Tours are approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. The boarding site is 200 Pearl Street, in front of the Union Pacific Railroad Museum. To purchase tickets call 712-328-4992, Monday through Thursday, 9am-4pm. Tickets are \$10/person, are available in advance only, and are non-refundable. Buy yours now, because they sell out fast! ■



Neighborhood Associations Awarded

On May 15, 2013, the Council Bluffs Historic Preservation Commission awarded three Council Bluffs neighborhood associations with the **2013 Preservation Award**. These associations have been busy in recent years doing "everyday" things to preserve the historical charm of their area.

The commission recognized the Fairmount Park, Gibraltar and the Lincoln-Fairview associations for their efforts to preserve their neighborhoods," said Cal Petersen, chairman of the historical commission.

"It's about neighborhoods saying, 'We need to preserve what we have,'" Mayor Tom Hanafan said. "We have a community that supports a lot of efforts."



L to R: Susan Seamans, Lincoln-Fairview President, Paulette Brandt, Gibraltar President and Kyle Muschall, Fairmount Park President.

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

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www.GibraltarNA.org

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RECIPE: Peters Family Mint Iced Tea

This great summer refreshment goes back three generations in my family — I hope you enjoy it! — *Cory Peters*

1 large handful of fresh mint (8-12 large sprigs)

8-10 Lipton tea bags

1 large can of frozen lemonade (or use Crystal Light lemonade mix if counting calories) extra sugar (or non-calorie sweetener) to taste

Twist and bruise the mint stalks to help release their minty goodness. Place them with the tea bags in a Pyrex bowl and pour boiling water over them (or I use my “Mr. Tea” tea brewing machine). Let steep while you busy yourself with other tasks!

Remove mint stalks and tea bags and pour the liquid into a large pitcher. Add the frozen lemonade and *at least* a couple more cans of water. Stir, taste, and add more sugar if you like it a little sweeter. This is SO good in a tall glass filled with ice, and even BETTER with some rum or bourbon added. ENJOY!

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