

ROCK-TALK

The Gibraltar Neighborhood
Association, Inc. Newsletter



In this issue:

Brick Streets Update

Dodge House Garden
Walk dates and info

Get the Most from Your
Home Remodel Dollar

Recipe Corner!

Get to Know Your
Neighbor: Paulette Brandt

Kim Field Clean-Up

Update: Saving Our Brick Streets

The committee appointed to finding a way to save the brick streets in Gibraltar Neighborhood has been working with the city on possible ways to best approach the issue. According to Committee Chairman Bob Jordan, the city engineer has been working hard on cost estimates for the few remaining brick streets in the Gibraltar Neighborhood. He feels that having actual bids from contractors will give us better information. We are now

waiting to hear about the bids. This information will allow us to know exactly what it will cost for repair. The committee will move forward with researching solutions for funding and soliciting residents' opinions. ■



Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **Tuesday, June 22**
7:00 p.m.
GNA book club meeting
at Patti Hannan's house.
Come join the fun!
- **Sunday, June 27, 2010**
Historic General Dodge
House 18th Annual
Garden Walk
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **Thurs. July 22, 2010**
7:00 p.m.
GNA Membership meeting
Board meeting prior to
General Mtg. at 6:00 pm
- **TBD: Should we host a
GARAGE SALE?**

Improvements to Kirn Field Made Possible by Mutual of Omaha Grant

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Gibraltar and Fairmont Park Neighborhood Associations, the city is participating in efforts to clean up and beautify the Kirn Field City Park.

Carol Mattox, of FPNA, first wrote the grant in the Spring. She, along with some members of Gibraltar, then met with Larry Foster, the head of Parks and Recreation for the City of Council Bluffs. It was decided that the city will help with efforts to clean up weeds in the fences, use power washers to help take paint off buildings, and seal off

the back of the stadium structure. The grant from Mutual of Omaha will go towards the purchase of the paint for all buildings on Kirn Field. Mutual of Omaha will be in charge of organizing the 2- to 3-day efforts of fifty volunteers scheduled to work in September on the project. Better still, Larry Foster and Mayor Hanafan are also in the process of creating a long term plan for improvement to the park, such as barriers for the track entrance, more cinder for the track and better access for the disabled. ■

Get to Know Your Neighbors: Paulette Brandt, by Chris Gorman

Paulette Brandt has lived in the Gibraltar Neighborhood since 2005. She is the mother of four, and has six grandchildren. Originally born in Florida while her father was stationed there during WWII, she grew up in Mills County. However, at age fourteen her father inherited the family farm outside of Council Bluffs.

Growing up on a family farm, Paulette learned to work hard at a young age. She had only one sister and they both had to help with milking dairy cows, growing the vegetable garden and working with horses used to move beef cattle. Their father also did crop farming. Like most farm kids, she was active in 4H. She graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1963.

Paulette held numerous professional positions throughout the years as well. Right out of high school, Paulette was a telephone switchboard operator for one year before getting married and starting her family. While the kids were young, she earned an associates degree at IWCC. She then worked for

the YMCA as a fitness instructor. In 1980 she went to work for Blue Cross and Blue Shield Insurance Company.

Paulette moved to Denver in 1988. She spent eighteen years there and worked for Rose Hospital at the front desk, in the clinic, and billing service department. All but one of her four children have relocated back to the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metro area.

While Paulette enjoys many hobbies, she is extra excited about gardening this year. Paulette is one of the two Gibraltar neighbors who have agreed to be a part of the Dodge House Garden Walk. Look for Paulette's house at 130 5th Avenue and Randy and Linda Eyre's house right next door at 134 5th Avenue. All the other gardens are listed in the advertisement for the Garden Walk. ■



Linda (on left) and Paulette (on right) in front of Linda's house.

The GNA Book Club is Going Strong!

The GNA Book Club has met a couple times now and we are having a blast! So far we've read "My Sister's Keeper," "Devil in the White City" and currently we're reading "Dead at the Desk." The book we'll be tackling next has been given great reviews by those who have read it already (ie. "I'm excited to read it again!"), so come to the meeting and find out the title! Our next meeting is Tues., June 22, 7:00 p.m. at Patti Hannan's, 207 5th Ave. ■



Historic General Dodge House

18TH ANNUAL

GARDEN WALK

Sunday, June 27, 2010

10:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

605 Third Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Admission includes:

- ❖ Tour of the Dodge House and 6 local gardens
- ❖ Wine and cheese tasting by Prairie Crossing Winery and Madison Avenue HyVee at the Ratliff Garden
- ❖ Light refreshments at various gardens
- ❖ Dodge House Gift Shop Discount

\$10 Advance Tickets Sold at:

COUNCIL BLUFFS: Dodge House, Hy-Vee, No-Frills, Sherbondy's, Earl May Garden Center & Diller Greenhouses

OMAHA: Indian Creek Nursery, Mulhall's, & Earl May on West Center

\$12 Tickets at the Door:

Dodge House and Gardens

- *Perennials from Dodge House grounds will be sold at the Beresheim House*
- *Vendors & Raffles at gardens*

GARDEN WALK PARTICIPANTS:

Randy & Linda Eyre, 134 5th Avenue
David Eyre & Paulette Brandt, 130 5th Avenue
Debora Hume, 207 E Graham Avenue
Sharon Clatterbuck, 210 Pickardy Lane
Peter & Jane Smith, 209 E Ferndale
Dean & Connie Ratliff, 55 Lawndale

SPONSORED BY THE GENERAL'S LADIES



Get the Most from Your Home Remodeling Dollar

Neighborhood real estate update courtesy of Marge Leaders, Realtor®

Using home improvement and home remodeling, homeowners can boost home values in a volatile market. If you can't decide whether to remodel or move, your answer might be — both, in that order! Remodeling can give you the added or different space you need now, but you should also carefully consider the resale value of any project you undertake. If you want to increase home equity, you can renovate it or add additions. These types of upgrades can add thousands of dollars to the value of your home. Renovations also appeal to potential home buyers. Some remodels allow for a bigger payoff than your original investment, while others might be needed just to keep the resale price on par with the neighborhood.

Expect moving to cost about 10 percent of your home's current value. If your remodeling project can be done for less than that, stay and do it! But plan it with an eye on the potential resale value. Read on for ideas and tips that will help you take the lead in plotting your home remodel.

Every homeowner can improve the value of their home. If you do not have a lot of money now, you can start with small, inexpensive projects such as fresh paint or minor repair work. If you have money set aside for home remodeling, you can take on large projects, such as full kitchen or bathroom remodeling.

WHAT TO REMODEL

When you're ready to nail down your plans, here are suggestions from industry experts:

Kitchen: Add usability with dual sinks and cooking stations. Add aesthetics with commercial-quality and stainless steel appliances, stone or stainless steel countertops and ceramic tile back splashes. Add space with a breakfast nook or walk-in pantry. Add livability with a computer desk, mudroom or hobby area.

Bathroom: Add light with skylights and glass blocks without losing privacy. Add space with a walk-in dual shower, vaulted ceiling, recessed medicine cabinet or curved shower curtain rod. Add functionality with twin sinks or vanities. Add aesthetics with ceramic tile or stone flooring, stone countertops and heated towel bars and floors.

Siding: Remodeling the exterior is as much about maintenance as it is about curb appeal. Vinyl siding looks fresh and tidy year after year with minimal up-keep. With stucco siding, a new polymer covering can be sprayed or troweled onto a fiberglass mesh base.

Windows: New windows will help you realize additional savings in monthly utility bills. Prospective buyers view windows as they do other structural items, so failing to update old ones can result in lower—or no—resale offers. Newer styles include seamless bent-glass corner windows, curved glass and casements with no center stile.

Consider adding energy efficient upgrades to your home remodeling project. Home improvements that are energy efficient can save on utility costs, as well as improve home value. Insulated windows, solar panels and energy efficient lighting are desirable features. In some areas, tax credits are available for individuals who own energy efficient homes. If your home is not energy efficient, adding some of these features is recommended. ■



GNA Resident Opens a New GNA Business, *by Chris Gorman*

Teri Christensen, GNA neighborhood resident and member, is the new owner of her own business right in the Gibraltar neighborhood — Teri's Hair Studio.

You can find a multitude of beauty services at Teri's new shop, including haircuts, color, and styles for both children and adults. She also offers brow and lip waxing. For those special occasions (weddings, anniversaries, proms, or just a night out with that special someone!) she can provide a formal style or updo.

You surely can't beat the convenience of having the business right in our own neighborhood! You can find Teri online at TeriHair@gmail.com and schedule appointments online with schedulicity.com. Then it's just a few blocks walk to her chair located at

Sherry's Shears, 625 Main Street. If you prefer, give Teri a call at 712-310-3075. ■



GNA Garage Sale — yes or no?

Based on the success of Fairmont Park Association's garage sale last summer, the GNA Board has been discussing whether or not our neighborhood might be interested in something similar this year. As run by the Fairmont group, the garage sale event was a fund-raising event for them. The Association paid to advertise the neighborhood-wide garage sale weekend, with the agreement that participants would donate 10% of their proceeds back to the Association. ■

We'll be discussing at the July meeting whether or not there would be interest in this type of a fundraiser, so please plan to attend if you would like to express your opinion on the subject!

Summer Potluck?

We'll also be discussing options for hosting a neighborhood social event this summer, possibly a pot luck. Location, logistics and other details need to be ironed out, so we would love to hear your input as to what type of event would be most appealing to you, where, when, etc. Please make your voice heard at our July meeting! ■

Your Newsletter Staff

Paulette Brandt

712-328-7399

Chris Gorman

712-256-8890

Cory Peters Hirsch

712-329-8526

Sharon Fritz

712-352-0360

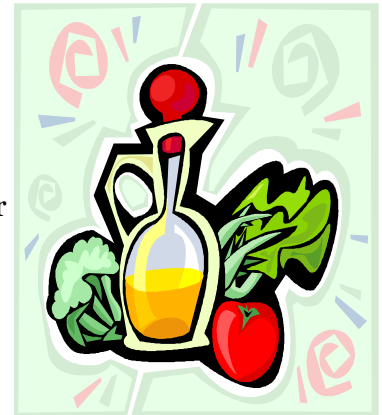
We welcome your input!
Please contact any of us with suggestions on content you want to see covered in future issues, or if you'd like to contribute an article! ■

RECIPE Corner: Great Summer Salad!

Easy Veggie Salad *provided by Paulette Brandt*

- 2 C raw broccoli - flowerets
- 2 C raw cauliflower – small pieces
- 1 C sliced carrots
- 1 C chopped celery
- ½ C sliced black olives
- 1 C diced tomatoes – fresh
- ½ C mushrooms (optional)
- 1 small can sliced water chestnuts
- 2 bunches sliced green onion

Combine all ingredients in large bowl and pour on top 1 bottle of Zesty Italian dressing mix with 1 package of Wishbone Italian dressing added to it.
Cover and chill.



We're in need of your recipe ideas, news tidbits, information on individual or family accomplishments, etc.!! Please contact any of your Rock-Talk staff to share your news & info!

Neighborhood Celebrity!

Check out the Summer edition of Hy-Vee's "Seasons" magazine... there on page 4 you'll find a great full-page picture of 5th Avenue's very own **Kent Madison!** The article contains helpful grilling tips from Kent as well as some mouth-watering recipes. Check it out!

Dues are Due!

GNA Yearly Association Dues are payable in July. Please use the form below and either mail payment to the address shown, or bring it to our membership meeting on July 22nd. Thank you!

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