



# ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of  
The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

## Gibraltar Holiday Get-Together!

**WHERE:** 219 5th Ave. (Buck & Teri's Lovely Home)

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, January 13, 2024 // 7:00pm to ???



Enjoy food, fun, and camaraderie as we celebrate the season with friends & neighbors! We'll be gathering in the beautiful home of Teri & Buck (and Gavin!) Christensen, which is located in the 200 block of 5th Ave.

Please bring an appetizer, munchies, snack, or dessert to share, along with your favorite beverage. Renters, owners, association and non-association members, and well-behaved children are warmly welcome!

>>>>Don't forget your change jars for the Story Street Food Pantry!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and make plans to come celebrate with your neighbors! **SEE YOU THEN!**



### WE NEED YOU to Get Involved!

YOU want a neighborhood that's attractive and safe... YOU want a neighborhood that's active and engaged... YOU want to experience a feeling of community and connectedness... YOU NEED TO GET INVOLVED!

**You** are invited to make a difference by being more involved with the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association. **Elections will be held for the GNA Board at our neighborhood holiday party on January 13!** (see details above)

**Consider running, won't you?** Current board members will provide guidance in your new position. It's not a large time commitment and it is more fun than work. Meet more of your wonderful neighbors and work with City & Civic leaders and other neighborhoods!

We have a planning meeting every other month where we make decisions about events and issues that impact the neighborhood. In the past, the Board has planned numerous holiday parties, our quarter auction fundraiser, luminarias at Christmastime, writing articles for the newsletter, the clean-up and beautification of our Fairmount Park Trail Head at the top of 9th Ave, litter pick up, dumpster days, etc...

**HELP KEEP GIBRALTAR ACTIVE, INVOLVED, AND PROGRESSIVE! Join the Board!**

# PRESIDENT'S POST

November 2023



It's hard to believe we are wrapping up 2023 already! I'm not a fan of the cold and snow to come, but its part of the reason I'm an Iowa-boy at heart. It wouldn't be Iowa without our changes of seasons! It was great to see all the homes haunted and horrified for Halloween! Thanks to everyone who went to a lot of work, which from what I heard was thoroughly enjoyed by your fellow neighbors, both young and young at heart!

On a truly personal note, I would like to wish Dennis Fellhauer a "Happy 9 Year Anniversary" last month. And Happy Anniversary to Gibraltar Neighborhood, where it all began. We are so happy with all the friends and extended families that have included us so many times, as our families are hours away.

We were lucky to have a two week vacation in Colorado— just us & the dogs (plus 16 chickens, 3 llamas, 3 goats, 4 cats) to relax, reflect, and rejuvenate. We were house/animal sitting for Dennis's sister. It was so nice not to go to work, or do anything! Just relaxing with the drink of the day, watching the mountains and the livestock! Check out my Facebook page to see some amazing vacation views!

This issue of Rock Talk has lots of information and highlights what's been going on. Get out your calendar, phone, or post-it and make sure you add our upcoming events to your TO-DO LIST! You will make new friends, reunite with others, and have a great time!

We hope to see you at the **Holiday Party on January 13, 2024** — details are inside this issue! We'll also be VOTING for your Gibraltar Neighborhood Association BOARD. All paid GNA members have voting rights, so come exercise them! We're also looking for new board members and non-board positions, too (helping with events, managing the Little Free Library, delivering the newsletter or Welcome Bags, etc.). It's a great opportunity to make new friendships!

One last thought.... 2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES! Get them paid so you can be a part of all our amazing events & Pop-up Parties (& More!) in 2024!! While neighborhood membership is completely voluntary, these dues help pay for things like neighborhood pole banners, dumpster rentals for cleanup days, beautification projects, neighborhood picnics, and much more. Your support keeps the wheels greased!

Have a wonderful holiday season and happy new year...

Brian Wedemeier, GNA President



## PLEASE: We're still seeking someone to repair our Little Free Library!

Our Neighborhood Little Library has seen better days! Are you handy? Is roofing your hobby or career? We need your skills! Our library needs new shingles (of ANY kind) to maintain a dry environment for books! Please reach out to us so we can get this much-needed resource restored and protect the precious books inside!

**The neighborhood will pay for any materials needing to be purchased, so all you'd be donating is a bit of your time!**

So many of us use technology to get our information - but nothing feels better than turning the pages when you read a good 'ol book! Let's hope that doesn't become a thing of the past! We try to keep a good selection of classic children's books along with a variety of books for teens and adults in the library... go check it out!

So PLEASE, if you could help with restoring the roof of this neighborhood gem, let us know. Also, if you're downsizing your book collection or happen to have extras, simply put your unneeded books in the library box — it's located on Story Street, between Bluff and 4th Street. Directly across from the Food Pantry!



## 'TIS THE SEASON... FOR SOME GREAT HOLIDAY MUSIC!



Hi Neighbors! I'm Dennis Fellhauer, a Gibraltar resident and GNA member (oh, and Brian's Partner in Life). This is my 7th season as a member of the River City Mixed Chorus. RCMC is an LGBTQ+ choir with over 125 voices, creating music as one.

I appreciate the support of neighbors who have attended in years past, and I'd like to cordially invite you to ring in the holidays and dive into the holiday spirit by attending our upcoming concert, **"40 Years of Fa La La"** on Saturday, December 9th at the Holland Performing Arts Center!

The River City Mixed Chorus performed their first holiday show in 1984 and is still bringing the sparkle every December to delight audiences with new favorites and old classics that celebrate the holiday traditions of one and all! We will also have a visit by Santa, and a huge collection of gift baskets to be raffled off that evening.

I know this time of year can get busy for all of us, so if you want a burst of seasonal music to get you into the holiday spirit, get your tickets today (we are expecting a sold out performance!). Please contact me if you have questions, and be sure to check out [RCMC.org](http://RCMC.org) for concert tickets and more info. *Thanks, I hope to see you at our the show!*

Dennis Fellhauer 773-206-3394 [dolfinishes@gmail.com](mailto:dolfinishes@gmail.com)



# Donations Needed... Story Street Pantry

*Tis the season to be thinking of those in need in our community.* As you may know we have a wonderful resource for the food insecure in our neighborhood. At this time of year they are in need of additional donations to help support their mission. While you are doing your shopping, pick up a couple of extra times, just to donate. With the upcoming holidays, kids will be home from school (which adds to the need).

They have seen a HUGE increase in demand, not only the drive-up program, but their mobile pantry is out and about daily throughout our community. Recently, they have discontinued some stops at area elderly apartments, due to the funding shortages and lack of hands and infrastructure. If you are willing, and have some extra time on your hands, please volunteer some of your time to help. They have a list of daily tasks, and a few extra hands would be very appreciated.

## Here is a "Shopping List" of items that the Pantry is always in need of:

Tomato Sauce, Spaghetti Sauce, Diced Tomatoes, Canned Beef, Pink Salmon, Pancake Mix, Bakery Mixes, Rice, Pasta, Mac & Cheese, Oatmeal, Peaches, Pears, Green Beans, Mixed Veggies, Mixed Fruit, Applesauce, Corn, Carrots, Peas, Peanut Butter, Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes, Dry Milk, Vegetable Oil, Cream of Chicken Soup, Chicken Broth, Canned Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Cream of Chicken Soup, Vegetable Soup, Tomato Soup, Beef Stew

Wondering what to do with your donations? GNA President Brian Wedemeier will personally pick up from your home and deliver to the Story Street Pantry. If you wish to make a monetary donation, he will be collecting those as well. Just call him to arrange a pickup: Brian (515-205-7515). We have had huge success in the past, and we know that our neighbors will step up and pay it forward. If you have any questions, please contact Brian. Thanks in advance!

## Make a CHANGE for the Food Pantry!

Please take part in our "CHANGE JAR CHALLENGE" benefiting the Story Street Food Pantry! Starting today thru January 13, 2024 (at the GNA Holiday Party), you simply need to set aside a jar or other container and start tossing that loose change into it. Put one on the washing machine, in the car, by the door, where you put your keys, on the dresser, or wherever you'll remember to share your spare change. This could also be a great lesson on "giving back" to share with your kids. The goal is for GNA to collect a total amount of \$500 -- yes that does seem like a large dollar amount -- but just one penny or a handful of change will make a world of change in someone else's life.

We hope to see you all at the GIBRALTAR HOLIDAY PARTY on January 13, 2024, *with your jars of change in hand!!* We will have it counted and donate it to the Story Street Food Pantry. **If you have any questions** please reach out to Brian Wedemeier at [bjwedemeier@gmail.com](mailto:bjwedemeier@gmail.com) or text/call him at 515-205-7515.

If you have food or monetary donations, please contact Brian and he can arrange pickup and delivery to the Pantry. If you would be interested in volunteering, a tour, or more info, please contact The Story Street Pantry. You can find them online at [www.StoryStreetPantry.org](http://www.StoryStreetPantry.org), or contact them at 712-322-6655 or [information@storystreetpantry.org](mailto:information@storystreetpantry.org).



# FALL/WINTER EVENTS AT OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A



**NOVEMBER 19TH AT 12PM**

**LUNCH | RAFFLES  
LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS**

**GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE:  
QUARTER OF BEEF + SMALL CHEST FREEZER + GAS GRILL  
CALL (712) 898-2070 TO PURCHASE \$10 TICKETS**

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**



YOU ARE INVITED  
TO THE

*Advent*

**SEASON**

*at Our Savior's*

**WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES**

DECEMBER 6TH, 13TH, AND 20TH  
DINNER AT 6:30, SERVICE AT 7

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

DECEMBER 24TH AT 4 AND 7

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

DECEMBER 31ST AT 10:30 AM



# Availa Bank

Member  
**FDIC**

Our name says it all.  
**We're AVAILABLE.**

We're happy to serve the  
**Gibraltar Neighborhood!**

**Downtown:** 117 Pearl Street • 322-1700

8:30-4:00 Monday – Friday (lobby)

8:00-5:00 Monday – Friday (drive-up)

7:00-7:00 Mon-Fri + 8:00-noon Saturday (ITM)

**Mall:** 1751 Madison Avenue • 322-3300

8:30-4:00 Monday – Friday (lobby)

8:00-5:00 Mon-Fri + 9:00-noon Saturday (drive-up)

7:00-7:00 Mon-Fri + 8:00-noon Saturday (ITM)

# QUARTER AUCTION UPDATE

Many thanks to those of you who attended this year's fundraising auction — and got some great items for just a few QUARTERS! A BIGGER THANK YOU to all who donated items (or money to purchase items) for the auction; without the generosity of our neighbors we wouldn't have such great success with this event. We ended up with 37 items to auction and raised just short of \$800! (that's a lot of quarters... and many thanks to Dave Adams for toting 50+ pounds of quarters!)

Everyone had a great time! (Though we missed a few faces who usually attend.) Brian would like to personally thank our board members for taking care of the collection of donations (while he was enjoying some mountain time and relaxation)!!

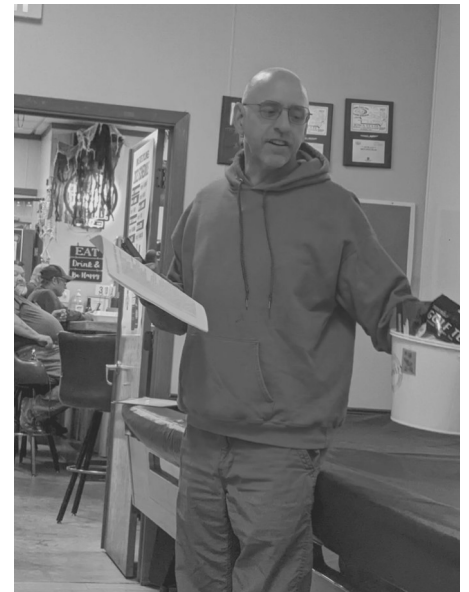
If you missed out, no worries. Watch for the 2024 fall date, when we'll have another round of fun!! Do you want to be a part of the success for this great event? Simply start collecting items that you'd be willing to donate, and pack them in a tote throughout the year (and don't forget about them!). Then, next fall when we start the donation drive, just contact us for a pick up! And remember to save your quarters! Thank you!!

Many thanks to Aaron and the Staff at the 4th St Bar & Legion for donating the space, and setting up tables to host our event. And last but not least, our very own Prize Gal — Gavin Christensen — for helping display and distribute the items to the winners!

Thanks again to all... the proceeds go into our general fund for events, expenses, improvements, donations, and community involvement! *More event pictures on the next page!*

## THANK YOU to our INCREDIBLE PRIZE DONORS!!





# Calling all Book Fleas!!!

Come and join us for a fun night of book reviews, fellowship, and WINE! We meet monthly!!

Our next book club meeting is:  
**Thursday, December 7th at 6:00 pm**

For December, we're meeting at the **Council Bluffs Country Club** for dinner. Mary Madison will make reservations, **so please RSVP** to Jill Kates at [jkates1231@gmail.com](mailto:jkates1231@gmail.com) by December 3rd.

Our current book is **Under The Magnolias** by T. I. Lowe.

Names for people who read a lot:

English: Bookworm.

Indonesian: Book flea.

Romanian: Library mouse.

German: Read-rat

French: Ink drinker.

Danish: Reading horse.



## Treasury Report as of 11-7-23

Deposits since last report: \$1,842.00

Expenses: \$1,215.74

Membership renewals: 1

Treasury Balance \$14,886.15

### Quarter Auction Summary

Expenses \$1,100.00 (beginning quarters & cash)

Deposits \$1,842.00 (cash proceeds & donations)

Total Profits \$742.00

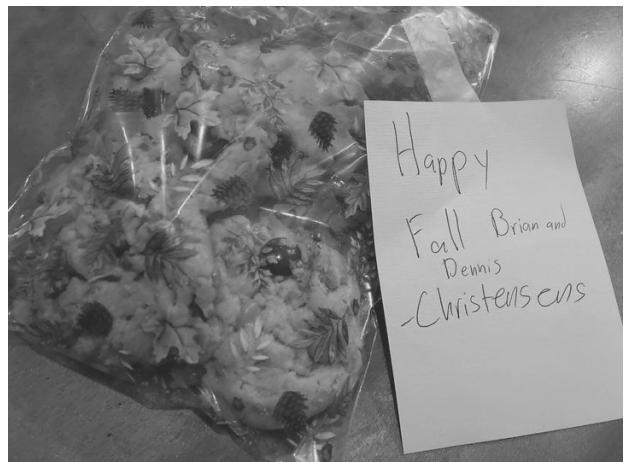
Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Adams, GNA Treasurer

## REVERSE TRICK OR TREATING...?

Just a couple days before Halloween, our doorbell rang, and to our happy surprise it was Teri & Gavin Christensen, delivering homemade cookies to us and many of our neighbors!

I posted it to Facebook to show what great neighbors we have in our corner of Council Bluffs... GNA: Greatest Neighborhood Around!! The cookies were delish!

Thanks Neighbors! — Brian & Dennis







## Always-Popular Holiday Tour of Homes on December 3rd!

Start December in a festive mood by visiting some of the city's most historic homes, decked out in their holiday finest. Tour multiple beautiful locations on Sunday, December 3, 2023, from Noon until 4:30 during the Holiday Homes Tour! This fundraising homes tour event supports Preserve Council Bluffs, a local organization that seeks to promote and preserve the heritage of Council Bluffs through its architecture, sites, and people.

*Tickets are \$20 per person (which also gets you specially-priced admission to the Dodge House!).*

Visit [preservecouncilbluffs.org](http://preservecouncilbluffs.org) for more information and purchase your tickets. Prepaid tickets can be picked up at the Bregant House, 517 S. Fourth Street, starting at 11:30 am the day of the tour, Sunday, December 3. You can then visit the other homes in any order until 4:30 pm.

### LOCATIONS ON THIS YEAR'S TOUR:

The Bregant House: 517 Fourth Street

Thomas Metcalf House: 129 Bluff Street

Abner Askwith/Arthur Hazelton House: 408 Oakland Ave

Carlton & Hortense Woodward House: 608 Oakland Ave

Thomas G. Green House: 226 High School Avenue

William L. Butler House: 301 N. Second Street

Frank & Gertrude Ellis House: 528 Oakland Avenue

Holy Family Catholic Church: 2217 Avenue B



## 4th Street Mural Project

Our mural is in need of replacement in the coming years. Over time the colors have really faded, but is still a great representation of our neighborhood and of Council Bluffs. After some suggestions and much discussion, the board agreed on the idea brought to us by fellow neighbor & amazing photographer Buck Christensen.

We are going to feature what makes our neighborhood such a treasure... its residents & beautiful homes. Buck has graciously volunteered to photograph families of our neighborhood, to be mixed in with other iconic treasures in the Gibraltar Neighborhood. GNA President Brian Wedemeier also told Buck that he would assist him in this project, as he has past professional photography experience.

Did you know we have several families who have THREE generations who have lived in the Gibraltar neighborhood? Some of the homes built in eras gone by still have the descendants living in them! This is a great platform for us to display our great neighbors and the Gibraltar history. If you would like to be a part of this project, please email Brian at [bjwedemeier@gmail.com](mailto:bjwedemeier@gmail.com) or Buck at [buckchristensen@gmail.com](mailto:buckchristensen@gmail.com).

# **GNA Board Meeting Minutes**, September 25, 2023

- 1. Treasurer report/New Members:** Currently there are 50 paid households. Treasurer's report: \$14,000
- 2. Old News:** Sculpture will be in place at the Trailhead by end of November, 2023.
- 3. GNA Flags/Banners:** We are very close to installation of banners. Turner will sign the new contract. Cory is in the design process for signs, mugs, and magnets. Brian made a motion that we receive 3 options and the Board will then vote. Jill made the second motion. Voted all in favor.

#### **4. Events/Socials (past and future):**

- Fairmont/GNA Picnic was successful; GNA donated \$119.45 in snack chips to the event.
- GNA Picnic was a success! About 60 people attended.
- Holiday Tour of Homes (Preserve Council Bluffs) is 12/4/23.

#### **2024 Events:**

- Holiday Christmas Party date is Jan. 13, 2024. Looking for a Host!!
- March 9, 2024 — GNA Board Meeting
- March 23, 2024 Easter Egg Hunt Trisha made a suggestion to have an Easter Egg Hunt. Mary made the motion to have it. Trisha 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor. Yes.
- June 22, 2024 — GNA Picnic
- August 9-11, 2024 — Gibraltar Garage Sale? Those who participated this year enjoyed it. Jill made the motion, Brian made the Second. All in Favor. Yes.
- Late April and possibly early Fall: Dumpster Day

- 5. New Business:** Need to research the Post Office mailing service so we can determine upcoming expense for RT delivery/ mailing during winter months. Turner/Brian will contact Willie or Travis at the Post Office.

Welcome Bags. Klaire Cross was suggested as a possible person to assist in organizing and distributing. Need to order cups and swag for the bag. Possible testimonials in the bag?

Mural on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Buck Christiansen had the idea of having GNA families provide family portraits and some images of history. ECHO can print the canvas if needed.

- 6. Election of Officers:** Coming up in January, 2024.

- 7. Adjourned:** Motion to Adjourn made by Brian, second made by Dave. GNA voted all in favor.

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Kates, GNA Secretary

*Happy  
New Year*

*FELIZ Año  
Nuevo*

THE **712**  
INITIATIVE

**THANK YOU!**

to the 712 Initiative for printing our Rock Talk newsletter! You are a BIG part of helping our neighborhood stay informed and connected!

*Happy Holidays!*



*Your neighborhood expert!*

Hey Neighbors!

My name is Klaire Cross and I'm your neighborhood real estate agent. I would love to assist you in buying, selling and investing. Give me a call today for a free home market analysis!



*Klaire Cross*

402.206.4589

KLAIRE.CROSS@BHHSAMB.COM



@KLAIRECROSS



@KLAIRE.CROSS



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY  
HomeServices  
Ambassador Real Estate

The Home Hunters Group PLC  
REAL ESTATE & AUCTION SERVICE

## SAVE LIVES: CHANGE BATTERIES NOW!

Fire officials advise when you set your clocks back for Daylight Savings Time to also change the batteries in your smoke & carbon monoxide detectors (so if you forgot to do this, do it NOW). Detectors over 10 years old should be replaced with a new unit. A code stamped on the back of a detector should indicate the manufacture date.



The Council Bluffs Fire Department, with the generous support of several businesses, organizations, foundations and individual donors, founded Project Alex after fires claimed the lives of two children in 2010. Project Alex provides dual sensor smoke detectors in the hope of preventing any further loss of life in fires.

- On duty Fire Department personnel check each home they respond to for working detectors. If none are present or the smoke detectors need replaced, new detectors are installed before those personnel leave.
- They also replace batteries and leave fire safety information with the homes occupants, all in the hope of making the residents and our community safer.

To request a detector check or installation, contact the Fire Department at (712) 328-4646. If you need a smoke detector or new battery and cannot afford one, the fire department will schedule a time to have personnel come to your house and install new batteries or new detectors at no charge to the residents. Now is a good time to check your fire extinguisher, too.

HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

## 2024 DUES are DUE!!

Your Gibraltar Neighborhood Association dues are payable in **January**; the form is on last page of newsletter.

*OR save yourself a stamp and pay via our website's "donate" tab at [www.GibraltarNA.org](http://www.GibraltarNA.org).*

### Your annual dues help fund projects like:

- > Quarterly Neighborhood Social Events
- > Neighborhood Identification Pole Banners
- > Neighborhood Cleanup Day
- > Beautification Projects like 9th St. Trailhead
- > Printing & Mailing of Newsletters, cards, & other stuff
- > Welcome Bags, Yard Flags, and much more!

*Help keep Gibraltar moving in a positive direction by support through annual dues. THANK YOU to all those who have supported our neighborhood in the past—we couldn't do it without you!*

## Dodge House News



### Holiday Eye Candy

### Experience the Tradition!

Late November through the end of December, visit the Dodge and Bereshiem homes and experience all of the wonderment contained in these two historic beauties, each festooned and adorned with holiday finery.

***It truly is a sight to behold!***

Standard admission fees apply.

# JD's Service & Repair

*Your friendly, honest neighborhood auto repair shop!*

**501 South 4th Street**

**712.322.6841**

**JDsServiceAndRepair.com**



facebook: JD's Service & Repair



Call for  
a **FREE**  
estimate!

***Automotive repair services for both  
foreign and domestic trucks and autos!***



**WHERE FITNESS & FUN** *Come to Party!*



***Come in and dance with us!***

- 22 classes each week in studio and online.
- Each class is 55-60 minutes and includes cardio dancing, stretching and strength training to give you a full body workout.
- High and low impact moves in each class. You go at your own pace.
- 6 instructors to keep your workout new and different every time.
- New music and new routines every 10 weeks to keep it fresh and new.
- You won't get bored dancing with us!
- Classes are live in our studio or you can join us online from home.

**Stop in a try a class for \$15 or get a membership for unlimited classes for only \$59 a month! Classes are held at various times, 7 days a week!**

For more information, call or text Tara at 402-680-6906  
or email us: jazzercisecbkrew@gmail.com.

**301 West Broadway, Suite 102, Council Bluffs**

# THANK YOU TO THE RED CROSS!

**MANY Thanks** to the American Red Cross for their organizing and installing over a dozen smoke detectors throughout our Gibraltar neighborhood! This service/opportunity is still available to our neighborhood for those who didn't participate in this most recent safety drive.

The Red Cross can come to an individual's home, or we can do another weekend drive. It's best to contact Juanita or Sarah with the Red Cross so they can facilitate this service again. If they receive numerous requests from our neighborhood (as was the case this time), we could set another date in the spring for the convenience of their installation crew. *Please feel free to reach out to the contact information listed below.*

Request a smoke alarm installation by calling the Red Cross at (833) 422-1751 or going online to: [redcross.org/smokealarmIA](http://redcross.org/smokealarmIA).

You can also reach out to these helpful ladies:

**Juanita Sieben** at [juanita.sieben@redcross.org](mailto:juanita.sieben@redcross.org) or

**Sarah Wollerman** at (402) 718-1972 or [sarah.wollerman@redcross.org](mailto:sarah.wollerman@redcross.org)



# How Victorian Homes Became “Haunted”

By Tom Emmett

We just celebrated Halloween and decorations are still up. We are eating left over candy. Uniquely American, Halloween is our country’s second most beloved holiday, eclipsed only by Christmas. A staple of this spooky holiday is the haunted house. Take a moment: When you imagine a haunted house, what comes to mind? For most of us, a picture of an old Victorian house is envisioned.

In particular, we will imagine a Second Empire House. A prime example would be the Bates Mansion — central to the 1960 classic, “Psycho.” This style of home was often two to three stories high, with elegant Italianate porches, mansard roofs, and even a tower. The best Metro examples of Second Empire include the Cornish House on 10th Street in Omaha (just south of downtown) and the Historic General Dodge House in Council Bluffs.

Beginning in the 1860s and up to the end of the turn of the century, the American “nouveau riche” began building these impressive mansions across the country. Average and middle class Americans were appalled. Much like our current critiques of “urban sprawl” and “McMansions,” folks back then denounced the grandiose and extravagant nature of Victorian mansions. With the Civil War still omnipresent in the collective American memory, such overindulgence seemed excessive, especially as the “newly rich” pretended to be a New World Aristocracy. It was, appropriately, called the “Gilded Age.”

While there are some notable exceptions, as a rule, these homes were not built with indoor plumbing, wired for electricity, or heating beyond their elegant fireplaces. When those elements were present, they were elementary and would soon require significant upgrades. When the Great Depression ravaged the American economy, these houses proved to be unaffordable and unsustainable. The most flamboyant neighborhoods in the country then became wastelands of neglected and abandoned homes.

With the end of the Second World War and a profound cash infusion into the economy, suburbs were invented and the Mid-Century Modern home was born. Compared to Victorian homes, they were smaller, had large windows (welcoming an abundance of light), and were integrated with modern utilities and conveniences.

Between the end of the large, old Victorian mansions and Mid Century Modern homes, something happened. In 1938, the New Yorker Magazine published the “Adams Family” cartoon. Very well received, it was a prequel to the TV series of the same name premiering in 1964. A major character of this silly and creepy production was the old Second Empire home. The home’s design was based on an actual Second Empire home in Los Angeles.

Between the iterations of the Adams Family, there were other shows that projected Victorian homes, especially the Second Empire style, as haunted, creepy, or housing evil. In 1942, “Cat People” was extremely popular and was set in Victorian elegance. “Psycho” in 1960 with the Bates Mansion became iconic. In fact, the list of films that include Victorian homes as centers of haunting, murder, and other paranormal disruption can be counted by the dozens.

More recently, we have seen a change. While many of us born after 1990 still appreciate the Victorian haunted house, younger Americans now see homes built between the 1960s to 1980s—and even into the 90s— as outdated. The film “Paranormal Activity” and before it, “Poltergeist,” featured homes of late 20th century construction.

It is said, history repeats itself—not exactly the same— but in a continuous pattern. What was old is new again, and what was recently new is now old. Myth-making does not belong to long-dead people. Even in our robust high-tech world, we still create myths and recreate them. The “haunted house” will always be with us... even if it’s architecture changes from age to age.

## ATTENTION: BUSINESS OWNERS, ARTISTS, ETC.

If you own a business, provide a service, have an event or sell a product, would you like to get the word out to **OVER 200 HOUSEHOLDS** in the Gibraltar Neighborhood?

***If so, consider an affordable ad in the Rock Talk newsletter!***

**Ad Space Sizes available: 1/4 sheet or 1/2 sheet**

**1/4 sheet** one-time insertion: **\$10** — OR — 1/4 sheet “6-pack” (whole year): **\$50**

**1/2 sheet** one-time insertion: **\$15** — OR — 1/2 sheet “6-pack” (whole year): **\$75**

*We'll throw in the ad setup for free!!* Contact Cory at [coryp241@yahoo.com](mailto:coryp241@yahoo.com) for more info!

## My Favorite Author

by Gavin Christensen, 11 y.o. Gibraltar Resident

If you are a person who loves suspense, fantasy, rich characters, and vivid descriptions, you should try reading my favorite author, Holly Black. Holly Black wrote a series you have probably heard of, The Spiderwick Chronicles.

My favorite series of hers is called The Folk of the Air. It's a series about a mortal in a land called Faerie. The series was a delightful read and the books just keep getting better and better. The series includes banishments, betrayals, murders, affairs, and unexpected love. The three main books in the series are The Cruel Prince, The Wicked King, and The Queen of Nothing. The rich characters in these books are very interesting, especially their personalities.

My favorite character is named Cardan. He is a character who is hard to understand because of his tricks and surprises. The quote I love is “Perhaps I am foolish, but I am not a fool.” This quote is true for some but not all.

Another of my favorite books is called The Darkest Part of the Forest. This is a very exciting book about a cursed faerie in a glass coffin in the forest where bad things happen (in the mortal world). I love this book because it's an easy read with vivid descriptions of the setting. I don't have a favorite character in this book, but they are all very interesting.

I hope you consider reading some Holly Black books. It's not for everyone, but if you like fantasy, you will enjoy this author and voraciously read her books. I recommend mature readers to read these books. Some of her books are located in the Council Bluffs Public Library. You can also check out e-books and audiobooks of hers using your library card at apps called Libby and Hoopla. All you need is your library card and a device. *Happy reading!*







## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING SPOT!

716 South 4th Street (Rainbow American Legion Bldg)

Lunch & Dinner Specials || Happy Hour Drink Specials  
Serving Breakfast 7-9:00 on Saturday & Sunday

## Your Hearty Breakfast Destination!

Served 7:00am to 9:00pm on Saturday/Sunday  
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## **THANK YOU to these folks who have joined the GNA for 2023!**

*Those listed were known to have paid dues **at the time of publishing**. Any errors are completely unintentional. If you notice an error/omission, please contact GNA Treasurer Dave Adams!*

Dave & Amy Adams

Marci Anderson

Darwin & Christie Baker

Jordan & Trisha Beccard

Trudy Beno

Bettina Bente

Kathie Brandt

David & Anna Brooks

Nate Brown & Tom Emmett

Buck & Teri Christensen

Dick & Ardeth Christie

Harold & Pat Cox

Jason & Brook Craig

Kate Cross

Bud & Susie Dew

Brandon & Erika Dickerson

The Dodge House

Dennis Fellhauer & Brian Wedemeier

Leslie Fronce

Teresa Gerjevic

John Gibbs

Steve & Chris Gorman

Michele Graham

JD's Garage

Craig & Bryana Jackson

Steve & Cathy Jayjack

Barney & Brenda Johnson

Chris & Jill Kates

Matt & Beti Keller

Ryan & Samantha Larson

Mark & Nicky Licklitter

Mary Madison

Anne Massoud & Sara Perkins

Steve & Deedee McCormick

Adrienne McElderry

Kyle & Lyndze McGinn

Linda Meyer

LJ & Chris Miles

Terry & Nancy Mulvania

Patricia Murphy

Josh Pettit & Lindsay Besco

Corey & Lisa Radke

Matt Neneman & Lauren Ramm

Cory Peters

Dan & Kate Shea

Mindy Smith

Jeff & Karen Tucker

Pam Vosler

Matt & Lori Walker

Patrice Watson

Carol Wood

Jo Youngs



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH YOUR ANNUAL DUES!!**  
*Our accomplishments would not be possible without YOU!*

# Mild & Yummy Green Chili Casserole

from Tom Emmett

One of the best things about being a Gibraltar resident is how we take care of each other. We share produce from our gardens, libations from our shelves, and we feed one another. Because we care — in times of joys and troubles — good food makes its way from one home to another. A favorite casserole of mine that I've been blessed to share with some of you is my mother's Green Chili Casserole. Enough said, here is the recipe (or, as they used to say in the old days, "the receipt"):

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Brown 1 pound of ground beef (I recommend 90%)

In a separate skillet (or the same one if you're feeling lazy), add:

- One medium onion, chopped
- One or two cloves of minced garlic (optional)
- Once the onions are cooked down, add one can of mild diced green chilis (If you want more flavor and spice, then add two cans of green chilis)

Mix the above together with one can of Cream of Mushroom Soup (add a touch of water or milk if needed).

Now, get out your favorite average-size casserole dish! (No need to grease it, nor is teflon-coated required.)

Using corn tortillas (never flour) tear them into a pieces and cover the bottom of the dish.

Top with half of the mixed meat, soup, onion mix.

Cover with your favorite cheese (I just use "Mexican" cheese).

Repeat to make a second layer.

Bake about 35 minutes—until the cheese is brown and it is bubbling! Let cool. Cut with a knife and serve.

This recipe doubles well and freezes great. Just make sure to thaw completely before cooking. *Enjoy!*

## ***SHOPPING LIST for this Recipe:***

- 1 lb ground beef (90% lean)
- 1 medium onion
- fresh garlic
- 1 or 2 cans of diced green chilis
- 1 can Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1 package corn tortillas
- 1 package of "Mexican" grated cheese  
(or two pkgs if you really love cheesiness)



# 10 Ways to beat the Winter Blues

Full article in *Everyday Health*, Madeline R. Vann, MPH

1. Lace up your running shoes and get moving!! 20 minutes a couple of times a week is all you need!
2. Set your alarm clock and stick to a sleep routine. Try for at least 7 hours a sleep a night.
3. Queue up a stream of laugh-out-loud films and enjoy with friends (and popcorn!).
4. Warm yourself up with a mug of Real Hot Cocoa.
5. Host a festive party (but don't stress about the details!)
6. Give yourself a manageable task to accomplish.
7. Don't let your To-Do list get too out of hand.
8. Book a staycation— even if it's a mini one — and RELAX.
9. Consider Light Therapy if you can't get the sunshine you need.
10. Don't hesitate to see your Healthcare Professional if you feel anxious, depressed, or unhealthy.

## Gibraltar Ways to Beat the WINTER BLUES

1. Visit the Dodge House
2. Schedule a therapeutic massage with Gordon Hitchcock or Kat Dunham (Gibraltar residents & LMTs)
3. Stop by Mary Madison's for an afternoon glass of wine
4. Walk the refurbished Gibraltar trailhead at the top (east end) of 9th Avenue.
5. Attend a pop-up Tequila Tasting at Brian Wedemeir's house.
6. Walk/Jog/Run laps at Kirn park
7. Have an affordable dinner and drinks at the 4th Street Bar & Grill (American Legion Post on 4th).
8. Feel good about doing something for others: drop off canned goods at the Story Street Pantry
9. Join the GNA Book Club and enjoy camaraderie, adult beverages, latest news (and maybe gossip?)
10. Make lifelong friends and build community connections by serving on the GNA Board



**Your Gibraltar Neighborhood Partner!**

*Working together to make our community  
a great place to live.*

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**THANK YOU!**

### KEEP INFORMED three ways!!

Visit Gibraltar's website online at: [www.GibraltarNA.org](http://www.GibraltarNA.org)

— AND —

LIKE us on Facebook (search "Gibraltar Neighborhood Association").

— AND —

Register TODAY on GNA's "Nextdoor" social networking website:  
[www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com). You can share news, updates, inquiries, refer  
business people or services, get the latest GNA news and much more!

***It's FREE & open to folks within Gibraltar boundaries!!***

YOUR Gibraltar  
Neighborhood:



## Gibraltar Neighborhood Association: Membership Registration Form

Become a Gibraltar Neighborhood Association Member!! Yearly dues are \$25 *per household* and are tax deductible with our 501c3 status! In order to be eligible to vote for board members or receive priority preference for improvement projects, you must be a paid association member.

Make checks payable to & mail to: Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 1971, Co. Bluffs, IA 51502-1971

— OR — pay online at: [www.GibraltarNA.org](http://www.GibraltarNA.org) >> click on the "Donate" tab (you can pay via PayPal or via Credit Card)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Please tell us what's important to you in *connecting with your neighbors*:

- Quarterly social events       Fundraisers       Business meetings  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Please tell us what *issues* are important to you:

- Getting to know my neighbors       Preserving our brick streets       Historic preservation  
 Better lighting in our Neighborhood       More social events       Crime / Safety  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_