



Florence Historical Foundation
P.O. Box 12331 Omaha, NE 68112

-ECRWSS-
Postal Customer

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
OMAHA, NE
Permit No. 1156

DON'T MISS IT!!
FLORENCE DAYS PARADE
& NORTH BOWL FAIR · RIDES · FOOD · FUN
1PM SAT MAY 12, 2018
(SEE CENTER SPREAD FOR DETAILS)

SERVING THE FLORENCE, MINNE LUSA & MILLER PARK COMMUNITIES

FLORENCE DAYS

FLORENCE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION PRESENTS

BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

VISIT OFTEN: FlorenceDays.org | FlorenceReceptionHalls.com | HistoricFlorence.org | FlorenceTheater.org

Parade's Grand Marshals Mark 100 Years of Florence Residency

by Riley Cullen

This year's Grand Marshals of the Florence Days Parade are the Notre Dame Sisters who have been residents of Omaha for 100 years.

The women who formed the Notre Dame Sisters' Omaha province have been providing their service to both our community and others around the globe since the arrival of the first Sisters in Omaha in 1917.

Sr. Anita and Sr. Margaret, two long-time Notre Dame Sisters, were gracious enough to lead a tour



Sr. Margaret (left) and Sr. Anita (right) in the chapel.

through their building on 35th and State Street and to talk about the Sisters' history in the area, their evolution, and future of their presence in Omaha.

The tour began on an elevator ride which opened to the old infirmary. That space has since been converted into affordable housing for seniors, but retains the original woodwork down the corridor. Around the corner, a lobby opens in front of the chapel, and the Sisters call attention to some old

photos which they brought up from their archives in a big, yellow file.

They explain that Mother Qualberta Krivanec of the Notre Dame Sisters in Czechoslovakia received word that some American dioceses were in need of assistance caring for Czech immigrants and orphans.

Soon after, she and four other sisters made the journey to provide that aid, first to Fenton, MO in 1910 then on to Omaha six years later. Upon their arrival in Omaha, Sr. Rose Slevin, who spoke only English, and Sr. Martha Djobek, who spoke no English, were sent to help a young Fr. Flanagan run his first Boys' Home in Omaha from 1917 until 1923.

"How they communicated is a good question," said Sr. Anita, noting how Fr. Flanagan's thick, Irish accent likely didn't aid their already complicated dialogue. The picture she hands over shows Srs. Rose and Martha with Fr. Flanagan in front of the first Boys' Home, surrounded by their very first group of young men.

Somehow, despite the language barriers, the group found the strength to work together for nearly four years until the home was relocated outside Omaha city limits.

The year before that move, Fr. Flanagan decided to sell a property he had purchased. Originally, the Seven Oaks Farm, was meant to house the Boys' Home, but when a different location was selected for that project, the farm was no longer necessary.

The property ran from what is now 34th Street to 36th Street, and from King to State Streets. When the women surveyed the plot of land in North Omaha, it was love at first sight.

"Mother Qualberta came here to look at it...and thought it was ideal for a convent," said Sr. Anita,

"but she had to get permission to buy the place because they didn't have the money." The Notre Dame Sisters, eager to have their own space, bought the Seven Oaks Farm for \$14,000.

"In some of those early years, there wasn't enough room... in the house, so some of the sisters lived in the barns," Sr. Margaret added. Eventually, the Sisters' hard work turned the old poultry farm into a convent and school for girls which ran from 1926-1974. After 58 years of educating young women, Notre Dame Academy would merge with Rummel High School to create Roncalli Catholic High School, now in its 44th year.



The last original oak tree stands in front of the Seven Oaks property, framing the cross which sits atop the building.

As the tour continued down the hall, Sr. Anita took out several more pictures of the property taken when it was originally purchased. While the corridors feel very school-like now, the pictures portray a much wilder place, close to nature. She mentions that Seven

(Continued on page 2)

An Honor to Florence: Our Own Nancy Halstead Bohnenkamp Gets Prestigious Recognition

by Ann Wilson

In her generous spirit she accepts my request to interview her for this article.

Nancy Bohnenkamp was selected as this year's recipient of the Mother Qualberta Service Award owing to her generous spirit, her advocacy for people's needs and establishing a business rooted in Christian faith.

For the few of you who may not know, Nancy is the owner of Harold's Koffee House on North 30th street in the heart of downtown Florence.

The award, Notre Dame Sisters' highest recognition, is presented to those who exemplify the pioneering, service-oriented and generous spirit of

Mother Qualberta, founder of the Omaha Province of the Notre Dame Sisters.

Nancy shared that it was an incredible honor to be selected.

Her family has owned Harold's Koffee House -- founded by her father after WWII -- and has been part of the Florence community and St. Philip Neri-Blessed Sacrament parishes for decades.

This legacy of service and community continues today with the help of her son Matt, Harold's general manager and the support of her husband, and all the family members, along with extended employees/family who over the years have been a part of Harold's Koffee House.

After pondering briefly, Nancy admits she can always count on three things when it comes to the day-to-day routines of running a business.

"When people come in here," Nancy said, "they get a smile ... and we know their names."

(Continued on page 3)



HONORING
Mother Qualberta Service Award
Nancy Bohnenkamp,
Co-Owner of Harold's Koffee House

Letter from the President

Dear Friends of Florence,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Dick Brown. Although I am not the New Kid on the Block, I am the new President of the Florence Historical Foundation.

As our Florence Historical group continues to thrive, our big focus this past year was the old Bank of Florence. Thank you for your support last summer at our "Save the Bank" fundraiser. An overwhelming response packed the Florence City Hall as we danced the night away with our neighborhood friends and families. Last summer, the entire north side of the bank foundation was reinforced. After stabilizing the foundation, we painted the entire main floor of the museum. The newly-painted Historic Bank of Florence is worth a look. It was great to see new faces and old friends at our annual Christmas Open House this past winter!

Our area businesses are busy with many new faces filling our restaurants, shops, and bars. We all are anxiously waiting for the return of The Mouth of The South. While in the area don't forget to check out the many great shows that our Florentine Players present each year. Did you know they actually host five shows in addition to the big melodrama done in connection with Florence Days? We have quite a talented group of actors and actresses who all help support the Florence Historical Foundation.

Did you know that The Florence Historical Foundation maintains the Florence Depot, The Florence Fire Barn, The Bank of Florence, the Florence City Hall, and Dick's Place? In addition to the work done on the Bank this past year, the Florence City Hall also received upgrades.

We were part of the Restoration Omaha Wyman Heights tour that was a huge success last fall. It seems like we always have a project going on to help preserve our historical buildings.

This is where our friends and members come into play. Your membership dollars help preserve our historic buildings and your gifts are tax deductible for the 2018 tax year.

Please consider sending your support again this year if you have not already done so, to help continue the efforts of the Florence Historical Foundation in Building a Strong Community.

Enjoy your 58th Annual Florence Days!

Dick Brown

President, Florence Historical Foundation

(Continued from front page)

Oaks Farm was named for the seven large oak trees which stood on the property when the Sisters bought it in 1920. Only one of them still stands today.

"That tree over there," Sr. Anita said, pointing to a large oak out the window of the Heritage Room at the end of the hallway. "That's the last original oak tree." The Seven Oaks property itself is perhaps the best symbol of the evolution of the Notre Dame Sisters over the last 100 years.

A poultry farm, a convent, an academy for young girls, and now a senior living facility, the building has evolved again and again to help the Sisters achieve their mission and meet unmet needs in the community.

"Traditionally, we were all teachers at the beginning, but when we were no longer needed in the classroom we kind of spread out [to other ministries]," said Sr. Margaret. She noted that some Sisters have worked as nurses, caregivers, and ministers.

They also provide volunteer services to vulnerable groups like women and children who fall victim to human trafficking and domestic violence and Dreamers who sought safety under the DACA policy before it was dismantled. "We believe in the consistent ethic of life...so that's where we focus our efforts," she continued.



Sister Anita holds a picture taken from the archives of the Notre Dame Sisters.

Walking into the Heritage Room, Margaret and Anita recounted story after story about how the Sisters have built onto, torn down, remodeled, and added additions to the building over the years to make it fit their needs. The Heritage Room, for example, was originally the chapel, but currently serves as a library and computer room for residents.

An area downstairs which was the auditorium when Sr. Anita attended the Notre Dame Academy had become a cafeteria by the time Margaret attended years later. It now serves as a community center that provides a monthly food bank and other services to the Omaha community at large.

Even after all those remodels, an old, lighted sign is perched atop the same elevator which was installed over fifty years prior.

After the tour wound down through rooms, offices, and staircases, it ended once more in front of the chapel. From the other side of the room, two more display cases which had previously gone unnoticed frame the exit. They each serve a different purpose.

One display case outlines years of missionary work in Honduras and Chile through beautiful artifacts from Central and South America. Their work in Porcupine, South Dakota with the Lakota Sioux, which lasted from the 1930s all the way up until last year, is illustrated by shelves of hand-painted dishes and gifts in the case as well.

These beautiful pieces remind the Sisters of their continued mission of service and the value of each individual they have aided over the years.



The china cup Sr. Margaret carried from what used to be the motherhouse in Czechoslovakia.

The china in the second case speaks more to the history of the Sisters themselves. "That has a story" says Margaret, pointing to a particularly elegant cup. "I personally carried that all by myself from Czechoslovakia in 1980 when we visited what was our motherhouse.

The area had been taken over by the Communists and was serving as a barracks... but we went to visit the sacristy and we found some things. Since they weren't being used, we kind of each took a little piece," she stated, smiling slightly.

The china reflects both the beauty and the grit that helped create their history. The strong women of the Notre Dame Sisters can look to these artifacts as a reflection of their own handiwork, and how it has allowed them to continue their mission in Omaha for a century.

Whether they're buying a property they couldn't afford because of a love for the land and the need for a place to live, or "borrowing" a teacup from a Communist, the Notre Dame Sisters have always done what is necessary to keep their mission and history alive, while simultaneously caring for the most vulnerable people around them. If their past is any indication, these women are sure to remain a staple in our community for many years to come.

Look for the Notre Dame Sisters during the Florence Days Parade. Members from the organization will be waving from the first float in the procession. ❖

Aspiring writer Riley Cullen is former Florence resident who grew up in this community. Riley is currently a full-time student at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Florentine Players
54th Annual Melodrama!
May 10-12, 2018
Love Potion #9 or
All is Love in Fair and War
Comedy/Musical (Rated PG)
tickets at florencehistorical.org

Thank you members & advertisers! Your dollars help fund many Florence projects to build a strong community.



Florence Historical Foundation Membership Form

Your Tax Deductible Membership maintains the Bank of Florence, Toll House, Florence Train Depot Museum, Florence Fire Barn & traditions such as the Florence Days Parade

Name and/or Business Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____
Membership:
 Individual \$15.00
 Family \$25.00
 Business \$50.00
 Large Corp. \$100.00
 Angel Level \$1,000.00
 \$ _____
Tax Deductible Amount

If this is a memorial gift, please add the name below:

~ Checks payable to: **Florence Historical Foundation, P.O. Box 12331, Omaha, NE 68112** ~

(Continued from page 2)

Everyone is welcome at Harold's. About Harold's many regular customers she adds, "We know what they're going to eat before they sit down, half of them."

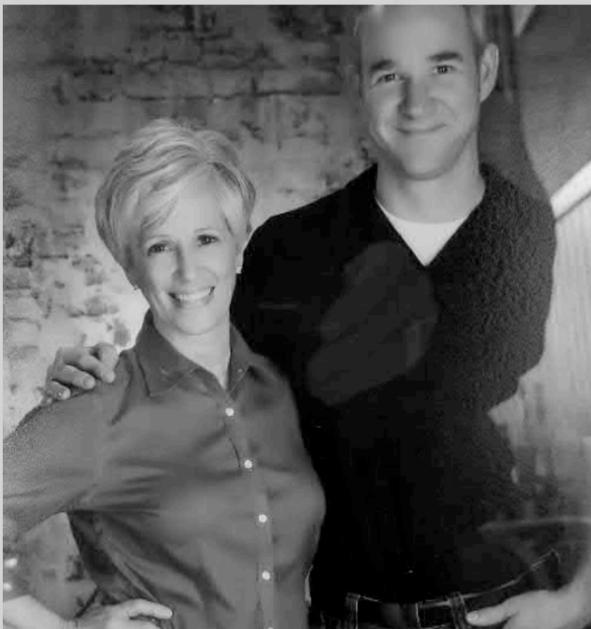
Third thing, "We care about their day, their stories," she said, "and we love serving them a nourishing meal."

She openly praised her son and all the recent appearances on the Morning Blend, the latest touting National Grilled Cheese Day!

I asked her what is it that drives her to continue after so very many years and economic changes that hit other established restaurants (Mr. C's,) Minne Lusa Restaurant long ago, and many others.

"We are an integral part of Florence," she said, "and with certainty I knew this was where I was supposed to be." Nancy candidly explains that her faith in God and knowing what is good for family and community are the things that really matter in making a difference in someone's day.

"A piece of pie, is always nice too!" ❖



A true family business: Nancy Bohnenkamp with her son and Harold's General Manager Matt.



"Notre Dame Sisters raised \$80,000 at its 24th annual Celebration of Spirit Dinner on March 18. The event drew 300 people...."

"... The highlight of the evening was the Celebration of Spirit's annual Mother Qualberta Service Award presentation."

Source: Omaha.com article by Kate Malott / World-Herald staff writer. Apr 8, 2018 issue.



The Miller Park/Minne-Lusa Neighborhood

by Kathy Holtz



MINNE-LUSA
HISTORIC DISTRICT

**MILLER PARK
MINNE LUSA
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

We meet
the first
Thursday of
every month
at 7 p.m. * at
Miller Park Pavilion.
millerparkminnelusa.com

* Citizen Patrol
Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The Miller Park/Minne Lusa Neighborhood is a neighborhood of wonderful historic homes with people that make a conscious effort to know their neighbors, and make it a great place to raise your family. We all know that you are not going to care about your neighbors, unless you get to know them. We stay connected by attending citizen patrol and neighborhood association meetings the 1st Thursday of every month at 7pm, in the pavilion in Miller Park. We also use the Minne Lusa House, Precinct Advisory Council meetings, nextdoor.com and our website: millerparkminnelusa.com to stay in touch with each other. We are one of the most active neighborhoods in the city.

On March 10th, we all met in Miller Park for Place Games. In case you haven't heard, Miller Park is going to be completely rehabilitated courtesy of the Lozier Foundation. At Place Games, 35 neighbors contributed their ideas regarding what they would like their park to look like. There were lots of great suggestions, including better lighting, more visible signage, benches, grills, walking and bike trails, improved landscaping, amphitheater, fountain, and art. The goal is to make the park more useable for community events like music, artwork, farmers market, and things of this nature. One of the items, already in the works, is a state-of-the-art ballfield. This is going to be the best ballfield

in the city with stadium seating and concession stand, and will aptly be named The Kerrie Orozco Ball Park after the officer who gave her life serving this community. We are really proud to have her ballfield in our neighborhood.

On March 20th, the neighborhood association sponsored precinct appreciation and provided a meal and homemade cookies to all three shifts of the Northeast Precinct, which is something we do annually. The officers really appreciate this gesture of kindness and we, of course, appreciate all the work they do in our community.

April 28th, we are looking forward to seeing 125 new trees being planted along Minne Lusa Blvd and in Florence, as well. Thanks to Diana Paila, President of Neighborhood Alliance and the Urban Bird &

about anything except flammables, liquids, tires, yard waste and large appliances. About anything else is fair game. Our neighborhood association will have volunteers there to direct traffic and help you unload your vehicle. This is another event that we do every year, as we feel that it helps people keep their property clean, and keeps them from dumping illegally. If you have anything you need to get rid of, just stop by.

In Miller Park/Minne Lusa, you can see that we always have something going on all the time, such as neighborhood garage sales, Fun in the Park, Cops N Bobbers, Annual Golf Tournament and Trick-or-Treating on the BOOlevard. We really try to work together in our neighborhood and encourage people to "be the change you want to see in your neighborhood".

Longtime Florence resident Kathy Holtz is a successful realtor by profession and a 25-year community advocate. Kathy gives back in many ways. She is currently a member of the Florence Christian Church and she serves as Secretary and Webmaster for the Miller Park/Minne Lusa Neighborhood Association. She is President of the Minne Lusa Neighborhood Citizen Patrol. She is an administrator for Nextdoor.com, and she sits on the Board of Directors for Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols. Citizens like Kathy inspire Strong Communities! ❖



Nature Alliance, we were gifted 125 trees. Volunteers will be out at 8 am planting them.

Also on April 28th, we're hosting an annual Neighborhood Spring Clean Up at McMillan Magnet, 9am to 2 pm. This is an opportunity to get rid of all your old junk for free. We take



SERVING GREAT AMERICAN FOOD
SINCE 1956

Harold's
KOFFEE HOUSE

OMAHA NEBRASKA

WWW.HAROLDSKOFFEE.COM

8327 North 30th Street (402) 451-9776

Find us on Facebook

St. Philip Neri-Blessed Sacrament Parish & SPN School

Congratulate the Notre Dame Sisters as Grand Marshals

Please join us in Worship – Daily Mass: Monday-Friday 8:15 a.m.
Sat. 5 p.m. – Sunday 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.
8200 North 30th St. Omaha, Nebraska 68112-2202

St. Philip Neri School offers a religious and private education that is open to students looking for a faith filled academic environment.

Call **NOW** to tour and enroll in the Fall semester

Pre-K through 8th Grade

402-315-3500
8202 N. 31st St.
Omaha, Nebraska 68112

Got Photos? We Want to See Them!

Help Uncover Hidden Histories



You can help uncover the past. The Florence Historical Foundation has teamed up with the Omaha World-Herald to gather and digitizing images of Florence's past for a future book. It's people. It's businesses. It's homes and buildings and all the stories behind each one. Bring your photos and stories and join us on Saturday, May 12 before the Parade kicks off. Drop by the Historic Bank of Florence Museum on the corner of 30th & Willit Streets between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We'll look at your photos, hear your stories and scan the photos we're able to use on site.

Can't make it May 12? Contact Kristine Gerber at (402) 444-1082 or kristine.gerber@owh.com for an appointment.

Drop by the Bank of Florence Museum with your photos & stories 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 12 PARADE DAY!

Photos on left, from top to bottom:

Moving day for Florence Stables Volunteers move horses owned by Marjorie Furstenberg and her father, Roy, from the old location of Florence Stables, 9292 N. 30th St., to a new location pictured here at 31st and Calhoun Streets on Nov. 15, 1945. The new stables featured cement floors, drains connected with the city sewer system, 19 stalls including five box stalls and, over the front door, an oil painting by Omaha artist Eldon Fratt of Majorie's pedigreed thoroughbred gelding, Rainbow Beauty. - *The Omaha World-Herald archives*

Florence Fountain The fountain in front of Florence's Minne Lusa Pumping Station in 1935. The fountain was dismantled in the 1960s and was donated to Heartland Park in 1990 by Metropolitan Utilities District. - *M.U.D.-Bostwick/Frohardt Collection*

Bank of Florence The Bank of Florence, pictured here in 1946, was built as a wildcat bank in 1856. It fell in the Panic of 1857. The bank was reopened in 1890 and remained in business until the Great Depression. The building was used as a grocery store, a dry cleaner, an antique store and the Florence Telephone Company. The bank was eventually donated to the Florence Historical Foundation, which restored it to its original appearance and opened it for tours. It is the oldest bank in Nebraska. - *The Omaha World-Herald*

Giant Elm Slated for Demolition Cowboy Dick Kinsler, 10, perches on the base of an old elm tree on July 2, 1946. The tree was in front of the Florence Bank and is believed to have been planted by the first cashier, J.D. Brisbin, when the bank opened in 1856. At the time of this photo, the tree's base was six feet wide. It was ordered to be razed in 1946 because the city forester pronounced it dangerous. - *Earle "Buddy" Bunker/The Omaha World-Herald*

Photo credits: Omaha World-Herald & M.U.D. archives by permission.

Omaha Public Library
Open Your World

Find it here.
Books. Music. Movies. And more...

Florence Branch
2920 Bondesson St. | 402.444.5299
omahalibrary.org

Thank you
advertisers!

**Anderson
Print
Group**

6935 N. 97th Cir.
402-709-3771
Call Bill for all of your
printing needs

**HISTORIC
FLORENCE DAYS**

**We're Rock'n
The Midwest**

G.M.S. Werks
for over 90 years

A Division of Universal Terrazzo & Tile Co.
gmswerks.com
4225 Florence Boulevard
Omaha, NE 68110
402.451.3400

Douglas County Historical Society is
A Community Gem
by Joan Allen

One of my favorite places in Omaha, which happens to be situated in our community, is the Douglas County Historical Society (DCHS), consisting of the General Crook House Museum and the Library Archives Center, both located on the campus of historic Fort Omaha Metropolitan Community College, 5730 N 30th St., building #11b. DCHS was created in 1956, but it was not until 1976 that the building that now houses the Museum was acquired and restorations to its original Italianate-style Victorian state begun. The Library Archival Center, acquired in 1982 and located immediately north of the Museum, serves as the official county archive, holding more than six million documents and over 8,000 artifacts. Newspapers, clipping files, books and government records are housed here and available to the public.



The General Crook House is a living museum (open 7 days a week), hosting many activities. Charles Dickens productions, teas, classes, book discussions, special events and, of course, tours are all conducted at the museum. All events and classes are open to the public, many at a minimal cost. (Reduced price for DCHS members.) DCHS hosts the highly popular Second Sunday Series talk, Reader's Circle book club, Vintage Wheels at the Fort, Anniversary of Standing Bear Trial, Women Defining History Luncheon and Fashion Show, Omaha Collects, and the biggest garage sale in Omaha every August. (Look for flyers advertising events at Harold's Koffee Shop.) The Museum, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, is not to be missed. Dozens of skilled volunteers decorate every room for the holidays.



The grounds around the two buildings are a gardener's delight. The larger garden sits south of the Museum and showcases over a hundred varieties of heirloom flowers, trees and shrubs native to Nebraska. The Heirloom Garden, designated a Nebraska Statewide Arboretum in 1997, was renovated in 2013. Plantings change annually. An additional garden, the Ethel C. Flannigan Memorial Architectural Garden, so named for the stone architectural remnants from Douglas County's old Post Office, was dedicated last summer.

Our community is fortunate to have the opportunities DCHS has to offer --- practically at our feet --- and frequently at no or nominal cost. The number of visitors, students and volunteers this institution draws give our business community greater exposure and enrich the lives of our citizens with opportunities for personal growth and enjoyment. ❖

For information call 402.455.9990 or DouglasCoHistory.org



Florence Historical Foundation continues to restore and maintain many historical buildings in Florence. Florence City "Reception" Hall is the original site of Florence's City Hall, jail and fire station back in the 1880s. The Florentine Players continue to be a part of the fundraising arm of the Florence Historical Foundation. The facility was built by your donations and is truly a "community building". We take pride in what we've built and hope you do, too, when using the Florence City "Reception" Halls.

Plan your events at FlorenceReceptionHalls.com

----- BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY -----

Notre Dame Sisters
 Celebrating
 101 years in Florence!!

 Stop in and visit Notre Dame Housing
 3439 State Street

 Housing. Health. Hope.



Notre Dame Sisters
 Women of Faith, Making a Difference

**KOUNTZE
 MEMORIAL
 LUTHERAN
 CHURCH**

(ELCA)

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9AM & 11AM
 EDUCATION HOUR: 10AM
 SATURDAY WORSHIP: 5PM

"a citywide church with a world-wide ministry"

2650 Farnam Street | 402-341-7761
 (Located East of I-480 at Farnam St.)

Discover more at  kmlchurch.org

Worship Times in the Community

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA
 6340 N. 30th St. | 402-453-4080 | Trinityomaha.org
 Traditional Sunday Service: 8:45 a.m.
 Sunday School for All: 9:45 a.m. | Praise Service: 10:45 a.m.
 Interim Pastor James Holthus

ST. PHILIP NERI CHURCH - BLESSED SACRAMENT: Catholic
 8200 N. 30th St. | 402-455-1289 | www.saintphilipneriblessedsacrament.org
 Saturday Service: 5 p.m. | Sunday Services: 7:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
 Father D. Mario Rapose

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH: LCMS
 7301 N. 28th Ave. | 402-455-8700 | MountOliveOmaha.com
 (Two blocks east of Godfather's Pizza)
 Sunday Service: 9 a.m. | Educational Hour: 10:20 a.m.
 Rev. Roland A. Jank, Jr.

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST
 3535 Maplewood Blvd. | 402-572-1430 | email: office@maplewood.com
 Sunday School: 9 a.m. | Sunday Worship: 10:15 a.m.
 Rev. Jim Johnson

FLORENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 8314 N. 31st St. | 402-455-8343 | Florencepc.org
 Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
 Pastor Al Zimmerman

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH: LCMS
 11120 Calhoun Rd. | 402-451-2441 | stjohnomaha.com
 Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
 Rev. Ronald Holling

Family History Builds Community with Library's Rich Resources

by Martha Grenzeback, Genealogy & Local History Librarian, Omaha Public Library

As Florence launches its 58th Florence Days celebration, community gatherings are a wonderful time to exchange family history information and swap stories -- it's stories that make community!

We can generally rely on professional historians to record the major historical facts about a place, but who will preserve the stories that bring a community to life if not the family historians?

Some of those stories will become part of the collective community memory -- such as the one about how the territorial legislature filibustered right here in Florence for an entire turbulent week back in 1856 -- quite an amusing story retold at historicflorence.org/HistoricEvents/TerritorialLegislature.php, you'll enjoy reading it.

Others stories remain part of an individual family's personal heritage, to be passed down through the generations, providing family members a sense of who they are as a family -- even if those tales are not much more than a tradition of Native American ancestry, or Grandma's memories of a time when Florence bragged of having "one mile of brick-paved streets."

Those families are lucky, particularly if someone has taken the trouble to write their stories down so they won't be lost.



"The prettiest mile in Omaha Boulevard, Omaha, Neb." postcard. This street is now called Florence Blvd. Source: Omaha Public Library's Nebraska Memories collection at memories.ne.gov. Free access.

The celebration of Florence Days is a reminder to make your own contribution to those community and family traditions, by sharing your own family stories with others (orally or in writing) and tracking down the stories that risk being lost.

Some can be found in the books, records, and pamphlet files in the Nebraska and Genealogy Reference Collections at the W. Dale Clark Library. Many more await in old newspapers such as Florence

Items (1903-1908), the Florence Tribune (1909-1916), and others available on microfilm at the W. Dale Clark Library, the Omaha World-Herald (online digital access, 1878-1983, with an Omaha Public Library card), and the Omaha Bee (digitally available free at <http://nebnewspapers.unl.edu> for the years 1872-1922, and on microfilm at W. Dale Clark Library 1872-1937).

One example is the story (see sidebar) of how young Iner Johnson was buried alive back in 1903 but rescued by valiant Margaret Franklin and the local mail carrier.

Researching your family history in Omaha Public Library's genealogy databases, Ancestry Library Edition and MyHeritage Library Edition, may reveal more fascinating aspects of your family and community history. Did your great-grandfather serve in World War I? Or maybe he was a worker at the Florence pumping plant--considered such a far commute from Omaha in 1915 that the Metropolitan Utilities District provided housing in Florence for its employees. All these details work together to build a picture of a thriving community--and every contribution makes that picture more compelling.

So celebrate Florence Days by finding out a bit more about your family and your community!

What Exactly is "No More Empty Pots"?

by Talia McGill, Director of Strategic Communications, No More Empty Pots



No More Empty Pots is a grassroots non-profit corporation that connects individuals and groups to improve self-sufficiency, regional food security and economic resilience of urban and rural communities through advocacy and action. To help support this effort, No More Empty Pots, collaborates with an array of public and private organizations, businesses, communities, individuals, and entrepreneurs.

This is an exciting time for No More Empty Pots. The lower level of The Collaborative Community Centered Food Hub is up and running. Since its completion in the spring of 2017, the Shared-Use Kitchen has welcomed over 10 local food entrepreneurs starting and growing businesses.

Our motto is "We Fight Poverty with Local Foods. Training. Jobs. Entrepreneurship."

The Food Hub is based on a system of interdependent activities including commercial kitchens, a community café, cold/dry storage, and food systems focused incubator rooted in proven models that deliver positive outcomes in job training, workforce readiness, food waste reduction, healthy food access, income generation and business development.

This past fall, The Production and Training Kitchen piloted the 15-week Culinary Workforce Training Program where participants learn skills to



A great example of a successful community collaboration is when No More Empty Pots and the Florence Mill teamed last fall to present a "Blues & BBQ Harvest" Fundraiser to support Phase 2 of the NMEP Food Hub and the restoration of the Florence Mill Cob Shed.

prepare them for a career in the food and beverage industry through culinary skills training, career development, internship and job search/placement assistance.

The upper levels of the Food Hub are currently under construction with projected completion in late 2018 to include; Kid's Kitchen, Business Incubator, Community Café and Rooftop Garden.

No More Empty Pots has also introduced new programs. Reading Time, hosted at No More Empty Pots, is an intergenerational program focused on literacy.

NMEP in partnership with the Omaha Public Library invites the community in for themed reading and activities.

Additionally, NMEP will offer a CISCO Internet of Things curriculum in which 12 - 24 year olds will use technology to solve problems today's farmers are facing.

To learn more about No More Empty Pots, visit nmpomaha.org or email info@nmpomaha.org.

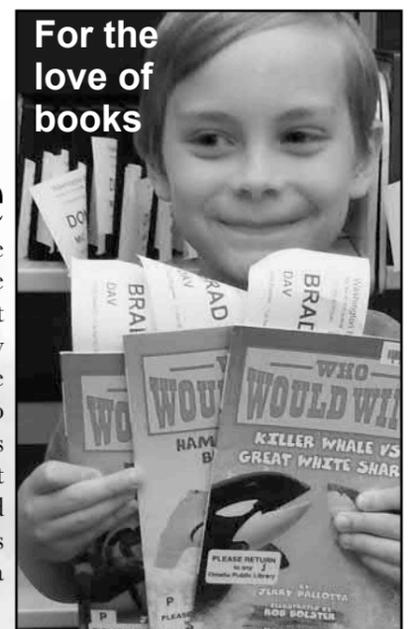
MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER AND CHIP DAVIS

SALUTE FLORENCE

www.mannheimsteamroller.com

Discovering Library's Hold Service

Six-year-old David Bradley III is a bibliophile who knows his books. While in the Florence Branch Library recently, he had his heart set on checking out a particular title that was only available at a branch across town. So he insisted that he and his mother drive there to pick up the book immediately. When his mom, Andrea Montana, gently explained that a long drive is unnecessary because he could request the book be delivered directly to this branch by truck, the wide-eyed child shot a fist in the air and shouted YES!





Save the Date

by Lois Jordan

Third Annual Taste of Florence Sept 9, 2018

Hey Newbies to Taste of Florence! – you have to experience the fun and camaraderie of this special event and you too will become a repeat visitor! Senior Health Foundation is pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Taste of Florence food festival this fall at the Florence Home Healthcare Center – between Reynolds & Sheffield Streets on North 30th.

For those of you who have shared in this delectable experience the past two years, you are in for another fantastic treat!

“You won’t want to miss this spectacular event!”



Taste of Florence 2018 will feature mouth-watering food samples from the best local restaurants in the Florence neighborhood and surrounding areas. You will enjoy games for the kids, music for adults and fun for everyone! Details and ticket info at TasteOfFlorence.net.

Heartfelt thanks to all the vendors and visitors who participate, indulge and support Florence in “Building a Strong Community.”

Senior Health Foundation helps fill the gaps in funding for critical programs for seniors in Omaha through Midwest Geriatrics, Inc. MGI has served Omaha seniors since 1906 and been a ‘neighbor’ in the Florence community since 1916.

You won’t want to miss this spectacular event! See you in September. ❖

President & CEO of Midwest Geriatrics in Florence, Lois Jordan is this year's 2018 Taste of Florence Coordinator.



Mark your calendar now!

*Taste of Florence 2018, Sunday Sept 9, 1-5 p.m.
Florence Home Healthcare, 7915 N 30th St.
This year will feature over 20 restaurants, live music and activities & games for kids. A surprise autumn-themed contest will round out the afternoon and promises to be fun for all.
Visit tasteofflorence.net for details and tickets.*



Patronize your local fooderies!

OJ's Café
Mexican Food

HOURS
Lunch: Tuesday - Friday | 11 am to 2 pm
Dinner: Tuesday - Friday | 4:30 pm to 9 pm
Saturday | 2 pm to 9 pm
Closed Sunday & Monday
Carry Out Welcome
9201 N. 30th St. | Omaha, NE 68112
402-451-3266

Saluting our amazing Notre Dame Sisters 2018 Grand Marshals!



8510 North 30th Street
Omaha, NE 68112
402.933.9755

www.enzositalianomaha.com

www.enzo.zurlo@hotmail.com

Catering for all Occasions



Friendly, local, delicious

Lunch & Dinner from 11am / Full bar

Party room & catering

Sunday Brunch 10am-2pm

Tussey's
casual grill

9229 Mormon Bridge Plaza
Omaha, NE 68152
402-884-2288
TusseysCasualGrill.com



STICK & STONE BRICK OVEN BAKERY
and Gift Shoppe

Naturally-leavened & Fermented

Sourdough Breads, Cookies, & Rolls

12 Flavors of Hand-Scooped

Ashby's ICE CREAM



Experience Omaha's ONLY Wood-Fired Oven Bakery

9518 Calhoun Rd.
(402) 455-4248
Open Wed.-Sat.
www.stickandstonebakery.com



OPEN YEAR ROUND!

SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM
ICE CREAM CAKES
CATERING
GRADUATIONS
RECEPTIONS
BIRTHDAY PARTIES

8608 N 30th St
Omaha, NE 68112
402-451-0581

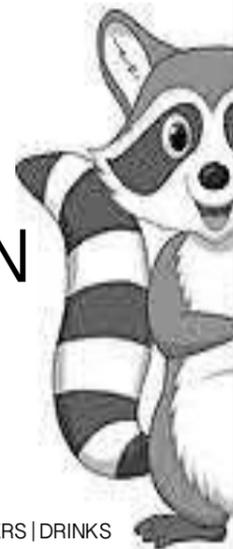
ALPINE INN
FLAVIA & GLENN

402-451-9988

10405 CALHOUN RD
Omaha, NE 68112

OUR SPECIALTY

CHICKEN | SHRIMP | GIZZARDS | LIVERS | DRINKS



NITE HAWKES

HOME OF THE DAN'S SPECIAL!

CLOSED MONDAY
TUES THRU FRI 6 AM TO 3 PM
SAT & SUN 7 AM TO 1 PM

4825 N 16TH ST | OMAHA, NE
402-451-0302



Collaborative Community Centered Food Hub

No More Empty Pots empowers the community through local foods, training, jobs and entrepreneurship. The Food Hub provides educational opportunities, access to affordable healthy foods, and community collaboration.

Now Open

- Shared-use Commercial Kitchen Available to rent by the hour for prep, production & storage.
- Training & Production Kitchen Houses the 15-week Culinary Workforce Training Program Available to rent by the hour for prep, production & storage.

Coming Soon

- Kid's Kitchen
- Community Café
- Business Incubator
- Rooftop Garden

Contact Us: 8511 N. 30th St. Omaha, NE 68112 // 402.502.1642 // info@nmepomaha.org // www.nmepomaha.org

Pete Festeresen

CITY COUNCIL

"Paid for by Festeresen for City Council"

660 Parkwood Lane | Omaha, NE 68132 | 402.554.1436
www.petefesteresen.com | pete@petefesteresen.com

DON'T MISS
THE
NORTH
BOWL
FAIR
AFTER
THE
PARADE!



Husker Dental

Making Happy, Healthy Smiles

(402) 451-7407



Dr. Jaya Maniktala, DDS
8710 N 30th Street, Omaha, NE 68112
www.huskerdental.com

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Preferred Provider for most Major Insurance

Protecting Dreams

as we help

Build a Strong Community

in Florence and North Omaha

Auto, Home, Life and Business Insurance



Suzanne Schonberner
With T.C. Johnson &
Ray Ekeh Agencies

FLORENCE BRANCH

8315 N 30th St

402-401-7550



Insure carefully, dream fearlessly.

American Family Mutual Insurance Company S.I. - 6000 American Parkway - Madison, WI 53783

Neighbors Join Florence Citizen Patrol to Support Building a "Safe" Community

by John Lemen

Florence resident Linda Workman was fed up with the criminal activity in her neighborhood; thefts, car break-ins, vandalism were on the increase and she was mad! She made phone calls, printed flyers, and used email and social media to get the word out about a kick-off meeting for organizing a Citizens Patrol in Florence.

Florence Historical Foundation donated use of the West Wing meeting room this past Sept 25 at Florence City Hall for the gathering ... and the room was packed!

Presenter Roger Hansen of the Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols focused on the differences between a Neighbor Watch group and a Citizens Patrol, how the city-wide Omaha Coalition of Citizens Patrols assists the 35 neighborhood patrol groups and the procedure to form a neighborhood patrol in Florence.

The crowd's response made the high level of interest in getting a group started obvious and the Coalition immediately scheduled a training session and 23 neighbors completed the course. (As of this writing, seven more folks have completed training.) The new official Patrol group jumped right in. By our first Florence Citizens Patrol meeting (Oct 23, 2017), we had racked up more than 2500 miles and 360 hours of patrolling in just 3½ months! So, what do we do?

FAQs:

Got questions? Here are some

What is the Citizen's Patrol?

We are the eyes and ears for the police. We patrol the neighborhood and report any suspicious activity to the police. We do not leave our vehicle and we do not confront or apprehend anyone.

What is the Florence Area?

Our "official" boundaries are Forest Lawn Avenue / Potter Street on the south, Cook Street on the north, 27th Street on

the east, and Mormon Bridge Road on the west. Teams also patrol the 30th Street business district between Forest Lawn and Martin Avenues, Florence Heights and Wyman Heights and the neighborhood near High Point pool.

How Does it Work?

We go out with at least two people in a vehicle; we patrol any day of the week, at any time that works out for the teams. If two teams schedule a patrol at the same day and time, they coordinate efforts so that one team patrols the North-South streets and avenues, and the other covers the East-West streets. Each vehicle is marked with magnetic signs, and the teams carry photo ID badges. The teams can use scanners or a smartphone app to monitor Police Department radio traffic, and use their personal cell phones to contact 911 to report suspicious activity.

Who Are We?

We are fathers, mothers, grandparents, single, married or divorced people of every race and creed. We are a diverse group of neighbors who live in and care about the Florence community, and want it to be a safe place to live and work. We also enjoy getting to know our neighbors on a more personal level and love making new friends. Our current officers are: President- Linda Workman, Vice President - John Lemen, Secretary - Laura Jacobberger, and Sharon Perrigo is our Treasurer.

Do You Have Meetings?

Yes, and we welcome everyone! Meeting are held 6:30 pm at the North Bowl on the second Monday of every month; the meetings start at 6:30 PM and run about an hour long. Meetings are open to the public and new dues required!

What Do I Need to Bring?

Just yourself! ... and your concerns, fears, strengths, ideas, friends and neighbors. What we really need is a small investment of your time and a willingness to make a positive difference in your community.



How Much Time Does it Take?

On average, each team usually patrols two or three times a month, and it takes about two hours to patrol our area, so the time commitment is very small. There's no minimum or maximum - whatever time you donate is appreciated!

Where Do You Get Your Funding?

Government sponsored grants and donations from neighbors and area businesses; we will be conducting fund-raising events to enable us to purchase equipment such as two-way radios, police scanners, spotlights, magnetic signs for our vehicles, etc.

How Do I Get Started?

Send an email to: FlorenceOCCP@gmail.com
Training is easy. Register to attend an evening Omaha Citizen's Patrol Training Class, normally held at the Police Department's Northwest Precinct Headquarters (102nd St, north of Fort St) Upon completion, you'll be issued a photo ID badge.

ALL NEW FLORENCE CITIZEN PATROL

Come to a meeting. Held 6:30PM, 2nd Mondays of every month at the North Bowl.

No dues! Always open to all!

--- safety is everyone's business ---

WELCOME

New Businesses

GTR Sales - Real Estate/Property Mngmt
30th Redick Ave
Auto Insurance Mart
Cameron H. Thomas, Owner
Audrey Thompson, Insurance Agent
Shelly Farrester, Property Management

Dye's & Cuts
Hair Salon | 8319 No 30th St

American Family Insurance
Reasonable Lawn Care
Telecom Rescue
8315 No 30th St

the GET DOWN Ultra Lounge
8509 No 30th St

Prairie Piece Goods &
Rock Bottom Books & Antiques
8523 No 30th St

Beauty-Rama Antiques
8604 No 30th St

The Florence Everything Store
Antiques - Collectables - Memorabilia
8611 No 30th St

Rogers Hair Design
8808 No 30th St

REIGN Lounge Package & Grill
8919 No 30th St

Stick & Stone Brick Oven Bakery
Bakery & Ice Cream
9518 Calhoun Rd

Junior's FORGOT STORE
Bar & Grill | 11909 Calhoun Rd



"Love Potion #9" --or-- "All is Love in Fair and War"

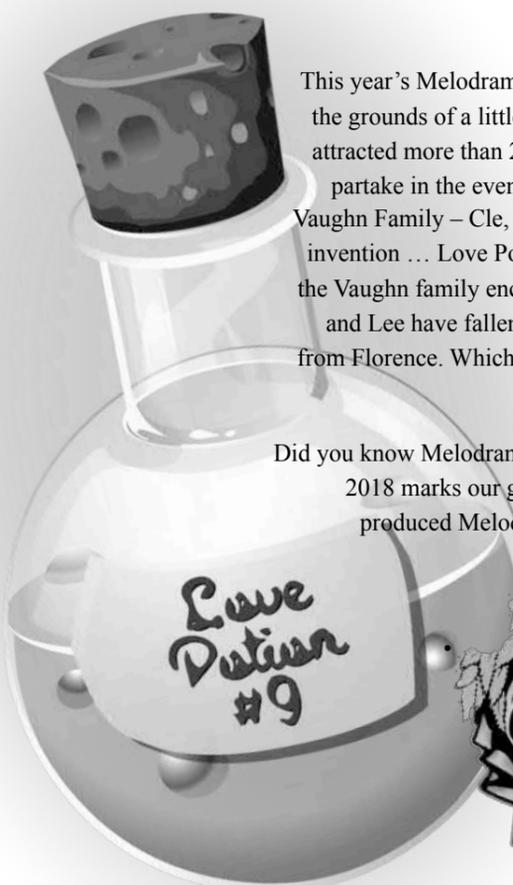
Producing Theater:

The Florence Community Theater and The Florentine Players.

Show Summary:

This year's Melodrama is set during the World's Fair (Trans-Mississippi Exposition of 1898), on the grounds of a little park in North Omaha. The 1898 Fair sprawled across 108 city blocks and attracted more than 2.6 million visitors. Even President William McKinley arrived in Omaha to partake in the event. This is the backdrop for our little story. A family of inventors / cons, the Vaughn Family - Cle, Lee, Dee and Vince - have arrived at the World's Fair to launch their latest invention ... Love Potion #9 (the first 8 potions just didn't work out). While at the World's Fair, the Vaughn family encounters an interesting cast of characters; and for the first time brothers Cle and Lee have fallen in love with the same woman, a vaudeville performer named Lady who is from Florence. Which brother will win her heart? Will good or evil prevail? Will they ever find a cure for the swelling Love Potion #6 caused?

Did you know Melodramas have been produced by "The Florentine Players" since 1928? Although 2018 marks our group's 54th regular season, 2018 marks the 90th year of Florentine Player-produced Melodramas! Come out and audition to be part of a fun, over-the-top, and nearly century-old tradition in the heart of the oldest city in Nebraska!



Production Dates:

May 10, 11, & 12, 7pm

Shows performed at Florence City Hall

2864 State St., Omaha

Contact Information:

Derek Kowal, Director

DerekKowal@gmail.com

Tel: 402-216-4944



KNOWN FOR GREAT PROGRAMS

Contributed by Ruth Kruse

Florence AARP is a time of great fellowship, excellent food and good humor.

After a hearty meal, friends become informed on issues which concern senior citizens. Several programs include health information and financial concerns of seniors.

Programs include presentations from other countries as well as lively musical sessions. Ira Combs (NOAH), Johnny Ray Gomez and Greg Owen are all presenting programs this year.

Meetings are open to all every third Monday. Dinner at NOON.

Mountview Presbyterian Church, 5301 Hartman.

Reserve your seats, call Gerry Goldsborough 402-571-0971

Rides are available, call Ruth Kruse, 402-453-4825.

FLORENCE AARP's 2018 PROGRAM LINEUP

MAY 21
Mickey Wilroth & Walter Garrow
Impersonations

JUNE 18
Theresa Jordan
CareMatrix

JULY 16
Dr. Gabriel Long
AWAKEN Chiropractic

AUGUST 20
Johnny Ray Gomez
Music with Humor

SEPTEMBER 17
Annual Picnic

OCTOBER 15
Tom Neal
Nebraska Organ
Recovery

NOVEMBER 19
Nathan Morgan
The Big Garden

DECEMBER 10
Greg Owen
Holiday Music

KIWANIS CLUB OF FLORENCE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

~ connecting with your community is rewarding for all ~

Join us at our next KIWANIS CLUB of FLORENCE meeting to get acquainted and see the amazing things we do for the community -- such as:

- Adopt-a-School Partner for Florence Elementary School
- K-Kids Sponsor for Ponca Hills Elementary School
- Annual Florence Days Partner
- B.U.G. (Bring Up Grades) Award Partner
- Florence Historical Foundation Partner
- Host for New Citizens at Monthly Naturalization Ceremonies
- And more!

Weekly Meetings NEW LOCATION
7 a.m. every Wednesday

Stick & Stone Brick Oven Bakery & Gifts | 9518 Calhoun Rd.
Stop by or email us for more information: FlorenceKiwanis@cox.net



58th Annual Florence Days

Hooray
for the
Notre
Dame
Sisters
Grand
Marshals!

GRAND MARSHAL: Notre Dame Sisters

BUILDING A
STRONG
community



*Make the Rounds
on Parade Day
May 12, 2018*

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Free Hot Dogs & Drinks 11AM-1PM

UNIVERSAL COLLEGE of HEALING ARTS
Free Chair Massages Noon-1PM

FLORENCE MILL

OPEN HOUSE 1-5PM

DURING & AFTER PARADE

Opening: Family Ties: Art of the Apron

AFTER THE PARADE

3:30 pm Tidbits & Ties Talk

with Betty Davis, Retired Director of the
Douglas County Historical Society

Farmers Market Sundays

11AM-3PM starting June 5

More info on page 14.

ENZO's ITALIAN

DURING & AFTER PARADE

Outside grill, meatball burgers,
sausage & peppers, beer & wine

THE NEW FRONTIER BAR

PARADE DAY OPEN at 10AM

8516 N 30th St

Live Music featuring

CIRKLE OF FIFTHS AT 3PM

CRAYON CASTLE

Root beer floats, hotdogs, games &
BOUNCY HOUSE!

HISTORIC BANK of FLORENCE MUSEUM

PARADE DAY 11AM-1PM

3502 N. 30th St.

Bring your photos of people, businesses,
homes, buildings and the stories
behind them. More info on page 4.

HYVEE

Grilled burgers, brats,
hotdogs & smoked ribs

BEARD CONTEST

Registration at 11PM

Contest at NOON

At the mini park - 30th & Willit

More info on page 14.



THE 54TH ANNUAL FLORENCE

MELODRAMA

"LOVE POTION NO. 9" OR
"ALL IS LOVE IN FAIR AND WAR"

MAY 10-12, 2018
7:00 PM

FLORENCE CITY HALL
2864 STATE ST.

TICKETS \$10
CALL 402-455-6341

FLORENCETHEATER.ORG



Parade begins at Miller Park (3

Parade

ers - 2018 Theme: Building a Strong Community

Saturday May 12

PARADE STARTS at 1PM

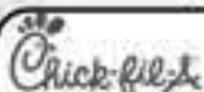
Miller Park, 30th & Redick

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MERCHANTS!
Check out the food, arts, & other vendors along parade route

Activities & fun for the whole family ... all day & into the evening!

Florence Home

7915 N 30th Street
Health Fair / Career Fair
Blood Pressure / ACCE Check
Saturday, May 12, 2018

 Brought to you by North Omaha Kiwanis & Chick-Fil-A

\$5 Lunch Boxes

Serving sandwiches, chips & water
at FLORENCE PARK
11:30am to 3pm
Saturday, May 12, 2018

Sponsored by Florence Kiwanis

Operation Lifesaver Inc ROCK BOTTOM BOOKS

8523 N 30th Street
Locomotive Simulator - Crashed Car
Storyboard After Parade
Saturday, May 12, 2018

American Family Insurance

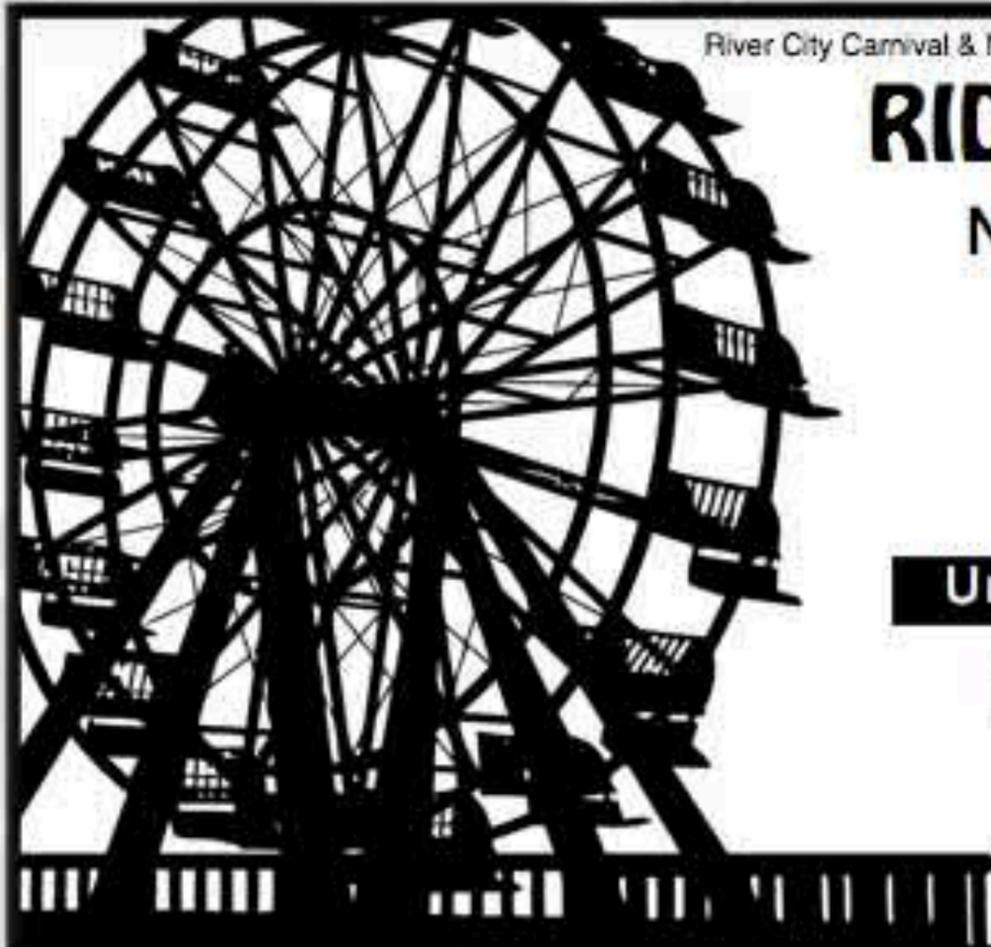
8315 N 30th Street
SPIN THE WHEEL NOON-3pm
for a chance to win candy or prizes!
Saturday, May 12, 2018

Mormon Trail Center & Museum

34th & State Streets
FREE TOURS: 9am to 9pm
Saturday, May 12, 2018

MUSEUMS OPEN

Bank of Florence | 8502 N. 30th St.
Florence Depot | 9000 N. 30th St.
Open 11am to 3pm
Saturday, May 12, 2018



River City Carnival & North Bowl Proudly Presents Building a Strong Community Fair

RIDES . GAMES . FOOD

North Bowl Fair - May 10, 11, 12

Friday 5-11pm

Saturday noon-11pm

Sunday Noon-6pm

at the North Bowl Parking Lot

-----> 8701 N. 30th Street

Unlimited Ride Passes Available!

Live Music on the Lanes

Sat., May 12, 2018 | 5-10pm

"Building a Strong Community" Fair

Sponsored by North Bowl

0th & Redick) & proceeds north to McKinley

Let Them Learn Through Play

Enrolling now – 6 weeks to 12 years

Early Childhood Education Experts
Vocabulary
Motor Skills
Social Interaction
Curiosity & Creativity

CRAYON CASTLE

8524 N 30th St | Omaha, NE 68112
Limited Enrollment Call Now
402-451-8379

Albertson BROTHERS GLASS

FOR ALL OF YOUR GLASS NEEDS!
New & Used Auto Glass | Custom Mirrors, Table Tops & Showers | House & Window Screen Repair | Store Fronts | Rock Chips \$25 (plus tax) In-shop
WE WORK TO FIT YOUR BUDGET!
8901 N. 30TH ST. | 402-451-0555 | albertsonglass.com

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Gatchell Electric Co.
Electrical Contractors

Residential and Commercial Wiring
"You call us - We'll wire you"

402-451-3900
Gary Reeve, Owner

8416 North 29th Street
Omaha, Nebraska

Earlywine's Patch and Paint

William Earlywine
Owner
earlywine422@hotmail.com
Omaha, NE
(402) 660-5480

----- BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY -----

**Mormon Trail Center
Historic Winter Quarters
Welcomes you for FREE tours!**

3215 State St (Florence) Omaha, NE

Open Daily: 9am-9pm
402-453-9372

**GREAT EXPERIENCE
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!**

Was the First Florentine Players Melodrama Performed in 1964, or in 1929, or ... ?

by John Lemen



This is Ruth Lonergan, who will play the leading role in the melodrama, "Eyes of Love," which will be presented by the Florentine Players under the direction of H. C. Smith at the Florence Community Building, Tenth and Clay streets, Friday and Saturday.



Ruth Lonergan will play the leading role in the Florentine Players' production of "The Pace at the Window," a comedy-drama, at the Florence Community House, Tenth and Clay streets, Friday and Saturday nights, June 5 and 7. H. C. Smith is directing the play.

The Florentine Players are promoting this year's Melodrama, "Love Potion #9 or All is Love in Fair and War", as their 54th season. However, a couple of World-Herald articles that recently surfaced feature sisters Mary and Ruth Lonergan starring in Florentine Players Melodramas back in 1929 and 1930, respectively.

The 1929 and 1930 plays were both directed by a "H.C. Smith", and were performed at the Florence Community Building at 30th & Clay St. Margaret Kelly Menius, one of Ruth Lonergan Kelly's daughters, says that her father, John J. Kelly, and her aunt Una Kelly also performed in those old melodramas. Una Kelly Lemen was a member of the group that revived the Florentine Players in the mid 1960's.



Rosemary Allen, Historical Bank of Florence Museum Curator, found another old photograph labeled "Original Florentine Players", showing actors from Florence Presbyterian Church on the Florence Community Center's stage – unfortunately, the photo is not dated. The photo's label does identify the third lady from the left as Susie Klever, "operator of the confectionary store at the end of the street car line at 30th & Fillmore Streets." But who are these other Florentine Players?



If any of our readers can identify other performers in the photograph or the approximate date this photo was taken, please email a message to us at florencecnewspaper@gmail.com.

Gather your photos & stories and drop by the Bank of Florence Museum 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **PARADE DAY** May 12 (details page 4)



See our ad on page 10



Don't miss our next show

Northern Lights Garden Club Needs You!

by Paige G. Wagner, President, Northern Lights Garden Club

Northern Lights Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Mormon Trail Center and is open to the public. On site meetings take place during "winter" months of November, February and March, with informative talks in climate change, edible fungi and the art of



Photo by Joan Allen

using re-claimed woods.

When no one can stand to be inside any more, trips to Lauritzen Gardens, Glacier Creek Preserve, Paradigm Gardens, Lavender Farm, nursery tours and private garden visits are arranged. The group organizes frequent work parties to clean up, weed, mulch, and plant bulbs (look for the colorful tulips and daffodils), perennials, and annuals along the N. 30th Street corridor. In fact, the Club was recently awarded The Community Betterment Award by the North Omaha Commercial Club at the December holiday gathering.

It is the hope that all stakeholders in the Florence community--- commercial and otherwise--- continue to work together to beautify and improve the area where we all love to work, live and play.

During this years' parade, please be mindful to help keep our corridor clean. Throw litter in receptacles, not on the sidewalk. We need your help to keep our community beautiful. When you see a weed, pull it and when you see litter, pick it up!

**Be a proud citizen.
When you see a weed, pull it.
When you see litter, pick it up!**

Well-Designed Public Spaces Add Value

by Crystal Sierra

Public spaces are all around us. Whether we are addressing a narrow sidewalk or your neighborhood park, these physical features in your community shape the way you use or don't use them. Public spaces play a critical role in the social fabric of our communities.

Imagine your favorite park, it could be here in Florence or Minne Lusa or in a city you like to visit. Is it a place where community members gather and welcome visitors? Are there cultural and social functions held regularly? Is it accessible by public transportation? Does it feel safe? These questions matter not only in your community, but in all

"never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

– margaret mead

neighborhoods across the globe because every community has a right to great public spaces.

A few weeks ago, Miller Park Minne Lusa Neighborhood Association, Nelson Mandela Elementary School, Black Police Officers Association, Omaha Parks and Recreation, and Lozier Foundation partnered with Omaha by Design to host a Place Game at Miller Park. A Place Game is an organized and simple way to re-envision improvements to a public space.



It is an interactive opportunity for community members to be the experts on the spaces they use. On March 10th, 2018 over thirty participants examined seven areas of Miller Park, provided recommendations, and identified potential partners to help with the implementation of these improvements. In order to build strong communities, we must organize our efforts together. A participant shared, "I want a safe place to bring my grandkids and this is the way to get it." Another participant wrote, "This gives me hope for the future of this place." Remember to never underestimate the kind of change a small group of committed citizens can make!

For more information on a Place Games and Placemaking visit pps.org or omahabydesign.org. If you're interested in hosting a Place Game contact Omaha by Design at info@omahabydesign.org. ❖

Omaha by Design is an urban design and policy nonprofit that contributes to a thriving community by convening, engaging, education, and advocating for excellence in urban design and policy.

Omaha by Design Program Manager Crystal Sierra moved from Southern California and is currently pursuing an Urban Studies Master's degree at UNOmaha. Her research focus is in enhancing public life and public spaces. She is also an active member of the Restoration Exchange Omaha Education Committee.



Prairie Mechanical Corporation
2842 Tucker Street
Omaha, NE 68112
Phone: (402) 331-4050
Fax: (402) 331-4078
www.prairiemech.com

- Commercial & Industrial
- Construction & Remodel
- Mechanical Piping
- Sheet Metal
- Plumbing
- Process Piping
- Design Build Projects
- Electric / Pneumatic Controls
- Computer Room A/C
- Building Automation
- HVAC Service
- Boilers & Chillers
- Preventative Maintenance
- Service Contracts

Enjoy
the parade & other
Florence Days Activities!

FLORENCE FOOD MART & GAS
9516 Calhoun Road, Omaha



Three grades of gas, two grades of diesel, grilled foods, snacks, ice, slushies, soft drinks, beer, wine, propane, charcoal, live bait, & more!

REASONABLE LAWN CARE
Quality is Always Important

CHRIS ANSELL
President

402-331-2846 / 402-813-3487
WWW.REASONABLELAWNCARE.COM

BAZER'S SIGNS -N- DESIGNS
T-SHIRTS · BANNERS · SIGNS
VEHICLE DECALS · GRAPHICS
AND MUCH MORE!

www.BSNDomaha.com
402-706-2129
email: bsnd@cox.net

8614 N. 30th St.
Omaha, Ne 68112

GOT
PHOTOS?

BRING
THEM TO
THE BANK
MUSEUM

PARADE
DAY
details on page 4

Dr. William A. Steiner
Certified in Digital Dentistry • We offer Care Credit

8517 N 30th St.
Omaha, NE 68112-2223
Phone: 402-455-5500
Emergency: 402-681-9487
Email: alainamuse@steinerdental.net
www.steinerdental.net



2018 Florence Mill: Agriculture, History & Art... & fun too!

Open 1-5 Wed thru Sat... AND Market Sundays 10-3 June thru Sept.

May 12: Florence Days Open House... Opening of a special exhibit, "Family Ties: Art of the Apron" Come to the Mill after the Parade for a 3:30 Tidbits & Ties Talk with Betty Davis, retired Director of the Douglas County Historical Society. (our matriarch in the Know!)

Winter-Quarters Mill Museum Nebraska's oldest business site tells the story of the Florence Mill, its Pioneers founders, its 1856 rebirth...and its rebirth again in 1998.

ArtLoft Exhibits

May/June... "Family Ties: Art of the Apron" ...A wonderful collection of aprons from our own backyard (Minne Lusa) With thanks to Donna Shonkwiler for sharing.

July/August... "TinkerBell's Mausoleum"...Assemblages from Whimsical to Macabre

September... "Becoming Flesh" Drawings by Mary Heldridge
2018 recipient of the Connor Meigs Art Award

Special Events

May 19 "Family Ties: Lunch for the Loo" Wear your favorite apron to a fundraiser luncheon & a talk with Sarah Baker Hansen & Matthew Hansen, authors of "The Better Half: Nebraska's Hidden Treasures"

May 24 Omaha Gives... Calling for recipes from your favorite matriarch/patriarch

October 6&7: Omaha North Hills Pottery Tour... Extended hours for a mill-full of ceramic arts. Also Pumpkin Patch & Notre Dame Sisters Kolache Bake-Sale.

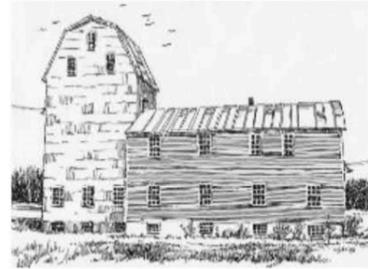
Florence Mill Country Market... 10 am to 3 pm
Every Sunday from June thru September

Alpacas start the Market's 2018 "Country School" season on June 3

Every Sunday: Special Agricultural Guests (often critters) & Live Music
Last Sundays: Free Pony-Rides, Giant Bubbles & Miss Joan's Craft Table

Many thanks to North-Omaha Commercial Club, Florence Kiwanis & North Omaha Kiwanis Clubs for kindly sponsoring port-a-potties at the Florence Mill since 2009.
New this summer: Real bathrooms will be installed under the rebuilt cob-shed!

9102 North 30th Street, Next to I-680 Exit 13 and OJ's
Facebook.com/thefloremill ...Please "Like" to find out activities or critters



Florence Mill

Museum & ArtLoft opens Florence Days!
Farmers Market Starts Sunday June 3: Alpacas!
Fresh, local Produce, Crafts, Music,
Every Sunday... 10am to 3pm thru Sept 30

Mill Museum & ArtLoft Gallery hours
Wed-Sat from 1-5 pm and Market Sundays too
9102 N 30th St, next to OJ's & I-680/Exit 13
facebook.com/thefloremill



*We join you in celebrating your proud heritage
and commitment to the past, present and future.*

**Better Rates.
Better Service.
Better Join NOW!**

Open to anyone in Douglas or Washington County

402-571-8444

Heartland
area Federal Credit Union

6111 N. 72nd St. | heartlandfcu.org

For the Love of Facial Hair (& contest)

by Keith Hauger

Annual Beard Contest
Registration at 11am
Contest at Noon
May 12 PARADE DAY

Along with being on the board of the Florence Historical Foundation, I'm a member of the Omaha Facial Hair Society. I travel around the country competing in facial hair competitions which are held to raise money for different charities. I'm currently ranked 4th in the nation and 23rd in the world.

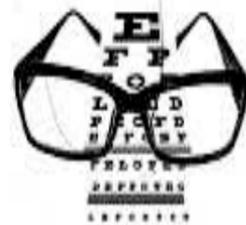
Along with helping out many charity groups, it's a lot of fun for all involved, so last year I reintroduced beard contests to Florence Days. It was a minor success so we will be doing it again!

So come out and join in the fun by entering in one of the four categories: Full Beard under 8 inches, Full Beard over 8 inches, Partial Beard and Moustache.

We will meet by the Florence Bank at 11:00 A.M. to register; judging will be at noon. Thanks to Blue Bottle Beard and Monster Engraving, we will have some great prizes for the winner. ❖

Vintage photo in public domain.

Why is the word "phonics" not spelled the way it looks?



ILLUSIONS EYEWEAR LLC

"WHERE YOU CAN SEE YOUR WAY
TO A BETTER DEAL!"

TOMMIE L. BLAN JR. Optician/Owner

P (402) 451-1717

F (844) 273-2446

Dr. Edward Furtak O.D.

Illusionseyewear1@gmail.com

8616 North 30th Street

[IllusionsEyewear@facebook.com](https://facebook.com/IllusionsEyewear)



Locally
Owned
and
Operated

Abe's Trash Service, Inc.

"Serving Omaha for Over 50 years"

Mention this ad to receive your first month of residential service FREE.

**Residential . Recycling Service
Commercial . Construction Specialists**

Steel Roll-off Containers from 2 to 40 Yards
90-gallon Trash Carts Available . Prompt Professional Service

402-468-5434

8123 Christensen Lane . Omaha 68122 . abestrash.com



Strong Community: a teen perspective

by Sarah Schonberner (AKA sarahsuz)

My name is Sarah Schonberner, I was born in Florence and I have lived here my whole life, which would be around 15 years! I know almost every street, store, and park like the back of my hand. Now where should I start? Oh, of course, the beginning!

Florence became a city in 1855, and still has some of the VERY old houses that are over 100 years old, including my house. Interesting story about my house is that it was originally a cabin by the river built by the guy who owned Chicago Lumber as a getaway place for himself. My house has a "murphy bed" that comes out of the wall, a fancy barbecue pit made out of flagstone in the backyard, a cool cellar door that leads to the basement and a cobblestone fence around the front. You can't find houses like these anywhere else! There are so many cool buildings and houses that I just love. So much so, that I am thinking of becoming an architect.

Now about my time in Florence explain...

Like I said, I have lived my whole life; the first thing I remember from my childhood is the Park near the church (St. Phil's). That park has been there and there have been parties at the park, some with neighbors and some with the neighborhood at the church.

How about the Florence Day Parade?

It's always around the beginning of summer about the time school gets out so everyone is excited!! I have been in the parade many times. With my baton twirling group, with the library holding the banner and then once, when I was around 11, I rode my unicycle in the parade with the library group with one of those colorful umbrella hats.

Now a little about my church, St. Philip Neri/Blessed Sacrament. The church is a big part of my life here in Florence. I was baptized there, had my first communion there, my confirmation there and hopefully I will someday get married there like my mom and dad did. Our church is so fun! We have movie night, the pancake breakfast and the festival and a lot more, but the best is bible camp. I have been going to bible camp at St. Philip Neri every year

since I was 3 years old. I have never missed a bible camp, and now that I am older I volunteer there.

Florence is a great place to ride a bike because everything is so close, like the pool, the library, the store, the parks, and my cousins' house. I would ride my bike to the stores once I was old enough and pay for my own things and look around and maybe stay out a LITTLE longer than I was supposed to, and sometimes I would go see if the church was open and park my bike inside and pray a little. I thought life was great here. Everything was perfect, until one day mom and dad said they were going to sell the house. "WHAT?!!!" It looked like my time in Florence was coming to an end.

My mother and father wanted to move because they were tired of fixing up our old house and were moving to a different part of Omaha or maybe even to Florida! Just because they had their second honeymoon there. Whatever. I was devastated. My oldest brother Jacob and I really didn't want to move, my second oldest brother Robert didn't care, but the house was old and falling apart and my parents were getting tired of having to keep fixing things over and over again. My mom and dad said they were so surprised that we didn't want to move and that we loved our old house. They thought we wanted to move too! I said, "We can't leave! We need our old

house - it needs us because we love it and take care of it. We need Florence and Florence needs us to stay as a family so it can keep growing with more good families and as the theme says, build a stronger community".

I'm 99.9% sure that Florence will always be my home. I don't think anywhere in the world could top it. It's not too dusty like the country or too over the top and fancy like big cities. Its cozy - the perfect fit for me. Florence means a lot to me and everyone in it. I'm so lucky and proud I get to live in this place in the world I call home. I know it sounds cheesy but I'm being honest! I love it here! So let's just say.....

FLORENCE. Is the place to be. It's a great place just come and see. I don't think I'll ever leave.

Hello, I'm Sarahsuz!



There is no place like this place anywhere near this place ... so it must be the place!

Dick's Place

3010 Willit St. | Omaha, NE 68112 | 402-453-6688



Cuva Cuts Barber Shop

8325 N 29th St
Omaha, NE 68112

Tony Cuva
Barber / Owner

402.932.5757 Appointments preferred



FAIRWAY BARBER SHOP

Jim McClurkin

8514 N. 30th St - Omaha, NE 68112

402-453-1982

Best Barber in Florence for 25 Years!
Free neck trim between cuts

BUZZ CUTS \$10 - ALL DAY EVERY DAY!



GOT A
BEARD?

JOIN THE
BEARD
CONTEST

PARADE
DAY



**ROGER'S
HAIR DESIGN**

8808 N. 30th Street
Omaha, NE 68112

ROGER BENNETT
Owner / Manager
402-551-4005

**Join the
North Omaha
Commercial
Club!**

Get involved in your
community and meet
wonderful people

Contact Mele Mason at
Mason.Video@mac.com

Building a Strong Community since 1913.



Minne Lusa Pump Station
Renovations to be complete
summer of 2018.

METROPOLITAN
UTILITIES DISTRICT

Your partner for
easy
comfortable
Efficient
building solutions.

cm
Control Management, Inc.

8421 N. 29th Street
PO Box 12038
Omaha, NE 68112
(402) 571-9454
www.cmiomaha.com

Healing Arts School Touts Their Community Service Hours

by Paulette Genthon

Universal College of Healing Arts (UCHA) prides itself in the belief of Community Service for a STRONG COMMUNITY! This sense of community has been a deciding factor for many in their selection process for this school. UCHA offers programs in Massage Therapy and Structural Integration (Hellerwork).

UCHA is an ABHES Accredited College. UCHA feels so strong about giving to our community that a course was created called Community Service. The course allows for compassion, integrity, and personal values. It creates a sense of empowerment and fulfillment. For some, it is the beginning of a life dedicated to social responsibility. Just this past year, UCHA worked with 25 different groups, averaging 2-4

events per month in our communities!! UCHA's goal is to offer massage/bodywork to those who cannot afford or travel to a massage clinic. Such examples were at Group Homes, Fire Stations, Health Fairs, Creighton Athletics, Hospices House, Florence Nursing Home, Charles Drew Center, Girl Scout Volunteers, & American Cancer Society.!

UCHA sets up a clinic on-site both at the College World Series and the Olympic Swim Trials for Athletes and Staff. Gift Certificates are distributed through CHI to give to patients in need. UCHA has even opened its campus grounds for a Community Garden.

Since 1995, UCHA prides itself with 20,000 hours of Community Service and is still going STRONG.



Massage & Hellerwork SI
402-556-4456
8702 N 30th St - Omaha, NE
ucha.edu



Support advertisers who support your Historic Florence Community. Tell them you saw their ad here.

DON'T MISS THE NORTH BOWL FAIR AFTER THE PARADE!

Awarded 2007 Arborist of the Year — 2014 Community Betterment Award



For the HEALTH, BEAUTY, and SAFETY of your trees

Professional Tree Removal
with crane service

Tree Trimming
with proper pruning techniques

Stump Grinding

Premium Quality Mulch Products
Local • Fresh • Clean • Consistent
Natural & Colorized
Pickup & Delivery

Tree Recycling Site
Convenient drop off for trees & brush



402-573-9573

3606 McKinley Street • Omaha, NE 68112

FREE Estimates

CERTIFIED ARBORIST • FIRST CLASS LICENSE • FULLY INSURED

www.omahatree.com



MASON VIDEO

MELE MASON

9632 North 34th Street | Omaha, NE 68112

402.455.9422



**HUNGRY FOR CHICK-FIL-A?
WANT TO SUPPORT
LOCAL YOUTH?**

If you said yes to either of the above, please join North Omaha Kiwanis and Chick-fil-A for both during the Florence Days Parade!

Visit us Saturday May, 12 at Florence Park for \$5 lunch boxes.

SPONSORED BY:



www.facebook.com/KiwanisNorthOmaha

PRE-PLANNING ALL YOUR FUNERAL & CEMETERY
NEEDS AT ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION



Memorial Day Specials on both Cemetery and Funeral Home items.

Please join us for our Memorial Day Service Monday, May 28, 2018 at 10 am.

Forest Lawn Funeral Home & Cemetery

7909 Mormon Bridge Road



www.forestlawnomaha.com

402-451-1000

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



November 6th, please vote

WILLIAMS for OPPD

Fair rates, public engagement,
new energy market opportunities

Wave "Hello" to Eric Williams and supporters
during the **Florence Days Parade**

Learn more and Volunteer at:

WilliamsForOPPD.com

Why is a "wise man" and a
"wise guy" opposite?



**MINNE♦LUSA
HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**MILLER PARK
MINNE LUSA
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

We meet
the first
Thursday of
every month
at 7 p.m.* at
Miller Park Pavilion.

millerparkminnelusa.com

*Citizen Patrol
Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Celebrating Spring by Building A Strong Community



Congrats to our 2018
Grand Marshals:
Notre Dame Sisters

State Senator
Justin Wayne
District 13

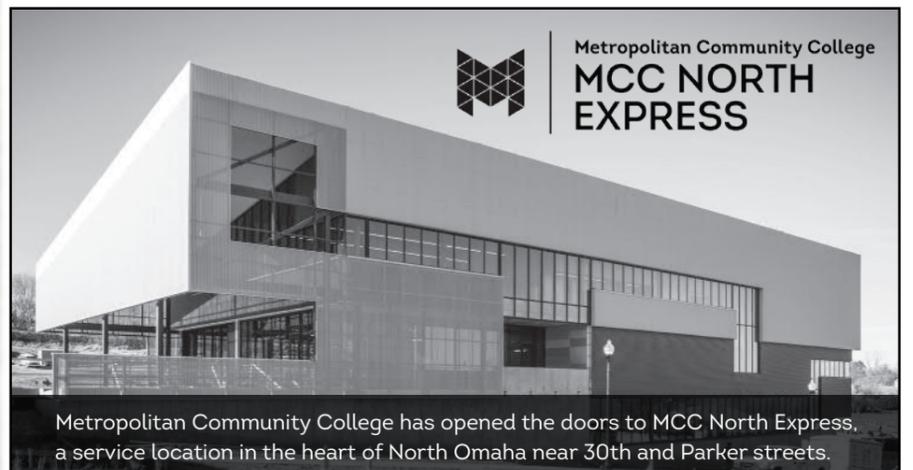
2018 FLORENCE DAYS

a BIG thank YOU!



goes to all the volunteers — React Team, Boy Scout Troop 20, Omaha Police Department, the Florence Historical Foundation Board and its active members, the Shriners and all the parade entrants for making this year's 2018 Building a Strong Community! success! Thanks also go to our wonderful advertisers, the Kiwanis Club of Florence, and the FD Newspaper Committee for their work getting this paper to press — and on schedule!

Sincerest Gratitude from *Dick Brown*
Chairman, 2018 Florence Days Parade & Newspaper



Metropolitan Community College
**MCC NORTH
EXPRESS**

Metropolitan Community College has opened the doors to MCC North Express, a service location in the heart of North Omaha near 30th and Parker streets.

MCC North Express offers a variety of courses and services to all. Students attending classes there will have access to unique learning experiences for all ages, individualized attention, work readiness training and more, including:

- ▶ Continuing Education
- ▶ Youth programming
- ▶ Re-Entry
- ▶ ESL courses
- ▶ GED courses
- ▶ Career exploration

To enroll, or learn more about MCC North Express, call 531-MCC-2400 or visit mccneb.edu/mccnorthexpress.

Metropolitan Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age, disability or sexual orientation in admission or access to its programs and activities or in its treatment or hiring of employees.



METROPOLITAN
Community College



ROHLFING PLUMBING
Your best CHANCE at getting it Right!
Chance Rohlfing
(402) 880-8409

ERICKSON SEDERSTOM

**VIRGIL K. JOHNSON
ANDREW J. HUETTNER
DANIEL D. DITTMAN
MICHELLE J. ELKIN**
Attorneys at Law

Working to meet your legal
service needs in:

- Corporate & Business Matters
- Litigation
- Estate Planning
- Trust Administration

10330 Regency Parkway Dr.
Suite 100 Omaha, NE 68114
(402) 397-2200
Direct Line: (402) 390-7104
E-mail: vjohn@eslaw.com

Building Relationships Through Craftsmanship

MCGILL RESTORATION

**HONESTY - LOYALTY - HARD WORKING
KNOWLEDGEABLE - DEDICATED**

**NOW HIRING
IN BOTH
LINCOLN &
OMAHA**

- Stone Restoration
- Concrete Restoration
- Masonry Restoration
- Specialty Coatings
- Industrial
- DOT Infrastructure
- Parking Garages
- Stadiums

Masonry Restoration BEFORE

Masonry Restoration AFTER



Omaha 402.558.7989 | McGillRestoration.com | Lincoln 402.438.4110

35 YEARS IN NEBRASKA



International Gamco, Inc.
the player's choice™

Florence, NE

Making Charitable Fundraising Tickets for Nebraskans.
Gamco Games Are The Player's Choice.



North Omaha Commercial Club Helps Keep Florence Community Connected

by Mele Mason

The NOCC has been a community organization in our area for well over sixty years. The Club usually meets the last Monday of the month from September through June. The purpose of the meetings is to highlight businesses, events and causes in the area, and to keep the communication between different organizations in the Florence area flowing.



Historic Florence 30th Street Corridor

Source: NOCC Facebook profile at facebook.com/pg/NorthOmahaCommercialClub/about/

One of the highlights of our year is our annual presentation of the Community Betterment Award each December. This year, the Award was presented to the Northern Lights Garden Club for their hard work and dedication in planting flowers and maintaining the flora along 30th Street. NOCC also hosted a lively Town Hall at the Florence Library featuring City Councilman Pete Festersen, County Board Representative Clare Duda and State Senator Justin Wayne.

NOCC normally hosts meetings at different local restaurants, providing members dinner and a speaker for \$15 per person. They also host a Picnic each June. The cost to become a member of the North Omaha Commercial Club is \$55 per year. The cost covers our monthly newsletter printing and postage. Members are included in an annual NOCC roster, and are put on a Community Email Newsletter.

Contact Mele Mason for more information at melemason@aol.com.

Your Life. Your Bank. Our Community.

Providing convenient banking products and services is what we do. Supporting the communities we serve is who we are.

AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK
Omaha | Council Bluffs | Lincoln

30 locations in Nebraska and Iowa • www.american.bank

Instagram Facebook Twitter LinkedIn

CHI Health Immanuel

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO IMAGINE?

Does it mean you aim higher? Dream bigger? Demand better? At CHI Health, we think so. We believe imagination has the power to transform. Transform your world, your health, your life. Inside our walls, our imagination is always on. Always seeking new ways forward.

That's because we imagine a different kind of care. Care that revolves around **you**.

IMAGINE THAT.

See how we're reimagining care at CHIhealthImagine.com



Jane McClurkin, Seth Sommers, Nicole Bobier and others at the Florence Mural celebration in August 2016.
Source: NOCC Facebook page at facebook.com/pg/NorthOmahaCommercialClub/

HISTORIC FLORENCE

Hooray for the Notre Dame Sisters Grand Marshals!

Visit Often!
FlorenceTheater.org
FlorenceDays.org
HistoricFlorence.org
DouglasCoHistory.org

Hy-Vee Drugstore

30th & State Streets | 402.451.8843

Stephen Larsen, Store Manager

www.hy-vee.com

PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE FLORENCE COMMUNITY!
Making lives easier, healthier, happier.

Shop our fresh produce, grocery, pharmacy, wine & spirits today.

Open daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

R
RIDGECREST
Rehabilitation Center

Located in the beautiful & historic Florence District,
Ridgecrest offers Short Term Rehab,
Long Term Care & Secure Memory Care.
Individualized care is provided in a quiet & comfortable setting.
We want to share your goals!
Whether that is to return home OR call Ridgecrest home.

CALL FOR A TOUR & LET US SHOW YOU WHAT RIDGECREST HAS TO OFFER!

3110 SCOTT CIRCLE
OMAHA, NE 68112
402-455-6636

How Do You Want To Be Remembered?

ROEDER
MORTUARIES, INC
"Our Family Helping Yours"

www.RoederMortuary.com

Omaha, NE
2727 N 108th St - 402-496-9000
4932 Ames Ave - 402-453-5600
Gretna, NE
11710 Standing Stone - 402-332-0090



**FLORENCE
DAYS
NEWSPAPER**

Sponsored by
FLORENCE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Dick Brown | Cynthia Vana

ASSISTANT EDITORS
John Lemen
Carol Hodges

ADVERTISING
Kathy Rossitto

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Joan Allen | Riley Cullen
Paulette Genthon | Kristine Gerber
Martha Grenzback | Keith Hauger
Myrta & Vern Hauger
Carol Hodges | Lois Jordan
Derek Kowal | John Lemen
Ruth Kruse | Mele Mason
Talia McGill | Linda Meigs
Andrea Montana | Sarah Schonberger
Crystal Sierra | Cynthia Vana
Paige Wagner | Ann Wilson

DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Cynthia Vana

FLORENCE DAYS PARADE
Organized by
Florence Historical Foundation

CHAIRPERSON/
EVENT COORDINATOR
Dick Brown

PARADE JUDGES
Kim Melton
Charlene Pierce
Terry Sweeney

EMCEE | SOUND & MUSIC
Rick Quistad

SHRINER ANNOUNCER
Gary Unger

REVIEW STAND
The Farris & Westphalen families

FLORENCE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Dick Brown

VICE PRESIDENTS
Lynn Farris, Jr.

SECRETARY
Carol Hodges

TREASURER
Nancy Westphalen

HONOREE
Rosemary Allen

BOARD MEMBERS
Molly Anderson
Nick Batter
Lynn Farris, Sr.
Shirley Farris
Keith Hauger
Myrta Hauger
Carol Hodges
Sarah Kleckner
Derek Kowal
John Lemen
Char Spicl
Carrie Templeton
Rosella Westphalen

**Database by
Design**
Steve Hamilton
President
Oracle Certified Consulting
(402) 321-4164
SLHamilton@msn.com

Compliments of
Donald J. Peterson,
CPA P.C.
Certified Public
Accountant
9910 North 48th Street,
Suite 103
402-453-8400

*Building
a Strong
Community*

Florence Historical Foundation
Memorials
2008-2018

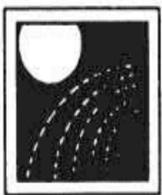
John Quincy Adams	Jack & Glenda Merwald
Adela Allen	Mona Mae Muhleck
George W. Allen	Henry Miller
Mildred Amick	C.B. Nicely
Kelly Jo Barry	Ida Overstreet
Brett Beavers	Erwin Pilmeier
Maryann Beavers	Don Plott Sr.
Margaret Bebensee	Russell Pope
Robert Beck	Frank J. Priborsky
Kelly Jo Berry	David Prochnau
Dr. Howard Bond	Alice Bondesson
Charles Borg	Purshouse
Margareet Blacketer	Joe Quartoroli
Rory & Metta Browne	Zulma Ragole
W.G. & Margaret Carter	Dave Reeve
Bill Cooley, Sr.	Jeri Ross
Cill Cooly, Jr.	Carolyn Rusk
Arthur Cudney	Dorothy Rule
Bert Davis	Mabel Sandland
Kathryn Detweiler	Margaret Sandland
Dingwell	Marie & Mae Schade
Ellen Engelhardt	Joyce Shanahan
Mary Eshelman	George Siert
Lynn L. Farris Sr.	Timothy Slattery
Jeff Frolio	Simpson Family
Tom Furey	Emeline Weber Smith
Max Gastin	John Casper Smith
Elizabeth Greder	May Shearer Smith
Clarence Haines	Mel Smith
Mike Haines	Perry Douglas Smith
Chris Haman	Carl A. Sorensen
Gordon Haman	Mary Cathy Steele
Janette Haman	Marlene Weber Stern
Marcella Hamilton	Marilyn Stribling
Ernest E. Harpster	LeRoy, Eva, David, & Sandy Stride
Joseph M. Hart Jr.	Gerald M. Swift
Ruby Hauger	Joan Swift
Vern Hauger Sr.	Doris Teutsch
Pearl Heath	Laren Teutsch D.D.S.
Esther Halchett	Rosemary Therien
Jim Herron	Belmont Thomas
Jack Huntley	Frances Thompson
Marie Klauman	Mrs. Will Thompson
James "Little Jimmie"	Michael Andrew "Andy" Tinker
Keilor	Elvera Torrison
Joyce J. Kenyon	Elizabeth Unstad
Ernie Kenyon	William F. Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Klechner	Glencie Washa
Jerry & Ellen Kosthan	Max Watson
Opal Kreibs	Lyman & Helen Weber
Clifford Krierle	Marlene Weber Stern
Lowen Kruse	Anthony "Tony" Wayne Westphalen
Faye Smith Lane	Coleen Wickham
Harry C. Lane	David G. Wilson
Uma Lemen	Florence Wilson
Grace E. Lorenzen	W. J. Wilson
Jerry Lucas	Dick Wineinger
William Lyles	Richard Worthington
Mr. & Mrs. Main	
Judy Mathews	
Ron Mathews	



MASON VIDEO
thanks
NOCC

MELE MASON

9632 North 34th Street | Omaha, NE 68112
402.455.9422



**KOZY LAWN CARE
& LANDSCAPING**

5701 N. 60th Street (402) 455-LAWN (5296)

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

• RETAINING WALLS • PLANTS-N-TREES • SODWORK
• MOWING • MULCH • SEEDING • ROCKS

Additional services offered by KOZY Lawn...

• Aerating (a MUST in Spring & Fall)
Fertilization • Power Raking
• Boulders • Mowing • Snow Removal

SQUARE FEET	FERTILIZATION	PLUG AERATION	DOUBLE AERATION	MOWING	POWER RAKING
3000	\$36	\$38	\$61	\$33	\$60*
4000	\$40	\$41	\$65	\$36	\$64*
5000	\$44	\$44	\$69	\$39	\$69*
6000	\$48	\$48	\$76	\$43	\$75*
7000	\$52	\$52	\$83	\$47	\$82*
8000	\$58	\$57	\$91	\$53	\$90*
9000	\$63	\$62	\$98	\$58	\$97*
10000	\$68	\$67	\$106	\$63	\$105*

*PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE CLEANUP

\$5 OFF **KOZY LAWN CARE** **\$5 OFF**
KOZY DOLLARS
GOOD ONLY FOR WORK DONE ON LANDSCAPING,
FERTILIZATION, AERATION OR WEED CONTROL
455-LAWN (5296) 455-LAWN (5296)
Coupon only good for ONE service during the 2018 Season.
www.kozylawns.com **\$5 OFF**

~ Building A Strong Community ~

Honor great history

Florence is the oldest city in Nebraska and the home to some of the most historic sites in Omaha.



The Bank of Florence

Established in 1856, The Bank of Florence is the oldest bank in the state of Nebraska. Currently a museum, the bank is open for tours 11am-3pm on Saturdays and Sundays from mid-May thru August 31.
Call 402-453-4462
 to schedule a private group tour.



Two Historic Museums Open on Parade Day

Open every Saturday and Sunday
 Starting Parade Day | May 9, 2018

BANK OF FLORENCE MUSEUM
 8502 N. 30th St. | SA & SU 11am-3pm
FLORENCE TRAIN DEPOT MUSEUM
 29th & Dick Collins Rd. | SA & SU 11am-3pm



Florence Train Depot Museum

After loving care and extensive repair, this quaint building stands proudly as a charming relic of bygone days. Visit the Florence Train Depot Museum from 11am-3pm on Saturdays and Sundays beginning on Parade Day!

May 13th is Mother's Day!
Make Mom Happy!
 Wash her car!
 Wash the dog too!

For your convenience, our self serve bays now accept credit cards as well as cash. Detail your car with supplies from our vending machines.

Wash the dog in our elevated tub ... easy on your back!
 Choose from a variety of shampoos and a blow-dry cycle.

FLORENCE
CAR WASH & PET WASH
 9504 Calhoun Road, Omaha



Visit Often!
Florenceheater.org
FlorenceDays.org
HistoricFlorence.org
DouglasCoHistory.org

NEW FRONTIER BAR

FLORENCE

8516 N. 30th St Omaha, NE 68112
IN BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN FLORENCE

ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC
 COME PLAY A SET OR JUST LISTEN TO GREAT MUSIC!
EVERY WED AT 7 PM

KARAOKE
 ON STAGE & UNDER THE LIGHTS WITH THE BEST SOUNDING SYSTEM IN OMAHA!
EVERY THUR AT 7 PM

PARADE DAY OPEN AT 10AM
 BEER & DRINK SPECIALS ALL DAY!!
LIVE MUSIC AT 3 PM
 WITH CIRCLE OF FIFTHS

Making and Finishing Quilts,
 Restoration of Vintage Quilts!

OPEN WEDNESDAY · SATURDAY
 11:00 AM · 5:00 PM

8523 North 30th Street
 402-455-4020

Gifts, Fabrics & All Manner of Other Things.

402-455-4020

Rock Bottom Books and Antiques

8523 N 30th Street Omaha, NE 68112

Planning your next event? We've got you covered!

Florence City Hall Rental Facility

2864 State Street (1 block off 30th Street)

Amenities you'll enjoy:

- ⇒ Large main hall
 - 900 square-foot stage
 - Professional quality kitchen
 - 3 large basin sinks
 - Center island
 - Separate prep sink
 - Two microwaves
 - High capacity ice machine
- ⇒ Smaller "West-wing" facility
 - Intimate gathering space
 - Bar area available if contracted

Perfect for any occasion:

- Business Meetings
- Wedding Receptions
- Graduation Parties
- Funerals
- Showers
- Workshops
- Community Events

Book a tour today
402-453-4280

See more!
florencereceptionhalls.com

Home to the Florence Historical Foundation and hosting multiple Florentine Players' events annually, Florence City Hall has all of the amenities you need to make your next event successful, enjoyable, and memorable.