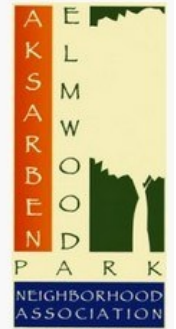


# THE PARK BENCH

AEPNA March Newsletter



## In this issue:

- Spring with AEPNA
- Fresh Design Ideas
- Meet Your Board Member
- Election Time
- Spring is Here

**Join us at our  
next meeting  
March 16 at  
6:30 pm at  
St. Matthew's  
church**

**Looking to  
Advertise with  
AEPNA?**

**We offer many  
options in our  
newsletter,  
contact Kelsey  
Cunningham**

## Spring is Just Around the Corner

Written by: AEPNA President Jen Bauer

I am nothing if not optimistic about our future good weather. I'm sure many of you are as eager as I am to see the grass turn green and the trees bud out... without the risk of snow or ice! Fingers crossed as March makes its choice of Lion or Lamb. It was nice to see everyone out walking the week we had such warm weather. Again, I love this walking community, with its safe streets and friendly neighbors. We're truly a welcoming neighborhood.

Your Executive Board and Committee Members have started work during the first quarter of 2017. We've written grants for seeds, signs and, potentially, a new fence at Schroeder Vogel Park. We've established social media guidelines to help us serve you better. We've tentatively planned social outings and community events. We're looking for fundraising opportunities that will help us to celebrate as a community, together. Committee members had their hands full in the shortest month of the year and I think they're doing a great job. If you'd like to be involved in any of the committees, please visit our website and attend our meetings. We welcome new ideas to help us grow.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Park Clean Up Day. This is tentative based on Mother Nature and her weather whims. Scott Swanson will be looking for volunteers to help clean up Schroeder Vogel Park.

On to the important stuff... Start going through your closets, drawers, hidden basement cubbies and nooks... Dumpster Day is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> followed up by the AEPNA Sponsored Garage Sale on June 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both are great opportunities to do some spring cleaning and make a little side cash for summer time! If you're interested in being listed for this event, and you'd like a sign, please check out our website for all the details you'll need to join in the fun.

As a reminder, AEPNA's bi-monthly meetings are open to everyone. We encourage involvement and would love to meet all neighbors. This is a great place to live, with great people. Invite your neighbor, tell your friends. We'd love to meet them. These meetings provide updates from City Hall, the community in general and items that have been brought to our attention as being of interest. With the Primary Election on April 4<sup>th</sup>, we've invited all 5 Mayoral Candidates and all 5 City Council Candidates to come to the meeting and provide insight on their campaign platform and what they can do FOR YOU. This is our city, and by voting, we can make our voices heard. The primary is especially important if you want to see a specific candidate on the ballot in May. Change starts locally, and this your chance to determine who is working for you.

## Aksarben-Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association Executive Board

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### Membership/Bylaws Director

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We welcome newsletter ideas and photos. Send articles, information and photos to AEPNA1@gmail.com

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# Fresh Design Ideas for Spring

Written by: Courtney Otte, The Modern Hive

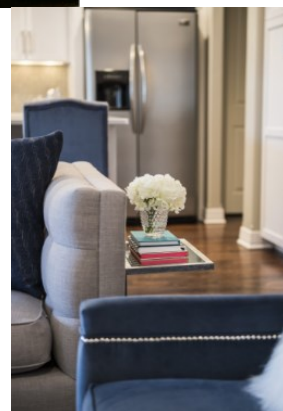
The air is warming up, snow is melting and change is in the air! It's a natural feeling to be ready for a change as Spring-time approaches. and what better way to do that than to give a few spaces in your home a little re-fresh?!

Here are my top 3 recommendations to give your home a little design update without breaking the bank, something we can all appreciate!

One of the best and easiest way change things up for each season is to put out new pillows. I always tell my clients that a sofa can easily be transformed and change the feeling in a space simply by swapping out the pillows. It's an easy and affordable method that never disappoints. What a great way to add a touch of color and fun without having to drastically commit!

Simply by bringing home freshly cut seasonal flowers and setting them out on display will instantly bring that springtime feeling into your space. My personal favorite is freshly cut peonies from my backyard and I long for the day that they become in bloom, only a few more months, right?!

Let's be honest with ourselves for a second here, the kitchen probably takes on the most abuse out of all the spaces in our homes. Sometimes, it even acts as the command central of the home. That kitchen deserves a little TLC as springtime approaches! Simply by going through your cabinets, getting rid of things you don't need or use anymore and clearing off that counter space will have you feeling like you have a brand new kitchen! In the kitchen I always go with a utilitarian approach and keep in mind, more is less. There's no need to over-decorate in here.





## Meet your AEPNA Board-Dakotah Smith

Dakotah Smith has been responsible for our last few social gatherings and getting AEPNA out into the neighborhood. You can thank him for introducing you to Beacon Hills and finally giving you a chance to party in the Spirit World event room. Getting the chance to know your neighbors better through our social events is a great part of what the AEPNA does. Doing it in such amazing spaces, thanks to Dakotah, was just icing on the cake to a perfect night of mingling in your neighborhood.

Dakotah is a recent addition to our neighborhood. He bought a house at the end of 2015 and did not move in until Fall 2016, due to the renovations they took on. His favorite memory so far of being in the Aksarben-Elmwood Neighborhood is being greeted by his neighbors. Within weeks of moving in, he had met everyone that lived around him. If you have had the chance to talk to Dakotah, I say that is partially having great neighbors and partially being a great neighbor himself!

If you are out and about, you could find Dakotah enjoying the neighborhood for all it's worth. He likes to frequent Tracks for a beer, Beacon Hills for a great meal, and J. Coco for their Korean tacos.

He joined the AEPNA and quickly saw that our neighborhood association was lacking largely in one area; active involvement with young adults and families. By becoming the social chair, Dakotah has taken it upon himself to plan events that reach everyone in the neighborhood.



## Your Garden Matters

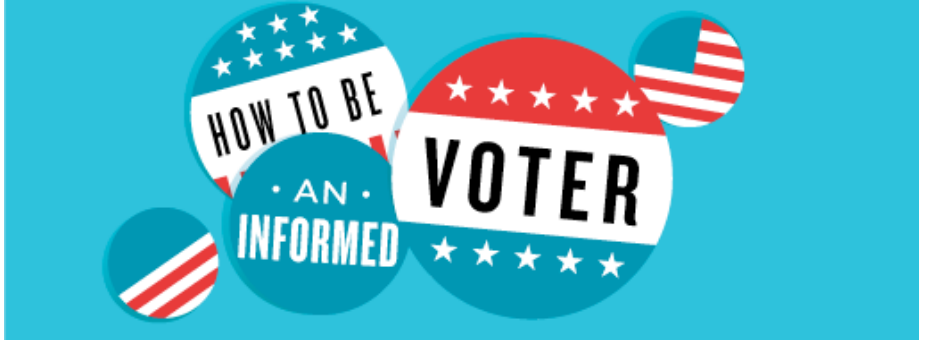
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## March Meeting

The March meeting, for AEPNA, has traditionally been a meeting that, during election years, brings the candidates in, giving you the opportunity to choose who best to lead us into the future, for our neighborhood and our city.



This year, Omaha will hold the primary election on April 4. The top two vote recipients will move onto the general election on May 9, 2017. There are 7 open seats on city council during this election.

Your mayoral candidates are:

- Republican, Jean Stothert, running for re-election
- Democrat, Heath Mello
- Republican, Taylor Royale
- Democrat, Ean Mikale
- Independent, Christopher Geary

Take the time during your March meeting to ask questions and become an informed voter that goes to the primaries!

## Springtime in the Aksarben-Elmwood Neighborhood

When asked what his/her favorite thing about this neighborhood in spring is, everyone says “its walkability.” The weather is getting warmer, February even brought a few days of 75 degrees, I will choose to ignore the snow that came a day later, but it looks like with March rolling in, Spring is here at last.

This comes with a few words of caution and many more telling you to get out and about! The intersection at 63rd and Shirley is very active, and AEPNA is working with the City to make it safe. There will be more motorcycles, pedestrians and children out. Please use caution as many people are now out using one of the best gifts of our neighborhood.



On any given day, I could walk to at least 4 major neighborhood parks, a grocery store, grab a quick bite to eat or choose to sit down at one of many restaurants, visit the gym or do yoga, see a movie, paint with friends, and end the night with a drink. Our neighborhood is thriving thanks to you, I can't wait to see springtime in our pocket of Omaha. Where will our 'hood take you next?

Photo credit: <http://www.lra-inc.com/projects/aksarben-village>



## Advertise with us!

Our newsletter reaches over 250 members of our Aksarben Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association and over 1,000 members of our Facebook group.

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## AREA EVENTS THIS SPRING

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March 16 AEPNA Meeting

April 20 Elmwood Park Earth Day

April 29 Spring Cleanup Dumpster Day

May 7 Farmer's Market Opening Day

May 24-27 Neighborhood USA Conference

