



The Park Bench

AEPNA Association Newsletter

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President's Letter

The good turnout at last month's meeting may have been due either to the guest speakers from Metropolitan Utilities District and the Omaha Parks Foundation, or to hot dogs grilled by Tom Prohaska (thanks, Tom!), but whatever the reason they came, members left satisfied and energized.

The Omaha Parks Foundation (OPF) speaker, Executive Director Amber Miller, explained the history and mission of OPF. AEPNA is grateful to be a recipient of an OPF matching grant to replace playground equipment at Shroeder/Vogel Park. We have raised \$20,000 of the \$50,000 we need by the end of 2014.

That's a great start! We'll be putting out buckets to collect donations at all AEPNA events so that we can maintain momentum and keep the project top-of-mind.

I look forward to seeing you at the picnic in July. It's always a fun event and a good way to connect with neighbors. If you know of some neighbors who don't belong to the association, but who would enjoy the fellowship or the information we get at meetings, please invite them to come to the picnic. It's free, fun and full of good food!

I'll see you at Elmwood on July 19th!

Avery Schwer



The two MUD speakers shared the utility's plans to replace cast iron gas and water pipes and mains that have been in use since the 1880's. Those pipes will be replaced with ductile iron with cement mortar lining, a replacement with a lifespan of about 75 years. The speakers took questions re-

Fight Summer Brain Drain

Amy Coacher at LearningHQ is full of fun ideas on how to help kids keep their brains sharp even though school's out. Summer is a great time to work on weak areas and build on strengths so when kids go back to school, they're ready to pick up where they left off.

"Even reluctant learners or readers enjoy and benefit from games," Amy says. She can point you to "summer fit" games that exercise the body as well as the mind, or games that can turn a long car ride into a shared experience rather than simply a shared space with separate electronic gadgets.

Amy or one of the LearningHQ staff can help you find just the right thing for your child's learning level and attention span. For inspiration or information, contact amy@LearningHQ.com.

Picnic!

Thursday,
July 19th

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Elmwood Park
Pavilion

Main Dish - Catered
Sides – Potluck:
A-L- desserts
M-Z- salad/veggies

Bring a Friend or Two!

Meeting Schedule...
3rd Thursday
Every Other Month

Saint Matthew Evangelical
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1725 S. 60th Street

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Small Wonders

Pallet Gardens

A year ago, we featured photos of Glen and Nicole's "gutter garden" project (herbs planted in gutters attached to the garage - safe from bunnies and snakes), and this year's garden project is also worth sharing: pallet gardening. Start with a pallet and landscaping fabric; add dirt and plants and you've got a "plot" that can be stood on end so it only takes up a fraction of the space used for growing and it is less susceptible to

weeds. Going vertical allows Glen and Nicole to get the most garden possible without sacrificing patio, lawn and landscaping space. They will prop the pallets up against their chain link fence along the garden so the plants get full southern sun and be in the same area as the "horizontal" garden for easy watering.

Glen and Nicole's example has already made some converts out of neighbors.

Whether you want herbs or vegetable at easy



Easy to pick strawberries!

reach from your patio grill or you want to maximize the space allotted to plantings in your yard, a pallet garden may be a good solution for you! Check out all the DIY info online.

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet?

Is the soundtrack to your family car trip mostly silence punctuated by whining? If so, Amy Coacher suggests using that time to practice the lost art of conversation. Spark ideas with the Family Edition of Table Topics which range from serious to silly. Not only will time pass faster, but you may enjoy the journey more than the destination!

AEPNA Membership Form

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AEPNA Board meeting:

7:00 Thursday, June 28th at Wohlner's Deli area.

Agenda topics and/or committee work: 2012 picnic; event at the fire education station; fundraising; other future events. Join us!