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**NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

# The Park Bench

**AEPNA Association Newsletter**

Visit us online at [aepna.org](http://aepna.org)

## President's Letter

The Garden Walk last month made our neighborhood look wonderful. More than 100 people toured the 5 gardens and the event raised more than \$1,000. Special thanks to Scott Swanson who organized the walk and to all of the homeowners who opened their gardens to us!

The AEPNA picnic is at the Elmwood Park Pavilion on July 19th. There'll be fun and games and a raffle of prizes from neighborhood businesses. Raffle proceeds will go towards the matching grant for Schroeder/Vogel Park improvements. We've got

\$11,000 of the \$50,000 we need to raise for the new playground equipment and landscaping.

In addition to the food, fun and games, we'll have two brief but important presentations by guests:



Someone from the Neighborhood Watch will explain the program and how it makes communities better. Any Neighborhood Watch Captains in the

AEPNA area who attend the picnic will get a triple bonus: the picnic satisfies the annual meeting requirement, you'll get a complimentary association membership, AND you'll have fun!

John Royster and Michael Killeen from Big Muddy Architects will show some design options for the Mayor's Grant project at 66th and Woolworth Streets. They have done a great job helping us with this project. The designs are an exciting first step to transforming an obstacle into a bridge. I'll see you at Elmwood on July 19th!

Avery Schwer

### 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  
Lutheran Church  
1725 S. 60th Street

### CWS. Olympic Swim Trials. Block Parties.

Mega-events like the Berkshire Hathaway annual shareholder meeting, College World Series and Olympic Swim Trials make Omaha look great, but small events make Omaha home. Block parties, ice cream socials, and barbecues build bonds and strengthen a sense of community. We can be proud of Warren Buffett and cheer for

great athletes, but a gift of homegrown tomatoes or praise for a garden yields valuable social capital. Make your block buzz with a block party. Propose the idea to a few neighbors and set a date, time and place that will make it easy for neighbors of all ages and physical ability to attend. With a bit of legwork to spread the word door to door, you can bring an entire block to life. The act of

inviting in itself builds community. Invitations made in person (with a "refrigerator-ready" reminder) are great opportunities to visit with neighbors. The event will take care of itself; typically everyone brings something and helps set up and clean up. All it takes is one person to get the ball rolling.

Will you be the life of your block party?



*Millers & Olsons at 2011 picnic*

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### **AEPNA CLASSIFIED /WANT ADS**

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