



The Park Bench

AEPNA Association Newsletter

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President's Letter

High Energy

The September meeting was a high energy meeting. It could have been from the neon green AEPNA shirts, the FREE pizza (courtesy of Lisa Bockman) or maybe the Treasurer's formal report that we raised \$5,200 at the RibFest event. Regardless of the source, members participated with enthusiasm.

Two other sources of energy at the meeting were our speakers, Leon Komar and Pat Slavin. Leon, an energy auditor, shared tips on how to save energy and money. Even small changes can make a big difference in your energy bills. Energy.gov offers these tips (and more) for a Do It Yourself Energy Audit:

1. Seal air leaks. (Check insulation, weatherstripping, caulk and storm windows.)
2. Inspect heating/cooling equipment. (Change filters; inspect ductwork; service equipment.)
3. Buy energy efficient light bulbs, appliances and electronics.

Pat Slavin, from the Omaha Parks Foundation, talked about the evolution of playground equipment from metal bars and platforms to themed playscapes to naturalistic looking equipment.

Pat showed several different design options and ended her presentation by inviting members to vote for the playground designs that they liked best for the Schroder/Vogel Park project. Everyone participated and I hope their enthusiasm remains high, because we've still got a ways to go before we raise the matching funds needed to get the grant!

Our next meeting is in November. Until then, I hope to see you around the neighborhood!

Avery Schwer



Next Meeting ...

Thursday,
November 15th
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Saint Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church
1725 S. 60th Street
3rd Thursday
Every Other Month

Bring a friend or two
and join us!

Lower Energy Costs by \$150 per Year



Your refrigerator is the single largest electrical load in your home. According to OPPD, a new refrigerator can save you up to \$150 per year. Although new appliances save on energy costs, buying a new refrigerator is expensive. Until you're ready to

buy new, make your current refrigerator a bit more efficient:

- Clean the coils (this can increase efficiency by up to 30%).
- Use the Energy Saver switch.
- Keep the refrigerator full (even if you have to use jugs of water) so it

doesn't have to work as hard to cool. If it's always empty, downsize.

- Unplug extra refrigerators or freezers that you don't use often. Better yet, let OPPD haul it away and pay you \$35 to recycle it. Check out the details at OPPD.com.

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Small Wonders

Henny, Penny, Jenny and Buffy the Egg-Layer

These are just some of the many chickens that live in 3 coops within 8 blocks of each other in the AEPNA area. City code allows keeping hens (but not roosters) and it's becoming more common as a way of eating locally produced food. But being closer to the food source doesn't make it cheaper. Linda says the number of eggs she gets doesn't come near covering the cost of feeding her chickens. They are, however, a good source of entertainment, fertilizer

for the garden and grub control in the yard. And the raccoon paw prints on the coop add an element of drama to their domestic scene.

Down the street, Nicole's brood doesn't get to roam as much as Linda's but they live a pampered life in a coop that's bigger than some New York

apartments and probably more secure. Every door is padlocked; those crafty raccoons are always on the lookout for fresh pickin's, whether your garbage, your pet's food or your pet. You'll find lots of information about urban chicken farming online. Check it out.



Newsletter

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New Business Members

Welcome to AEPNA's new business members:
jcoco and Spruce Interiors & Gifts.

We're glad to have you in the neighborhood and the association!

AEPNA Membership Form

New ___ Renewal ___

Name: _____
Address: _____ zip _____
Home Phone: _____
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Circle one: Household Business
 \$10.00 \$20.00

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join using the form on p. 3!**

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Thanks, Lisa!

Lisa Bockman provided pizza for our last meeting. She handles all the details for the Noddle Companies at Aksarben Village. We are proud to partner with Noddle and we were delighted to work with Lisa at RibFest!