

# The Park Bench

AEPNA Association Newsletter

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

## President's Letter

### Traffic, Parking, Fences and Other Ugly Things

Topics at neighborhood association officer meetings can be far-ranging, but they usually come back to the same basic topics that affect the quality of life where we live: security, convenience and a sense of community. "Quality of life" sounds insubstantial until you start talking about specifics, like trees, traffic, parking, fences and welcoming neighbors. Then it's very tangible and very personal. When a neighbor starts parking vehicles on the lawn or a leaky car right in front of someone else's house, you'll see how property owners can suddenly be engaged.

Good planning and community involvement shape quality of life. Aksarben Village and the University add enormous vibrancy to our area and their growth directly impacts our neighborhood. Anyone who lived here during horse racing years will tell you that on race days, the traffic was awful and the parking worse. Residents had to have parking stickers to park on the street in front of their own homes.

We need to take a hard look at parking if the ugly fence separating our neighborhood from the campus is removed. The fence was constructed to keep people off the horse track. Now it just serves as a barrier to walkability for our residents and that affects both convenience and community. Chain link fences may be appropriate around prisons but not around campuses or neighborhoods. But simply removing it without having a good plan in place for parking could prove more divisive than the physical fence – pitting residents against students and Village businesses.

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Planning can increase the positive impacts and mitigate negative impacts. A representative from the City's Traffic Engineering department will speak at our November meeting. We're also lucky to have Monica Rogers from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine joining us to talk about online health resources. It'll be an interesting evening, so come join the conversation.

See you around the neighborhood!

Avery Schwer

### Next Meeting ...

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

**Speakers:** City Traffic Engineering (traffic & parking)  
Monica Rogers (Internet Health Information Literacy)

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

Bring a friend or two  
and join us!

## First Annual Fall Festival



Seeing a fire truck at your neighbor's house is usually cause for alarm. But when the truck pulled up at the Kresnik home near 57th & Pacific Streets, small children ran to check it out. Mike and Jen Kresnik were hosting a party and had invited the firefighters as

just one attraction. They invited friends and neighbors, but they extended the reach by collecting non-perishable food items for a local food pantry.

About 60 kids and adults enjoyed the big popcorn machine, pumpkin carving, face painting, food and

games. By eight o'clock the little ones had gone home to bed or moved inside, but the adults stayed by a bonfire and watched the Nebraska game projected on a movie screen in front of the garage – sharing the fan experience without having to deal with the

stadium parking. The party was billed as the "First Annual Fall Festival". We hope there are many more years to come. Thanks for hosting it, Mike and Jen!

Post your photos and stories on AEPNA's Facebook page or send them to us at [AEPNA1@gmail.com](mailto:AEPNA1@gmail.com).

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These words are so over

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# Small Wonders

**Cool. Quirky. Eclectic. Fabulous. Curious.**

These words are so overused that they're often meaningless, but they're the only way to describe three stores near 50th & Leavenworth Streets. Amy Sporrer, an Iowa native who lived in Connecticut for many years moved to Omaha and decided that the city needed more interesting mom & pop stores. So she opened Spruce, a shop filled with funny, quirky and beautiful gifts, personal items and décor.

And at the risk of being redundant with praise, right next door to Spruce is a store of vintage fabulousness. The Hum-

style. New things come in daily, so the owner, Andie, encourages you to stop by regularly. Finally, check out McMil-

uncle's attic could ever hold.

Keep your gift dollars close to home this holiday season. These three shops have enough unusual and affordable gifts that you can find something for your chic, your shabby and your shabby chic friends. No shipping and handling required.

You can check them out on online, but it's more fun to stop in.

<http://www.humble-homeshop.com/>  
<http://spruce-omaha.com/>



ble Home's antiques, vintage items and simply beautiful things are exquisitely

lan's Antiques on the corner. It has more treasures and curiosities than your hoarder

## Amazing Asparagus Cure!

**(Brought to you by the Asparagus Council)**

Seemingly legitimate medical sites online are full of purported research and claims of breakthrough discoveries. Many of the sites are little more than landing pages for ads and paid links. Medical and health sites are BIG business and they don't always have your health and wellness at heart. Monica Rogers, Health Info Literacy Coordinator with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, will share reliable online health resources with us at the November meeting. She'll demonstrate medlineplus.gov for general health issues and nihseniorhealth.gov for seniors and provide handouts with resources for specific topics like women's health, information for caregivers, lactating mothers, etc. Plan to attend the meeting on November 15.

### AEPNA Membership Form

New  Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

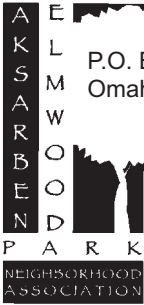
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Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:                      Household      Business  
   \$10.00              \$20.00

Please make check payable to:

Aksarben Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association  
Mail to: 1302 South 56th Street Omaha, NE 68106



P.O. Box 6665  
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**See your business here –  
join using the form on p. 3!**

### **AEPNA Business Members**

- Anderson Industrial Engines, Co.
- Bob Whitehouse - University of NE Board of Regents
- Broadmoor
- Circle Theater
- Clooty Tree Massage, LLC
- Courtyard by Marriott at Aksarben
- Fidelity National Title Group
- Hertz Equipment Rental
- JCoco
- Learning Headquarters
- Liv Lounge
- Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church & School
- Noddle Companies
- Olsson Associates
- O.F.D. Education Station #10 - David Mann
- Pinhook Flats
- Security National Bank
- Shurson Publishing
- Spruce Interiors & Gifts
- St. Matthew Lutheran Church
- Star Deli
- Tom the Balloon Guy
- UNO College of Business
- University of Nebraska at Omaha

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

**Denny's Handyman Service**  
Carpet Restretch  
Painting & Home Repairs  
**397-4223** Area References

**To Reserve this Space**  
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**Advertising Rates:** \$5 for three lines plus \$1 for each additional line. 25 characters per line, count all spaces & punctuation. Submissions will be edited to fit contracted space.

**Send ad text and check to Shurson Publishing, 131 N. 31 Ave. Omaha, NE, 68131. Call 402-551-6787.**

### **All you can eat pancake and sausage breakfast!**

**Saturday, December 1, 2012**

**from 7:00 -10:15 am**

**LongHorn on**

**7425 Dodge Street.**

**Adults \$8 Kids \$4**

**Proceeds for Omaha Parks  
Foundation Matching Grants**

