



# The Park Bench

AEPNA Association Newsletter

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

## President's Letter

### What Side Are You On?

Does traffic move too fast or too slow in our neighborhood? The answer probably depends on what side of the windshield you're on.

We think of the street outside our homes as "our" street, not a thru street. But to someone who doesn't live there, "our" street is just a way for them to get home after work or class. Likewise, the street in front of our homes seems like an extension of our yards, but to others, it's just a parking space. Perspective colors everything.

Another dividing line for perspective is 60th Street. Those who live west of 60th may never have been to Schroeder/Vogel Park (SVP), which is getting a lot of attention from AEPNA lately. The \$50,000 matching grant we got for SVP playground equipment requires us to raise money. As an association, we've not had to do that for a long time.

When we reach our goal and put the playground in, focus will shift to other things. If you live in AEPNA's boundaries west of 60th, start thinking about improvement projects you'd like to see in the next few years. It's never too early to start planning! I hope your holidays are safe and healthy!

Avery Schwer

### Next Meeting ...

Thursday,  
January 17th  
6:30 – 8:30 PM

### Re-gifting Exchange:

Bring a brown bag with  
A white elephant gift

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

Bring a friend or two  
and join us!

## Pancakes for the Parks

The Pancakes for the Parks event was almost as fun as RibFest! AEPNA volunteers stood out in our "safety green" T-shirts, but we were far outnumbered by the LongHorn volunteers. We won't get final numbers until after the Omaha

Parks Foundation finalizes the accounting, but people were generous with silent auction bids and other donations.

Thanks to everyone who helped out and to Amber Miller, Executive Director of the Omaha Parks

Foundation for organizing it. A very special thank you to Amy Deacon and all of the LongHorn Steakhouse wait staff and their families for donating their time and energy early on a Saturday morning! They were awesome. The next time you

eat at the LongHorn, be sure to thank them for their generosity and tip well. They're good folks!

Check out more Pancakes for the Parks photos on AEPNA's Facebook page.



AEPNA Volunteers Marilyn and Avery Schwer and Tom Prohaska (left) and two Longhorn volunteers (right) serving up smiles.



## pay it forward

is a phrase  
we hear most every day  
but all this month  
we're living it  
in a tiny, simple way

## a touch of hope

some wonder, too  
a bit of joy somewhere  
if you hear from us  
please do your part  
and let it spread from there

a joyous december  dundee bank

**AkSarBen- Elmwood  
Park  
Neighborhood  
Association**

**Executive Board**

**President** - Avery Schwer  
402-554-2777

**V.P.**- Tom Prohaska  
402- 554-1353

**Secretary** - Tim Potter  
402-830-5694

**Treasurer** - Eileen Slane  
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**Social Activities**

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**Webmaster**- Mike Kresnik

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# Small Wonders

## One Woman Welcome Wagon



Jane Rumbaugh is the “official” AEPNA Welcome Wagon. She keeps an eye on real estate transactions

published in the newspaper and sends a welcome letter from AEPNA to new homeowners in the area.

That’s a small step to let new folks know they are moving into a neighborhood that takes pride in the area. Individually,

we as neighbors do the important work of making new neighbors feel welcome – dropping by to introduce ourselves or bringing a plate of treats.

If you see Jane in the neighborhood, tell her “Thanks” for reaching out to

new neighbors.

Got a great idea for a housewarming gift for a new neighbor? Got a story of how someone made YOU feel welcome?

Share your ideas, stories and inspirations on AEPNA’s Facebook page.

Omaha’s City Directory lists about 175 Neighborhood Associations, each with its own boundaries, bylaws and mission. We are lucky to live in an area that doesn’t have to organize around urban blight, crime prevention or the possibility that a neighbor may paint his house the wrong shade of taupe.

AEPNA’s boundaries are large: from Leavenworth and Pacific Streets on the north to Center Street on the south, and from 50th Street on the east to 72nd Street on the west. We have a real mix of spaces: public, private, residential, commercial and parkland.

It’s time to renew! Membership dues are modest: \$10 for a family; \$20 for a business. Buy a membership as a gift for a new (or old) neighbor! Your membership supports the Neighborhood Association’s work to improve the neighborhood and keep the community informed of events and plans that affect the area. Use the form below.



**AEPNA Membership Form**

New  Renewal

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

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

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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!**

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## **The White Elephant in the Room**

No need to hold onto that hostess gift you got over the holidays...bring it in a brown paper bag and exchange it at the January meeting. You may leave with something fabulous or maybe just the realization that what you got wasn't really that bad after all...