



# The Park Bench

AEPNA Association Newsletter

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

## President's Letter

Omaha Parks Foundation Executive Director Amber Miller keeps AEPNA abuzz with excitement. Amber shared artist renderings of the playground options for Schroeder/Vogel Park (S/V) at our last meeting and now she's encouraging us to apply for the Mutual of Omaha and Mayor's grants. If those grants and other funding already in the works with the Omaha Parks Foundation come through, we may be updating the S/V Park Playground this year!

Eileen Slane is writing the new grant requests on behalf of AEPNA and she's largely responsible for most of the grants already awarded to the association. Eileen, shocked and pleased by the possibility, is already looking ahead. She said, "If this is for real, the playground may be installed in time to have the AEPNA picnic at the park to celebrate!!!"

*If this is for real, the playground may be installed in time to have the AEPNA picnic at the park to celebrate!!! ....Only a year ago I would have said, 'No way!!!'*

If you ever think your efforts are too small to make a difference, look at what can happen when one person cares enough to do something that matters. When Eileen and other neighbors planted flowers, hauled water to new trees and painted the park building, the benefits were immediate and long-range. Thank you, Eileen and everyone who works to make our neighborhood better.

I'll see you around the neighborhood!

Avery Schwer



## Dates to Remember

**Next business meeting –**

March 21

**AEPNA Garage Sale -**

May 16-18

**Dumpster Day –**

Saturday May 18

**Senior Open Golf Tournament**

- July 8-14

(a fundraising event for us)

**Aksarben RibFest –**

August 22-24

(a fundraising event for us)



## Garage Sales & Dumpster Day

May 16-18 is your chance to unload "stuff" at the AEPNA area garage sale. Call Eileen (402-553-5988) for details on garage sale locations and signs. Dumpster Day on Saturday, May 18 gives you another way to get rid of junk that's too big for curbside pickup. Contact Tim (402-830-5694) to volunteer for Dumpster Duty at the Hertz Equipment Rental parking lot on 56th & Center. Watch for more details in next month's newsletter.



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402- 554-1353

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# Small Wonders

## Hornbeam, Yellowwood, Zelkova, Exclamation! Sycamore

These are trees that have been planted in our neighborhood by ReTree Nebraska. One of the ReTree goals is to increase species diversity in Nebraska, new trees are added to the list of trees that grow well in Nebraska, but are often under-utilized. ReTree aims to plant one million high quality trees in Nebraska by 2017. The emphasis on species diversity will lessen the impact of diseases or threats like pine wilt, drought, emerald ash borer, and even wildfires that are fueled by certain invasive species.

Expand your tree horizons by going to [www.re-treenebraska.org](http://www.re-treenebraska.org) to check out the list of recommended trees. The photos and descriptions should help you find a beautiful and suitable tree that will enhance your yard for generations.

Now is the time to start planning for spring planting. To apply for a tree through the ReTree program, contact Kathy Kastrick at 402-553-4973 to start the process. Trees are still available and not only will you get a beautiful tree, but you'll also get some expert advice on planting and caring for it. Be the first on your block to own a Zelkova!



Graham Herbst, ISA Certified Arborist, NAA Certified Arborist Nebraska Forest Service Community Forester Assistant guides AEPNA resident Joel Holms through the planting technique for his new American Hornbeam last fall.



## Snow Day!

Snow forts and snow creatures remind us that snow days are a gift in many ways! Pictured here is Leo with his frozen sfriend and Scotty dog. It's hard to say whether Leo or his dad enjoys them more...

### AEPNA Membership Form

New  Renewal

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

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Circle one:                      Household              Business

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## **Senior Golf Open Volunteers Needed**

Local non-profit groups that provide volunteers for the Senior Golf Open event can raise funds for their organizations. Deadlines are soon, so call Tom Prohaska at 402-554-1353 today to volunteer on AEPNA's behalf.