

February 2012



# The Park Bench

AEPNA Association Newsletter

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

## Member Message

**I**magination, elbow grease and money. These three threads run through all the exciting developments in the neighborhood.

The Omaha Fire Department, in cooperation with the Omaha Firefighters Historical Society, has taken over the city-owned building near 50th & Pine Streets and is working to refurbish it to its original state. The Historical Society's funding of the project sets it apart from just another classroom. Thanks to their financial support and vision, the restoration will include authentic 1939 firehouse doors and antique fire trucks and artifacts for display. According to Captain David Mann, the education center will be open to the public and serve as a fire safety education classroom for schools and groups. Watch for an AEPNA event there in 2012!

Because of good stewardship of Schroeder/Vogel Park by AEPNA and neighbors, the park was designated as a qualifier for Omaha Parks Foundation money for playground improvements. The city will match funds (up to \$50,000) raised for the project, so if you have an interest in improving the playground, please let us know. We will need members to help plan with all aspects of the project: the vision, the elbow grease and the fundraising! On Thursday, March 22 at 6:30 PM at Schroeder/Vogel Park, AEPNA will host an Omaha By Design Place Game to imagine improvements to the park. For more details call Eileen at 402-553-5988 or check the AEPNA's facebook page or website ([www.aksarbenelmwood.org](http://www.aksarbenelmwood.org)).

At the January AEPNA meeting, Dr. Avery Schwer stepped forward to serve as President. Avery teaches at the university (UNO), lives in the neighborhood and says it's time for him to get involved. Likewise, several new members who attended the meeting expressed interest in serving as liaisons to Aksarben Village and other businesses, helping with existing projects and starting new projects to make AEPNA more vital. We welcome their fresh insights and energy and would like to welcome you, too! If you want to see your neighborhood grow and thrive in 2012, please share your time and talents with AEPNA.

Colleen Ciciulla, Member

## Dates to Remember:

**March 22** – 6:30 PM at Schroeder/Vogel Park

Omaha By Design Place Game

**May 18 & 19** – 2012 AEPNA Garage Sale

**September 20th** (3rd Thursday) – AEPNA picnic, location TBD

## Next Meeting

Thursday March 19th  
**Meet Local Candidates  
and Representatives**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM

**Bring a Friend or Two!**

**Meeting Schedule...**  
3rd Thursday  
Every Other Month

Saint Matthew Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
1725 S. 60th Street



Omaha Fire Department Building

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Neighborhood  
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**Secretary** - Tim Potter  
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**Treasurer** - Eileen Slane  
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**Community Service and  
Beautification**

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**Social Activities**

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**Webmaster**- Therese McGrath  
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**Newsletter**

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# Small Wonders

## ZNETH

The first platinum LEED certified house in Nebraska is in our neighborhood. The Zero Net Energy Test House (ZNETH) produces more energy than it uses. Near 64th & Woolworth, the 4-bedroom 2,000 square foot ZNETH serves as a living learning laboratory for graduate students. Geothermal heat, solar panels and native landscaping may eventually take the home "off the grid", but for now it shows that sustainable can be beautiful.

For more information about ZNETH and other green projects in Nebraska, go to [http://gobigred.unl.edu/featured/husker/Avery Schwer/](http://gobigred.unl.edu/featured/husker/Avery_Schwer/) or the Flatwater Chapter of the US Green Building Council at [http://www.usgbcene.org/LEED\\_in\\_Nebraska](http://www.usgbcene.org/LEED_in_Nebraska).



Be Part of the Solution ...  
Support Your Neighborhood  
Join Us Today

**AEPNA Membership Form**

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Circle one:                  Household          Business  
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Aksarben Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association  
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If you've got good ideas or plain old elbow grease to share for the benefit of your neighborhood, please join or renew your AEPNA membership using the form on page 3.

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