

The Park Bench

AEPNA Association Newsletter

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President's Letter

AEPNA Awarded Mutual of Omaha Grant

Mutual of Omaha awarded AEPNA a neighborhood grant of \$5,000 for the Schroeder/Vogel Park Playground Improvement Project. The park renovation is slated to begin this summer. Thank you, Mutual of Omaha! And thank you, Eileen Slane for your work in securing the grant!

Other events and activities around our S/V renovation show community support for our efforts:

- About 50 people attended the Design the Playground event at the park in early May. Thanks to Schwan's for giving attendees free ice cream treats.
- We sponsored a Schwan's fundraising sale in which AEPNA received a percentage of the sales.
- AEPNA volunteers helped with ticket sales and distribution for Bruce Crawford's screening of the classic movie Carousel at Joslyn Art Museum's Witherspoon Concert Hall. The Omaha Parks Foundation provided volunteer staff for the event and received a portion of the proceeds which will be used for the park renovation.
- Aksarben Rib Fest in August (22-24) will be our next big fundraising effort and we'll need plenty of volunteers to make it as successful as last year. Spread the word and plan on attending!

Our July meeting will be a business meeting at St. Matthews and we'll vote on the bylaw amendments submitted at the May meeting. The annual picnic will be in September. I'll see you around the neighborhood!

Avery Schwer



The Schwan's Man, Eileen Slane and Theodore Matsukis support fundraising efforts.

Next Meeting ...

Thursday,
July 18th

Vote on Bylaws

Picnic Scheduled for September!

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!

Citizens Patrol

Russ Miller, a representative of the Omaha Coalition of Citizens Patrol (OCCP), spoke at our May meeting about how trained volunteers patrol on foot and in vehicles to keep an eye on his neighborhood (the Montclair area). Volunteers undergo a background check and wear clothing or badges to identify themselves as patrols. They live in the neighborhood so they're familiar with the people and places, and can recognize even small things as being out of place. For example, seeing a garage door open at an odd time will prompt a phone call to alert the homeowner. Their role is to work with local government to improve public safety and quality of life in their neighborhoods. For more details on OCCP or to look into a free training session on the 3rd Thursday in July and October, check them out on online or on Facebook.



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Talking Trash

Love Kicked to the Curb

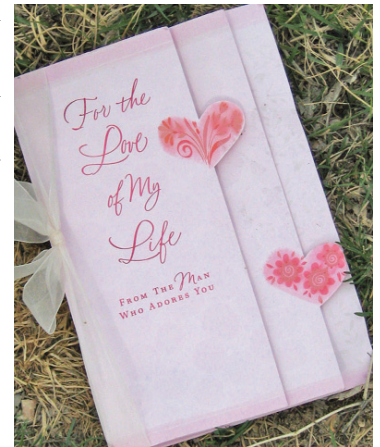
Upon a time, he cared enough to send the very best. But the card that professes his great love for her fluttered around the curb and in the nearby yards for days.

Had this great love come to a tragic end? Had there been a tearful scene? Angry words? Curses and maniacal laughter from a madwoman in the attic?

Or was it just that she didn't care enough to do the very least?

If only the card had been weighted down in the recycle bin or tucked into the bag with the newspapers on that fateful windy day, this story would have had a happy ending.

Don't let your trash talk. Shred personal documents. Tie garbage bags shut. Secure items in the recycle bin. Live happily ever after.



Nebraska Humane Society Animal Control

Corbin Brown, animal control officer for the Nebraska Humane Society (NHS), attended the May meeting and described how NHS deals with the more than 48,000 calls they get regarding dead animals, animal cruelty, strays and nuisance animals. Brown shared some surprising information: 80% of bats and skunks carry rabies and raccoons are territorial so when the NHS traps one, it's released in the same vicinity where it was captured.



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More Trash Talk

Thanks to Hertz Equipment Rental on 56th & Center for hosting the Dumpster Day in May.

Thanks also to the AEPNA volunteers who helped staff the event.