



The Park Bench

AEPNA Association Newsletter

Visit us online at aepna.org

President's Letter

Working for the Common Good

When we meet on July 18, we'll vote to amend the bylaws so that our board will consist of elected officers, Past President(s) and the chairpersons of standing committees appointed by the President. Each committee is responsible for one facet of our association, and all committees contribute to the overall good of the neighborhood.

Everyone who chooses to live in the neighborhood has a stake in its health and vitality. Whether you live east or west of 60th or in Aksarben Village or Elmwood Tower, you can contribute to the common good by serving on an AEPNA committee that deals with an interest close to your heart.

The standing committees and areas of responsibility are:

- Membership – collect and maintain member information; send e-mail blasts to membership as needed
- Communications – share news and association information with members and neighbors (via Facebook, website and print newsletter)
- Social – coordinate volunteers and activities to promote mingling and socializing among neighbors
- Community Service/Beautification – work to maintain or improve areas in the neighborhood by organizing projects (may include some fundraising)
- Business Outreach – build relationships with member and local businesses to support the economic vitality of our area
- Aksarben Liaison – represent AEPNA interests in the Village and encourage participation in and support of AEPNA projects and events

If you have an interest in any of these areas but won't be able to join us at the meeting, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Avery Schwer

Next Meeting ...
Thursday,
July 18th
RibFest Planning
Vote on Amended Bylaws
UNO Parking Issues -
Bike-Ped Access Ramp to
Ak Village
 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!

Meth House on the Corner

From the outside, a meth house looks like every other house on the block. But on the inside, it's a fixer-upper that requires more than fresh paint. Not surprisingly, owners and renters of former meth houses are not eager to talk about it – owners from fear of their asset losing value and renters from fear of displeasing the landlord.

What are the signs of a meth lab? Go to www.methproject.org and look under "Why do meth labs blow up?" for tips on recognizing a lab..

The poisons used and the byproducts created in making meth are toxic long after the product is gone. Fumes and particles get into the HVAC system and plumbing as well as porous materials like fabrics and carpeting. Some of the volatile materials react with water or air, so the most obvious cleaning approach (soap and water) may not be recommended.



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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

402-553-5988

Committees:

Membership/Bylaws

Scott Swanson

402-553-1483

**Community Service and
Beautification**

Open

Social Activities

Open

Webmaster- Mike Kresnik

Facebook Maven

Therese McGrath

tmcgra@creighton. edu

Newsletter

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Small Wonders

Maybe things aren't as bad as you thought...

Pat turned his front yard into a garden, complete with vegetables, herbs and even grapes. But when the street construction replaced the sewer on his corner, some heavy equipment ran over the rhubarb and crushed it beyond saving and he thought the plant was gone for good.

Instead, the rhubarb plant spent months underground, plotting revenge on the back hoe. Now that it's back, the plant is gigantic, daring any mere machine to test its strength.

If Garrison Keillor is right that "Nothing gets the taste of shame and humiliation out of your mouth quite like Be-Bop-A-Re-Bop Rhubarb Pie" this plant could revive every losing team in the district.



Meth House on the Corner

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If you have reason to believe that a house that you rent, own or are considering buying was used to cook meth, protect yourself and others by getting the poisons out before moving people in. Lots of companies specialize in the cleanup, but you can also find online resources that spell out specific sequences and techniques for safely cleaning it up yourself. (www.epa.gov/osweroe1/meth_lab_guidelines.pdf)

If you have reason to believe that current occupants of a house are cooking meth or otherwise involved in illicit activities, report it anonymously by calling Crime Stoppers at 402-444-7867, texting "OPD" plus your message to CRIMES (274637) or reporting it online at www.omahacrimestoppers.net.

The Corner Weed House



Giant rhubarb is one thing; giant weeds are another. Musk thistle and thorny dandelions are to our yards what snakehead fish and zebra mussels are to our waterways; they're noxious and invasive. If they're in your neighbor's yard or the vacant house across the street, they will eventually pop up in your yard.

Ask your neighbor to get rid of them by cutting, pulling or treating chemically and offer to help. Or, if the house is vacant, gather a work party of neighbors to tackle the problem together to protect your lawns.

As a last resort, call the City of Omaha Weed and Litter Complaint line 402-444-5910.

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



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Omaha, NE 68106

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Bike & Pedestrian Access to Ak Village

UNO and AEPNA are working with the City of Omaha to install an ADA accessible ramp for bike and pedestrian access to the Village from the middle of the block on 64th & Woolworth Avenue. For more details, see the map on the AEPNA Facebook page or website. Thanks to City Council member Chris Jerram, the City of Omaha and UNO associates for working to increase the walkability of our neighborhood!