



The Park Bench

AEPNA Association Newsletter

Visit us online at aepna.org

President's Letter

Generosity Close to Home

The 2013 Aksarben RibFest event was three days of tasty ribs, good music and family fun. It was also good fundraising. By providing volunteers, AEPNA earned \$5,200 from alcohol sales. With the more than \$800 in generous tips and donations, our total take was more than \$6,030. Thank you to all the attendees and donors who supported us!

Thanks also to all of the volunteers gave their time to staff the booth and keep things running smoothly. Lining up volunteers to cover close to 40 hours with multiple people needed for each slot is harder. A special thanks to Scott Swanson for performing this difficult job. I'm especially grateful to those who came early to set up or stayed late to wrap up. I appreciate your generosity; we could not have done it without you.

The AEPNA picnic has a different date and taste this year. We'll meet in the Elmwood Pavilion on Thursday, September 26 at 6 PM. We're hoping for cool weather since the main dish will be chili. Several officers will bring our best chili recipes to show off and share. We'll also provide hot dogs for the kids or for those who like their chili on a dog.

You bring the side dishes, an appetite, a couple of neighbors and some Tums. I'll see you there!



AEPNA volunteers at 2013 Aksarben RibFest

Avery Schwer

Next Meeting ...
Thursday, September 26
Picnic/Chili Fest!

@ Elmwood Pavilion
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Chili & Hot Dogs

provided by
 AEPNA Officers

Sides – Potluck:
A-L: salad/veggies
M-Z: dessert

Saint Matthew Evangelical
 Lutheran Church
 1725 S. 60th Street
 3rd Thursday
 Every Other Month
 Bring a friend or two
 and join us!



An Embarrassment of Riches

At this time of year gardeners swap tomatoes and carrots for corn and eggs. They fill their freezers with gooseberries, peas and beans. They bring boxes of zucchini in to the office to share the bounty and keep it from going to waste.

The next time someone offers you a fresh cucumber or beautiful squash from their garden, accept it gratefully and remember that September is Hunger Awareness Month.

If you're not a gardener, you can still share with others by contributing to the Food Bank or a food pantry. St. Matthew Lutheran Church, at the corner of 60th and Walnut Streets, has a satellite Food Pantry that's open from 10:00 AM -12:00 noon every third Saturday of the month.



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Small Wonders Surprise!

Whether you call them surprise lilies, naked ladies or one of the other many names, these pink and purple lilies shot up to a height of almost 4 feet in one week. They are beauty and drama combined.

The lilies in the photo are “legacy” or “heirloom” bulbs, but not in the botanical sense. They came from a single clump that was planted more than 50 years ago at the old Paxton family house on North 55 Street.

These blooms are a reminder of Mom who tended the original plant for years, dividing, moving, thinning and giving bulbs to neighbors, family and friends. Bulbs from that group are now surprising people in at least 3 states.

The next time someone in your family gets married, buys a home or has a baby, consider going to your garden for a gift. A cutting from Grandma’s peony bush or a box of bulbs may delight generations to come.



Routine Detours



Between the repaving and the sewer work, the street detours change weekly and sometimes daily. Detours are an opportunity to turn off your autopilot and actually pay attention to your drive. You might discover a treasure that’s just around the corner but since it’s not on your usual driving route, it doesn’t exist. Take the long way home every now and then. And while you’re at it, mix up your walking route now and then to the neighborhood from a different perspective.

AEPNA Membership Form

New ___ Renewal ___

Name: _____

Address: _____ zip _____

Home Phone: _____

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Circle one: Household Business
 \$10.00 \$20.00

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Aksarben Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association
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September 13th: Free Neighborhood Barbeque and Ice Cream Social

at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 5529 Leavenworth!

Please come by for food and music by the Roundhouse
Bluegrass Band between 5:00 and 8:00 pm.

AEPNA Picnic & Chili Fest

Thursday September 26

Elmwood Park Pavilion

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Bring a side and a friend and join us!