



The Park Bench

AEPNA Association Newsletter

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President's Letter

Three Good News Stories

#1. Parts of the Elmwood Tower fence haven't seen the light of day for 40 years, but the Mutual of Omaha volunteers did a fantastic job of cleaning it as a project for their Month of Caring grant. They worked tirelessly for 3 ½ hours and when they finished said, "Request us again next year."

What a great group! The resident Tower Gardeners, Don and Mary Ann Z. worked the entire afternoon with us. AEPNA can apply for more than one Mutual of Omaha grant next year, so if you have other neighborhood projects that we should consider, please contact me or Eileen Slane. We would be thrilled to work with the Mutual volunteers again!

#2. Chris and Jerry Shriver don't live in the AEPNA area, but they spent hours volunteering at the RibFest booth this year and last. When I sent a thank you note and a small token of appreciation to them from AEPNA, we got the following thank you note: "...it was our pleasure to be able to volunteer and help you out! We are looking forward to helping again next year - so I hope you will keep in contact and let us know as the date gets closer.... It is so nice to meet and work alongside with such great people...Please let us know if you would ever need help in the future for anything else - it's not work for us - it's just fun!"

#3. Mike Kresnik and the youth group from Coram Deo Church Community showed up at the monthly Shoreder/Vogel Park cleanup and did a great job. The regular cleanup crew – Joe Guenther, Tom Prohaska and Scott Swanson – were delighted to have so many willing helpers. The youth group said to just let them know when they're needed; they'd be happy to help anytime.

Three different projects. One common thread. People WANT to help with service projects. On behalf of our neighborhood, I say, "Thank you!" to the volunteers, and trust me, we WILL call you in the future!

I'll see you around the neighborhood!

Avery Schwer

Next Meeting ...
Thursday, November 21
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!



Volunteers at Elmwood Tower

Got an Idea? Ask for a Hand.

Volunteers who jump in to help with projects in the neighborhood show that people are ready and willing to lend a hand, but just need an invitation.

Look around your street. Do you see a task or project that would improve the quality of life on your street, but that's too big to undertake on your own? Ask for help. Pitch it to your neighbors as a work party and make it fun (pizza and cookies always help!). Call an AEPNA officer to see if it's something the larger organization can help you plan and execute.



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Small Wonders

Giant Bonsai or Bad Cut?

Bonsai is the art of dwarfing trees or plants and developing them into an aesthetically appealing shape by growing, pruning and training them in containers according to BonsaiSite.com. This maple tree on 55th Street is contained by the narrow easement, but the pruning it got was anything but harmonious. If trees had feelings, this one would be as embarrassed as a poodle after a bad grooming.



Chili Champs

Five AEPNA officers entered chili in the competition at the association picnic at Elmwood Park last month. The votes were close and there were calls for a recount and accusations of stuffing the ballot box with each others' names, but finally, Lois Ourada conceded victory and reluctantly accepted the fabulous AEPNA Chili Champion trophy.



Her Mystery Chili beat the Smokin' Navy, White Chicken, Traditional and Garden varieties, giving Lois bragging rights for a year and making her responsible for keeping track of the trophy till next year.

Check out the photos on our website and Facebook page. (Note: The Omaha Fire and Rescue crew was invited to bring the fire engine for the kids; they were not called for a chili emergency.)

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Thanks! You made me proud!

Thanks to the neighborhood folks who turned out to cheer on the runners in the Corporate Cup. That is a very important part of the race, especially since the course through our neighborhood is hilly. If the organization decides to use the route again next year, we'll encourage everyone in the neighborhood to come out and greet the runners.

Thanks! (From Becky, a runner and neighbor.)