



The Park Bench

AEPNA Newsletter

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President's Letter

It All Began in a Garden

Gardens feature big in AEPNA news. Seven people have agreed to serve on the "core team" for our Community Garden. They are already looking at grants and funding sources. It takes a bit of green to raise a little green... I'll share more about that project in upcoming newsletters.

The AEPNA Garden Walk scheduled for Saturday, June 7, is an important fundraiser for the association and a showcase for the neighborhood. Please put it on your calendar now and plan to bring friends and neighbors along. Contact an AEPNA officer to purchase tickets (\$10/adult). Since we won't have the RibFest fundraiser, we need to work hard to make the Garden Walk a success. Please consider buying tickets for yourself and neighbors – perhaps those neighbors who you'd like to see do something with their yards!

We also have a limited number of business sponsorships (4) at \$250. Sponsors are recognized on the signs at each home location, on the tickets and on all communications about the walk. Sponsors can also set up a table to display or sell their products and services the day of the walk. Contact Scott Swanson (402-553-1483 or scooter775@cox.net) for more information.

Don't miss the May 15 association meeting. Tom Prohaska will grill hot dogs and if you bring a side to share, it'll be a great meal. The speakers and topics for the evening are interesting and hit close to home. We'll have some copies of the Historical Reconnaissance Survey that was done on the eastern part of our boundaries and you'll recognize many of the homes that are pictured in it.

I'll see you at the meeting!
Avery Schwer



Next Meeting
Thursday, May 15
6:30 – 8:30 PM
St. Matthew's

Hot dogs provided
Bring a side dish

Speakers & Topics:
Ann Pedersen - CSO
improvement projects
Trina Westman –
Historical Reconnaissance

Bring a friend or two
and join us!

Spreading Mulch and Good News

The first two Schroeder/Vogel Park clean up events did more than just get rid of trash and spread mulch. They inspired neighbors and park users to help with the work and join the association! Welcome to the five new members who've joined AEPNA as a result of the cleanup events. And **thanks all volunteers and BSA Troop 597** for your great help!

The next S/V Park spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 17 from 9 AM to 1 PM.



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Neighborhood Association**

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Urban Archeology

Digging Through Maps

Architects Trina and Eric Westman moved into the neighborhood 8 years ago. When Trina researched the history of their beautiful brick home built in 1940, she saw that it had only 2 prior owners. Her own observations as a mother told her that neither owner had children – the skeleton keys were still in every door!



Trina works in the Urban Design Section of the City Planning Department and is involved in “Historic Reconnaissance Surveys” of neighborhoods. All of the neighborhoods in the eastern part of the city have already been studied except Aksarben. That study has been proposed, but the funding for it has not yet been approved.

Trina’s office is covered with maps of Omaha -- on the walls, the floor, the desk, the computer screen, maps on top of maps. She takes a single map of Omaha, then overlays it with the maps of streetcar lines, bus lines, rail lines, commercial districts, parks, neighborhoods, historical districts and landmarks. Each page adds to the understanding of how a city grows and changes.

When Trina looks at a Google satellite view of the area, she sees things most viewers would miss. She traces the “scar” of an old rail line that supplied the many small commercial nodes scattered around the city. In some places, the raised rail bed has been made into a walking trail (the Field Club trail), and in others, the line is visible as a series of parking lots.

At the May AEPNA meeting, Trina will announce whether the funding for the Aksarben study was approved. She’ll describe how the historical surveys are conducted, using high tech and low tech tools like Google maps, “windshield time” and discussions with people who know the area’s history.

She’ll bring samples of the survey book produced for Elmwood Park (which covers the eastern part of our neighborhood boundaries), and some of other historical neighborhoods nearby, including Dundee and Benson. Please come **to the meeting on May 15**, and bring friends or neighbors who are history buffs or who enjoy landmarks and preservation work.

AEPNA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Type: Household \$10.00 Business \$20.00
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Dates to Remember

May 15 – AEPNA meeting

AARP Shred Event at Center Mall

May 17 – Cleanup at S/V Park

June 7 – AEPNA Garden walk (rain or shine)

Post your photos and stories on AEPNA's Facebook page or send them to us at AEPNA1@gmail.com

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