

# The Park Bench

## AEPNA Newsletter

Visit us online at [aepna.org](http://aepna.org)

## President's Letter

### Playground Ribbon Cutting Scheduled

After two and a half years of fundraising, talk and more talk, the playground at Schroeder/Vogel Park is under construction. We are planning a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, September 5 at 5 PM to celebrate.

Mayor Jean Stothert and representatives from the Omaha Parks Department and the Parks Foundation will join us. In addition to the newly installed equipment, we'll have games and activities for the kids and a picnic dinner for everyone.

We're talking with nearby grocery stores and businesses to get the food donated for the event. If you have connections, let me know! We've spent all of our money on the playground equipment!

If you'd like to help with the planning or the activities, or if you've got any special talents to share or an inside track to entertainment -- face painting, balloon animals, music, jugglers, pony rides, chain saw carving, whatever -- please call Eileen Slane (402-553-5988). This will be a big party, so we'll need lots of hands to pull it off smoothly!

Please invite nearby schools, day cares or other businesses and neighbors to come out and celebrate with us.

I'll see you at the park!

Avery Schwer

Ribbon Cutting  
 Schroeder/Vogel  
 Park Playground  
 Saddle Creek &  
 Pine Streets  
 Friday, Sept. 5  
 5:00 PM  
 Picnic supper  
 Catered by TBD

Games & Activities  
for kids of all ages

Please bring:  
 water or drinks  
 (no alcohol, please)  
 friends & neighbors  
 chairs/blanket



Caterpillar Exhibit – The park looks like a Caterpillar zoo with several species of on display.

Check out the park renovation article in the Saturday, July 26, 2014 issue of the *Omaha World Herald*. [http://www.omaha.com/living/out-with-the-old-in-with-the-new-at-schroeder/article\\_0c71fab6-f44a-5c7e-aa9f-a51428aad2bd.html](http://www.omaha.com/living/out-with-the-old-in-with-the-new-at-schroeder/article_0c71fab6-f44a-5c7e-aa9f-a51428aad2bd.html)



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**Bottle Tree Burns Bad Spirits**

Sakura Yodogawa-Campbell  
commissioned the bottle tree in her  
yard near 60<sup>th</sup> & Walnut Streets  
from an artist friend who lives in  
Malvern, Iowa and works as a nurse  
at the Veterans' Hospital. The artist,  
Chris Killion, has a hobby of building  
"man cave" or workshop tables  
made of iron and other metals.

Sakura asked if he could make her a  
bottle tree and described a little of  
what she wanted. He researched  
their history and discovered that in  
Africa, it is believed the bad spirits  
fly up into the bottles and the heat  
of the sun burns them up.

Friends and family provide the bottles, and although she hasn't done  
much else to adorn the tree, Sakura plans to add lights and bells now  
that two smaller bottle "bushes" have recently sprouted under the  
tree.



**Meeting Notes**

The evening of our July meeting was a beautiful night, so attendance at  
the meeting was a bit sparse, but we had five first-time attendees and  
our speakers shared the following good news:

**“Our neighborhood is SAFE!”** Lt. Jerry Siedlik from the Omaha Police  
Department repeated that three times . The rash of burglaries that  
have been reported are of the “grab & go” variety ; thieves looking for  
a quick buck with no confrontation.

**“Worm poop is like gold!”** Glenn Wigodsky shared how he and his wife  
Nicole are building a sustainable food supply with their garden,  
chickens and a planned aquaponic greenhouse. Glenn says, “I’ve got  
worms (that eat my garbage, including junk mail).”

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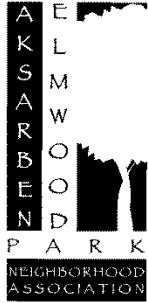
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**“Criminals Take 2-3 Seconds to decide whether to break into a place.”**

OPD Lt. Jerry Siedlik had these common sense crime prevention tips:

- Lock the door between your garage and your house
- Be a “good nosy neighbor”
- Leave a radio on so it appears like someone is home
- Call 911 – even if it’s not an emergency, if you want an officer to come to the scene, call 911 to report something

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