

The Park Bench

AEPNA Newsletter

Visit us online at aepna.org or find us on Facebook at Aksarben Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association

President's Letter

Ribbon Cutting Off – Chili Fest On

Once again, I have to announce a delay in the ribbon cutting for the playground at Schroder/Vogel Park. We'll celebrate some time next Spring.

In the meantime, we'll celebrate autumn with a chili fest at the next business meeting. Officers will provide chili and members can bring sides to share. We'll start the meeting with the presentation of our Good Neighbor award. Our two guest speakers for the evening have a wealth of experience across the spectrum. Larry Almgren, whose garden has been featured in the AEPNA garden walk twice, is the owner of Pruitt Outdoor Power. Diana Failla was recognized with the 2014 Governor's Point of Light award for her extraordinary volunteer efforts on behalf of many organizations, including the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance, the Landmark Heritage Preservation Commission and many, many others. Come and be inspired by their examples of passionate commitment to community and good stewardship.

AEPNA will have a table at the Iowa/Nebraska (IN) the Neighborhood Conference at Metro Community College's South Omaha Campus Saturday, October 11. This is a great opportunity to network with other



community activists and leaders and bring ideas back to our neighborhood. The Keynote Speaker is Gus Newport, a nationally renowned community activist who encourages neighborhood planning from the "bottom up, not top-down." Additional workshop speakers include neighborhood advocate and Creighton University Law Professor Kate Mahern, and Empowerment Network President Willie Barney. Morning and afternoon breakout sessions will cover a range of topics from Neighborhood Identity & Connectivity in a Regional Context to Raising Poultry in the City. There's still time to register if you want to attend. Go to www.intheneighborhood.org.

If I don't see you at the conference, I hope to see you at the meeting!
Avery Schwer

Calendar notes:
Business Meeting &
Chili Fest
Bring a side to share

Thursday, Oct. 16
7:00 PM
Good Neighbor Award
Presentation

Guest speakers:
Larry Almgren, AEPNA
member & business owner

Diana Failla,
President, Midtown
Neighborhood Assn.

Playground ribbon cutting
delayed till Spring, 2015



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Automobile Camp at Elmwood Park

Long distance travel in the
early days of the
automobile was difficult,
and comforts along the
way were few. Motorists
pitched their own tents
and cooked their own
meals in the auto tourist
camps that soon sprang
up along the nation's
roads. Some were free;
others were operated by a
commercial businessman.
Pay camps, with more
conveniences, soon
became common.



Elmwood Park Campground campers, circa 1923

The camp was situated on high ground overlooking Elmwood Park, with features that attracted an American public increasingly drawn to the open road. "There are plenty of trees, ample accommodation for 150 cars and the parties that go with them, while permanent buildings contain baths, equipment for the washing of apparel and dishes, cooking facilities and other things to make things easier for the traveler. In the assembly room are writing tables, a big fireplace, maps, free stationery and all the comforts you would find in the writing room of a big hotel. . . . The paths and driveways are of the finest chipped stone, and the grounds themselves are kept neat and clean all the time."

The cost for such services was modest, even by the standards of 1926: fifty cents per car for a twenty-four-hour period. The usual stay was limited to four days, although one could stay longer if conditions permitted. The World-Herald noted, "In 1924 some 7,302 cars stopped in the camp, and in 1925 there were 7,792. Already this year there has been 3,280 registered there The summer months are the big months, but spring, fall and even winter brings visitors in number."

The establishment of this popular auto tourist camp was due to the Omaha Automobile Club, which had appointed a committee to propose its establishment before the Omaha City Council. The camp was viewed from the first as a successful advertisement of Omaha's wealth and hospitality to travelers. "Members of one family going west were loud in their praises for the local camp. 'We've been in 20 or more. This is by far the best in every particular. We are certainly going to stop here for a while on our way back.'"

As auto campers demanded more comforts, roadside accommodations such as those found at the Elmwood Park camp were accordingly upgraded. Individual tourist cabins were constructed that provided not only cooking and sanitary facilities, but overnight privacy and shelter from bad weather. Some owners connected their cabins and arranged them around a central court to form a motor court-which, in turn, gave rise to the modern motel.

Article Courtesy of Nebraska State Historical Society Timeline (April 2007)
<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/timeline>
Photos courtesy of Restoration Exchange <http://www.restorationexchange.org>

AEPNA Membership Form

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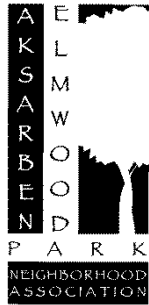
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"What a fount of information is the tourist camp at this season of the year!" said the Sunday World-Herald of August 8, 1926, "And what a place is a tourist camp of an evening, filled by people from everywhere. There are hundreds of such places in the land, but according to motorists who have availed themselves of the hospitality and advantages of the one out Elmwood Park way, there is none that beat it."



Trunk or Treat!
Friday, October 31

6:30-8:30 pm

Lifegate Church - 55th & Leavenworth

All are welcome!

AEPNA Business Members

Anderson Industrial Engines Co. * Broadmoor * Cars R'Us Auto Body * Circle Theatre

Clooty Tree Massage * Courtyard by Marriott * Elmwood Tower

Godfather's Pizza/Aksarben Village * Hertz Equipment Rental * Hy-Vee * JCoco * Kids DIY Studio

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