

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

Town and Gown Throw Down

The January meeting was one for the record books. Our guest speakers from Clean Solutions for Omaha, the UNO Arena and Gotta Be Me witnessed firsthand the passion our neighbors have for their area. We welcomed some faces that we don't usually see at our general meetings and hope they can become involved with AEPNA's ongoing neighborhood improvement projects. Many of the newcomers came to voice concerns over the fence that separates Aksarben Village from the neighborhood and about the loss of parking spaces at the new access point to the Village from Woolworth.

To be clear, the University has no intention of removing the fence that runs along 63rd and 67th Streets and Woolworth Avenue. The lost parking spaces are directly in front of my house and my immediate neighbor and neither of us objected when we were told that City Code required the spaces for handicapped access to the new curb cut.

If you ever have a question about the Association or a project we are involved in, please contact me or one of the officers. A civil society thrives on trust and respect and sometimes, an old-fashioned phone call or personal visit does more to build community than all of the virtual options for instant and constant (mis)communication.

I'll see you around the neighborhood!

Avery Schwer

March
Business Meeting
Thursday, Mar. 19
6:30-8:30 PM
St. Matthew's
1725 S. 60th St.



New members Michael Cortese and Maya Khanna with their triplets were out for a walk when they ran into an AEPNA officer and said they wanted to join AEPNA. Both are psychology professors. Welcome, Michael and Maya!

Dirt Trucks then Cement Trucks

Presenters from Clean Solutions for Omaha gave the January meeting attendees a heads up on some of the effects that we'll see as they build the storm water treatment plant just south of Aksarben Village.

We can expect to see LOTS of trucks hauling dirt and debris away from the site as the 10 million gallon storage tank is excavated. Then we can expect to see LOTS of trucks hauling cement into the site as the tank is built.

When it's finished, the Retention Treatment Basin (RTB) will catch overflows that occur about 52 times a year. The plant will screen the water to remove trash (just imagine how many pop bottle lids there are!) and treat it to kill bacteria before releasing it back into the system.

The designers were sensitive to the site's location in a neighborhood. Trees and greenery will provide a buffer around the site. And when the plant is finished, trucks that haul trash or deliver supplies will enter the plant through large doors that will be closed before being loaded or unloaded.



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Neighborhood Association**

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Gotta Be Me

Have you ever wondered about
that building at 5108 Pine Street?
You know, the one with no windows,
big parking lot and a fence?

Well it used to be a church, but
now it is the home of Gotta Be Me, a
not-for-profit organization created to
promote the inclusion of adults and
children with disabilities into our



Gotta Be Me crew (Tiffany in center)

communities to create a culture that's
brimming with life, dignity and growth for all people.

Inspired by her brother, Caleb, Tiffany Clifton started Gotta Be Me to
address the needs of young adults with disabilities who finish high school only
to find that the rest of the world isn't aware of the adventures and special gifts
that come with special needs.

Tiffany and two associates from Gotta Be Me attended the January meeting
to fill us in on the building space and the organization and to invite us as
neighbors to get involved with them. They have been singing as the Heartlight

Choir every Monday from 7-8 PM
and have plans for monthly programs
like game nights, dance parties, arts
and crafts swaps and more.

Tiffany says the wheelchair/
walker/stroller walking, jogging,
running club is already looking
forward to using the new walkways
of Schroder/Vogel Park.



Tiffany and Caleb enjoy a good run!

Fundraising has begun to pay off the building (and install some windows!)
and another neighbor, Chris Hunke and Dirty River Ramblers have cut a CD
and had concerts to help.

Find out more about Gotta Be Me and the opportunities to get involved
with them by going to www.gottabeme.org or look them up on Facebook.

Renew your AEPNA membership!

Consider a 3-year membership for just \$25.

AEPNA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

☐ Household \$10/1 year; \$20/2 years; \$25/3 years

☐ Business \$20/1 year; \$40/2 years; \$50/3 years

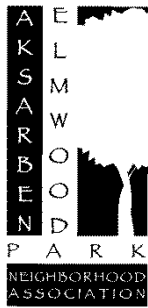
☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift (great for your thoughtful neighbor!)

Please include me in the neighborhood roster ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please make check payable to Aksarben-Elmwood Park NA

Mail to: 1302 S. 56 St. Omaha, NE 68106

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Omaha, NE 68106



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Members and guests alike enjoyed the soup, sides and sweets at the January meeting. Join us in March.



Rendering of CSO treatment plant

AEPNA Business Members

- * Anderson Industrial Engines Co. * Broadmoor * Cars R'Us Auto Body * Circle Theatre * Clooty Tree Massage *
- * Courtyard by Marriott /Aksarben Village * Elmwood Tower * Godfather's Pizza /Aksarben Village * Gotta Be Me *
- * Hertz Equipment Rental * Hy-Vee * JCoco * Kids DIY Studio * Learning Headquarters * LIV Lounge *
- * Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church * Noddle Companies * Olsson Associates * Pinhook Flats * Pruitt Outdoor Power *
- * Residence Inn by Marriott /Aksarben Village * Sandra Turner Real Estate * Security National Bank /Aksarben Village *
- * Shurson Publishing * St. Mathew Lutheran Church * Tasty Pastry * The Gourmet Granola * Tracks *
- * UNO College of Business * UNO Community Relations * Village Canvas and Cabernet *