

May 2015

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 Park Party

Party! I know I've said this before, but this time, it's for REAL! Come celebrate the dedication of the new playground and park equipment at Schroeder/Vogel Park (at Pine & Saddle Creek). Adults and kids will enjoy the FREE activities planned by neighbors and members and local businesses that are providing entertainment and activities including things like cut-out photo figures, popcorn, cotton candy, face painting and more.

Gotta Be Me (directly north of the playground) will host an Open House, so you can see what's going on there and enjoy the music of the Heartlight Choir. Gotta Be Me is also sponsoring the performance by a local bluegrass band, Dirty River Ramblers, as part of the festivities. Their facility will be open in the event of rainy weather. (Cross your fingers for no rain!)

AEPNA will provide hotdogs and fixings, chips, and a little dessert. If you prefer something fancier than our water and lemonade, feel free to bring your own bottled water, pop or juice boxes!

The new grass is looking good and should be pretty well established by our party date, but I encourage you to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. The City of Omaha just planted 55 new trees in the park. I didn't count them myself, but if you want to walk around and count them, they should be easy to spot because they've got new mulch. (Let me know if they got all 55 in...) Thankfully, the City will also be watering the new trees, so we won't be hauling water like we did for new trees in the past!

All of this celebrating eventually comes back around to neighbors who love where they live and sacrifice their time, talent and treasure to make it better. One person started a garden and cared for it well. Others noticed and started looking at ways for the whole neighborhood to be involved and to get larger community support for the effort. The rewards of their labor include the beautiful circle garden, the new trees, new playground equipment and groups of dedicated neighbors who clean, plant, paint and water to keep things nice.

We thought it would be fitting to present AEPNA's 2015 Good Neighbor award at the celebration. See the story on page 3 to find out why.

Avery Schwer

May 21
Playground
Dedication
Schroeder/Vogel
Park
5:30 – 7:30+

FREE
Hotdogs, Food, Fun
& Games

Music by
Dirty River Ramblers

Bring the kids, the scout
troop, the class, your
neighbor (and a chair)!



your neighborhood bank  more

You may know us as the friendly, neighborhood bank. But there's more to the story than that. Here, you'll find mortgage experts to help with all of your purchasing, refinancing, and home equity loan needs. You'll find experienced financial advisors who can provide you with the custom planning and consultation you need to meet any dream. Plus, you'll find insurance experts who know how to save you money on anything from home, auto, and life to business and health insurance. Best of all, you can find it right here. In your neighborhood. What more could you ask for?



dundee bank

A BRANCH OF SECURITY STATE BANK | MEMBER FDIC

50th and Underwood dundeebanking.com

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER.

Securities offered through Securities America Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Securities America Advisors, Inc. Dundee Bank dba Dundee Financial Services and the Securities America companies are unaffiliated.

NOT A DEPOSIT. NOT FDIC INSURED. NOT INSURED BY ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY. NOT BANK GUARANTEED. MAY LOSE VALUE.

**Aksarben-Elmwood Park
Neighborhood Association
Executive Board**

President – Avery Schwer
402-554-2777

V.P. – Angie Podoll
402-699-0300

Secretary – Tim Potter
402-830-5694

Treasurer – Eileen Slane
402-553-5988

Committees

Membership Director
Scott Swanson
402-553-1483

**Community Service &
Beautification**

Katie Blesener & John Royster

Social Director
Lois Ourada

Media Director
Mike Kresnik

mikekresnik@gmail.com

Communications Director
Therese McGrath
tmcgra@creighton.edu

Newsletter

Editor – Colleen Ciciulla
402-321-8382

colleenciciulla@gmail.com
We welcome ideas and photos
for the newsletter. Send articles,
information and photos to
colleenciciulla@gmail.com.

Publisher – Ellen Shurson
402-714-1016
ellenshurson@gmail.com

The Aksarben Elmwood Park
Neighborhood Association
newsletter is published monthly
by Shurson Publishing.
Direct all advertising inquiries
to 402-714-1016.

No warranties of the products or
services printed herein are
express or implied by either the
Association or Shurson
Publishing.

A Good Friend, A Good Neighbor

In 2007, Lisa Peterson died of ovarian cancer, at age 44. Her life was cut short, but her memory lives on in her friends and family and in the circle garden at Schroeder/Vogel Park.

Lisa left a bit of money to her best friend and roommate, Terri Barna, who used it as “seed money” for the circle garden. Terri paid for the landscaping blocks, filler and flowers and still maintains the garden as a labor of love. She says, “I enjoy making things beautiful.”



The Hanscom Park greenhouse now provides the plants for the circle garden and the park. Shelly Harbeck, City Maintenance Foreman II at the greenhouse described Terri as “one of the most dedicated people from a neighborhood group.” Lots of people start projects, but Terri is “consistent year after year and throughout the year”. Shelly says that the park has “definitely improved” since Terri got involved.

Terri approached Eileen Slane and others from the neighborhood association about trying to do more to improve our little park. Over the past several years, Eileen, Terri and AEPNA members have organized clean up days, written grants for the playground, tree plantings and other improvements.

When asked to be interviewed and photographed for the Good Neighbor Award, Terri originally declined, saying, “I just got the ball rolling” and, “others deserve the credit.” She wanted people to know that her friend Lisa walked the earth. She wanted to give credit to her greenhouse friend, Shelly, who helps her get good plants. She wanted others to know that this tiny little park, so easy to overlook, holds cherished memories of her childhood: ice skating on the flooded low area, playing tetherball and box hockey, beading lanyards and doing crafts at the little building that housed summer programs back when kids were free to roam all day, as long as they got home when the street lights came on.

Terri is right in wanting to share credit. Lots of others have spent countless hours working to make the park beautiful and they deserve thanks and recognition, too. But most good things happen when one person acts selflessly or bravely. That encourages and energizes others who suddenly see how one person’s actions make a difference.

We are proud to call Terri our friend and neighbor. We are honored to recognize her as the AEPNA Good Neighbor of 2015.

PayPal Now Accepted!

AEPNA membership payments are now available online via PayPal.

Virtual members who only participate in the neighborhood association via the AEPNA Facebook fan page can now virtually (and virtuously) support AEPNA without even logging off! Find the link on our Facebook page or go to <http://aepna.org/membership/>

Go to this link for membership dues payment
options: <http://aepna.org/membership/> 
395 members (4 new) · Invite by Email

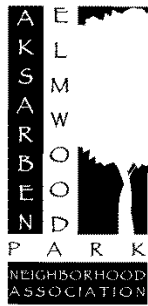
Register or Renew Your Membership Online!

Household 1 yr \$10.00 USD

Buy Now



P.O. Box 6665
Omaha, NE 68106



PRSRT STD

US Postage

PAID

Omaha, NE

Permit 1638

Dates to Remember

Sat. May 9 – S/V Park cleanup. 9 – noon

Let's clean-up before the party! Bring gloves and rakes.

May 14th, 15th & 16th – AEPNA Garage Sale

Check the AEPNA website for a list of participants.

Sat., May 16: 9AM - 2PM – Dumpster Day

Hertz Equipment Rental parking lot, 56th & Center. For items too bulky for regular curbside pickup. No yard waste, rocks, concrete, liquids, tires or appliances.

<http://www.wasteline.org/cleanup/do-dont.htm>

Thurs., May 21 – S/V Park 5:30-7:30 PARTY!

Schroeder/Vogel Park Playground Dedication & Celebration

Thursday, May 21

5:30 – 7:30

**FREE Hotdogs & Activities
for kids of all ages!**

Great Live Music!

AEPNA Business Members

- * Anderson Industrial Engines Co. * Cars R'Us Auto Body * Clooty Tree Massage *
- * Courtyard by Marriott /Aksarben Village * Elmwood Pharmacy * Elmwood Tower * 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 *
- * University Regent * UNO College of Business * UNO Community Relations * Village Canvas and Cabernet *