



# The Park Bench

## AEPNA Newsletter

Visit us online at [aepna.org](http://aepna.org) or find us on Facebook at Aksarben Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association

## President's Letter

### All Who Wander Are Not Lost

The June meeting drew a good crowd and lots of first-timers who came specifically to hear our guest speakers on two different developments at opposite ends of our neighborhood.

Julie Anderson, Executive Director of Aksarben Village Senior Living Community, being built near 72 and Pacific Streets, gave an update on the project and background on the Dial Retirement Communities (an Omaha based firm) that owns the facility. This retirement facility will serve neighbors who want to stay in the neighborhood, but in a place that offers more amenities and fewer responsibilities than a house. Their motto, "Love the Way you Live," came through the presentation in many ways.

The facility will eventually have four floors with 136 rooms with a mix of independent living, assisted living and memory care options, including wander guard technologies to keep memory care residents from leaving.

In partnership with Methodist Health Systems, they address medical needs by having a full-time registered nurse on staff. The nurse can help residents with simple medication checks and monitoring (e.g., blood pressure), help arrange doctor appointments, and even attend the appointments with residents to improve the communication between doctor and patient or doctor and family. This facility adds diversity to the Village community and will help keep the residents engaged in the vibrant University opportunities right at their doorstep.

At the northeast end of our neighborhood is another development that has drawn a lot of attention for a different reason. About 15 neighbors from the 51<sup>st</sup> and Mayberry area attended the AEPNA meeting, many for their first time, at the invitation of member Kim Wylie. Kim brought a fact sheet on a piece of property that is zoned for high density development (87 units per acre), some information on Bluestone Development, the recent purchaser/ developer, and a list of concerns about the possible development. Those concerns include the impact on traffic, parking, noise, crime, and the overall aesthetics of the area. Kim summed it up by saying, "Early neighborhood input could make all the difference in the end product."

"Wandering *IS* an activity... so we have created safe paths to allow that."

"Early neighborhood input could make all the difference in the end product."

**Crime Prevention Workshop**  
 Wed. Aug. 26  
 6:00 PM  
 St. Matthew's  
 1725 S. 60<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Join us and bring a neighbor!

**Next Meeting**  
 Thurs., Sept. 17  
 Chili Fest Competition  
 Open to All!  
 Bring your best & maybe you'll leave with AEPNA's FABULOUS TRAVELING TROPHY!!!



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**President's Letter cont'd.**

A good deal of the concern that neighbors have about the development at 51<sup>st</sup> and Mayberry stems from not knowing what to expect. It may be as good for the neighborhood as we expect the Senior Living Community to be in Aksarben Village. And the high-density housing of Elmwood Tower has long been an asset to our neighborhood. But uncertainty feeds anxiety, and then rumors start to swirl. Kim Wylie has been in contact with City Council Representative Chris Jerram and she will keep us posted as she gets information from Bluestone or other sources.

We will do our best as an association to speak with one voice to encourage developers to design in a way that preserves the feel of the neighborhood and the quality of life we have come to expect of our area.

Another member at the meeting raised the issue of traffic and parking hazards for pedestrians and cyclists in the Village. The University is aware of the specific problem area and I have spoken to Chris Jerram on behalf of AEPNA about it.

I am very grateful that our neighbors and members care enough about our area to get involved, get the facts and organize others with respect. This is the heart of what we hope to do as an association and it makes me proud to call our neighborhood home.

Watch for me wandering the neighborhood!

Avery Schwer



First-time attendees Eleanor & Brad (front yard gardeners!) A first-timer with a long-timer, Constance

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**Renew your AEPNA membership!**

**Use this form or sign up & pay online by using the**

**PayPal link on our Facebook page**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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## Home Security Systems & Signs

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## Crime Prevention Workshop Aug. 26

- Is a dummy security camera as effective as a real camera?
- Is a nosy neighbor better than an alarm system?
- Is a yappy little dog as good a deterrent as a big brute?

**Bring your questions to our next workshop, Home Security and Personal Safety**, a presentation by Southwest Precinct Officer Angela Echtenkamp and her partner. The officers will demonstrate affordable and common sense ways to light and secure your home as well as review and talk about any crime concerns in the neighborhood.

Please spread the word!

When: Wednesday, August 26th, at 6:00 pm

Where: St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church 1725 S 60th St.

## AEPNA Business Members

- \* Anderson Industrial Engines Co. \* Cars R'Us Auto Body \* Clouty Tree Massage \*
- \* Courtyard by Marriott /Aksarben Village \* Elmwood Pharmacy \* Elmwood Tower \* Gotta Be Me \*
- \* Hertz Equipment Rental \* Hy-Vee \* 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 \*
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