

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

Good Food, Good Conversation in Store

Meeting notes

Our September meeting will be fun. The annual chili competition always adds spice to a meeting, but we'll also have a couple of guest speakers who will be telling us about new things going on in Omaha and our neighborhood.

Julie Smith, Program Manager of ONE Omaha, will join us at our September meeting. ONE Omaha is an organization that's filling the void left when The Neighborhood Center was closed a few years ago. I'm excited to hear what the organization has planned.

Katie Underwood, neighbor and Omaha Public School Board Member, will address the Belle Ryan School renovation project. The school will be razed, and children will attend classes at the old Ryan High School on 60th and L Streets. Join us to hear the timeline and details.

Community Garden

Jenny Kresnik and Eileen Slane are still doing work towards the community garden. They are not only looking for funds (Jenny raised \$1,500 from a garage sale!) and grants, but also considering alternate locations. I'll keep you informed as this develops. I'm grateful that they are committed to pursuing this. They will have done hundreds of hours of work on the garden before one seed is ever planted. That is the nature of community volunteer work – most of the work is done behind the scenes months or years before the press is called in for the photo op. Thanks to Jenny and Eileen and everyone who works for the benefit of our community.

Neighborhood Tour

The Aksarben Elmwood Park Neighborhood will be featured in the Restoration Exchange Omaha (REO) Fall Neighborhood Tour of 2016. This year's tour is in the Hanscom Park area. AEPNA's tour committee met to discuss possible homes to include in the tour and we divided up a list of about 50 homes. My wife, Marilyn, and I went door to door on Marcy Street between 55 and 56 Streets, asking homeowners if they were interested. We got to see some neat homes, meet some nice neighbors and hear some good stories. So far, we've got about 19 positive responses, and I'll be giving you regular updates on the tour.

I'll see you around the neighborhood!

Avery Schwer

Next Meeting
Thurs. Sept. 17
7:00 PM

St. Matthew's
1725 S. 60th St.
Join us and bring a
neighbor!

Guest Speakers:
Julie Smith –
ONE Omaha
Katie Underwood –
Omaha Public Schools
with Belle Ryan info

Chili Fest
Bring chili to compete!
Bring a side to share



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Crime Prevention: Personal Safety

On August 26th, the Neighborhood Association held its second Crime Prevention Workshop, a project AEPNA has taken on this year after being awarded the Mayor's Crime Prevention grant earlier this year.

The workshop was focused on Home Security and Personal Safety.

Officer Angela Echtenkamp from the Southwest Precinct gave a 50 minute presentation on personal safety and ways to secure your home as well as suspicious behavior to look out for and what to do if you see it happening.



OPD reminded us that if something doesn't feel "right," don't hesitate to call the main emergency line and simply let them know that no crime is in progress, but you would like to report suspicious activity. You will not be taking an officer out of action as they prioritize calls for active crimes and will follow up with you as soon as they can.

The next and final Crime Prevention Workshop will be October 22nd at 6:00pm at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. It will focus on ways to start a neighborhood watch on your block.

Contact Leah Meyer at leahsmeyer@gmail.com with any questions!

Crime Prevention Tips:

- ✓ Get to know your neighbors.
- ✓ Start a call tree to keep your block informed!
- ✓ Check out the Personal Safety and Burglary Prevention tip sheets on AEPNA's website and Facebook pages to find out how lights, landscaping, locks and looks can deter burglars.

Renew your AEPNA membership!

Use this form or sign up & pay online by using the PayPal link on our Facebook page

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

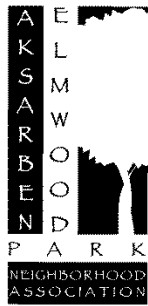
New Renewal Gift (great for your thoughtful neighbor!)

Please include me in the neighborhood roster Yes No

Please make check payable to Aksarben-Elmwood Park NA

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2016 Fall REO Neighborhood Tour
of the Hanscom Park Area
Sunday, October 4
Noon – 5 PM

See <http://www.restorationexchange.org> for details.

Chili Fest Competition **Open to All Neighborhood Chili Chefs**

Thursday, September 17, at 7:00 PM

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

Bring your competition-level Chili OR
Bring a side, salad or dessert to share, AND
Bring a neighbor!

Please spread the word!

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