

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 Building our Future

Meeting notes



Lots of guests joined us at our September meeting. Katie Underwood, neighbor and Omaha Public School Board Member, brought a whole crew to talk about the Belle Ryan school project. They shared schematic designs of the proposed site and Katie gave some timelines for the project. While the renovations are in progress, the students will be moved to the Liberty Christian Center School near 60th & L

Streets. Belle Ryan will reopen in 2017.

Christian & Debra Christensen of Bluestone Development (below) attended the meeting to introduce themselves. They don't have definitive plans for property they purchased near 51st & Mason Streets, but they are planning to build apartments on the site. They will be keeping neighbors informed of progress. Bluestone typically builds to own, rather than to sell, so we can expect them to be a committed part of the neighborhood. Check out some of the other properties they've developed by going to their website: www.bluestonedev.com



Next Meeting
Thurs. Nov. 19
7:00 PM

Tour of
Aksarben Village
Senior Living
Community
1330 S. 70 St.



Avery Schwer presents the fabulous AEPNA Chili Fest Champion travelling trophy to Trina Westman

We've been looking into signs to designate our neighborhood and have gotten bids for certain types of signs based on what is acceptable to the City of Omaha. Julie Smith, Program Manager of ONE Omaha, shared some exciting news about sign options. She has gotten some positive response from the City for putting historical designation signs on existing street signs. You'll be hearing more from me on the signs after Julie makes more headway with the City! See page 3 for information on Julie Smith and ONE Omaha.

I'll see you around the neighborhood!

Avery Schwer



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**Population: 895,150. Neighborhood Associations: 190.
ONE Omaha for Nebraska**

The metropolitan Omaha area has more than 895,150 residents, 190 neighborhood associations, and now we have ONE Omaha to help all those individual associations organize to fully engage their community for civic good. ONE Omaha is funded in part by Nebraskans for Civic Reform (NCR), a non-profit public interest



organization dedicated to civic education and community engagement.

Julie Smith, Program Manager of ONE Omaha, spoke at our September meeting. Julie has a Master’s of Science in Urban Studies, a love for community organizing, and, according to AEPNA Treasurer, Eileen Slane, “a lot of energy!”

Eileen was very encouraged by Julie’s enthusiasm and the value that she and ONE Omaha will provide for neighborhood associations and community organizing. “Julie is a font of information. When the Neighborhood Center closed, we lost all that support instantly. But it looks like Julie’s got lots of stuff in the works and lots of great resources.”

The ONE Omaha website has information on things you might never have known existed, like the Vacant Lot Toolkit (for temporary community gardens on city-owned land) or the Handyman Program (for elderly homeowners to get home repairs on a sliding fee scale) and lots of other local events that happening. Check out their site at www.oneomaha.org.

One Omaha, founded in 2015, is a public-private initiative dedicated to actively facilitating the development of neighborhoods in the City of Omaha through communication, education and advocacy.

Renew your AEPNA membership!

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

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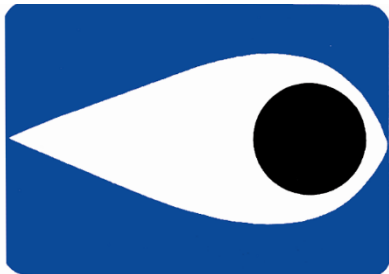
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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
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Crime Prevention Workshop

October 22, 6 pm Starting a Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Services Unit will talk about starting a watch for the blocks that would like to do this. These are intended to be manageable, block-sized watches, specific to the needs to that area. This falls right before the holidays so it's a great way to get to know neighbors and get organized.

Each event will be held at St. Matthew's. Interested in the workshops? Sign up for more information here: tinyurl.com/AEPNACrimePrevention

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