



The Park Bench

AEPNA Newsletter

Visit us online at aepna.org or find us on Facebook at Aksarben Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association

Letter from the Co-Chairs

Here's a warm welcome to March! The start of spring always energizes the neighborhood and kicks off the start of many projects and plans. In this newsletter we have updates on what's new to watch for in the neighborhood, plus ways to get involved yourself!



Our next meeting is Thursday, March 17th, on St. Patrick's Day! We'll have different snack mixes to try out as we listen to the candidates you can determine in the May primary. Candidates for state legislature, school board, OPPD, and MUD will be there, so grab a seat and get ready for some great discussion.

Keeping with the green theme, you'll find a lot of "green" tips in this newsletter, from recycling options to our May State Arboretum talk. Sadly, our two best green champions, Mike and Jenny Kresnik will be moving out of the neighborhood shortly and are looking to hand off some of their community projects. Mike coordinates glass pick up and updates our website and Jenny has been a huge driver of all the updates of our community garden. We'll be so sad to see them go, but it gives you the chance to get involved! **If you're passionate about community gardening, have some time on weekend mornings for glass pickup, or are familiar with Word Press, please send an email to aepna1@gmail.com.**

Finally, we want to hear your thoughts and ideas on what you would like to see in the neighborhood. We have a lot of dedicated, smart, and passionate neighbors and we know you all have ideas on how to make the Aksarben-Elmwood Park Neighborhood and even better place to live, work, and play!

See you on St. Patrick's Day!

Leah Meyer (leahsmeyer@gmail.com)
Julie Dierberger (jdierberger@unomaha.edu)

Next Meeting
Thurs. Mar. 17
6:30 PM
St. Matthews Church
1725 S. 60th

Candidate Forum:
Meet local
candidates and
representatives

Bring a friend or
two!

Meeting Schedule:
3rd Thursday, every
other month



Recycle What?

Hello, neighbors! My name is Chris Stratman. I live in Aksarben and work for Keep Omaha Beautiful (a local, environmental nonprofit).

Each month in the AEPNA newsletter, I am going to highlight a local organization that provides opportunities to recycle or reuse some of the “special goods” that you may be looking to dispose of in an environmentally-responsible manner.

When I say “special,” I am referring to the unique items that cannot be placed in your curbside green recycling bins. For example, many people are unsure of what to do with non-functioning appliances or electronic equipment. A great option for these types of items is the Cross Training Center located at 5030 North 72nd Street (north of Ames Avenue, across from Benson Golf Course). This nonprofit organization accepts **functioning** and **non-functioning** electronics, appliances, and equipment, such as:

- Computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, mice
- Televisions, cameras, sound equipment, stereos
- Washers, driers, refrigerators, stoves, microwaves, water heaters, AC units, furnaces
- Vacuums, power tools, lawn equipment, random machinery

For a full list, check out the organization’s website at www.crosstc.com or call 402.590.2100.

Please note that you can drop off most items for free, but there is a small fee for old tube televisions to cover the cost of properly dismantling and disposing of the regulated CRT tubes.

The Cross Training Center will evaluate the items and refurbish them if possible for resale. If an item cannot be fixed, all of the recyclable parts are removed and recycled.

What also makes the Cross Training Center such a great community organization is that it employs people with challenging life situations and/or employment barriers to refurbish or process the collected items for recycling. The organization’s mission is to empower and equip disadvantaged and undereducated youth and adults through character development, vocational training, and job experience.

So if you have old appliances or electronic equipment gathering dust in your home (either functioning or not), consider taking the items to the Cross Training Center where they can be refurbished or recycled. You will be ensuring that your items are handled in an environmentally responsible manner while also helping provide valuable work experience and training for someone in our community.



AEPNA Business Members

What businesses in the neighborhood are missing from this list?

Encourage nearby businesses to actively support the neighborhood association by becoming business members. Use the membership form on page 4 or send them to AEPNA’s Facebook page.

A Couple Things
 Anderson Industrial Engines Co.
 Bluestone Development
 Canvas & Cabernet, Aksarben Village
 Cars R'Us Auto Body
 Clooty Tree Massage
 Courtyard by Marriott/Aksarben Village
 Elmwood Pharmacy
 Elmwood Tower
 Gold Coast Real Estate
 Gotta Be Me

Hertz Equipment Rental
 Hy-Vee
 Kids DIY Studio
 Learning Headquarters
 Life Gate Church
 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. Matthew Lutheran Church
 Tasty Pastry
 The Gourmet Granola
 Tracks
 UNO College of Business, Pacific Campus
 UNO Board of Regents

Please patronize our business members and encourage other businesses not listed here to join.
 A vibrant business community supports a vibrant residential community and keeps our neighborhood walkable!

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

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Local Squirrels Crazy for the World Cup

It appears that the neighborhood squirrels are gearing up for the World Cup. A soccer ball stashed outside of a nest on 58th Street confirms that AEPNA squirrels are a breed apart.



And when they're not tearing up the soccer pitch, they're tearing up the bark on shrubs and trees. Before your trees and shrubs leaf out, inspect them to see if they've been damaged by the squirrely soccer hooligans.

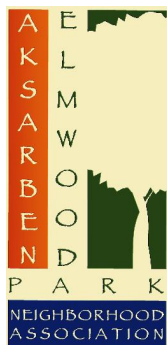
Then plan to join us at our May 19 where Nebraska Statewide Arboretum staff members, Justin Evertson, Green Infrastructure Coordinator and Graham Herbst, Community Forester Specialist will talk about native plants, pollinators, green infrastructure, tree planting and care, and tree diseases and pests.



Good bye and good luck to the Kresniks!

Mike and Jen Kresnik have helped AEPNA for several years with the association website, our garage sale, community garden planning and have generally been good neighbors to all. They are moving to the Benson neighborhood.

They will leave a hole in the neighborhood and in the association. If you would like to help with the community garden or website, please contact Julie or Leah.



Time to renew your AEPNA membership!

Membership runs calendar year

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please include me in the neighborhood roster Yes No

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

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

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

Please make check payable to Aksarben-Elmwood Park NA

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

Community Garden

We're making progress on the Community Garden. A board of directors has been established with five initial members who are required to be AEPNA members. Board members are taking on specific tasks.

LifeGate Church has offered ground for the garden and can provide water. This may prove to be easier than working with the city on using part of Schroder-Vogel Park. The city wanted to start with only four beds. So far around 40 people have expressed interest in having beds.

Interested in volunteering or fundraising? Email the neighborhood association at aepna1@gmail.com.

Garage Sale Coordinator Needed!

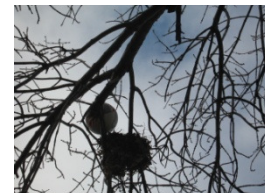
If you love garage sales and want to see a neighborhood-wide effort, we need your help. The AEPNA garage sale is typically a weekend in May (close to Dumpster Day). The Coordinator posts some ads (online and in the Omaha World Herald) and gives signs to the neighbors who register their sale. It's not a lot of work, and it gives you early notice of some great sales! If you're interested, call Leah or Julie.

Dates to remember

March 17, 2016 – Candidate Forum– 6:30 – 8:30 St. Matthew's Church 1725 S. 60th St.

Bring a neighbor or two and plan to hear from candidates and their representatives.
It's always a lively meeting.

May 19, 2016 – Business Meeting – Speakers from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum will speak on ways to maintain your garden, plus a CSO update on the construction of the Retention Treatment Basin facility along the Little Papio Creek (where squirrels face off against beavers for ice hockey)



May 21, 2016 – Dumpster Day! At Hertz Equipment Rental on 56th & Center Streets.
Plan ahead and get rid of that awful couch your old roommate dragged in.

Watch our Facebook page for Park Cleanup days and other events.