



# Maplewood Times

Celebrating Rochester's Historic Northwest Neighborhood

November 2007

## A Salute to Bob Stevenson from Carolee Conklin

As many of you all probably know by now, my long-time friend and colleague, Bob Stevenson, is retiring from City Council at the end of the year.

Bob has served Rochester residents for fifty-two years, as a teacher, soldier, volunteer, and, for the past twenty years, as City Councilmember. I am pleased to report that as a Councilmember, he has a strong record of serving Maplewood, the entire Northwest Council District, and our entire City.

And, as many of you already know, when we elected Bob, we got "two for the price of one." I'm of course talking about Mary Stevenson, Bob's wife of fifty years. How many Northwesterners have seen Bob and Mary sweeping up litter, or walking PAC/TAC together, or attending countless neighborhood meetings? In fact, some folks have referred to Mary Stevenson as our "tenth Councilmember," always helping Bob as a good listener and advisor.

When Bob Stevenson first joined the Council, the Genesee River was a vastly underutilized community asset. Working nonstop with neighborhood volunteers, local businesses, and the City government, Bob has helped make the river a community jewel. During the past years, public access to the Genesee has increased dramatically with riverside trails, boat usage, and fishing. Bob played a major role in promoting the policy that the City should acquire land along the length of our waterways when possible to ensure public access.

Bob has championed a long list of other valuable community needs, including major improvement to Maplewood Park



*Bob and Mary Stevenson at the MNA Annual Awards dinner in February 2007.*

(including the Rose Garden and the play area), increased public safety efforts in the parkland along the river, enhanced neighborhood police protection, retaining and creating many jobs in Northwest Rochester, and the revitalization of Lake Avenue.

Those people who regularly attend our monthly Council Committee Meetings are also familiar with Bob's detailed questioning of Environmental Services staff. The long-time Chair of Council's Parks, Public Works, and the Environment Committee, Bob relied upon his thirty-year science-teaching career to ensure the continued high quality of the major services that City residents have come to expect. (In fact, the next time you see Bob, be sure to ask him about cathodic protection of water lines!)

Bob is probably best known as an

active, "constituent-oriented" Councilmember, equipped with the energy needed to attend 500 neighborhood meetings each year. (The Democrat and Chronicle editorial board once wondered in print what Bob eats for breakfast!). At any given moment, Bob is helping ten or more of his neighbors solve quality of life issues, such as those related to loud noise, vacant buildings, and speeding cars.

Of course, several generations of Northwesterners know Bob and Mary as teachers. Mary taught English in City schools for many years, and after thirty years of teaching science at Jefferson High School, Bob was almost immediately ready for a second career as a Councilmember. (I know at least one resident who was taught by both of them, and I'm sure there are many more!)

Please join me in wishing Bob all the best on the occasion of his retirement. I'm sure Bob and Mary will continue to give their all to our community that is grateful for their years of service.

### MNA Meeting with Mayor Duffy

The MNA is inviting Mayor Bob Duffy to meet with the neighborhood to discuss current issues. Join us in the **Aquinas Cafeteria, 1127 Dewey Avenue on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** for a discussion with the Mayor about the current crisis confronting our neighborhood.

## Mayor Duffy Announces Assault on Crime

In early October, Mayor Robert J. Duffy announced an aggressive City government-wide call to action to combat illegal guns and crime. The Mayor has authorized overtime and additional resources and personnel until further notice from various City departments in order to directly confront individuals or groups in our neighborhoods who would carry illegal guns and other weapons that compromise and threaten the safety, well-being and quality of life of Rochester residents.

“Today I attended funeral services for Latasha Shaw and placed calls to the friends of James Slater. I am sick and tired of the reckless, senseless and vile murder of some our community’s finest citizens,” said Mayor Duffy. “My message is this — if you carry an illegal gun or if you hurt people then we will find you, prosecute you and make you pay dearly.”

The following City Departments will be participating in the interdiction:

- Rochester Police Department (RPD)
- Rochester Fire Department (RFD)
- Pathways to Peace
- Neighborhood Empowerment Teams (NET)
- City Security
- Recreation and Youth Services
- City Law Department

Interdiction tactics will include, but not be limited to:

- Establishment of a 24-hour Command Post;
- 12-hour police shifts to increase patrol officers by a minimum of 20 per shift;
- Zero tolerance on curfew;
- Zero tolerance on probation violation;
- Zero tolerance on parole violation;
- Zero tolerance on drug and alcohol crimes, DWI and noise violations;
- Neighborhood sweeps by patrol officers on foot, bikes and cruisers;
- Arrest warrant sweeps;
- Enhanced traffic violation check points;
- Enhanced road, park and expressway patrols by the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department and New York State Police;
- City Security to provide enhanced patrol in and around City property;
- RFD smoke detector sweeps;
- RFD business inspection sweeps;
- Extended hours at NET offices from 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:
  - 492 Lyell Avenue
  - 500 Norton Street
  - 212 Webster Avenue
  - 998 Genesee Street
- Pathways to Peace saturation details providing information handouts to young adults;
- Enhanced PAC-TAC patrols.

The Mayor has instructed the RPD to aggressively police and patrol neighborhoods throughout the city. “I have told the police to respect the laws and the Constitution of the United States and New York State. However, if you are stopped and questioned by the police, please comply with the officers and understand that they are trying to save lives and stop this insane violence,” concluded Mayor Duffy.

## Reception To Thank Bob Stevenson

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Stevenson for all his tireless work on behalf of Maplewood and the NorthWest. Bob and Mary have worked for the entire City of Rochester, but Maplewood gets bragging rights. This coming December meeting will be the last one of Bob’s tenure as a member of City Council. I would like to invite you all to the December Maplewood Town Meeting for a Reception for Councilman Stevenson. That will be on December 5th, at the regular place and time, Aquinas Cafeteria, 7:00 p.m. While Bob may be retiring from his council position, I am sure we will see the Stevensons at many more meetings; that’s Bob’s style. But it will be your chance to hear his report, tell a joke, share a memory or shake his hand and say, “Thank You!” to a dedicated representative, neighbor, teacher and family man who has serve us so well. Thank You Bob, You’re the Best! - Cindy Kaleh, President of the Maplewood Neighborhood Association

## Seagulls at Kodak Park

This spring, a large colony of seagulls attempted to nest in an area of Kodak Park that is located along Ridge Road just west of Dewey Avenue. The birds were primarily herring and ring-billed seagulls that are federally protected migratory waterfowl.

For many years, the birds have nested at this site on the roof of the former Bldg. 135. The birds are imprinted to return to this site, which creates a challenge for creating controls that will encourage them to move on to a new location.

Kodak working in conjunction with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) developed a phased plan to encourage the birds to move to a new location for nesting.

*cont’d on page 4*

## VISTA Comes to Your Library!

This Fall, Mayor Duffy is launching a comprehensive community-wide Literacy Initiative that will seek to address the City's historically low literacy levels. After a year-long community planning phase, the Mayor was presented a strategic plan that will serve as the blue print for the City's Literacy Initiative. At the heart of the Literacy Initiative - and a top recommendation of the strategic plan - is the need to bring increased resources to the City's libraries. In June of this year, the City was awarded an Americorps VISTA program from the Corporation for National Service to provide 11 full time year-long paid members to work across the City's 10 branches as literacy advocates. In their roles, the VISTA members will work with the branch managers to develop programs, market the branches, cultivate volunteers, and raise resources to increase literacy in the neighborhoods. The mission of the VISTA program is to build capacity over the long term, so that the VISTA members will work with branch

managers to develop methods to sustain new programs and initiatives over time.

Recruitment has begun for the VISTA members. The leader position must be filled by someone with experience in VISTA or Peace Corps. It is preferred that the 10 people who work in the library branches have a Bachelor's Degree.

VISTA members are paid a stipend for a year of service. Cricket has offered to provide each member with a phone and unlimited service for the year that they serve in VISTA, and the City will provide laptop computers for the year of service. They will be expected to live in the communities that they serve, and the City is looking into the possibility of providing some housing assistance.

The staff at Maplewood Community Library is really excited about this opportunity to serve our neighborhood better! If you know of anyone who would like to serve their country and their community as a Literacy partner with us, have them call Deb Leary, the library Branch Manager, at 428-8232 or go to [www.cityofrochester.gov](http://www.cityofrochester.gov) for more information.

## NYS Grant to Assist Cleanup

Mayor Robert J. Duffy announced today that the City will receive nearly \$3.4 million from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for remediation of environmental contamination at 1000 Driving Park Ave. The Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) grant is one of the largest environmental cleanup grants awarded to the City in the last 20 years.

The state will reimburse the City various percentages of total costs for asbestos abatement, building demolition and other remedial work totaling \$3,396,567. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$4,506,875, leaving the City's estimated cost share to be approximately \$1,404,896.

In addition, the EPA awarded the City \$200,000 in April, 2007 for cleanup and

community outreach activities concerning the site, where 12.5 acres were contaminated by a former photographic film and paper manufacturing facility, chemical laboratory and incinerator. The funding will allow the City to perform such cleanup activities as the removal and disposal of contaminated soil, cleanup of a former silver recovery system and decontamination of equipment and building materials.

The City will complete the project's planning in the fall and begin cleanup in spring or summer of 2008 and work is anticipated to take approximately two years to complete. The City intends to have the site redeveloped as an industrial park resulting in private sector investment, job creation and new economic development opportunities in the City.

## Pathways To Peace

*for the Survival of our Youth*

Pathways to Peace (PTP) is a street level team of outreach workers which channels young city residents toward an array of community resources to prevent youth violence. This highly motivated team establishes essential linkages among service providers, the participating youths and their families.



PTP also monitors the young participants' progress to ensure that these at risk youth become productive citizens

### Vision

Pathways to Peace becomes the City's front line unit for at risk youth issues by:

- assessing the needs of youth in an effective, caring manner,
- utilizing traditional as well as nontraditional resources to address those needs, and
- maintaining high citywide visibility as a resource for promoting peaceful resolutions among youths in conflict.

## Joy of the Nativity

Creche is the French word for "crib," that is why we use the word to refer to images of JESUS' birth.

Sacred Heart Cathedral is displaying crèches from our Cathedral Community families.

Please come and reflect on the birth of Jesus by viewing these traditional nativity scenes beginning Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> throughout the Advent and Christmas Season in the Cathedral narthex.

Open daily 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Daily masses at 6:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

Call 254-3221 for questions.

## Safety Improvements Announced for Sebastian Park

Mayor Robert J. Duffy joined Assembly member Susan John, County Legislator Carla Palumbo, City Councilmembers Lois Geiss and Robert Stevenson, members of Interfaith Action, neighborhood groups and residents today to announce improvements to Sebastian Park, an 8 acre parcel in northwest Rochester, located at 20 Planet St., near Edison Tech.

“The City is committed to providing safe, healthy and fun outdoor recreational opportunities for the community,” said Mayor Duffy. “This project has been a great collaboration and we would like to thank Interfaith Action and the many neighborhood organizations and dedicated volunteers who worked with us to make it happen. We would also like to thank Assemblymember John for partnering with us to secure funding for these improvements.”

“Following the Governor’s announcement regarding the future of downtown, I am pleased to add to that momentum with the partnership of the state, city and local neighbors to make significant improvements to Sebastian Park,” said Assemblymember Susan John. “I thank Mayor Duffy and Carla Palumbo for their leadership as well as those within the community who have struggled to make this dream a reality. I know that generations of neighbors in this community will enjoy a revitalized Sebastian Park, a clean, safe green-space to play and relax. I will continue working with the community and city to identify projects that will improve the quality of life for all families in our city.”

“This is a great example of how collaboration can make a real impact on our neighborhoods,” said County Legislator Carla Palumbo. “Assemblymember John and Mayor Duffy worked with members of City Council, neighborhood organizations and members of the faith community to help

get this park redeveloped. Sebastian Park is an anchor for the Northwest neighborhood that children and families will once again be able to enjoy.”

The design makeover for the park will include the installation of a new playground with safety surface and construction of an exercise trail around the perimeter of the park that links to the adjacent Lexington apartment complex. Other state-of-the-art improvements include a reconstructed basketball court and rehabilitation of the existing park pavilion, which will receive a new floor and replacement roof.

Assemblymember Susan John secured \$300,000 for the \$450,000 project and the City contributed the remaining \$150,000 from prior year capital improvement program funds. The City will complete detailed designs for the improvements this fall. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2008.



Mayor Duffy, Lois Geiss and Bob Stevenson at press conference for Sebastian Park. Photo by David Mohnney, City Photographer

### New Neighbors?

Welcome and help your new neighbor with a Maplewood information folder compiled by the Maplewood Neighborhood Association. Folder includes Maplewood history, list of local schools, churches, medical offices, municipal services, NET brochure, Seneca Park history, and yes, MNA membership information. Contact the MNA office, 458-3460 or [MNAoffice@frontiernet.net](mailto:MNAoffice@frontiernet.net).

## Get Involved!

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Jim White 458-7169.



**Dewey Avenue Litter Clean-Up:** Dave Baxter, resident, has organized over 18 volunteers to pick up litter along Dewey Avenue. Call Dave at 621-2343.

**Dewey Avenue Beautification:** A group of residents who plant and maintain flowers in planters and tree wells along Dewey Avenue. If you would like to “adopt” a tree, please call Barbara Astorga-Schmidt 647-9504.

**Maplewood Neighborhood Association** (MNA Board, Home Tour, Gorge Guides, Playground) Town Meeting, first Wednesday of the month, Aquinas Cafeteria, 1127 Dewey Avenue, 7:00 p.m., 458-3460.

**NIMROD** (Neighbors In Motion to Root Out Drugs). Every third Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m., 858 Dewey Avenue, 458-1310.

**PAC-TAC** (Police and Citizens Together Against Crime) A group of volunteers who work closely with the Rochester Police Department to provide a citizen presence on the street. Lake NET office, 428-7610.



**PAC-TAC** Lyell NET office, 428-7620.

**PCIC** (Police Citizen Interaction Committee) Community meeting focusing on crime and drug enforcement. Opportunity to voice concerns and hear detailed police reports. Every third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Lake NET office, Lt John Prewasnicak, 428-7613.



## Maplewood Gardening Team: Caring for the Neighborhood

“We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.” A fellow Maplewood Gardening Team member whispered this quote, from Martin Luther King, Jr., in my ear during a recent MNA meeting. She had to repeat it to me several times.

In no uncertain terms do I consider myself a philosopher. But, like most mildly-intelligent individuals, when I hear something that rings true for me, I stick it in my back pocket for further digestion. And, when one spends a concentrated amount of time digging in the earth, there is ample time for such activity. As a matter of fact, I challenge anyone to play in the dirt for a while and not discover some inner truth. I think it’s just the nature of nature.

The uniformed – or “ungardened” – soul observes the gardener’s actions as transparent and obvious: digging, planting, weeding, and watering; seemingly fairly monotonous work. The truth is: gardening is anything but obvious. With the void of distraction, a gardener is able to flow from thought to thought, enabling one to move and interact organically, probably more so than most other activities.

When you see a devoted handful of Maplewood residents tending the earth on Dewey Avenue or the median at Lake and Driving Park, don’t be quick to assume the obvious. They are not simply caring for a small plot of land. They are not solely focused on adding a few pretty flowers. They are moving beyond merely hoping the current state of the neighborhood improves. They are actively and intentionally becoming a part of the improvement. They are doing this by, among other things, developing relationships with those they encounter on the street, helping to build community.

Those few words of Dr. King’s are now engraved in my mind. I am proud to be a part of the Maplewood Gardening Team. I am proud to be able to do my small part in building community. It is my hope, and that of the Maplewood Gardening Team, that others who care for this community would move beyond and join us.



## Seagulls - cont'd

During the first phase, the site was regarded to make small hills and valleys in addition to planting grass, trees and shrubs. The birds did not appear to be deterred by the landscaping, so the next phase was implemented.

Geese Control of New York was contracted to come to the site and disturb the birds with a remote control plane along with “Billy the Wonder Dog,” a border collie trained to chase birds. This activity, along with the utilization of “predator style” Mylar balloons saw a significant decrease in the overall population. However, a large number of birds were still not discouraged.

As the more persistent birds began to lay eggs, the USDA made the decision to collect the eggs for destruction. If the chicks had hatched, there is nothing that can be done to control the population of these federally protected birds until the chicks have left the nests.

At this time, the seagulls have left the area. However, we believe that the birds will continue to try to nest at this location next spring. Kodak Park Facilities is prepared to continue to take measures in the future to encourage the seagulls to find new habitat.

Any questions in regards to this situation can be directed to Kathy Oliver at the Kodak Park Neighborhood Information Center by calling 588-7411. *(Reprinted with permission from “Update A Newsletter to Our Neighbors Near Kodak Park”)*



## Church of the Ascension

2 Riverside Street

Annual Roast Beef Dinner

Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

5:30 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

Dinner Includes: Roast Beef & Gravy Dinner, Ascension Apple Cake, Coffee or Tea. Cost: Adults - \$9.00, Children - 6-12 \$5.00, under 6 are free. Soda and wine will be available for purchase. Please call the church office for reservations at 585-458-5423.



Recent picture of the Genesee River Gorge.

## Family Events Planned at the Cathedral

### Our Neighbors are Invited!

Faith Formation classes for this year have begun. Our theme for our program is; *“Learning about Christ in the classroom; encountering Christ in the world.”* We hope to make this year not only a learning experience for the children, but an interactive experience as well. To make the children’s lessons more experiential, on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> Deacon John Guigno blessed photos of the children’s pets as well as their stuffed animals, in remembrance of St. Francis. On October 21<sup>st</sup> all of our classes attended the African Mass at the cathedral in order to experience the Catholic Liturgy through another cultural tradition.

For November; we invite all **Veteran’s to our 9:30 Mass on November 11<sup>th</sup>**. Our children will have a Veteran’s Day display in the narthex. They will also be hosting the coffee hour and have pins available that they made for the Veteran’s who visit us that day. All are welcome!

**Families mark your calendars for December 15<sup>th</sup>!** We will be hosting a family holiday celebration as we prepare ourselves for Christmas! The event will run from 10a.m. until 1p.m. in the Sacred Heart Cathedral narthex. There will be music, crafts, shopping opportunities, church tours, viewing of the display of crèches, viewing of the Polar Express, story telling and maybe a couple of special visitors as well. All are welcome! Watch for more information on this special family and neighborhood event!

As always, if you would like to enroll your child in our Religious Education/ Sunday School program or you would like more information; contact Marianne Himmelsbach at 254-3221 x108.

*Deacon John Guigno, from Sacred Heart, blesses the children’s pets and their stuffed animals for the Feast of St. Francis.*

**St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church**  
“Where The Word Meets The World”  
1261 Dewey Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14613  
(585) 271-2870  
(585) 271-2924 (facsimile)  
**Rev. Dr. James H. Evans Jr., Pastor**  
**Worship Opportunities:**  
Sunday Worship - 8:45 a.m.  
Bible Study - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
Worship on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

**Upcoming Special Events:**  
**Monday, December 24, 2007** - Christmas Concert at 5:00 p.m.  
Featuring the Voices of Tabernacle  
**Monday, December 31, 2007** - Watch Night Services at 10:00 p.m.

**Holiday Shopping at the Cathedral**

The Cathedral Shop at Sacred Heart Cathedral is anxiously awaiting the Christmas season. We have new and exciting merchandise arriving nearly every day. Plan to make it a stop on your Christmas “MUST – DO” list! Please call for extended Holiday Hours 254-3221 ext.115.

Join us for our Holiday Open House on December 2<sup>nd</sup>!

**Bring in the article and receive 20% off one item of your choice from December 2nd through December 23rd.**

**(EXCLUDES CLEARANCE MERCHANDISE)**



**Contact Us**

Comments, letters, or article suggestions can be sent to: [MNAoffice@frontiernet.net](mailto:MNAoffice@frontiernet.net)

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(585) 458-3460

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