



Maplewood Times

Celebrating Rochester's Historic Northwest Neighborhood

September 2007

New Playground Equipment!

by Nicole Rosen

The MNA and the City of Rochester recently installed the last portion of the Allstate Safe Playgrounds/Injury Free Coalition for Kids at Golisano Children's Hospital playground at Maplewood Park. The latest installment includes a glider for 5 to 12 year olds, monkey bars, swings, and a freestanding "infinity" climber. City workers with MNA's Sam Spoto and



Tom Kunz installed edging on August 16 and 17. Thanks also to the following Maplewood residents for raking out ground cover early Saturday morning: Dick Bennett, Lou Amico, Michael and Christy Gilbert, Sheron Gardner, Jill Carlier, Steve Eckel, Nicole Rosen, and Lee Schroeder. Playground equipment consultants, Daniel and Alex Rosen, and Marisa, Mitchell, and

Nicky Gilbert were on hand to test the equipment for fun factor. Through efforts by Maplewood's own Legislator, Steve Eckel, grant money is committed by State Senator Jim Alesi and NYS Assemblyman Joe Morelle for Phase II which will include more equipment for 5 to 12 year olds. Phase II installation will be in the Spring of 2008.



Rendering of Phase II proposed playground design by Universal Play Systems

River Romance

"Rochester River Romance," Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 5, 6 and 7, 2007 from the City of Rochester's website at www.cityofrochester.gov:

The annual "Rochester River Romance" festival celebrates the region's most important natural asset, the Genesee Riverway, and its nationally-recognized trail & the event's theme, "Fall in Love on the Banks of the Genesee." The popular "Rochester River Romance" celebration showcases the role of the Genesee River in our city's history with more than 45 separate events, including historic walking tours, bicycle and boat rides, nature walks, concerts and lakeside family fun, plus horticultural workshops and festivities all along the river corridor.



Events and programs include:

- Guided Tours of the Gorge at the Maplewood Rose Garden
- "Bicycle-Built-for-Two Ride" along the Genesee Riverway Trail
- "Romancing the Stone" Guided Tour through Mt. Hope Victorian Cemetery
- "A Candlelit Date" Aboard the Harbor Town Belle
- "Renew Your Vows" beside the plunging beauty and laser/light shows of High Falls
- Romantic bike rides, walks, tours through neighborhoods along the river
- Special talks and programs about the Genesee River or the Erie Canal
- Art exhibitions, dance and musical productions, photography projects or street entertainment about the river

Dewey Avenue Charrette

The Rochester Regional Community Design Center (RRCDC) will present a draft version of the Dewey Avenue Vision Plan at the MNA's September 12 Town Meeting. In November 2006, over 100 Maplewood residents participated in the charrette, a community planning and designing event moderated by city planning professionals. The Dewey Avenue Steering Committee met numerous times over the summer to review and refine the suggestions made at the charrette. With new input by local businesses, the draft plan will be presented September 12, 7:00 p.m. at Aquinas. The public is invited to attend.



Local Developers Reinvest on Rochester

From www.cityofrochester.gov.

Mayor Robert J. Duffy, City Community Development Commissioner Julio Vázquez and City Council Member Carolee Conklin presided over a ribbon cutting at 39 Owen St. (Off Lake Ave., between Ridgeway Ave. and W. Ridge Rd.) today. Amy Tait, CEO of Broadstone Real Estate and James Graham, President of Genesis Real Estate Investment, celebrated the completed renovation and sale of a vacant home, their first joint redevelopment project as Gemstone Real Estate Fund. They were joined by the home's new owner, Dayonara Luciano, neighbors and local business owners.

Gemstone's first project at 39 Owen St. was purchased from the City for \$5,500 through its tax foreclosure auction last year. More than \$40,000 was invested to convert the vacant property into one of the nicest in the neighborhood. Partnering with M&T Bank, Luciano is able to own a fully refurbished home at a cost that is much less than it would cost to rent.

The City's new pilot program, "Reinvest in Rochester," is allowing more developers like Gemstone to help redeploy the city's vacant homes. The

program allows developers to pre-qualify to purchase four or more homes through a sealed bid sale. Purchasing homes through the public auction process, a maximum of three homes are permitted per buyer.

"I'm thrilled with the early success of our 'Reinvest in Rochester' initiative," said Mayor Duffy. "This program provides quality home ownership opportunities for low to moderate income families, improving city neighborhoods, spurring economic development and expanding the tax base in the process. I want to thank Gemstone and M&T Bank for their ongoing commitment to building a better Rochester."

"Gemstone's efforts serve as a wonderful example of what we can accomplish with the 'Reinvest in Rochester' program," said Dept. of Community Development Commissioner Julio Vázquez. "Working together, we can help more Rochester families achieve the dream of homeownership."

"Turning vacant, foreclosed properties in the city into fully rehabilitated and owner-occupied homes not only has a tremendous impact on our economy, it also changes people's lives for the better," said Council Member Carolee

Conklin. "I want to congratulate new owner Dayonara Luciano and welcome her family to the Northwest neighborhood."

"I'd like to thank Mayor Duffy, City Council, and the entire team of the City's Department of Community Development for creating the new 'Reinvest in Rochester' program," said Amy Tait, CEO of Broadstone Real Estate. "Through this program, we were able to join James Graham and his team at Genesis Real Estate Investment and M&T Bank and work together to make a real impact. This is a tremendous opportunity for neighbors, the City, and the families that get to live in newly rehabilitated homes."

The City has sold 35 structures containing 39 units since the "Reinvest in Rochester" program was initiated in June. Gemstone succeeded as the high bidder on ten of those properties and will be undertaking renovations during the coming months. Once complete, they will be offering the homes for sale in the affordable price range of \$40,000 to \$60,000.

In Stitches FREE Sewing Classes

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to noon, September through June, adults and children 10 and up (with an adult). Call Grace Community Village 121 Driving Park 458-5927.



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.

Our Time in the Tent!

by Sharon Bartter

There is a line in a Contemporary Christian song that says: "C'mon out, C'mon out into the open..." Well, Grace United Methodist Church, 121 Driving Park Avenue, did that, for a whole month, and it has been an awesome, life-changing experience!

It started with a 3-day revival weekend, July 20-22. A tent had been rented, and all of the events of that weekend were held out in the parking lot. Many thanks to the Christian Rapp artist who goes by the name "*Caution*", who entertained, and gave a powerful message for the youth on Friday evening, *Adonai Ministries*, who brought bounce houses and carnival games to entertain scores of little ones on Saturday afternoon, and **Dave and Pat McCleary** who led Praise and Worship Saturday evening. In between all of that, we also held our *Deacon's Table* Saturday morning breakfast in the tent.

The Spirit was just so high in the tent that weekend, and it brought so many new people to the breakfast and the worship services, that it was decided that we would continue the rental for the entire month!

Sadly, that month is almost up. The Spirit, and the energy and atmosphere has been so high, I hate to see it go. But, that is the secret that I know, that I have to share. It was kicked up a bit because we were outside. The music may have been a little louder. Maybe, because people could hear it that wouldn't normally come in, the messages may

have been a little more intense. Our Women's Group meetings may have gotten a little more "crazy for the Lord." Really, though, the power of the music and the message didn't change all that much. Therefore, they won't be that different when we come back inside. It will be much the same message, and much the same music. The Word will still be the word, and the Spirit will still be the Spirit, and will be with us. The only difference is that we will have moved back inside the four walls of the Sanctuary. To anyone who may have come to the tent, who had never been to a service inside the Sanctuary, I invite you to come back inside with us. The breakfasts, after a 2-week break, will be in the Fellowship Hall, downstairs in the church, starting September 8th at 9:00 am. Sunday Worship services in the Sanctuary will move back to their regular time of 11:00 am. Jesus will be there, hope you will be too

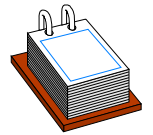


High five to Maplewood kids!

Congratulations to Maplewood resident, Donald Wilson for winning first prize in an essay contest sponsored by the Rochester Area Community Foundation as part of their Night Out at Home event last May.

Crystal Dros, also of Maplewood, received honorable mention in Councilman Dana Miller's "Rochester Clean & Green Poster Contest."

Calendar



Wednesday, September

12th: MNA Town Meeting, draft Vision Plan for Dewey at Aquinas 7:00 p.m.

Monday, September 17th: 6:30 p.m. NIMROD (Neighbors in Motion to Root Out Drugs), 858 Dewey Avenue at 6:30 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Guest speaker will be Mr. Russo from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Further info call, Virginia Sawdey 647-1704.

Wednesday, September 19th: PCIC meeting 7:00 p.m. at NET, 1495 Lake Avenue.

Wednesday, October 3rd: MNA Town Meeting, Election candidates, Aquinas 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 15th: 6:30 p.m. NIMROD meeting at Grace United Methodist Church, 121 Driving Park. Honorable Judge Bellini will be guest speaker celebrating 15th year anniversary of NIMROD and Virginia Sawdey's 15 years of service with PAC-TAC. Please bring a dish to pass. Further info call, Virginia Sawdey 647-1704.

Wednesday, October 17th: PCIC meeting 7:00 p.m. NET, 196 Lake Avenue.

Wares and Wearables

Grace United Methodist Church, 121 Driving Park Ave. Clothing and household items for sale Fridays and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to noon. Call 458-5927.

Please welcome the following new businesses to the Maplewood neighborhood!

Sparkling Klean Laundromat



Jean Holness, Owner
1164 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, NY 14613

Jill's House
Child Care, Preschool
NYS TEACHER CERTIFIED
Maplewood Neighborhood
Rochester, NY

Jill M Carlier
Child Care Provider
585-336-8686
NYS Registered
JillsHouseChildCare@yahoo.com
www.myspace.com/jillshousecc



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.

Maplewood Gardening Team: 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.



Driving Park Brownfield Cleanup

From www.cityofrochester.gov website:

Mayor Robert J. Duffy announced that the City has been selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to receive two new grants totaling \$400,000 for brownfield assessment and cleanup. Brownfields are properties that are more difficult to redevelop or reuse due to actual or perceived environmental contamination.

The EPA awarded \$200,000 for a large cleanup project at 1000 Driving Park Ave., 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. An environmental consultant will be hired to prepare the cleanup work plan, manage contractors and provide oversight and day-to-day direction of the site cleanup. A portion of the grant funds will also be used to publicize community meetings regarding the project. In addition, the City is awaiting approval of a brownfield grant from the N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation for

additional cleanup activities at the site.

\$200,000 was also awarded to fund 12 to 15 Phase I and II environmental site assessments in two areas of the city where there are high concentrations of brownfields. Those assessments will take place in areas around the intersection of Lyell Ave., Lake Ave. and State St., just northwest of downtown. The other area to be assessed is an approximately 60-acre area currently occupied by several sites in the south Genesee River corridor including the old Vacuum Oil refinery site. Phase I and Phase II assessments refer to property evaluations undertaken to identify the character and extent of suspected contamination.

The City will begin work on the projects in the fall after meeting with the EPA to discuss the details of the grant agreements. Rochester has previously been awarded EPA brownfield assessment, cleanup, and cleanup revolving loan program grants totaling approximately \$2 million. This year, the EPA has awarded a total of 294 brownfield grants totaling \$70.7 million.



Contact Us

Comments, letters, or article suggestions can be sent to: MNAoffice@frontiernet.net

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Maplewood YMCA Universal Pre-K

Your child can learn and have fun at the Maplewood YMCA!

The Universal Pre-K program combines educational and recreational activities, including swimming, physical activity, nutrition education and MORE!

Program runs from September to June, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Full day options are also available. Space is limited, call the Maplewood YMCA for further information 647-3600.

The MNA would like to thank some of the neighborhood businesses that sponsored our activities and fundraising efforts in 2006/2007!

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