



Maplewood Times

Celebrating Rochester's Historic Northwest Neighborhood

February 2008

From Your MNA President...

The end of my second term as MNA President is this March and I would like to thank you all for your support, time and encouragement. I have found the past four years both challenging and rewarding and a number of changes and collaborations have emerged. But through it all, your continued support of Maplewood has been the critical component responsible for any forward movement.

Maplewood Park retired a beautiful wooden playground built with sweat equity, but received a new installation and we will be installing Phase II in the spring of 2008. While the new playground may not be the original vision, its construction emerged from a great partnership with the Injury Free Coalition for Children, Allstate Foundation and the City of Rochester.

Kodak has demolished numerous 'empty' buildings in Kodak Park, but the reconstruction of West Ridge Road, with the new pedestrian bridge and sculpture, is complete and heralds the entry to a neighborhood that isn't done building. Wegmans may be gone but PriceRite is coming. TOPS Lake Avenue has stepped up support and is participating as a neighborhood partner.

I've had the privilege to meet many residents and make new friends and the MNA has developed a number of new relationships through bridging common issues. "The Party On The Bridge" is a great example of neighborhoods working in concert with each other, nonprofits, community groups, business and the City, especially Parks and Recreation (Thanks Jim and crew). City Parks and Recreation stepped up and offered many more programs, year round, reaching hundreds more children.

By the time this is published, the MNA will have presented the final Charrette presentation for Dewey Avenue that is chock full of new ideas for building and improving on what we already have. Out of that process grew a closer relationship with Aquinas Institute. Our businesses are eager to hear about opportunities coming from the City of Rochester Economic Development as a result of the Wegmans land sale. The neighborhood will have large "shovel ready" parcels at Ridge Road and Dewey Ave. While many may not know it, that is an asset. We just have to sell it.

I could go on but the editor has a tight rein on me, so really I just want to say thank you for the opportunity to be a part of it all. Cindy Kaleh

Wait there's NET, NBN, RPD, RFD, MGT, C.E.R.T. GUM (Cripes! Somebody stop me, I'm typing and I can't hit "Save As"), I know I have missed some people, so I will end with, "Thank You"

Editor's Note: Cindy Kaleh has been appointed to fill in Carla Palumbo's seat as County Legislator for the 28th District. Cindy will finish her second term as MNA President in March but will seek a board position.



Cindy Kaleh

The Future of Dewey Avenue?

The Dewey Avenue Charrette Steering Committee has worked long and hard for the past year and a half. In November 2006, over 100 Maplewood residents gathered to brainstorm problems and solutions for Dewey Avenue. The Steering Committee, under the guidance of the Rochester Regional Community Design Center (RRCDC), then reviewed and distilled those ideas to create the Preliminary report which was presented to the community at the September 2007 Town Meeting. Thereafter the Steering Committee continued to meet; lengthy discussion ensued regarding parking needs and traffic patterns, business versus residential needs. Although there is nothing "final" about the Final Vision Plan, it will be used as the foundation for future grant applications to renovate and revitalize Dewey Avenue. The RRCDC will present the Final Vision Plan at the MNA **February 6 Town Meeting**, Aquinas Institute, 7:00 p.m. using large scale renderings and a power point presentation. Join us and share our vision for Dewey Avenue.



Pierpont Recreation News

Submitted by John Picone

The boxing program at Pierpont Recreation Center continues to grow. The class is now meeting on three nights a week. The participants are thrilled with this unique opportunity and with the help of "Former Middleweight Champion of the World", Charles "The Natural" Murray the youth (and some adults) are learning the basics in boxing.

The program continues to grow with the involvement of parents and volunteers. The youth were also involved in a exhibition at the North St. Community Center against the North St. Boxing Club on Friday, January 4th, 2007. In their first competitive event, they won 7 of the scheduled 10 competitions.



Congratulations to all that participated!

Mayor Robert J. Duffy and Rochester City Council have released the City's draft Housing Policy and are seeking your input! Come to a public meeting on Thursday, February 21st at Aquinas Institute, 7:00 p.m.

40 & 1 Youth Baseball 2008

Batter up! A great experience for boys and girls from 5 to 15 years of age, open to kids from anywhere in the Rochester area. 40 & 1 kids play at the City's LaGrange Athletic Fields off Ridgeway Avenue, between LaGrange and Hollywood St. 40 & 1 has been a sports tradition in northwest Rochester since 1953.



Register Saturday, February 2nd or Saturday, February 23rd at Sacred Heart, 287 Flower City Park, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or visit website at www.40and1Baseball.org

Nazareth Academy Forms Robotics Team with Xerox

Submitted by Sister Mary Anne Coughlin

Students at Nazareth Academy and Xerox professionals will participate in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition, a national engineering design program founded by Dean Kamen, President of Dekka Research. FRC is a unique varsity sport of the mind designed to help high-school-aged young people discover how interesting and rewarding the life of engineers and researchers can be.

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition challenges teams of young people and their mentors to solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules. Teams build robots from the parts and enter them in competitions designed by Dean Kamen, Dr. Woodie Flowers, and a committee of engineers and other professionals. Additionally, mentors work with students to promote the team in areas of marketing, computer animation and web development.

FIRST redefines winning for these students because they are rewarded for excellence in design, demonstrated team spirit, gracious professionalism and maturity, and the ability to overcome obstacles. Scoring the most points is a secondary goal. Winning means building partnerships that last.

Worldwide, over 37,000 high-school students participate with regional events in Brazil, Canada, and the U.S. The *FIRST* Championship will take place in Georgia in April 2008. In March, some of the team members will attend the Finger Lakes Regional robot competition at RIT. Good luck Nazareth!

2nd Annual Maplewood Tree Lighting

Submitted by Cindy Kaleh

St. Luke Tabernacle was the setting for the 2007 Holiday Tree Lighting.

Thanks go out to neighbor, Christine Kubida for pulling it off once again! Christine arranged for tree, lights, Jim White and Capt. John Schreiber [expert tree installers] music, by Mike Thaxton of Living Sounds Entertainment. Refreshments from TOPS and Dunkin Donuts with help from the Kunz family, St. Luke as a setting and place to meet with Santa and the RPD was there to keep Santa under control! Before Santa's surprise entrance, there was music and caroling.

Santa, who resides during the off season in Maplewood, listened to all the children wishes and sent them along with a candy cane, an early present, and hopes that Santa will soon reappear.

Thanks to all involved and the sponsors, St Luke Tabernacle, Living Sounds

Entertainment, TOPS, Open Door Mission, Dunkin Donuts, Vision Ford, Extreme Graphix, MNA and last but not least, Santa.

Coming soon!
YMCA Splash Week
April 14-18, 2008
Watch for details!

Maplewood YMCA FUN!

Rollerskating party!
February 8th, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.! Call the Maplewood YMCA for details 647-3600



February Recess Fun Club February 18 to 24 "Wacky Winter Wonderland! Members \$30/day, \$125/week and nonmembers \$45 day

The Benefits of Public Gardening

Submitted by Barbara Astorga-Schmidt

Rarely have I encountered someone who does not see the value of public gardens. Even those with a less-than-green-thumb seem to understand and appreciate the importance of green landscapes in an urban setting. Gardens - of any variety - are essential to tranquil city living. City-dwellers especially, seem to have an innate desire to be linked with the natural world; to view and experience the seasonal changes of the trees, shrubs, and plants around them.

Beyond the aesthetics, when well-planted and well-maintained gardens and green spaces are situated within a city, real estate values go up and crime decreases. Consider Bryant Park, located in Manhattan.

Though rich in history and architecture, by the 1970's, Bryant Park had become a meeting place for those with nowhere else to go. It was location to frequent muggings and drug deals and was avoided by most New Yorkers. Deemed objectionable and unsafe, it appeared as if New York had abandoned Bryant Park as an urban amenity and historic site. That is, until several visionaries in the corporate and educational sectors came together and formed the Bryant Park Restoration Corporation. Among other things, this group produced funds that provided much needed supplemental park maintenance. As a result of their diligent efforts, seven years after the formation of BPRC, the number of annual park visitors doubled. Furthermore, crime was reduced by a whopping 92%! Bryant Park, once synonymous for the worst in New York City, had been transformed to become one of the most desirable locations in the Big Apple.

While the transformation of Bryant Park is truly exceptional, perhaps an equally extraordinary change can transpire in our community. This can only occur, however, if residents collectively act. More specifically, to help transform the landscape of our historically rich neighborhood, the Maplewood Gardening Team needs

more members.

In the past, when MGT members have attempted to recruit volunteers, we have come across two repeating impediments. While many residents care about the community, they simply do not have the time to be solely responsible for an assigned area requiring attention several times a week. Others we have spoken to understand the importance of urban gardening, but maintain concerns regarding working unaccompanied. We now have a solution to both challenges.

This spring the Maplewood Gardening Team will be expanding the garden at the corner of Flower City Park and Dewey Avenue. Members working that plot of land will be grouped into several teams. Each team will regularly tend the garden once a week, at a mutually agreed upon day and time. This will enable residents the opportunity to tend a public garden, while lending scheduling flexibility during activity-packed summer months.

If you have an hour or two to spare a week and would like to work in the Flower City Garden, give me a call at 647-9504. Discover how gratifying it is to work a public garden in Maplewood.



Twenty Fourth Lakeside Winter Celebration

The twenty fourth Lakeside Winter Celebration is back Sunday, February 10, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Ontario Beach Park and the Port of Rochester Terminal. The family friendly winter event features free horse drawn sleigh rides, winter golf, dog sled team, annual chilly chili challenge, polar bear plunge, and superheroes snow sculpture contest (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.).



Congratulations to Aquinas cheerleaders!

The Aquinas team was the Grand Champion of the 31st Annual Greater Rochester Cheerleading and Dance Championships held January 26, 2008 at the Blue Cross Arena. Go Aquinas!



Black Heritage Month Events

In celebration of Black Heritage month, the City of Rochester's Black Heritage Committee offers the following events:

- Youth Gospel Choir, February 9, 6:00 p.m. New Life Fellowship, 330 Wellington Ave.
- Storytelling Thursday, February 21, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers
- Heritage Concert, February 23, 6:00 p.m.. Memorial A.M.E. Zion, 549 Clarissa Street, featuring AKOMA and Voices of Thunder
- Annual Food Tasting, Friday, February 29, 5:30 p.m. City Hall Atrium.

For information about the events, call 428-9857 or visit www.blackheritagerochester.org

Kodak School # 41 Recreation Program News

Article submitted by John Picone

Our Junior Recreation Leader Program at School #41 will be starting on February 5th. The program is offered to certain individuals who display a positive attitude as a role model, Good Grades (2.0 GPA), and 90% Attendance at School. Individuals must write a two paragraph essay on why they would make an exceptional Junior. Recreation Leader. They must also have two letters of support (Guidance Counselor, teacher from school, Clergy, church organization, etc.). The youth will attend a eight week (twice a week) training program geared toward preparing their work with children at their local recreation center. The program is aiming to help individuals grow as youth in our community and teach them life skills. This years Junior Recreation Leader is a resident of the Maplewood Neighborhood. The youths name is Kimberly Woosley. Kim has a great attitude and has always been a great asset as a volunteer at # 41 School in the past. Her GPA was an astounding 3.90 and she is involved in many after school activities. Please join our staff in congratulating her on her appointment as a “Junior Recreation Leader”!!!

Spring is right around the corner...join PAC-TAC!

Our citizens have had enough when it comes to crime. Our police officers are on the front lines doing an outstanding job. Citizens and police, together can make an even greater impact. PAC TAC, Police and Citizens Together Against Crime, needs you to make that difference.

Mayor Duffy has put a high priority on crime prevention to improve the safety of our neighborhoods and to move toward his goal of Rochester becoming the best mid-sized city in the country.

Increasing safety in neighborhoods is not just a law enforcement role, but also involves concerned citizens who feel empowered to work effectively with the police in crime prevention. That’s where you come in. As a PAC TAC Volunteer, you will work with an on-duty patrol officer or crime prevention officer from your local NET office as you walk your neighborhoods’ and interact with other citizens and local merchants to help prevent crime.

All volunteer citizens receive extensive training and are issued distinctive clothing, a flashlight and a portable digital radio which has all of the frequencies that patrol officers use. If you spot criminal activity, or are in need of other assistance, you will summon an officer via radio. In addition to foot patrols, some patrol sections have bike patrol PAC TAC as well. Here is your chance to make a real difference in your neighborhood. Contact your local NET office to find out how to volunteer.

**Volunteer Today. 428-7496
or SIGN UP ONLINE**



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.

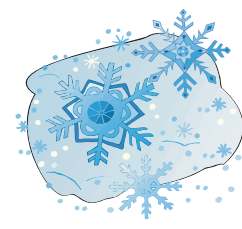
Maplewood Neighborhood Association (MNA Board, Rose Weekend, Home Tour, Gorge Guides, Playground) Town Meeting, first Wednesday of the month, Aquinas Cafeteria, 1127 Dewey Avenue, 7:00 p.m., 458-3460.

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.



Committee Volunteers Needed – Lots Going On!

- Call or e-mail Cindy Kaleh – 647-3929 cindy@kaltechsupport.com
- Party On The Bridge – Friday, June 13th
- Maplewood Rose Weekend – Saturday & Sunday, June 14th & 15th.
- MNA Fund Raiser – Evening of Wine & Roses – June 14th